

CRY OF THE CARDINAL

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Pastor's Message



Do you prefer light or darkness? I realize that depends on what's going on. Fireworks just don't work in the daytime, do they? Sleeping is a lot easier in the nighttime, when it's dark. Or you'd at least want the blinds closed and some heavy drapes covering your windows if your work schedule has you sleeping during the day. Even though you might leave well before sunrise to get through Chicago before morning rush hour, most of us probably prefer driving during the day when there's better visibility. Of course, if you're up to no good, you prefer the cover of darkness to hide your actions from the eyes of others.

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Prayer

Dear Jesus, Light of the World, thank you for shining on me with your forgiving love. Now shine through me so that others may know the same love that you have for the whole world. Amen.

Principal's Message

The W.P.C.P. (Wisconsin Parental Choice Program) was created to provide equal opportunities for families to secure enrollment in schools that normally might not be available due to financial constraints, location, or a plethora of other factors. Enrollment in this program allows a family to have the choice to look at additional options besides the local public school district, whether that is a local private school or even a private school in a neighboring district.

St. John is a member of the W.P.C.P. As such, families who meet certain income criteria and residency requirements are able to apply and potentially gain the opportunity of attending St. John tuition-free from Prek through eighth grade.



St. John
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
Ignite. Infuse. Inspire.

If you would like further information, or have questions, as most do, please catch me at your earliest convenience.

The enrollment/application window is open Feb 3rd through April 20th. More info will be sent home with your child for you to look over and see if this program is an option for you.

What's Happening?

Birthdays

January

- 29 Lawsen L.

Upcoming Events

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

The Bible often refers to the contrast between light and darkness. In connection with Epiphany (the celebration of the Wise Men's visiting Jesus), the Old Testament prophet Isaiah says that "people walking in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus once referred to himself as the "Light of the World." Sin is what causes our spiritual blindness. Our regular vision might be 20-20, but without faith in Jesus, all a person can see is hopelessness and God's condemnation. But that's why God sent his Son for us - to pay for our sins and bring us out into the light of life. Through Jesus, you and I have life in heaven waiting for us. But even now we have life as we live in the light of God's forgiving love. Life has a whole new meaning because we can see how God uses everything to bless us as his dearly loved children. What a miserable existence we'd have if we were still walking in the darkness of sin!

But we aren't! God's love shines in our hearts. And his love shines through us as we reflect his love and illuminate the world around us. May God always bless your lifetime in the light! In His Service and Yours!
Pastor Mike Gehl

Upcoming Church-Related Events (email pastor.gehl@gmail.com for info):

Feb 8th - Annual Men of His Word Conference (Oshkosh)

Feb 27th - "The Herd" Church Night (Milwaukee Bucks affiliate that plays in Oshkosh)

Exciting Box Tops News!

Scan your receipt on the Box Tops app for a chance to win 5,000 (\$500.00) Bonus Box Tops for St. John Lutheran School and a \$50 gift card for you! Sweepstakes begins 1/1/20 and ends 2/28/20. Check out their website at: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>

P.S. We earned just over \$100 for our last Box Tops submission.

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".

Thank you to everyone who has donated stuffed animal toys for this quarter's incentive. There are some really neat things to choose from this quarter. Your support is appreciated in motivating our readers during these cold winter months!

Thrivent Members Can Help Our School

Each Thrivent member 18 years and older can apply to receive two action team grants each year to help out their church or community. There are many ways our school can use these grants and the application process is very simple. Thrivent will donate \$250 to projects that meet certain criteria and there are many opportunities your child's school can use them. If you don't know about this program or haven't used action team funds yet, please talk to Mr. Raddatz or Mrs. Bunn for more information about how you can help us. Don't let these funds go unused in 2020!

Brown County Fair Submissions (EC-8)

All students, including those in the early childhood program, are welcome to create projects for the Brown County Fair. Even though the fair is in August, we have to submit forms by the end of April letting them know what we plan to submit. The projects need to be at school by the end of the school year. They can submit things they've created at school or at home and in any category. Typically, students have submitted art or craft projects, but just about anything works. It can be science, music, social studies, math, etc. projects. If you have any questions, e-mail Mrs. Bunn at mrsjbunn@icloud.com

More Prayer Ideas for Your Family

Popcorn Prayer

This is a simple group prayer where anyone can "pop in" with their prayer idea. Encourage everyone to take turns popping in with their ideas and a parent should close the prayer when your family has run out of ideas for that prayer.

M&M Prayers

Have a bowl of M&M's set aside to use for prayer ideas. Everyone will take turns choosing an M&M and think of something to pray for based on the color of that M&M. Have each color represent a different person or thing that you'd like to pray for. Use the following ideas or come up with your own:

- Red- Pray for a member of your family
- Green- Pray for a spouse or for a future spouse
- Orange- Pray for a teacher, pastor, or a coworker
- Blue- Pray for Christians in other countries
- Brown- Pray for leaders in your life
- Yellow- Your choice

Valentine M&M Version:

- Red- Prayer for a member of your family
 - White- Prayer for someone outside of your family
 - Pink- Prayer thanking God for His awesome love
- (adapted from *Creative Family Prayer Times*, 2007)

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 generous continued support of the Central African Medical Missions (CAMM). Our students have risen past expectations and raised \$901.72 so far this school year. All previous incentive goals have been met, so our staff decided to challenge students even farther. We will have two new goals for raising mission money for CAMM: If we raise the total to \$1200, our student body will receive a lunch time pizza party. If we make it all the way up to \$1600, we will provide water balloons and assorted items on the last day of school so that students can have a 'Soak the Teachers' time as part of our end-of-the-year picnic. Check back often to see how our goals are doing, and please continue to keep CAMM and those they serve in your prayers.

Classroom News

Mr. Raddatz's Classroom

Mr. Raddatz has nothing new to report this week. Check back next time.

Mrs. Bunn's Classroom

Second and third grade started a new novel this week. They are reading a classroom favorite, Stone Fox. One main focus of this unit is learning the different parts of story. We're moving past identifying the beginning, middle, and end and starting to work on higher level concepts like identifying story exposition, rising action, climax, resolution, etc. This story has a very emotional resolution so be sure to ask your child about after we finish our novel on Monday. We also learned that all words be sorted into categories. Using words from the story we practiced identifying nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives.

Fourth grade has started their first literature circle unit. Older students enjoy the choices they get to make in these units and the greater amount of independence they have in their group learning. The students were divided into groups based on the novels they chose to read. It turned out the boys wanted to read about "vampire bunnies" in Bunnacula and the girls wanted more mouse stories with Stuart Little. Each day the students assign themselves a different job like Word Wizard (vocabulary work), Connector (connects the story to their lives), Questioner (comes up with discussion questions for the group), Researcher (does some extra research on something connected to the story), Illustrator (draws a picture of what they visualized when reading the story), etc. They share and discuss what they did each day and then start a new section. Our ambitious readers were proud that they completed this unit in a week. Now they'll have time to read a lot more novels before the school year is over.

We started another unit in art this week. We reviewed color concepts, explored watercolor techniques and created woven paper hearts to decorate our classroom for February.

In music class, we continued with instrumental music on our recorders. We've been able to play a few songs and now we've put them aside for awhile to focus on learning instruments of the orchestra. We're learning about each instrument's unique timbre and how these instruments can represent animals or people to tell a story in a musical composition. The students will be seeing a perfect example of how this can be done when they go to the PAC this week to hear "Peter and the Wolf" performed by a professional orchestra along with a visual representation provided by a professional ballet company. The students did an activity this week where they pretended to be the composer and assigned instruments to different animals based on their knowledge of instruments. We'll hopefully continue with the recorders after our field trip. Our progress with these instruments is largely dependent on students practicing independently. Please allow your children the opportunity to explore making music on their recorders at home when possible.

Mrs. Wicks's Classroom

We have been having some changes and additions as we move into the third quarter. Most notable may be our science to social studies switch-- K-2nd grade have finished off their "Balancing and Weighing" unit and are beginning a unit on "American History". We will be trying to get an idea of a few of the major people, places, and events of the last 600 years in the US. While the students won't be expected to memorize a bunch of facts, the goal will be to finish the unit with a sense of how much times have changed since our country was settled, how many different cultures have contributed to our 'melting pot', and what has made this country worth moving to and fighting for over the years. As we talk about the changing times, parents and grandparents may want to be ready to discuss the 'good old days' before cell phones, personal devices, and more. Additionally, if you know family history (or if your family's immigration is more recent), your children may also be interested in learning why their ancestors came to this country and discussing a little of what life was like for them when they first came.

Book Bucket Bingo has been an exciting adventure for first graders in particular this year. They have continued to spend much of their free time reading an assortment of books so that they can stamp off the different author's and subject's buckets on their sheet. Some kindergartners have gotten their first prize already also, and everyone has the end of January and all of February to continue trying out the classroom library's variety.

Another area of interest in our classroom has been the hymn, "How Great Thou Art," which we have been studying in the afternoons for Hymnology and music class. The students have been singing beautifully and learning bits and pieces of sign language to perform along with the song. With them doing so well, I would like to give them an opportunity to use this hymn praising God in church. **I ask parents to add Sunday, February 9th to their calendars as a day for our group to sing in church.** If parents want to get a sneak peak or help their child practice, they can search for the band Anthem Lights' version of "How Great Thou Art".

Ms. Buss's Classroom

Hello! As I look ahead to our calendar, I see February approaching! With that, comes Valentine's Day. I am planning on having the kids exchange Valentines on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th. Since there will be NO SCHOOL on Thursday and Friday the 13th and 14th, I figured Wednesday would be a great day to do it. There are a total of 15 kids in our class (in case you would like to pick out some Valentines). When doing Valentine's, I recommend only filling out the FROM part by having your child write his or her name. This makes the passing out of Valentine's much easier with the little kiddos. Thanks much. Please watch your child's folder as I will also be sending this info home again.

It may seem really early, but please remember to turn any field trip forms back to me for the Llama Llama show at the PAC that the class will attend at the end of March. These forms are due back to me by February 3rd at the latest if you have not already returned it to me.

Speaking of March, please watch your child's folder very closely over the next 4-6 weeks as you will find many things going home. There will be a whole school field trip in the middle of March. We also will have Grandparents Day coming up towards the end of March for our PreK and Preschool classrooms. We also will be having a school wide spirit week. With that being said, much communication will be taking place through the folders on top of the traditional reading logs, projects, and regular communication. Thank you so much!

Mrs. Buss continued-

The kids are learning about the letter R this week. We are also learning about the sight word LIKE. Kids are playing games with the sight words that we have already worked on over the month of January... a, I, he, she and the. I encourage you to continue to have your child find letters, and now these words in print. Repetition (and fun!) truly is the mother of learning! Math wise, the kids are working on identifying numbers 10-20 (11,12,13 and 15 are the most tricky for them). We also continue our work on dimes, and we have introduced the concept of addition and subtraction (although they don't know the technical names for these yet.) We have been acting out math problems. Religion now has us talking about Jesus as a grown man. Last week we talked about Jesus being baptized. This week we are talking about how Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

If you have any questions for me, please reach out and I would love to be of assistance. Have a great beginning to your February!

Ms. Foelske's Classroom

We are back in the swing of things and rolling right along. We have been working on the letter N and will start O next week. We have become really good at finding the letter of the week in our classroom and in books. It's awesome to see how we have become more and more aware of letters.

In Bible story we have talked about how Jesus was a child just like us. Next we will start talking about how he was not like anyone else because he was God's son. We will start to hear about all the miracles that Jesus did.

At the end of the month we have many changes to look forward to. We will begin on the new number 7, the new shape heart, and the new color pink.

In February we will look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day on Wednesday February 12th. We have no school The following Thursday and Friday (13-14th) while the teachers go to a conference.

As of right now 100th Day is still set for Thursday January 30th but we will also celebrate on Friday January 31st with Pastor Gehl coming for a play date. Your child is encouraged to bring a bag of 100 items (no bigger than a gallon sized Ziploc bags). Think small snacks, cereal, goldfish, raisins, or small items, Legos, cotton balls, buttons, or beads.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Mrs. Alexa Foelske