



May 05, 2023

From the Principal's Pen...

I used to hate going to the doctor. I knew going would just bring another lecture to me about how I needed to lose weight. A few years ago and 80 lbs. heavier, my doctor said to me that I should join a gym. That would help me be more committed to regular exercise. I knew this was not a plan for me. First, of all walking on a treadmill or on 1/8 mile indoor track is just boring for me. I knew if I joined a gym I could look and say to him I joined, but it wouldn't cause me to use it. It would just bring me guilt. A membership would not bring me health.



Today in the world, there are many people who look at their spiritual health in the same way. They belong to a church. They might attend once or twice a year and then find the church when there is a wedding or funeral to attend. Is that truly membership? St. John's has on its roster almost 700 people who claim to be members of the church and yet only about 600 attend once a year and maybe 290 on a regular basis. This is not a criticism of St. John's, but if leaders of any church were to be really honest, they would describe the same situation. **Membership in a church does not bring salvation. It is faith in Jesus Christ that brings salvation.**

This weekend our young people will be confirmed as members of St. John's. Confirmation is not a act of forgiveness, but it is a public proclamation by the individual that they are affirming or confirming the promises that were made for them at their baptism. In this rite in the Lutheran Church, the confirmand is asked the following question: **"Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?"** Think of the depth of the question and how serious it is. Were you asked the same question or one similar at one time or another? Are you being faithful even to the point of death?

Obviously, as human living in this world we cannot say definitively that we have never strayed from this, but we know that because of Christ and His redemptive work that our Lord stands with open arms waiting for us to return to Him.

Are you faithful to your Lord or is your membership in a church merely a window dressing that you want others to see and know about you? Are you willing to lose everything of value or even suffer death rather than fall away or denounce the faith in Jesus, your Savior?

As I sit through confirmation service each year, I am reminded of the promises I made 49 years ago this week. I am challenged not to consider myself better than others but to self-examine my faithfulness.

You might say that we live in a country in which we would never have to be concerned about this issue. Twenty years ago, I would have probably agreed with you, but during the last two decades I have watched society change from indifference to one's stance on faith in Christ to open hostility toward Christians and declaring them enemies of the new thought in our society. One can only imagine how quickly this contempt could turn toward persecution.



Even as this is a big and concerning challenge for us, we need to fall on the promises that our Lord made in the concluding book of the Bible. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). This is a promise He makes to our young people and to all of us as well. The Love of God never fails. His promises are there when we are when faithful. His promises are there when we fail. We can say with the Psalmist, "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good" His steadfast love endures forever." (Ps. 107:1)

Love Does... Love is faithful.

Help Grow Our School!



INVITE a FRIEND :

- There are a few seats available in our school for next year. Ask a friend or family member to check us out: stjohnsportage.com/school. They may call and tour the school too.
- Too expensive? Share there are monthly payments & tuition assistance.
- The number one thing setting St. John's Lutheran School apart from all other schools is our Christ-Centered education. Help us grow the kingdom of God.

Thank you for helping grow St. John's Lutheran School!



8th Grade Graduation

Thursday, May 25

6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday,
May 26th

8 A.M. SCHOOL STARTS
8:30 A.M. CHAPEL
9:30 A.M. AWARDS
10:30 TEACHER'S CHOICE
11:15 A.M. LUNCH
NOON DISMISSAL



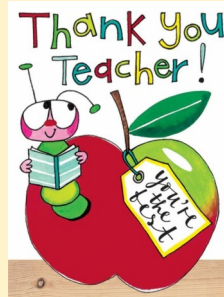
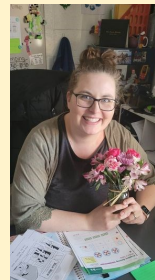
Order your St. John's Lutheran School Yearbooks!

School yearbooks will cost \$13.50 each.

The yearbooks may be purchased with cash or a check through the school office.

Thank you to all the parents
for making this a special week for the teachers & staff
at St. John's Lutheran Ministries! The Ministry was spoiled
with LaTolteca catered lunch, tons of deserts, flowers,
chocolates, getting to know each other, coffee & tea,
popcorn, many cards, and breakfast catered by you!

THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU ALL!



CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 7th

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Come and celebrate with these young adults:

Vance Beckett

Francesca Daniels

Isabelle Nummerdor

Maya Oganezov

Isaac Opalewski

Alexis Parchem

Brevin Walker

Julia Witkowski

Christian Women's Council
Spring Plant Sale & Bake Sale

May 12th 8 am to 2 pm
& May 13th 8 am to 12 pm
303 Park St., Arlington
St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Perennials, Annuals, Vegetables
Get your gardens started here!



St. John's Lutheran Ministries
Bible Study & Worship Services

Saturday Word & Sacrament 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Word & Sacrament 8 a.m.
Sunday Word & Sacrament 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Adult Bible Study
9:15 a.m. Sundays
Church Christian Life Center

Late Morning Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Sundays
All Purpose Room

Coffee Hour & Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Sundays
School Cafeteria

Youth Group
Wednesday Evenings
See Schedule at:

stjohnsportage.com/youth-ministries

Chapel Offerings to
Orphan Grain Train

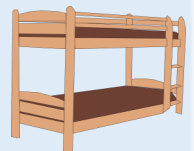
May 10—sturdy comb



Monetary Chapel
Offering to Sleep in
Heavenly Peace

May 17

May 24



Congratulations to Zachary for finishing
first place at the District Tri-Star Optimist
Basketball Contest last weekend!

After School Club's

From 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Mark your calendars.

LEGO Club with Ms. Winkelmann

May 8th

Puzzle Club with Mrs. Winkelmann

May 15th



Field Trips

Get ready for Field Trip Season! Many permission slips and announcements will be sent home for the below trips. Please watch the due dates of each permission slip, if there is cost, and all of them will need a lunch that can be thrown away when done.

No student wants to carry around a lunch bag all day. The school can provide a Field Trip Lunch through the Federal School Hot Lunch Program. This meal is not free but could be if you qualify for the Free & Reduced Hot Lunch Program, applications are available at school in the main entrance.

The school's Field Trip Hot Lunch (Paper Bag Lunch) consist of :

- An Uncrustable (PB&J)
- In Season Raw Vegetables
- Apple or Banana
- Frito Lay Chips or Cheddar Sun Chips
- Rice Crispy Treat or Chocolate Chip Cookie
- Milk or Water

Your student can request this on their permission slips and the day of, when taking lunch count.

We are super excited and ready to learn & serve outside the classrooms!

NEW! Tuesday, May 10th FFA Farm Tour in Portage, WI

3rd & 4th grade

Thursday, May 11th Parochial Invitational Track and Field Day in Reedsburg, WI.

5th to 8th grade

Thursday, May 18th, to Cave of the Mounds in Blue Mound, WI.

5th to 8th grade

Friday, May 19th Pen Pal Meet Up at Pauquette Park in Portage, WI.

3rd & 4th grade

Monday, May 22nd to Mid-Continent Railway Museum and Ochsner Park & Zoo in North Freedom & Baraboo, WI.

Kindergarten to 2nd grade

Monday, May 22nd Flag Planting with VFW at Silver Lake & Oak Grove cemeteries, Cty. Rd. O in Portage.

3rd & 8th grade