



# 2023 CRUSADER CHRONICLE

10/19/2023

## Connected to Christ

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. John 15:1 ESV

### *From the Principal's Pen...*

This past weekend, I was watching several football games. As I watched my favorite team (for those of you who don't know it is Michigan), I observed the passion with which various fans showed their spirit and enthusiasm. The passion demonstrated itself by screaming wildly, face painting, and even body paint to point out their loyalty to the team. If one were new to our society, it would be thought that life and death importance was placed on the game. Soon, however, the passion and the joy dissipate as we meander on to the next thing in life. What once seemed important, quickly fades and is all but forgotten in the following week.



If only we were that passionate about something significantly important. Our spiritual life and our relationship with our Lord through faith Christ Jesus often take a passing glance or a sigh of resignation instead of the passion and **joy deserved. We show this indifference when we consider worship an interruption in a weekend. We show this lack of passion when the family Bible sits on a shelf and collects dust or is seen as a great table book. Is the joy that comes from a loving God soon set in the spiritual closet as we move on to other things in our lives?**

The writer to the Hebrews expresses the passion when he says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily enables, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Heb. 12: 1). Notice that before one has true passion and joy, one must throw off all other things that might slow down or entangle so that full concentration can be placed on the ultimate goal. This is not an easy thing to do, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we are enabled to do it.

The power than to have the passion and joy will flow. The writer continues, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). It is through Jesus Christ that the ability, desire, and passion will flow to serve the Lord and praise His name in everything that is done. **The source of joy and passion is Jesus Christ.**

So, get passionate about your spiritual life. Strive to reach the ultimate goal. Through faith, it is already yours. You will find that when your life is centered on Christ the **joy that comes from Him will radiate to all aspects of your life and will be infectious.**



### Hey Parents!

If you read this week's Crusader Chronicle, you may have noticed this pumpkins. Count how many there are and send your student to the school office with the total number of pumpkins for a free poster from our Scholastic Book Fair. Offer good until 10/26/23.

# Important Dates



**Friday, October 20th**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Teacher In-Service



## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

**Thursday, November 2nd**  
from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Friday, November 3rd**  
from 8 a.m. to Noon


Sycamore Sign up opens  
on 10/23/23.



**Picture Retake Day**  
**Wednesday, October 25th**  
9 a.m. and Noon  
School Gymnasium


**CHESS CLUB**  
**Monday, 10/23/23**  
3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Mrs. Tessendorf's room  
2nd Graders and Up

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**BOOK FAIR**



**October 23rd to 26th**  
7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.  
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**October 27th**  
7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  
St. John's School Room 225



**FUNDRAISER!** Joyful TRADITIONS®

**Cake Roll Fundraising is Over!**

**Stop Selling and Turn In your Order Forms.**  
Order Forms are due October 23rd to School Office.  
Cake Rolls will arrive 11/15/2023.

**Thank you for selling to support your schools!**

PUMPKIN



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ICE  
&  
SERVE

JOYFUL-TRADITIONS.COM



**Please do not send  
gum to school with  
your student. Gum  
is not allowed in  
our school at any  
time or place.  
Thanks!**

**The 2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook is available.**

Log into Sycamore and go to News tab. Please take time to read news article for instructions. All families need to acknowledge this handbook was read.



# ONE AMAZING WEEKEND

## FRIDAY

## SUNDAY



### Grandparents Day

**Friday, October 27th**

**7:30 a.m.**

Gym Doors Open  
(Please enter school at Gym )

Breakfast & Games in Gym  
& Games

**8:15 a.m.**

Prayers & Pledges

**8:30 a.m.**

Classroom Visits

**11:30 a.m.**

Chapel

**Noon Dismissal**

Students will be dismissed  
from Church.



## SATURDAY



The Portage Chamber of Commerce invites children to Downtown Trick or Treating beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Mary's Parking Lot with 10 a.m. downtown parade and costume judging, followed by a movie at 11 a.m. in the Portage Theatre. Admission to movie is a non-perishable food item.

**Sunday, October 29th**

**9 a.m.**

Coffee Hour hosted by  
2nd- 4th Grades



**10:30 a.m.**

Worship Service with  
2nd—4th grade School Choir Singing



**11:30 a.m.**

Reformation Day  
Pot Luck



**2 p.m.**

Trunk or Treat



All at St. John's Lutheran Ministries  
**Everyone is Invited!**

# OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT

Parents and church members are asking, how can we help? What can we do? There are things going on all school year long, you can help with. Check out the list below with ways to sign up or get in touch.



## REFORMATION DAY POTLUCK

**Sunday, October 29, 2023**

**11:30 a.m.**

**St. John's Lutheran School—Gym**

**Join us for lunch, games, fellowship & the Packer Viking football game.**

Doors open at 9 a.m. to bring dish



**This potluck is fun! Bring a dish to pass!**

[Click here to go to Potluck Sign-Up Genius](#) OR use your camera phone to scan



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023**

**2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MINISTRIES' PARKING LOT**

18 FAMILIES ARE  
NOW SIGNED UP!  
Keep signing up!



Our first ever Trunk or Treat at St. John's Lutheran Ministries! In order for this to be successful, **we need trunks**. Please sign up & participate.

[Click here to go to Sign-Up Genius](#) for Trunk or Treat OR scan this QR code



# OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT

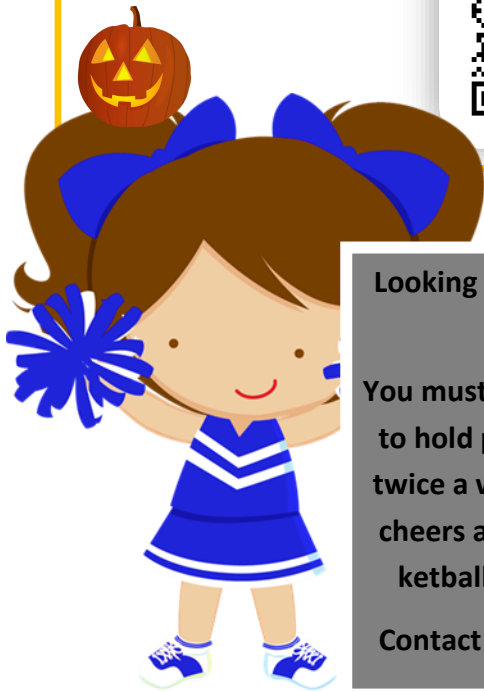
Parents and church members are asking: How can we help? What can we do? There are things going on all school year long you can help with. Check out the list below with ways to sign up or get in touch.



## Grandparent's Day

Grandparent's Day is a special day for the students and their guest. Parents are not allowed to accompany their student but can be present by helping. Check out the needs for this important day. Help us make it one to remember.

[Click here to go to Grandparent's Day Sign-up Genius](#) OR use phone camera to scan



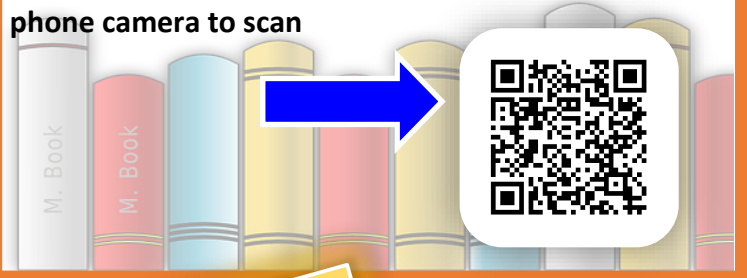
Looking for Cheer Squad Leader!

You must be an adult able to hold practice once or twice a week to perform cheers at the Boy's Basketball home games.

Contact School Office.

**Book Fair—HELP IS NEEDED.** Future Book Fairs will **be cancelled due to lack of help.** Cashiers and helping hands are needed at the fall bookfair. Check out the link below to help last week of October.

[Click here to go to Book Fair Sign-up Genius](#) or use phone camera to scan



# PTL



## Help is Needed!

The St. John's Parent Teacher League is looking for assistance with baked goods for one of their games being played at Trunk or Treat. If you can help, please use this QR code to sign up.

Thank you!



Christian Education

Caring and Serving

[stjohnsportage.com](http://stjohnsportage.com)



Scan your shopping receipts for BOX TOPS using the app.

**Kindergarten is back in the lead with 3rd Grade right behind them for October!**



# WAY TO GO CRUSADERS!

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR TUESDAY NIGHT WIN!



Contact us: (608) 742-9000

Church:  
Option 4  
Office Hours  
M-Th 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
[churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Child Development Center:  
Option 2  
Office Hours  
M-F 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
[cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

School:  
Option 3  
Office Hours  
M-Th 7:30 a.m.—3:15 p.m.  
[schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Rev. Greg Hovland,  
Senior Pastor  
[ghovland@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ghovland@stjohnsportage.com)

Debra Drew,  
Director  
[ddrew@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ddrew@stjohnsportage.com)

Jim Krupski,  
Principal  
[jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com)