



# *The Messenger*

*A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School*

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



## Devotional Corner

### Dress Yourself with... Gentleness

What do washing machines, dish soap, a grizzly bear named “Ben,” and you have in common? You, the bear, and those other items can all be gentle. St. Paul encouraged the members of one of his churches,

*“Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
The Lord is near”  
(Philippians 4:5).*

Too often we associate gentleness with being a wimp. That's not true. Washing machines can rip clothes to shreds. Soaps can irritate the skin. Bears can maul people. And just turn on the news to see what destruction human beings can do.

Nevertheless, we can be gentle. We can learn to be unselfish and considerate in all we do. Think what the world would be like if everyone showed unselfish consideration for others! There'd be no road rage. Children wouldn't fight over a particular toy. Customers and cashiers wouldn't stall checkout

lines by bickering over sale prices. Divorce might even come to a halt.

Of course, we'll never be able to be perfectly gentle in this life. But, Jesus was. With a word, Jesus could calm a raging sea or cause a tree to wither. Yet he never failed to heal the sick, preach good news to the poor, and offer forgiveness to the worst of sinners.

Jesus even offers forgiveness for the times we've failed to be gentle, those times when we insisted on getting our way and didn't care whom we hurt to get it. When we think of Jesus' willingness to forgive us, it makes us want to be more like him – gentle and caring.

There was a Christian man whose very presence was a visual definition of words like strong, tough, and thoroughly masculine. Yet for twenty-five years he spent nearly every Sunday afternoon leading a worship service for a hundred mentally disabled women at the state mental hospital. That man let his gentleness be evident to all.

Do you desire that same gentle spirit in your life? See and hear how, as you worship and study God's Word with us!

In Christ's service and yours!  
Pastor Mike Gehl

*Therefore... clothe yourselves with  
compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness, and patience.  
Colossians 3:12*

# Worship With Us!

Worship Sundays at 7:45 or 10:15 am  
and Thursdays at 6:30 pm  
at 1537 Day St. Greenleaf

Sunday School and Bible Study are on Sundays at 9:00 am.



## Christian Parenting Today: Why Kids Don't Listen to Their Parents

Excerpts from a Cornerstones for Parents article by  
Laura Kuehn, LCSW

Kids don't listen for a number of reasons. Here are three, along with how you can use that information to unstop their ears.

**Reason #1: Because they are busy.** Have you ever been so engrossed in a project or a book or a funny YouTube video that you literally did not hear that someone was speaking to you? It happens to your kids too. You may not understand how Pokemon cards can be so captivating, but to your child, they might be. Kids are people too. They have their own likes, dislikes, passions and interests. And while you may not share these interests, or even understand them, they are important to your children.

**The Solution:** Instead of shouting from another room, go to where your child is and look around. Are they engrossed in something? Can you wait until there is a good time to interrupt? Try saying, "I'll give you a second to pause the game. I have something to tell you and I want your full attention." This shows that they are important as an individual and you respect them. Once you have their attention, make eye contact and give your instruction.

**Reason #2: Because their parents are all talk and no action.** For our anniversary one year, my husband and I stayed in a cute little inn. It was cute until about 10pm at night when the club next door came to life. There were apartments in the area and I remember asking my husband how people could sleep with all that racket. The answer is exposure. Your brain is an amazing organ and it has the beautiful ability to tune out extraneous noises.

It's not unlike what can happen when we talk to our kids. Our voice can become like those extraneous noises. We may be talking a lot but if we are not really saying anything with our actions, our kids are not going to listen.

**The Solution:** We can correct this by saying less and doing more. Actions speak louder than words. This is true, especially in parenting. Pretend that your words are a precious resource, and you have a limited supply. Choose them wisely and you will get results. Say something that is 1) enforceable 2) what you really want to say and 3) delivered calmly and with confidence.

Here's an example of how actions can speak louder than words: Let's say you asked your children to pick up their toys from the living room floor, but nothing happened. You can grab a laundry basket, sigh, tell them you are sad they chose not to listen, and gather all the toys up yourself. Tuck that basket in your closet and tell them they can earn one toy back each day they clean up when asked. The next time you ask them to pick up their toys, they will hear your words because they will remember your actions.

**Reason #3: Because their parents are talking at them, not with them.** You may say that you talk to them all the time, but they still ignore you. Audit your words. What is it you most often say to your kids? Is it criticism? Correction? Instructions? Do you ask true, honest, inquisitive questions about their life? If your kids have come to see your words as solely corrective, instructive, or negative, they will tune you out before you even get a chance to say anything.

**The Solution:** Your relationship with your kids is so very important. If you want them to listen to you, invest in them as people. Figure out what makes them tick. What they like and don't like. Ask thoughtful questions. Show them that you are interested in them, not just interested in getting them to do what you want.

I remember as a teen that I would come home from school and most days my mom would be sitting at the kitchen table with her cup of coffee and the newspaper. Sometimes it worked. On the days I didn't rush to my room and slam the door, I would sit down, have cookies, and spill my guts.

I know that for many single parents [and] working families, this sort of arrangement may not be possible. But try to be intentional about carving out time when you are available to your kids. It might be after dinner. Or in the car on the way to dance lessons. You don't look available when your eyes are on your phone. Availability looks like eye contact, a smile, and stillness. If you are struggling to find time for those in your life, see if there are things you can eliminate.

There are a lot of other reasons why kids don't listen: they may be tired, hungry, sick, or countless other reasons, but by asking the question "Why?" you are well on your way to uncovering the solution.

# Upcoming Events



## Blood Drive-

### Monday, November 15

Some adjustments have been made to our blood drive plans since we do not currently have an accessible building to host in. Our blood drive will now be held at St. Clare's Wrightstown church. There are plenty of spots available for anyone willing to donate blood or volunteer to set up, take down, register people, and more. Contact Joan Zahn for more information.



## Parent/Teacher Conferences-

### Wednesday, November 17

Our staff and students have now survived the first quarter of school for the year! That means it is time to check in and see how your students are doing. Parents, be sure to watch for upcoming information on how to sign up for parent/teacher conferences. Students in grades K-8 will bring home report cards on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for you to look over prior to conferences.



## School Accreditation Site Visit- Monday-Wednesday, December 6-8

Our school staff has been hard at work behind the scenes to ensure that our school is prepared for accreditation. In December, a group from WELSSA will be coming out to evaluate many facets of our school. If you are interested in being interviewed for your take on our school, please speak with Tim Raddatz or Dierdra Stary. Also be on the watch for a sign-up to help host meals for the site team.

## Mark Your Calendars!

- November 2- End of first quarter of school
- November 7- Daylight savings time ends
- November 9- Fellowship lunch at church
- November 9- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade math bowl 6-8p
- November 15- Blood drive- now at St. Clare 1-6p
- November 17- Parent/teacher conferences 3-7p
- November 18- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math bowl 6-8p
- November 19- Hot lunch at school
- November 24- Half day of school- pickup 11:30a
- November 24- Thanksgiving services 2:00 & 6:30p
- November 25- No school/ Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 26- No school
- November 27- Advent by Candlelight at FVL 1p
- November 29- Virtual PTO meeting
- December 6-8- School accreditation site visit

## Church Highlights

### Advent by Candlelight at FVL

For the first time, the women of the entire Fox Valley Area will be able to gather together to ponder the birth of our Savior. We will have our special service in the beautiful auditorium at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. This will provide enough room for hundreds to gather safely for a time of worship and celebration.

This special service will be held on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. All women are invited to attend. Doors will open at 12:30. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Kerri Kleist at [kerrickleist@gmail.com](mailto:kerrickleist@gmail.com).



### K-8 Christmas Service Sign-Up

Yes, we just got through Halloween/Reformation and haven't even hit Thanksgiving yet, but circumstances this year are forcing us to look ahead. Due to more limited seating in our Greenleaf church building, we will be having the K-8 children lead two services—at 8:00 and 10:00 am rather than 7:45 and 10:15—with no Bible study or Sunday School in between.

To further help ensure that everyone is able to join us, we are asking students' families and congregation members to sign up for which service they wish to attend. Watch for a Sign Up Genius link in an e-mail or find a form in the back of church to sign your family up.

A regular church service will still be held on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Early childhood (preschool and preK) will hold their Christmas program on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> in the WHS auditorium. More information will follow.

## Church Birthdays

**Happy Birthday to the following church members celebrating in the month of November!**

Nov 1 Sharon Demerath  
Nov 1 Betty Schmidt  
Nov 5 Monty Reynolds  
Nov 5 Perry Schisel  
Nov 5 Nicholas Van Schyndel  
Nov 6 Robbie Pohlman  
Nov 7 Melissa Vanderkelon  
Nov 11 Brenda Kussow  
Nov 12 Silvia Sieker  
Nov 13 Peter Bowers  
Nov 14 Johanna Heimerl

Nov 15 Russel Calaway  
Nov 15 Aaron Wierschke  
Nov 16 Emma Laabs  
Nov 17 Arriana Lemke  
Nov 20 Tracy Golden  
Nov 23 Amy Lemke  
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 Colleen Gilson  
Nov 27 Elliott Olp  
Nov 27 Russell Otten  
Nov 28 Alois (Lloyd) Patoka  
Nov 28 Brenda Pohlman  
Nov 29 Michele Drootsan  
Nov 29 Jayden Hein  
Nov 29 Rebecca Reschke

## School Highlights



### Cold and Flu Season

We are in the midst of this year's cold and flu season, and while many COVID restrictions have lifted, we still want parents to keep an extra eye out. COVID, RSV, croupy coughs, and the flu all are experiencing a high rate of spread in our community right now. If your child is sick, take the time to evaluate their symptoms or check with a doctor to determine if it is safe to go to school and continue with other normal activities. Fever, lethargy, and body aches are among the signs that your child may have something worse than a cold. Help our school to keep classrooms open by keeping your child home if they are unwell. Help your child stay healthy by ensuring that they get plenty of rest, lots of water, chances to exercise, and good nutrition, and by reminding them to wash their hands more frequently, including whenever they return home from a different location.



### 'Tis the Season... for Warm Winter Wear

Parents, please keep in mind that temperatures have been dropping rapidly during the last couple of weeks. Your child should come prepared for more than a quick dash from the car to school; their outdoor clothes need to keep them warm over a long recess break. Please be sure to send winter coats, hats, mittens and/or gloves every day. From time to time, make sure that these are still in their backpack or school storage area; check for a lost and found if your child no longer can locate their items. It is always a good idea to label your child's winter gear, as hats and mittens are easy to lose and most snowpants look the same.



### School Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following students celebrating in the month of November!

November 2- Emett.  
November 5- Violet S.  
November 6- Jude G.  
November 29- Jayden H.

# In Need of Help?

We would like to be able to offer sections in this monthly newsletter for a prayer corner and volunteer opportunities. If you or your family is in need of any such help, please fill out this form, detach it, and bring it to the church or school office.

Name of person/family requesting help: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of help requested (circle any that apply):    Pastor Visit        Prayer        Volunteer Help

Additional details: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to follow up:    Call        Text        E-mail

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Contact Us

<b>Church Office</b>	<b>920-532-4865</b>	<b>st.johnwrightstown@gmail.com</b>
<b>School Office</b>	<b>920-532-4361</b>	<b>office@stjohnwrightstown.com</b>
<b>Pastor Mike Gehl</b>	<b>920-309-5171</b>	<b>pastorgehl@gmail.com</b>
<b>Pastor Robert Wilke</b>	<b>920-915-4870</b>	<b>revrwilke@gmail.com</b>
<b>Tim Raddatz, principal and 2<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher</b>	<b>920-636-5007</b>	<b>tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com</b>
<b>Dillon Solomon, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher</b>	<b>248-525-3700</b>	<b>dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com</b>
<b>Rebecca Wicks, K-1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher</b>	<b>920-809-8648</b>	<b>rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com</b>
<b>Jamie Buss, PreK teacher</b>	<b>920-538-0470</b>	<b>jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com</b>
<b>Alexa Foelske, preschool teacher</b>	<b>920-323-4185</b>	<b>alexa.foelske@stjohnwrightstown.com</b>



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