



The Messenger

November 2022 Edition

A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

Inside this Issue...

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

St. John Lutheran Church

1537 Day St. Greenleaf
920-532-4865
stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

St. John Lutheran School

261 Clay St. Wrightstown
920-532-4865
office@stjohnwrightstown.com

 www.stjohnwrightstown.com

 facebook.com/stjohnwrightstown

 instagram.com/stjohnwrightstown

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



Devotional Corner

Ever Wonder... Am I good enough to get to heaven?

Mom went over to the slow cooker where the Thanksgiving turkey had been all day. As the lid was taken off, a shriek filled the air. The slow cooker had been unplugged hours before to make room for Uncle Bob's famous sweet potato soufflé.

Tears filled Mom's eyes. "My dinner's ruined!" she cried. Dad chimed in, "Oh, honey. I am sure that it's good enough." However, the half-baked turkey wasn't good enough, nor was it safe to eat.

In our lives, we probably hear or say those words often. "Oh, the lawn looks good enough. I can wait another couple of days to mow." "Oh, the house isn't that dirty. It's good enough for now." "My job was done well enough for today. I'm going home!"

What about when it's quitting time here in this life? Are we sure that we're going home to heaven? Are we good enough?

We may be individuals who settle for good enough more than we like to admit. However, we have a God who doesn't settle for anything but perfection. Jesus says,

"Be perfect... as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:48

So are we good enough to go to heaven?

God takes the "lid" off of our hearts and tells us what he sees.

Every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. Genesis 8:21

Even if we try hard and work at being kind, good, and perfect, we still fail.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

So, now what will happen to us? Is our hope to live forever in heaven with God ruined?

Thanks to Jesus Christ, our Savior, the answer is, "No." We do have hope because Jesus has forgiven our sins by dying on the cross, and he's declared us to be innocent by rising from the dead. Because of what Jesus has done, every time that God looks at us, he sees us as

Holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:22

Are you good enough to go to heaven? Jesus didn't just make you good enough, but he made you perfect! Through faith, you receive

The gift of God [which] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

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 Parenting: The Importance of Reading to Your Children

Excerpts from a Children's Bureau blog

It's undeniable that a child's reading skills are important to their success in school, work, and life in general. Whether you're reading a classic novel or fairy tales before bed, reading aloud to children can significantly benefit your child's life. Some benefits reading to children include:

Supported Cognitive Development

Reading to young children is proven to improve cognitive skills and help along the process of cognitive development. Cognitive development is the emergence of the ability to think and understand. It refers to how a person perceives and thinks about his or her world through areas such as information processing, intelligence, reasoning, language development, attention span, and memory.

When you begin reading to your child, it essentially provides them with background knowledge on their young world, which helps them make sense of what they see, hear, and read. The conversations that it will prompt helps them to make sense of their own lives.

Consider this excerpt from a study on toddlers' cognitive development: "A child care provider reads to a toddler. And in a matter of seconds, thousands of cells in these children's growing brains respond. Some brain cells are 'turned on,' triggered by this particular experience. Many existing connections among brain cells are strengthened. At the same time, new brain cells are formed, adding a bit more definition and complexity to the intricate circuitry that will remain largely in place for the rest of these children's lives."

Therefore, the more adults read aloud to their children, the larger their vocabularies will grow and the more they will know and understand about the world and their place in it, assisting their cognitive development and perception.

Improved Language Skills

Reading daily to young children, starting in infancy, can help with language acquisition, communication skills, social skills, and literacy skills. This is because reading to your children in the earliest months stimulates the part of the brain that allows them to understand the meaning of language and helps build key language, literacy and social skills. These cognitive skills and critical thinking skills are especially important when you consider that, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, more than one in three children start kindergarten without the skills they need to learn to read. About two-thirds of children can't read proficiently by the end of third grade.

Furthermore, while a child will be able to latch onto vocabulary and language he or she hears around him or her, introducing reading into their auditory learning provides another benefit: it introduces the language of books, which differs from language heard in daily life. Whether it's a children's book or classic novel, book language is more descriptive, and tends to use more formal grammatical structures.

Prepare for Academic Success

Early reading with your child is a true one-on-one opportunity for children to communicate with their parents and parents to communicate with their children. It allows children to grow their vocabulary skills with exposure to new words and listening skills they develop from hearing someone read to them that become vital to their academic success.

Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well when they reach their period of formal education. According to a study completed by the University of Michigan, there are five early reading skills that are essential for development. They are:

- Phonemic awareness – Hear, identify, and play with individual sounds in spoken words.
- Phonics – Connect the letters of written language with the sounds of spoken language.
- Vocabulary – The words kids need to know to communicate effectively.
- Reading comprehension – Understand and get meaning from what has been read.
- Fluency (oral reading) – Read text accurately and quickly.

While children will encounter these literacy skills and language development once they reach elementary school and beyond, you can help jumpstart their reading success by reading to them during infancy and their early toddler years.

Article continues on page 7

Upcoming Events



Blood Drive-

Monday, November 14th

St. John Lutheran Church will be hosting a Red Cross blood drive at the American Legion at 924 Main St. Wrightstown. Volunteers are appreciated to help set up the equipment, run the drive, and take down equipment. Sheets are available in the back of church to sign up for a donation time or a volunteering spot.



Thanksgiving Worship and Pie

Social- Wednesday, November 23rd

St. John will be holding special Thanksgiving worship services on Wednesday, November 23rd. Join us in giving thanks to God for all of his blessings this year and throughout our lives. Come in the afternoon for a 2:00 service or attend the evening 6:30 service and stay for a 7:30 pie social! Bring your family and friends, your favorite pie(s), and your appetite!

Please note that there will be no services—including the weekly Thursday night service—on Thanksgiving to allow everyone to spend the holiday with family and friends.

Community Thanksgiving Meal- Saturday, November 19th

Invite your family and friends to a free community Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 19th, from 12:00 noon- 2:00 pm. The meal will be served at the American Legion Hall (924 Main St.). No donations are needed, but volunteers to help serve would be welcome. See you there!



Mark Your Calendars!

- November 2- End of First Quarter
- November 5- FVL Grade Schools Stunt Clinic
- November 9- Fellowship Luncheon
- November 11- FVL Veteran's Day Breakfast and Service
- November 13- Grades 2-4 Sing at Both Services
- November 14- Blood Drive
- November 16- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 16- No After School Care
- November 19- Community Thanksgiving Meal
- November 23- Half Day of School
- November 23- Thanksgiving Worship Services
- November 23- Thanksgiving Pie Social
- November 24- Thanksgiving Day
- November 24- No School
- November 25- No School
- November 25- FVL Grade Schools Dance Camp 4

Church Highlights

Investment Opportunities

We have a unique opportunity for people to help reduce mortgage costs on our new campus at no cost to themselves! We are seeking people who would like to invest money through the LACE (Lutheran Association for Church Extension, Inc.) program that St. John is using to back our project. Participants can choose their amount to invest, their timeline, and their rate of interest earned up to 5%. Their money and interest gets returned the same way it would in a bank-backed cd with no risk to the investor.

The church benefits from paying the rate of interest on invested money rather than the higher loan rate that our mortgage would charge. Investors benefit from being able to choose a higher rate than typical cds and savings accounts would offer! Anyone who is interested in utilizing this program should contact Ron Zahn or pick up information from the room in the back of church.



New Campus Updates

Progress Made on New Campus

The builders are on site and progress is being made daily! Pastor Gehl has been sending up a drone to take pictures of the progress so that we can view everything happening. He has created a Google album that will be updated frequently. Visit stjohnwrightstown.com/bold-steps to reach a link for the album, which you can then join for easy access to the updates.



Church Birthdays

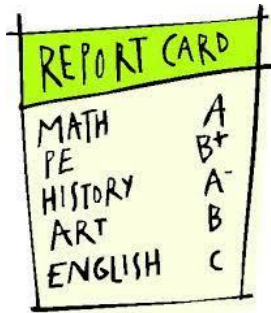
Happy Birthday to these church members celebrating during the month of November!

Nov 1 Sharon Demerath
Nov 1 Betty Schmidt
Nov 5 Monty Reynolds
Nov 5 Perry Schisel
Nov 5 Jeffery Sonnabend
Nov 5 Nicholas Van Schyndel
Nov 6 Robbie Pohlman
Nov 7 Melissa Vanderkelon
Nov 11 Brenda Kussow
Nov 12 Silvia Akors
Nov 13 Peter Bowers

Nov 14 Johanna Heimerl
Nov 15 Aaron Wierschke
Nov 16 Emma Laabs
Nov 16 Kaleb Malouf
Nov 20 Tracy Golden
Nov 23 Martha Schmidt
Nov 23 Joan Zahn
Nov 24 Karen Laabs
Nov 25 Brad Hein
Nov 25 Jodie Schmidt
Nov 25 Danielle Vande Hey

Nov 26 Amy Vickman
Nov 27 Elliott Olp
Nov 27 Russell Otten
Nov 28 Alois (Lloyd) Patoka
Nov 28 Brenda Pohlman
Nov 28 Amelia Theunis
Nov 29 Michele Drootsan
Nov 29 Jayden Hein
Nov 29 Rebecca Reschke
Nov 30 Darlene Pahl

School Highlights



End of First Quarter

We have survived the first quarter of our school year! The quarter officially ends on Wednesday, November 2nd. Parents of students in K-8th grades should check on their student's Accelerated Reader (AR) goals and watch for report cards to come out on Friday, November 11th. Students will be able to claim prizes from the AR store for their AR points and Cardinal Cash by the second week of the month.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are typically held each fall and spring at St. John. Our first round of conferences for preK-8th grades will be held on Wednesday, November 16th. Conferences for grades K-8 will be available from 3:00-7:00 pm; conferences for preschool and preK will run from 12:00-7:00 pm. Watch for an e-mail link with directions to sign up for a fifteen-minute conference with each child's teacher. Students in grades 2-8 only need to sign up for a conference with their homeroom teacher unless specifically asked to sign up for both Mr. Raddatz and Mr. Solomon. There will be no after school care during conferences.

FVL Grade Schools Stunt Clinic- Saturday, November 5th

Girls in grades 5-8 who are interested in cheerleading are invited to attend a stunt clinic at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. The clinic will be held from 2:00-5:00 pm on Saturday, November 5th. The clinic will help students learn proper techniques and different styles of stunts and pyramids. For more information or to register for the clinic, visit www.fvlhs.org/future-foxes/youth-sports-camps. Cost of the clinic is \$20.



FVL Grade Schools Dance Camp- Friday, November 25th

Fox Valley Lutheran High School invites girls in PreK(4)-2nd grade to participate in a dance camp. Camp will be held Friday, November 25th from 8:30-11:00 am. (Parents may wish to take advantage of this time for Black Friday shopping!) A \$35 fee goes towards a t-shirt, hair ribbon, craft, and snack. Girls should come dressed in athletic clothes and tennis shoes, with hair pulled back. For more information and to register, visit www.fvlhs.org/future-foxes/youth-sports-camps.



School Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following students celebrating in the month of October!

- Emmett M.- November 2nd
- Violet S.- November 5th
- Jude G.- November 6th
- Evelyn S.- November 27th
- Jayden H.- November 29th

Benefits of Reading- Continued from page 3

Developing a Special Bond with Your Child

When it comes to children, one of the most important things you can do to positively influence their development is spend time with them. Reading to your children provides a great opportunity to set up a regular, shared event where you can look forward to spending time together.

Reading a favorite book also gives your children a sense of intimacy and well-being. This feeling of intimacy helps your child feel close to you, and the feelings of love and attention encourage positive growth and development. If you are able to read aloud with your child at a predictable, scheduled time that fits with the daily routines of home and school, you'll be able to provide something constant that they can expect and likely even look forward to.

And down the road, reading together can be used to discuss real-life experiences and issues. A children's book can provide springboards to meaningful discussions about many different topics which can further develop a child's critical thinking skills. Reading to your child helps to expose them to all types of subjects and concepts, building our children's understanding of humanity and the world around them (ReadBrightly.com).

Increased Concentration and Discipline

Very young children rarely sit still for long, and it's oftentimes difficult to get them to focus. But when you introduce regular reading to your children, you may start to observe a change in behavior. Toddlers may initially squirm and become distracted during story time, but eventually they'll learn to stay put for the

duration. According to EarlyMoments.com, along with reading comprehension comes "a stronger self-discipline, longer attention span, and better memory retention, all of which will serve your child well when she enters school."

Improved Imagination and Creativity

Young children naturally have a capacity to dream big and use their imaginations. Reading aloud to your child helps them use their imaginations to explore people, places, times, and events beyond their own experiences. Reading as an imaginative activity can open doors to all kinds of new worlds for your child. By widening your child's imagination, your child is more likely to dream bigger and act creatively which can benefit their school, work, and life in the future.

Cultivating a Lifelong Love of Reading

Reading is the key for lifelong learning, and if you can instill a love of reading at an early age, then a commitment to lifelong learning is sure to follow. Reading aloud presents books as sources of pleasant, valuable, and exciting experiences. Children who value books are motivated to read on their own, and will likely continue to practice independent reading throughout the rest of their lives.

When it comes to reading to your children, the benefits to your child's life range far beyond the development of a close bond with them, although that's certainly one of them. Reading aloud to children is truly the single-most important activity for building understanding and skills essential for reading success that your child will carry with them throughout their life.

To see the complete article, visit www.all4kids.org/news/blog/the-importance-of-reading-to-your-children/

Contact Us

Church Office

920-532-4865

stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

School Office

920-532-4865

office@stjohnwrightstown.com

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



www.stjohnwrightstown.com



facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown



instagram.com/stjohnwrightstown