



# The Messenger

June 2026 Edition

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

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## St. John Lutheran Church and School

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

# Devotional Corner



## Devotion Corner: Is God Up There?

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*  
*Genesis 1:1*

“God, if you are up there, please show yourself to me.” Have you ever said that to God? Wouldn’t it be great if God just came down and showed himself to us?

God does show himself. In the first line of the Bible, God reveals himself to us. He tells us that he made all things. He made the huge galaxies of the universe. He made the tiniest atoms. He made you and me. His creation demonstrates his power, creativity, wisdom, and tender concern for us.

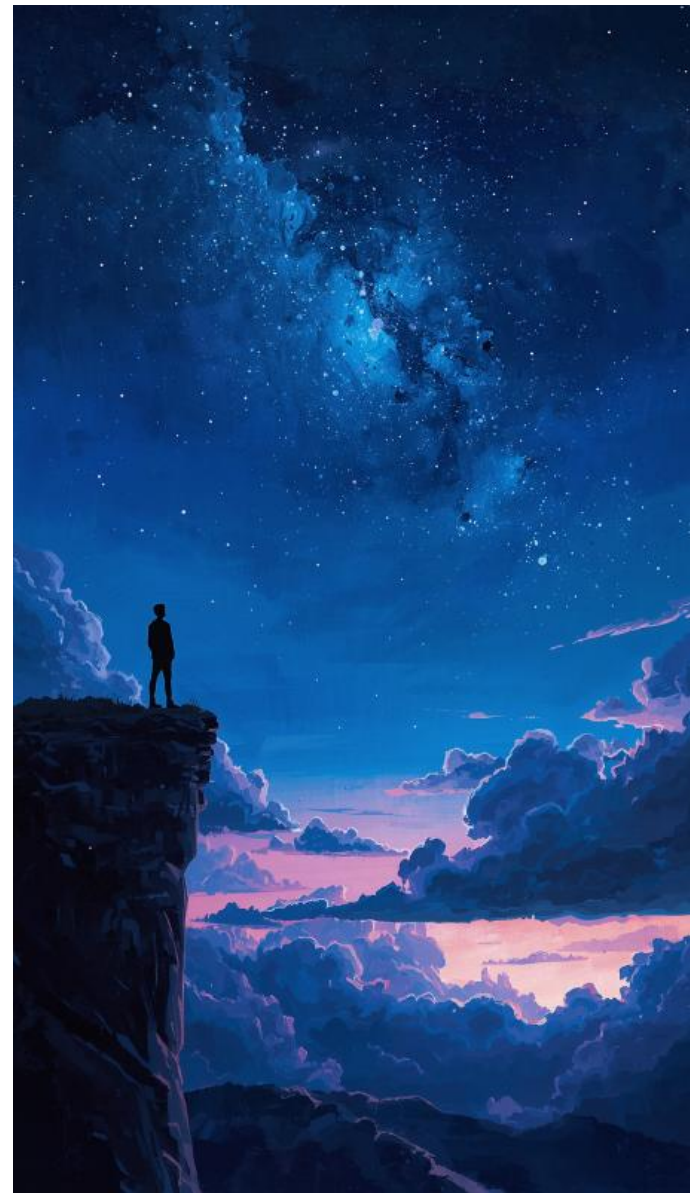
Take time to notice and to marvel at all God made—the colors of the sky, the light of the sun and stars, the mosaic of leaves outside your window, the beauty of the landscape within your view. Consider how God made you. Think of how your body works—your eyes and ears, your arms, legs, fingers and toes, your brain.

However, God did not make the world and then stand back as a disinterested observer far removed from it all. He is watching over it all. He continues to care for us by providing for all our needs.

Sadly, we often don’t thank him for what he has done for us. We forget him. For that, God has every right to turn his back on us. Amazingly, he still cares for us. More than that, he came down to us and saved us

from our wayward ways. He came down in love in the person of his Son, Jesus, and rescued us. Jesus lived the perfect life of thanks that we should live. On the cross, he died the death we should die for our sins. He promises a new and perfect world where all who believe in him will live forever in perfect joy.

Is God up there? Yes, he is! And, thankfully, he was willing to come down here to save us so that, one day, we will see him face to face.



**Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am**

# Christian Parenting Today

## Christian Parenting Today: Can Parents Be Friends with Their Children?

Excerpts from A Forward in Christ Article by Phil Huebner and Amanda Berg

“My bestest friend in the whole wide world!” So boast moms across the United States in their social media as they pose with their daughters. Perhaps there is a harmless, cutesy intent to these posts meant to reflect the close relationship of mothers and their daughters. On the other hand, such posts beg an important question: Should there be a distinction in the family between parent and friend?

It’s interesting to note that in the Bible zero passages talk about parents and children as friends. You will find plenty of passages about children needing to obey and honor and show respect. And you’ll find more than plenty of passages about parents needing to discipline; train their children in the ways of the Lord; encourage, and not exasperate. But there aren’t any passages about parents and their children being “besties.”

Perhaps that is with good reason. A friend is someone to shop till you drop with while you unload your burdens of the week. A friend is someone to catch the ball game with as you talk life, weather, and fantasy football. A friend is someone to pick you up with encouraging words during those late-night phone calls when you’re struggling.

God intended for the relationship between parent and child to be much closer and more meaningful. Rather, the relationship between parent and child is meant to be a mirror that reflects our relationship with God. When parents sacrificially love, teach with patience, and discipline, they are reflecting how our Father in heaven deals with us. When children obey, honor, love, and respect, they are reflecting in part Jesus’ perfect relationship with his Father and our intended relationship with God as his children here on earth.

Thus, parents and children are so much more than just friends. Sure, go shopping with your daughter and get an iced mocha latte. Rant and rave about fantasy football failures with your son. You’re showing the care and interest that our Father shows to us. And go ahead and have meaningful conversations with your children about life. You’re listening with love and

communicating with compassion as our Father does to us. Yet at the same time, understand the high calling that goes beyond what looks like a friendship—the calling to discipline, teach, and train with a love that seeks nothing more than for your dear child to be with you and our heavenly Father forever in heaven.

-Phil Huebner



I have heard people say that their child is their best friend. This seems like a harmless, sweet thing to say, but is it what the parent-child relationship is supposed to be? Can we be friends with our children and be good parents?

Of course, we treat our children with respect, enjoy spending time with them, and have genuine fun together. Does it end there? Friendships are a gift from God. We value that gift and recognize the tremendous blessing it can be, but the parent-child relationship goes beyond that of friendship. Psalm 127 speaks of the blessing of children, and Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to train our children in the way of the Lord. This is something bigger.

Parent-as-friend is not serving our children best. Though there is love, it may not always serve our children’s best interests, out of fear of causing a rift. The vocation of a parent is a holy one. God calls parents to teach, train, and discipline children in his ways while also encouraging and loving them unconditionally, as he loves us.

Over the years, my husband and I have made many amazing memories with our three girls, had engaging conversations, and enjoyed relaxing movie nights. Now that they are older, there’s a new kind of companionship and a love that has to let them be more independent. They come home from college or their apartment, we catch up, and it’s fun. We share the highs and lows.

*Article continues on page 7*

# Upcoming Events



## Wineries Fellowship Experience- Saturday, June 6th

Join us for a fellowship event this Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at 3:00 pm in the St. John parking lot for a wagon ride to two local wineries. From 3:30 until 5:00, we will visit Ledgestone Vineyards. We will make our way to WINEaLot Pub from 5:15-6:30 and plan to return to St. John by 7:00 pm. There is no fee for the ride, and you can order and pay individually at the wineries. Snacks and beverages are allowed and encouraged on the ride.



## Faith and Freedom Worship Night- July 8th

St. John is excited to host its first ever worship night! We have a nationally known Christian recording group coming to our campus for a concert and worship event. This is a free event, but tickets are required to help us track numbers and prepare for the crowd. being accepted. We will open at 5:00 pm, with the band starting at 6:00 pm. There will be food and drinks available for purchase and donations to support the event will be accepted. For more information, contact Kari Bern. Scan the QR code to register for a ticket.



## Vacation Bible School- July 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a Tropical Trek where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, we'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face. Students can join our VBS on July 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 11:45 am. Our time will feature games, snacks, crafts, and Bible stories in the Tropical Trek theme.

Registration is required so that we know how many students to prepare crafts and snacks for. Families with children ages 3-11 (all children must be potty trained) can sign up to participate by following the link at [stjohnwrightstown.com/events](http://stjohnwrightstown.com/events). Please note that there is no Cardinal Quests summer care program during this week.

## Park Play Dates Resume

School families, stay in touch with each other throughout the summer as we hold park play dates every Wednesday from 9:00-11:00 am! For June, our playdates will be: June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Waupekun Park in Wrightstown (aka "The Blue Park"); June 10<sup>th</sup> at Derks Park in Appleton; June 17<sup>th</sup> at Sand Acres Park in DePere; and June 24<sup>th</sup> at Way-Morr Park in Greenleaf.

## Mark Your Calendars!

June 3	Park Playdate @ Waupekun Park
June 6	Wineries Fellowship
June 8	Summer Program Begins
June 9	Fellowship Meal
June 10	Park Playdate @ Derks Park Appleton
June 16	Outreach Meeting
June 17	Park Playdate @ Sand Acres Park DePere
June 21	Father's Day
June 24	Park Playdate @ Way-Morr Park
June 28	Voter's Meeting
July 6-10	No Summer Session Vacation Bible School (VBS)
July 8	Faith and Freedom Worship Night

# News Highlights

## Call News

We were blessed to receive an assigned graduate from Martin Luther College to fill our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teaching spot. Maddilyn Holicky will join us this summer after her wedding to fill the position as Mrs. Schultz resigns. Our search for a long-term pastor is still on as we did not receive a graduate from the seminary. We will be holding a pastoral call during the June 28<sup>th</sup> voter's meeting.



## Clays for Cardinals Results



Thank you to all of those who sponsored, attended, and/or bid at the Clays for Cardinals event this year. \$51,088.20 was raised! \$25,000 of that will go to debt retirement to help pay off our mortgage, with the remaining amount kept by PTO to continue supporting the school as needs pop up. We are grateful for all of your support!

## Bible Study Changes

With summer starting, please note that there will be no Sunday Adult Bible Study. Breakfast and Bible Study events on Wednesday will also take a break for June and July. JAM will continue during regular worship times on Sundays at 9:00 am.

## Annual Reports Due

It is time for our annual meeting as we switch to a new financial year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are a leader of any committee or organization within St. John's various ministries, please complete and submit your report to the office so that these can be compiled and printed before the June 28<sup>th</sup> voter's meeting. All members, especially our voters, are encouraged to attend to see where how our stewardship has been working in the past year and to get a look at our plans for the upcoming year. This meeting will also include a call for a long-term pastor.



# June Birthdays

## Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in June!

June 1 Bernie Vickman  
 June 2 Carol Cootway  
 June 2 Lori Van Alem  
 June 4 Jean Reynolds  
 June 4 Chris Steiner  
 June 5 Lynn Kussow  
 June 6 Owen Spatchek  
 June 9 Cassie Pohlman  
 June 9 Lindsay Ritter  
 June 10 Beverly Ollila  
 June 11 Betty Schisel  
 June 11 Mason West  
 June 11 Michael Wierschke  
 June 12 Aurelia Grossheim  
 June 13 Isaac Uecker  
 June 13 Lauren Verheyen  
 June 15 Mitchel Schaeuble  
 June 16 Eryn Ripp



June 16 Leslie Schmidt  
 June 17 Oaken Douglas  
 June 19 Hudson Bauer  
 June 20 Travis Gilson  
 June 20 Jackson Pohlman  
 June 22 Colton Bohrtz  
 June 22 Clairissa Chavarria  
 June 22 Charles Golden  
 June 23 Kevin Kussow  
 June 24 Jesse Juedes  
 June 24 Isaiah Pennenberg  
 June 25 McKenzey Crowley  
 June 26 Amanda Demerath  
 June 26 Jean Laabs  
 June 28 Collin Verheyen  
 June 29 Miles Gardner  
 June 30 Sarah Micke  
 June 30 Tammy Wicker

## Happy birthday to our students celebrating in June!

Penelope A.- June 2  
 Nathan O.- June 7  
 Bodde E.- June 9  
 Sierra R.- June 11  
 Aurelia G.- June 12  
 Lakyn K.- June 12  
 Isaac U.- June 13  
 Eryn R.- June 16  
 Oaken D.- June 17  
 Lyric S.-Z.- June 18  
 Jade V.- June 23  
 Carson D.- June 24  
 Ruby G.- June 29  
 Tia N.- June 29  
 Daniel M.P.- June 30  
 Oakley Z.- June 30



# Join Our Team!



## Administrative Assistant Sought

We are seeking a dedicated and organized individual to serve as the Secretary for our Lutheran church and school. This role is central to the daily operations of both the church and school, serving as the primary point of contact for families, staff, visitors, and community members. The ideal candidate will be detail-oriented, comfortable managing multiple responsibilities, and passionate about supporting a Christ-centered environment.

As our church and school secretary, you'll be the welcoming face and organizational backbone of our campus. You'll greet families at the door, keep our records in order, support our teachers and pastor, and help our school and church operations run like clockwork. This is a hands-on, people-first role where your attention to detail and warm personality will shine.

Pay and benefits are negotiable and competitive, based on experience and qualifications.

If you are interested in this position or know someone who we should approach, please speak with Pastor Wilke, church president Perry Schisel, or principal Tim Raddatz. Resumes may also be sent to [pschisel@suburbanenterprises.com](mailto:pschisel@suburbanenterprises.com) with "Secretary Application" in the subject line.

## Early Childhood Teacher Needed

St. John is currently searching for a full-time early childhood teacher in the EC1 (4K) classroom for the 2026-2027 school year. A qualified candidate: must have a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree, Associate Degree in Education, Early Childhood Development certificate, or equivalent; be a member of a WELS congregation, have an ability to work proficiently in a diverse, multi-cultural setting; exhibit effective oral communication and interpersonal skills; and show a desire to actively support the ministerial objectives of St. John Lutheran Church and School.

An ideal candidate will also have a passion for working with children, be tactful and courteous, be a team player, be punctual, professional, patient, be an exemplary Christian role model for pupils and parents, and have a neat, presentable appearance.

The starting salary for this position is \$51,000 with additional pay for years of experience and additional educational credentials. Health insurance is also available and provided by the employer.

If responding, please submit your resume or equivalent documents to school administrator Tim Raddatz via the following email address for consideration: [tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com](mailto:tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com). Please include "EC Job Opening" in the subject line to assure it finds its way to the right location.



# Parents vs Friends

Continued from page 3

One thing has not changed through all the years of raising three talented and amazing girls: We love our relationship and companionship, but we are still their parents. I am their mom first. Even though they are adults (or almost there), I tell them that I'll never stop being their mom. Sometimes that means doing or saying the hard things, the right things. It means loving them fiercely and unconditionally. It means helping them pick up the pieces or learn from mistakes.

The love we have for our girls and the relationship we foster, goes beyond friendship. Our love is deep and wide, patterned after the love of our heavenly Father.

Let's view it in light of vocation. If you listed qualities or responsibilities of parents versus friends, I imagine the lists would look quite different. There's a reason for this. Parental love is different than friendship love. Parental love reflects the relationship we have with God our Father.

By grace, our God loves us with an agape love. It's a love that requires or expects nothing in return, a love so real and unconditional that he gave up everything for us. In Christ, God calls us sons and daughters, making us heirs to the riches of heaven. Do you not love your children with that kind of love? Would you not sacrifice just about anything, perhaps your life, for them? That is the vocation of a parent. Though flawed by sin, the love of a parent is patterned after God's agape love for us.

The vocation of friend carries a different weight and responsibility. Friendship love is necessary, beautiful,

and a blessing, but it is different. It is philia love or brotherly love. It's a love of similarities and requires reciprocity. This is a great love, but it pales in comparison to the agape love, the selfless, unconditional love the Father has for us.

Though flawed by sin, the love of a parent is patterned after God's agape love for us. Agape love can be one-sided. Agape love has the best interest of the object of love at heart and is willing to be the bad guy at times for the good of that loved one. Our children need us to love them with an unwavering agape love, and God is using us to do it.

God made us his children through water and Word. He admonishes us when needed. He invites us to come to him for anything. He sees us for who we are, sin and all, yet forgives and loves us with a love that only a parent can. He does what is best for us, which isn't always what we want. He provides for every need. That's a parent kind of love.

It's a love that nurtures our children, as God nurtures us, with a balance of discipline and grace. This is the love of parents and children. It's a love that does what is best, even when it's hard. It's a love that helps and provides, though not earned or deserved. It's a gracious love, and it binds us together, as Christ's love binds us to him now and for eternity.

God has called parents to a tremendous and blessed role. He is faithful and upholds every promise, and he is with you, graciously loving your children through you.

-Amanda Berge

*To view the article in its entirety, visit [forwardinchrist.net/parents-friends-with-children/](http://forwardinchrist.net/parents-friends-with-children/)*

## Contact Us

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**Tim Raddatz, principal and**

**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher**

920-636-5007

[tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com](mailto:tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com)

**Natalie Schultz, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher**

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**Rebecca Wicks, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher**

920-809-8648

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**McKenzey Crowley, kindergarten teacher**

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