

The Messenger

November 2025 Edition



A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

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ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

St. John Lutheran Church and School

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

Devotional Corner



Devotion Corner: How can I be happy when I have little to be thankful for?

*“Blessed are those who are
invited to the wedding supper
of the Lamb!”
Revelation 19:9*

For many of us, as the calendar is flipped to the month of November, thoughts of turkey and pumpkin pie make our mouths water. We think ahead to family traditions that we have faithfully followed through the years. Family, food, and football all provide the opportunity to gather and reflect on the many things we're thankful for.

But for some—perhaps you—giving thanks might not be high on your “to-do” list this year. It may be that you simply don't feel that there are all that many reasons to give thanks. A lost job. Dwindling savings. Poor health. Any one of these circumstances, or a combination of them, may lead you to the conclusion that you can't be happy when you have so little to be thankful for.

But here's some good news to lift your spirit: there's a huge party being planned in heaven, and you're invited. This party is being thrown in honor of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Why? Because Jesus Christ has overcome our sin and all the evil in this world as well as its source, the devil.

God has extended an invitation to all people to come and celebrate! No, being invited to this party won't necessarily mean your career will pick up again, your

savings will plump up, or your health will suddenly be restored. But being invited to this party reminds us that the struggles of this life are temporary while the blessings of the wedding supper are eternal. We can start to identify with a man in the Bible who wrote, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). This writer was elated to know that he was going to the heavenly wedding party. God wants more guests there, too. He wants you there. He wants you to share in the joy that is yours in Jesus Christ.

We invite you to a Thanksgiving worship service at our church. Find out how others, many of whom have the same struggles and hardships that you do, nevertheless have found something to be thankful for. Come and share in the blessings they enjoy because of their invitation to the greatest party ever. Find out more about your invitation and how richly God wants to bless everyone invited to his party. In doing so, you'll truly have a happy Thanksgiving!

*Thanksgiving Worship at St. John:
Wednesday, November 26th
6:30 pm*



Worship With Us Sundays at 9:00 am

Christian Parenting Today

Christian Parenting Today: 13 Lessons Dads Can Teach Their Daughters

Excerpts from a *Focus on the Family* article by Danny Huerta

A lot of joy and brokenness can come from a relationship between a daughter and her father.

Sadly, I have observed and heard of many fathers who miss out on their incredible invitation to be transformed through the relationship with their daughter. Unfortunately, I have also seen many daughters miss out on the benefits of having a father involved in their lives teaching them essential lessons.

I can tell you this, having a daughter has changed me from the inside out. Through my relationship with my daughter, I have learned a lot. I love spending time with her and exploring the world by her side. I can picture her smile, hear her laugh, and see her eyes looking back at mine. She has had a profound impact on my life relationally and spiritually.

At the same time, I get to play an essential God-given role in teaching her about relationships, life, emotions, perseverance, and many other important things. Throughout the last couple of decades counseling families and researching information on family dynamics and interactions, I have noticed the deep and lasting impacts dads can have on their daughters.

Likely, there are various pressures and stressors within your daughter's life. As a father, you can provide advice, encouragement, and love to your daughter. Consider which lessons you can teach your daughters today:

1. Respect is essential to healthy relationships. Ephesians 2:10 teaches us to observe the amazing value in others as God's masterpieces. Dads model self-control and humility as they navigate relationships with family, friends, and strangers. As you listen and express interest in who your daughter is, you help your daughter come alive by feeling known. Through these interactions, you can teach your daughter about true respectful conversation and relationship.

2. Boundaries provide the parameters for safety and health in relationships. Learning when to say "yes" and when to say "no". Sometimes it can be the trickiest

part of your relationship with your daughter. Two studies conclude that involved and engaged fathers reduce the possibility of risky sexual behaviors in their daughters. In another study, the researchers found that disengaged dads are more likely to have daughters who view guys as interested in sex. Help your daughter through teaching her appropriate boundaries with her relationships.

3. Healthy affection satisfies the sensory need for closeness and connection. Dads that hold, hug, and give their daughters healthy affectionate touch provide their daughters the affection they need as they grow older. They tend to be more selective and patient with affection. You can begin with a simple affectionate smile letting your daughter know she is important to you and that you deeply care for her. From there, begin to incorporate other elements of positive, healthy affection with your daughter.



4. Conversation with guys can be fun and provide depth of connection. Daughters need to learn how to have enjoyable, personable, and non-sexual conversations with guys. A common observation from women is that: "guys just don't talk much." As a father, you can support your daughter's confidence when they engage in conversations with men. Help your daughter learn how to engage in conversation with men.

5. Strength is attainable and shows in various ways. Daughters learn about their strength and how to express and use their strength through observing the men within their life. Your daughter may push herself further while doing activities with you to either keep up or push their own limits. As a dad, you can give loving encouragement to your daughter to push herself toward developing strength.

(Article continues on next page)

Christian Parenting Today (Continued from page 3)

6. Reassurance contributes to satisfying the 4 core needs in humans. Encouraging and life-giving words from a dad can give daughters the confidence that things will be okay. These four core needs are belonging, worth, competence, and autonomy. You can provide a significant boost to your daughter's self-esteem and self-confidence through the power of your words.



7. Perseverance and pursuit help develop steadfast strength and focus. Dads provide a picture of strength through failure, weakness, and insecurity. As a father, you can demonstrate perseverance in the way you approach adversity. From there, you can model respectful pursuit of your daughter through intentional relationship building. Dads can push and challenge their daughters beyond what they thought possible, but with love, understanding, and gentleness.

8. Prayer allows her to have a conversational relationship with her Heavenly Father

The power and importance of prayer can't be overstated. Dads get to model trust and belief in having an ongoing conversation with a Heavenly Father. Help your daughter cultivate her relationship with God through prayer and spiritual disciplines.

9. The power of reading God's Word creates trustworthy peace and guidance. Dads can lead their daughter toward a strong trust and love of God's word. You get to model interaction and conversation with God through His word. When a dad clings to God's word to gain wisdom, guidance, and strength, a family's home develops a strong bond with God. As you model a relationship with the God through studying scripture, your daughter can strengthen her

relationship with God as well. Take hope in the truth of 3rd John 1:4 which says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

10. Practical life skills provide confidence in all aspects of life. Dads can teach their daughters about finances, working on cars, cooking, grilling, art, and sports. Honestly, the list is endless. Your relationship with your daughter is unique! You have a lot of practical things to teach your daughter. Take some time to think about what you can teach your daughter.

11. Learn to manage strong emotions to pursue understanding and wisdom. Dads can provide another point of view and help daughters find peace in the middle of an emotional storm. Come alongside your wife and other women to support your daughter's emotions.

12. How to laugh and have fun to strengthen relationships and bring joy in life. Dads can be playful and can offer great opportunities for laughter, physical play, and overall playful times with their daughters. The amazing thing is that laughter and play lead to a deeper attachment. So, dads can offer incredible and unique opportunities for bonding and attachment leading to not always taking life so seriously.

13. Remind them of their unending value to instill self-confidence and trust. Through your relationship with your daughter, you help her know and see her value as a young woman. You can help your daughter understand that you are the one of the few people on this planet willing to die for her.

A simple investment of time and attention from dads can be life-changing to their daughters and to their homes. Remember that it's never too late to invest in your daughter's life.

*To view the article in full, please visit
focusonthefamily.com/parenting/13-lessons-dads-can-teach-their-daughters-2/*

Upcoming Events

Community Thanksgiving Meal

Everyone is invited to our annual Community Thanksgiving Meal on Saturday, November 15th. Lunch will be served in St. John's gym from noon until 2pm. If you know of anyone who would like a meal but can't make it in, please let the office know and we will arrange to have a meal dropped off for them.

Much of the main meal will be purchased, but we are accepting donations; please consider contributing. A sign-up link was sent out in the last weekly e-mail, or you can inquire with staff about what is needed. Volunteers to help serve are also needed, and time spent helping can also contribute to school family hours.

Christmas Service Attendance Sign-Ups

St. John Lutheran School will have two Christmas services this year: an early childhood service on Friday, December 12th at 6:00 pm, and a K-8th grade service on Sunday, December 14th, in place of the weekly service. We ask that anyone who plans to attend let us know how many people to expect so that we can plan ahead for seating. Please see the link in the weekly e-mail or speak to a staff member to register.

Movie Night

Andy's coming! The Student Council invites you to Family Movie Night on Saturday, November 15 @ 6:00. Doors open at 5:30. The movie (Toy Story 2) is free. Snacks will be available for purchase - hot dogs, popcorn, chips, water, and juice boxes. Bring pillows, blankets, stuffies, and come dressed in PJs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come enjoy a relaxing evening with family and friends!

Upcoming Concerts at FVL

FVL has four concerts you can attend this month! First, on Friday, November 7th, the WELS National Choral Fest (featuring choirs from 23 WELS high schools from around the nation) will present a pops concert full of upbeat selections at 7:00 pm. Then, the same choirs will gather again on Sunday, November 9th at 2:00 pm to present a sacred concert. A free-will donation will be gathered from attendees and desserts will be offered. Following the national choral concerts, FVL will have its annual band concert on November 13th at 6:30 pm. Finally, FVL Schools will have their 5th-8th grade band students perform on Thursday, November 20th, also at 6:30. Livestreams of all concerts will be available on the FVL website.

Mark Your Calendars!

November 2- Daylight Savings Time Ends

Church Voters' Meeting

November 4- Martha's Circle

Open Board of Education Meeting

8th Grade Registration Night at FVL

November 5- Breakfast and Bible Study

Choir Practice

November 5+6- Parent/Teacher Conferences

No After School Care

November 7- WELS National Choral Pops Concert

November 9- Adult Choir Sings During Worship

WELS National Choral Sacred Concert

November 10- Elders Meeting

Church Council Meeting

November 11- Veteran's Day Breakfast and Service

Fellowship Lunch

Financial Seminar

November 12- Choir Practice

November 13- 8th Grade Registration Night at FVL

FVL Bands Concert

November 15- Community Thanksgiving Meal

Indoor Movie Night

November 16- JAM Students Sing During Worship

November 18- Outreach Committee Meeting

November 20- Deer Hunter's Worship Service

FVL Middle Schools Band Concert

November 21- No Classes for Early Childhood

November 22- FVL Culture and Cuisine Night

November 23- Mrs. Schultz' Class Sings at Worship

November 24- Blood Drive

November 25- PTO Meeting

November 26- Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 27- Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27-28- No School

Church Highlights

Voter's Meeting- Sunday, November 2nd

Please plan to attend a special voter's meeting on Sunday, November 2nd, following the church service. With our school enrollment having experienced a lot of growth in recent years, it has become more difficult to have a principal who also teaches full-time. We are seeking to approve the calling of a new 6th-8th grade teacher so that Mr. Raddatz can switch to focusing his time on administrative duties. If the change is approved, we will also set a date to begin calling for the new teacher.



Special Services in November

St. John will be offering two special services this month. For those who wish to go deer hunting and will not be available over opening weekend, Pastor Wilke will hold a special service on Thursday, November 20th at 6:30 pm. The following week will bring about our annual Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 26th, also at 6:30 pm. See you there!



JAM Volunteers Needed

Our newest ministry, JAM (Jesus and Me), is off to a great start! Children have been enjoying the crafts, songs, Bible lessons, and more that are presented at their level during church. Leaders have likewise been enjoying their time with the children, but more helpers are being sought so that adults may take turns between serving in JAM and attending regular worship services themselves. If you are middle school age or older and interested in helping us out, please speak with Kari Bern, Heather Guggenbuehl, or Ben Evenson to get started.



Veteran's Day Breakfast and Service

FVL will be holding its annual Veteran's Day breakfast and service on Tuesday, November 11th, at 8:30 am. Veterans and their families are welcome to sign up online to attend.

November Church Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in November!

Nov 1 Sharon Demerath
Nov 1 Betty Schmidt
Nov 5 Monty Reynolds
Nov 5 Perry Schisel
Nov 5 Jeffery Sonabend
Nov 5 Violet Sundin
Nov 5 Nicholas Van Schyndel
Nov 6 Robbie Pohlman
Nov 7 Melissa Vanderkelon
Nov 11 Brenda Kussow
Nov 12 Silvia Sieker
Nov 13 Peter Bowers

Nov 15 Aaron Wierschke
Nov 20 Tracy Golden
Nov 21 Alexis Luedtke



Nov 23 Martha Schmidt
Nov 23 Joan Zahn
Nov 25 Brad Hein
Nov 25 Danielle Vande Hey
Nov 26 Amy Vickman
Nov 27 Elliott Olp
Nov 27 Russell Otten
Nov 28 Alois (Lloyd) Patoka
Nov 28 Brenda Pohlman
Nov 28 Amelia Theunis
Nov 29 Michele Drootosan
Nov 29 Jayden Hein

School Highlights



Open Board of Education Meeting

Twice a year- in November and February- the Board of Education invites parents to attend a meeting. This month's open meeting is on Tuesday, November 4th at 5:30 pm. In addition to the biannual open meetings, parents are invited to contact the board of education anytime they want an issue addressed by e-mailing boe@stjohnwrightstown.com.



Upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences- November 5th and 6th

With the first quarter of school complete, we look to hold Parent-Teacher Conferences for the whole school. Conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 5th and Thursday, November 6th. Fifteen minute time slots are available from 3:00 until 6:00 pm each day. A sign-up was sent out; if you have not found it, please contact your teacher. Additionally, if you are unable to make it on those days or wish to meet for a longer time with teachers, please communicate with them directly to arrange an alternate date. The conferences are considered required and have a large impact on your child's education, so please make every effort to attend.

Please note that there will be no after school care available for the two conference days.

8th Grade Scheduling Nights at FVL

Scheduling nights are approaching quickly for incoming freshmen. Parents of 8th graders wishing to enroll their children at FVL for the 2026-2027 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 4 or 13, or to request a different date that fits your schedule. Contact the guidance department with any questions.

Staffing Change

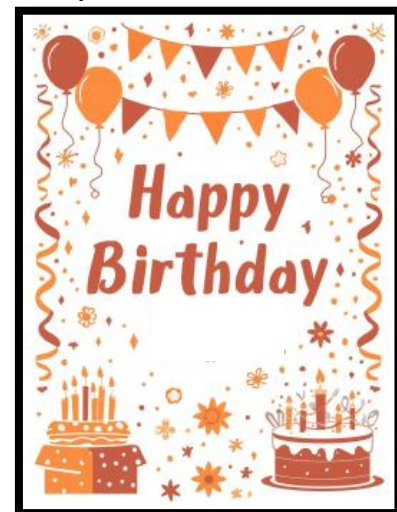
Mrs. Gamboa, who has been a valued member of our early childhood team, will be transitioning out of her role as Early Childhood teacher, into a different role within the Elementary department on November 7th. As she moves into a new role, we are grateful for the care, creativity, and dedication she brought to our Early Childhood community.

Beginning November 10, 2025, Ms. Mata-Perez will be stepping into the Early Childhood teacher role. She brings years of varied educational experience, a strong background in early childhood education and a passion for nurturing young learners. We are confident that Ms. Mata-Perez will foster a Christ-centered, safe, and engaging learning environment for your children.

Transitions like these are thoughtfully planned to ensure continuity and support for our students. Over the coming days, Ms. Mata-Perez will be introduced to the children and families, and we welcome your partnership in making this a smooth and positive experience. If you have any questions or would like to connect further, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tim Raddatz, Todd Coenen, or Ben Evenson.

November School Birthdays

Jude G.- November 6
Isaac M.- November 12
Jaxton G.- November 13
Elisa A.- November 24
Jacob H.- November 28
Jayden H.- November 29



Sports Opportunities through FVL

The Fox Valley Saints Wrestling Club, a combined effort of FVL and Xavier schools, is beginning their new season. There are co-ed and girls-only sessions available for children in grades 5K- 8th.

A dance clinic will be held on Saturday, November 15th for girls in grades 5K-8th. The Future Foxes Dance Camp will focus on the fundamentals of dance and technique. Participants will work on various dance skills and learn a short routine, which will be performed at our parent showcase. 5K-4th grade will work from 8:00-11:00 am, followed by a showcase. Grades 5-8 will meet from 1:00-4:00 pm, followed by a showcase.

A cheer and stunt clinic will run on Sunday, November 16th from 1:45- 5:00 pm. This clinic specifically focuses on the proper techniques and different styles of stunts and pyramids. It is a great opportunity to work with our grade school cheer programs.

For registration or more information about any of these opportunities, please visit fvlhs.org/future-foxes/youth-sports-camps.



WELS Apple Valley Pantry

The November collection for the pantry will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Donations may be dropped off at St. John prior to that date. The following items are in need at the pantry: adult cereals, canned corn, peas, carrots, and mixed veggies, chunky soups, stews and chilis, canned, diced, or stewed tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato and chicken soups, canned pasta sauce, spaghetti noodles, egg noodles, misc. pasta noodles, canned pasta, canned fruit cocktail, applesauce, instant boxed rice (14 oz), all rice side dishes, peanut butter, jam, helper meals, toilet paper, and paper towel.

Contact Us

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Pastor Robert Wilke	920-915-4870	revrwilke@gmail.com
Tim Raddatz, principal and 6 th -8 th grade teacher	920-636-5007	tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Natalie Schultz, 3 rd -5 th grade teacher	262-388-8892	natalie.schultz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Rebecca Wicks, 1 st -2 nd grade teacher	920-809-8648	rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com
McKenze Crowley, kindergarten teacher	605-390-6827	mckenze.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com
Jamie Buss, early childhood director and EC 3 teacher	920-538-0470	jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com
Leah Gamboa, EC 2 teacher	920-309-5037	leah.gamboa@stjohnwrightstown.com
Madie Otto, EC 1 teacher	920-629-1220	madie.otto@stjohnwrightstown.com
Claudia Puente, student services coordinator	920-716-8523	claudia.puente@stjohnwrightstown.com



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