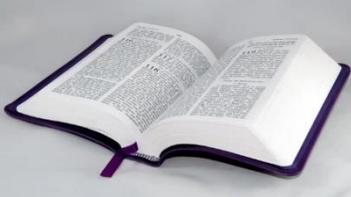


CRY OF THE CARDINAL

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Pastor's Message



What normally like to speak positively of your children - to talk them up as much as possible - but I regret to inform you that they failed miserably this morning. Let me explain... In today's chapel, we played a game of telephone. You know - where one person whispers some words in their neighbor's ear, and so on down the line, until the last person shares what they heard. That person's sentence is rarely the same as the way it started out, and that was certainly the case today!

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Prayer

Jesus, my Savior and Savior of the world, don't let me keep you all to myself, but help me share the good news of your coming with everyone I can. Amen.

Principal's Message

As we undertake a new calendar year, I would like to remind everyone of all the great opportunities that exist to participate in a number of different areas at school. Whether you have a few minutes or hours free, or a day of the week that fits in your schedule, I'd like to pass along where this time could be given. The last Friday of each month our PTO group gathers to discuss and plan for upcoming events - time commitment 1 to 1-1/2 hours. We are always looking for field trip chaperones - time commitment 1-4 hours



St. John
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Ignite. Infuse. Inspire.

If you have a passion for a certain subject matter, after school tutors are greatly appreciated - time commitment(tbd). If are able to listen to and assist in the reading development of students as they read aloud to you - time commitment 1hr. Finally, if office work and organization is a passion, I am seeking a few individuals who might volunteer a few hours a month. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, take a moment and reach out to me.

What's Happening?

Birthdays

January

- 29 Lawsen L.

Upcoming Events

1/17- K-8 Report Cards Come Home

1/20- EIO Class 6 p.m.

1/27- PTO/CES meeting 6 p.m.

1/29- Chapel at church

Grades 2-6 Field Trip "Peter and the Wolf" at PAC 11:45

1/30- Grades K-1 Field Trip to Building for Kids

Theme/Bible Passage: (Spread the Word) [Luke 2:15-20](#) ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the LORD has told us about." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

School News

Pastor's Message- continued from front page

The preschoolers had the simple sentence: Pastor Gehl likes pizza. Mr. Raddatz' class had the first sentence of the Declaration of Independence. They, and everyone in between, butchered the words. No one was even close!

The point of our chapel message is that Jesus wants us to share the good news of his birth, life, and work with others. Doing that well involves 3 things: listening carefully, remembering what you heard, and accurately passing it along to someone else. The familiar Christmas message from Luke 2 includes all those components: The shepherds carefully listened to the message of the angels so that they could worship their newborn Savior. Mary pondered everything in her heart, meditating on the wonder of her own and the world's Savior's birth. The shepherds returned to their flocks, but zig-zagged through Bethlehem and shared the good news with anyone and everyone they could find. Are we willing and able to do the same? Have we carefully listened to the beautiful message again this year? Have we pondered its meaning for us and its impact on our lives - we're forgiven and heirs of heaven! Have we come across people who need to be reminded of the same? And are we willing to open our mouths to tell them? I sure hope so! May God bless your regular hearing, meditating on, and sharing his wonderful word of life!

In his service and yours! Pastor Mike Gehl

3rd Quarter Accelerated Reader Challenge (Grades K-8)

Each quarter we try to encourage high levels of independent reading with quarterly reading incentives. Reading skills are acquired first through quality reading instruction and then those skills need to be developed with a lot of practice. Accelerated Reader is a program that provides all the tools necessary to get kids into the right books so that they are getting enough reading practice in books at their reading levels. Each child is assessed on their reading level each quarter and is then assigned a challenging yet attainable reading goal based on their individual needs. If the child meets their goal, they get a prize at the end of the quarter. The first quarter we were "Scooping Up" good books to be part of an ice cream party. The second quarter we "Raced into Reading" to earn a racecar themed prize pack. The third quarter theme is "Cuddle Up/Warm Up with a Good Book". The students will be trying to earn mini stuffed animals and a bonus "pancake/pajama party". Talk to Mrs. Bunn or Mrs. Wicks if you'd be willing to donate reading incentive prizes. We're always looking for ideas/prizes. Right now, if you have any clean, gently used stuffed animals laying around your house, Mrs. Bunn would gladly accept them into her "stuffed animal adoption center".

Worship in the New Year

All students along with their friends and families are welcome to worship at St. John. We'd love to have you join us at any time and you are always welcome to talk to us about joining our church. Regular worship provides opportunities to learn more about God's Word, feed your faith, and to connect with other Christians. Consider starting the new year with new worship patterns. If you don't already have a church home, consider letting us help you make St. John your new church home. Please talk with your child's teacher if you'd like more information.

Prayer Ideas for Your Family in the New Year

Handstack Prayer

Everyone huddles together and stacks their hands one on top of the other. The person on the bottom starts the prayer and prays whatever they would like to pray. When that person is done, they put their hand on top of the stack and then the hand now on the bottom is the next person to add to the prayer. It's good to have a person designated to give the hands a dip to signal to everybody that you're ready for the group "Amen" when their prayer ideas are starting to wind down. This one takes a little bit of training for younger children, but they really enjoy it once they get the hang of it. This one is a favorite of the 2-4th grade students.

The ABCs of Prayer

Get twenty-six sheets of paper, staple them together, and write one letter of the alphabet on each sheet. Try to think of things to pray for that correspond with that day's letter. You can think of people to pray for, things to be thankful for, areas where we would like help. You will write them down so that you can go back and look at previous days to reflect on how God has answered those prayers. This can be done with any age and is a good idea for adults as well. In fact, I've seen adults similar activities on Facebook in the weeks preceding Thanksgiving. (adapted from *Creative Family Prayer Times*, 2007)

Talk To your Early Childhood Teachers

One of my son's favorite parts of pre-k and preschool were sharing some of his prayers. He told us about their ABC prayer, the Superman prayer, Johnny Appleseed, etc. when he was with Mrs. Wicks. (She taught those classes then.) I'm sure your child's teacher has great ideas for you as well. –Mrs. Bunn

PTO/CES Needs You

We know that all of our parents and teachers are very busy, but we could still use more help. In fact, there are a number of school activities that cannot happen without your help. We are so thankful to the small group of parents that have already committed countless hours to our school's events and we could do so much more if we had more help. Please consider volunteering your time and talents this coming year to improve what we offer our students and community. Our next meeting is January 27 and the rest of our meetings will always be the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm. We meet in the church basement. A lot of parents also find this a great way to meet other parents at our school. ☺

CAMM Missions

Thank you for your support of the Central Africa Medical Missions. We have surpassed all expected goals for the school year before we are even halfway through thanks to your generous donations! Our total raised so far is \$864.60, which will go towards much-needed medical supplies, basic necessities, and nursing salaries. The students received their goal-meeting prizes of getting an ice cream party and seeing Mr. Raddatz sport red hair before Christmas break. The teachers will be discussing new goal incentives for the upcoming quarters; please check back in soon. Please continue to keep CAMM in your thoughts and prayers!

Classroom News

Mr. Raddatz's Classroom

I think there is little disagreement when hearing the phrase, "we are creatures of habit." Disagreement can be found however in how to fix those habits which show themselves not to be productive. One of the enduring tasks of a teacher and parent is identifying good habits and those that need to be corrected. Accordingly, I would like to send along some suggestions to reinforce good habits as well as ideas to correct those going awry.

Celebrate reading. Celebrate when a book is finished, a newspaper is read, when your child points out a magazine article, or wants to tell you about a new character that popped up in the book their reading.

Encourage reading. If you read something, and it's appropriate pass it to your child to read, do it. It could be a short article, a devotional, an autobiographical account, or simply instructions on how to do something. Long story short if you find it to be important, why not pass it along.

Acknowledge good manners. In a day and age when we find ourselves spending less and less time making face to face contact, take a moment and acknowledge the times when your child makes eye contact when talking to you or others, when please and thank you are used, when instruction given is met with their immediate following, and clear and thorough communication is used when talking or seeking assistance.

Give attention to absent manners. Chances are far better, that one on one time at home or in public with your child will yield better opportunities to work on and through manners that need more time. Take a few minutes to sit down and have a conversation with your child. Focus on eye contact and meaningful responses (more than one word answers). If children see at home that mom and dad have expectations for listening and following instructions, and doing so without complaint, I would venture to say they would maintain those same expectations for others seeking them.

Seize moments to work on problem solving. I will speak frankly on this matter, that children have access to some of the very best resources, resources not even available even five years ago. However, it seems with all these resources children have become even more reliant on those around doing everything for them. I don't say this to place fault but more for acknowledgement. Some may ask, "If so many resources are available, why don't they get used?" It is an excellent question, but the underlying matter, I believe, is not how many resources are available but rather how they get used. Every time something comes up there is always the thought, "just ask Google, or Alexa, or Siri." However I can't begin to count how many times I am asked, "Well, what am I suppose to ask, look for, or type in?" Maybe a better analogy might be that students have a tool box available, and are asked to fix something, but have no idea what the tools do. As a parent I fail at this often. Due to busy schedules and lack of patience, I find myself "doing" for my children instead of "guiding" them as they struggle. I am beginning to see more and more that under developed problem solving skills directly impact day to day successes for students in the classroom. If opportunities allow, take the time to guide your child to a solution versus doing things for them.

Mrs. Bunn's Classroom

This new year is loaded with lots of fun new learning units! Second grade did some work with congruent shapes this week. The word congruent means same size and same shape. They also did a mini literature unit on Frog and Toad books. There are a number of books in this series so they found a number they can read on their own to reach their AR goals for the quarter. If you have opportunity at home, second grade would always benefit from extra work on their basic addition facts and working with congruent shapes. There are a number of apps you can use. We use XtraMath at school to work on basic facts and Geoboard by Math Learning Center is also a great tool for creating congruent shapes and for other practicing other math skills.

The 3-4th graders started a literature unit on the Newbery Award winning book, The Tale of Despereaux. This book is a student favorite so be sure to ask your child about this story and its characters. The 3-4th graders also started a unit on the solar system and space exploration. They are finding the subject to be fascinating and the NASA STEM videos have proven to be their favorite. Our unit has two parts. One part is teacher directed and will directly address standards. The other is student directed and they choose the areas they'd like to explore. The student choice activities were so intriguing the students were actually disappointed when they had to stop for lunch! They've also been sharing interesting facts with me all week and madly scribbling away in their space journals.

All students started an art unit on Egyptian art. We started with a mixed media portrait with digital photography and oil pastels that made every student look like an Egyptian pharaoh. We'll continue with this unit next week and learn a little about King Tut and making a cartouche.

Thank you for the generous Christmas gifts! Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I've already used some of them over Christmas break and will use all of them soon. 😊

Mrs. Wicks's Classroom

A big "Thank You!" to everyone for the generous gifts at Christmas this year, as well as the wonderful notes that were sent. The encouragement many expressed is much appreciated. Our volunteers would also like us to pass along their gratitude for the gift cards and well-wishes that they received.

This week brings us to the end of our second quarter and our halfway point of the school year. Report cards will be coming out next week Friday. No conferences are scheduled for this quarter, but please let me know if you wish to set up a time to discuss your child's progress for the quarter.

Our class is excited to have our second field trip coming up at the end of this month. We plan to head to the Building for Kids in Appleton. We will be staying there for most of the day; we plan to have lunch there and take a class in addition to exploring all of the interactive areas that are typically available. Please give some thought to whether or not you can be a chaperone. We will be looking for three or four parents to come along.

Ms. Buss's Classroom

Happy New Year!

I want to start by giving you my sincere thanks at the kind words, nice cards, and wonderful gifts that you generously gave me for Christmas. Thank you so much! I have enjoyed everything!

Friday marks the end of the second quarter of the school year! I can't believe that we are halfway through already! Where is this year going? Wow. The kids are doing awesome and learning tons. Just this past week the kids started finding some sight words in books in school. We also are still looking for letters in print. Over the last two weeks we have covered the words I, A, she, and he. We will introduce another word next week.

Math has us working on all numbers from 0 -20! We are doing this by putting them in order, looking at number lines, and of course doing things like playing games like bingo.

Religion has found us discussing the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus and also how God kept Jesus safe from King Herod.

I hope that your year is off to a great start! Let me know if you need anything!

Ms. Foelske's Classroom

Welcome Back! I'm sure we all enjoyed our time with family and friends over the holidays but are eager to get back into the routine we know. Preschool has jumped right back on in and are looking forward to the new year and all the new things to learn.

This month we have started off with our new color blue, new shape rectangle, and new number 6. We have been reviewing letters A-L and next week we'll start letter M.

Bible story is changing a bit because now that Jesus has been born we can start talking about all the different things that Jesus has done in his life.

Not much is happening on our calendar in January but we are starting to look towards that hundredth day of school this week we finished with day 86. I will keep you posted on when that day will be (pending any snow days). We will spend the hundredth day of school counting many different things. So look for a note to come home with your child that may be asking for you to bring 100 of something. As always if this falls on a day that your child does not normally attend you are welcome to have them come anyway.

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Alexa Foelske