

The Messenger

March 2026 Edition



A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

Inside this Issue...

Devotional Corner	page 2
Today's Christian Parenting	page 3,7
Events	page 4
Church Highlights	page 5
School Highlights	page 6
Contact Information	page 7

St. John Lutheran Church and School

206 Plum Road, Wrightstown 920-532-4865

Church email: stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

School email: office@stjohnwrightstown.com

 www.stjohnwrightstown.com

 facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown

 instagram.com/StJohnWrightstown



ST. JOHN

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Gather. Grow. Go. To the Glory of God!

Devotional Corner



Devotion Corner: The Great Exchange

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

Life is filled with exchanges. Employees exchange forty hours for a paycheck. Fans exchange sixty dollars for a seat at the game (and then exchange another fifteen dollars for a hotdog and drink)! Every day we exchange time, money, effort, and emotion for what we hope brings us joy, peace, and satisfaction.

The Bible speaks about exchanges, too. It says that God does not want us to have any sin. In fact, he says that if we do sin, we cannot live with him because he is a sinless, holy God. Sin is so serious to God that he pronounces the death penalty for anyone who sins. He says, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23) and “The soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:20). So, who can ever hope to stand in God’s presence and enjoy his favor? For try as we might, we are not perfect. Sinful thoughts, words, and acts clutter our lives.

There is good news, however. In love for us, God made an exchange. Instead of holding us under his judgment for all our wrongdoing, he placed his Son under judgment instead of us. The Bible is speaking about Jesus when it says, “He was pierced for our

transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

That is a great exchange! Jesus came and exchanged his life for ours. Our transgressions (times when we fail to live according to God’s holy will) were taken away when Jesus was pierced on the cross. Our iniquities (all the things we think or do that don’t measure up to God’s perfect will) were taken away when Jesus was crushed in death. Our punishment was paid for by Jesus.

Through Jesus you have peace with God. Through his wounds you are given life with God. Through Jesus you are forgiven and loved by God. Yes, you! God chose to make that exchange for you.



Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: What Promises of God Calm Your Heart When Parenting Feels Overwhelming?

Exerts from a *Forward in Christ* article by multiple authors
view in full at: forwardinchrist.net/when-parenting-feels-overwhelming/

Parenting often feels overwhelming. Parenting without God's promises? That I can't even comprehend! What a blessing to have these promises to cling to when everything else in life feels so out of control.

-Nicole Balza

I feel confident I'm in good company when I say I'm a chronic overthinker. Every night as I try to fall asleep, my mind is abuzz with the events of my day. There is a play-by-play happening in my head:

Was I too harsh with my preschooler when he asked (for what felt like the 108th time) if today was his turn for show-and-tell?

Why doesn't my toddler want to potty train? They say to wait until she's ready. How do I know?

Did I spend enough time with my kids today? Do they know they're a priority—even as I try to manage a household, maneuver my calendar, and maintain a career?

Do they know they're my greatest gift, that I love them and Jesus loves them more?

These are the thoughts that entertain my brain. And while the subject matter varies day to day, the plot remains the same: Am I enough?

It's here that I pause. Because while my anxiety is challenging everything I've done, my heart knows it's not about me. It's not about what I've done—it's what he's done. I don't have to be enough because Jesus is.

It's promised in the words of 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I don't have to be enough because Jesus is enough.

I'm not a perfect parent—far from it. And while I strive to be a faithful steward of the two precious souls God has so graciously entrusted to my care, I know I fall short. I grow impatient and raise my voice; I struggle with prioritizing play and scroll my phone more than I'd care to admit; I find myself wishing for an easier season while simultaneously mourning the moments that feel fleeting.

It's in my mountain of flaws that God grants me the most reassurance—his power is made perfect in my weakness. I don't have to be perfect because he is.

I may not have answers to solve chronic overthinking or stop invasive thoughts, but I do know the answer to the ever-popular chorus of "Am I enough?"

It goes like this: "God, today I did my best. I trust that you will do the rest."
-Megan Neisius



At times, I find that my doubts and insecurities about my parenting are almost unbearable. Decisions I made years ago come back to haunt me—like when I let one of my children cry it out or when I lost my temper and yelled, "I'm doing my best!" at one of my toddlers.

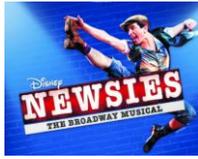
When my parenting failures come to mind, I feel so much shame. My children are a gift from God, but I don't always treat them this way. I love them more than almost anything, but that doesn't matter because my love is imperfect. It is rife with selfishness, pride, and entitlement. Unlike my love, God's love is perfect. It is sacrificial, never-ending, and greater than any love that I have for anyone in my life, even my children. He will never hold my sins against me. What a weight is taken off my shoulders when I remember this. There is no need to be perfect, because Jesus was, is, and always will be.

God's amazing love is always there—while I'm sitting on a peeling tile floor in my first house in Milwaukee holding a baby and a toddler as all three of us cried, but also when we are laughing while we have a dance party. His constant presence fills me with relief because I know that he is with not only me but also my children.

When they leave home and head off to work and college, God will be with them. When they are hurt by others or the ones doing the hurting, God will be with

Article continues on page 7

Upcoming Events



FVL Presents Disney's "Newsies" Musical and Student Art Fair

This year, FVL's annual spring musical is their take on Disney's "Newsies". Come and see their play, and take in the student art fair, this weekend! Shows will take place on Friday, March 5th, at 6:30 pm, Saturday, March 6th, also at 6:30 pm, and Sunday, March 7th, at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available online or at the door. Plan to arrive early or stay late to view the art fair!



Easter Egg Scramble

St. John's annual Easter Egg Scramble is coming on Saturday, March 28th! Children are invited to join in the fun at 10:00 am, rain or shine. We will be outside if possible, but in the gym if needed. Be sure to arrive on time so that the eggs are not all gone! Bags will be available at the school



Book Fair March 30th-April 5th

The PTO is gearing up for a book fair to be held March 30th-April 5th. The fair will be held through i55 Books, a Christian book company offering a wide variety of popular, family-friendly books. A portion of the proceeds will go back to our school, allowing teachers to purchase books from their wish lists. Purchases can be made by cash, check, or card. Watch for more information and a St. John exclusive link to come out in mid-March. In the meantime, check out some of what is available at i55bookfairs.com. Speak to Sarah Micke for more information or to volunteer to help run the fair.

Open Houses and Info Night

St. John has several opportunities for families to check out our school; be sure to invite anyone who may be interested in joining us to one of these events:

- School-Wide Open House, March 5th, 5:30-7:00 p
- Kindergarten Information Night, March 19th 6:00-7:00p
- Early Childhood Open House, March 27th, 9:00-11:00a
- Early Childhood Open House, April 22nd, 5:30-6:30 p

Mark Your Calendars!

March 1-7	Screen Free Week	March 18	Breakfast and Bible Study
March 2	EC and K-2 Field Trips to Weidner Center		Lenten Service
	Fang from Timber Rattlers Visits School	March 19	Kindergarten Information Night
March 3	3 rd -5 th Grade Field Trip to FVL's Newsies	March 20	End of Third Quarter
	Martha's Circle	March 22	EC3 Class Sings in Church
	Board of Education Meeting	March 23-27	Spirit Week
March 4	Breakfast and Bible Study	March 25	Lenten Service
	Lenten Service	March 26	Pastor Play Day
March 5	School-Wide Open House	March 27	No EC Classes
March 6-8	FVL Presents: Newsies/ FVL Art Fair		EC Open House
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins		Lock-In (K-8 th Grade Screen Free Participants)
March 9	Teacher Call Meeting	March 28	Easter Egg Scramble
March 9-13	Spring Break- No School	March 30	Book Fair Begins
March 10	Fellowship Meal		Blood Drive
	FVL Open House	March 31	PTO Meeting
March 11	Lenten Service	April 1-2	Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 16	Elders Meeting	April 2	Maundy Thursday Worship
	Church Council Meeting	April 3	No School/Good Friday Worship
March 17	Outreach Meeting	April 5	Easter Services and Breakfast

Church Highlights

Pastoral Called- Pastor Joel Free



Please keep Pastor Joel Free in your prayers. He has received a call from us at St. John to serve as our new pastor and is currently in the process of deciding to come to St. John Wrightstown or keep his current position as pastor at St. Paul's in Ixonia, Wisconsin. He is married and has four children. If you would like to get in contact with him to encourage him to join us here, he can be reached at pastorjoelfree@stpaulsixonia

Lenten and Easter Services

Lenten services will continue each Wednesday night at 6:30 pm through March 25th, with pastors rotating between St. John Wrightstown, St.



Luke Little Chute, and St. John Woodville. During Holy Week, there will be no Wednesday night service. Instead, a Maundy Thursday worship service with communion will be held on April 2nd at 6:30 pm and a Good Friday service will be held on April 3rd at 6:30 pm. Easter services are planned for 7:00 am and 10:00 am, with breakfast served at 8:00 am.

Teacher Call Service

We ask all voting members to come to a teacher call meeting on Monday, March 9th, as we seek to find a teacher for the upper grades. This would be as a replacement for Mr. Raddatz, who is moving to a full-time administrator. The meeting will be held at 6:30 pm.

SAVE A LIFE



GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive on March 30th

St. John will be holding its next blood drive on Monday, March 30th, from 1:00-6:00 pm. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets to volunteer with set up, take down, registration, and food, as well as a sign-up to give blood. Your donation could save lives!



FVL Open House on March 10th

Join us for the FVL Open House on Tuesday, March 10th! Doors will open at 6:00 pm. An activity fair, showing off many of our extracurricular programs, will be open from 6:00-8:00 pm. Visit stations in the gym and commons to talk to coaches, cocurricular advisors, faculty, and members of the administration to discover opportunities and options available to your family. Academic/fine arts tours run every 10 minutes from 6:05-7:15 PM. Tours will take 30 minutes. An athletics/sports center tour will be offered two times, from 6:10-6:30 PM and 7:30-7:50 PM. An info session is offered from 6:45-7:15 PM, and is suggested for families looking for an introduction to FVL. The Foxes Locker will be open during the event. Stop by and buy some Foxes gear! Plan to park in the school's east parking lot (near the football field). Please enter via Door K (Commons Entrance).

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in March!

Mar 6 Darol Reschke
Mar 6 Shannon West
Mar 8 Alton Jahnke
Mar 9 Sydney Parrish
Mar 11 Christian Schisel
Mar 12 Jaylyn Coenen
Mar 13 Terry Schaeuble
Mar 13 Trevor Snyder



Mar 16 Barbara Bowers
Mar 18 Christopher Lemke
Mar 18 Timothy Raddatz
Mar 18 Cheryl Uitenbroek
Mar 20 Carroll Treptow
Mar 21 Ralph Bohrtz
Mar 24 Stephen Wierschke
Mar 26 Amy Fehlauer

School Highlights



Screen Free Challenge/ Lock-In

Our school has issued a screen-free week challenge! If your family can survive a week with only using screens (including TVs, video games, phones, tablets, ect) as needed for work or school, we will celebrate you in our newsletter and on our social media pages. Additionally, students who meet the challenge requirements will either receive a special prize from our reading prize case or (for students in kindergarten through 8th grade) they can participate in a lock-in from March 27th-28th. The lock-in will include games, a bonfire and marshmallow roast, a pizza and soda supper, glow-in the dark games, a pancake breakfast, and more! Contact Rebecca Wicks for more information.



Kindergarten Information Night

Do you have questions about our kindergarten program or just want to get to know your child's future teacher? Come to our Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, March 19th. The program will run from 6:00-7:00 pm with snacks and drinks provided. Babysitting included. Come with any questions you have and get ready for your child to take the big step into elementary ages!



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st and Thursday, April 2nd. Conferences will run from 3:00 until 6:00 pm both days. A sign up will come out soon with 15-minute intervals. Please be sure to sign up with each teacher that your children have; if they see Miss Puente for student services or if you need translation services, sign up for a slot with her at the same time as the regular classroom teacher. Please note that there will be no after-school care on those days.

Spirit Week/ Dress Up Days

Our annual school spirit week is being planned for March 23rd-27th! This year's dress-up days are as follows:

Monday, March 23rd- Adam Sandler Day

Copy Sandler's style with basketball shorts, baggy shirts, hoodies, and sneakers- or dress like one of his famous characters!

Tuesday, March 24th- Tacky Tourist Day

Grab your fanny packs, Hawaiian shirts, and shades. Don't forget a sunscreen-coated nose!

Wednesday, March 25th- Neon Day

Dress so brightly that your teachers will need sunglasses! Throw in some crimped 80's hair to look totally tubular.

Thursday, March 26th- America Day

Show your national pride with red, white, blue, and stars!

Friday, March 27th- School Spirit

Dress in your school spirit wear or come in red, white, and black. Show off your Cardinal pride!

School Birthdays

Grace B.- March 20th

Molly B.- March 20th

Eduardo P.A.- March 20th

Oliver K.- March 21st

Wesley W.- March 21st

Johanna J.- March 27th

Lily Rebecca P.A.- March 27th

Crew B.- March 28th

Jax M.- March 31st



Parenting with God's Promises

(Christian Parenting Article Continued from Page 3)

them. When they move away and I don't hear from them as often as I want, God will be with them. This promise of God's constant love, care, and presence in the lives of his children is invaluable.

However, the greatest comfort of all is that Jesus died, rose, and will come again. This promise is the reason we have hope for the future. It's one to go back to again and again and teach to our children.

I don't always remember God's promises because I more often look to myself or to the world for answers. Although this makes life more difficult for me, it does not change the promises themselves. God's love, presence, and most important, the promise we have for eternal life remain.

-Karyn Clemons

She was going to have a baby. It must have been terrifying. Imagine the struggles Mary must have faced. But even before she was pregnant, the angel Gabriel gave her a comforting promise.

I learned the verse as "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). But NIV 2011 translates it differently: "No word from God will ever fail." Both are great translations. The word translated "word" can also mean "thing." And "impossible" can also mean "fail." So, "No thing with God will be impossible" or "No word with God will fail." It's the translator's choice.

I'm glad I've learned both translations and both are true. No thing is impossible with God. No word from God will ever fail. Every promise of grace that God made will come true. Your worst parenting moment does not define you—or your child. Grace is bigger than guilt.

Here are some of my favorite promises from God that I go to when parenting feels overwhelming:

God is with you. "Do not fear, for I am with you. . . . I will strengthen you and help you" (Isaiah 41:10). You're not parenting alone—not at 2 A.M. when the baby is crying, not at 1 A.M. when your teen is still out long after his curfew. You are never parenting alone.

God loves your child even more than you do. "Everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child," he promises (Ezekiel 18:4). As much as you love your kids, God loves them infinitely more. He chose them before the world was made. He will never stop loving your children and will always do what is best for them.

God's grace covers your failures. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). Your worst parenting moment does not define you—or your child. Grace is bigger than guilt. You are forgiven. So is your child.

God is will never break his promises. And of course, Luke 1:37 is one of my favorites. God will keep all these promises. So we can trust him to help us in this challenging, fearful, and sometimes overwhelming task of raising his children.

-Rob Guenther

Contact Us

Church Office	920-532-4865	stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com
School Office	920-532-4865	office@stjohnwrightstown.com
Pastor Robert Wilke	920-915-4870	revrwilke@gmail.com
Tim Raddatz, principal and 6th-8th grade teacher	920-636-5007	tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Natalie Schultz, 3rd-5th grade teacher	262-388-8892	natalie.schultz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Rebecca Wicks, 1st-2nd grade teacher	920-809-8648	rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com
McKenze Crowley, kindergarten teacher	605-390-6827	mckenze.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com
Elizabet Mata Perez, EC 2 teacher	708-510-3119	elizabet.mata.perez@stjohnwrightstown.com
Madie Otto, EC 1 teacher	920-629-1220	madie.otto@stjohnwrightstown.com
Claudia Puente, student services coordinator	920-716-8523	claudia.puente@stjohnwrightstown.com



www.stjohnwrightstown.com



facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown



instagram.com/StJohnWrightstown