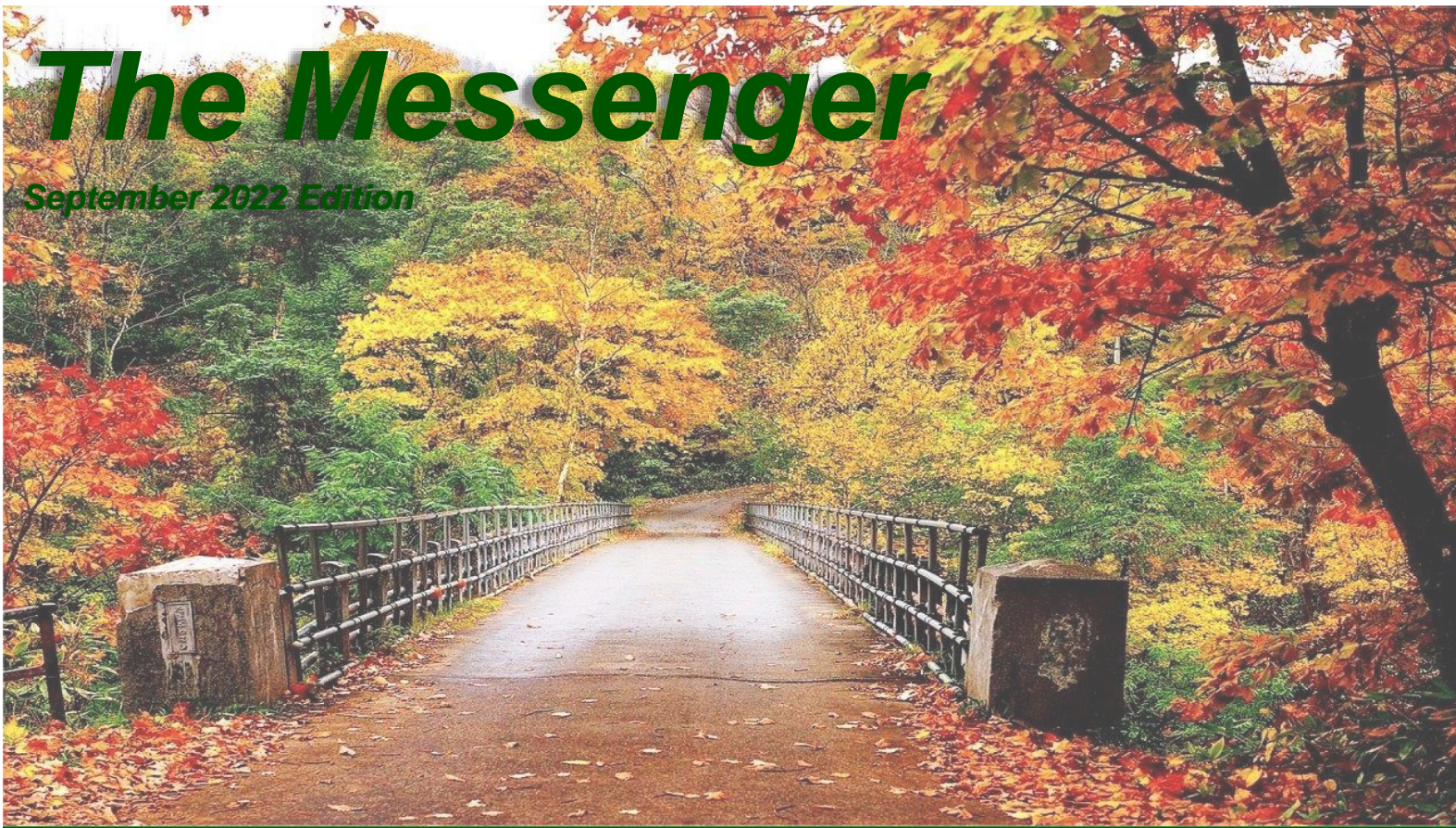


The Messenger

September 2022 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

Ever Wonder... Why does bad stuff happen to me?

My mom has cancer.

My dad lost his job.

My sister is in high school and pregnant. My brother's grades are slipping. Work is so stressful. My life is unstable. *Why does bad stuff happen to me?*

Plenty of people have plenty of suggestions.

"Maybe God doesn't love you."

"Maybe he's punishing you for something."

"Maybe everything is too much for him to handle."

*Do you want to know the real answer?
It's staggering.*

"God is LOVE"
1 John 4:16

What? How can that be? How can there be so many bad things in my life if God is love? Wouldn't a loving God just erase all the bad stuff and only give me good? Well... no.

The kids need shots. They cry with pain. You love them. Are shots "bad"?

You need surgery. It's going to hurt and take some time to heal. Your doctor cares about you. Is surgery "bad"?

Your football coach tells you to run ten 100-yard-sprints. It's not exactly a vacation. Your coach wants what's best for you. Are the sprints "bad"?

So much in our lives looks like "bad stuff," but it's really "good." It certainly looked like a lot of "bad stuff" was happening on the day Jesus died. Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the law. He was whipped, mocked, and executed on the cross. That's some really "bad stuff" for Jesus, but Christians still call that day GOOD Friday.

Because of that "bad stuff" on Good Friday, Jesus removes all of our sins and all of our guilt and says, "I'll take those for you. I'll make them mine." Jesus has tremendous love for us. He takes the punishment away from us. He has the power to handle everything in our lives.

While everyone has their own opinions about why "bad stuff" happens to them, God gently points me to Jesus and gives me the right answer: "God is LOVE."

We invite you to join us to learn more about God's perfect love for you, and how he uses all the "bad stuff" in your life for your good.

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: Back to School with Purpose

Excerpts from a Focus on the Family Article

Beginning Back to School 2022

"It's going to happen," I told my son about going back to school in 2022. "The only choice you have is whether you want to be miserable for the next nine months or find something to enjoy about school."

My sons dreaded going back to school every year. My boys abhorred sitting still in classrooms and felt that homework was an injustice that needed to be protested nightly. But eventually they found their own reasons for returning to school — mostly friends and recess.

Even when children are excited about their education, the phrase "back to school" can strike fear into the most stalwart of parents. With it comes routine changes, constrained time, stretched budgets, academic challenges and friendship drama.

We asked parents to send Focus on the Family their most successful back-to-school strategies. We hope these tips will cause the back-to-school season to be a bit less hectic for you and perhaps a little more enjoyable for your kids. —Sheila Seifert

Commission Each Student

The week before school begins, my husband and I say a commissioning prayer over our three children. We remind them that God has called them to be missionaries in their school. In this way, by being good examples of love, compassion and attentiveness to their teachers and classmates. On the way to school, I pray for them to be good ambassadors of Christ on their mission field. —Beth Meverden

Morning Devotions with Breakfast

When I realized my children needed help with the discipline of daily devotions, I made room for it in our morning routine. While my middle schoolers ate

breakfast, I read the day's Bible passage and message, and we discussed it. Once they headed off to school, I did the same for my elementary school daughter but with a different, more age-appropriate devotional.

—Kim Leane

Downtime before Bedtime

The one thing that helped my children transition to an earlier bedtime for the school year was creating more downtime in the evening. This included encouraging the boys to prepare for the next day, such as choosing an outfit and talking about a school-related activity they were looking forward to. By doing a few of these little things, we found that the boys were not only physically ready to sleep but also excited to go to bed with a clear idea of what tomorrow would bring.

—Courtney Roberts

Back to School with Purpose

Moving from a summer schedule to a school-year routine is a time of transition for families. To help children make this change for back-to-school 2022, parents can meet with their children's teachers, take a tour of the school, set earlier bedtimes the week before and practice the morning routine days before school starts. Also, here are some ways I've helped my child ease into the new school-year schedule:

Picture calendar. My son and I create a picture calendar that helps him visually understand when he will go to school and when he will stay home. A different picture is pasted on home days than on school days. The vagueness of going to school sometimes is replaced by a concrete way to understand his schedule.

Mini-missions. As my child goes off to school, I send him with a "mission." For example, I might ask him to tell a friend one kind thing today. ("You are my friend." "Thank you for playing with me at recess.") or invite someone who doesn't have many friends to sit with him at lunch. These mini-missions help teach my child to focus on and encourage others.

Goodbye ritual. When I drop my son off at school, I want to give him a focused perspective about who God calls him to be. So I have taught him that integrity means doing what is right, even when no one is watching. I ask, "How will you return to me?" when I drop him off. He responds, "With integrity, Mom!". By emphasizing this character quality each day, I'm helping my son connect who he is at school with who he is at home. —Lauren Osborne

For complete article, visit www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/easy-ideas-for-a-better-back-to-school/

Upcoming Events

FVL Schools Parent Night- Wednesday, September 28th

FVL Schools is hosting its annual Parent Night. Each year, they feature one topic relevant to raising children in our ever-changing modern world. This year's topic is Behavioral Addictions, and will focus on dealing with social media and technology obsessions. Dr. Brandon Hayes from Christian Family Solutions will be presenting.

This free event begins at 6:30. The commons door (K) will open at 6:00 for parents and students in 7th grade and up to attend. Water and light refreshments will be provided. Free babysitting is available for children ages 4-12. The presentation is expected to last 60-90 minutes with time for audience questions. No RSVP is needed.

How much is enough? Parents regularly ask this question. In most cases, the question stems from concern regarding whether or not their child's activities crossed the line something they no longer have control over. As we all know, there has been an enormous uptick in compulsive or addictive behavior in teenagers. Although some of this is based upon ready availability, we also need to consider teens' developmental status, which allows them to become "hooked" more easily than adults. And, these patterns may have long-term impact on their future maturity and development.

We will discuss healthy limits based upon teen's level of development and how to use this as an opportunity to guide them to learn healthy limits and self-control.



Wrightstown's Fall Fest- Saturday, October 1st

Wrightstown is holding a Fall Fest event on Saturday, October 1st. The day will include a car show, color run, live music, kids' activities, and a street market. St. John will be part of the event, with our PTO heading up a concession stand.

We would like to sell nachos and cheeses, nachos supreme, hot dogs, and caramel apples. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing to the food purchases, please get in contact with Courtney Schisel, Tracy Ripp, or Janet Coenen. All proceeds will go towards the playground fund for our new campus.

Upcoming Events

- September 2- No School
- September 5- No School/ Labor Day
- September 7- Public School Catechism Class Begins
- September 9-10- FVL Schools Band Open Houses
- September 10- Soccer Camp Begins
- September 11- Sunday School Begins
- September 13- Fellowship Luncheon
- September 26- PTO Meeting
- September 28- FVL Community Parent Night- Behavioral Addictions
- September 30- Hot Lunch
- October 1- Wrightstown Fall Fest

Church Highlights

Sunday School Begins Sept. 11

Sunday School will once again begin the Sunday following Labor Day, which falls on September 11th this year. Children in grades preK-8th are invited to join us for a variety of activities each week from 9:00-10:00 am (between Sunday Services). We ask that parents register their children ahead of time so that we know how many materials we need to have on hand.

To register, please call the office at 920-532-4865. Let us know your child's name, birthday, grade level, and any medical or allergy information that may be needed, as well as emergency contact information. Students can meet their teachers in the church basement each week.

Parents and teens are invited to join us upstairs for an adult Bible study that also runs from 9:00-10:00 am. Topics will vary and topic suggestions are welcome.



Catechism Classes Begin Sept. 7

Public school students in grades 5-8 are asked to attend Catechism classes each Wednesday during the school year in order to prepare for confirmation. Classes will meet in the mobile building behind St. John Lutheran School from 3:30 until 5:00 pm, giving students time to walk or be dropped off after their regular school day. Please contact Past or Gehl with any questions.



Member Tuition Assistance

St. John has an endowment fund for tuition assistance for church members who attend St. John School or any other WELS school (FVL, MLC, etc.). If interested in applying for financial aid, please submit a written request to Jesse Bohrtz, chairman of the Endowment Committee. The deadline is September 30th. Grants are divided equally among all applicants and are paid directly to the educational institution on the member's behalf. Members who wish to give gifts to this endowment fund can find specially designated envelopes in the display at the back of church.

Church Birthdays

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

Sep 1 Owen Propson
Sep 2 Allen Johns
Sep 2 Eli Torres Ammel
Sep 11 Liberty Cisler
Sep 11 Dennis Jandrey
Sep 12 Lena Abrahamson
Sep 12 Barbara Verbeten
Sep 15 Kenneth Lemke
Sep 15 Ethan Propson
Sep 17 Lois Baumgartener

Sep 18 Trystin Kluess
Sep 19 Dane Schisel
Sep 21 Andrew DeMerritt
Sep 25 Scott Schroeder
Sep 26 Trevor Golden
Sep 27 Michael Breister
Sep 28 Rita Woback
Sep 29 Brett Reschke
Sep 29 Jesse Schmidt
Sep 30 Chase Denor



School Highlights

Art Teacher Sought

A volunteer art teacher is being sought for Thursday afternoons. The teacher would lead the 2nd-4th grade class (20 students) from 12:45-1:30 and the 5th-8th grade class (17 students) from 1:30-2:15. Supplies are on site, with budgeting available for some special projects. The art teacher position could be shared or split between multiple people. If you are interested in taking on some or all of the art classes this year, please speak with Mr. Raddatz. 920-636-5007



Reading Volunteers Wanted

Mr. Raddatz is seeking volunteers to read with individual students this year. Reading helpers would have an area off of the classroom to meet with one student at a time, listening to them read and helping as needed. These volunteers would largely be able to set their own schedule. Please contact Mr. Raddatz for more information or to arrange volunteering times.



First Day of School 2022-2023



Band Registration Open

5th through 8th grade students can now register for FVL Schools Band for the current school year. FVL offers both private lessons (at St. John during the school day) and group practices (at FVL Saturday mornings). Instruments taught include flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, electric bass guitar, snare drum, and bell or xylophone kits. Total cost for the school year is \$425 and includes the private lessons, group practices, books, music, and performances. Instrument rental is an additional \$125 per year; instruments could also be rented from a music store or purchased by families.

There are multiple opportunities to check out the band program during this month! Band open houses will be held at FVL on Thursday, September 8th from 6:00-8:00 pm and on Saturday, September 10th from 9:00-11:00 am. Beginner Band Camp will be held on Saturday, September 17th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

For more information—or to register for the year—visit <https://www.fvlhs.org/future-foxes/fvl-schools-band/registration>.



School Birthdays

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

Ellie Bastianello- September 4th
Liberty Cisler- September 11th
Evelyn Barker- September 13th
Dane Schisel- September 19th
J D Evers- September 25th
Chase Denor- September 30th

Save on tuition and support our school—at no extra cost to you!

St. John is a proud Scrip card user through the Raise Right organization. With Raise Right, you can purchase gift cards from us at face value. The organizations involved give back a percentage of each card to our school, allowing us to fundraise without costing supporters anything other than what they would normally spend on gas, groceries, restaurants, and more. Families who use it on a regular basis for all their needs can save hundred each year!

Hundreds of companies contribute, so finding what you need is simple. We keep a selection of popular local companies in stock at school, with access to the full selection with only a short wait time.

Purchasers can also shop for scrip online, allowing them to easily use their apps and online accounts to be refilled in moments. If you are interested in getting started, speak with Dierdra Stary or Rebecca Wicks—or check out RaiseRight.com.

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card
You get the full value.



The brand gives back
No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns
Impacting what matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house. Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



amazon



STARBUCKS®



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

Get started by downloading the [RaiseRight™ app](#) on your phone or go to [RaiseRight.com](#) on your computer. For step-by-step instructions, visit [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](#).

Contact Us

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School Office

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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

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Rebecca Wicks, K-1st grade teacher

920-809-8648

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Jamie Buss, PreK teacher

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Alexa Foelske, preschool teacher

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