

The Messenger

March 2025 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: How can I be happy when I'm crying?

*"Blessed are those who mourn."
Matthew 5:4*



Be happy while you're crying? I don't think so.

Most tears come because of sorrow. People usually cry because something important to them has gone horribly wrong. But Jesus says that Christians are happy even when they're crying.

To understand what Jesus is saying, one must first understand why Christians cry. Christians cry for many of the same reasons everyone else cries. They cry at funerals. They cry when someone has been cruel to them. They cry when they hear a very sad story.

Christians can cry when they realize how horribly they have hurt someone. The burden of guilt weighs heavily on their hearts and brings them to tears.

Christians can cry when they think of bad things they have done. They know that they deserve nothing from God but a punishment that never ends.

So where is the happiness?

Happiness is in knowing that while we deserve only the worst from God, he has given us only the best. When we mourn because of guilt, our Savior dries our moist eyes. When hearts are heavy with sadness, Jesus puts his hand under our chins and lifts our eyes to see his cross, where he made all our guilt, and all the sorrow connected to that guilt his own.

Jesus looks at you and me and says, "Be at peace. Your guilt is gone."

Christians still cry, but Christians find comfort in the midst of their tears. This comfort is for you too. It is a comfort that brings calm in the face of all kinds of tears. Jesus gives you the peace of knowing that death does not mean defeat.

Jesus assures you that being mistreated by others does not mean God has abandoned you. Jesus fills you with the sure hope that all the hurt and evil in this world is not the end of everything.

Can there be happiness even when you are crying? Yes, because Jesus is your comfort.



Worship With Us!

Worship Services: Sundays at 9:00 am

Bible Class and Sundry School: Sundays at 10:15 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: How to Stop Whining, Teasing, and Bickering

Excerpts from a Focus on the Family article by Ginger Hubbard

“I want some juuuuuice! Right noooowww!”

“She was mean first!”

“No, I’m not cleaning my room!”

Years ago, whenever I imagined my future children, I pictured happy, well-mannered darlings who always obeyed. That kid screaming for a treat? Not my kid. The kid bickering with his sister over a toy? No way.

Needless to say, I was in for a rude awakening. What caused my children to speak tender words in one breath and say something terrible in the next? At the time, it made no sense to me. I had instructed my children not to whine or talk back, and I administered consequences whenever they disobeyed. Why didn’t they learn?

Maybe you’ve asked yourself these same questions.. Consequences for outward behavior certainly have a place in parenting, but they are no substitute for training and instruction that address the root problem. And while the words our children speak alert us to that problem, the heart is where those words are conceived. “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,” Jesus explains (Matthew 12:34).

The purpose of disciplining children is not merely to achieve outward obedience, but inward change. If we can reach the heart, the behavior will take care of itself. I recommend a simple three-step process for parents to combat these behaviors and help our children mature past foolish speech by examining the true problem.

Step 1: Probe Ask heart-probing questions to help children look past outward behavior and recognize the root sin.

Step 2: Teach Correct our children for foolish behavior, explaining what God’s Word says about the behavior and why it should be avoided.

Step 3: Train Train our children in how to replace wrong behavior with right behavior.

Let’s take a look at some common ways that kids’ words reveal their sinful heart. As we examine each of these behaviors, we’ll see how this three-step process can help our kids mature.

Stop Whining

Many parents would probably agree that few things are more annoying than whining. Children who whine frequently lack healthy communication skills, and parents who permit their children to whine prevent their kids from learning to communicate properly. Whining is really an issue of self-control, and children who learn to communicate properly learn that self-control is a prerequisite for contentment, joy and wise living.



1. Probe your child’s heart. Ask: “What are you feeling right now that causes you to whine?” “Are you speaking with a controlled voice?” “Can you think of a better way to say that, so we can understand what you mean?” Your child may not answer, but you’ve still helped her evaluate her heart and examine her lack of self-control.

2. Teach God’s Word. Remind your children that God values the virtue of self-control (Galatians 5:23-24), and He compares a person who lacks self-control to a city with broken-down walls (Proverbs 25:28). Whining is certainly annoying, but we must avoid angry responses. When correction is administered in anger, the child can view it as an attack. So model the same self-control you desire your child to learn.

3. Train your child to stop whining. Calmly inform your child that she needs to learn to speak the right way and that you’ll not be discussing the matter while she is whining. Have your child wait three minutes before communicating with you again. Tell her that you love her too much to allow her to continue whining.. When that time is up, she may come back and communicate properly. Demonstrate a better way to speak her request, so that in addition to teaching her how not to behave, you’re also training her how to do what is right.

Article continues on next page

Christian Parenting Today

Continued from page 3

Stop Teasing

Whether mocking, insulting or belittling in a joking way, teasing tears down others, which violates God's commands to love others and build them up. Kids may tease to get attention or to entertain themselves. It may also be used to try to conceal what a child really means or intends, such as when a "just kidding" is hastily added after a derogatory comment or deception. Whatever the motives for teasing, they are usually selfish in nature, as they bring the teaser some type of satisfaction at the expense of hurting others.

1. Probe your child's heart. Ask: "Do you think that entertaining yourself is more important than the feelings and needs of your sister?" "How would you feel if you were your sister?" "Did your words show love by building others up, or did they tear others down?"

2. Teach God's Word. Help your child view teasing from a biblical perspective, teaching him that God tells us to do nothing out of selfishness, but to value others' needs as much as we value our own (Philippians 2:3-4). We should treat others the way that we would want them to treat us (Luke 6:31).

3. Train your child to stop teasing. Show your child how to be an encouragement instead of a discouragement. You can do this by modeling helpful words that serve as a counterweight to hurtful words — language that demonstrates how to benefit and build others up. God can help us remember how to use kind words.



Stop Bickering

Kids can argue about almost anything. Bickering is often about pride. For kids (and many adults) being right feels good, so there is a temptation to fight to prove you're right, even about trivial issues. While it's natural that kids are going to sometimes get on each other's nerves, this constant fighting to show they are right isn't healthy. We must cultivate the qualities of love, gentleness and peacemaking in our children's hearts.

1. Probe your child's heart. Ask: "Are you respecting each other and loving God in the way you are speaking to each other?" "Do you think being right is more important than being kind to your brother?" "What words might work better right now to avoid a conflict with your brother?"

2. Teach God's Word. Tell your children what the Bible says about quarreling, about why they should avoid harsh words that stir up anger and conflict (Proverbs 15:1). Bickering does not honor God or show love for each other.

3. Train your child to stop bickering. Teach them the importance of humility — it's a sign of maturity to understand we are not always on the "right" side of a fight. Ask them to weigh their response by silently considering two questions: Will this really matter next week? Is this an opportunity to be wise and overlook this difference? Remind your kids what Scripture says about getting into a fight: "Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels" (2 Timothy 2:23).

Stop Bragging

Elevating one's abilities and successes is an expression of pride. And even when bragging is used to cover one's insecurities, it is still self-motivated and self-serving, fueled by a desire to exalt oneself. Pride is not characterized by a love for others or a desire to glorify God. Indeed, Scripture says that all boasting is evil (James 4:16).

1. Probe your child's heart. Ask: "How do you feel when other children boast that they're better than you?" "Do your words bring glory and honor to God or yourself?" Help your children understand that when we brag about ourselves, we are taking credit for something that doesn't belong to us. All abilities are given to us by God and are to be used for His glory, not our own.

2. Teach God's Word. Help your kids understand how God commands us not to brag about ourselves. "I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment" (Romans 12:3). Scripture says that with a proud heart "comes disgrace" (Proverbs 11:2). Yes, bragging displeases God, but it also makes us less likable to others.

3. Train your child to stop bragging. Give careful consideration to the way you encourage your children. When acknowledging a talent, strength or gift in a child, give God the glory. When your child succeeds or excels, you might ask, "How did God equip you for this?" As Christians, we are called to walk in humility (Luke 14:11). The only abilities and achievements we have are from God and are intended to be used for Him. We can humbly accept others' praise as long as we keep a right perspective, a recognition that God deserves the praise.

See the complete article at
[www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/
how-to-stop-whining-teasing-and-bickering/](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/how-to-stop-whining-teasing-and-bickering/)

Upcoming Events



SJLS Goes Bowling- Saturday, March 22nd

Strike up some fun as St. John Lutheran School goes bowling! Join us on Saturday, March 22nd from 11:30 to 1:30. \$18 per person covers 2 hours of bowling, pizza, soda, and fun! You can also choose to just come for the fellowship and food, with pizza and soda for \$10. Please sign up online by visiting signupgenius.com, clicking the search button, and looking up the email: sjlshotlunch@gmail.com. Contact Courtney Schisel with any questions.



Timber Rattlers Dash for Cash- Saturday, April 5

Calling all St. John Lutheran Wrightstown families and friends! Come and watch Mr. Dillon Solomon Dash for Cash down on the field prior to the Timber Rattlers game on Saturday, April 5th! The Dash for Cash begins at 12:15, followed by the game at 1:05, so be sure to get there early. You won't want to miss this exciting event, plus Mr. Solomon needs your help cheering him on! Reserve your discounted tickets at <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/StJohnWrightstown2025>. \$3 of every ticket sold through this link will be donated back to the school and an additional \$1 will go towards the prize pot.

School families, please note that this is a separate event and game than the Fang's Reading Club program and the prize vouchers will not apply to this game. Watch for more details on the May 1 family night game to come out next month!



FVL Presents Tarzan the Musical- Friday-Sunday March 7th-9th

Based on Disney's epic animated musical adventure and Edgar Rice Burrough's Tarzan of the Apes, FVL presents Tarzan the Stage Musical. Tickets are available online or at the door. Cost is \$14 plus convenience fees for credit or debit cards. Tarzan will be shown on Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8th at 6:30 pm as well as Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 pm.

Mark Your Calendars!

- March 3- Board of Education Meeting
- March 4- 4th-8th Grade Field Trip
Martha's Circle
- March 5- Breakfast and Bible Study
Ash Wednesday Worship
- March 7- Hot Lunch
- March 7-9- FVL presents Tarzan
- March 9- Call Meeting
Clocks Spring Ahead
- March 10-14- No School- Spring Break
- March 10- FVL Open House
- March 11- Fellowship Meal
- March 19- Breakfast and Bible Study
- March 20- Kindergarten Information Night
- March 21- End of Third Quarter
Hot Lunch
- March 22- St. John Goes Bowling
- March 25- School Open House
- March 30- Miss Buss' Class Sings in Church
- March 31- Blood Drive
PTO Meeting
- April 2-3- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- April 5- Timber Rattlers Dash for Cash
- April 19- Clays for Cardinals

Church Highlights



Lenten Worship Returns

We will begin weekly Lenten worship services on Wednesday, March 5th, as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. Join us every Wednesday until Holy Week at 6:30 pm as we refresh our understanding of Jesus' passion history and His sacrifice for us.



Call Meeting- Sunday, March 9th

With the Rathjes returning their calls to St. John, we will hold another call meeting to discuss both a pastor and teacher call. Make plans to join us following the church service to look into possibilities for moving forward and to vote on calls.

SAVE A LIFE



GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive March 31

St. John will be holding its next blood drive on Monday, March 31st, from 1:00-600 pm. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets to volunteer with set up, take down, registration, and food, as well as a sign-up to give blood. Your donation could save lives!



Apple Valley Food Pantry

Have your contributions for the food pantry to St. John's reception are before Saturday, March 8th. The pantry is currently looking for helper meals, canned pasta, pasta sauce, chunky soups, chili and stews, tomato soup, cream soups, healthy cereals, canned peas, carrots, and mixed veggies, canned mandarin oranges, bathroom cleaning products, and women's deodorants. Thank you for your continued support of the pantry!

Church Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in March!

Mar 6 Darol Reschke
Mar 6 Shannon West
Mar 8 Alton Jahnke
Mar 9 Sydney Parrish
Mar 11 Christian Schisel
Mar 12 Jaylyn Coenen
Mar 13 Terry Schaeuble
Mar 13 Trevor Snyder
Mar 16 Barbara Bowers



Mar 18 Chris Lemke
Mar 18 Tim Raddatz
Mar 18 Cheryl Uitenbroek
Mar 20 Carroll Treptow
Mar 21 Ralph Bohrtz
Mar 24 Stephen Wierschke
Mar 26 Amy Fehlauer
Mar 29 Gabrielle Solomon

School Highlights



Kindergarten Information Night

Do you have questions about our kindergarten program or just want to get to know your child's future teacher? Come to our Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, March 20th. The program will run from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, with a casual dinner offered beginning at 5:30. Come with any questions you have and get ready for your child to take the big step into elementary ages!



Open House Tuesday, March 25

Curious about the upcoming school year? Want to introduce friends and family to St. John? We will be holding an open house on Tuesday, March 25th, from 5:30-7:00 pm. Stay tuned for more information to come!



Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences- April 2-3

The end of the third quarter is quickly approaching, and we will be holding parent-teacher conferences once families have had a chance to look over their children's report cards. Please watch for an e-mail to come out soon with a link to sign up for a slot on Wednesday, April 2nd or Thursday, April 3rd. Conferences will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 pm each day. We do ask all families to come in for a conference at this time of the year, so if you cannot make either date, please contact your teacher to set up an alternate meeting time. Note that there will not be after care on conference nights.



FVL Foxes Grade School

SPRING CHEER CAMP



FVL Spring Cheer Camp

Girls in kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to a spring cheer camp on March 29th hosted by FVL. Grades K-4 will meet from 8:00-12:00 with a showcase from 12:00-12:15. Grades 5-8 will meet from 1:30 to 5:45 pm with a showcase from 5:45 to 6:00 pm showcase. \$40 per participant includes learning sideline and floor routines, dances, cheer motions, basic jumps, stunting and tumbling, and a custom hair bow. Registration closes on March 15. Visit <https://www.fvlhs.org/future-foxes/youth-sports-camps> for more information or to register.

School Birthdays

Happy birthday to our March school celebrants!

Mrs. Post- March 6
Remy R.- March 10
Jaylyn C- March 12
Mr. Raddatz- March 18



Grace B.- March 20
Molly B. – March 20
Eduardo P.A.- March 20
Lily Rebecca P.A- March 27

More Upcoming Events



Clays for Cardinals

Our third annual Clays for Cardinals will be held on Saturday, April 19th at Triple J Wing and Clay in Brillion. Event options include a clay shooting, artist led canvas painting, dinner, silent auction, and fellowship. Register for the clay shoot and dinner or the canvas painting and dinner for \$100 for anyone age 12 or older. Dinner alone is \$40 for those over 12. Ages 2-11 eat for \$25. No registration or prepayment is required to attend the auction and participate in fellowship. The clay shoot and canvas painting will start at 2:00. Dinner will begin at 4:30. Silent Auction will wrap up at 5:30. Registration and payment are due April 4th. Please sign up online by visiting signupgenius.com, clicking the search button, and looking up the email: sjlshotlunch@gmail.com.

Easter Egg Scramble

Our annual Easter Egg Scramble is approaching! Save the date for Saturday, April 12th. We will hold our scramble, rain or shine. Watch for more information to come soon!



Rummage Sales/Brat Fry

During the community rummage sales on May 17, our PTO will be sponsoring a day of personal sales spots, a community sale, and a brat fry. Rummage sales will be held from 8:00 to 2:00 pm, with food sales from 10:00-2:00. Contact Ben Evenson regarding personal sales or Courtney Schisel regarding food sales. We will be looking for volunteers to assist in the community rummage sale, which would be a great way for school families to get in their required hours of volunteering. Sales, set up, and take down shifts will be sent out as the event grows closer.

Contact Us

Church Office	920-532-4865	stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com
School Office	920-532-4865	office@stjohnwrightstown.com
Pastor Robert Wilke	920-915-4870	revrwilke@gmail.com
Tim Raddatz, principal and 4 th -5 th grade teacher	920-636-5007	tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Dillon Solomon, dean of students and 6 th -8 th grade teacher	248-525-3700	dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com
Rebecca Wicks, 2 nd -3 rd grade teacher	920-809-8648	rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com
McKenzey Crowley, kindergarten and 1 st grade teacher	605-390-6827	mckenzey.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com
Jamie Buss, early childhood director and EC 3 teacher	920-538-0470	jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com
Leah Gamboa, EC 2 teacher	920-309-5037	leah.gamboa@stjohnwrightstown.com
Madie Otto, EC 1 teacher	920-629-1220	madie.otto@stjohnwrightstown.com
Claudia Puente, student services coordinator	920-716-8523	claudia.puente@stjohnwrightstown.com

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