



2023 CRUSADER CHRONICLE

Connected to Christ

12/08/2023

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN..

What do you want for Christmas? If you ask any student at the school, you will get a list several pages long. It might be a doll, an action figure, special shoes, video game accessory, or one of the hard to find toys. On a list, the desired item will be the first and in larger print to ensure that the reader will know about it.



As a person gets older, it becomes much less clear on what one wants. The list gets shorter, and choices and options become less. Soon the giver is frustrated by not knowing what is wanted or desired. I remember asking my father when he was in his seventies and he would reply, "I just want your love." That was a lot of help!

In many ways, we as Christians mirror the student and the adult. When young, the message of Christmas is easily articulated and shared by the child. Most children who have been exposed to the story of Christ's birth can easily and readily recite it to anyone who will listen. The joy of the story dominates as the child tells of the little baby born in the stable. As one gets older, the joy for many seems to disappear, the awesomeness of the moment seems to fade, the importance of preparation for Christmas seems to be put off until the very end.

If someone were to ask you what you want for Christmas, what would it be? The writer of Psalm 27 has a great response for those who have everything and those who have nothing. He says, "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in his temple." (Psalm 27:4)

The reason this is such a wonderful response is that we already know the answer. Through Jesus Christ and His work of redemption on the cross, God says, "YES!" There is no doubt or uncertainty about what lies in that gift, for God loves us so much that He willingly sent His Son to take our place. There is no doubt! There is no fear! There is just the resounding joy and confidence we have in our salvation.



During the next few weeks as you prepare for Christmas and begin to contemplate what you would really like, remember the greatest gift imaginable has already been given.

CRUSADERS ATHLETICS

HUGE THANK YOU!



Sending a HUGE THANK YOU to all of our Crusader supporters, helpers, advisors and fans!!! Hosting the 2023 Invitational Basketball Tournament was a huge success and great fundraiser for our Crusader Athletics Department and we couldn't have done it without all of you! Your donations of time, talent, supplies, food and cheer were amazing and greatly appreciated!

In Christ,

Your Crusader Tournament Team



St. John's Crusader Boy's Basketball team was victorious last night versus St. Patrick's in Mauston! SUPER JOB CRUSADERS! Keep up the great play!

More Basketball!

Basketball Games!

Go to stjohnsportage.com/athletics for the basketball calendars.

Home Game Schedule:

Tuesday, December 12th

Thursday, December 14th

Save the Dates and Help Fill the GYM!

All Games start at 5 p.m.



AWESOME JOB!

We are proud of the Crusader win at this past weekends tournament by our own St. John's Lutheran School Boy's Basketball team!



Kindergarten remains VICTORIOUS in the BOX TOPS competition BUT 4th grade is in the lead for December. WAY TO GO! Keep it up and you could be the next class to win!

Anyone can participate. 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.

BOX TOPS, NOVEMBER WINNERS! KINDERGARTEN!

THANK YOU, PTL, for the Monthly Prizes!



Thank you to all who are scanning BOX TOPS!

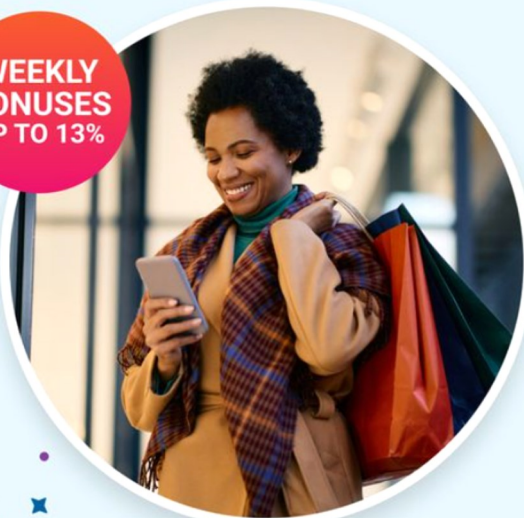
4th Grade in the lead for December! Way to go, Crusaders!



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

WEEKLY
BONUSES
UP TO 13%



RaiseRight

Earn money towards your school tuition using Raise Right. Earn money for school tuition when buying groceries for Thanksgiving and Christmas shopping!

Go here to find out how: stjohnsportage.com/fundraising

The 2023 Holiday Gift Guide is now available! Shop by category and use the gifting list for extra inspiration. Earn for your organization with every purchase.

Shop the Guide: <https://bit.ly/HolidayGGShare>

Tis the season to start making your list, checking it twice, and earning extra for your organization. Get perfect gifts for everyone with bonuses from Journeys, Home Chef, Yankee Candle, and more.

Shop all bonuses: <https://bit.ly/RRbonuses>

Happenings



Thank you to all who attended the PTL meeting this past Tuesday! The next PTL meeting is on

Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Check out this meetings minutes in Sycamore under *Documents* or go to stjohnsportage.com/information.



No After School Care

12/21/2023

**No School Bus Transportation
in the afternoon**

12/21/2023



Christmas Break

12/21/2023 Noon Release

12/22/2023 to 1/2/2023—No School

CLUBS

3 PM to 4 PM

LEGO

12/11/2023



"This is not a typical type of toy drive," said Vickie Greenwold, chairperson for the Portage Area Caring Tree program. "We really strive to fulfill the exact wishes of each individual child."

If you are interested in giving the deadline is fast approaching.

Tree deadline is December 15th

Trees are located at:

**Portage State Bank, WCCU,
Portage's Summit Credit Union,
and many other locations throughout town.**

**Donations may be sent to
Portage Area Caring Tree,
PO Box 384, Portage, WI 53901**

**2023
SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS**

Emma (2nd) & Nora (1st)



REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Thursday, January 30, 2024

12:30 p.m. @ Portage High School

Children in Church

Even if you feel they are noisy.

Even when they lie on the floor and roll around.

Even if their crayons roll 6 pews ahead of you and they decide to crawl under the pews after them.

Even if it takes 589 Goldfish crackers and 2 bags of fruit snacks to keep them quiet.

Even if you have to walk out and take a breather in the nursery.

Even if you have to stand and sway back and forth with your tiny baby in the back of church.

Even if your pew suddenly looks like a tornado blew through.

Even when they yell out or cry during the sermon.

Jesus loves those children and wants them in church! Church will not always be easy, but He provides you the patience and wisdom to parent in that hour of church.

Let them see you pray. Let them see you sing the hymns and liturgy. Let them see you worship your Savior. If they don't see and learn those things from you, who are they going to learn from?

The world will teach them that church is not a priority. The world will teach them it's ok not to read their Bible and pray. The world will take them down dark paths that don't lead to their Savior. The world won't teach them about Jesus.

Mark 10:13-16 reminds us, "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

Children are a blessing from the Lord. Parenting is a great responsibility. Raising children to love their Savior and grow in their faith is an even greater responsibility. Let your light shine and let your children see who is most important in your life!





ADVENT 3 SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
10:00 A.M. AND 6:30 P.M.



John's Joy

Advent dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center, hosted by St. John's CDC Staff and featuring Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese.

St. John's Lutheran School presents

Connected to the Promise



St. John's Lutheran School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church



St John's Christmas Services

Sunday, December 24

- 9:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament
- 5:30 p.m. Festival of Scripture and Carols
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight

Monday, December 25

- 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service of Word and Sacrament

Did you see an Advent Wreath in this week's newsletter? Come to the School Office and share where to receive a prize! Even Parents this week can win!



St. John's
 Lutheran Ministries

Word and Sacrament

Christian Education

Caring and Serving

stjohnsportage.com

Contact us: (608) 742-9000

Church:

Option 4

Office Hours

M-Th 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Child Development Center:

Option 2

Office Hours

M-F 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com

School:

Option 3

Office Hours

M-Th 7:30 a.m.—3:15 p.m.

schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

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