

The Messenger

August 2026 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



Devotion Corner: Can God take my guilt away?

*God made him who had no
sin to be sin for us, so that in
him we might become the
righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21*

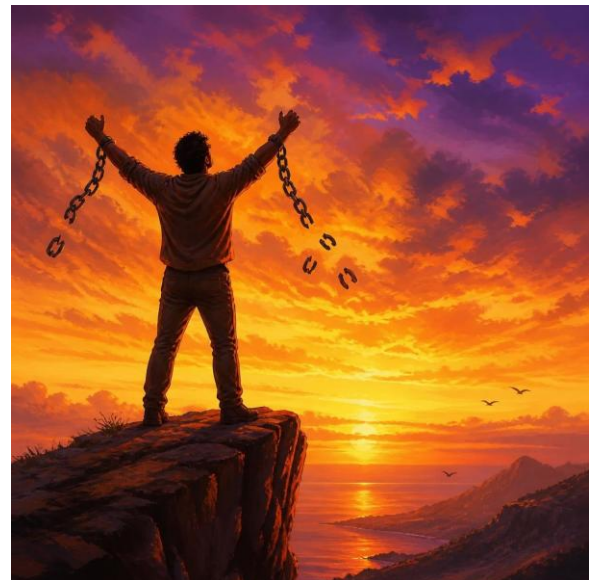
“I wish I could take it all away,” Mom whispered to her suffering five-year-old son. He had the flu for a couple of days now, and Mom’s heart was broken. As he lay in his bed suffering from the chills and a fever, there wasn’t much Mom could do except give him some children’s flu medicine and just be there for him. Mom felt helpless and wished she could take it all away from him. She even wished she could have the flu instead of her son.

When children are sick, the love of Mom and Dad really starts to shine through. In a heartbeat, parents go to extra lengths to make sure their kids are feeling as comfortable as possible. If you’re a parent, you’ve been there. You make sure their pillow is extra fluffy. You bring their favorite juice box. You provide their favorite movie to watch. And any time you hear them call, you quickly respond with, “What can I do for you?” The love of Mom and Dad goes so far that if they could take the sickness away, even become sick instead of their child, they would. But they can’t, and it hurts.

Has there ever been a time when you wished you could take it all away? Not just a sickness of a child, but something you did that you really regret? Maybe it was something you did to end a close relationship with a friend. Maybe you said something to a family member that you wish you could take back. Maybe it was something that only you know about, but it haunts you each day.

It’s at moments like these that God’s love really starts to shine through. He knows your sin, your guilt, your regrets. But he doesn’t just wish he could take them away. He did take them away. He forgave them all! He took your sin and guilt away when he put them on his only Son, Jesus. He loves you so much that he had Jesus die for your sin so that you wouldn’t have to. God forgave your guilt and now considers you right with him because of what Jesus did for you.

Wish your guilt and regrets could be taken away? They were. In their place, he gives you forgiveness and eternal life. Now that’s a love that shines through!



Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: The “Mosts” of Motherhood

A Forward In Christ Article by Sarah Reik

Early in my career as a counselor and speaker—when my children were toddlers—I created a presentation titled “The ‘mosts’ of motherhood.” Now, as I parent four teenagers, I find myself returning to those same “mosts” again and again, because God’s Word doesn’t age with our children. It remains unchanging through every season.

Most Important

How much screen time is too much? Should she stay in piano if she wants to quit? Is it okay that he doesn’t want to go to college? These are the kinds of questions that have followed me through motherhood—so many decisions and opportunities to doubt, stress, and feel guilty. The truth is, most of the time there is no one right answer. And ultimately, those questions all pale in comparison to this one: Do my children know that God loves them and what he has done for them? I can research trends, prioritize goals, and guide my children in many important ways, but teaching them about their Savior is what is most important.

“Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them” (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Most Powerful

I’ve found that as my children grow, their needs are more complex, and I feel helpless to influence tough situations. I can’t make that friend be kind to her. I can’t fix the sports injury that has him out for the season. I can’t find him his dream job. I forget that God has given me the best way to help. Since he loves my children so much, he loves when I talk to him about them, when I ask him to bless them and take care of them. He listens to my requests and says that they are powerful and effective. He answers according to his will and for their eternal good. When I pray for my children, I am doing what is most powerful.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6)



Most Comforting

When they were little, motherhood was broken bones and sickness and bullying. Now it’s broken hearts and anxiety and deceptive philosophies. I want to protect my children and spare them from pain, and it can be overwhelming to think about the dangers they face during each stage. That’s when I need to remember that my children are not mine—they are God’s. They exist because he created them, and he loves them infinitely more than I do. He sees them at all times, and he knows everything about them. He commands his angels to protect them, and his desire is to draw them close and bring them to heaven with him. In the middle of the night when I start to worry, that is the thought that is most comforting.

“To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God” (John 1:12-13).

Reflecting on these “mosts” has been grounding for me through the varied and often challenging seasons of motherhood. I pray that these “mosts” can be a blessing to you as well.

To view the article in its original format, visit <https://forwardinchrist.net/mosts-of-motherhood/>

FORWARD IN CHRIST
— A LUTHERAN VOICE —

Upcoming Events



St. John's Annual Summer Bash- Sunday, August 30th

Join us for an end-of-summer celebration on Sunday, August 30th! We will have indoor worship at 10:00 am (note that this is a time change), followed by food and fun outdoors until 1:00 pm. Activities include a petting zoo, water play, tractor rides, games, and fellowship.

Families are asked to sign up via either a link that was e-mailed out on July 6th or through a sign-up sheet in the hallway behind the worship center so that we have an attendance estimate. Bring a dish to pass to add to our lunch!



Final Park Play Dates

School families, stay in touch with each other throughout the summer as we hold park play dates on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00 am! The last two park play dates for this summer will be August 5th at La Follette Park in Kaukauna and August 12th at Pamperin Park in Green Bay.



St. John Inaugural Golf Outing- Saturday, September 26th

Grab your clubs and meet us at Wandering Springs Golf Course in Greenleaf on Saturday, September 26th! Teams of 4 are invited to sign up for the event, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart rental, a bagged lunch, a taco bar dinner with soda and beer, and snacks and drinks throughout the course. The cost is \$95 per person, with proceeds to support increased school security at St. John. In-person registration begins at 10:30 am, with a shotgun start at 12:00 noon. If you are not a golfer but would like to join us for dinner and fellowship afterwards, the cost is only \$20. Pre-register by following the QR code above, or contact Brandon Buchholz with any questions at 920-277-9802.

Mark Your Calendars!

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| Aug 4 | Martha's Circle
Board of Education |
| Aug 5 | Park Play Date- Follette Park, Kaukauna |
| Aug 7 | Final Day of Summer Program |
| Aug 10-16 | School Cleaning Days |
| Aug 10 | Elders' Meeting
Church Council Meeting |
| Aug 11 | Fellowship Luncheon |
| Aug 12 | Park Play Date- Pamperin Park, Green Bay |
| Aug 16 | Mrs. Brandt's Installation (during church)
Pastoral Call Meeting |
| Aug 18 | Outreach Team Meeting |
| Aug 19 | School Orientation Night |
| Aug 20 | School Orientation Night |
| Aug 26 | First Day of FVL High School |
| Aug 28 | Packer Ticket Scanning Day |
| Aug 30 | Summer Bash |
| Aug 31 | First Day of School/Opening Service |
| Sept 7 | No School (Labor Day) |

News Highlights

New Teacher Installation Day- Aug 16



Please help us to officially welcome Mrs. Maddilyn Brandt, our new 3rd-4th grade teacher, to St. John! She will be installed as a called worker during the service on August 16th. A light brunch following the service will provide an opportunity for introductions and fellowship. Please note that we will also have a pastoral call meeting following the service.

School Cleaning Days- Aug 10-16

“Many hands make light work” is an old but true saying. Cleaning days have been set: Monday, August 10th to Sunday, August 16th. Families can come whenever they want between the hours of 9am-7pm, Monday through Saturday, and 11am-7pm, on Sunday, August 16th. Time spent cleaning can be applied to the family’s required 10 service hours for the school year by submitting the hours online or at the front desk.



School Orientation Nights- Aug 19-20

School orientation will be on Wednesday and Thursday, August 19th and 20th from 5:30-7:00pm. The first half hour on each day is set aside for new school families to attend a presentation in the worship area. Returning families should plan on being present at 6pm. Each family is required to have at least one parent present on one of the two evenings. Orientation is also a great time for students to bring along supplies for the school year.



First Day of School and Opening Service- Monday, August 31st

The first day of St. John’s 2026-2027 school year is on Monday, August 31st. The whole school will gather for an opening service at 8:30 am, which family and community members are also encouraged to attend. The opening service will take the place of the weekly chapel service, which would normally be held every Wednesday at 8:15 am. Families are also allowed to attend chapel services weekly.

August Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in August!

Aug 2 Ari Vickman
Aug 3 Cody Chase
Aug 3 Dale Laabs
Aug 5 Owen Raddatz
Aug 6 Lyle Schmidt
Aug 7 Judy Rotzenberg
Aug 9 Jake Bowers
Aug 9 Claire DeMerritt
Aug 9 Mackenzie Platkowski
Aug 9 Amanda Wingo-Barrett
Aug 12 Adam Kussow
Aug 12 Char Lemke
Aug 12 Byron Rahn
Aug 14 Matthew Van Schyndel
Aug 16 Mitchell Herlache
Aug 16 Oliver Olp
Aug 23 Charlotte Theunis
Aug 24 Paige Gilson

Aug 24 Kristin Pohlman
Aug 25 Diane Laabs
Aug 26 Rozanne Bohrtz
Aug 27 Grace Bauer
Aug 27 Joshua Verbeten
Aug 30 Niki Grossheim
Aug 31 Marna Johns



Happy birthday to our students celebrating in August!

Ari V.- August 2nd
Bekah K.- August 5th
Jensen G.- August 6th
Haven G.- August 6th
Jake B.- August 9th
Mackenzie P.- August 9th
Brynlee C.- August 15th

More News Highlights

Packer Ticket Scanning Volunteer Opportunity



We have a fantastic, fun, and super easy fundraising opportunity coming up, and we would love to have you on our team! It is simple: scan tickets as people enter Lambeau for a Packers game, and our organization earns money! A

group from St. John scanned tickets last year and had such a great time that everyone said they couldn't wait to do it again. It's an easy way to raise a significant amount of money for a great cause. We are looking for 20-30 adults to scan tickets from 4:00 pm until 7:30 pm on Friday, August 28th.

All funds earned from this event will support next year's Worship Night! Our outreach team is excited to continue building on this event so we can reach even more people in our area, and this fundraiser makes that possible. Time spent scanning tickets can also be counted toward required school family service hours.

Check your e-mails from July 23rd for a clickable link, or type in the link below to sign up: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FCg3uOyzeFmh1DGGUyYYibGXCvQNYM2a9hz4f2ActQQ/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Tornado Relief and Rebuilding

Apple Valley Food Pantry serves the greater Fox Valley community, including all of those affected by the recent tornado. This is an especially important time to support them. If you know anyone suffering from the tornado, encourage them to visit the pantry or St. Mark Green Bay's clothing giveaway days. If you have spare time or income, please consider helping at the pantry, the clothing giveaway, or through WELS' Christian Aid and Relief, which is currently working to help repair our sister church, Bethel Lutheran Church and the Menasha site of Shepherd of the Valley preschool.



Apple Valley Food Pantry Needs

(Editor's note: This list was published pre-tornado; higher needs are now likely. The pantry accepts non-perishable and monetary donations year-long.) The August 2026 collection for the pantry is Saturday, August 8. The following is the list of items currently in need of at the pantry: Adult cereals, canned pasta, canned peas and corn, jam/jelly, mashed potato sides, boxed potato sides, all canned fruit and applesauce, tomato and chicken noodle soups, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauces, women's shampoos and conditioners and body washes, boxed rice side dishes and paper towels. Thank you for your support of the pantry!

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