

The Messenger

February 2026 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



FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES



Devotion Corner: More than Mere Roses

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

“What can I give to prove my love?”

With Valentine’s Day approaching you may want to consider this question. Maybe you will give a card—perhaps one that plays a song about love. Maybe you will give flowers—red roses still seem like a good way to say I love you. If you’re a romantic, you might plan something special—maybe a candle-lit dinner without the kids or a surprise get-away.

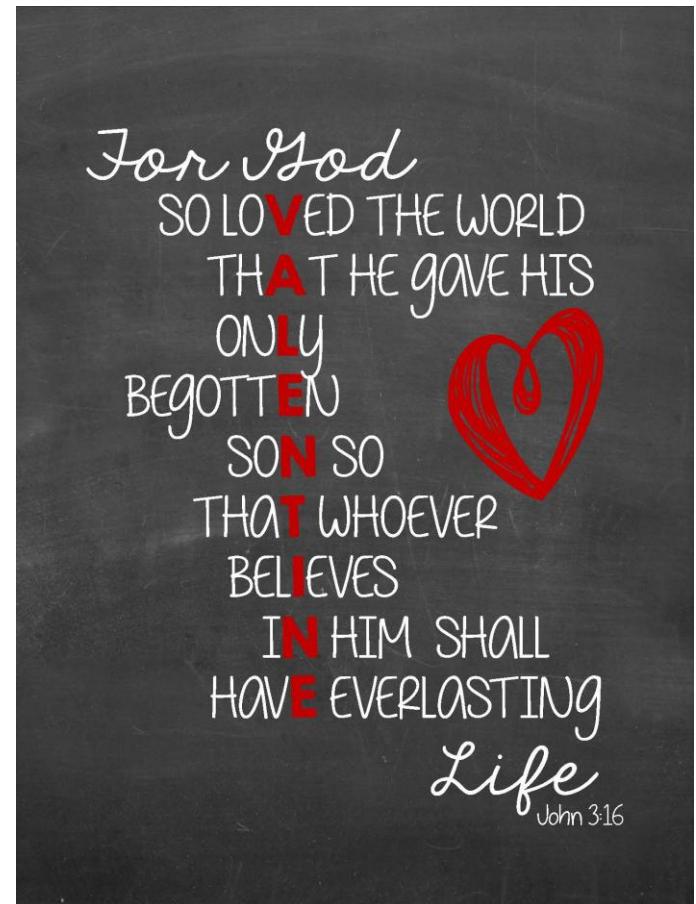
In the Bible, we hear about what God gave to prove his love for us. In the book of John it says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God didn’t just pick out a cute card or buy some roses for us. To prove his love, he gave his Son for us. And the greatness of God’s love is seen in what he gave his Son to. When Jesus came to earth, he was given to a world that hated him; he was given to humiliation and torture, and ultimately, to death on a cross. As a parent, to give my child to suffer all of this is unimaginable. It would be nearly impossible to give so much for someone else. Can you relate? Yet God willingly gave his one and only, dearly loved Son for us.

So why did God do it? Because in the suffering of God’s Son we see the penalty for our sins. God chose to punish his Son instead of us.

God did this to prove his love for you. He loves you so much that he gave his Son to die your death. He loves you so much that he will give eternal life to you and all who believe.

This Valentine’s Day please reflect on the One who proved his love by giving more than mere roses; he gave his Son.



Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: For the Moms Stuck Inside

Exerts from a Christian Counseling and Education Foundation article by Alasdair Groves

Call it cabin fever, seasonal affective disorder or just feeling cooped up, caring for young children during the winter is no joke when the walls feel like they are closing in around you. On top of feeling stuck inside with your kids, it takes more effort to bundle kids up and do anything or see anyone. That means a lot of moms feel isolated during the winter.

I have not experienced this firsthand, of course. The closest I have ever come to walking in your shoes was a stretch of about three days when my wife was gone at a wedding and I was home with our two girls. (I have no idea how you get anything done. Ever.) However, I sense that the experience of feeling trapped and isolated can quench your joy and challenge your faith, and that makes me want to offer help where I can. So here are a few ideas I had. I doubt that anyone will find every suggestion helpful, but hopefully at least one thing will resonate with you and you'll be able to adapt these thoughts to your situation. My prayer is that Christ uses these reflections to spark hope and cut through some of the discouragement you're feeling this winter.

The Details Matter

Nothing discourages like the feeling that your efforts don't matter. By definition, motherhood is full of chores that must be endlessly repeated. Even on the best of days, moms are tempted to feel that most of what they do isn't accomplishing much in the grand scheme. So let me encourage you. Everything you do for your children is of vital importance. I'll prove it by taking you to a text you might not expect: the book of Judges.

At this point in Israel's history, the Israelites have crossed into the Promised Land and everything starts off great—for a chapter. But then we read a ominous verse: There arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work he had done for Israel. (Judges 2:10b)

The story spirals downward from there. The people fall into worse and worse trouble and sin, despite the rescuers God raises up to save them. At the end of Judges, Israel has surpassed the nations around them in doing evil, forgetting again what God did for them and turning away from him.



What does this have to do with being a mom when it's too cold to send the kids out to play and the roads are too icy to go to play group?

Just this: Judges is telling us that nothing is more important than raising a generation to know the Lord. This means that every moment—from cleaning up spills, to playing make-believe, to disciplining—really does matter. Each moment is an opportunity to point to the Lord in either overt or implicit ways. The greatest goal in our parenting is for our children to grasp their need for him so that they will turn to him.

Now some of you will say, "Thanks for reminding me that I'm not only cooped up, but I'm also under the crushing weight of responsibility to make my kids into model Christians. Some help that is!" I don't blame you. That would be my first thought, too. But remember this: there is just as much chance to raise a generation to know the Lord by being humble and repentant when you fall short as there is in loving and disciplining your children the way you intended to before they woke up this morning and things fell apart—again. And God has not dropped this job in your lap and walked away. God promises that he will seek after and take care of his sheep, you and your little lambs (Psalm 23, John 10:11–16).

Article continues on page 7

Upcoming Events



Chili Cookoff and Game Day- Sunday, February 8th

Before you head home to watch the big game, join us for St. John's own 'Soup-er Bowl' contest on February 8th! Our chili cookoff returns, with categories for chicken-based, beef-based, or vegetarian chilis. Submit your own creations or come and help judge who has the best chili. Stick around after sampling to try your hand at cornhole or board games. Register to enter your chili with tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com

Green Bay Gamblers Outing- Saturday, February 14th

Grab your Valentine's date and head for the Resch Center to watch this year's Dash for Cash! The Green Bay Gamblers will be facing off against the Lincoln Stars, and our own Damion Guggenbuehl will be facing off against a variety of other school representatives as the classic Dash for Cash returns. Visit the reception desk to grab a flyer and order tickets, with a portion of ticket proceeds coming back to St. John. The game kicks off at 6:05 pm.



Presentation on Depression and Anxiety in Adolescents- Thursday, February 26th

Laura Roach (LPC, NCC, BC-TMH) from Christian Family Solutions Counseling Care and Services will bring an hour-long presentation to St. John on Thursday, February 26th. She will discuss factors that influence anxiety and depression, symptoms that are often displayed, and tips and strategies to effectively manage them. Parents and caretakers of youth and teens are especially encouraged to attend, as many adolescents today end up affected by depression and/or anxiety. The presentation is free and open to the public.



Mark Your Calendars!

- February 1- Music Fest at FVL
- February 2- School Choice Window Opens
- February 4- Timber Rattler Reading Program Begins
- February 6- Board of Education Meeting
- February 7- Breakfast and Bible Study
- February 8- Movie Night (Zootopia 2)
- February 9- Women of Faith Conference at Immanuel
- February 10- Praise Him Concert at Trinity Neenah
- February 11- Chili Cookoff
- February 12- Elder's Meeting
- February 13- Church Council Meeting
- February 14- Fellowship Luncheon
- February 15- Pastoral Call Meeting
- February 16- Classroom Valentine's Celebrations
- February 17- No School- Teacher's Conference

- February 14- Valentine's Day
- February 15- Green Bay Gamblers Outing
- February 17- Outreach Team Meeting
- February 18- Ash Wednesday Service
- February 22- EC1 (Mrs. Otto's Class) Sings in Church
- February 23- 8th Grade Scheduling Night at FVL
- February 24- PTO Meeting
- February 25- Lenten Service
- February 26- Pastor Play Day
- February 27- Depression and Anxiety Presentation
- March 1-7- Screen-Free Challenge Week
- March 2- Field Trips for EC and K-2
- March 6-8- FVL Presents: Newsies
- March 9-13- Spring Break- No School

Church Highlights

Pastoral Call Meeting

We have an upcoming meeting to call a full-time pastor on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 pm. Voters, please make every effort to attend the meeting! Keep St. John in your prayers as we continue our search for our next pastor.



Women of Faith Conference: Created with a Purpose

Ladies, mark your calendar for this onsite conference designed to equip and inspire women to thrive in every season of life—spiritually, emotionally, and purposefully. Dr. Rhoda Wolle will lead the session. The conference will be held on Saturday, February 7th, from 8:30 until 1:00 pm at Immanuel, Greenville. Register online at immluth.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3346785.



Lenten Services Return

Mark your calendars for the return of our Wednesday Lenten services! We will kick things off with an Ash Wednesday service on February 18th at 6:30. Lenten services will continue through March 25th.



Church Cleaners Needed

If you are interested in volunteering or helping out here at church, please consider cleaning. You can clean with a friend or family members; it only takes about an hour of your time. Karen Geiger has a list in the kitchen of areas to clean. If interested, please speak with her or Dierdra Stary. Thank you!

February Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in February!

Feb 1 Loretta Bern
Feb 1 Lauryn Ripp
Feb 2 Arlene Oakley
Feb 3 Michael Geiger
Feb 4 Nicole Cappelle
Feb 4 Bart Reschke
Feb 4 Courtney Schisel
Feb 4 Tom Toseland
Feb 5 Eric Beard
Feb 7 Wesley Laabs
Feb 7 Jeremy Uecker
Feb 8 Abigail Raddatz
Feb 8 Tyler Vande Hey
Feb 12 Alexa Leick
Feb 12 Reece Schisel



Feb 18 Kamden Demerath
Feb 19 Jean Brandt
Feb 19 Debbie Propson
Feb 20 Jamie Hein
Feb 22 Pat Vickman
Feb 25 Alvin Petersen
Feb 26 Emma Spatchek
Feb 27 Cory Uecker
Feb 28 Waylon Bauer
Feb 28 Jonathan Fehlauer
Feb 28 Reggie Pohlman
Feb 29 Betty Kussow
Feb 29 Ryan Lemke
Feb 29 Richard Patton

School Highlights

Teacher Call News

Our congregation recently issued a new call to Mr. Brad Hengeveld to be our new 6th-8th grade teacher. Please keep Mr. Hengeveld in your prayers as he deliberates between keeping his current call at St. John Nodine, Minnesota and coming to Wrightstown. He would take on the teaching duties currently held by Tim Raddatz as Mr. Raddatz transitions to serve in administration full-time. If you wish to reach out to Mr. Hengeveld, he can be reached at 920-948-2114 or bradh@stjohnsnodine



School Choice Window Is Open

St. John is proud to be a part of the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP/School Choice)! Through the WPCP, your family's tuition costs may be completely covered. The window is now open to apply to be a part of the program for the 2026-2027 school year! If you need help with the tuition costs, apply for free at <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs/student-applications> or speak with Mr. Raddatz about the program. Also remember that those who have already been admitted into the program renew their application for the new school year.



Valentine's Day Celebrations

Our classes will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 11th, since we have no school on the 12th and 13th. Watch for information from your child's teacher about class names and how they will celebrate. Happy Valentine's Day!



Movie Night: Zootopia 2

Welcome to Zootopia! The Student Council invites you to Family Movie Night on Friday, February 6 @ 6:00. (Please note the date change from the original posters) Doors open at 5:30. The movie (Zootopia 2) is free. Snacks will be available for purchase - popcorn, Bubblr', chips, water, and juice boxes. Bring pillows, blankets, stuffies, and come dressed in PJs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. If you plan on attending, please use this link to help us get an estimate on the number of people coming. You do not have to RSVP to come. Come enjoy a relaxing evening with family and friends!

School Birthdays

Loretta B.- February 1
Lauryn R.- February 1
Loki S.- February 3
Jackson Z.- February 3
Persephone S.- February 5
Caleb H.- February 9
Grant D.- February 10
Griffin T.- February 12
Kamden D.- February 18
Wesley R.- February 22
Cory U.- February 27



For the Moms Stuck Inside

(Christian Parenting Article Continued from Page 3)

He Knows What It's Like

We learn in Hebrews 4 that Jesus, our Great High Priest, is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses" because he shared in the trials and limitations of being human. How does he sympathize with the experience of being stuck at home all winter?

He chose to be cooped up in a body.

Think about the incarnation through the lens of your experience of not being able to "get out." Imagine the constriction of downsizing from all of heaven to a human body, locked into time and space. Jesus entered into a world much too small for his comfort when he chose to put on human flesh. He knows the feeling of being cooped up for the sake of being with his children! But the incarnation isn't the whole story of his confinement. The most intense confinement comes, as we might expect, at the cross. Not only confined to a body, but confined now to an instrument of torture. Like you, he could walk away from this task. But, like you, he knew that if he did, all the beloved members of his family would suffer (and die) without his intervention.

Here are three things you might do with this:

Cry out to him. You have a standing invitation to pour out your heart to him. He is more than a listening ear,

more than a shoulder to cry on. He has been there and he understands your personal experience of discouragement and isolation. Pray to him like you would talk to your best friend.

Thank him. Whatever your particular trials are this winter, they are a mere glimpse into his experience in the incarnation and his choice to be trapped on the cross for you. This does not mean your suffering is insignificant! Instead, it is a reason to thank him. Every time you catch yourself looking at the clock or the calendar and wishing this moment or season away, let it be a reminder to thank him for his sacrificial love for you.

Pray with your kids. What if you started praying with your kids in the moment when they are experiencing some frustration of their own? When you enter their worlds and pray with them about their hardships, you are sharing fellowship in their sufferings. What better way to help them experience the reality that Christ shares in their struggles than to be his hugging arms and compassionate voice? What better way for you to see a little picture of his care for you in how you care for your kids?

*View the article in its original form at
[https://www.ccef.org/
moms-stuck-inside/](https://www.ccef.org/moms-stuck-inside/)*

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