

# *The Messenger*

*January 2025 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: How can I be happy when the future is so uncertain?**

*“Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” Matthew 13:16*

Every generation talks about the “good ole days.” As we embark on a new year, many people would be more than happy to go back to the “good ole days” of years ago.

Today, stock market swoons, foreclosures, and unemployment are all too common. Grumbling and complaining occur as many people find it difficult to provide for their personal needs. These things, along with other personal struggles, may make us long for the “good ole days.”

Amidst all the turmoil, even when nest eggs crack and portfolios decline, we can still move forward with certainty that all of our needs will be met. Why? Because Jesus has met all of our true needs and promises to provide for our future!

Jesus came into the world so that we can be happy every day with the kind of joy that only he can provide. He blesses us and makes us happy by the powerful things he accomplished in our place: he lived a perfect life as our substitute; he died on the cross to win forgiveness of sins for each of us; and he won the victory over sin, death, and the devil by his triumphant resurrection from the grave.

God tells us about all these blessings in the Bible. In his written Word, God’s plan for our future is laid out, and we are informed about how Jesus fulfilled God’s saving will for us. Jesus said, “Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” Our Savior teaches us that we can be happy as we give attention to God’s love, as it is described and explained for us on the pages of the Bible.

Jesus’ work is not limited to the spans of generations; it is a gift to all people for all time. God’s faithfulness to his world of people has remained the one constant since he created all things. Trusting in his love, we can overcome the concerns we have due to personal circumstances. We can be truly happy because we see in the Bible how our Savior gave his life for us and how he is now preparing for us an eternal home in heaven, the place of unbridled joy.

God invites everyone to hear the good news of Jesus and celebrate the wonderful message of salvation. With that confidence, we do not have to look back to the “good ole days” for a sense of happiness but rather look forward to the eternal happiness that awaits us in heaven—all because of God’s great love for us in Jesus!



## **Worship With Us!**

**Worship Services: Sundays at 9:00 am**

**Bible Class and Sundry School: Sundays at 10:15 am**

# Christian Parenting Today

## Christian Parenting Today: Help Your Child Make Good Friends- A Focus on the Family Article by Shaunti Feldhahn



How can you help your child make good friends? Teach children that making friends starts with being one.

Alice's heart dropped as her daughter ran into the house, dumped her backpack on her bedroom floor and started sobbing on her bed. Sixth-graders could be so cruel.

Alice walked into the bedroom, and her daughter said, between sobs, "Don't make me go back to school. Everyone hates me!"

Alice gave her girl a tight hug. "They don't hate you, sweetheart."

"But I don't have any friends," the girl wailed.

"Sure you do. Debbie was just over here the other day."

The young girl sniffed. "Yes, Debbie." She looked hopelessly at her mother and asked, "Who else?"

Alice felt uncomfortable. "Well . . . how about Angie?"

"Angie hasn't talked to me in months, Mom. Neither has Patty or Lara." She started crying again. "All the kids from youth group make excuses to avoid inviting me to things. I don't have any friends!"

### The art of approaching others

Alice hugged her again, wondering what she could possibly say. Her daughter was right — she was the kid nobody liked. How could she help her daughter find friends? She was a sweet child but didn't understand that she was turning people off by talking too much, being oversensitive and not knowing how to approach others in an appropriate way.

Alice understood that the only way to help her daughter find a friend was to teach her how to be a friend. So the effort began.

That little girl eventually learned how to be a good friend and grew up to be someone who has many great friends.

How do I know? I was that young girl.

Over time, I learned some life-changing principles that continue to help me build friendships today. Here are three basic habits you can teach your children to help them thrive during the critical years of learning about friendship.

**Help your child make good friends habit No. 1: Ask others about themselves.** One of the most eye-opening facts I learned about friendship was this: To be a good friend, you don't tell people about yourself. You ask them about themselves. Until then, my conversations had been of the "Me, too!" variety as I desperately tried to fit in. But I learned that when you ask, "What does your family do for summer vacation?" and urge another kid to talk about herself, she just might think you're pretty cool.

Children are often seen as easier to be around when they stop talking about themselves (unless asked) and try to learn things about other people.

Gradually coach your kids to learn at least one or two things a week that they didn't know about a friend — or someone they want as a friend. Teach them to ask questions like: "What was your favorite vacation?" "What are your favorite video games?" (My son's favorite "friend topic" has to do with what level of a certain video game each boy is on. I must confess I don't understand a word of it, but it sure gets them energized!

*Article continues on page 6*



# Upcoming Events



## New Member Welcome Meal- Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

It has been some time since we paused to welcome new members. Join us on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at a new member welcome meal following our regular worship, giving us a chance to get to know newer families better. Turkey and hashbrowns will be provided. Families are also asked to bring in delicious pot luck items. Everyone is welcome. Please see the sign-up sheets at the back of church if you are planning on attending and bringing a dish to pass.



## Blood Drive- Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

January is National Blood Donor Month, and St. John will once again be hosting a blood drive. Please consider donating and/or volunteering during the drive on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. The drive will last from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. We are looking for donators, help setting up and breaking down, help with food, and people to help run registrations. There is an especially high need for platelet donations at the moment- contact the blood center if you are able to donate these. Watch the table in the worship area hallway for sign-ups for donation times and volunteering slots.

## Multi-Choir Concert- Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Emmanuel, New London will be playing host to multiple local choirs on February 1<sup>st</sup>. A concert including our own congregation's choir will begin at 1:00 pm. Each choir will present a couple pieces of their own as well as joining together for mass pieces at the beginning and end of the concert.



## Estate Planning Seminar at FVL- Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a free seminar on Estate Planning, sponsored by the FVL Mission Advancement Office. Hear professionals share helpful information for those who have no estate plan or who are looking to update an old one. Go to [fvlhs.org/seminar](http://fvlhs.org/seminar) to find details and the RSVP link for the seminar on Tuesday, January 14, at 6:00 pm. The seminar will be held in the FVLHS media center.

## Mark Your Calendars!

- January 1- Breakfast and Bible Study
- January 2- Classes Resume
- January 7- Board of Education Meeting
- January 10- Hot Lunch  
End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
- January 12- New Member Welcome Meal
- January 13- Church Council Meeting
- January 14- Monthly Fellowship Meal  
Estate Planning Seminar at FVL
- January 15- Breakfast and Bible Study
- January 24- Hot Lunch
- January 26- Miss Crowley's Class Sings in Church  
Adult Bible Study Recommences
- January 27- PTO Meeting
- January 28- Blood Drive
- February 1- Choirs Concert at Emmanuel, New London

# News Highlights

## Continued Prayers for Those Currently Holding Calls

St. John has had several outgoing and incoming calls recently. Please continue to pray for those who are currently deliberating calls:

- -On December 1<sup>st</sup>, voters elected to call Rev. Jeffrey J. Schmidt to be our new pastor. Pastor Schmidt currently serves at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Flint, MI. You may reach out to him at 810-931-6794 or [jjschmidt@msn.com](mailto:jjschmidt@msn.com) to discuss his potential ministry here at St. John.
- -Jamie Buss received a call on December 8<sup>th</sup> to become Early Childhood Director at First German School in Manitowoc, WI. She currently serves as our Early Childhood Director and EC3 classroom teacher.
- -Dillon Solomon received a call on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to be principal and second grade teacher at Risen Savior Academy in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. He currently serves as our Dean of Students and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

Please keep all three individuals and their families in your prayers as they deliberate between continuing in their current ministries or accepting the calls to a new location. Jamie and Dillon's contact information is on the following page if you wish to reach out to them with your encouragement.

## End of Second Quarter- Friday, January 10th

We are nearly halfway through our school year! The second quarter will wrap up on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Report cards for grades K-8 will come out during the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>. There will not be scheduled conferences or early childhood reports, though parents are welcome to contact their children's teachers at any time to discuss their progress.



## Fang's Reading Club for 2025

St. John Lutheran School is pleased to once again join with the Timber Rattlers in Fang's Reading Club! Watch for materials coming home in the next weeks about how your child can read to earn prizes with the Timber Rattlers, including a ticket to a home game on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional tickets will be available to school families and congregation members at a reduced rate through the program as the date approaches. Mark your calendars now to attend!

## Church and School Birthdays

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

Jan 2 Ryan Theunis	Jan 12 Amber Schroeder
Jan 3 Luke Micke	Jan 17 Henry Ollila
Jan 3 Deborah Schaeuble	Jan 20 Leo Solomon
Jan 4 Ronald Zahn	Jan 21 Noah Penningberg
Jan 4 Jack Zirbel	Jan 22 Brent Ritter
Jan 6 Kendra Pohlman	Jan 23 August Otto
Jan 7 Weston Herlache	Jan 24 Kristen Kraus
Jan 7 Faye Patoka	Jan 28 Rodney Kussow
Jan 8 Ronald Laabs	Jan 28 Kane Schmidt
Jan 9 Michaela Bowers	Jan 28 Levi Schmidt
Jan 9 Sara Verheyen	Jan 28 Lorraine Slaters
Jan 11 Brett Toseland	Jan 29 Karen Geiger
Jan 12 James Calaway	Jan 29 Lawsen Leick
Jan 12 Stephen Johnson	Jan 30 Daniel Schmidt
Jan 12 Chad Schmidt	



### Happy birthday to our January celebrants at school!

Roman H.- Jan 4
Miss Puente- Jan 9
Laura F.- Jan 10
Austin B.- Jan 16
Emerson D.- Jan 16
Levi J.- Jan 16
Lilith Splan- Jan 17
Korryn G.- Jan 19
Nash B.- Jan 28
Turner G.- Jan 29
Joseph L.- Jan 31

# Help Your Child Make Friends

Article continues from page 3

**Help your child make good friends habit No. 2: Make others comfortable.** Another prerequisite for being a good friend is observing how others feel and setting them at ease. Young children can be naturally self-focused, not realizing, for example, that the buddy they've invited over is watching instead of helping build the LEGO tower. Instead of simply instructing your child to include his friend in playing, pull him aside for a moment and ask, "Joey, what do you think Bobby feels like when you're doing all the building and not letting him play?"

Teaching sensitivity becomes especially important during the middle school years when kids aren't as accepting of one another and are much more aware of the social pecking order. Kids need to know that they don't have to be close buddies with everyone, but they

do have to be sensitive to the feelings of others. Teach a confident child to put himself in the shoes of an insecure classmate, and help an insecure child understand that even kids who look confident often are not.

**Help your child make good friends habit No. 3: Reach out.** Ultimately, the only way for children to become friends is to spend time together. That means someone has to take the initiative, and someone has to facilitate the plan. Before kids can drive, a lot of their success as a friend will depend on you. Your daughter can say she wants to have Jennie over to visit, but she'll need your help to make that happen.

As children get into the preteen years, a huge part of being a good friend includes taking the risk of reaching out and inviting someone over to your house. This key friendship skill can start with you prompting your kids. You can ask, "Who do you want to get together with? OK, good. Why don't you ask her if she'd like to come over this Saturday?"

You can help your child make good friends by encouraging them to practice these habits. As your child sees that these relational habits actually work, this progress will be the best possible incentive to continue trying.

*Visit [FocusontheFamily.com/parenting](http://FocusontheFamily.com/parenting) for more great articles.*

## Contact Us

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Tim Raddatz, principal and 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	920-636-5007	<a href="mailto:tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com">tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com</a>
Dillon Solomon, dean of students and 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade teacher	248-525-3700	<a href="mailto:dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com">dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com</a>
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McKenze Crowley, kindergarten and 1 <sup>st</sup> grade teacher	605-390-6827	<a href="mailto:mckenze.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com">mckenze.crowley@stjohnwrightstown.com</a>
Jamie Buss, early childhood director and EC 3 teacher	920-538-0470	<a href="mailto:jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com">jamie.buss@stjohnwrightstown.com</a>
Leah Gamboa, EC 2 teacher	920-309-5037	<a href="mailto:leah.gamboa@stjohnwrightstown.com">leah.gamboa@stjohnwrightstown.com</a>
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