



# *The Messenger*

*April 2023 Edition*

*A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School*

## **Inside this Issue...**

<b>Devotional Corner</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>Christian Parenting Today</b>	<b>page 3, 8</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>page 4</b>
<b>Church Highlights</b>	<b>page 5</b>
<b>School Highlights</b>	<b>page 6</b>
<b>New Campus Updates</b>	<b>page 7</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>page 8</b>

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



## Devotional Corner

### I'm tired of all the bad news. Can God help me see a solution to all the problems?

Have you noticed the newspaper headlines and lead stories on the evening news lately? They don't really change much over the years. Plenty of ink is spilled about wars, murders, rapes, or other forms of violent crime. Our eyes watch tornados, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes unfold before us on the airwaves. Life can often look pretty bleak in many parts of the world.

But the problems aren't just in other parts of the world. Sometimes the hurt, the pain, and the tragedies we often read or hear about actually invade our own personal lives. Being on the receiving end can lead us to blurt out in frustration:

"Why are my neighbors so unfriendly? It's almost as if they take a grumpy pill each morning."

"My marriage has been in a rut for months, and the possibility of it changing seems hopeless. Some days I wished I'd never walked down the aisle."

"Why did my mom have to develop cancer? She has been a health nut her whole life. It doesn't seem fair."

"The kids are driving me nuts! It feels as though I have completely lost control."

"I'm so lonely that some days I honestly feel that I am the only one left in the world."

Life has its problems. Each of us has our problems. Death, sickness, broken promises, and severed relationships—do you ever get tired of all the bad news? It can lead us to wonder: "Is there a solution?"

Yes, there is! It starts first with God helping us understand that all of life's problems are really a symptom of the big problem of sin.

The awesome news is that God freely gives us a complete solution to that problem of sin. After living and dying for us, Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday. He is the solution! God tells us that he has given us

*"New birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

*1 Peter 1:3*

Tired of the bad news? Come and learn about the good news of God's solution to life's problems. This news will never become old.

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: How to Get Your Child To LISTEN!

Excerpts from an Aha!Parenting.com article

One of the most common questions I hear from parents is: How can I get my kid to LISTEN to me?

Kids have a lot on their minds, from the history test to the soccer tryouts to the newest computer game. Parents can be dismally low on their list. Not to mention that when the brain is rewiring at age six, and again at age twelve, kids often feel overwhelmed by outside stimuli and tune you out. Even toddlers are very busy, since their job description is exploring (aka tearing your house apart.) So kids have other things to think about. They also have different priorities, and they don't understand at all why it's so important to take their bath right this minute!

Of course, the parents who ask me how to get their child to listen aren't really talking about listening. They're talking about how to get their child to take in what they say--and take action! And yes, there are some tricks to make that more likely. Here's how.

**1. Don't start talking until you have your child's attention.** Connect BEFORE you start speaking. That means you can't bark orders from across the room and expect to get through. Instead, move in close. Get down on your child's level and touch him lightly. Observe what he's doing and connect with him by making a comment about it: "Wow, look at that train go!" Brain research has found that when we feel connected to another person, we're more open to their influence, so by connecting first, you're making it easy for him to listen to you.

Wait until he looks up. Look him in the eye. Then start talking. If he doesn't look up, make sure you have his attention by asking "Can I tell you something?" When he looks up, then start talking.

**2. Don't repeat yourself.** If you've asked once and not gotten a response, don't just repeat yourself. You don't have your child's attention. Go back to step one.

**3. Use fewer words.** Most of us dilute our message and lose our child's attention by using too many words. Use as few words as possible to give instructions.

**4. See it from his point of view.** If you were busy with something you liked doing and your partner ordered you to stop doing it and do something else that was not a priority to you, how would you feel? Might you tune out your partner? Your child doesn't have to share your priorities, he just has to accommodate your needs. And you don't have to share his priorities, but it will help immensely if you can acknowledge how much he wants to keep doing whatever he's doing. "I know it's hard to stop playing, Honey. You're really enjoying that, and I can see why! And now I need you to....."

**5. Engage cooperation.** No one wants to listen to someone who's giving orders; in fact, it always stimulates resistance. Think about how you feel when someone orders you around. Do you cooperate enthusiastically? Instead, keep your tone warm. When possible, give choices. "It's bath time, Sweetie. Do you want to go now or in five minutes? Ok, five minutes with no fuss? Let's shake on it." If you really need it done NOW, phrase it as a command, but keep the warmth and empathy.

**6. Stay calm.** When we get upset, kids feel unsafe and go into fight or flight. In their effort to defend themselves or to fight back, they become LESS effective at listening, and lose sight of our message. If your priority is getting everyone in the car, don't waste time and energy lecturing them about why they didn't listen to you and get ready when you first asked. That will just make everyone more upset, including you. Take a deep breath, help her find her shoe and help him on with his backpack. Once you're in the car, you can ask them to help you brainstorm ways to get everyone out of the house on time next time.

**7. Set up routines.** Most of parents' communication to kids consists of nagging. No wonder children don't listen. The solution? Routines, so there are fewer opportunities for power struggles and less need for you to be a drill sergeant. Routines are just regular habits, like what the kids do before they leave the house (brush teeth, use toilet, pack backpack, put on shoes, etc.) If you take photos of your child doing these tasks and put them onto a small poster, your child will learn them over time. Put her in charge of what she needs to do. She'll have a new skill and your role will be limited to asking questions: "What else do you have to do before you leave the house? Let's check your schedule."

*Article continues on page 8*

# Upcoming Events



## Easter Egg Scramble- Saturday, April 1st

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Scramble on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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! The ground has been wet and snowy, so please encourage your children to wear their boots! Bring your friends and family; all are welcome to attend. If weather prevents the scramble from taking place on April 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be moved back to April 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Lost Key Tap Get-Together- Wednesday, April 12th

Adults from St. John Lutheran Church and School are invited to a get-together at Lost Key Tap in Wrightstown on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be gathering from 5:30 until 7:30 pm for dinner and fellowship. A buffet is available for \$25 per person, payable at the bar, and a cash bar will also be available. Please RSVP to the church and school office by April 5<sup>th</sup> so that we have a head count. The gathering will be adults only, but childcare will be available at our school beginning at 5:00.

## Clays for Cardinals- Saturday, April 29th

Our PTO has arranged another awesome event to help raise funds for the playground at the new campus! Join us on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, for a clay shoot or canvas painting and dinner at the Triple J in Brillion. Register by April 19<sup>th</sup> for the clay shoot and dinner or the artist-led canvas painting (example shown below) and dinner for \$100. Ages 12 and up only for these events, please. Or simply come for the dinner and silent auction (dinner only is \$40 for ages 12 and up, \$25 for ages 2-12, those under 2 are free). 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.



## Mark Your Calendars!

- April 1- Easter Egg Scramble
- April 2- FVL Choirs Concert
- April 3- Early Release/Parent-Teacher Conferences
- April 6-10 Easter Break
- April 6- Maundy Thursday Worship
- April 7- Good Friday Worship
- April 9- Easter Sunday Worship and Breakfast
- April 11- Monthly Fellowship Luncheon
- April 12- Lost Key Tap Adult Get-Together
- April 14- FoxFest Dinner and Auction
- April 20- School Choice Window Closes
- April 23- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sings at Both Services
- April 24- Virtual PTO Meeting
- April 28- Hot Lunch
- April 29- Clay Shoot, Canvas Painting, and Dinner

# Church Highlights



## Holy Week Services

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



## Easter Lilies Available

Easter lilies may be ordered for display in church in memory or honor of friends and family. Each lily costs \$10. Orders will be taken until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact the office to place your order.

## Marriage Moments

Every marriage has its “moments.” That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. “Marriage Moments” are short, weekly videos highlighting one Biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. If you would like to learn more about these non-threatening weekly devotions, visit <https://welscongregationalservices.net/ministry-resources/wels-marriages/marriagemoments/>. You can explore past videos by topic or date, subscribe to receive the videos via a weekly email, or find other marriage-enriching resources.



## Apple Valley Food Pantry News

The April collection will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, which is a week later than normal due to the Easter holiday on our normal weekend. Items needed at the pantry are: Cereal (healthier oat, rice, etc.), pork 'n beans/baked beans, misc. pasta noodles, spaghetti, pasta sauce (canned or plastic jars preferred), canned pears and fruit cocktail, canned beef/chicken stews, jam (18 oz. jars), peanut butter (16 oz. jars), hand soaps, dish soaps (20 oz. or less) and laundry soaps (60 loads or less). Thank you all for your continued support of the pantry. Happy Easter!

## Church Birthdays

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

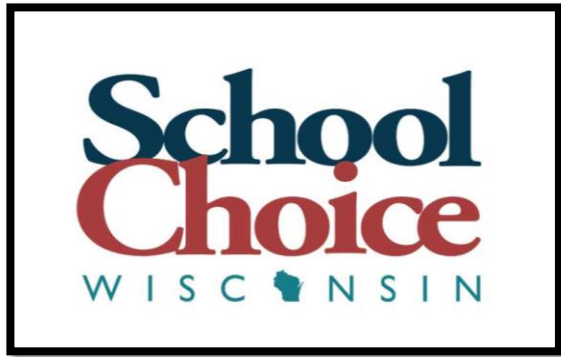
Apr 1 Bea Ambrosius  
Apr 2 Bryce Denor  
Apr 2 Brooklyn Verheyen  
Apr 3 Savannah Sommers  
Apr 4 April Leick  
Apr 9 Avery Asman  
Apr 9 Hadley Schisel  
Apr 10 Dakota Otten  
Apr 11 Michelle Bruecker  
Apr 11 Lincoln Wichman  
Apr 12 Dillon Solomon

Apr 14 Roy Schisel  
Apr 16 William Olp  
Apr 16 Nicholas Van Straten  
Apr 19 Heather Bush  
Apr 20 Hannah Wierschke  
Apr 21 Isaiah Cyracus  
Apr 21 Landen Cyracus  
Apr 21 Corbin Calaway  
Apr 21 Jessica Laabs  
Apr 21 Matthew Laabs  
Apr 21 Ruth Zittlow

Apr 23 Emery Heimerl  
Apr 28 Brandon Beard  
Apr 28 Amy Vande Hey  
Apr 30 Judy Breister  
Apr 30 Diane Calaway



# School Highlights



## School Choice Window Closes

The window for applying for school choice will be drawing to a close on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Families who are interested in applying school choice tuition coverage or renewing their applications for the upcoming school year must complete the process by this date. If you have any questions or need any help in the application process, please contact the school office.



## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the date for our spring parent/teacher conferences. Please note that this is a change from the original schedule. With an increased number of students this year, we have chosen to make this a half-day of school to allow us time to meet with more families. School will dismiss at 11:30 for all students and no aftercare will be available.

Please make sure that you have signed up online for a spot with your child's teacher. Conferences will run from 12:00-7:00 pm in twenty-minute time slots. If you are unable to meet with your teacher that day, please arrange with them to meet another day.



## Talent Show Coming May 5th

Our annual school performance night will be featuring a talent show this year. On Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, please join us at 6:00 pm at the Wrightstown High School auditorium to see our students show off a variety of talents! We will have several performers as well as some displays to check out in the hallway afterwards.

Parents, please help us to ensure that we are fully prepared for the show by ensuring that you have communicated with your child(rens)'s teacher(s) about the talent they will be showcasing and the materials that they will need and by making sure that they are practicing at home. Preschool and pre-K families are exempt from this, as they will be performing as a group and practicing at school.

## Sports Offerings Available

Several sports teams and camps are available to St. John students through FVL, Wrightstown community and school district, and Saints programs (combined FVL and Xavier teams). If you are looking for opportunities for your child to join a team or camp over the summer or are planning ahead for fall, please check through your recent emails or speak with your child's teacher about the prospects that are available.

## School Birthdays

Bryce D- April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Savannah S- April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Hadley S- April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Arabella E- April 12<sup>th</sup>  
Montzerrath A- April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Barett L- April 15<sup>th</sup>  
Alexis M- April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Levi T- April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Isaiah C- April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Landen C- April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Omar M- April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Emery H- April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Evelyn A- April 29<sup>th</sup>



# New Campus Highlights



## Recent Progress on New Campus

Progress continues inside and outside of the new facility. Drywall is up all around the building, mudding has been done, and painting will be progressing—so it is now easy to get a good idea of what each room will look like. Our large playground installation is being dropped off on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. A committee is busy sorting through the items we still need to pay for (items that are separate from what the contractor is responsible for) and coming up with a prioritization ranking. A brochure will be available soon detailing these items.



## Mother's Day Flowers Fundraiser

Courtney Schisel and the PTO are once again offering flowers for sale for Mother's Day. Flower arrangements may be purchased for \$15 each, with proceeds benefitting our new campus. Plan to pick up your arrangement after worship services on Mother's Day (May 14<sup>th</sup>).



## For Sale: Mobile Building

For Sale: One mobile building! Our mobile classroom will no longer be needed after this school year, as we will be moving into our new campus before the next school year! We are accepting sealed bids for the mobile unit up until April 21st.

The building was manufactured by North Star Buildings in 2018 and has only been used as our classroom. The interior dimensions are 15' wide x 44' long, with 92" height walls. Two entry doors are 36" x 80". There are four windows at 24" x 36". The overall building height is 12'-2" and the overall building width is 15'-11". The roof has a 5/12 pitch. 2'x4' studs occur every 16". Floor joists are 2"x6", with studs occurring every 12".

A full copy of project plans, more information, and the process to submit sealed bids are available upon request. Call Wayne at 920-660-0709 for more information.



# How to Get Your Child to LISTEN!

*Continuation of article from page 3*

**8. Listen.** If you stare at your screen while your child tells you about his day, you're role modeling how communication is handled in your family. If you really want your child to listen to you, stop what you're doing and listen. It only takes a few minutes. Start this when he's a preschooler and he'll still be willing to talk to you when he's a teenager. You'll be so glad you did.

**9. Watch for understanding.** Most of the time when kids don't "listen", they just haven't tuned in to us. But if your child repeatedly seems unable to process your instructions, she may have an auditory processing disorder. Adopt the tips above and experiment with giving your child multi-step instructions. If you're concerned, consult with your pediatrician for referral to an audiologist.

**10. Pare down your orders to what's really non-negotiable.** If you worked for someone who constantly badgered you with orders, would you feel like cooperating? You don't want every interaction with your child to be an order. So maximize the loving, happy interactions, and minimize the orders.

**11. Invite cooperation by being playful.** "Kids not listening / not responding / not complying is like my parenting kryptonite. I can keep my cool in the face of many things but this is the hardest. I inadvertently discovered this week that my kids are much better at doing what I want them to when I use a hand puppet to

ask them to do it. At first I was like WHAT IS THIS MAGIC but reading this article I can see that the puppet is much better than I am at a lot of these things - connecting before speaking, staying calm, engaging cooperation... basically, I should just take parenting lessons from my own hand puppet!" - Robin M.

**You'll notice that these tips can all be boiled down to three things:**

**Calm yourself.**

**Connect.**

**Engage cooperation with empathy.**

These are the basics of communication, and work when you need to get cooperation from someone of any age. So why do we forget them when we interact with children? Because we think (at least unconsciously) that children should simply do what we say when we say it. But kids are humans, and humans don't like to be ordered around. You'll always get better cooperation when you connect before you direct!



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