

The Messenger



A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

Inside this Issue...

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

St. John Lutheran Church

1537 Day St. Greenleaf
920-532-4865
stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

St. John Lutheran School

261 Clay St. Wrightstown
920-532-4361
office@stjohnwrightstown.com



www.stjohnwrightstown.com



facebook.com/stjohnwrightstown



instagram.com/stjohnwrightstown

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



Devotional Corner

Ever Wonder... Does prayer really make a difference?

"I must not be asking God for the right things."

"If only I could concentrate better when I pray."

"Maybe God isn't really listening after all."

If these are thoughts that ever cross your mind or settle in your heart, then maybe you're asking the question,

"Does prayer really work?"

Maybe you've been praying for a long time and haven't received the answer you wanted or felt that there hasn't been any change.

Well, there's good news. Prayer really does make a difference. There are two reasons for this. First, prayer doesn't depend on us. If answers to our prayers depended on us, we would never have our prayers answered, because as sinful people God wouldn't listen to us. That might hurt our feelings, but it's the truth.

That leads to the subsequent reason why prayer makes a difference. It depends upon God. In the Bible, we read this little prayer,

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. Psalm 143:1

The person who spoke this prayer recognized that it was God's faithfulness on which the answer to his request depended.

God's faithfulness was demonstrated when he kept his promise to send us Jesus. In saving love, Jesus died to pay for our sins that had separated us from God and had closed his ears to our prayers. Jesus' perfect sacrifice opens the way to God and gives believers in Jesus the gracious promise that their prayers are heard and answered.

If you're struggling with prayer—if you don't know what to pray for, or how to pray—worship with us to hear more about your Savior, Jesus, and the difference he makes for your prayers. Because of Jesus, prayer really does work. We have his Word on it.

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 Parenting: Ten Tips to Make This the Best Summer Ever with Your Family

Excerpts from an Aha! Parenting article

Summer lives in our imaginations throughout the year because it nourishes our souls. The warmth.... the fun.... the freedom... the sheer deliciousness. But mostly, the luxury of time, unbounded by school. Time to explore, to make new friends, to lie on your back and watch the clouds billow. The vivid aliveness and freedom of a child's summers can change her forever.

Does this sound like the summer your child is having? Or is he glued to an electronic screen? Or maybe she just has to get up early for camp, so you can get to work? Or maybe he's gotten so used to constant stimulation that he's complaining he's bored?

You CAN reclaim summer for your family. In fact, you can make this the best summer ever with your kids. It doesn't take travel or a lot of money. And you can do it even if you're working and your kids are in day camp.

What children need for a wonderful summer is connection with you and with peers, some novel experiences that induce awe, opportunities to develop mastery, and some expansive lazy summer afternoons with not much happening. The peers and mastery can happen without you. The connection and awe just take clear intention, and some dedicated time.

I know that time sounds like the one thing you never have enough of, but it's summer. Your kids won't be kids forever. This is the stuff their childhood memories are made of.

Why not decide now to make the most of this opportunity to connect with your kids? Here are ten simple tips to make this summer your best summer ever with your family.

1. Set aside some time every day to have fun with your child. Whether it's running through the sprinkler together on a hot afternoon or counting the stars on a blanket in the backyard before bedtime, do at least one thing each day to connect and have fun. Remember, what matters is always how it FEELS, not how it LOOKS. Your child doesn't need a Martha Stewart activity; just a loving connection with you.

2. Find the "sweet spot" for structure and work. Research shows that kids get stressed during the school year from academics, homework, the social scene, and all the activities. They really need time to chill and relax. But they also need structure, meaning they need their day and week to have a shape, so they know what to expect. You can keep your schedule simple. For instance, every morning after we play, we pick up the house together for an hour, and after lunch we have reading time together and then quiet time in our rooms.

3. Commit to de-stressing and just enjoying your life this summer. Kids pick up our attitudes. If you're stressed, they'll be stressed, and they'll fight with each other and drive you crazy. Even if you have to work, can you find a way to dial down your stress for the summer? And don't you deserve a delicious summer as much as your children do? Your positive attitude will create a relaxed, happy mood in your house.

4. Help your child develop a healthy relationship with time ...one that includes the important life skill of being comfortable with their own company, without technology. Time is, after all, what life is made of.

5. Encourage your child to try something new this summer. There's no time like the summer to dabble, experiment, and play with creativity. Maybe she wants to try painting, or learn to play the guitar, or build something with a hammer and nails. Maybe he wants to try writing a short story or learn how to throw a frisbee well. New activities encourage brain development and build your child's focus, frustration management and impulse control.

6. Strictly limit technology to certain times of the day. When kids are bored and it's hot outside, screen time has a way of swallowing up all their time. It may be a good babysitter, but we all know that's not what kids need. The more you limit screen time, the better kids get at finding creative things to do with their time -- and the less they bug you to watch TV or play computer games.

Article continues on page 7

Upcoming Events

Annual Fishing Tournament- Saturday, June 4th

Our annual fishing tournament continues on Saturday, June 4th, from 10:00 am- 12:00 noon. Bring your fishing gear down to Mueller Park and find us near the docks! This is a free fishing weekend in Wisconsin, so there is no need to have a license on hand for this event.



Open Forum and Voter's Meeting- June 19th and 20th

It is time for our church's annual Ministry Financial Plan to be set and voted on. Several adjustments have been considered as we look into how to best continue our ministry while we are in our split Greenleaf church building/ Wrightstown school building and as we look into how we will operate in a combined campus in future years. Anyone interested in finding out more regarding our annual budget and other important matters for the voter's meeting should plan to attend the open forum between services on Sunday, June 19th at 9:00 am. The Voter's Meeting itself will be held Monday June 20th, at 7:30 pm.



Groundbreaking Rite- Sunday, June 12th

The long-awaited time has arrived! Join us for the official groundbreaking for the new campus on Sunday, June 12th! School and church families alike are encouraged to be part of this special event. We will gather at the new campus on Plum Road just past Evolve Health and Wellness and Wrightstown Dental (soon to be 206 Plum Road). Our ceremony will take place between early and late services, so you can easily join us for church as well as the groundbreaking rite. We encourage anyone in town to come out and help us mark the start of our building stage!

Upcoming Events

- June 4- Fishing Tournament
- June 9- Weekly School Park Playdates Begin
- June 9- Handbells Concert at Trinity, Kaukauna
- June 12- Groundbreaking Ceremony
- June 13- First Day of Summer Care
- June 19- Open Forum for Annual Ministry Financial Plan/ Voter's Meeting
- June 20- Voter's Meeting
- July 1 & 4- No Summer Care Sessions

Church Highlights



Updates on New Campus

We are excited for our groundbreaking ceremony coming on June 12th (see events page for details)! We have also hit some challenges with finances as several bids came in higher than originally anticipated. Though this may not be a huge surprise given the rising cost of supplies and services across the nation, we are looking for any help that might be available. If you know of someone who might be interested in putting in additional bids, please let us know. We hope that additional bids for subcontractors can help us have a better pricing range. We are also continuing to look for people willing to help with general labor and to support us financially. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested in helping us in any of these ways, please let us know. We hope to conquer these and any other challenges thrown our way with God's grace and your support!

Summer Worship Schedule

St. John Lutheran Church will continue to offer two Sunday worship opportunities at 7:45 and 10:15 am throughout the summer rather than going down to one service as during past summers. Thursday night services will also remain at 6:30 pm. Sunday Bible Classes will likewise continue at their 9:00 am time slot. Our only change will be Sunday School taking its typical break between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Be sure to take advantage of the extra opportunities and join us for worship regularly!



Fellowship and Fun Opportunities

There are several opportunities to join fellow St. John and WELS members at sporting events this summer. Please see the back of church for more information and to sign up for WELS night at the Brewers, WELS night at the Timber Rattlers, and St. John night at the Timber Rattlers. Sign up deadlines are approaching fast (WELS night at the Brewers sign up ends June 1st- contact Karen Geiger now!), so don't put off your decision. Also keep in mind our St. John Church and School Picnic, planned for August 6th. We hope to see you at some of these fun events!

Church Birthdays

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

Jun 1 Bernie Vickman
Jun 2 Carol Cootway
Jun 2 Jeremy Hendricks
Jun 2 Lori Van Alem
Jun 5 Lynn Kussow
Jun 5 Melisa Sewell
Jun 6 David Zirbel
Jun 7 Maria Kussow
Jun 9 Cassie Pohlman
Jun 9 Lindsay Ritter
Jun 10 Beverly Ollila
Jun 11 Elizabeth Schisel

Jun 11 Mason West
Jun 11 Michael Wierschke
Jun 13 Isaac Uecker
Jun 13 Lauren Verheyen
Jun 15 Mitchel Schaeuble
Jun 16 Leslie Schmidt
Jun 17 Norbert Kussow
Jun 19 Hudson Bauer
Jun 20 Travis Gilson
Jun 20 Mason Lindsay
Jun 20 Jackson Pohlman
Jun 22 Colten Bohrtz

Jun 22 Clairissa Chavarria
Jun 22 Charles Golden
Jun 23 Kevin Kussow
Jun 23 Matthew Schaeuble
Jun 24 Jesse Juedes
Jun 24 Katelynn Kraus
Jun 24 Isaiah Pennenberg
Jun 26 Jean Laabs
Jun 28 Collin Verheyen
Jun 30 Tammy Wicker

School Highlights



Capping Class Sizes Due to Increased Enrollment

We are excited to see greatly increased enrollment over the past decade, and now St. John is facing the possibility of having 80 or more students next year! Enrollment in the preschool, preK, and 2nd-4th grade classrooms are particularly high, leading to a need to cap some programs and put students on a waiting list. If you have already officially enrolled, your spot is guaranteed. If you are still considering enrollment for your students, particularly in the preschool and preK rooms, please speak with your teacher or Principal Raddatz for information on whether a spot is available or if you will need to be on a waiting list.



Scrip Website and App Updates

Scrip, a program through which families can purchase gift cards at face value and receive tuition refunds or support our school, has recently undergone changes to its website and app. Those who previously used shopwithscrip.com and the My Scrip Wallet apps should now switch to raiseright.com and the Raise Right app. If you have any questions about using the program or would like to join to save on tuition, please contact Dierdra Stary or Mrs. Wicks.

Weekly Park Play Dates

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 be held from June 9th through August 18th 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 for more information and for weekly locations.



School Birthdays

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

- Colton Bohrtz- June 22nd
- Katelynn Kraus- June 24th
- Evelyn O'Connor- June 24th
- Lyle Holtrop- June 27th
- Daniel Mata Perez- June 30th



(Today's Parenting article, continuing from page 3)

7. Institute daily reading time. Books open the imagination, make time disappear, and give kids a wholesome alternative to screens. (Reading is also highly correlated with school achievement.) Reading to your child develops a love of stories and books, which is what starts them wanting to read on their own.

8. Use this summer to develop more emotional intelligence in your family. For instance:

- How can they express their needs without lashing out at the other person?
- How can they tolerate uncomfortable feelings, so they can manage them?
- How can they have difficult conversations and come out of them feeling closer?
- When they feel angry, or sad, or anxious, or bored, what should they do?

Why not use the time you spend with your child to start talking more about emotions and help them develop more emotional literacy? I'm not suggesting a lecture, but a conversation, where you ask questions and listen more than you talk.

9. Plan some fantastic family memories. Start at dinner tonight by asking each person to pick one thing for the whole family to do that will make their summer complete. Set parameters before you start. For instance, you might agree that there will be no hotel stays, and the total cost of each activity must be under \$40 (or whatever your budget is.) Try out badminton, water play, watermelon, biking, camping, hiking, kayaking, picnics, watching the sunrise, the beach, or homemade ice cream. Take lots of pictures of all your adventures.

10. The last week of the summer, print out all your summer photos and make a Summer album.

Have a little family celebration on Labor Day weekend where you look at the album together and talk about everybody's favorite parts of the summer. Remind each other of the things that seemed like disasters at the time but are now funny (every family has some of those!)

For the complete article, including links for more specific ideas, visit <https://www.ahaparenting.com/read/Summer-Activities-Kids-Home>

Contact Us

Church Office

920-532-4865

stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com

School Office

920-532-4361

office@stjohnwrightstown.com

Pastor Mike Gehl

920-309-5171

pastorgehl@gmail.com

Tim Raddatz, principal and

2nd-4th grade teacher

920-636-5007

tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com

Dillon Solomon, 5th-8th grade teacher

248-525-3700

dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com

Rebecca Wicks, K-1st grade teacher

920-809-8648

rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com

Jamie Buss, PreK teacher

920-538-0470

jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com

Alexa Foelske, preschool teacher

920-323-4185

alexa.foelske@stjohnwrightstown.com

 www.stjohnwrightstown.com

 facebook.com/StJohnWrightstown

 instagram.com/stjohnwrightstown