



# 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 News	page 5
School News	page 6
Sunday School Registration	page 7
Help Needed Form	page 7
Contact Information	page 8

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



God has something very special to say on this subject:

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3).*

As we pursue being the very best we can be, it must never be at the expense of others. Nor should it be with the attitude that we are more deserving of what we have than others. The perfect example of humility is Jesus.

## Devotional Corner

### Dress Yourself with... Humility

“Jump roping capital of the World!” a sign in Bloomer, Wisconsin once read. “I am king of the World!” shouted the director of the movie Titanic after it won several Academy Awards. “USA! USA! USA!” shouted millions of Americans after our Olympic hockey team beat the Russians in 1980 and then went on to win the gold. We want to be the best in the world at something and to be able to shout: “We are number one!”

It is not all bad to be proud of our accomplishments. After all, it is God who has blessed us with our talents, and we want to express our appreciation for them. On the other hand, we need to realize that being first, last, or somewhere in between is not really all that important.

*What really matters is the attitude of our hearts.*

St. Paul wrote, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8)!

We have all failed to meet that standard of God’s expectations perfectly—having an attitude the same as Christ’s. Fortunately, Jesus humbled himself to take our place and bring us close to God. We have plenty more we would love to share with you about how Jesus lived and how we want to live in response to him.

Give us a call, or worship with us some Sunday.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike Gehl

# Worship With Us!

Worship Sundays at 7:45 or 10:15 am at 1537 Day St. Greenleaf  
Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:00 am.

Beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>: Worship service added Thursdays at 6:30 pm



## Christian Parenting Today:

### Clear Expectations for Kids

Excerpts from a Focus on the Family article compiled from parenting experts

“Stop that.”

“Clean this up.”

“Be nice to your sister.”

“I told you to knock it off.”

Do you find yourself giving similar vague instructions to your kids — to little effect? It seems children often seek to do exactly the opposite of what their parents tell them, whether because of distractions or just old-fashioned disobedience. But children misbehave for other reasons, too: Their parents may not have expressed their expectations clearly enough — or they’ve fallen into a pattern of inconsistent enforcement of those expectations.

Children thrive if parents can have clear expectations for behavior and enforce those standards consistently.

#### Establish guiding principles

When I was growing up, my parents developed a set of principles for life in our family, along with the consequences for violating those principles. Everyone understood the reasoning behind family rules and decisions.

As parents, we’ve tried to stick to the basic plan: Our kids will clearly understand the core principles that govern our everyday decisions. We want them to understand the basic values that shape their interactions with others — how they should resolve differences, how they should speak to one another. And as parents, we find that having our family’s values clearly defined up front makes it easier to enforce rules and stick to consequences.

— Dr. Greg Smalley

#### Ground expectations in reality

Are we expecting our kids to be . . . well, perfect? If someone were to ask us if we expect perfection, we would defensively respond, “Absolutely not!” But sometimes we’re not fully aware of our own expectations.

As parents, I think we need to keep our expectations anchored in reality, to anticipate mistakes and even foresee some misbehavior. It’s too easy to lose perspective of what is normal behavior in each age and stage of development. We often overestimate their ability to have self-control, to stay focused on a task and to handle social situations well.

Yes, there’s a fine line here. We do need to expect responsibility. We do need to expect obedience. We do need to expect social skills after we’ve trained our kids to those standards. But we shouldn’t be surprised when they fail at those things — making mistakes is part of how our kids’ brains develop. Most importantly, these mistakes are launching grounds for further learning. Our responses to their mistakes and poor choices must encourage that natural maturing process.

— Jill Savage



#### Expectations need training

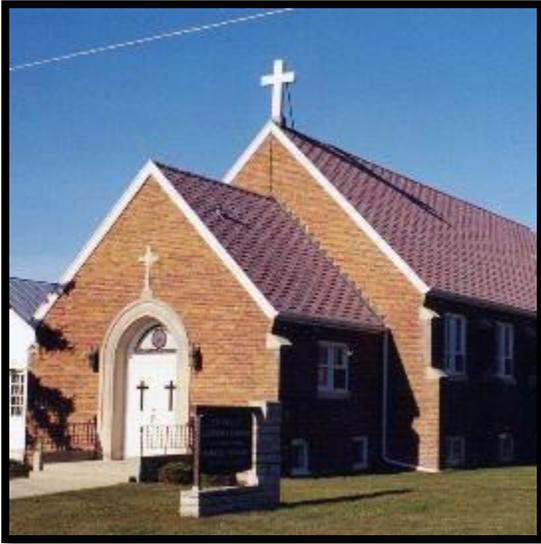
The process of teaching children how to do something can take time and effort, and it’s often faster and easier to just straighten their beds or vacuum their room ourselves. But I believe children can truly thrive if we remove the “inability factor.” So before asking them to do a chore on their own, work alongside them a few times showing them specifically how to do it. It takes repetition, gentle correcting and practice before children can succeed. What matters is that they are putting forth effort and trying their best. Encourage whenever you can. Focus much of your energy on praising those things he or she did well.

In our home, we try to make chore time a fun family event, and we’ve been amazed at how much our children can really help, even at a young age.

— Crystal Paine

*Article continues on page 8*

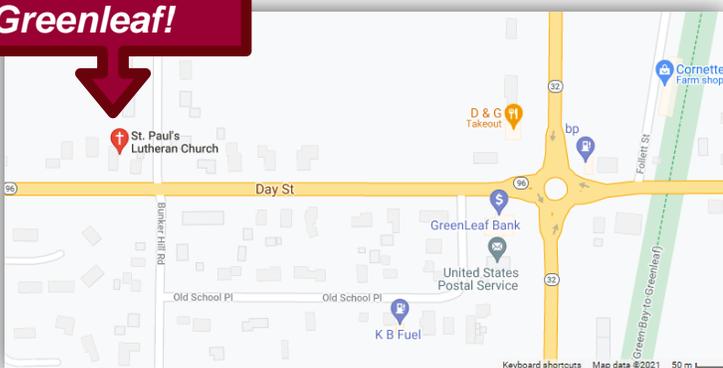
# Upcoming Events



## Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Our First Worship Service, Sunday School, and Bible Study at Greenleaf site

We have officially vacated our Wrightstown church building and will begin holding services at the former St. Paul Greenleaf building (now to be known as St. John Greenleaf). Join us at 1537 Day St. for worship, Bible Study, and Sunday School. Due to the smaller size, additional worship opportunities will be offered. Services will be held at 7:45 and 10:15 am on Sundays and, beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm on Thursdays. Sunday School and Bible Study will be held between Sunday services at 9:00 am.

**Now St. John,  
Greenleaf!**



## Sunday, October 31st - Trunk or Treat

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat event! Come in your costumes, tour the decorated cars, and gather up plenty of goodies before heading out into your neighborhood for trick-or-treating. Interested in bringing your car and handing out treats? Contact Mr. Raddatz to sign up. Trunk or Treat will be held from 2:00-3:30 pm.

## Mark Your Calendars!

- October 3- First service at Day St. campus  
Sunday School begins
- October 6- No catechism class
- October 14- Thursday night services begin
- October 17- All member open forum between services
- October 20- School pictures day
- October 22- Hot Lunch
- October 25- Virtual PTO Meeting
- October 28-29- No School/ Teacher Conferences
- October 31- Trunk or Treat
- November 2- End of first quarter of school

## Church Highlights

### Many Thanks to Our Movers!

Our church building move has taken a lot of work, and several members stepped up to get everything done. Many thanks to all those who sorted, boxed, moved, stored, deconstructed, and/or cleaned as we prepared to transfer ownership. There was a huge amount of work, and your help has been invaluable as we go through this bittersweet transition!

Please continue to keep our church and school in your prayers as we work towards a new, combined campus. There will be plenty of additional opportunities for volunteers and contributors as our dreams become reality!



### Register Now For Sunday School!

Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the 1537 Day St. location. Please register now by filling out the form on page 7 and turning it in to church or school or by visiting [www.stjohnwrightstown.com/sundayschoolregistration](http://www.stjohnwrightstown.com/sundayschoolregistration)



### Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Pastor Gehl and Pastor Wilke, please speak with Karen Geiger, Carol Just, or another member of the Events Committee. There will also be a box at the back of the Greenleaf church for those who wish to contribute towards a group gift or bring personal gifts.

## Church Birthdays

**Happy Birthday to the following church members celebrating in the month of October!**

Oct 1 Bryce Herlache  
Oct 2 Lisa Pohlman  
Oct 3 Raymond Gabriel  
Oct 4 Dominic Myers  
Oct 5 Dale Abrahamson  
Oct 6 Bernice Klister  
Oct 6 Jason Uitenbroek  
Oct 7 Thomas Meulemans  
Oct 8 David Rosenbaum  
Oct 10 Gavin Hein

Oct 10 Carl Uitenbroek  
Oct 13 Jacob Bruecker  
Oct 13 Kurt Laabs  
Oct 14 Brian Bowers  
Oct 14 Owen Ratkowski  
Oct 14 Arlen Wicks  
Oct 15 Cecelia Raddatz  
Oct 18 Eric Olp  
Oct 19 Kevin Vande Hey  
Oct 22 Robert Maass

Oct 23 Michael Pennenberg  
Oct 23 Lynn Ratkowski  
Oct 24 Caleb Ritter  
Oct 24 Jordan Schmidt  
Oct 26 Shelly Meulemans  
Oct 28 Hannah Kraus  
Oct 28 Aspen Mollen  
Oct 29 Leah Cisler  
Oct 31 Amy Leonhard

## School Highlights



### Picture Day Coming Soon

School pictures for all classes will take place on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. A retake/ missing student day will be announced later for anyone who is not able to attend on the 20<sup>th</sup> or for anyone not satisfied with their pictures. Early childhood students who do not normally attend on Wednesdays may either come early in the school day or wait for retake day to get their pictures taken.



### Free Lunch Menu Posted

For those who want to know the expected menu for the WASD free lunch program, please check the bulletin board in the school entryway—or visit [Wrightstown.k12.wi.us](http://Wrightstown.k12.wi.us), click the silverware icon, select the 4K-5 Lunch option, and click “view menu”. Parents wishing to opt into or out of the program should contact Mr. Raddatz.



### Janitor Needed

St. John Lutheran School is currently seeking applicants for a janitorial position. The position offers flexible timing with 10 hours a week and a starting wage of \$10/hr. Please contact Mr. Raddatz for more information.



### School Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following students celebrating in the month of October!

- October 3- Everett R.
- October 3- Aiden R.
- October 5- Maylee M.
- October 10- Gavin H.
- October 11- Brock G.
- October 14- Arlen W.
- October 15- Cecelia R.
- October 25- Bailee W.
- October 28- Hannah K.
- October 30- Braxton E.

# *Sunday School Registration Form*

**\*Please note that Sunday School will begin on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Greenleaf site and will run through the rest of the school year.**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' phones: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' emails: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Special information (allergies, medical needs, ect): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## *In Need of Help?*

We would like to be able to offer sections in this monthly newsletter for a prayer corner and volunteer opportunities. If you or your family is in need of any such help, please fill out this form, detach it, and bring it to the church or school office.

Name of person/family requesting help: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of help requested (circle any that apply):    Pastor Visit        Prayer        Volunteer Help

Additional details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Best way to follow up:    Call        Text        E-mail

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Clear Expectations for Kids

*(Continued here from page 3)*

## Clear and consistent correction

We are sure you didn't have to teach your 2-year-old to scream, "No!" or "Mine!" Humans have an innate tendency to be selfish. Our job as parents is to minimize their negative tendencies, to accentuate the positive and help our kids discover and follow God's plan. We have to outlast, outthink and outmaneuver our children. We need to discipline them consistently, even when we are tired, when we are preoccupied, when we are frustrated or angry, when we would rather be relaxing. The following principles will help you ensure that your discipline is consistent and fair:

*Train first.* We should never punish for something a child didn't know was wrong. In addition, irresponsibility should not be punished unless it is deliberate and defiant. A child should never be made to feel guilty for being a child, and yet too often parents use discipline to respond to spilled milk.

*The punishment should fit the offense.* A small infraction should be met with a small form of correction. A big wrongdoing should be met with more stringent correction.

*Don't lose control.* No punishment should ever be given in anger. — Bill & Pam Farrel

## Holding the line with strong-willed kids

As you begin setting limits and consequences with your child, she will almost certainly test and protest. Stick with your boundaries, be fair but consistent, and empathize with your child's emotional reactions. Over time, your child will develop a healthy fear of consequences.

This anticipatory anxiety is like a little warning light in your child's head that helps him think. This is a blessing to your child. For many parents, this occasion represents the first significant victory in child rearing with boundaries. It takes trial and error and lots of effort to find what losses and consequences matter to the child, and it takes lots of stamina to hold the line. Many parents can remember the day when they saw a look of doubt and uncertainty pass over their child's face as he realized that his parents were actually going to win the battle by sticking to their boundaries.

We must stress that this fear of consequences should not be a fear of losing love. Your child needs to know you are constantly connected and emotionally there with her, no matter what the infraction. The message is, "I love you, but you have chosen something difficult for yourself."

— Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend

Visit [www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/clear-expectations-for-kids/](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/clear-expectations-for-kids/) to see the full article.

## Contact Us

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Pastor Robert Wilke	920-915-4870	revrwilke@gmail.com
Tim Raddatz, principal and 2 <sup>th</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	920-636-5007	tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Dillon Solomon, 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	248-525-3700	dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com
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