

The Messenger

September 2025 Edition

A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

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St. John Lutheran Church and School

206 Plum Road, Wrightstown 920-532-4865

Church email: stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

School email: office@stjohnwrightstown.com



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

Devotional Corner



Devotion Corner: How can I be happy if I don't take sides?

*"Blessed are the
peacemakers."
Matthew 5:9*

Who really wants to be a peacemaker anyway? A peacemaker in a marriage is usually the one who has to swallow his or her pride. Who wants to say, "You're right, and I'm wrong," to keep the peace in a marriage? A peacemaker amongst neighbors is the one who has to rake more, shovel more, and put up with more. Who really wants to do that to keep the peace between neighbors? To be a peacemaker can be a headache!

And yet, Jesus attaches the blessing of happiness to those who are peacemakers. Jesus can say that from his own experience. He was happy to bring peace to this world. After all, he is the Prince of Peace. This title rightfully describes Jesus because he made peace between God and all the people of the world.

Talk about a headache! It wasn't easy. He had to resist temptation, he had to resist the urge to strike back, he had to put others first, he had to go the extra mile, he had to suffer, and ultimately, he had to die. But all of his sacrifices were necessary to establish peace between his Father and the world. Jesus was a successful peacemaker, and he was happy to do it. And you can be happy that he did it too!

To be a peacemaker is not easy. It wasn't for Jesus, and it won't be for you either. It isn't easy to be the

peacemaker between quarreling siblings. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker between angry neighbors. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker in a contentious marriage. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker when grudges are involved. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker when that involves saying, "I'm sorry." But Jesus never said it was going to be easy. He did say, though, that he will bless your peacemaking efforts. Just take one glance at all the blessings attached to Jesus' peacemaking— forgiveness, joy, and peace just to name a few.

How can I be happy if I don't take sides? That's the point. True happiness comes when you do take a side—God's side. To be a peacemaker is to be a reflection of Jesus. To be a peacemaker is to take to the world the peace that Jesus has brought to you. And there is no greater joy than that!



Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: Dads Parent Differently Than Moms

Excerpts from A FocusOnTheFamily.com Article by
Joannie DeBrito, Ph. D., LCSW, LMFT

It's pretty obvious that dads parent differently than moms. My daughters are in their 30s and I recognize traits in each of them that they learned from their father. Thankfully, I didn't interfere with the learning process but came very close to squelching it and neglecting my children of the benefits of their father's unique contributions to parenting.

Admit it, moms. You've been ready to step in and rescue your children from being thrown too high in the air or coaxed to jump from a tree limb that looks high enough to result in broken bones. When my children were really young, I armed myself with my parenting knowledge and rehearsed the most gentle way that I could tell my husband he was doing everything wrong.

Pause: But once, when I was unsuccessful in my efforts to encourage my daughter to get into the swimming pool, my husband suggested that he gently push her in. This sounded too harsh to me. However, I stopped, paused, and trusted that my husband would know what to do at the right time. After all, he had been with her since she was born and she trusted him completely. This was the first time I had considered a father's unique contributions to parenting.

Observe: Therefore, I simply waited and observed. My daughter stood trembling, thinking she was standing on the edge of a watery abyss. In a classic demonstration of how dads parent differently than moms, her father came up behind her, put his arm around her shoulders and jumped in with her. She stayed in the water for hours, went on to join the swim team in our neighborhood and has become a lifelong lover of a variety of water sports.

The important thing to remember here is the time that my husband had invested in bonding and attaching with his children. They could take more risks with him because he had spent so much time cultivating a warm, loving and supportive relationship with them.

Both of them intuitively sensed that their father was not going to do anything that would hurt them or put them in danger. And I learned something else from my husband that day. When my daughter emerged from the unexpected dunking, she had a shocked and surprised

look on her face. I might have responded to that with sympathy which could have encouraged tears. Instead, my husband laughed and gave her a high five to which she responded, "That was fun, Dad. Do it again!"

Fast forward about twenty years and my other daughter was in nursing school, struggling. We began to get weekly phone calls that described her flunking courses, having to spend six years getting her nursing degree, and being stuck in a place she didn't like.

Honestly, I could feel her pain as someone who had found those same courses challenging while in college. I offered my belief that she would pass (which she did) while I empathized with and acknowledged her fears.

Remember, dads parent differently than moms and that was certainly the case here. From my perspective, it seemed as if my husband discounted her feelings and I thought he was being insensitive. He proceeded with practical suggestions for moving forward. My daughter later acknowledged that both responses were very helpful.

Sensitivity balanced with problem solving. While all moms and dads are different, there is plenty of evidence to show that moms tend to bring more sensitivity and emotion to parenting than dads and fathers tend to encourage more problem solving and risk taking than moms. Recognize that both are essential to the healthy growth and development of your children.

Being tuned into a child's emotional life is important but it can be stifling if there is too much effort to protect the child from every bump and bruise that life has to offer. On the other hand, while learning to take appropriate and necessary risks is important, taking risks that are potentially dangerous may lead to unintended accidents or set children up for needing to feel the rush of a risk accomplished, on a consistent basis.

So, let dads parent differently than moms. Kiss your babies, snuggle with your toddlers, empathize with your elementary, middle school and high school kids. Continue to provide them with the physical, emotional and spiritual support they so desperately need. Let their father parent as only he can and appreciate a father's unique contributions to parenting. Your children will benefit from both parenting styles.

See the full article at: www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/dads-parent-differently-than-moms/

Upcoming Events



JAM Children's Ministry Kickoff

JAM (Jesus and Me) Children's Ministry is ready to kickoff Sunday, September 7th! JAM provides a place for children to learn about God, worship Him, and take part in crafts and activities that expand on their Bible lesson. JAM takes place during worship services, allowing parents to focus more on the service while children receive instruction at developmentally appropriate levels. Parents are welcome to send their children for the whole service or just for the sermon time. Children will be collected from the worship area before the sermon begins for those who choose that option. Toddlers through 4th graders are welcome to attend. Children are, of course, also welcome to continue attending throughout the whole service with their parents. Registration forms and more information are available at stjohnwrightstown.com/childrens-ministry. Registration is a requirement but may be completed the same day. We are also looking for volunteers: adults to be classroom leaders and older students (5th grade and up) to be classroom helpers.



New Church Directory Pictures

Harmann Studios will be on campus September 15th-19th to take photos for a new church directory. All member families are strongly encouraged to participate! Sessions will last 15-20 minutes and will include a free 8x10" or a 5x7" print of the photo selected for the directory. There will be a same day opportunity to order additional prints for personal and sharing needs. With any print purchase, a complimentary printed directory will be provided. Directories are available for \$20 for those who only want a book or are looking to buy extras. Families can sign up by contacting Courtney Schisel or via book.usesession.com/s/VEiofOabUU.

MLC Football at Lawrence University- Saturday, September 6th



Our synod's ministerial college, Martin Luther College, brings their football squad to Appleton this weekend as they take on Lawrence University. It will be the MLC Knights vs the LU Vikings at the Banta Bowl beginning at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 6th. Riverside Lutheran Church and School in Appleton will be hosting a pre-game tailgate party. Events include food, fellowship, and fun from 8:00-11:30 am, with a team meet and greet from 9:15-9:45. Everyone is encouraged to wear red to support the MLC Knights. Use Riverside's Facebook page to sign up for the tailgate party.

Mark Your Calendars!

- September 1- No School (Labor Day)
- September 2- Board of Education Meeting
- September 3- Breakfast and Bible Study
 - FVL Chapel
 - Public School Confirmation Classes Begin
- September 5- Apple Bowl (FVL @ Xavier)
- September 6- MLC Football Game at Lawrence Uni.
 - Tailgating at Riverside Beforehand
- September 7- First Day of JAM Children's Ministry
 - First Day of Sunday School
- September 8- Elders/Church Council Meetings
- September 9- School Vision Screening
 - Fellowship Meal
- September 10- FVL Meet the Teachers
- September 14- First Day of Adult Bible Class
- September 15-19- Church Directory Pictures
- September 16- Outreach Team Meeting
 - FVL Giving Day
- September 17- Breakfast and Bible Study
- September 18- FVL Visits 5th-8th Grade at St. John
- September 26- School Picture Day
- September 30- PTO Meeting
- October 1- Breakfast and Bible Study
- October 4- Wrightstown Fall Fest (PTO Food Booth)

Church Highlights

Register For Sunday School

Sunday School is back this Sunday, September 7th! Families are encouraged to register their children using a form available at the reception desk. Children ages 3 (potty trained) through 8th grade are welcome to join teachers for a Bible lesson along with crafts and activities each Sunday throughout the school year. Sunday School will run from 10:15 am (following the church service) through 11:15 am. The lessons will run on a different cycle than those in JAM, so students may attend both if families wish.



Sunday Adult Bible Class Resumes

Sunday Bible classes will resume beginning on September 14th. They will follow an abbreviated schedule, running from 10:15 until 10:45 am following the weekly service. Classes will be held in the worship area. We are currently looking for people who may be interested in providing childcare during this time for children who are not old enough to be in Sunday School. Please let Pastor Wilke know if you are interested in helping in this matter.



Tuition Assistance Window Opens

Any St. John Lutheran Church members with children attending a WELS school (such as St. John, FVL, or MLC) seeking tuition assistance can email a request to Josh Bohrtz at joshjaimebortz@gmail.com. In the request, be sure to include name(s), what grade(s), and what school(s) the child(ren) will be attending. The deadline to submit any request is September 30th. If you have any questions, contact Josh at (920) 428-1294.



Choir Practice Returns

St. John's choir will be starting regular practices and performances again beginning on Wednesday, September 10th. Practices will run each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining can come to practice or speak with Ginny Uecker.

September Church Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in September!

Sep 1 Owen Propson
Sep 2 Allen Johns
Sep 6 Cassie Nielson
Sep 11 Liberty Cisler
Sep 12 Lena Abrahamson
Sep 12 Ava Uecker
Sep 12 Elena Uecker
Sep 12 Barb Verbeten
Sep 13 Maddie Vickman
Sep 14 Amanda Spatchek
Sep 15 Kenny Lemke
Sep 15 Ethan Propson



Sep 17 Lois Baumgartener
Sep 17 Damian Guggenbuehl
Sep 19 Dane Schisel
Sep 21 Andrew DeMerritt
Sep 21 Alan Lemke
Sept 23 Lincoln Demerath
Sep 25 Scott Schroeder
Sep 26 Trevor Golden
Sep 27 Michael Breister
Sep 29 Jesse Schmidt
Sep 30 Chase Denor

School Highlights

Lunch Volunteers Wanted

With the new hot lunch program this year, we could use a parent volunteer to help daily. There will always be a primary person picking up the food and leading. The helper would be responsible with assisting to serve and clean-up. The time to be covered would be 11:15 am-1:15 pm. There is a sign-up online to fill spots for September and October at www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4DABAB23ABFF2-58113291-lunch. You can sign up for individual days. These shifts will count towards each family's 10 hours of required volunteer time for the year. If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Schisel at 920-707-0039.



School Picture Day- September 26

School pictures are coming at the end of the month! Parents, please mark your calendars for Friday, September 26th to lay out the fancy outfits. Harmann Studios will be on campus in the morning. Early Childhood students who are not scheduled for the day are still welcome to come to have their picture taken, or they can wait for the picture retake day (to be announced later). Children will receive a code for online order placement once photos have been taken.



Daddy-Daughter Dance

Registration is now open for the 2025 Daddy-Daughter Dance at FVL High School on October 11th. Girls ages 3-13 and their dads (or other special guy) are invited to dress up and spend an afternoon together filled with dancing, games, crafts, snacks, raffle baskets, and memories to last a lifetime! Register online in advance through October 9th for \$15/person with a multiple (3+) princess discount. Follow the links at www.fvlhs.org/todays-news to register ahead of time. Cost at the door is \$20/person. The event is sponsored by FVL's Cheer and Stunt Squad.



Sports Opportunities

While at St. John, students have the opportunity to enroll at sports programs through the public school district as well as through FVL Schools. Some of the upcoming opportunities from FVL Schools include:

- Nothin' but Net, a basketball program for girls in grades 3-8, beginning on September 27th
- Boys Hoops Club, a boys basketball program for grades 3-8, beginning on October 5th
- Fox Valley Saints Wrestling, a co-ed wrestling program run jointly for FVL and Xavier Schools. Sign-up is now open for the winter season.
- A cheer and stunt clinic is available on Sept. 13 for girls in 5K-8th grade.

Go to fvlhs.org/youth-sports for information on these programs and more.

September School Birthdays

David M.P.- September 2nd
Alexander S.- September 2nd
Pippa B.- September 4th
Liberty C.- September 11th
Maddie V.- September 13th
Brayden M.- September 14th
Dane S.- September 19th
Mia A.A.- September 26th
Nova K.- September 30th





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Earnings go to the school
The school shares those earnings with you to offset tuition or cover other costs and fees.



Learn more at stjohnwrightstown.com/resources

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 6 th -8 th grade teacher	920-636-5007	tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Natalie Schultz, 3 rd -5 th grade teacher	262-388-8892	natalie.schultz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Rebecca Wicks, 1 st -2 nd grade teacher	920-809-8648	rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com
McKenzey Crowley, kindergarten teacher	605-390-6827	mckenzey.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com
Jamie Buss, early childhood director and EC 3 teacher	920-538-0470	jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com
Leah Gamboa, EC 2 teacher	920-309-5037	leah.gamboa@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



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