



# 2023 CRUSADER CHRONICLE

10/26/2023

## Connected to Christ

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

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

Over the past several years, we have all watched as refugees come into our country and away from poverty and oppression which existed in their countries. We have seen the panic in the eyes of people as they were forbidden from crossing into our country to escape the tyranny of governments and drug cartels who have no respect for life. As we have watched these events unfold, we have also seen another emotion burst out. The emotion is utter joy as people are released or allowed to move to a safer country or location. Many of us in the United States cannot fathom an environment in which freedom is not enjoyed. We take that freedom for granted.

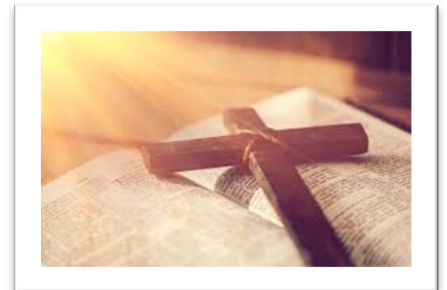


This coming Tuesday we are going to celebrate another freedom that is ours and brings extraordinary joy into our lives. We remember the reformation of the church which began when a lowly monk by the name of Martin Luther nailed some simple statements on a church door 506 years ago on October 31, 1517. God's people and the Church had walked away from God's plan for salvation and had inserted a whole list of requirements that were necessary to earn salvation. There was no joy in a Christian's life but only a fear that one had not done enough to earn heaven. We are not celebrating the turmoil, wars, and strife that accompanied this event, but we are celebrating the freedom and joy that is ours through Jesus' death and resurrection.

St. Paul writes of this when he says, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved... For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2: 5, 8-9). We have been set free by our Lord because of His great love for us. There is absolutely nothing that we must do to earn that forgiveness. We don't have to participate in the process. We don't have to do some ritualistic activity to be saved. **WE ARE FREE!**

This freedom is greater than any freedom that can be won by man. It should cause us to express boundless joy as we realize that there is absolutely nothing that must be done to earn forgiveness. We can say with the great hymn writer:

He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior till the same.  
What joy this blest assurance give.  
I know that my Redeemer Lives!



As we finish this month celebrating the gift of God's Word that is ours, we need to remember that this word is tied to love that God has poured out on us. John wrote this when he said, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

Celebrate this great gift that our God has showered on us.

# GRANDPARENT'S DAY!

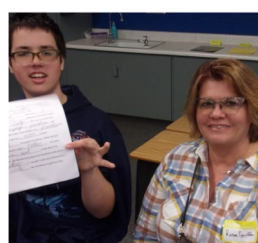
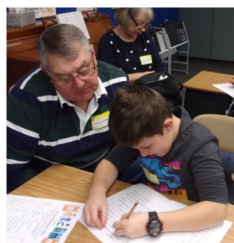
**Grandparent's Day is Here!**

**What to expect on this glorious day of visiting with our grandparents and special guest.**

- \* Please park in the church/school parking lot.
- \* Everyone arrives through the Gym Entrance, Door F.
- \* Volunteers for the kitchen help arrive at 6:30 a.m. - Preparing for breakfast and snacks.
- \* Grandparent, Special Guest, Book Fair Volunteers and students will arrive at 7:30 a.m.
- \* All will receive name tags and an itinerary. The name tags & itinerary are the color of your group. This group remains together the entire morning after pledges and prayers. Please stay together. Book Fair volunteers will proceed to Book Fair.
- \* After checking in, enter the gym for a light breakfast.
- \* Pledges and prayers will start our day at 8:15 a.m.
- \* At 8:30 a.m., we will all proceed to our first classroom activity.
- \* Kitchen volunteers will clean up breakfast and have snacks brought upstairs for our guests.
- \* Itinerary handed out at arrival will be used for the rest of the morning.
- \* At 11:20 a.m., all will proceed to the church for school chapel at 11:30 a.m. All exits may be used to leave for the church. Parents & families are welcomed to join us for chapel.
- \* School will be dismissed at noon. There is no school bus. All students will need transportation from grandparents or parents at noon.

Thank you for attending St. John's Lutheran School Grandparent's Day.

WE LOVE OUR  
**GRANDPARENTS**



# Important Dates



## Scholastic Book Fair

**October 27th**

7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

St. John's School Room 225



## Saturday, October 28th

### Portage Chamber of Commerce

invites all children to  
Downtown Trick or Treating

**9:30 a.m.**

in the St. Mary's Parking Lot

**10 a.m.**

Downtown Parade & Costume Contest

**11 a.m.**

Movie @ Portage Theatre.

Admission to movie is  
a non-perishable food item.



## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

**Thursday, November 2nd**

from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Friday, November 3rd**

(No School on 11/3/23)

from 8 a.m. to Noon

Sign Up on Sycamore



## Everyone is Invited!

**Sunday, October 29th**

**9 a.m.**

Coffee Hour hosted by  
2nd– 4th Grades

St. John's Lutheran Church—CLC



**10:30 a.m.**

Worship Service with  
2nd—4th grade School Choir Singing  
St. John's Lutheran Church



**11:30 a.m.**

Reformation Day Pot Luck

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



**2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Trunk or Treat

St. John's Lutheran Ministries'  
Parking Lot

Rain or Shine!



## Picture Retake Day

**Thursday, November 2nd**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

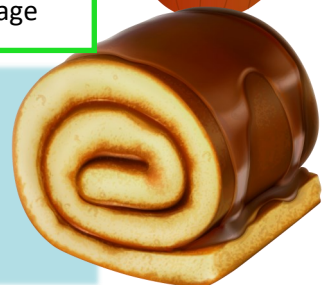
Galley Studios—Portage



## Cake Roll Fundraising is Over!

Cake Rolls will arrive 11/15/2023.

Thank you for selling to support your schools!





# CRUSADERS ATHLETICS

**Basketball Season is upon us!**

Go to [stjohnsportage.com/athletics](http://stjohnsportage.com/athletics) for the basketball calendars.

First home basketball game is

**Tuesday, November 7th at 5 p.m.**

**Save the Date and Help Fill the GYM!**



## BASKETBALL



Scan this QR Code  
using your  
smartphone camera  
to sign up.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

# THANK YOU!

Coach Brockway

Coach Eicher

Nora Zieroth

Jesse Zieroth

Katze Zieroth

Hattie Zieroth

Jeremy Zieroth

McKinsey Gazapian

Brett Weigel

Mindy McConnell

Callen McConnell

Vicki Matula

Morgan Matula

Kathleen Bernander

Roy Erdman

Catharine Daily

Tony Beckett

Jennie Utke

Jennifer Kabele



**Volleyball  
Uniforms**

**It is time to wash  
your uniforms  
and return them  
to the school office.**

Without any of you, we would not have been able to play volleyball. So from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for taking time to help at all the girl's home volleyball games. You are appreciated!

### Volleyball Party

Monday, November 13th

5 p.m.

School Lunch Room

All Volleyball players  
are 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.



# PTL



There are 5 days left in October to scan your shopping receipts with the BOX TOPS for Education app to win the monthly contest. Last month, Kindergarten won and received Swedish Fish for their monthly prize from the Parent Teacher League.

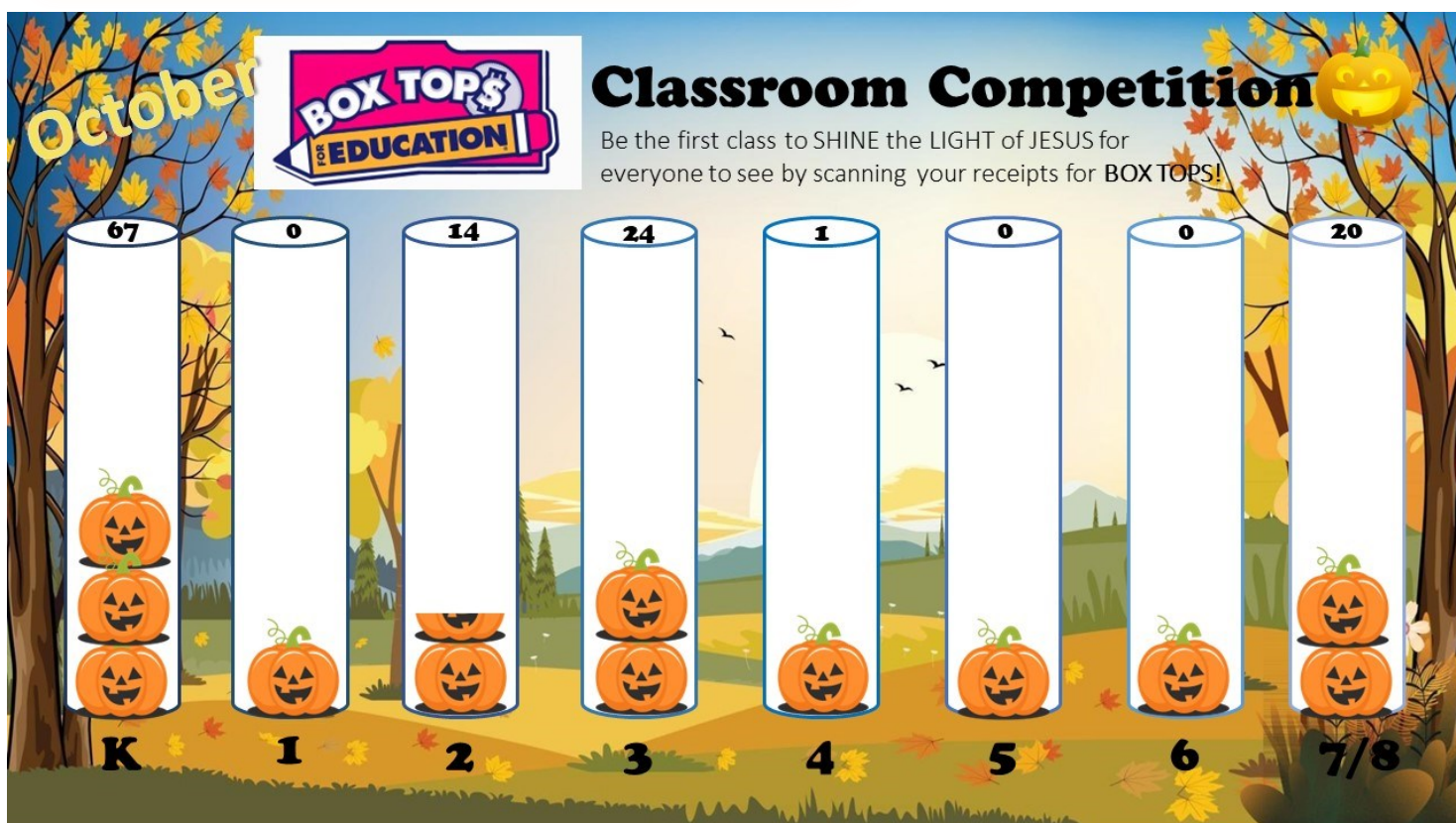
After 2 months of competing, St. John's Lutheran School has raised \$101.70. This money will be used by the PTL to help support and enhance the educational experience your student receives at St. John's Lutheran School.

Anyone can participate, even grandparents. Download the BOX TOPS for Education app to your phone now and start scanning receipts to ST JOHNS LUTHERAN SCHOOL and choose a classroom to help them compete.

## 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.





# Memories for the Week



**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.

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)

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

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

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

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