

The Messenger

April 2025 Edition

A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

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



Devotion Corner: How happy can I be when I'm scared of dying?

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
Revelation 14:13*

Many things are scary. Watching your infant wiggle out of the car carrier that you had momentarily set on the table—that's scary. Witnessing a car swerve into oncoming traffic— that's scary. But of all the scary things, death for many people is the scariest.

It's scary because of what we know and don't know. We know death is certain. Its cloud hangs over us at every traffic intersection, on every consult with our doctor, and during every violent storm. What we don't know is what dying is like or what, if anything, happens after death.

If there is no God, then death is the end and that's it. If so, then death may be final and sad, but it's hardly something to be afraid of. However, if there is existence after death and God is waiting to judge us for all the things we have done, then death is more than sad. It's scary.

God does exist. There are no ifs about that. The Bible pinpoints the greatest fear about dying and facing God: "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). Yes, that's scary! So how happy can I be when I'm scared of dying?

If it were up to us to find happiness in the face of death, we would be on an impossible journey. What

we need to calm our fears and to find happiness is for someone to do something about death. The good news is that someone has.

God, who awaits you after death, sent Jesus to destroy death's fear. Jesus began that work by obeying God's laws for you. Then he traded places with you. He gave you his perfect life in exchange for your sins. And so, with your sins laid on him, he suffered a most horrible death, which earned God's forgiveness for you. With all sin forgiven, death lost its power. So, three days after his burial, Jesus rose to life from the dead. He defeated death so that it can no longer hold the lives and bodies of those it has claimed. God will raise all people from the dead.

Believe this good news and know for sure that God waits for you with open arms to welcome you into his heaven. This is why God tells us in the Bible: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

The unknown experience of death may still be scary for you, but because death has been conquered by Jesus Christ, you can live happily, now and ever after.



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: When You Feel Inadequate as a Parent, Remember...

A Forward in Christ Article with various authors



I know I'm not a perfect parent. God's Word, my conscience, my children, and society remind me of that regularly. It's easy to focus on that and lose sight of the other truths that God's Word reveals or the moments when I do get it right. That's why I think it's important to be reminded continually of some basic Christian parenting truths. When you feel inadequate as a parent, remember . . . *Nicole Balza*

It's the end of the day. The kids are settled into bed for the night. You have a few minutes to relax and reflect on the day. A lot of great things happened today, but as you reflect, that voice creeps in reminding you of the not-so-pleasant moments. Your patience may have worn a bit thin trying to get them to school or activities on time. You overheard your child speaking harshly to a sibling, using words you've used in the past. That voice loves to tell you that all of these moments had something to do with you and your parenting. That feeling of inadequacy can be defeating and discouraging. "If only I . . ."

Parenting is full of joys and precious moments. It's also an overwhelming responsibility. It's not surprising to feel ill-equipped. Countless books have been written, and maybe you've read some of them. They may have good suggestions and ideas. But at the end of the day, it's on you. It's easy to look at those moments of struggle and be critical of yourself. *If only I . . .*, you may think.

This is a great time to turn to the Word. **Be reminded that being a parent is a God-given role.** God didn't give children only to perfect parents. Those parents don't exist. God so often uses us as flawed individuals

to carry out his work. Parenting is just that—his work. We aren't perfect, but we have a perfect Savior who dearly loves us and our children.

For our impatience, harsh words, and lack of understanding for our children, we go first to Jesus for his forgiveness. As forgiven children of God, we can go to our children and admit when we're wrong and ask them for forgiveness. What a gift and model for them. We also embrace our role of setting boundaries, nurturing and directing our children on their path to growing up guided by the Word.

God also blessed us with friends and family. Reach out to that trusted individual who can listen and encourage you in your God-given role. Together you can build each other up.

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him" (Psalm 127:3). What a gift God has given us in our children! With this gift comes his promise to be with us, encourage us, guide us, and bless the children he has given us.

"If only . . ." No need. We have God the Father with us.
-Cindi Holman

Who better to write about parental inadequacy than Jim Aderman? I have a half-century's experience as an inadequate parent and grandparent.

I know I am inadequate because I don't measure up to the parenting articles I read. When my kids were growing up, they frequently pointed out how I could improve as a parent. Of course, God's Word points out my fatherly failures. And my conscience taunts, "See, you are a failure."

Wait. That's not the place to start this article. Let me begin again.

Who better to write an article about being an inadequate parent than the more-than-adequate "Papa" Aderman? **What? Jim Aderman is an adequate parent?** Yes. Grace allows me to claim for my parenting what Paul claimed for his apostleship: "Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God" (2 Corinthians 3:4,5).

Article continues on page 4

Christian Parenting Today

Continued from page 3

There's no doubt I fail as a parent. I am like Paul who regularly failed as a child of God (Romans 7:19). But the foundational truth for every believer is that, in Jesus, we are nonetheless competent. Here's why: "Our competence comes from God."

When I evaluate my parenting, I first remind myself of the high position Jesus has won for me. I am a victorious child of God who is seated with him in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). I am a temple where the Holy Spirit lives (1 Corinthians 6:19). Good Friday's "It is finished" (John 19:30) proves it.

But don't miss this: Grace-granted competency does not allow me to excuse my parenting ineptness. It does not allow me to justify continuing to fail. My high position empowers me to own my failures, confess them, celebrate my forgiveness for them, and energetically press forward toward living as the competent, adequate parent that grace declares I am.

In Jesus, you are also a competent, adequate parent. Stand strong in that truth. *-James Aderman*

The elaborate castle cake was completed in the wee hours of the morning. Excited to present the cake to her young son, the exhausted mother fell asleep with dreams of frosted turrets and knights on guard. Imagine her dismay the next day when the birthday boy innocently asked, "Where's the dungeon?"

Whether it's the trip home from the hospital with your tiny newborn strapped tightly into her car seat ("Do we even know what we're doing?"); dealing with unexpected medical, behavioral, or academic challenges; or losing your cool when the milk spills once too often, parenting definitely has times when even the most experienced can feel inadequate. And just when you think you've figured out one stage, your child moves into another or his sibling has completely different needs. Not to mention, when you take a break and check social media, you notice other families with better Christmas traditions, better summer vacations, and better kids than you! What is a parent to do?

First, take comfort in your identity as a redeemed child of God. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). We are imperfect, inadequate, and sinful, and we live in an imperfect world. But because Jesus was completely perfect and sinless for us and because the Holy Spirit has brought us to faith in this Savior, every discipline mistake, every impatient moment, every incorrect decision, every misplaced priority is forgiven.

And as you read the Bible, note that its pages are full of fallen sinners loved and forgiven by our heavenly Father!

In a Christian family, our inadequacies are covered by the perfect love of Jesus.

Second, ask God to keep you and your God-given family close to him through regular worship, Bible study, devotions, prayer, and the use of his precious sacraments. These spiritual gifts will strengthen and uphold you in the long days and nights of parenting. Lean on the blessings of the supports God places around you—your spouse, extended family, friends, pastors, teachers, and babysitters. A talk with fellow parents will reveal that the tooth fairy forgot to come to their child's pillow too and they are going through some of the same joys and concerns that you face. Don't be afraid to seek professional help if the feelings of inadequacy are overwhelming.

Finally, keep a mental or a real list of parenting positives. Thank God for the amazing road trips; the new puppy; the walks to the library; bedtime stories; brownie baking; snow day sledding; summer beach days; the fabulous grad party; and the backyard wedding. Most important, thank God for the times you brought your child to Jesus' feet through Baptism, regular worship, confirmation, and Christian education. Yes, there will still be times when you make dinner for four people and five are home or your job gets in the way of family time or you make outright parenting mistakes, but sometimes you can make a dungeon cake for your son's 28th birthday and all is well. In a Christian family, our inadequacies are covered by the perfect love of Jesus. That is enough! *-Ann Ponath*

See the article at forwardinchrist.net/feel-inadequate-as-parent/



Upcoming Events



Timber Rattlers Dash for Cash- Saturday, April 5

Calling all St. John Lutheran Wrightstown families and friends! Come and watch Mr. Dillon Solomon Dash for Cash down on the field prior to the Timber Rattlers game on Saturday, April 5th! The Dash for Cash begins at 12:15, followed by the game at 1:05, so be sure to get there early. You won't want to miss this exciting event, plus Mr. Solomon needs your help cheering him on! Reserve your discounted tickets at <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/StJohnWrightstown2025>. \$3 of every ticket sold through this link will be donated back to the school and an additional \$1 will go towards the prize pot. Last day to purchase tickets for our section is Wednesday, April 2nd.

School families, please note that this is a separate event and game than the Fang's Reading Club program and the prize vouchers will not apply to this game.



Clays for Cardinals- Saturday, April 19

Clays for Cardinals fundraiser is just weeks away! If you haven't yet signed up to attend, make sure you do that. There are still slots left for shooting and painting, or just come for dinner and the silent auction. You can sign up at signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4DABAB23ABFF2-55166715-clays

There will be plenty to bid on for the silent auction! We'll start posting pics of some of the baskets soon on the PTO Facebook page. We're still accepting baskets if you or your employer would like to donate a basket. We also have a themed basket per classroom that you can help fill. The sign up for those items is here- www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4DABAB23ABFF2-55167102-clays

We also now have a donor that is willing to match up to \$10,000 in combined sponsorships!! Maybe you, your employer, or a group of friends can help maximize this offer! Contact Courtney Schisel, Janet Coenen, or Ben Evenson with questions on the event or sponsorships.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 1- Long-Term Care Seminar at FVL

April 2- Breakfast and Bible Study

Lenten Worship

April 2-3- Parent/Teacher Conferences

No after School Program

April 5- Timber Rattlers Dash for Cash

April 6- Special Voter's Meeting

April 7- School Spirit Week Begins

Dress Like Your Parent Day

April 8- Sports Dress Up Day

Fellowship Meal

April 9- Dress Like Your Favorite Celebrity Day

Lenten Worship

April 10- Neon Dress Up Day

April 11- Pajama Day

Hot Lunch

FVL's FoxFest Dinner Auction

April 12- Easter Egg Scramble

April 13- Call Meeting

April 16- Breakfast and Bible Study

April 17- Last Day for School Choice

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 18- No School

Good Friday Worship

April 19- Clays for Cardinals

April 20- Easter Sunday Worship and Breakfast

April 21- No School

April 25- Hot Lunch

April 26- Cardinal Hoopers Basketball

April 27- Confirmation Worship

April 28- PTO Meeting

April 30- EC Play Day

May 1- Family Night at the Timber Rattlers

May 4- Farewell to Mr. Solomon Meal

Church Highlights



Holy Week Worship

We will continue to have Wednesday night Lenten worship on April 2nd and 9th. We will also have Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30 pm on April 17 and Good Friday worship at 6:30 on April 18th. On Sunday, April 20th, there will be a Sunrise Easter Service at 7:00 am, as well as a Festival Service at 10:00 am. Please note that there will be no 9:00 am service. Easter Breakfast will be served by the men of the congregation between the services.

Confirmation Sunday Approaches

Sunday, April 27th will be this year's confirmation date. Come and celebrate with our eighth graders on this important occasion!

Pastor Wilke Commits to Stay

Pastor Wilke has agreed to stay on as a full-time Pastor with St. John for the near future. His commitment will allow St. John to take more time in the search for a permanent pastor. He will continue to preach on alternate Sundays and will be available for all spiritual needs at St. John.



Teacher Call Meeting- Sunday, April 13th

Mrs. Adrienne Bengel returned her call to St. John, leaving us still without a 3-5th grade teacher for the upcoming school year but allowing us enough time to make another call before the calling window closes. We will meet on Sunday, April 13th after church to meet and make another call. Please keep our church and school in your prayers as we continue our search.



Solomons Farewell Dinner- Sunday, May 4th

Join us in celebrating Mr. Solomon's service to St. John and in wishing his family well as they move to Florida. Plan to attend a luncheon after church on Sunday, May 4th. Notes and gifts of appreciation will be gathered prior to the celebration.

Church Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in April!

Apr 1 Bea Ambrosius
Apr 2 Bryce Denor
Apr 2 Brooklyn Verheyen
Apr 3 Savannah Sommers
Apr 3 Cameron Steiner
Apr 4 April Leick
Apr 9 Avery Asman
Apr 9 Hadley Schisel
Apr 11 Michelle Bruecker
Apr 11 Lincoln Wichman
Apr 12 Arabella Evenson
Apr 12 Dillon Solomon
Apr 14 Roy Schisel



Apr 16 Nash Bern
Apr 16 William Olp
Apr 19 Heather Bush
Apr 21 Jessica Laabs
Apr 21 Matthew Laabs
Apr 21 Ruth Zittlow
Apr 22 Kourtney Gardner
Apr 28 Brandon Beard
Apr 28 Blakely Guggenbuehl
Apr 28 Amy Vande Hey
Apr 29 Aaron Spatchek
Apr 30 Judy Breister
Apr 30 Dianne Calaway

School Highlights



Spirit Week- April 7th-11th

Our student council has picked five fun themed days for our annual spirit week! Students of all ages can dress up to celebrate.



Monday- Dress Like Your Parent Day

Give us your best (or worst) interpretation of how you see your parents!



Tuesday- Sports Dress Up Day

Show us your team spirit, whether you are supporting our own cardinals or a favorite national team!



Wednesday- Dress Like Your Favorite Celebrity

Who do you most admire- a singer, a YouTuber, a movie star, a politician, or an athlete? Show us who you stan.



Thursday- Neon Day

Dress so brightly that the teachers will need sunglasses!



Friday- Pajama Day/Hot Lunch

We have multiple ways to be lazy... no need to change clothes or pack a lunch today!



Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences- April 2-3

The end of the third quarter is quickly approaching, and we will be holding parent-teacher conferences once families have had a chance to look over their children's report cards. Be sure that you are signed up for a slot on Wednesday, April 2nd or Thursday, April 3rd. Conferences will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 pm each day. We do ask all families to come in for a conference at this time of the year, so if you cannot make either date, please contact your teacher to set up an alternate meeting time. Note that there will not be an after-school program on conference nights.

Cardinal Hoopers Basketball

Unfortunate weather conditions prevented some of our prior dates for basketball club from working out, but we are all set to give it another go during April and May. Make sure your children are signed, since the first session will begin on April 26th!

School Birthdays

Happy birthday to our April school celebrants!

Savannah S.- April 3

Hadley S.- April 9

Lincoln W.- April 11

Mr. Solomon- April 12

Montzerrath A.A.- April 13

Nash B.- April 16

Kennedy L.- April 23

Blakely G.- April 28



More Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Scramble

Our annual Easter Egg Scramble is approaching! Save the date for Saturday, April 12th. We will hold our scramble, rain or shine. Watch for more information to come soon!



Rummage Sales/Brat Fry

During the community rummage sales on May 17, our PTO will be sponsoring a day of personal sales spots, a community sale, and a brat fry. Rummage sales will be held from 8:00 to 2:00 pm, with food sales from 10:00-2:00. Contact Ben Evenson regarding personal sales or Courtney Schisel regarding food sales. We will be looking for volunteers to assist in the community rummage sale, which would be a great way for school families to get in their required hours of volunteering. Sales, set up, and take down shifts will be sent out as the event grows closer.

Easter Flower Sale

St. John is currently offering its traditional Easter flower sale. Those who wish to purchase a lily or other spring flower to contribute to the Easter altar area decorations may now do so. Flowers are \$20 each and may be ordered as a memorial to a loved one or a gift of gratitude for blessings. If you wish to contribute, please speak to Dierdra Stary or fill out the form below and turn it into the office. The deadline for purchases is April 14th.

Your name: _____
Given in memorial to/ in memory of/ in honor of: _____



Contact Us

Church Office	920-532-4865	stjohnwrightstown@gmail.com
School Office	920-532-4865	office@stjohnwrightstown.com
Pastor Robert Wilke	920-915-4870	revrwilke@gmail.com
Tim Raddatz, principal and 4 th -5 th grade teacher	920-636-5007	tim.raddatz@stjohnwrightstown.com
Dillon Solomon, dean of students and 6 th -8 th grade teacher	248-525-3700	dillon.solomon@stjohnwrightstown.com
Rebecca Wicks, 2 nd -3 rd grade teacher	920-809-8648	rebecca.wicks@stjohnwrightstown.com
McKenzey Crowley, kindergarten and 1 st grade teacher	605-390-6827	mckenzey.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
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