



# *The Messenger*

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

## **Inside this Issue...**

<b>Devotional Corner</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>Christian Parenting Today</b>	<b>page 3</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>page 4</b>
<b>Church Highlights</b>	<b>page 5</b>
<b>School Highlights</b>	<b>page 6</b>
<b>Christmas Scrip Orders</b>	<b>page 7</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>page 7</b>

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



## Devotional Corner

### Ever Wonder... How can I know the Bible is true?

Have a headache? Take two leeches and call me in the morning. If you consult a medical text from a couple of centuries ago, that may be the remedy you find. Today a textbook would probably tell you to pop a couple of aspirin. Tomorrow... Lasers? Magnetics?

Who knows what advancements or discoveries will change how a simple headache is treated? It's amazing how much the science of medicine has changed even over the course of the last hundred years. How will we ever know when we've really found the answers?

66 – 40 – 1500 – 1: What do those numbers mean? The Bible is made up of 66 books that were written by 40 writers over the course of 1500 years. But in all of those books, only one message is found.

The message? We have a problem (and it isn't a simple headache). Our problem is our sin and the guilt that it brings. That one message is also about the remedy for our problem – God sent Jesus, a perfect Savior, to die for our sin and guilt. Now believers in Jesus have the promise of eternal life in heaven.

That simple message of salvation is repeated throughout the Bible, from Moses' writing in Genesis to the writings of the apostle John in Revelation. How amazing that so many different writers from different times record a single message that reveals the world's only true Savior from sin!

Maybe it isn't all that amazing.

*"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

*2 Peter 1:21*

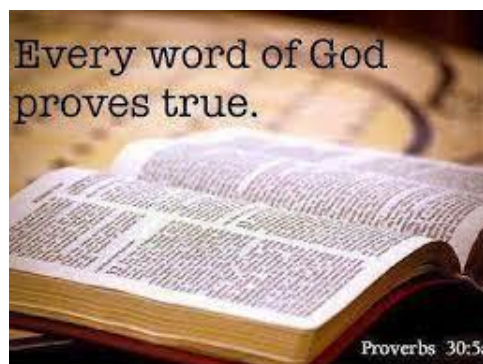
The very same God who loved us enough to send his own Son to die for us made sure that we would know about Jesus by having his message written down. Because God had men record his Word, the Bible is unlike any other book. We are told that

*"All Scripture is God breathed."*

*2 Timothy 3:16*

God himself spoke through, breathed into these writers, so their words are really God's Word. Since the Bible is God's Word, we can trust that it's true. God is speaking to us through the words that he caused to be written in the Bible.

Join us for worship, where we gather to hear what important things he has to say to all of us. In his 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: Help! My Kids Are Bored!

Excerpts from a Crossway.org article by Rev.  
William P. Smith, PhD

Kids are funny. First they complain for months that they can't wait for summer break, but within a few days they're whining that, "There's nothing to do." Parents are funny, too. They also complain about how busy and tiring the school year is, but they don't seem any happier than the kids once summer finally arrives.

Why is the reality of summer less glorious than its promise? In many cases, it's because the transition from the school year is so sharp. Literally overnight, the family goes from a schedule dominated by school days, schoolwork, and after-school activities to one that has little built-in structure. Kids who were micro-managed by an impersonal, set schedule suddenly have way more time on their hands than they know what to do with and their parents aren't used to helping them handle it.

And so, all the bad ways of handling boredom kick in. Your kids race around the house acting crazy. They provoke each other and irritate the dog. They follow you constantly, pestering you so that you can't get anything done. Or they try to lose themselves for hours in their electronic babysitters. You in turn, vacillate between feeling like a bad parent who doesn't plan enough fun things for your kids and feeling resentful that they treat you like a cruise-ship director.

Is there anything you can do other than sign them up for seven consecutive VBSs, hoping no one notices?

### Guiding Principles

There is, but it involves holding onto two noncompeting principles as you prepare your kids for their summer. It's easy to hold onto one or the other of these principles, but since they're complementary, you need to remember both.

**First, as their parent, you are more responsible than any other authority for teaching them how to use the time God's given them.** That reality is also true during the school year when other people schedule their time, but it's more obvious during the summer months. Your responsibility only decreases as your children get older and take more ownership of their calendars. Part of parenting, then, involves helping your kids learn to fill and organize their lives for good purposes.

**Second, your responsibility does not replace your child's.** You are the most responsible human authority in their life, but they are directly responsible to the Lord for the time he's given them. That means you need to help them learn that just like money, time is a valuable and limited resource that God has given and needs to be spent on things he delights in.

The summer is a great time to teach them to invest their time in things like developing relationships, exploring their gifts and talents, being creative, learning about the world God's made, and contributing to his world by making others' lives better. Will your kids do all of those things each day? No. But you want to sprinkle those elements over several months.

### Helpful Practices

So, what does this look like practically?

**First, you need to be intentional.** Training never happens accidentally. Set aside some time to think carefully about what you want your child to value and the kinds of activities that will help them do so. Think about what it would mean for your child to continue developing spiritually, intellectually, physically, and artistically. What's the next step for them in each of those areas? Are there things you'd like them to try? Are there deficiencies they need to address?

**Second, who can help you think creatively about what your kids could do?** Make a date to talk this through with your spouse. Grab a cup of coffee with a close friend to get their thoughts. Brainstorm ideas of what you might try with your kids with someone who knows them well. Look around church for parents whose kids seem to be growing into their own personalities and interests, then ask if they'd make time to share with you how they approach the summer.

You are more responsible than any other authority for teaching your kids how to use the time God has given them.

*Article continues on page 7*

# Upcoming Events

## Independence Day Break- July 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Our school's summer care session will be closed on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> to allow staff and families to celebrate the holiday. We wish everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



## Upcoming Fellowship at the Ballpark Opportunities

Several opportunities for church and WELS fellowship activities with our local baseball organizations. On Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, a group of St. John members will join other WELS church members at the Brewers game. WELS will also have a more local gathering at the Timber Rattlers game on July 26<sup>th</sup>. St. John will gather our own group of church and school families on August 12<sup>th</sup> for tailgating and fun before cheering on the T-Rats. Contact Karen Geiger or see the sign-up sheets in the back of church for more information!



## Summer Bash- Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

Church and school families alike are invited to our annual summer picnic and celebration! The bash will be held at Greenleaf's Fireman's Park (1588 Fair St.) from 11:00 am- 2:00 pm. Highlights will include food, live music, a bounce house, a petting zoo, face painting, caricatures, balloon animals, and cotton candy. The event will be free, with a free-will donation spot available to support our new campus' playground. Many thanks to our PTO and all those involved in helping make this fun day a possibility!



## Upcoming Events

- July 1 & 4- No Summer Care Sessions
- July 8- WELS Night at the Brewers
- July 12- Fellowship Luncheon
- July 17- Open Forum re: Annual Voter's Meeting
- July 18- Annual Voter's Meeting
- July 26- WELS Night at the Timber Rattlers
- August 6- Summer Bash (Church and School Picnic)

## Church Highlights

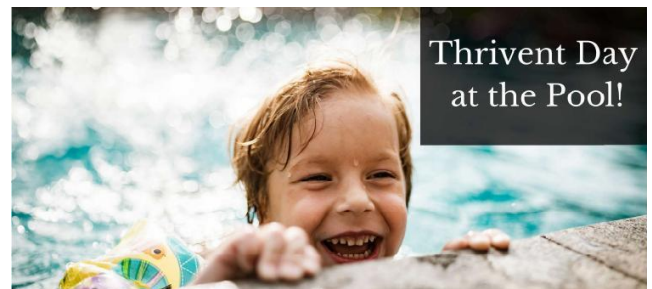
### Cisler Family Donations

The Cisler family (dad Wayne, mom Leah, 5<sup>th</sup> grader Lincoln, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Liberty, who are active members in both our church and school families), recently lost their home and possessions to a fire. They are grateful to have family members and pets save, to be able to stay with nearby relatives, to have the insurance company working with them to rebuild, and to be provided with clothes for the summer months... but there are further immediate needs that we can help them with. At this time, monetary donations or gift cards for Amazon, Walmart, Old Navy, Zya, Nike, and gas stations are all greatly appreciated. When cooler months approach, clothing for the fall and winter seasons will also be needed. We are currently accepting donations for the Cislers at the school campus between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm each weekday. Envelopes marked "Cisler Family" will be set aside for them. Please keep the Cislers in your prayers and give some thought as to ways you may be able to support them!



### Thrivent Food Drive Featuring Free Erb Pool Pass and Kona Ice

The WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry is pleased to invite everyone to participate in a food drive sponsored by Thrivent on Saturday, August 6, 2022, 9:30-11:30 am, at Erb swimming pool, 1800 N. Morrison St, Appleton. Bring non-perishable food items for the pantry to receive a pass to the pool and a free Kona ice. For each item donated, the pantry will receive \$3, up to a total of \$3000 from Thrivent. To swim, please register in advance at <https://bit.ly/Aug6Pool>. You are still welcome to donate and join us for a Kona Ice if you prefer not to swim or weather prevents pool use. Don't forget to join us at our Summer Bash afterwards!



### Annual Reports Due

Annual reports for those in charge of committees or areas of spending are due. Please have them in by Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, so that Dierdra can have them looked over and arranged before the open forum on July 17<sup>th</sup> and the voter's meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Call or text her with any questions at 920-606-8250.

## Church Birthdays

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

July 1 Josh Myers  
July 2 Jody Bowers  
July 2 Tyler Schmidt  
July 3 Lou Ann Beard  
July 5 Barry Laabs  
July 7 Wayne Cisler  
July 7 Dylan Myers  
July 7 Sherry Toseland  
July 9 Anthony Cappelle  
July 9 Ronald Van Schyndel

July 12 Kristy Asman  
July 13 Jaime Bohrtz  
July 13 Edwin Maass  
July 13 Luke Schmidt  
July 15 Aubree Barrett  
July 15 Robert Diny  
July 17 Idie Chavarria  
July 19 Cassandra Barrett  
July 19 Tammy Olp  
July 21 Blake Bauer

July 21 Wanda Ritter  
July 22 Mercedes Kussow  
July 25 Joseph Kussow  
July 27 Tina DeMerritt  
July 27 Troy Schisel  
July 29 Heather Schisel  
July 30 Joshua Bohrtz  
July 30 Lisa Vande Hey  
July 31 Chloe Hein  
July 31 Grace Reschke

## School Highlights



### Summer Letters Coming Soon

St. John's annual summer letter will be coming out within the next couple of weeks. Check your e-mails by mid-July for the letter, which will include information on our annual calendar, school supply lists, and much more. If you wish to receive a paper copy, contact the office at 920-532-4865 or [office@stjohnwrightstown.com](mailto:office@stjohnwrightstown.com).

### New Phone Number

As we continue to work towards combining church and school campuses and administrative functions, we have now combined phone lines. To contact us for both church and school needs, please use 920-532-4865. The old school phone number will no longer be in use.



### Maternity Leave Sub Applicants Wanted for Preschool Classroom

St. John Lutheran School is currently seeking applicants to cover Mrs. Foelske's maternity leave. The substitute lead teacher would be working with an experienced aid in our preschool classroom from August 29<sup>th</sup>- October 26<sup>th</sup>. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please contact the school office or principal Tim Raddatz at 920-636-5007.

### Weekly Park Play Dates Continue

Weekly park play dates are a new feature for our school! School families, especially those with younger children, are encouraged to join us each Thursday morning from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon for a change to interact with other young families. Playdates will continue through August 18<sup>th</sup> as weather allows, with a different location each week. New students may find this a great way to meet incoming classmates, while current students can enjoy catching up with old friend and meeting new people! Contact Mrs. Foelske or watch our facebook posts for more information and for weekly locations.



### School Birthdays

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

- Jadeyn Thiel- July 6th
- Vivian Lemke- July 16th
- Elliana Skelley- July 18th
- Althea Coenen- July 24th
- Ximena Mata Perez- July 26th



*(Parenting article continues from page 3)*

**Third, once you've got your list of activities, talk with your kids.** Say something like, "Summer is coming and I'm wondering what your days will look like. Here are a few things that I think would be important for you (i.e., books to read, things to do, life skills to learn, places to go, friends to have over, etc.). What are you thinking?" As your children get older, begin by asking them what their plans are, then follow up with what you're thinking.

This kind of conversation is part of helping them handle the transition. You're forecasting that a change is coming, that living well involves planning for change, that you have expectations of them, that they should learn to have expectations of themselves and that they have a role in the process.

**Fourth, help your child see and own their responsibility throughout the summer.** Inevitably, regardless of how well you've planned, you can expect your kids to need help mastering their time. What can you do when they say, "I'm bored" (or just act like it)?

Tell them, "Go get a piece of paper and write down five things you could do right now." You don't need to explain to them, but making that list is itself an activity that focuses their energy. It also gives them a tool to manage their time while helping them learn that they, not you, are responsible for what they do with it. When they come back to you, look it over and if the options are reasonable then accept them without commenting on them—this is their list, not yours.

You should probably expect some resistance from your child since they've already told you that they believe it's your job to make life interesting for them. That's the subtext when they tell you, "I'm bored." By having them generate a list of options, you're communicating, "No, you are responsible for what you do in life because just like me."

The summer season doesn't have to be something parents dread. Make it a time that helps your kids learn how to take their God-given place in his world.

*For the complete article, visit [www.crossway.org/articles/help-my-kids-are-bored-this-summer/](http://www.crossway.org/articles/help-my-kids-are-bored-this-summer/)*

## Contact Us

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Pastor Mike Gehl	920-309-5171	<a href="mailto:pastorgehl@gmail.com">pastorgehl@gmail.com</a>
Tim Raddatz, principal and 2nd-4th grade teacher	920-636-5007	<a href="mailto:tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com">tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com</a>
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