THE MESSENGER
November 2026

Secured

Revelation 3:11-12: *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God.*

For years whenever people have thought about secure places one location seems to come to mind. That being Fort Knox. Labeled as an impossible place to break into you would say that Fort Knox and the gold being stored there are secure. Thousands of military personnel, state of the art security systems, and 20-ton doors make sure no one can get into Fort Knox.

People want important things in their lives to be secure. When you have an important relationship with someone you want to make sure you can trust them. You want to know you can talk to them about anything. You want to make sure they won't leave you when you need them the most. You want that relationship to be secure. When you have an important possession you want to make sure no one can take it from you. You keep it somewhere you know it will be safe. You keep your possessions secure.

In the verses above, John writes, "Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown." When John writes this he is not talking about an important relationship or belonging. Rather, he is talking about your spiritual possessions, relationships, and future. God has offered us so many blessings, but how well do we hold on to them? If you look at your life I think you would say that I don't hold on to my crown very well. God tells us to follow what his word says, yet we constantly give into temptation offered to us by the devil and the world. God says make me your number one priority, but we place family, money, ourselves, and hobbies above our Savior. God says spread my word to others, but we become timid, afraid, and ashamed when we think about sharing the gospel. Instead of holding onto our crown we often throw it down in exchange for what this world can offer us.

Our crown is not secure in our sinful hearts and minds. However, we are not the ones guarding our crowns. Instead we have our own Fort Knox. We have someone who is impossible to defeat or destroy. Our crown is secure in the perfect love of Christ. Christ came to this earth and lived perfectly when we could not. Then he died in our place to pay for every time we dropped our crown. Now he promises that one day he will come back to this earth and take all who believe in him to his kingdom. There God will place a crown on your head. The crown of eternal life. We do not receive this crown because of our merit, but rather because Christ loves us.

Our crown is secure just like the gold in Fort Knox. Christ is coming soon. Hold on to him. Remember what he has done for you. Remember what he is holding onto for you. He is holding your crown, and he is holding you. He will hold you through everything you face in this life, and he will stand beside you in the next life. No one can take your crown. Your crown is with Christ.

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facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown
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Gather. Grow. Go. To the Glory of God!



Thanksgiving Worship
Wednesday, November 25 - 6:30 pm

Our Thanksgiving Worship will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 pm. Please join us as we thank our Lord for the bountiful gifts we have received throughout this past year.

Community Thanksgiving Meal
Saturday, November 14 - 12:00 pm

Everyone is invited to our annual Community Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 14. Lunch will be served in the St. John's gym from noon to 2:00.

If you know of anyone who would like a meal but can't make it in, please let Jen Crowley know and we will arrange to have a meal dropped off to them.

Much of the main meal will be purchased, but we are accepting donations. A sign-up link will be sent out soon. Volunteers to help serve are also needed. The time spent helping can contribute to school family hours. Thank you in advance.



Fellowship Meal
Tuesday, November 10 - 11:30 am

The Senior/Fellowship Lunch is on the second Tuesday of each month. This month it will be held on Tuesday, November 10 at 11:30 am. It's a potluck. Too good to miss! If you've never attended, come as you are without bringing a dish. All ages are welcome to attend!

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight savings time will end at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 1. Remember to set your clocks **back** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

Call Meeting
Sunday, November 15 - 10:15 am

Rev. Matthew Kiecker has returned the call extended to him by St. John. We will have our next call meeting on Sunday, November 15, after our worship service. Please join us!

Blood Drive
Monday, November 23 - 1:00 pm

St. John will be holding a blood drive on Monday, November 23 from 1:00-6:00 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!

Commitment Sunday
Our Faith, Our Future, Our Legacy
Sunday, November 8

Commitment Sunday will be held on November 8, a day in which we are asking all members to prayerfully consider making a 3-year financial commitment so we can keep making payments on this beautiful building we worship in and our children go to school in.

As members of St. John, this is our home and we have the God-given responsibility to take care of it. We pray everyone will participate to God's glory and to the benefit of St. John.



Apple Valley Collection
Saturday, November 14

The items most appreciated are:

* adult cereals
* rice side dishes
* boxed mashed potatoes
* 1lb bagged rice
* all canned fruits
* canned meats (tuna & chicken)
* canned pasta
* canned tomato products
* canned chunky soups
* pasta sauces
* women's shampoos & conditioners
* men's & women's body washes

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

School News

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our first quarter of the school year ended on Friday, October 23. Report cards will be sent home on Monday, November 2. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 4, and Thursday, November 5. Conferences will be held in 15-minute slots from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. We ask that all families make plans to attend conferences. If any families are unable to meet on the scheduled dates, please contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternate time. **Our Extended Program will be closed on those days.**
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BA5AC23AAFDC16-66674665-parentteacher

School Open Forum

The Board of Education is inviting all school families to an Open Forum on Wednesday, November 11 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. It is an opportunity for parents to ask questions, bring concerns, discuss the future, etc. The Board of Education has asked that any questions being asked be emailed prior to the forum to Tim Raddatz, so he can get an agenda prepared prior to the meeting.

Picture Retake Day

Our school pictures were taken on October 14. Our retake day is scheduled for Monday, November 16. If your child was absent on the original picture day, they will take their picture on this day.

PTO Meeting

Our PTO meetings will take place on the last Tuesday of each month, beginning at 5:45 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our meeting for this month is on November 24. Meet at the school or speak to Courtney Schisel, our PTO president, about setting up an online connection.

Early Dismissal & No School

Our school will be dismissing early on Wednesday, November 25. All classes are dismissed at 11:30 am. There is no extended programming in the afternoon. We will also be closed on Thursday and Friday (November 26 & 27) for Thanksgiving break. We pray all our families have a safe and restful Thanksgiving break.

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 & Grades 6-8 teacher**	**(920-636-5007)**	**tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com**
Maddilyn Brandt **Grades 3-5 teacher**	**(612-298-9847)**	**maddilyn.brandt@stjohnwrightstown.com**
Rebecca Wicks **Grades 1-2 teacher**	**(920-809-8648)**	**rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com**
McKenzey Crowley **Kindergarten teacher**	**(605-390-6827)**	**mckenzey.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com**
Elisabet Mata Perez **4K teacher**	**(708-510-3119)**	**elisabet.mata.perez@stjohnwrightstown.com**
Madie Otto **3K teacher**	**(920-629-1220)**	**madie.otto@stjohnwrightstown.com**
Karen Zuberbier **Student support staff**	**(920-265-6492)**	**student.support@stjohnwrightstown.com**

Parent conversations: How do you share family history with your children?

I consider passing down family history and traditions to children as one of the fun parts of being a parent. Sometimes it can be a struggle, though, to make that engaging or relevant. I've experienced my fair share of eyerolls as I've tried to regale my kids with stories from the past. That's why I appreciate learning more about how other parents incorporate family history into moments with their kids. So step into the worlds of two families who intentionalize these moments and see if you might pick up a trick or two to help you share your family's history.

Nicole Balza

We all have family traditions, many of which are centered around holidays, when things start to feel nostalgic for the adults and exciting for the kids. I find this is a great time to introduce family history to your children. It's easy to involve them in the traditions and start those conversations.

"Do you want to help Mommy make our special Christmas Day cinnamon rolls? Do you know that my grandma, your great-grandma, would make these cinnamon rolls for me and your aunties every week?" From there, just let the conversation flow.

Children love to hear about what their parents' lives were like when they were kids. Just the other day I blew my nine-year-old's mind when I told her that I didn't have a tablet to play on growing up.

"But, Mom, what did you do for fun?"

She laughed as I told her that my mom, her Nana, would send me to play in the backyard for hours, but sometimes I would sneak books outside and find a shady spot to read.

"Mom, you still love to read outside today!" Yes, I do!



Susan and Dave Willems and their two daughters

As my girls start learning about historical events in school, it's easy to connect them to family history through these events. This past year, they had a unit on Sept. 11, 2001. They came home that afternoon filled with thoughts: "Did you know?" and "In the video we watched . . ." Here was a chance for me to share my experiences with them: how scary it felt living near an Air Force base and hearing the fighter jets take off hour after hour patrolling the skies, how comforted I felt after the prayer service my church held on the Friday after 9/11. It's easy for anyone, but especially kids, to see historic events as impersonal. By connecting them to my experience, I not only shared a piece of family history but also put a recognizable face to this event, making it more real to them.

Each week my girls have a hymn stanza to recite for memory work. It amazes them how often I know the stanza they are supposed to recite. First stanza of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"? Got it. Singing the first stanza of "Silent Night, Holy Night" in German? Well, for that we need Dad's help, or maybe "let's call Grandpa and Grandma because they know German and can help make sure we get the words right!" The more you can involve grandparents in the sharing of memories and storytelling, the more likely your child will see that family history wasn't started by Mom and Dad but was passed on through numerous generations.

I'll never forget the day my oldest daughter first realized that her WELS heritage runs deep. She was about five years old, and we had a mix of my family and my husband's family over for dinner. The familiar words "Let's pray" were said, and we all bowed our heads and broke into "Come, Lord Jesus." After the prayer was done, she looked up beaming and asked, "Does everyone in the world know our prayer?" Well, my girl, everyone in your world knows that prayer, and here's why!

Susan Willems

To view the complete article, visit forwardinchrist.net/share-family-history/

Fox Valley Lutheran HS News

Building Your Legacy Blueprint: Estate and Wealth Strategies that Matter

Most people don't realize how they are able to leave a charitable legacy for the causes they want to support after they are in heaven. This seminar will discuss key aspects of typical assets that people have that can be used not only to support family, but also charitable causes. The presenter is Danaé Oldenburg (Class of 1986). The presentation takes place at FVL on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 pm. If you plan to attend, please register online. fvlhs.org/news

Veterans Day Breakfast

FVL will hold its annual Veterans Day breakfast and service on Wednesday, November 11 at 8:30 am. Veterans and their families are welcome. You can sign up online. The featured speaker is Mary Simonis from the class of 2001. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Julia McLister at Jmclister@fvlhs.org.

8th Grade Scheduling Nights

Scheduling nights are approaching quickly for incoming freshmen. Parents of 8th graders wishing to enroll their children at FVL for the 2027-28 school year are asked to fill out the enrollment application at fvlhs.org/enroll. Within three business days of completing the Enrollment Application, you will receive a link to set a scheduling appointment on the evening of November 11 or 19, or to request a different date that fits your schedule. Please direct questions to the appropriate Guidance Counselor.

Host Family Needed for Second Semester

A junior student from Brazil will be starting at FVL for the second semester and is in need of a host family. Interested in learning more? Visit fvlhs.org/hosting or send an email to international@fvlhs.org to contact Monica Uhlenbrauck.

Appleton Christmas Parade

FVL is again sponsoring the broadcast of the **Appleton Christmas Parade!** Watch for the FVL Schools and FVL commercial, and tune in for President Loberger's live interview from downtown Appleton. The date is Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 PM. Check it out on WFRV-TV5.

Youth Sports Opportunities (fvlhs.org/youth-sports)

- Jr. Foxes Baseball in the summer of 2027
- 8U Softball in the summer of 2027
- Stunt Clinic November 15
- Fox Valley Saints Wrestling

