

The Messenger

February 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 struggle with loneliness. Can God help me find companionship?

“Hi-ho Silver, away!”

Those are feel-good words. The bad guys are in jail. The good guys win. The sun sets. Everyone’s happy. Well, almost everyone. At the end of the day, the hero is still the LONE Ranger.

Ever felt like the LONE Ranger? You saved the office from certain peril. You arrived with your son’s glove just moments before he took the field. You made everyone happy. You should feel like a hero but so often when the sun sets, the feelings of loneliness rise.

Like the Lone Ranger, at times our days end only with the companionship of a faithful, four-legged friend. Can God help me find real companionship?

Imagine how Adam must've felt when he was the only human on the planet. Talk about lonely! But God saw Adam's deep need for companionship. Then by the power of God’s creative hand, Eve walked into his life. She was perfect for him.

If only God had a silver bullet like that for us!

Without sin, our loneliness would vanish as quickly as Adam's companionship appeared! But sin is real. We see it in everyone else. We see it in ourselves. And when we see sin, loneliness sets in.

Listen to these words from a man who was no stranger to loneliness. While unfairly sitting in prison, the apostle Paul said:

*I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
Philippians 3:12*

More than a friend who tells you to “get out there” and find someone, these words tell you that Jesus got down here and found you. He took hold of you so you could:

*Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called you heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14*

The silver bullet of companionship is seeing yourself as a companion of Christ. His love forgives your sin and creates a relationship with you unlike any other. Through faith in Jesus, you're never alone.

Have you been hiding your feelings of loneliness behind the mask of heroism? It’s time to take off the mask. Look at Jesus. See who you really are—a forgiven, grand-prize recipient of eternal life in heaven. Then, come and see us. Let’s take off our masks together and learn more about Jesus, our true hero, who alone saves us.

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 Christian Parenting: How Can We Teach Children Resilience?

Excerpts from a *Forward in Christ* article

When my son was younger, we enjoyed going to the batting cages. It was a fun challenge trying to hit the ball no matter how fast it came or whether or not you were quite prepared. There were good swings that just missed, bad ones that were too early, and the rare one that was perfect. The trick was being ready, timing the ball's release just right, and then taking your best swing. Sometimes it worked out, other times not.

Life is a bit like that. It throws challenges at us in varying ways and at unsuspecting times. We have choices of how to interact. We can be angry and act like it is unfair. We can stand there and watch life go by, too afraid to move. Or, we can stand tall, focus, and take our best swing. Resilience is the idea that no matter what happens, we practice our best approach, follow through, bounce back, and keep swinging.

You might know some resilient people—maybe you're even one of them and you're concerned because your children struggle to be. Your daughter cries at every grade below an A-minus. Your son gets angry at his sister for crying. They worry about the smallest things in their future, and when something bad happens, they often struggle to get past it. Our thoughts and emotions get in the way and sometimes hold us back from “bouncing” through the challenges.

Your daughter might want to focus on the skill of personal control. We build confidence and reduce helplessness by working on things that we can influence and letting go of things we cannot. What can your daughter do about her grades? She can continue to study or ask for corrections. What she cannot do is go back and change an answer or control the teacher's grading scale.

Maybe your son could improve his empathy and compassion in dealing with his sister. Here we want to encourage listening and understanding while realizing this does not mean we need to feel sad or weak. Model good listening and reflecting skills for him to practice.

SKILLS

THAT HELP TEACH RESILIENCE

CHALLENGE: View a difficulty as a challenge, not a paralyzing event. See mistakes as lessons to learn from and opportunities for growth.

COMMITMENT: Commit to life and daily goals and be compelled to live life accordingly.

PERSONAL CONTROL: Spend time on situations that can be influenced to increase confidence.

NO PERMANENCE: See the effects of bad events as temporary.

NO Pervasiveness: Deal with setbacks or bad events in relation to their position in daily life. Be unwilling to let a difficulty in one area affect other unrelated areas of life.

NO PERSONALIZATION: No exclusive blaming of self when external negative events occur. Ensure that the full picture of how causes interact is considered.

EMPATHETIC AND COMPASSIONATE: Feel *for* others but not *with* them. Encourage and support but do not bow to peer pressure. Enforce limits and boundaries.

LACK OF VICTIM MENTALITY: Discern the difference between being a victim and being victimized. Focus energy on changing things that are within control in the problem and letting go of things that are not.

He will learn how to encourage and support people, which in turn will make him proud of his actions.

All of us can use a positive image of the future as a resilience tool. Biblical-era difficulties might have been different, but the people's doubts and fears were the same as ours. Just like us, they had to learn that resilience is required and, moreover, that as Christians we have a resilience that cannot disappoint.

My favorite way of painting a picture of my future in heaven is thinking about John 14:2,3: “My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” There is no more positive image of the future than that of our heavenly home. In difficulties, let us rely most on that knowledge to help us bounce back.

The portions of the article shared here were written by Karen Fisher. For another take on resilience, read the full article at forwardinchrist.net/how-do-we-teach-children-resilience/

Upcoming Events



School Choice Window Opens- Wednesday, February 1st

The annual window for School Choice enrollment will be open from February 1st until April 21st. Parents who wish to enroll their child at St. John Lutheran School can apply for their tuition to be covered through the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (School Choice) for the upcoming school year.

Students entering preK, kindergarten, or first grade, (or entering ninth grade at FVL) as well as those coming from a public school or homeschooling, are eligible to enroll in the School Choice program. Families of students currently enrolled must also re-submit an application in order to continue their enrollment in the program.

More information, including income cut-offs and application instructions, can be found at www.stjohnwrightstown.com/school-choice or at dpi.wi.gov. Parents wishing to enroll their student at St. John can also come to Mr. Raddatz with any questions or for help with the enrollment process.



FVL Musicfest- Sunday, February 5th

This annual celebration of student musical talent will feature performances by the FVL Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, FVL Schools Cadet Band & Concert Winds (Middle School), A Cappella Choir, Men's & Women's Choir, Choraliers, individuals, small groups, and a special alumni band! Along with entertainment, guests can enjoy fellowship and homemade desserts. Admission is free for all, though freewill donations will be accepted.

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!

- February 1- School Choice Window Opens
- February 5- Booyah Sold After Church Services
- February 5- FVL Musicfest
- February 9- No School/ Teachers' Conference
- February 10- No School/ Teachers' Conference
- February 12- Early Childhood Sings
- February 12- Open Forum Between Services
- February 13-17: Spirit Week at School
- February 14: Fellowship Luncheon
- February 17: School-Wide Field Trip
- February 20: FVL Open House
- February 22: Ash Wednesday Services
- March 3-5: FVL Presents Anastasia Musical

Church Highlights

Madie Otto Called to Teach

Mrs. Foelske recently announced that she had accepted a call to teach kindergarten in Oshkosh. Her departure leaves us in need of a new preschool teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. On Sunday, January 29th, voters elected to extend a call to Madelyn (Madie) Otto. Madie is a December graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College. Her family comes from the Maribel area. Please keep Madie and her husband in your prayers as she deliberates whether or not to accept our call and take on our preschool class.



Lenten Services Begin

We begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Join us for services on Ash Wednesday at 2:00 and 6:30 pm and subsequent mid-week services each Wednesday through the end of March at 6:30 pm. We will focus our hearts and minds on the forgiveness, life, and salvation Jesus earned for us through his suffering and death on the cross. With these services available, we will temporarily not be offering services on Thursday evenings. Thursday evening services will resume following Holy Week celebrations.

Booyah Sale February 5th

Chicken booyah will be on sale after both services this Sunday, February 5th. Booyah will be sold by the quart, with all proceeds going towards the new campus. Contact Karen Geiger or Amy VandeHey for more information.

Apple Valley Food Pantry Expresses Their Thanks

Apple Valley Food Pantry, an outreach of WELS United congregations, would like to express their thanks for all of the donations and help from St. John and other local congregations. They accomplished quite a bit in 2022, giving away 1600 bags of non-perishable groceries, 675 bags of sundry items, and \$24,000 of scrip gift cards to allow families to purchase fresh foods. That totaled nearly 30,000 lbs (15 tons)! They averaged 63 families in need each month. They were also able to move into a new facility over the past year. All of this was made possible by St. John and 22 other local WELS congregations, with great assistance from 70 volunteers. We encourage your continued support! Donations can be dropped off in the media room at church at any point. For more information, visit <http://welsunited.org/programs/apple-valley-food-pantry.php>.

Church Birthdays

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

Feb 1 Brian A Boldt
Feb 1 Brian Boldt
Feb 1 Lauryn Ripp
Feb 2 Arlene Oakley
Feb 3 Michael Geiger
Feb 4 Nicole Cappelle
Feb 4 Bart Reschke
Feb 4 Courtney Schisel
Feb 4 Thomas Toseland
Feb 5 Eric Beard
Feb 6 Elizabeth Ellingboe
Feb 7 Wesley Laabs
Feb 7 Jeremy Uecker

Feb 8 Abigail Raddatz
Feb 8 Tyler Vande Hey
Feb 12 Alexa Leick
Feb 12 Reece Schisel
Feb 13 Oliver Heimmermann
Feb 14 Benjamin Boldt
Feb 15 Kevin Laabs
Feb 16 Steven Ritter
Feb 17 Elliott Diny
Feb 18 Jacob Schmidt
Feb 19 Jean Brandt
Feb 19 Debbie Propson
Feb 20 Jamie Hein

Feb 22 Patricia Vickman
Feb 25 Alvin Petersen
Feb 25 Julie Smith
Feb 26 Chandler Mollen
Feb 27 Cory Uecker
Feb 28 Waylon Bauer
Feb 28 Jonathan Fehlauser
Feb 28 Reggie Pohlman
Feb 29 Elizabeth Kussow
Feb 29 Ryan Lemke
Feb 29 Richard Patton

School Highlights

Spirit Week is February 13-17

St. John's annual Spirit Week will run from Monday, February 13th to Friday, February 17th. Each day of the week will feature a different dress up day. The week will culminate in a school-wide field trip to Skate City in Kimberly on Friday afternoon. Please ensure that you have checked your Remind app for the form so that we know how many will attend, skate, and need a bus ride, and what types of pizza you will want.



Monday- Pajama Day

Comfy PJs can make even Monday mornings better.



Tuesday- Red, White, and Pink Day

It is Valentine's Day! Celebrate by wearing red, pink, and/or white. Check with your teacher about any special classroom activities or for a list of names to bring Valentines in for.



Wednesday- Book Character Day

Who is your favorite book character? Show us by dressing up as them! Don't feel the need to buy fancy costumes; just come up with your own ideas on how to show the character.



Thursday- Meme Day

Have a favorite meme that makes you LOL every time you see it? Try to recreate it in a costume today! Check online for fun ideas of how to dress.



Friday- St. John Day

Dress in your St. John gear or in red, black, or gray as we represent our school at Skate City!

Talent Show Announced for Spring Performance Night

Every year, St. John students put on a spring performance (formerly held as Grandparent's Day). This year, we have elected to hold a talent show! The performance will be held in early May, but now is a good time for your students to begin thinking about what they showcase for friends and family. The choices can be almost anything: dance, music, art, acting, athleticism, cooking, magic tricks, building, juggling, lip syncing, and more. Those whose talents are not easily demonstrated in front of a live audience may bring in their work for display and simply give a spoken presentation about it (ie, explaining steps taken to produce art, built materials, or baked goods). Students may also choose to perform alone or with a group of friends.

To ensure that everyone is fully prepared, we ask that students begin thinking about their options early and have a decision made by the beginning of April. They should expect to demonstrate their talent or presentation to their teacher two weeks before the show so that the teacher can help them prepare, ensure that the performance is appropriate, and gather any necessary materials or props. We can't wait to see all of the talents our students have for the program!

School Birthdays

Lauryn R.- February 1st

Jackson Z.- February 3rd

Oliver H.- February 13th

Gavin F.- February 22nd

Cory U.- February 27th



School Highlights continue on page 8

New Campus Highlights

Visible Progress Made

- Exterior walls and interior studs are almost fully in place, with the four main areas (early childhood wing, elementary school wing, commons/worship space, and gym) completed.
- Several windows have been installed.
- Almost all roofing work is done.
- Siding and insulation have been put in place around the gym.
- The entryway is being constructed.



Make Your Mark!

On Sunday, February 5th, come to the new campus site after the second church service (around 11:20) to make your mark on our walls! We will uphold an old tradition by writing our favorite Bible passages on the walls by the studs with permanent markers. Though they will soon get covered by drywall, you will have a connection to our church and school forever. Please be careful in the building, as it is an active construction site; be sure to keep a special watch on young children.



Behind the Scenes Work

- Regular OAC (Owner, Architect, Contractor) meetings are being held to ensure we are on track.
- The Property Disposition Committee is beginning the process of listing the final items to be sold—including the current Greenleaf church site and the mobile unit being used as an upper grades classroom—as we anticipate no longer needing these properties soon.
- We are looking into a facility use policy to determine how to best utilize spaces that may be beneficial to many groups, such as sharing the gym with local athletic organizations.



Keep Up to Date on the Progress!

Like us on Facebook, follow Pastor Gehl's Google picture album, subscribe to his YouTube channel, and check in with our website often for the most up-to-date information! Weekly infomercials are being put out. Pictures are uploaded to the album regularly, and news will keep coming as the project moves further and further along. It is an exciting time for our congregation and school, and we don't want you to miss anything!

School Highlights (Continued)

TundraTales Reading Program

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade should have received a green flyer at the end of January that gave some information on TundraTales Reading Program. The program allows students who read outside of school to earn free ticket vouchers for the Packers Hall of Fame for themselves and an adult! Our school can also benefit—any classroom that has 75% or more of its students complete the reading log will receive \$100 to put towards literacy supplies.

Completing the program is easy—simply fill in a football for every ten minutes of reading time outside of school between now and March 5th. Once you reach 240 minutes, parent should sign the form and return it to the teacher. Time spent reading for homework and Accelerate Reader counts towards this time, so many students don't have to read any more than they already are! Those who complete the program and earn tickets can visit the Hall of Fame at their own convenience or join others from the school for a fun gathering, which will be announced at a later time.



Pizza Fundraiser

Our PTO is once again hard at work raising money for the playground at our new campus! A note was sent home recently detailing a pizza fundraiser. The form and information attached allows us to sell Lotzza Motzza Pizzas for \$10 each, with \$4 from each pizza going to support our playground. The classroom that sells the most pizzas will also win a pizza party put on by the PTO! Nine different pizza styles are available.

Forms and money (checks may be made out to St. John Lutheran School) are due by Monday, February 20th. Pizzas will be available on Tuesday, March 7th and will be distributed in the Dick's Family Foods parking lot. Contact Niki Grossheim with questions or to arrange a separate pickup time.

Contact Us

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|---|---------------------|
| Church Office | 920-532-4865 |
| School Office | 920-532-4865 |
| Pastor Mike Gehl | 920-309-5171 |
| Tim Raddatz, principal and 2nd-4th grade teacher | 920-636-5007 |
| Dillon Solomon, 5th-8th grade teacher | 248-525-3700 |
| Rebecca Wicks, K-1st grade teacher | 920-809-8648 |
| Jamie Buss, PreK teacher | 920-538-0470 |
| Alexa Foelske, preschool teacher | 920-323-4185 |

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