

PRELUDE: (Saturday) "The King of Glory"

Bell Choir

(Sunday) "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" arranged by Benjamin M. Culli

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.**

OPENING HYMN:

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (LSB 341)



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - jice and glad - ly sing.  
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.  
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.



**KYRIE:**

(LSB 186)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**ADVENT STANZA:**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB 357, vs 4)

O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(please be seated)*

**ANTHEM:** (5 p.m.) "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
(8 a.m.) "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

*Bell Choir*  
*Choir*

*Chorus: Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way! Make straight His path. Prepare the way! Make straight His path, Prepare the way! Make straight His path, Make straight His path. (repeat)*

1. *Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low; And the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it, Shall see it together. (Chorus, sing once)*

*Ending: Prepare the way! Make straight, make straight His path.*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

*Isaiah 11:1–10*

P: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL:**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**C: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C: righteous and having salvation.**

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**EPISTLE:**

*Romans 15:4–13*

P: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises

to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.                    **C: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

P: In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.                    **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(10:30 a.m.)* **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE SONG:**

*“John the Baptist”*

*(to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")*

- 1. John the Baptist, John the Baptist, Came to tell, Came to tell: "Prepare your hearts for Jesus; He is here among us!" All is well, All is well.*
- 2. John the Baptist, John the Baptist, Prepared the way, Prepared the way. Over by the river, He baptized believers. All is well. All is well.*

*(10:30 a.m.)* **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

*(5 p.m. & 8 a.m.)* Nicene Creed *(p 191)*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended**

into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(10:30 a.m.) Apostles' Creed (p 192)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

*“On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry” (LSB 344)  
(please stand for last stanza)*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

**SERMON**

**OFFERTORY:***(LSB 192-193)*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(please stand if you are able)**(Each petition ends "Lord, in Your mercy" and we respond, "hear our prayer.")*

**HEALING AND COMFORT:** Margaret Hanebutt, Roger Hanebutt, Brendan Harms, Ruth Hecht, Beth Kilpatrick, Rev. Russell Koen, Vernon Koester, Mary Liefer, Paul Mollet, Norma Preston, Jay Prigge, Mary Schultz, David Snyder; *Family/Friends of St. John's Members:* Doug Burford, Mary Gibson, Shirley Hartmann, Tina Heinemann, Gerald Hitzemann, Andrea Kuehner, Izzy McDermott, Tyson Moonier, Ron Pflueger, Oliver Scarbie, Sue Schreier, Lorraine Serio, Mary Jo Shelton, Ted Stellhorn, Milton Theobald III, Matthew Vallett, Amy Winkelman, Roger Womack.

**MILITARY:** Army- Casey Vallett, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Chase Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Jessica DeMarco, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler, Abbey Vallett; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

**EMERGENCY PERSONNEL:** Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Kaleb Barriger, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Chad Buch, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Craig Moll, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Doug Brennan

+those who mourn: family of Lou Ann Gerlach; died in the Lord on Tuesday, December 2

*The 10:30 a.m. service continues with the Lord's Prayer, and a Closing Prayer.*

**PREFACE:**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Please let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary .... evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS:**

(LSB 195)



**¶** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

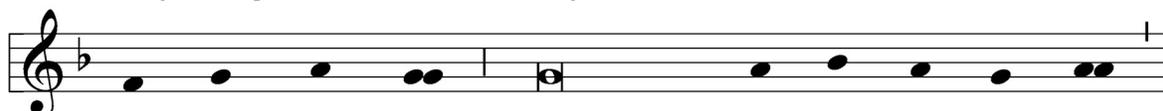
(LSB 196)



**¶** Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;

and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who

tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to

temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the

glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:**

(LSB 197)

**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,

and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the

dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My &cross; bod - y, which is giv-en for you.

This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so

He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it

to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in

My &cross; blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me.”

**PAX DOMINI:**

(LSB 197)



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

**AGNUS DEI:**

(LSB 198)



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:** *(please be seated)*

*Anthem: "Creation Will Be at Peace" Choir*

*Chorus: In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace. (repeat)*

- 1. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, Their young will play together; a little child will lead, a little child will lead. (Chorus)*
- 2. The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more, They will war no more; a child will them all, will lead them all. (Chorus)*

*Ending: Creation will be at peace.*

“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” (LSB 342)



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword— Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

“Arise, O Christian People” (LSB 354)



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” (LSB 381)



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!  
 From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!  
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*



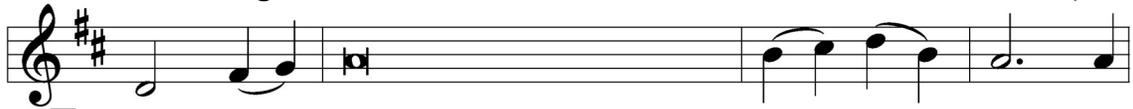
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

**NUNC DIMITTIS : “Song of Simeon”**

(LSB 199-200)



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**THANKSGIVING:**

(LSB 200)

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SALUTATION, BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:**

(LSB 201-202)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

*“Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment” (LSB 511)*



1 Her - ald, sound the note of judg - ment, Warn - ing  
2 Her - ald, sound the note of glad - ness; Tell the  
3 Her - ald, sound the note of par - don— Those re -  
4 Her - ald, sound the note of tri - umph; Christ has



us of right and wrong, Turn - ing us from sin and  
news that Christ is here; Make a path - way through the  
pent - ing are for - giv'n; God re - ceives His way - ward  
come to share our life, Bring - ing God's own love and



sad - ness Till once more we sing the song.  
des - ert For the one who brings God near.  
chil - dren, And to them new life is giv'n.  
pow - er, Grant - ing vic - t'ry in our strife.

*Refrain*



Sound the trum - pet! Tell the mes - sage: Christ, the Sav - ior king, is come!

**POSTLUDE:** “Let Our Gladness Have No End”

*arranged by Theodore Beck*

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***This Week with Our Lord, December 7-14, 2025***

**SUNDAY, December 7-**

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School

**Monday, December 8-**

3:15 p.m. Faculty Meeting

7:00 p.m. Choir in School Music Room

**Tuesday, December 9-**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

3:15 p.m. Office Staff Meeting

4:30 p.m. Board of Parish Education Meeting

6:00 p.m. GBB vs. Steeleville

**Wednesday, December 10-**

7:00 a.m. Public School Confirmation

9:00 a.m. to Noon Quilting in Fellowship Hall

9:00 a.m. Daycare & Preschool Christmas Service at School

9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

3:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Daycare & Preschool Christmas Service at School

**Thursday, December 11- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off***

3:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service

6:00 p.m. GBB vs Valmeyer (A & B only)

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice at Church

6:00 p.m. Men’s Club Meeting & Christmas Dinner

**Friday, December 12-**

BBB “C” Team Tournament @ RBC

GBB “C” Team Tournament @ RBL

**Saturday, December 13-**

BBB “C” Team Tournament @ RBC

GBB “C” Team Tournament @ RBL

5:00 p.m. Divine Service; Acolyte – Claire Doeding

**SUNDAY, December 14-**

8:00 a.m. Divine Service; Acolyte – Blake Horrell

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte – Blaine Rohlving

4:00 p.m. Senior Youth Christmas Party at Ratzkeller lanes

6:00 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service; Acolyte – Charlie Liefer

## **OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:**

Thanksgiving Worship: 193; Communion: 153

November 29: Worship: 324; Communion: 234; Adult Bible Classes: 33; Sun. School: 43

Dec. 2-3: Women's Bible Study: 15. Advent Services on Dec. 3: *count not reported*

## **WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE'ER THE GIFT MAY BE:**

We join together in the grace of giving. 11/30- General: \$15,420.00; School: \$660.00; Debt Elimination: \$3,125.00; Lutheran Witness: \$27.85.

Thanksgiving Door Offering (ComWell): \$124.00.

## **EPISTLES:**

Paper copies of the December edition of our congregation's newsletter are on the tables in the entryway. It is also posted on our website and has been sent by email to those for whom the office has an email address. *To ensure an article is in the January Epistle, please send an email to the office by **December 22<sup>nd</sup>!***

## **SECOND THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES:**

We will be having a Holy Communion Service on the second Thursday of the Month. So, mark your calendars. Service will be held on **Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**, and Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Feel free to come and join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office or Pastor Mark Winkelman.

## **MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER:**

Each Men's Club member and guest are invited to the annual Christmas dinner on **Thursday, December 11 @ 6:00p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Gerald Hanebutt's email [hanebutt@htc.net](mailto:hanebutt@htc.net) by **December 8** to prepare enough food for all to enjoy. Please come and enjoy fellowship following the meal.

## **SENIOR YOUTH BOWLING CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Senior Youth will be having their Christmas party on **Sunday, December 14** at Ratzkeller lanes from 4-6pm. Pizza & appetizers will be provided. Please RSVP to Stephanie at 618-967-0804.

## **VOTERS' MEETING & NOMINATION OPENINGS FOR 2026:**

St. John's Lutheran Church and School will elect officers and board members at the annual Voter's Meeting which will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026**. If you are interested in serving your church and school in this manner, please contact Stuart J. Langrehr at 618-663-4890 for additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**

*Attention Parents of Preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Sunday School Students!*

On Sundays, December 7, and December 14, we will meet in the front of church to practice our Sunday School Christmas Program. We will begin practice at 9:25 a.m. and will dismiss from there at 10:15 a.m. The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:**

Women's Bible Study on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings just started a new study on December 2 "No Stranger in the Manger" by Donna Snow. The study material is no charge. All women are invited to participate. For more information contact Chris Doerr at 618-343-5329.

### **MATCHING GIFTS OPPORTUNITIES:** *Raised \$8,100 to date to repay Estate Fund!!*

As you have seen in our bulletin, in order to pay our staff and bills this year, our church has borrowed the maximum amount of money allowed from the Estate Funds (\$200,000). There is an opportunity for us to pay this back as we come to the end of the calendar year (and therefore afford us the opportunity to borrow more in the future should need arise). Every dollar you give towards this repayment will be matched, up to \$100,000. On top of that, another \$50,000 matching gift has been put forward to help pay down our expansion loan. Please mark on your envelope or check memo with which one (Estate Fund or Expansion Loan) you would like to give towards.

*"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.* God abundantly blesses us so that we will bless others and thereby be enriched with God's rewards increasing our praise and thanksgiving to God.

### **THE BIBLE RECAP CLASS:**

Starting in January, on Wednesday evenings, Lori Colbert will be offering a class to go alongside our new worship service. Lori will be walking through the Bible in 1 year using The Bible Recap book. This is a wonderful opportunity to open up the Scriptures and abide in God's Word. Lori will be available for questions following worship in the coming weeks.

### **NEW DEVOTIONAL FOR MEN:**

Men, are you interested in pursuing a path of Christian masculinity and discipline? Check out Memento at [www.memento70.com](http://www.memento70.com). Memento is a new men's devotional and discipline system backed by LCMS pastors and theologians. Its foundation is built on discipline, devotion, and brotherhood, drawing from the historic rhythm of the Church Year to provide a path that is both ancient and deeply relevant today. Please let us know if you are interested in joining a group of us on this journey by contacting Pastor Mark ([mwinkelman@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:mwinkelman@stjohnsredbud.org)) or Mike DeRousse ([derousse@gmail.com](mailto:derousse@gmail.com)). The program officially begins on **January 1st** so don't wait!

### **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John's member Lou Ann Gerlach who died in the Lord Tuesday at the age of 91 years. She will receive a Christian funeral at Paradise Cemetery on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

### **FLOWERS IN CHANCEL:**

+ To have flowers in worship please call the office at 618-282-2394 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

### **POINSETTIA GARDEN:**

We thank the Altar Guild for taking on this project each year as it is such a beautiful addition to our chancel as well as a heartfelt way to remember our loved ones or just give thanks to the glory of God for His many blessings to us. You may find the Poinsettia Garden forms in the back of church in the Epistle basket. The cost is \$8 and you may return it to the office or by way of the offering basket by **Friday, December 19**. Thank you!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE:**

Perfect Attendance for November- Pre-K3: August Guebert, Dallin Liefer, Eleanor Liefer; Pre-K4: Cash Grohmann, Atlee Thien, Kane Whelan; Kindergarten: Eve Guebert, Lillian Guebert, Nolan Liefer, Clarke Thien; First Grade: Demi Grohmann, Benjamin Langrehr, Eliza Schrader; Third Grade: Jettson Grohmann, Emma Schlueter; Fourth Grade: Kolton Liefer; Fifth Grade: Amelia Langrehr, Liam Langrehr. Thank you for your participation and your dedication to our Sunday School ministry!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

12/7- Brandy Amann, Andrea Voss, Kayla Elliott, Erica Unnerstall, Elizabeth Unnerstall, Lily Kent, Morgan Kent, Sage Pensoneau, Claire Doeding; 12/8- Jennifer Moeller, Trevor Stellhorn, Joshua Voss, Adrienne Hagan, Wiley Minemann; 12/9- Larry Ehlers, Christian Stechmesser, Emma Kiefer, Evan Kiefer, Whitley Henry; 12/10- Ronnie Liefer, Delonda Kelley, Leo DuFrenne Jr; 12/11- Michael Moll, Aubrey Kiefer, Kolton Florreich; 12/12- Shirley Meyer, Bruce Quinn Sr, Allen Stoll, Sutton Jones, Elaina Uffelman, Jettson Grohmann; 12/13- Jennifer Fritsche, Stephanie Valleroy, Kayce Schaefer, Grayson Herriman.

### **LCMS MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:**

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15

### **KINDERGARTEN TEACHING POSITION:**

St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud is looking for a Kindergarten homeroom teacher. We invite interested applicants to use this link <https://forms.gle/a6nEts8pyapaiDcR7>, to learn more about the position and send in a resume for review. You may also email ([office@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org)) or call the office (618-282-3873) Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00 for more information. We have competitive pay and a great benefits package which includes insurance for the employee and a pension. We look forward to the responses that come in and await the plans and people God has in store for St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud. Deadline for submission of applications is January 9, 2025.

### **THE PRAYER CHAIN:**

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at [dvheller@htc.net](mailto:dvheller@htc.net) or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers.

**PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:**

Addington Place-Sparta: Kathryn Chunn; Oak Hill-Waterloo: Mary Gross, Jean Menke, Jody Winkelmann; Magnolia Terrace-Waterloo: June Lawrence; Cedarhurst Memory Care-Waterloo: Martha Rohlfing; Cedarhurst of Tesson Heights: Ruth Hecht, Paul Schrieber; Freeburg Care Center: Dorothy Byers, Wil Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Geraldine Koester.

**PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:**

Columbia: Pat Byer; Red Bud: Elaine Guebert, Alice Hick, Mary Liefer, Omer & Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorna Schneider, Esther Williams, Helen Winkelman.

**PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:**

Don & Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Barb Korves, LuAnn & Rick Liefer, Joyce Lopez, Trudy Woolbright.

**ELDER ZONES FOR 2025-2026:** (Chairman, Stuart Langrehr)

Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins- Elder Bruce Schneider (618/521-0028)

Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann- Elder Louis Stellhorn (618/623-8495)

Zone 3: N/E Grohmann thru R/K Herriman-Elder Ron Liefer (618/282-3950)

Zone 4: R. Herriman thru T/E Krick- Elder Gerald Hanebutt (618/317-4574)

Zone 5: W/M Krick thru J. Maes- Elder Gary Buatte (618/719-5034)

Zone 6 : P. Malik thru L. Pensoneau- Elder Stuart Langrehr (618/304-5082)

Zone 7: A/A Piel thru D. Schrader- Elder Kirk Liefer (618/282-8228)

Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner- Elder Michael Schnepel (618/363-9575)

Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann – A. Zeller- Elder Joshua Voss (618/719-1840)

**PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER NEEDED:**

The Southern IL District of the LCMS is looking for a part-time (20 hour/week) bookkeeper to cover accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, and other common bookkeeping tasks. The District office is located in Belleville and the role will require some set hours to be worked at the District office while others may be done remotely. Interested candidates with experience in non-profit bookkeeping and familiarity with common bookkeeping software should send a resumé to SID Business Manager, Mr. Jeffrey Fick via email [sidlcmsage@gmail.com](mailto:sidlcmsage@gmail.com) by **Dec 8, 2025**.

**LCMS FOUNDATION:**

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. As we wrap up this year long consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. For many years, we focus on building and accumulating. Eventually, however, we must pass on financial assets to others, primarily family or ministries. If done correctly, this “passing on” is a plan for continuing the use of God’s gifts, conveying His blessings. This isn’t giving up at all, as we look to inherit our eternal inheritance. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you gain this perspective. Contact Scott Radden phone# 618-977-4049 or email [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).

### **LIFE THOUGHTS FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does this primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we don't fall into self-righteousness and become a pharisaical "brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of others while neglecting our own. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were "written for our instruction" (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others.

### **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: LCMS Stewardship Resources**

**Matthew 3:1-2** – "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

### **KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:**

We are continuing our series "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Returning" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.)! This week, we'll be studying 1 Thessalonians 3-5. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.) as we begin a new series for the time of Advent. "Prophecy and Fulfillment" will take us through Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment, tracing God's promises from Isaiah to the birth of Christ. On Concord Matters this Saturday (12/13 at 10 a.m.), we'll be discussing the 2nd Petition of the Lord's Prayer. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or on the KFUE Radio app!

### **THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Chosen for What?"**

God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what? (Romans 15:7). Listen on KFUE AM 850 Sundays at 12:30 & 5 p.m., on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. on KSIV 1320AM or 91.5FM or on Sirius XM Family Talk 131 Sundays at 9 a.m.

### **ATTENTION COFFEE DRINKERS:**

We are in Community Coffee's program, "Cash for Schools." By clipping the proof of purchase off packages of ground coffee and/or K cups our school earns rewards. You can drop off proof of purchases at the school office. Thank you for participating in this program to benefit our school!

**St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois**

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087

E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org

Senior Pastor Mark Winkelman 815/499-1135

Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741

Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055

Director of Christian Education/School Librarian–Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958

Secretaries – Mrs. Sara Shepherd and Miss Cynthia Wilson

Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804

Junior Youth – Erin Kuehn 618/581-5928

*Faculty and Staff*

Preschool – Heather Nowak Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy Fourth Grade – Monica Snyder

Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Lara Vause

Sixth Grade Homeroom – Doreen Schnepel Seventh Grade Homeroom – Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom: Kristin Sachtleben Jr High Science – Sara Shepherd

Athletic Director – Scott Voss Cooks – Catrena Heck and Marilyn Oettle

Before/After School Care – Courtney Schoenbeck

School Custodians – Wil Krick and Bob Schramm

*Day Care*

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Amy Williams, Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Melissa Schilling, Kaitlin Schmitz, Madison Falkenhain, Kaitlyn Brown, Emma Trost, Madison Trask, Mycah Clements, Zandra Harless, Tori Muench, Molly Huether, Cailee Strong, Reagan Birkner, and Olivia Noethen.

*Church Council*

Chairman: Michael DeRousse Vice-Chairman: Kevin Guebert

Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Eric Fritsche Board of Finance: Becky Biffar

Elder Chair: Stuart Langrehr Parish Education Chair: Kortney Moll

Trustee Chair: Leonard Salger Estate Fund Chair: Thomas Mulherin

Lutheran High School Board: Vickie Heller and Rebekah Liefer

*Serving Us in Worship Today*

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelman

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak (8 a.m.) Lector: DCE Bill Becker

Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Bryson Williams; (8 a.m.) Conner Liefer; (10:30 a.m.) Jozlynn Palm

Greeters: (5 p.m.) Stanley & Lynn Langrehr; (8 a.m.) Linda Guebert & Christine Doerr

(10:30 a.m.) Ron & Diane Kunkelmann

Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: Breanne Muench

Flower Servers: Pam Miller & Diane Kunkelmann Paraments: Irma Birkner