

The Messenger



A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

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St. John Lutheran Church

1537 Day St. Greenleaf

920-532-4865

stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

St. John Lutheran School

261 Clay St. Wrightstown

920-532-4361

 office@stjohnwrightstown.com



www.stjohnwrightstown.com



facebook.com/stjohnwrightstown

instagram.com/stjohnwrightstown

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



Devotional Corner

Ever Wonder... What is Eternal Life?

It's that time again when we encounter the change from the old year to the new. For some, the ushering in of a new year is a ritual of staying up until midnight to make a bunch of noise or perhaps sing an old song. Yet, one way or another, the beginning of a new year is a time of reflection and planning. We take stock of what happened in the last year. We think of our pains, regrets, joys, surprises, births, and deaths. We also look to the future and ponder what we want to do differently in days to come.

In all of our planning, though, there is this unalterable fact that life here will end. Our time is finite. It has a limit. In fact, everything about this world has a limit. The Bible tells us of one thing, however, that has no end. Referring to those who follow him, Jesus said,

"I give them eternal life."

John 10:28

In view of our knowledge and experience of limited life in this world, we wonder what eternal life is.

Jesus explains,

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Life is being connected to God and his blessings. The opposite is death, which is separation from God and his goodness. All people are born separated from God because, by nature, they are sinners. As a result, they are headed toward an eternal separation from God to be condemned in a very real place called hell.

But God did something very great. He sent the world a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. In an unmatched act of love, Jesus placed himself under our condemnation for sin. He willingly suffered the death sentence that all of us deserve.

Through Jesus, God has forgiven the world's sin, which separated people from him, and he gives the gift of eternal life. All who listen to the Savior and believe in God who sent him have eternal life. By faith in the true God of salvation, they have crossed over from death to life. They do not face the fear of separation from God, but they rejoice in a close and blessed relationship with him now and forever.

What a great way to start a new year! We have the confidence that no matter what has happened in days gone by, and whatever the future holds, our life with God is secured forever by faith in Jesus.

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: Resolutions for Families

Excerpts from a MinistryMindedMom.com article

Every year we all strive to get better at something, whether it's to steer clear of junk food or to start saving more money. But how often do you set New Year's goals and resolutions for yourself in regards to your parenting?

If you're like most other parents, you probably tend to overreact to your kids' behavior too much, nag them too frequently, and more than likely you don't feel like you spend enough quality time with them. Try not to be hard on yourself. Parenting is (quite accurately) believed to be the hardest job in the world. And unfortunately, children don't come with a manual.

As you think about what the next year will look like, here are some New Year's resolutions that you can resolve to do as a Christian parent in the coming year.

Put God first and seek His will

As a Christian parent, it is vital to seek God's will for the lives of your children. It is important to seek God's will for your children and your direction as a parent through prayer and Bible study. Putting Him first will help you to steer your children towards Christ and train them up properly in the way they should go.

Educate yourself in parenting techniques

There is a plethora of information out there to help you grow as a parent. Resolve yourself to dig deep and learn more about how to better navigate parenting your children in a way that is God-honoring and effective.

Focus on your children's positive behaviors

If it seems like you are always pointing out your kids' bad behaviors and it's not helping to resolve anything, then why not try to ignore more of the negative things. Instead, start trying to catch your kids being good. Children always respond to positive reinforcement the best (like adults).

Be more consistent with disciplining

Discipline is an important task. Be consistent when it comes to setting boundaries and limits. However, also consider being willing to let some things go. Calmly respond to your children's disobedience instead of resorting to yelling or other severe measures.

Stop yelling and constant reminders to behave

Constantly pestering your children to behave or to follow through with the things you've instructed them to do doesn't always help anything. Try to find different parenting and discipline methods that might be more effective in training them up to be obedient and respectful towards you.

Take regular breaks and alone time

Being a [parent] is a lot of work. And while it is a ministry to serve your family, carving out alone time isn't a luxury — it's a necessity! Adjust your schedule and recruit your [spouse], relatives, or a babysitter to help, so you can have the regular alone time that you need in order to refresh and recoup.

Be persistent and consistent in encouraging

It's believed that children will hear at least seventeen negative comments for every word of praise and encouragement they hear at home. Exposure to constant criticism and negativity can have awful effects on children. If encouraging others doesn't come naturally, then try adding in positive comments to the things that you regularly tell them every day. For example, instead of just saying "Good night", tell them "Good night, sweetheart. I love you and I'm so grateful for you." This way, at least you can rest assured that you've encouraged them one time each day.

Plan some alone time with your spouse

Whether it's a romantic weekend out of town, going to a coffee shop together, or even planning regular date-night-ins, make sure you take some time alone with your spouse — and don't only talk about your kids! If you're finding it hard to get out of the house together, then try a date night at home.

Don't fear the guilt, learn from it

Let's face it, there are plenty of things that parents can find themselves guilty about-- guilt for things like having to work late, or having to put your children into childcare. Even when you have to discipline your children it can be a common source of guilt. Instead of trying to ease your guilt by being overly lenient on your children, or by spoiling them with toys, use guilt as a tool. Guilt can help to alert you of a genuine problem. Take time to think about if there's any merit behind the guilt you feel, or if it is simply the enemy trying to tear you down. Pray about how you should proceed and strive make a change if necessary.

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Upcoming Events



Blood Drive- Monday, January 10th

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. Donors can sign up in the back of church or call church to set up a time for donation.



Accreditation Site Visit- Monday- Wednesday, January 24-26th

Our school staff has been hard at work behind the scenes to ensure that our school is prepared for accreditation. Our accreditation site visit, originally scheduled for December, has been rescheduled for the end of January. At that time, 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. Meals will be dropped off at the school office.

Green Bay Gamblers Game- Saturday, January 29th

Join St. John Lutheran Church and School for our annual Green Bay Gamblers hockey game! A portion of tickets sales made through the school will return directly to the school. North Shore Bank will once again sponsor the Dash for Cash, where teachers from local schools will rush to collect as much cash as they can from a pile on the ice. Come cheer as Mr. Solomon dashes for our school!



Upcoming Events

- January 9- BOLD STEPS voters meeting
- January 10- Blood Drive 1:00-6:00 pm at the Wrightstown American Legion
- January 11- Church fellowship meal
- January 13- End of second quarter
- January 17- Quarterly church voters meeting
- January 21- No school
- January 24-26- WELSSA (school accreditation) site visit
- January 28- Hot lunch at school
- January 29- Green Bay Gamblers game/ Dash for Cash

Church Highlights



Cleaning Assistance Wanted

Our hope is that each member family can volunteer to take a turn to help keep YOUR church looking nice, neat, and welcoming for when we arrive on Sunday mornings. Ideally, two families would volunteer for each weekend to make for a quick clean-up time of about an hour. Signup sheets are in the media room, or a link can be found in Pastor's weekly update emails. Please speak with Janet Wierschke or Karen Geiger for the answers to all your questions.

Apple Valley Food Pantry

Food pantry donations are collected monthly at St. John Church. The next collection date is Jan 9th. This month, items that are especially needed include: cookies; boxes of small snack bars; pudding & gelatin desserts; sugar-free pudding; frosting (but NOT cake mixes); canned tomato products (paste, sauce, plain diced); women's body washes; laundry soap. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thanks to everyone who supported the pantry and helped make 2021 a very successful year for our recipients!



Church Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these church members celebrating in the month of January!

Jan 2 Ryan Theunis

Jan 3 Deborah Schaeuble

Jan 4 Ronald Zahn

Jan 4 Jack Zirbel

Jan 6 Kendra Pohlman

Jan 7 Weston Herlache

Jan 7 Faye Patoka

Jan 8 Aura Lee Gehl

Jan 8 Ronald Laabs

Jan 8 Lance Schroeder

Jan 9 Michaela Bowers

Jan 9 Sara Verheyen

Jan 11 Micah Foelske

Jan 11 Brett Toseland

Jan 12 James Calaway

Jan 12 Stephen Johnson

Jan 12 Amber Maass

Jan 12 Chad Schmidt

Jan 17 Henry Ollila

Jan 21 Zaine Gehl

Jan 21 Noah Pennenberg

Jan 22 Brent Ritter

Jan 24 Kristen Kraus

Jan 28 Rodney Kussow

Jan 28 Kane Schmidt

Jan 28 Levi Schmidt

Jan 29 Karen Geiger

Jan 29 Lawsen Leick

Jan 30 Daniel Schmidt

Jan 31 Owen Laabs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

School Highlights

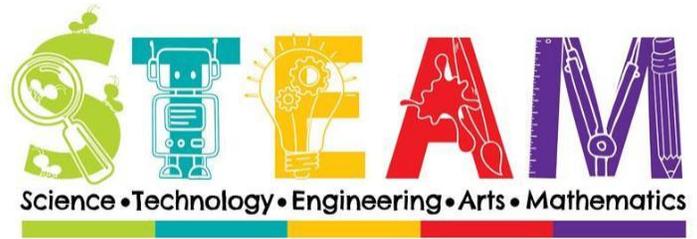
Second Quarter Ending

St. John students and staff will have made it halfway through the school year on January 13th as our 2nd quarter ends. Students in grades K-8 will receive their report cards on the 20th. Parents of older students can also check grades online anytime through our student information system. Parent-teacher conferences are not planned for this quarter, but teachers can meet with parents at any point by request.



School Supply Check Up

The halfway point of the school year is also a good point to check up on your child's school supplies. Parents of younger students may want to check their child's spare outfits to see if they are appropriate for the season; parents of older students should ask their children to make sure that they still have enough working markers, pens, and other supplies.



STEAM Club Volunteers Wanted

St. John Lutheran School would like to hold a STEAM Club during our third quarter (beginning in late January and running through late March), but volunteers are needed in order to make it work. Students will be divided into different age categories and pre-arranged projects prepared for them. Volunteers are asked to lead and/or assist with groups of students to help them achieve their goals for the project. The time commitment would be for just over an hour at the end of the school day—twice a month if working with younger (K-2) students on projects or once a week if working with older (3rd-8th) students on robotics. If you are interested in helping out, please speak with Mrs. Wicks about which age groups, days of the week, and types of projects work best for you. Please give serious consideration to helping with this venture, as STEAM club has been quite popular in the past but will not be possible without plenty of help!



School Birthdays

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

Beckett Dercks- January 1st

Emerson Demerath- January 16th

Lawsen Leick- January 29th

Resolutions for Families

Continued from page 3

Make a plan to thrive through the chaotic times

Morning madness, mealtime mayhem, and bedtime battles are pretty normal for most families. Identify and prepare for the most difficult times of the day for your family. What systems can be set in place to be more organized during these times? What compromises can be made to ensure everyone is (fairly) happy? What distractions can be introduced to get through these difficult times?

Limit screen time usage

There is virtually no getting away from screens altogether, but setting limits throughout the day can ensure that your family is still finding time to connect, that children have plenty of time to get the things done they need to do, and to just have time to play, which is a vital part of childhood. So set limits on the screen time usage daily or establish one night a week that you set aside for a screen free family night.

Let your children have the room to make (and learn from) their mistakes

A lot of times, parents will try to protect their children from life's struggles. But, by doing so, they end up robbing their kids of opportunities to learn from their mistakes and to develop a sense of responsibility and independence. Some parents will take their child's lunch to school if they forgot it or pay for their overdue library fines. Making mistakes and going through hard times will help them learn how to handle the harder things in life later on.

Spend more quality family time together

Finding times when everyone is home at the same time is getting increasingly difficult. Try things like striving to eat one meal together each day, or establishing a screen free family night once a week, or even making a plan to spend one entire weekend every month solely devoted to family activities. It takes intentional and persistent planning to ensure that your family doesn't lose sight of each other and comes together regularly.

Give yourself room for grace

It can be all too easy to print out this set of resolutions, stick them up on the fridge, and then beat yourself up when you don't knock every single one out of the park in the coming year. But remember that you are human, and none of us are perfect. Try focusing on just one or two of these resolutions this year instead of trying to tackle them all. Give yourself the grace to not be perfect, but learn from the things that don't work.

There are a lot of great resolutions you could make this year and a lot of areas in your life you could focus on. But focusing on growing as a parent and finding the joy in parenthood is such a timely choice because your children are growing and changing every day. And you can't get back the time you have with them right now.

Make the most of the time you have with them, and resolve to grow as a parent and family who loves and serves God in the new year with these New Year's resolutions for Christian parents.

To view the full article, visit ministrymindedmom.com/16-new-years-resolutions-for-christian-parents/

Contact Us

Church Office	920-532-4865	stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com
School Office	920-532-4361	office@stjohnwrightstown.com
Pastor Mike Gehl	920-309-5171	pastorgehl@gmail.com
Tim Raddatz, principal and 2th-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