

The Messenger

September 2024 Edition



A Monthly Newsletter from St. John Lutheran Church and School

Inside this Issue...

Devotional Corner	page 2
Today's Christian Parenting	page 3
Events	page 4
News Highlights	page 5
Scrip, Contact Information	page 6

St. John Lutheran Church and School

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

Devotional Corner: Facing Final Judgement

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."

Matthew 25:31-33

No one likes to be called a goat. It usually means that someone has made a mistake costing his team a game or his company lots of money. Feeling like a goat is an uncomfortable situation.

Yet that's exactly where many people will find themselves on the Last Day—among the goats. This is what Jesus taught in a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. He described what will take place in the final judgment at the end of the world.

What is the meaning of Jesus' story? Let me illustrate. When I was a child, my family owned a pygmy goat. It was my brother's pet. He was a cute little guy complete with six-inch horns. He certainly showed the usual and expected characteristics of goats in that he was often stubborn, sometimes almost arrogant, and enjoyed being alone. I think it made him feel like the king of the farmyard.

Sheep, on the other hand, enjoy being together in flocks, and they listen and follow when the farmer calls them.

Gathered together in the flock, sheep find safety from the dangers that threaten them. They enjoy the peace of grazing in the meadow. If a sheep happens to wander from the flock, the farmer must go after it.

Jesus uses the distinction of sheep and goats as a picture of those who will join him in heaven for all eternity and those who will not. The picture is stark. Goats, those who turn away from the voice of the farmer stubbornly, follow their own will and desires, and whose pursuits are set on worldly things, have no part in the peace of heaven.

Sheep, those who love the peace and safety the shepherd provides, will enjoy that peace and safety forever. That's a peace and safety found not in the absence of hardships in this life. It's a peace and safety found not in the desires of wealth. It is a peace and safety that comes from the knowledge and acceptance of sins forgiven through Jesus' own blood.

Trusting our Good Shepherd, Jesus, we have no fear of facing the final judgment. We are corralled by his love and rest safely in his arms. Wonderfully, he leads us to life with God forever.



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: Maintaining your Family's Balance

An article by Christian Family Solutions
counsellor Whitney Donovan

Parents, does this conversation sound familiar?

“Remember, you’re picking Johnny up from baseball practice while I take Suzy to her art class. Don’t be late getting him, though, because you only have 15 minutes to get across town before his driver’s ed class starts. Tomorrow is Jack’s soccer tournament, and we need to be out the door by 7 am because it’s a two-hour drive. I almost forgot—it’s our turn to bring snacks for the team. Can you take care of that?”

This conversation may sound like one that your family has had all too often. Between sports, clubs, and lessons, kids’ commitments are at an all-time high. Parents want their children to have wonderful experiences as they grow up, but it can be overwhelming trying to manage so many obligations. Listed below are several tips that may be beneficial in maintaining a healthy faith, family, and fun balance.

1. Be intentional with your choices. Don’t simply sign your child up for an activity without asking him/her whether he/she wants to participate; make a joint decision. Weigh the short- and long-term benefits of an activity against the cost to your family in terms of money, time, and energy. Consider what your family may miss because of the activity and reflect on whether those experiences are valuable enough to find time for them in your family’s schedule.

2. Set limits that fit your family. Find the level of participation that works for your child and your family. It’s OK to say no even if it seems like “every other kid is doing it.” Take cues from your child while also trusting your intuition and working to set limits.

3. Designate family time. Set aside one night a week or month as Family Night, when you can rent a movie, go for a bike ride, play games, have a bonfire, and just be together. Research has shown that teenagers who eat dinner with their parents five times per week or more are the least likely to be on drugs, to be depressed, or to

be in trouble with the law, and the most likely to be doing well in school and to have a supportive circle of friends.

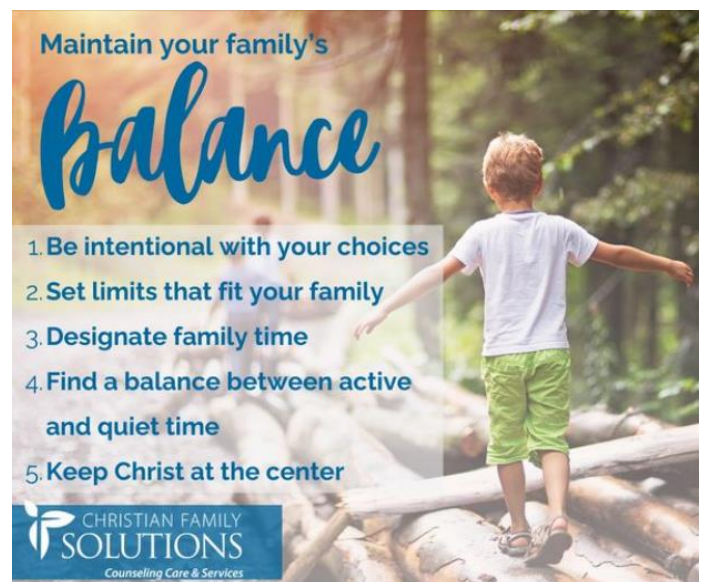
4. Find a balance between active and quiet time. Set aside time every evening when all electronics are turned off and you and your kids have some peace and quiet. This can be a perfect opportunity to talk with your kids and find out the highs and lows of their day.

5. Keep Christ at the center. Raising children is one of the greatest blessings from God. Proverbs 22:6 is a great reminder about the most significant role that parents play in their children’s lives: “Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.” While families juggle so many activities and commitments, prioritizing time with Jesus is the most important. Several ways to do this include having daily devotions, praying with your children each night, and going to church as a family.

While the demands of this world may feel hectic, stressful, and overwhelming at times, we can take comfort in knowing that our wonderful God is always in control. May he bless you today and always!

Article from ChristianFamilySolutions.org.

Christian Family Solutions is an independent, non-profit agency that has provided professional Christian counseling services since 1965. Visit them locally in Appleton, check them out online, follow them on Facebook, or sign up for their weekly e-mail to explore their services or receive mental health tips.



Upcoming Events

Trunk or Treat- October 19

St. John's PTO invites you to our free family fun!!! Join us in the St. John parking lot for our annual Trunk or Treat event on October 19th from 1pm-3pm. Children can dress in their costumes and go car to car, stocking up on goodies. This is a rain (activities will move to the gym) or shine event! To register your car for the event please email PTO@stjohnwrightstown.com.



Picture Day- September 23

It's time to put on your coolest clothes and your biggest smile! St. John Lutheran School will have their picture day on Monday, September 23rd. The youngest classes will go first to hopefully catch them before play time rumples their outfits. Families with early childhood students who are not scheduled on Mondays may come in on that day just for pictures or may wait for our retake day.

Fall Fest- October 5

St. John will once again have a table at Wrightstown's annual Fall Fest! Stop by the parking lot at The Hair Canvas to grab some brisket sandwiches and hot dogs for lunch while checking out the rest of the vendors and entertainment.



Mark Your Calendars!

- September 2- No School/Church Closed (Labor Day)
- September 4- Breakfast and Bible Study
- September 5- Board of Education Meeting
- September 8- First Day of Sunday School
- September 9- Church Council Meeting
- September 10- Monthly Fellowship Luncheon
- September 13- Hot Lunch- Hamburgers
- September 18- Breakfast and Bible Study
- September 23- Picture Day
- September 24- PTO Meeting
- September 27- Hot Lunch- Spaghetti
- September 29- 6th-8th Grades Sing in Church
- September 30- St. John Spirit Wear Store Closes
- October 3- 2nd and 3rd Grade Field Trip
- October 4- No School
- October 5- Fall Fest

News Highlights

St. John Merchandise Store

We have St. John spirit wear available for a limited time! Many items feature our new logo. Order from a great selection of shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more by visiting <https://st-john-lutheran-school-wrightstown-fall-2024.itemorder.com/>. The online merch store will stay open only until September 30, so order fast! Items will be available for pickup in mid-October.



Member Tuition Assistance Available

St. John church members who have children attending a WELS school such as St. John, FVL, or MLC may apply for tuition assistance from the St. John Endowment Committee. To apply, simply provide a written request stating the child's name, the school being attended, and the tuition amount sought to the church office or e-mail a request to the Endowment chairman, Josh Bohrtz, at joshjaimebohrtz@gmail.com. The deadline for applying is at noon on September 30th. You will be contacted about the amount of assistance received and the money will be sent directly to the school your child attends.



Thursdays Helper Wanted

We are currently looking a volunteer to serve as a greeter/receptionist on Thursday mornings. The person who takes on this spot would serve to provide a friendly face for people coming and going in the morning and answer as many simple inquiries as they can, allowing Dierdra to focus on other administrative duties.

Duties would include greeting people, answering the phone, taking messages and payments, and buzzing people in once the doors are locked. Additionally, our volunteer could be taught how to make copies and do basic filing. They may be asked to assemble printed bulletins, cut out materials for teachers, or listen to children read one-on-one. There would likely be downtime in between duties, so helpers could also read, craft, or bring other items with to occupy themselves.

Ideally, the volunteer would be available from 7:30 am until 12:00 noon to cover when school families first arrive and when families return for their half-day students. Please contact Dierdra Stary at the office if you would like more information or would be willing to take on one or more mornings each week.

Church Birthdays

Happy birthday to our church members celebrating in September!

- Sep 1 Owen Propson
- Sep 2 Allen Johns
- Sep 2 Eli Torres Ammel
- Sep 6 Cassie Nielson
- Sep 11 Liberty Cisler
- Sep 12 Lena Abrahamson
- Sep 12 Ava Uecker
- Sep 12 Elena Uecker
- Sep 12 Barb Verbeten
- Sep 13 Madi Vickman
- Sep 14 Amanda Spatchek
- Sep 15 Kenny Lemke
- Sep 15 Ethan Propson
- Sep 17 Lois Baumgartener
- Sep 19 Dane Schisel

- Sep 21 Andrew DeMerritt
- Sep 25 Scott Schroeder
- Sep 26 Trevor Golden
- Sep 27 Michael Breister
- Sep 29 Jesse Schmidt
- Sep 30 Chase Denor



School Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our September student celebrants!

- Blake C. Sep 1
- David M.P. Sep 2
- Ellie B. Sep 4
- Pippa B. Sep 4
- Coraline F. Sep 6
- Finn F. Sep 6
- Liberty C. Sep 11
- Madi V. Sep 13
- Dane S. Sep 19
- Della S. Sep 21
- Christyn B. Sep 23
- Oliver M. Sep 27
- Briar A. Sep 28
- Nova K. Sep 30

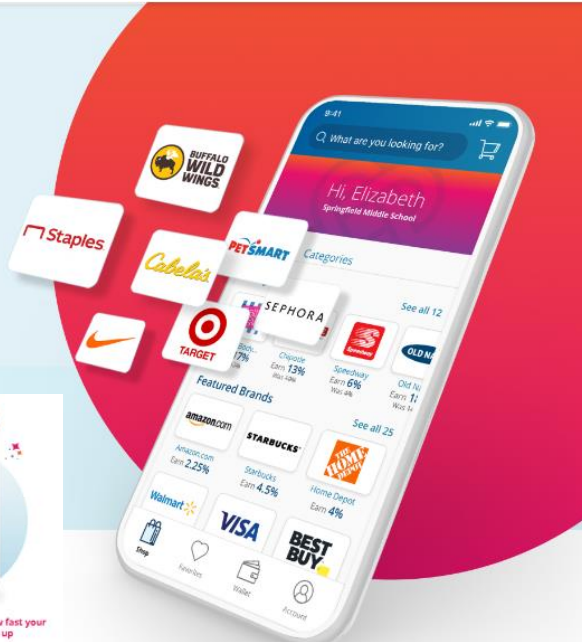
Save on Tuition with Raise Right (Scrip)!

Raise Right sells gift cards with a rebate percentage donated to organizations. Rebates can be between 2.5-20%, depending on the retailer. 35% of the rebate given to St. John can be applied to your family's tuition, which we apply quarterly! There are three ways to save:

1. Purchase in person at St. John. See Dierdra Stary or Rebecca Wicks for assistance.
2. Visit RaiseRight.com to browse the full selection and purchase online. Use code 5B5ECFD616833 for rebates to be applied to St. John and allow us to apply funds to your tuition.
3. Download the Raise Right Fundraising app. Use code 5B5ECFD616833 for rebates to be applied to St. John.

Earn anytime, anywhere with the RaiseRight app

Access all your gift cards and shop online—right from your device. Whether you're waiting to check out at the grocery store, dining out for dinner, or online shopping at home, our mobile app meets you where you are for easy earnings.



Discover new earning opportunities—daily bonuses, seasonal offers, or giveaways



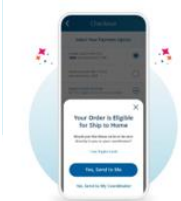
Search by category or browse brands on bonus to find just what you're looking for



Add brands you love to My Favorites for faster shopping



View and use eGift cards (even offline), add money to reloadable cards, and track balances—all in one Wallet



Set up payment preferences and select shipping options for convenient checkout



Track your earnings to see how fast your fundraising dollars add up

Contact Us

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McKenzey Crowley, kindergarten and 1st 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
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