

The Messenger

June 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 want to feel better about myself. Can God help me build up my self-esteem?

“I’m worthless!”

That’s a depressing statement. Yet many people silently admit to themselves that they’re worthless. The single mom who doesn’t feel loved; the child or adult who can never seem to do anything right for his parents; the employee who messed up on the job again; they and many others feel that they aren’t worth very much.

Maybe you’ve felt this way. Is there an area of your life in which you want to feel better about yourself?

Many say you can establish a positive self-image by focusing on your skills, accomplishments, status, financial resources, or appearance. There’s “help” out there in the form of self-hypnosis, support groups, affirmation and visualization techniques, plastic surgery, self-help books, CDs, DVDs, and other attempts to build self-esteem.

All these efforts only provide a temporary, superficial lift. Ultimately, they prove to be feeble efforts to feel worthwhile.

We all want to feel a sense of worth, love, and security in our lives, but we can’t provide them for ourselves. But God can. He freely gives them to us through his Son, Jesus.

His Word tells us not to focus on ourselves but on him, to look not at what we’ve done but at what he’s done for us through Jesus Christ. Our sense of worth and value—our self-esteem—is found in the Savior who lived and died in our place.

A man named Paul realized this when he said,

“Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” Philippians 3:8

In Jesus, we find a status before God that we could never produce, a love from God that's unfailing, and the security for life in knowing that our Savior who loves us will be with us each and every day.

God’s way of helping us build up our self-esteem is showing us Jesus. Please join us to find out more about your Savior who lived and died for you.

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

Bible Classes Sundays at 9:00 am



Today's Parenting: Six Practical Tips for Summer Parenting

A kumon.com article

"I'm bored." The dreaded and inevitable words most parents hear at some point during the summer break.

For many working families, summer time isn't always full of pool parties, trips to the playground or amusement park, and endless playdates.

Children have a lot of free time on their hands and it can be overwhelming to maintain their day-to-day activities. So how can parents keep their children structured, organized and active in the summer months?

Schedule fun. Together with your children, come up with your summer "bucket list" or list of activities the family wants and can afford to do this summer—trip to the zoo, beach vacation, backyard camping adventure, etc. Next, map out the activities on a calendar so the children know exactly when their adventures will take place. This will give them something to look forward to.

Resist the urge to overschedule. During the school year, parents know exactly when and where their kids will be each day. When it comes to the summer, parents often feel a need to schedule every minute of the day from drama camp to soccer practice to carpools to the park. While having a consistent routine is important, it's also imperative to allow time for unstructured downtime.

Set aside time each day. The biggest mistake parents can make is getting caught up in all of those posts and pictures of other parents' summer activities on social media. Your child doesn't need a Martha Stewart or Pinterest worthy activity, all they need is a loving

connection with you. So, whether it's running through the sprinkler together, roasting marshmallows in the backyard or even just counting the stars on a blanket before bedtime, do at least one thing a day to connect and have fun.

Encourage your child to try something new this summer. There's no time like the summer to encourage your child to try a new activity. Maybe he wants to take swimming lessons, or a painting class, take-up a new sport or attend a summer camp. New activities encourage brain development and build your child's focus and creativity. But remember, don't go overboard in the scheduling of activities!

Limit technology. When it's hot outside and kids are bored, screen time has a way to swallowing up all of their time. Parents can easily fall into the trap of technology becoming the babysitter. Replace that screen time with daily reading and regular trips to the library. Books open the imagination and creativity in every child.

Create structure and set boundaries. Summer routines are sure to be different than school routines, but it's important to remember the necessity of routines. Children need to be freed of the tight structure of the school year, but they also need the security of knowing that some things will remain the same. Keep the same bedtime, maintain the same chore schedule, etc. You can easily discourage behavioral problems by ensuring a structured environment.

see the original article at
www.kumon.com/resources/6-practical-tips-for-summer-parenting-2/



Upcoming Events

Family Park Playdates

St. John's PTO will be hosting weekly park playdates all summer long for families to socialize, new students to meet playmates, and returning students hang out together. This year, times and days of the week will vary in an effort to allow more families to be involved.

June's playdates will run as follows:

- Thursday, June 8th at Way-Mor Park, Greenleaf, 10:00 am-12:00 noon
- Thursday, June 15th at Voyager Park, DePere, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 21 at Pamperin Park, Green Bay, 12:00 noon-2:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 27th at Optimist Park, Depere, 10:00 am-12:00 noon



Grilled Cheese on the Farm- Saturday, June 10th

The Olsons, a local WELS family, are hosting a special event at their family farm on Saturday, June 10th. Come for grilled cheese, Culver's frozen custard, and family-friendly activities. Cost is \$5, cash only, with children ages 5 and under free. The event will run from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm at Olson Family Farm, 6302 County Road MM, Larsen.



St. John Baseball Events- Friday, July 7th and Friday, August 11th

St. John will once again be gathering at some ballgames this summer! Join us for WELS Night at the Brewers and for St. John Night at the Timber Rattlers. We will be gathering with fans from other WELS congregations for the night at the Brewers to witness them taking on the Cincinnati Reds. Then on August 11th, we will meet in the T-Rats parking lot for a tailgating meal before seeing the Rattlers take on the Dayton Dragons. See sign-ups in the back of church.



Mark Your Calendars!

- June 8- Park Playdate #1
- June 12- First day of Summer Care
- June 13- Fellowship Luncheon
- June 15- Park Playdate #2
- June 18- Father's Day
- June 18- Open Forum on Ministry Financial Plan
- June 19- Voter's Meeting on Ministry Financial Plan and Elections
- June 21- Park Playdate #3
- June 27- Park Playdate #4

Church Highlights

Offer Accepted on Greenleaf Site

God's blessings continue to roll in as we grow ever closer to our move to the new campus! We were able to consider a couple of offers on the Greenleaf properties and accepted an offer from the town of Wrightstown. We are thankful for the timely sale of the property that was given to us freely by the former St. Paul, Greenleaf congregation as it provides needed funds for our upcoming payments.



Upcoming Open Forums and Voter's Meetings

Please watch our calendars carefully for the next couple of months. We will have an open forum on June 18th followed by a voter's meeting on June 19th to tackle our elections of church officers and the Ministry Financial Plan (yearly budget) so that we can plan for the fiscal year ahead. Then in July, we will take a look back at the past year as we review annual reports during an open forum on July 16th and voter's meeting on July 17th.

School Highlights

Staff Adjustments for 2023-2024

With Leah Gamboa accepting our most recent call, we now have 6 staffed classrooms for the upcoming school year- a needed adjustment as we have reached 105 students enrolled! Please help us to welcome our new teachers as we prepare for the coming year. The following grade level splits and staffing arrangements will be in place:

Preschool- Mrs. Madie Otto

PreK- Mrs. Leah Gamboa

Kindergarten & 1st- Miss Jamie Buss

2nd & 3rd (departmentalized)- Mrs. Rebecca Wicks

4th & 5th (departmentalized)- Mr. Dillon Solomon

6th, 7th, & 8th (departmentalized)- Mr. Tim Raddatz

Thank You to PTO and Parents

Many thanks to our PTO, volunteers, and parents for all of your help and support in the past year. The PTO has been working constantly to hold fundraisers for our playground and organize events, including the very successful Clays for Cardinals which earned \$20,000 last month. We have also had several PTO members and parents show lots of love and support to staff during Teacher Appreciation week, and our faculty is quite grateful for all you did. A final thank you to all of the volunteers who helped students read, led clubs, organized hot lunch, and much more. You rock!

Church and School Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating during June!

June 1 Bernie Vickman
June 2 Carol Cootway
June 2 Lori Van Alem
June 4 Jean Reynolds
June 5 Lynn Kussow
June 7 Maria Kussow
June 9 Cassie Pohlman
June 9 Lindsay Ritter
June 10 Beverly Ollila
June 11 Betty Schisel
June 11 Mason West
June 11 Michael Wierschke
June 13 Isaac Uecker
June 13 Lauren Verheyen
June 15 Mitchel Schaeuble
June 16 Eryn Ripp

June 16 Leslie Schmidt
June 17 Norb Kussow
June 20 Travis Gilson
June 20 Jackson Pohlman
June 22 Colten Bohrtz
June 22 Clairissa Chavarria
June 22 Charles Golden
June 23 Kevin Kussow
June 23 Matthew Schaeuble
June 24 Jesse Juedes
June 24 Katelynn Kraus
June 24 Isaiah Pennerberg
June 26 Jean Laabs
June 28 Collin Verheyen
June 30 Tammy Wicker

Happy birthday to our school students celebrating during June!

Isaac U.- June 13th
Eryn R.- June 16th
Colten B.- June 22nd
Katelynn K.- June 24th
Lyle H.- June 27th
Tia N.- June 29th
Daniel M.P.- June 30th



New Campus Updates

Progress Being Made; New Campus Nears Completion

A lot of progress has been made on our new campus. A cornerstone, lockers, cabinets, ceiling work, and much more has been added to the building. Work towards the parking lot and landscaping is under way. Many of the needed items to be covered by the congregation (rather than the contractor) have been provided for. The contractor work may be completed ahead of schedule around the end of June. We are grateful for all of the blessings we have had on this project! To find ways that you can continue to help, please keep in tune to our Facebook page, church and school emails, church bulletins, our website, and this newsletter. Our primary needs right now are for financial contributions towards the project as a whole or towards individual items on our wish list. Visit www.stjohnwrightstown.com/bold-steps-updates to see the wish list of ways you can contribute. We will also be collecting moving boxes and will soon be looking for help moving items from the school and Greenleaf church building into the new campus.

Moving Boxes Needed

We are preparing to move our church and school buildings to the new campus! Teachers have started their packing now that the school year is over, and our congregation will soon be doing the same. If you can help by providing boxes, please drop them off at the school office. School will be open most mornings for the first week of June, then will be open 7:30-4:30 for summer care beginning June 12th.

Tentative Dedication Date

The new campus contractor has informed us that the work will most likely be done around the end of June or beginning of July, ahead of the original schedule. We will take a little time to set up the worship area and begin moving items in, then gather for a dedication. The dedication will likely be a Thursday evening worship service to allow other local WELS church members to celebrate with us without missing their own services. We are currently looking at a weeknight during the week of July 16th for a dedication date. We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate this monumental occasion! Stay tuned for any updates!

Contact Us

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| Pastor Mike Gehl | 920-309-5171 | pastorgehl@gmail.com |
| Tim Raddatz, principal and 2nd-4th grade teacher | 920-636-5007 | tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com |
| Dillon Solomon, 5th-8th grade teacher | 248-525-3700 | dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com |
| Rebecca Wicks, K-1st grade teacher | 920-809-8648 | rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com |
| Jamie Buss, PreK teacher | 920-538-0470 | jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com |
| Alexa Foelske, preschool teacher | 920-323-4185 | alexa.foelske@stjohnwrightstown.com |

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