

The Messenger

March 2023 Edition



A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

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



Devotional Corner

I have the sense of being a bad person. Can God help me understand what's wrong with me?

No, I am not the parent on the nightly news—the mother arrested for badly mistreating her children. But sometimes I am irritated when my baby wakes me up four times in one night, when my toddler throws a tantrum in the grocery store, when my teen defiantly shatters the curfew.

No, I am not the high-profile executive under investigation for embezzling millions from his company's pension fund. But I am also not the philanthropist donating millions to a children's hospital. I am easily irritated by co-workers constantly begging me to buy candy bars to support their children's soccer team. I admit I envy the latest lottery winner from our state.

What is wrong with me? I scan the latest "self-help" books in the library and read "self-esteem" articles in my magazines, but I still do not feel like the "good" person I want to be.

Friend, is your conscience kicking you? We often try to silence that voice of "right" and "wrong" because it condemns us for not living up to God's expectations. We are supposed to be as good as God! But we are not good, not good enough for God.

The truth is that all people fail to live perfect lives. Unfortunately, everyone else's failures will not excuse

me for becoming angry, for being greedy, for failing to keep all of God's commands. Fortunately, God has loved all people so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from the punishment we deserve for all our failures.

How did Jesus save us? Throughout his life, Jesus perfectly obeyed every one of his Father's commands. Despite his absolutely innocent life, Jesus was put to death on a cross, where God punished his Son for our sins. Jesus suffered the death we deserved for our disobedience. Amazingly, God now considers us "perfect" because Jesus lived perfectly as our substitute. Mercifully, because Jesus died as our substitute, God declares us "forgiven."

The Bible tells us, "When our hearts condemn us"—if we sense that we are not as good as we should be—"God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." God knows "Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." God knows he traded Jesus' goodness for our not being good enough. God knows he put Jesus to death to give us life—life that will last forever. Now, whenever our mistakes get us down, we can turn to God, who assures us that through Jesus, we are forgiven and perfect.

In Christ's Service and Yours!
Pastor Mike Gehl



Worship With Us!

Sundays at 7:45 or 10:15 am

Thursdays at 6:30 pm

1537 Day St. Greenleaf

Sunday School and Bible Classes Sundays at 9:00 am



Today's Parenting: The Importance of Regular School Attendance

Editor's note: Chronic absenteeism has been a growing issue in both public and private schools. This month's article has excerpts from two main sources. The first two sections come from an article by the East Greenbush Central School District, New York. Their complete article can be found at egcsd.org/academics/attendancematters/. The third portion comes from the Pinellas County Schools, Florida website. Their full article can be found at pcsb.org/cms/lib8/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/48/School%20Attendance.pdf

What is Chronic Absence and What is its Impact?

Every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning. Too many absences not only can affect achievement for the absent student but also can disrupt learning for the entire class. Research shows that students who consistently miss school are at risk of lower academic achievement, failure and even dropping out of school altogether.

Most children miss a few days of school each year without long-term consequences. However, when they miss many days, the effects are almost always negative. Researchers have defined absences as "chronic" when they reach the level at which a child's school success is at significant risk. Chronic absence has been established when a student misses 10 percent of school days, and it is different from truancy, which counts only unexcused absences.

Facts About School Attendance

- Chronic absenteeism begins as early as pre-kindergarten. 1 in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
- Over 7 million U.S. students (1 in 7) miss nearly a month of school each year.
- Compared to children with average attendance, chronically absent students gained 14% fewer literacy skills in kindergarten and 15% fewer literacy skills in 1st grade.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade or be held back.

- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, student attendance is a better predictor of graduation than 8th grade test scores.
- Over the course of a student's high school career, missing 10 percent of school days (an average of two days per month) would equate to missing almost an entire semester of school.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Research shows that missing 10 percent of school days, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.

Strategies for Parents to Encourage Attendance:

- Let your child know that your family values education. Make education a family priority.
- Insist that your child goes to school on time every day.
- Talk with your child about school. Listen to your child's concerns. Ask how you can help.
- Help your child develop interests and strengths. Connect those to what your child is doing in school.
- Support your child's efforts with studying, completing homework, and working on academic skills and responsibilities.
- Avoid taking vacations during the school year.
- Discuss concerns with your child's teacher and work together to support your child's school success.
- Attend Parent/Teacher conferences and other school meetings that are scheduled.
- Be sure that your child knows that you do not approve of his/her being late for school.
- Attend school functions, PTA meetings, and activities, etc. Be involved with your child's school.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Lay out clothes and backpacks the night before.
- Have your child relax before bed with a story, instead of the stimulation of television, video games, etc.
- Provide regular study times and a quiet, clean area for doing homework.
- Don't allow your child to stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Do not let your child persuade you into making excuses for him/her.

Upcoming Events



Easter Egg Scramble- Saturday, April 1st

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Scramble on Saturday, April 1st. The scramble will begin at 10:00 am on our Clay Street (current school) campus. The scramble goes quickly, so be sure that you allow time to find a parking spot and make your way to the playground on time! Bring your friends and family; all are welcome to attend. Any donations of candy may be dropped off at the school before March 28th. If weather prevents the scramble from taking place on April 1st, it will be moved back to April 8th.



Blood Drive- Monday, March 6th

St. John Lutheran Church will once again be hosting a Red Cross blood drive at the American Legion at 924 Main St. Wrightstown. Volunteers are appreciated to help set up the equipment, run the drive, and take down equipment. Watch for sheets available in the back of church to sign up for a donation time or a volunteering spot, or call the church office to arrange to help.

FVL Presents Anastasia Musical- Friday, March 3- Sunday, March 5

This dazzling show transports its audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love and family.

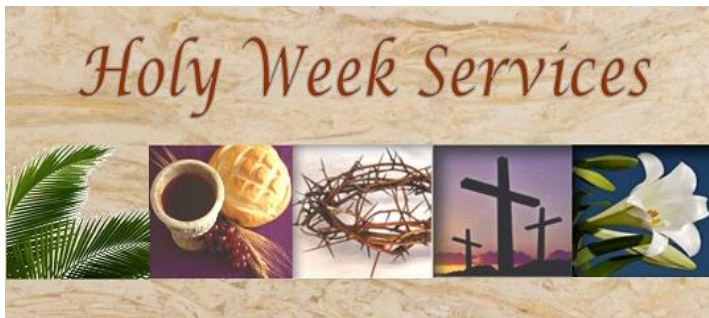
FVL's musical performance is inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical, from the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Guy Bolton. Tickets go on sale February 1st.



Mark Your Calendars!

- March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29- Lent Worship
- March 3-5 Anastasia Musical at FVL
- March 6- Blood Drive at American Legion
- March 7- Pizza Fundraiser Pick-Up at Dick's FF
- March 13-17 Spring Break (No School)
- March 14- Fellowship Luncheon
- March 24- End of 3rd Quarter
- March 26- Grades 2-4 Sing at Both Services
- March 27- PTO Meeting
- March 31- Hot Lunch
- April 1- Easter Egg Scramble
- April 2- FVL Choirs Concert

Church Highlights



Lent and Holy Week Services

We are now in the season of Lent, and to help focus our minds and hearts on Jesus' suffering and death, we are holding weekly Lenten services. Join us each Wednesday during March at 6:30 pm. With these services available, we will temporarily not be offering services on Thursday evenings.

Our worship schedule will once again change during Holy Week. There will be no Wednesday night service on April 5th. There will be two Maundy Thursday services offered at 2:00 and 6:30 pm. There will also be two Good Friday services—held at 2:00 and 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday brings 3 opportunities for worship: a 6:30 Sunrise Service, a 9:00 Festival Service, and a 10:15 Festival Service. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will be suspended for Easter Sunday, but we invite everyone to join us for Easter Breakfast from 7:30-8:30 between the first two services.

Regular Thursday evening services will resume following our Holy Week celebrations.

75th Fox Fest Dinner Auction

2023 marks the 75th annual Fox Fest dinner auction! Join with fellow FVL supporters on April 14th for this platinum celebration, held at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel. The formal-dress event will include fellowship, a silent auction, dinner, games, and a live auction. All proceeds go towards FVL's tuition assistance program, which provides 100+ families with \$350,000 of aid annually. Tickets must be purchased by March 31st. Visit <https://www.fvlhs.org/support-fvl/foxfest-dinner-auction> for more information, including a list of auction items.



Madie Otto Accepts Call to Teach

Mrs. Madie Otto, a December 2022 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College, has accepted St. John's call. She will take the place of Mrs. Foelske in the preschool classroom when Mrs. Foelske moves to Oshkosh. Please join us in making her feel welcome as she re-settles in the area and prepares to join our early childhood ministry!

Church Birthdays

Happy birthday to these church members celebrating during the month of March!

Mar 1 Evelyn Rae
Mar 6 Darol Reschke
Mar 6 Shannon West
Mar 9 Sydney Parrish
Mar 11 Christian Schisel
Mar 13 Terry Schaeuble
Mar 13 Trevor Snyder
Mar 14 Rodney Hutjens
Mar 16 Barbara Bowers
Mar 16 Chevelle Bowers
Mar 18 Jesse Bohrtz
Mar 18 Christopher Lemke



Mar 18 Timothy Raddatz
Mar 18 Cheryl Uitenbroek
Mar 19 Lisa Ley
Mar 20 Carroll Treptow
Mar 21 Ralph Bohrtz
Mar 23 Hannah Torres Ammel
Mar 24 Stephen Wierschke
Mar 25 Kevin Verheyen
Mar 26 Amy Fehlauer
Mar 29 Spencer Schroeder
Mar 29 Gabrielle Solomon

School Highlights

Summer Sports and More Offered

Fox Valley Lutheran High School (FVL) is proud to offer an ever-expanding range of programs. Registration is now open for a wide variety of camps and leagues, with dates for some programs starting soon. Baseball and softball teams will be starting practices soon, so register quickly. March will bring a dance clinic; April will have a cheer program on offer. Over the summer, the activities expand even more: art, soccer, basketball for boys and girls, football, volleyball, golf, softball, baseball, workouts, and more are all available at FVL! Be sure to visit fvlhs.org/future-foxes/youth-sports-camps for more information and to register.



Sign Up for Summer Care

St. John Lutheran School will be holding summer care from June 12th - August 11th at the Clay Street campus. Programming is provided for children ages 3-10 years old between the hours of 7:30 am- 4:30 pm. Parents can choose to send their children for a full day or a half day. Spots are filling up quickly, so be sure to register soon! A registration link and more information can be found at stjohnwrightstown.com/summer-care.

Free Tuition Available through Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

St. John is proud to be part of the Wisconsin School Choice program. Families who qualify will receive their full tuition payment for St. John. Students entering preK, kindergarten, or first grade, as well as students transferring in from a different school can sign up to receive funding for St. John through eighth grade. Speak with Tim Raddatz or Dierdra Starry for more information or visit stjohnwrightstown.com/school-choice.

Participants and Sponsors Sought for Clay Shoot and Canvas Painting

Our PTO has arranged another awesome event to help raise funds for the playground at the new campus. Join us on Saturday, April 29th, for a clay shoot or canvas painting and dinner at the Triple J in Brillion. Register for the clay shoot and dinner or the artist-led canvas painting and dinner for \$100 (ages 12 and up for each event), or simply come for the dinner and silent auction (registration \$40 for ages 12 and up, \$25 for ages 2-12, those under 2 are free). Registrations are due by April 19th. The clay shoot and canvas painting begin at 2:00. Dinner will be served at 4:30. The silent auction will be closed out at 5:30; winners do not need to be present to win.

Individuals and businesses are also being sought to sponsor the event and/or contribute to the silent auction. Companies can sponsor a dinner table at the gold level for \$500, a station at the silver level for \$350, or an ammo table at the bronze level for \$200. Names and/or logos will be displayed for each sponsor. Items or gift certificates can also be supplied for the silent auction with names or logos displayed.

Anyone seeking to participate in or sponsor the event can contact Courtney Schisel (920-707-0039, caschisel@gmail.com) or Janet Coenen (920-268-5604, janet_1929@icloud.com) for more information.

School Birthdays

Remy R.- March 10th
Skylar A.- March 12th
Jaylyn C.- March 12th
Jaxon H.- March 20th
Haylie N.- March 25th
Lily Rebecca P.A.- March 27th



New Campus Highlights

Continuing Progress

Progress continues on our new campus, with insulation being put in place, some of the drywall going up, and much more. Keep up to date through our Facebook page, Google album, and YouTube channel! It is an exciting time for our congregation and school, and we don't want you to miss anything!



Power Lift Chair for Sale- Proceeds to Benefit New Campus

A member has available a lightly used Power Lift and Recline Chair available for sale. It is freshly cleaned and treated with Scotch-guard, blue ("Lakefront" on color chart), in entirely working condition. They are asking \$500 (originally about \$1300). The sale price will be donated to St. John's Capital Building Fund. For inquiries, please call Michele at 920-495-0669.

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