



The Messenger

May 2026 Edition

A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

Inside this Issue...

- Devotional Corner page 2
- Today's Christian Parenting pages 3, 7
- Events page 4
- Church Highlights page 5
- School Highlights page 6
- Contact Information page 7



St. John Lutheran Church and School

206 Plum Road, Wrightstown 920-532-4865

Church email: stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

School email: office@stjohnwrightstown.com

 www.stjohnwrightstown.com

 facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown

 instagram.com/StJohnWrightstown

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

Devotional Corner



Devotion Corner: What More Could We Want?

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
Psalm 23:1*

John D. Rockefeller was one of the richest men in the world. An interviewer once asked him, “How much money is enough?” Rockefeller replied, “Just a little bit more.”

How many times have we told ourselves that if we had “just a little bit more” we would be happy? A higher-paying job. A larger home. An earlier retirement. Better health. Successful children.

But what happens when those wants are met? Are people truly happy? And what happens when those wants aren't met? When you find yourself unemployed. When in rough times your savings are depleted. When plans for better housing or earlier retirement have to be put on hold. When your health takes a turn for the worse or your children struggle in school. Where do you turn? Turn to Jesus and remember, “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.”

We might not have everything we want in life, but Jesus, our Good Shepherd, has truly given us everything we need. He's given us his word. He's given us his promises. He assures us that our sins are forgiven and eternal life in heaven is ours through his death and resurrection.

He promises to provide for all of our physical and spiritual needs richly and abundantly here on earth

until he takes us to the glorious home that he has prepared for us in heaven. There we will experience the fulfillment of his promise, “You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand” (Psalm 16:11).

Not long after his death, someone came up to the accountant of John D. Rockefeller and said, “We know Rockefeller was a very wealthy man. How much did he leave?” Without a moment's hesitation, the accountant answered, “Everything!” A man who seemed to have it all was forced to leave it all behind in the end. The only things that will go with us from this life to the next are the spiritual treasures that belong to us through faith in Jesus.

What do we want out of life? What we need the most has already been fully and freely supplied by Jesus, our Good Shepherd. So, what more could we want? What more could we need?



Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: What's Your Parenting Catchphrase?

Excerpts from A Forward in Christ Article by multiple authors

I have some homework for you this month. Ask your kids what your go-to parenting phrase is. Then stop and reflect. If your children are too young or can't think of a response, ask yourself what you'd like your catchphrase to be. What does it say about you? What does it say about whom you want your children to be? It's easy to get lost in the day-to-day chaos of family life. Consider writing down your ideal phrase and posting it where you (and your family) can see it and take stock each day.

-Nicole Balza

When I was a teacher, I wrote a mission statement, taught it to my students, and started each day in the classroom by rapping the words. It went, "Here we are at Garden Homes today. Praising God in all we do and say. Building each other up, not tearing people down. Staying focused all day, not playing around. Here we are at Garden Homes today. Praising God in all we do and say." I loved hearing my students start their day with these words.

Once my own children became school age, I decided to teach them the mission statement that I once taught my students. So, to this very day, while our car is pulling out of the driveway and we head to school, one of my kids starts us off by saying, "1, 2, 3, GO!" and then we all proceed to rap the mission statement, with a couple tweaks for our family. Do we live by it perfectly? No. Is it a great tool to reference when we struggle? Definitely.

"Clean up your room." "Stop doing that!" "Come here right now."

Our kids are watching us. Listening to us. Picking up on the good, the bad, the ugly. For a long time, that absolutely terrified me. I thought that all of my slipups would be the things that they'd remember the most. The harping. The nagging. I thought it all depended on me. What a big task to place on someone who is not the Savior. My kids have a Savior. He is Jesus.

I praise God for the four loans that he placed in my care. I pray that he gives me words always to point them back to him. I pray that they see that most of my conversations are with him and join in and chat with the one who loves them the most.

-Jen Mueller



Instead of presuming what "profound" words I might have impressed on my children, I asked one of them, "What is something I say to you often?" Without missing a beat, my son echoed one of my dinner table declarations: "Don't make a career out of eating your dinner."

It's true, I have often reminded my children to consume their daily bread in a timely manner. But of all words I would want my children to remember, that phrase wouldn't make my top ten or even top one hundred list. That's what you've learned from me?

Far more powerful than my word is the living and active Word of God. Scripture speaks about the power of words and of the tongue. That is a humbling thought for any parent to ponder! My son's response had me contritely contemplating, "What else have I said without careful thought that has left an impression on my children?" My son's response also had me humbly praying, "Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3).

And he does! Our God hears and answers our parenting prayers for Jesus' sake. Our God calms our worry-prone hearts by reminding us that our words aren't the most powerful in our children's lives. Far more powerful than a dad's dinner table declaration is the triune God's baptismal declaration, "You, dear child, are mine! Forgiven. Washed. Adopted." Far more powerful than my word is the living and active Word of God. That is a humbling thought for any parent to ponder!

It is just as humbling when our children provide us with reminders of whose children they really are. After getting home late from an after-school activity, one of my children was eating after the rest of us. She was hungry and didn't need any reminders about timely eating. Yet before she ate, she paused to thank her

Article continues on page 7

Upcoming Events



2nd Annual Expo- Saturday, May 2

St. John will be holding its 2nd annual expo (craft, vendor, and reseller fair) on Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to shop for Mother's Day! Vendors include Tranount (wellness and travel), 5S Engraving, Crush Nutrition, Bling with Kris, Owen's 3D Playhouse, SB Cookie Artistry, Thrifted by Nat, Cisler Threads, Spork Creations, TJ's Customs LLC, Luna Turquesa, Beach Bloom Jewels, Swallow's Nest Fiber Arts, Stone Mountain Soap, Brittnacher Farms, Happily Ever Crafter, Kristy Asman (tallow lotion), Jean Challe (jewelry and bookmarks), Savannah Sommers (jewelry and more), Niki's Spices and Dream Vacation Travel, Rozey's Country Creations, and Willow Wood Creations. Be sure to stop by the St. John gym to visit the booths! Contact Mr. Raddatz for more information at tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com or 920-636-5007.



Timber Rattlers Family Night- Friday, May 15th

Timber Rattlers fans- St. John Lutheran School will be having a Family Night at the ballpark on Friday, May 15th at 6:40 pm. The T-Rats will be taking on the South Bend Cubs. We invite everyone to join us! \$3 of any ticket sale through our link will come back to our school, so the more who come, the more we earn! Tickets are discounted to \$19.25 each and can be ordered at gofevo.com/event/StJohnWrightstown26. Please chose a reserved bleacher seat in section 103 if you wish to sit with our school group. Students who earned vouchers through Fang's Reading Club can also use them for this game.

Clays for Cardinals- May 17th

Our big school fundraiser, Clays for Cardinals, is approaching quickly! Be sure to register so that you can enjoy the clay shoot, artist-led painting, dinner, and/or silent auction. This is our 4th annual Clays event and has been a great time to gather with our Cardinal crew for fellowship and fun! Register now by following the QR code or speaking with Courtney Schisel. Sponsorships are also still being accepted.



Due to popular demand, classroom projects made by the kiddos will be displayed at school May 11–15. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the front desk for these items. More info to come. All other silent auction baskets will be available to bid on at the Clays For Cardinals event at Triple J's in Brillion Sunday, May 17th 2:00-5:30 pm . You do not need to register if you would only like to come for the silent auction.



Mark Your Calendars!

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| May 2 | St. John Expo (Craft and Vendor Fair) |
| May 3 | Confirmation |
| May 5 | Martha's Circle
Board of Education Meeting |
| May 6 | Breakfast and Bible Study
FVL High School Band Concert |
| May 8 | Dierdra Stary Send Off |
| May 10 | Mother's Day |
| May 11 | Elder's Meeting
Church Council Meeting
FVL Jazz Band Concert |
| May 12 | Fellowship Luncheon |
| May 14 | Joint Ascension Worship at Trinity, Kau. |
| May 15 | Family Night at the Timber Rattlers |
| May 17 | EC2 Sings at Worship
Clays for Cardinals
FVL Choirs and Choraliers Concert |
| May 19 | Outreach Committee Meeting |
| May 20 | Breakfast and Bible Study |
| May 21 | Last Day for Early Childhood Classes
Graduation Service for Early Childhood
Eighth Grade Graduation Service |
| May 22 | Last Day for Elementary Classes
Closing Service and Awards |
| May 23-June 7 | No School or Summer Program |
| May 25 | Memorial Day |
| June 8 | Summer Program Begins |

Church Highlights

Confirmation Service- May 3rd

Sunday, May 3rd, is our annual confirmation service! We welcome eighth graders Lincoln Cisler, Lawsen Leick, Ximena Mata Perez, Dawson Mollen, Cynthia Nelson, and Brooklyn Verheyen into communion with us. We wish God's blessings on them as they confess their faith and receive the Lord's body and blood for the first time.



Dierdra Stary Send Off- May 8th

Dierdra Stary has faithfully served as our church and school administrative assistant for 15 years. She will be leaving us for her next adventure after Friday, May 8th. Please join us in wishing her well! We will be having a gathering at Ledgestone Vineyards in Greenleaf to celebrate her service that same day from 5:00-7:00 pm. Please register at forms.gle/vrrkYBgCAh8vmfLE9.

Joint Ascension Service- May 14th



Everyone is welcome to attend a joint ascension service at Trinity, Kaukauna on Thursday, May 14th. This special worship service will include members of other local congregations and will feature music by a combined choir.

FVL Spring Concerts

FVL has three upcoming concerts to close out the school year with their music department. First, hear from their concert and symphonic bands at the FVL Band Concert on Wednesday, May 6, at 6:30 pm. Then check out the FVL Jazz Ensemble Concert on Monday, May 11th at 6:30 pm. Finally, all are invited to the FVL Choirs and Choraliers Concert on Sunday, May 17th at 2:00 pm. The concert will feature performances by four of FVL's choirs: the Choraliers, Mens Choir, Womens Choir, and A Cappella Choir. All performances will also be available on FVL's streaming channel, so you can watch the choirs concert even after coming to Clays with Cardinals. Visit youtube.com/@FVLFoxes/streams to see these musical performances and other FVL fun!



May Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in May!

May 2 Deb Gilson
May 2 Doug Otten
May 2 Ethel Reschke
May 3 Heather Guggenbuehl
May 4 Aberdeen Douglas
May 5 Clara Bohrtz
May 5 Allie Wichman
May 6 Clayton Herlache
May 7 Kenneth Gilson
May 8 Adeline Bohrtz
May 8 Tanya Parrish
May 9 Will Coenen
May 9 Nichole Myers
May 10 Sue Rosenbaum
May 10 Ross Vande Hey
May 11 Allison Snyder

May 12 Amy Bowers
May 12 Hattie Juedes
May 12 Makenna Leick
May 14 Natalie Schultz
May 15 Andrew Grossheim
May 18 Taylor Rahn

May 18 Brenda Van Schyndel
May 19 Ken Wierschke
May 20 Loree Baumgartener
May 20 Lincoln Snyder
May 22 Morgan Chase
May 22 Ginny Uecker
May 23 Caleb Gundrum
May 23 Gregory Gutzman
May 25 Miles Asman
May 25 Emily Fehlauer
May 27 Gary Brandt
May 27 Andrea Kussow
May 28 Mary Fritsch
May 28 Luke Spatchek
May 29 Holly Snyder



School Highlights



Teacher Appreciation Week

The annual Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8. Help make our teachers feel loved and appreciated! Consider signing up to help provide meals and treats for the teachers or giving them a break during recess times. The PTO has put together a list of ways you can show appreciation. Sign up for a slot at signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4DABAB23ABFF2-63066213-teacher.

Muffins with Moms / Donuts with Dads

We are inviting parents to join their students for a special hour of breakfast and classroom fun before the school year ends! Moms (or other special ladies if moms are not available) can join their students for muffins and more on Friday, May 8th, from 8:30-9:30 am. Dads (or other special gentlemen if dads are not available) get their turn for donuts and fun on Friday, May 15th, again from 8:30-9:30 am. Come and let your students share some exciting things they do in school!



Graduations and Closing Services

The students (and possibly a few teachers) are already counting down the days until the end of the school year! For Early Childhood (EC) and eighth grade students, their last hurrah will be on Thursday, May 21st. The EC students will have their graduation service at 8:30 am, followed by a half day of fun. Care will be available until 5:00 for those who need to stay. More information has been sent home by the EC teachers. Eighth graders have their final send off at 6:00 pm in a special graduation service. The rest of the elementary grades will have their last day on Friday, May 22nd. A closing service with kindergarten graduation will begin at 9:00 am. It will be followed by classroom awards, fun activities, and a hot dog lunch put on by PTO. Friday will be a half day, ending by 11:30 am. Parents are encouraged (but not required) to attend the final day.

End-Of-School Dress Up Days

The student council is sponsoring one last week of dress up days for the end of the school year. Monday, May 18th starts off our casual week with Pajama Day. Tuesday, May 19th will be Jersey Day- support your favorite sports teams! Saddle up for Wednesday, May 20th, which will be Western Day. On Thursday, May 21st, we look forward to summer as we chill on Beach Day. Our last bit of fun will feature Friday, May 22nd as Disney Day. Grown-ups who are coming on field trips or joining us for fun on the last days of school, feel free to join in!



FVL Sports Camps and More

Every year, FVL high school offers a great selection of summer camps and sports, and this year sees the addition of some new activities! They are offering times for golf, football, forensics, equestrian, baseball, basketball, powerlifting, running, softball, volleyball, and soccer. Summer workouts are also available. Visit the website to see more information, including how to register: fvlhs.org/future-foxes/youth-sports-camps.

School Birthdays

Aberdeen D. May 4th
Adeline B. May 8th
Will C. May 9th
Gatlin K. May 18th
Nolan O. May 30th



Parenting Catchphrases

Continued from page 3

heavenly Father for the daily bread. Her lips whispered, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” What a profound impact her heavenly Father has had on her! And yet, whom did the heavenly Father use to teach her to pray? What a profound impact her father and mother have had on her!

God bless the impressionable words you speak and lessons you teach, dear parents, even when your children try to make a career out of eating their dinner.

-Joel Russow

Almost anyone looking back on his or her childhood can recall the words “because I said so” coming from his or her parents’ lips. It’s a valid reason in many instances, yet frustrating to hear. In my children’s case, they’ve heard the phrase “because it’s my job” more often than they would like. I pray that over the last 16 years, I’ve used the phrase to help them understand my role and theirs in God’s plan for our family.

Flashback to 2016. I was in Seth’s room comforting him after a spanking (he had pulled Ella’s hair so hard that she had fallen over) when Ella called me to the kitchen. Claire was on the counter getting herself a glass of water, which had overflowed down the cabinets and across the kitchen floor. I yelled, “Claire Hannah Schaefer, please go to your room!” and she immediately ducked her head in shame and started sobbing. As I was cleaning up, Ella came in to say, “Mom, I really think Claire is ready to be forgiven. She said she’s sorry and

is hiding in the closet.” I went in to hear her apologize and told her that I forgave her. Ella informed me that Claire had already folded her hands and said sorry to Jesus and that they had prayed together.

I don’t share this as an ideal parenting example (because chances are I was disciplining my son in anger and losing my cool simply because my child was being childlike). I share it because it was one of many times that led to me say things like, “Buddy, I don’t like to spank you, but it’s my job as your mom to discipline you so that you learn to do your job of obeying and following God’s ways” and “Sweetheart, I will always love and forgive you because it’s my job to teach you about how Jesus always loves and forgives us all.”

More recently, when my middle schoolers ask for the hundredth time why they have to practice piano or proofread their essays, they hear, “Because it’s my job to help you develop your talents, and it’ll be your job to decide how to use them to God’s glory for the rest of your lives.” Or when my conscientious teen says that I have enough to do and should just go to bed even though I know she really needs a good chat and would appreciate help packing three meals for her 14 hours at school the next day, I reassure her that it’s my job and I love to serve my family. It’s not an easy job, but I prayed for this husband and these children, and it’s a privilege to serve just like Christ came to serve us.

-Laura Schaefer

To view the article in its entirety, visit forwardinchrist.net/parenting-catchphrases/

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

6th-8th grade teacher

920-636-5007

tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com

Natalie Schultz, 3rd-5th grade teacher

262-388-8892

natalie.schultz@stjohnwrightstown.com

Rebecca Wicks, 1st-2nd grade teacher

920-809-8648

rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com

McKenzey Crowley, kindergarten teacher

605-390-6827

mckenzey.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com

Elizabet Mata Perez, EC 2 teacher

708-510-3119

elizabet.mata.perez@stjohnwrightstown.com

Madie Otto, EC 1 teacher

920-629-1220

madie.otto@stjohnwrightstown.com



www.stjohnwrightstown.com



facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown



instagram.com/StJohnWrightstown