



## *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 are there so many different Christian churches?

Why are there so many different kinds of cereals? It's all too confusing. There are cereals with marshmallows. Cereals that turn the milk chocolaty. Cereals that have fruits, nuts, or raisins. Cereals that even go snap, crackle, and pop.

How is a person ever supposed to decide? Do I choose my cereal because I like all the sugar? Do I choose my cereal because I like the tiger or honeybee or leprechaun? Or should I choose my cereal based on the nutritional value?

The cereal aisle at your local grocery store is filled with different kinds of cereals. The street corners around the Fox Valley are filled with different kinds of Christian churches. How are you ever going to decide which church is best for you?

I would encourage you to choose the church that's the most spiritually nutritious.

Choose a church whose teachings are filled with the "milk" and "meat" of God's Word. The Bible says about itself:

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.*

*1 Peter 2:2,3*

Choose a church that isn't giving you just what you "want" to hear but what you "need" to hear.

*For the time will come when people... will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

*2 Timothy 4:3*

You and I need to hear that we've led unhealthy, sinful lives. We need to hear that Jesus died for our sins and has made our lives wholesome and healthy again.

I could eat all kinds of cereals that may fill me up, but they may not always be the best physical food that I could put into my body. In the same way that I want the best physical food for my body, I definitely want the best spiritual food for my soul. I want you to find a church that has the very best spiritual food there is - God's truth. Again, the Bible says,

*God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

*1 Timothy 2:4*

Come and share God's truth with us. Come and be spiritually nourished.

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: How to Manage Tearful Drop-Offs

Excerpts from a ParentMap.com Article  
by Serina Behar Natkin

As each school year starts, I notice many parents struggling to handle morning drop-offs. Children are often in tears, and parents, unsure of what to do, vacillate between frustration and guilt. Parents are ready to start their own day, and after the first few days of challenging drop-offs, we are beginning to lose patience. At the same time, we can feel guilty about leaving upset children behind.

Like most parents, I have had my share of challenging drop-offs. The worst one I can remember was when my then 2-year-old had just started preschool. As I dropped her off, she cried, and I cried; finally, the teacher, bless her, made me leave. I looked back to see my daughter pounding on the window, pleading, "Don't leave me." I was sure that I was dooming her to years of therapy. I spent the next three hours contemplating my failures as a mom.

And then I went to pick my child up. Her teacher, skilled with first-time parents like myself, let me know that my daughter had stopped crying about 20 seconds after I drove away. From then on, my child was a happy camper. She greeted me with smiles and hugs, excited to tell me about her morning at school.

Yes, transitions are hard. Whatever the drama, these tips will help ease the stress for you and your child.

### Manage your own emotions

The most effective thing parents can do is to manage their own anxiety around the transition. Kids often do fine in new environments and with new routines and schedules. Our children often pick up on our own stress, and this can make the adjustment harder for them. It's not only okay but perfectly normal to feel nervous about a new school, or to feel sad about how

fast your child is growing up. The problem occurs when we project our emotions onto our children or assume they are feeling the same thing we are.

### Let them go

It's tempting to stick around, hoping your child will stop crying. It's also tempting to sneak out, thinking that by doing so, it will be easier for your child. However, neither of these strategies work well. The long, drawn-out good-byes increase the anxiety in our children, and the quick ducking out plays into their greatest fears about being left. Instead, create a good-bye ritual with your child: Give those last hugs and kisses, and tell him you can't wait to see him after school. Then, follow through on your word and head out that door.

### Adjust to their temperament

Kids are unique beings with their own thoughts and feelings, and no one method will work for all. Think about your child and how they approach and adapt to new situations. If your child is slow to warm up to new environments, spend some extra time letting them get comfortable with school. Plan to arrive at school a little bit early and create a ritual for easing in, such as reading a book together before you leave.

### Be extra aware during life's transitions

While the start of school is a big transition in itself, life is always changing, and there may be other transitions and changes happening in your child's world that are contributing to her separation anxiety at drop-offs: Got a new baby in the home? Create a special ritual to connect with your older child at a different time of day. Spending just 15 minutes alone with that child each day can make all the difference. Moved to a new home or attending a new school? If your child is adjusting to a new environment, he can be especially clingy with caregivers. We are the constant, stable force in our children's lives, so of course, they want to hold on for dear life. Stick to your established routines as much as possible in the new surroundings. This helps increase your child's feeling that your family is still the same even though the setting may change.

### Final Thoughts

Whether your child adjusts with ease or struggles early on, making the transition into the new school year is a significant event in your child's life. It may be bumpy, but your ability to stay calm and model persistence will go a long way toward helping your child do the same.

*To view the full article, visit <https://www.parentmap.com/article/how-to-end-drop-off-drama>*



# Upcoming Events

## FVL 8th Grade Welcome Night- Wednesday, October 12

Families with 8th graders considering enrolling in Fox Valley Lutheran High School for the next school year are encouraged to attend FVL's annual 8th Grade Welcome Night. Students can enjoy a variety of activities in the gym and commons, including pizza and soda, inflatables, multi-player video game challenges, a DJ and dancing, giant Jenga, dodgeball, and more! Parents are invited to rotate through their choices of 15 minute presentations around the classrooms. Information will be available regarding applying for school, picking classes, financing, the biomedical labs, STEM, sports, clubs, music, band, college and career readiness and special education. Visit the campus anytime between 4:00 and 8:00 pm to take advantage of this opportunity!



## Trunk or Treat- Saturday, October 29th

St. John is proud to once again host our annual Trunk or Treat event. Trick-or-treating and other fun fall activities will be available. Invite your friends and family! Trunk or Treat will be held from 1:00-3:00 pm on October 29th at the school campus. Decorated cars should plan to park in the driveway; trick-or-treaters should plan to park on the road.

A \$50 prize for the best-decorated vehicle is available this year. If you are interested in competing for the prize and joining the event by decorating your car and handing out candy, please let Mr. Raddatz know so that we have an approximate count of vehicles. Those decorating cars should arrive at 12:30 pm on the day of the event and park diagonally in the driveway to maximize parking space.



## Wrightstown's Fall Fest- Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

Wrightstown is holding a Fall Fest event on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 near the overlook. Be sure to stop by for nachos and cheese, hot dogs, and caramel apples!

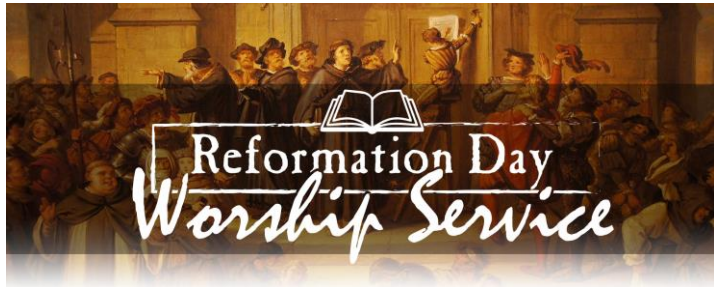
## Upcoming Events

- October 1- Wrightstown Fall Fest
- October 1- Final Soccer Camp
- October 6- NO Thursday Service
- October 9- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sing at Church
- October 9- FVL Fall Sacred Concert
- October 11- Fellowship Luncheon
- October 12- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Night at FVL
- October 21- Hot Lunch
- October 21- FVL Fall Play
- October 22- Fall Clean Up Day
- October 22- FVL Fall Play
- October 23- FVL Fall Play
- October 24- PTO Zoom Meeting
- October 25- School Picture Day
- October 27-28- No School (Teacher's Conference)
- October 29- Trunk or Treat
- October 30- Joint Reformation Service at FVL

## Church Highlights

### Joint Reformation Service

Fox Valley Lutheran High School will once again host the area WELS joint Reformation service. Join hearts and voices with worshipers from several other area congregations to celebrate the Reformation on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm in FVL's auditorium.



### Apple Valley Food Pantry

The October collection for the pantry will be held the weekend of October 8 & 9. The following is a list of items currently in need of by the pantry for distribution to our recipients: Tomato/chicken soups, cream soups, chunky soups, pasta sauces (preferably in tin or plastic), spaghetti noodles & other pasta noodles, 1 lb. bags of rice, 14 oz. boxed rice, boxed potato side dishes/mashed potatoes, canned pasta, canned chicken, canned stews, laundry soap, paper towels and bath tissue. Thank you for your support of the pantry!

## New Campus Updates



### Progress Made on New Campus

In September, the BOLD STEPS communication committee released a new update, some highlights of which are listed below. To view the full update and other information on the new campus, visit [www.stjohnwrightstown.com/bold-steps](http://www.stjohnwrightstown.com/bold-steps).

- A temporary storage area and driveway were constructed on site.
- Materials for the pre-engineered gym portion of the building have arrived ahead of schedule.
- The HVAC budget saw a savings of \$93,000 thanks to cost-saving measures.
- Catalyst Construction has the go-ahead to sign with most subcontractors.



## Church Birthdays

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

Oct 1 Bryce Herlache  
Oct 2 Lisa Pohlman  
Oct 3 Raymond Gabriel  
Oct 4 Austin Lazor  
Oct 4 Dominic Myers  
Oct 5 Dale Abrahamson  
Oct 6 Bernice Klister  
Oct 6 Jason Uitenbroek  
Oct 8 David Rosenbaum  
Oct 10 Gavin Hein

Oct 10 Carl Uitenbroek  
Oct 13 Jacob Bruecker  
Oct 13 Kurt Laabs  
Oct 14 Owen Ratkowski  
Oct 14 Arlen Wicks  
Oct 15 Cecelia Raddatz  
Oct 18 Eric Olp  
Oct 19 Kevin Vande Hey  
Oct 21 Sonny Torres Ammel  
Oct 22 Robert Maass

Oct 23 Michael Pennenberg  
Oct 23 Lynn Ratkowski  
Oct 24 Caleb Ritter  
Oct 24 Jordan Schmidt  
Oct 26 Shelly Meulemans  
Oct 28 Hannah Kraus  
Oct 29 Leah Cisler  
Oct 31 Amy Leonhard  
Oct 31 Judy Price

## School Highlights

### School Picture Day

School picture day will be held on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Information is being sent home from Lifetouch regarding options for picture packages. Students in the early childhood classrooms who do not usually attend on Tuesdays are welcome to pop in to the school office to get their pictures taken around 8:15 am, or to wait for a picture retake day to be scheduled in the future.



### Pictures Sought for Yearbook

The Parent-Teacher Organization is re-energizing the goal of developing a SJLS yearbook. Parents and grandparents who take pictures at school events such as field trips, singing dates, school programs, the first day of school, and more are asked to submit their photos to the school office for consideration for the yearbook. Photos should be sent to [office@stjohnwrightstown.com](mailto:office@stjohnwrightstown.com). Include information such as names, date, or event title where possible. Anyone interested in helping to lead the work on a yearbook can contact Tim Raddatz.

A YEAR OF  
adventure  
A YEAR OF  
laughter  
A YEAR OF  
memories



### Fall Clean-Up

St. John is working to organize service project opportunities for all of its students. We have picked Fall Clean-Up as our first quarter project. Classes have worked to figure out what tasks our students can handle helping with around the community and are working on flyers to be posted. We ask that families set aside the morning of Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am-12:00 n for their students (and any parent volunteers) to help. We will gather a list of addresses around Wrightstown where residents could use help with such things as raking, yard pick up, pulling out dead plants, gutter cleaning, and more. Adult and student helpers will be paired up to reach as many places as possible. More information will be sent out as the event draws closer.

Happy Birthday!

### School Birthdays

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

Everett R- October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Aiden R- October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Amara B- October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Cecelia R- October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah K- October 28<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah T- October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Braxton E- October 30<sup>th</sup>



## 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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**Tim Raddatz, principal and**

**2nd-4th grade teacher**

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**tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com**

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**Rebecca Wicks, K-1st grade teacher**

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