



2023 CRUSADER CHRONICLE

12/15/2023

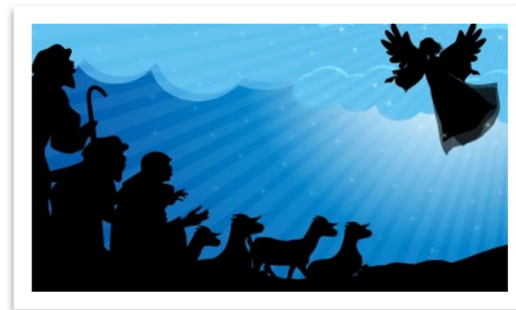
Connected to Christ

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN...

We aren't shocked by much these days. All the technology and special effects that constantly bombard us help downplay the unexplained, the unimaginable, and the amazing. We watch meteor showers and comets with scientific knowledge that helps us explain many of the natural phenomena that at one time excited and even terrified the populace. It would take something gigantic to surprise us.

Yet, I believe that even we would be taken aback by the events on the first Christmas night. We read, "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.



And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear." (Luke 2: 8-9 ESV) We have all heard that story so many times and seen it reenacted that we become almost condescending toward those shepherds because they were afraid. But here they were standing in a field, before the age of electric lights, in a dark field when the glory of the Lord filled the area. We are not talking about a dim spot in the sky. They were surrounded when the glory of the Lord filled the area. They were surrounded by the glory of God.

When confronted with such a sight they had no option but to fall on their faces before the impressive power of their Lord. The brightness of His glory brought illumination to the utter corruption of their lives.

We are confronted by the same brightness. We try to ignore it, but the law of God shines into the blackness of our lives and reveals the hideous nature of our sin. All the gossiping, cheating, stealing, lying, and deceptions stand out in sharp contrast to the righteousness of God. We, like they, shrink at the majesty of a holy and just God.

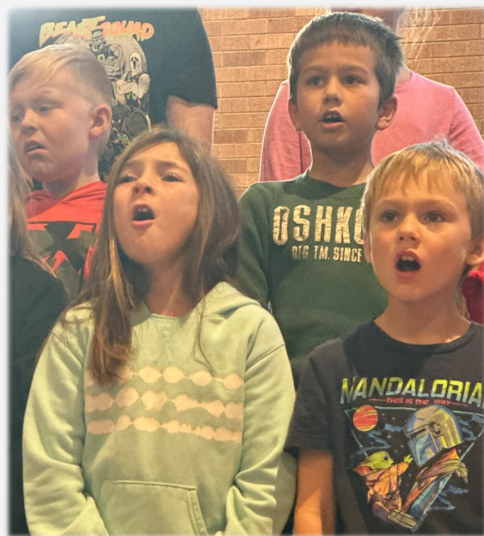
But notice the next words. They are not, "Cringe before the Almighty." Instead, we hear, from the angel, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11 ESV) The all-powerful god showed His love by sending a Savior to the entire world. He sends a Savior to you and me personally. God stepped into our murky world and rescued us from eternal death that was rightfully ours. Instead, He brings light and life to us.

Therefore, we can now stand with the angels and sing praise to our God, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with who he is pleased." (2:14 ESV) Truly through this loving act we have peace with God. We tremble no more in fear as we are welcomed in the Father's open arms.

This is the Christmas message. This is an eternal message. This is the message for each and everyone of us. On behalf of all the faculty and staff of St. John's Lutheran Ministries, I would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas full of hope that is found in the promise of our Lord and Savior.



sneak peek



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





SUPER IMPORTANT DAY!

Thursday, December 21st, 2023

Christmas Break Starts!

Noon Release from School!

No PM Bus Transportation!

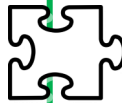
No After School Care!

CIUBS

3 PM to 4 PM

Puzzle

12/18/2023



THE CRUSADER CARD IS BACK!

The Parent Teacher League is super excited to introduce 18 new and returning businesses for the NEW Crusader Card. These businesses agreed to help support us and raise money for new and exciting opportunities like "Dinos at School" an all day assembly in February 2024. Help the PTL raise money! If every family sold 10 cards, St. John's Lutheran School will raise over \$6000 for special assemblies and many more educational events for our St. John's Family. The top two selling families will win photo sessions with

Sassha Coullard and Emily Eicher. Get your selling shoes ready! These cards will sell fast!



Children in Church



To the parents of young children, may we suggest:

God gave children vibrant energy that sometimes causes them to wiggle and make noise. They belong right here with God's people where you have so faithfully brought them. Stick with it!

Feel free to sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service, and the actions of the pastor, ushers, singers, etc. Check out the Kids in the Divine Service booklets located by the busy bags.

Sing the songs and participate in the prayers and responses. Children learn how to worship by watching you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."



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

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

Rev. Greg Hovland,

Senior Pastor

ghovland@stjohnsportage.com

Child Development Center:

Option 2

Office Hours

M-F 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Debra Drew,

Director

ddrew@stjohnsportage.com

School:

Option 3

Office Hours

M-Th 7:30 a.m.—3:15 p.m.

schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

Jim Krupski,

Principal

jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com