



# *The Messenger*

*May 2023 Edition*

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

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

Devotional Corner	page 2
Today's Christian Parenting	page 3, 7
Events	page 4
Church Highlights	page 5
New Campus Updates	page 5
School Highlights	page 6
Contact Information	page 7

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



## Devotional Corner

### I'm under a lot of stress. Can God help me with some relief?

I once attended a presentation called "All Stressed Up and Nowhere to Blow!" I was attracted by the title because it described the way I felt at the time. Perhaps you know the feeling.

An online search of the word "stress" lists 344 million hits. Maybe that indicates that you and I are not the only ones who feel stress in our lives. Occasionally, we each would have to say, "I'm all stressed up!"

Stress puts the squeeze on all of us at one time or another. It's natural to look for relief. As we seek to discover just how practical our relationship with God really is, we might be led to ask, "Can God help me with some relief?"

It seems like some people in Palestine had that question nearly 2,000 years ago as they went out to hear a new preacher named Jesus. The all-knowing Jesus gave a wonderful answer in that teachable moment that we now call the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew, one of the disciples with Jesus on that day, records some of Jesus' comments about stress. He said,

*"I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes?"*

*Matthew 6:25*

To those stressed about grocery money, Jesus pointed out that God doesn't let the birds go hungry. To others who were stressed over an inadequate wardrobe, Jesus pointed out that God doesn't let the flowers down when it comes to how they look. His point was made in a question that he still asks us today,

*"Are you not much more valuable than they?"*  
*Matthew 6:26*

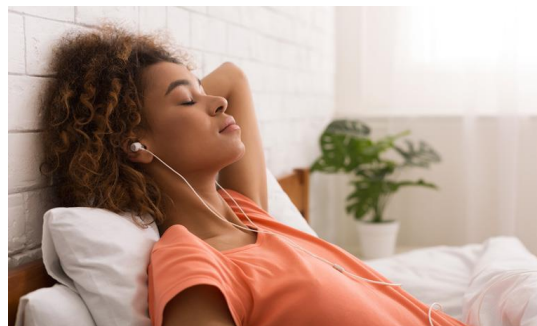
Of course, we are! The Bible tells us that

*"God so loved the world!"*  
*John 3:16*

You and I are included in that statement of good news. God showed his love by removing the greatest stress—our sin that separated us from our God—and placing it on Jesus, who took it away by his death on the cross. God has the perfect antidote to relieve stress. He wraps his loving arms around us and says, "I love you! I forgive you."

That relieves the stresses over finances or health or time crunches or job pressure ... or anything. Relief is as close as God's promises, which are written for us in the Bible. Each week we take a close look at some of those wonderful promises. Come and share with us some genuine stress relief.

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: Helping your Kids Develop Humility Excerpts from an [FocusOnTheFamily.com](http://FocusOnTheFamily.com) article

Of all the words that characterize the life of Jesus — love, courage, obedience, grace, leadership — high on that list must be humility. The Son of God began His earthly life with a humble birth in a stable in the village of Bethlehem. He was raised in a humble little town called Nazareth. He owned no home, acquired few possessions and had no place of His own to rest His head at night. In fact, humble is how Jesus described His own character:

*“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:29*

Humility is one of the most desperately needed character traits. How can we develop this trait in our children? The first step is helping them have an understanding of what real humility is.

Humility, in its simplest sense, is the ability to consider others ahead of oneself. It has been said that a humble person doesn't think less of himself; he simply thinks of himself less. Talk with your kids about what that may look like in daily life, how a genuinely humble person can be confident without being arrogant and can respect others while maintaining his self-respect. And a humble person's self-esteem isn't tied to what other people say about him. As Mother Teresa once put it: “If you are humble, nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.”

As you study the Bible as a family, observe how humility is one of the most commended character traits in all of Scripture — and how it is an important part of our relationship with God. The prophet Micah wrote,

*“And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8*

Jesus often spoke of humility, saying that

*“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Matthew 23:12*

Our Savior taught that our reliance on God — our humility before Him — should be the same as that of a little child (Matthew 18:4).

So many virtues flow from this quality called humility. Respectfulness, kindness, generosity, compassion, patience — humility includes all these qualities. A truly humble person will demonstrate these traits — and these traits contribute to one's humility. If you are humble, you think of others, you empathize with others, you put their welfare and feelings ahead of yours. Here are a few ways we can help build this character trait in our kids:

### Teach Them to be Servants

Jesus repeatedly taught this lesson to His disciples:

*“If anyone would be first, he must be the last of all and servant of all.”  
Mark 9:35*

There's no such thing as an arrogant servant; a servant is humble by definition. If kids learn to see themselves as servants of God and others, they will more naturally develop an attitude of humility.

Let your kids see and participate in service to your neighbors, to people in your church, to your family members. It's never too early to start practicing this trait. Remember that you may be developing more than just a servant heart in your kids. As you step out and serve others, you are also teaching your children to build social skills, overcome shyness and develop confidence.

### Encourage Them to Admit Mistakes

Children can't demonstrate humility if they can't admit to being wrong — the ability to own mistakes is a key component of integrity. When our kids face criticism, they must learn to thoughtfully consider that criticism instead of instantly defending themselves.

One way to encourage kids to admit mistakes is by showing mercy when they confess their sins and errors. Confession makes life easier than a cover-up or a lie. Kids who feel they can safely approach their parents with the truth are less likely to be dishonest and defensive.

*Article continues on page 8*

# Upcoming Events



## SJLS Talent Show- Friday, May 5th

St. John Lutheran School will once again be holding its annual Spring Performance Night (formerly known as Grandparent's Day). This year's event will feature a Talent Show. The show will be held on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Wrightstown High School Auditorium. All are welcome to attend the performances and check out the displays, then join us for light refreshments afterwards.



## Farewell to Mrs. Foelske Potluck- Sunday, May 21st

With Mrs. Foelske having accepted a call to teach Kindergarten at Grace Lutheran, Oshkosh, we wish to bid her and her family a fond farewell. Please join us between services (around 9:00 am) for a potluck gathering in the church basement. Bring your favorite dish and your words of gratitude and encouragement to help us thank her for her years of service in our preschool program!

## Confirmation Service- Sunday, May 7th

Celebrate with our eighth-grade catechism students as they become communicant members of our church on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Aubrey Barrett, Colten Bohrtz, Clarissa Chavarria, and Katelynn Kraus will all be confirmed during the 10:15 service. Congratulations, confirmands!



## Mark Your Calendars!

- April 30- Special Voters' (Call) Meeting
- May 5- St. John School Talent Show
- May 7- Confirmation Sunday
- May 9- Monthly Fellowship Meal
- May 10- FVL Schools Track Meet
- May 14- Mother's Day/ Flower Pick Up
- May 18- Joint Ascension Service
- May 19- Preschool/PreK Field Trip
- May 21- Farewell to Mrs. Foelske Potluck
- May 22- Virtual PTO Meeting
- May 26- Last Day of School
- May 29- Memorial Day

## Church Highlights



### Joint Ascension Service May 18<sup>th</sup>

St. John Wrightstown will join St. John Woodville at Trinity in Kaukauna to hold a united Ascension service on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Join us at 6:30 pm to celebrate our Savior's return to heaven!



### Call Meeting Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Our congregation recently voted to have a 6<sup>th</sup> teacher join our school faculty, allowing us to better meet the needs of our growing enrollment. Come between services on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, to hear information about the person we are seeking to fill our newest position and vote on calling them.

## New Campus Highlights



### Campus Updates

Progress continues to be made at a rapid pace on our new campus! The contractor is currently ahead of schedule, giving us the ability to move in this summer. Some work done this month includes:

- Exterior finishes, such as siding and brickwork, has been going up.
- Painting has been worked on throughout the interior.
- A wish list for items not covered by our contractor has been assembled and several items have been covered by donations.
- Our major playground feature has been delivered and inventoried for later assembly.



## Church Birthdays

**Happy birthday to these church members celebrating during the month of May!**

May 2 Debra Gilson  
May 2 Douglas Otten  
May 2 Ethel Reschke  
May 4 Jolene Loritz  
May 4 Michael Sewell  
May 5 Clara Bohrtz  
May 6 Clayton Herlache  
May 7 Kenneth Gilson  
May 8 Adeline Bohrtz  
May 8 Tanya Parrish  
May 9 William Coenen  
May 9 Nichole Myers  
May 10 Sue Rosenbaum  
May 10 Ross Vande Hey

May 11 Allison Snyder  
May 12 Amy Bowers  
May 12 Hattie Juedes  
May 12 MaKenna Leick  
May 14 Alexander Sewell  
May 18 Timothy Jandrey  
May 18 Brenda Van Schyndel  
May 19 Matteah Gehl  
May 19 Kenneth Wierschke  
May 20 Loree Baumgartener  
May 20 Lincoln Snyder  
May 22 Ginny Uecker  
May 23 Gregory Gutzman  
May 23 Andrew Heimmermann

May 25 Emily Fehlauer  
May 26 Lou Ann Gutzman  
May 27 Gary Brandt  
May 27 Andrea Kussow  
May 28 Mary Fritsch  
May 29 Miranda Gehl  
May 29 Holly Snyder  
May 31 Terry Sieker



# School Highlights



## Mother's Day Flowers for Sale!

The PTO is once again offering flowers for sale for Mother's Day! Flower arrangements may be purchased for \$15 each, with proceeds benefitting our new campus. Order forms have been sent home from school and are available in the back of church. Order forms and payments are due by Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Plan to pick up your arrangement after worship services on Mother's Day, May 14<sup>th</sup> (from 9-10 am and 11:15-11:30 am).



## Last Day of School May 26th

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, will be our final day of school for this school year—and our last school day at this campus! Students should plan to arrive at 8:00 am for any final classroom clean-outs, then family members can join us for the rest of the morning. We will have a closing service and awards ceremony at 9:00 am, games and activities beginning at 10:00 am, and a lunch served at 11:00 am. Students will be dismissed by 12:00 noon. Come and join us for our exciting day!

## Summer Care Session Available

Our 2023 summer care program is available to students ages 3-10 and will be held at the Clay St. campus. The program will start on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The school will be closed on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The summer program would then resume and wrap up on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, thus giving our staff time to finish moving into the new campus and set up their classrooms.

Summer care is offered daily from 7:30am - 4:30pm, during the weekdays within the dates stated above. Children may be enrolled for a half day or full day. Half day pick up (or drop off) would be at noon. Any students still at school after noon would be considered a full day enrollment (unless they are doing a half day in the afternoon) and be billed accordingly. Rates for the 2023 program are as follows: each half day will be \$20 and each full day will be \$30. All children must be potty trained.

For more information or to enroll your child(ren) please visit [www.stjohnwrightstown.com/summer-care](http://www.stjohnwrightstown.com/summer-care) or email Dierdra Starry at [office@stjohnwrightstown.com](mailto:office@stjohnwrightstown.com).

Adults and high school age teens looking for summer employment may contact Tim Raddatz for information about summer care positions.



## School Birthdays

Clara B.- May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Addie B.- May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Will C.- May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Joel T.- May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Nolan O.- May 30<sup>th</sup>



## Helping Your Kids Develop Humility

*Continuation of article from page 3*

We model this behavior by being able to admit our own errors. Some parents feel the need to keep up a front of perfection, as if admitting mistakes would diminish them in their children's eyes. In reality, when we say to our kids, "I was wrong; please forgive me," their respect for us increases.

### **Raise a Team Player**

Part of humility is the ability to consider the needs and feelings of others. Children often don't have this ability naturally — they need to be taught sensitivity to the feelings and needs of those around them. As parents, we can start developing empathy in our kids by creating an atmosphere of teamwork and cooperation in our homes. Practice recognizing how each family member contributes, how each member needs help. Encourage your children to approach school and church relationships with that same spirit of teamwork. Talk with them about how they can help a classmate who is struggling, how they might befriend someone who is unloved, how they might help bring out the best in others around them.

### **Encourage Mature Responses to Accomplishments**

When children perform well, it's good for them to feel that warm joy that comes from a job well done. But let them know that arrogant or disrespectful behavior is not acceptable. Affirm signs of maturity, letting them know that you've noticed their character growth and the way they conducted themselves.

When kids excel in academics, sports or music, monitor their attitude. Be alert to signals that they feel superior or look down on others. Also, help them understand that people of great character continually acknowledge the achievements of others; only small-minded people engage in smack talk and put-downs.

Let your kids enjoy the feeling of a job well done, thanking God for His gifts of talent, strength and health, which make it possible for them to achieve their goals. We can't take credit for a gift; we can only be grateful to the Giver.

### **Instill a Teachable Spirit**

Our kids need to be willing learners. A humble person recognizes that no matter how much he thinks he knows, he can still improve. Whenever you teach your kids, be positive. If your kids come to know you as positive and encouraging, they will be more likely to listen and follow your instruction. If we expect too much of them, we undermine their confidence. Having a low self-esteem is not the same thing as having humility!

Lastly, as in much of parenting, it is critical that you model a teachable spirit. Let your kids see you looking for help through reading, listening or seeking direction from others. Our kids are watching every move we make. If they detect hypocrisy, they'll begin to disregard what we say. Our children will become what we are — so we must start becoming what we want them to be.

*By Pat Williams*

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