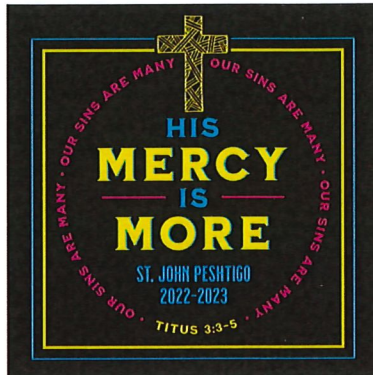


St. John Lutheran School

The Cardinal Chronicle

November 9, 2022



Singing in Church this Sunday

Our students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will be singing with the St. John's adult choir in church **this Sunday, November 13**. Please have your children **go directly to the church balcony by 9:45 am**. They will sing from the balcony and sit together upstairs for the entire service. Children may dress in regular church clothes. Everyone in K - 8 is expected to participate in worship singing. We look forward to hearing all these precious voices joyfully praising the Lord in song.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 11 - Chapel devotion - 8:15 am

Nov. 11 - Hot Lunch

Nov. 12 - Trinity Leaf Raking/Soup Dinner - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Nov. 13 - Grades K-8 Sing in Church - 10:00 am

Nov. 16 - Lutheran Pioneers meeting at Zion Peshtigo - 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Nov. 23 - Early Release - 1:00 pm

Nov. 24-25 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Thai Village Craft Display/Sale

As part of our continuing support of our Mission Project, the Thai Village, Inc, we are hosting a craft display and sale at church starting Sunday, November 20 through Sunday, November 28. On Wednesday evening, November 23, refreshments will also be served following our joint Thanksgiving worship service beginning at 6:30 pm with Zion, Peshtigo.

Hot Lunch

This week's hot lunch will be pizza provided by the Maedke family in honor of Levi's birthday last week. The cost is \$2 per person.

Heart to Heart

This month's *Heart to heart: Parent Conversations* from a previous issue of our WELS publication **Forward in Christ** article is entitled: *Are we modeling kindness for our children?* In this world that so desperately needs more kindness, are we as parents always showing our children how to show kindness? Read more on how to help our children by the examples we set.

Health Reminder

Parents, just a reminder that if your child is coughing and/or has a runny nose or fever, please keep them home for a day or two until their symptoms improve. This will help others stay healthy in our classrooms and allow us to continue as normal. We greatly appreciate your help in this matter.



Leaf Raking

Just a reminder about the rescheduled leaf raking event at Trinity Lutheran Church in Coleman this **Saturday, November 12 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.**

Remind Sign Up

If you have not yet signed up for **Remind**, our online communication program, please do so as soon as possible. If you need help with signing up, please contact Mrs. Sargent in the school office or Mr. Aguilar.



Mission Offering



Our first semester mission offering will be going to the Thai Village, Inc, a nonprofit organization that works with artisans in Thailand (Southeast Asia) to support economic self-sufficiency and Christian education. To learn more about this exciting organization and their history and connection to our WELS mission work in Thailand, please visit their website at thavillage.org **Mission offerings will be collected during our chapel service on Fridays.** Our restart semester offering is **\$140.13**. Thank you for your heartfelt gifts.

2 Corinthians 9:11 – You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Heart to heart: Parent conversations: Are we modeling kindness for our children?

 wels.net/heart-to-heart-parent-conversations-are-we-modeling-kindness-for-our-children



Are we modeling kindness for our children?

“Forming character in children combines parental instruction and modeling,” notes Kenneth Kremer in his book *Embracing Godly Character*. “When parents lead a moral life, God gives them many opportunities to be godly examples for their children. But the models we provide will never be perfect, because all parents are sinners. Our children need to be able to see us finding peace from our guilt and receiving God’s assurance that we are forgiven.”

This month’s article gives us a real-life example of Kremer’s words. Read on and see if you relate to Nicole Smith’s story as much as I do. Have your own parenting story to share? Send it to me at fic@wels.net.

Nicole Balza

“Use kind words, gentle hands, and find someone who needs a friend today,” I said to my son as I dropped him off at the gym day care.

“I will, Mommy, I will be kind today. I will share,” he replied as he bounced away gleefully.

Kindness with our children

It is so important to me that my kids are kind; in fact, sometimes I think I place a little too much emphasis on it. In a world that so desperately needs more kindness, I want to make sure I'm raising boys who love God and love others unconditionally.

For as much as I give verbal reminders, true kindness is shown by modeling the behavior—seeing kindness in action. So when my son reminded me, “You need to be kind, Mommy!” when I was asking him to do something, it made me stop in my tracks.

How often am I really modeling kindness for my sons?

“Don’t do that.”

“Hurry up!”

“Get your shoes on, NOW!”

Commands that are often heard throughout our day blare like sirens in my brain when I lay down at night. Am I nurturing my boys and showing them kindness?

Kindness with our spouses

Recently my husband and I—just the two of us—went out on our first date in more than eight months. We have an eight-month-old baby at home, so I'll let you do the math. To be honest, it felt like a chore to get that date planned. It seems the longer you don't give a relationship proper nurturing, the harder it is to get back to that baseline foundation. Once we were out, we had a blast, but it's the getting out that is hard right now.

At one point during our date, I found myself apologizing for not expressing gratitude enough. The truth is he works really, really hard so that I can stay home with our boys. We both work hard to make our home what it is, but stress can take its toll on each of us.

Jesus quoted words from Genesis, “A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Matthew 19:5).

When is the last time we felt we were a united front or on the same exact page? When is the last time we were truly “one”? I wondered.

Like most couples with young kids, we are sleep-deprived and over scheduled. Many evenings and weekends are jam-packed with obligations, home improvement projects, grocery shopping, cleaning, bathing our children, and keeping them alive. I admitted honestly to him, “You know, I wonder what our marriage would be like if I spent as much time working on being a better wife as I do trying to be a better parent.”

Just like my kids feel they can be sassy and defiant to me, I often feel I can be sarcastic and harsh with my husband. That's never easy to admit, but the more and more I think about the example I want to set for my children, I recognize that I need to start with me.

Power in our weakness

This admission may seem like I'm airing out a vulnerable weakness, and if that's how you see it, you'd be correct. The truth is there are many days I wonder if God picked the right woman for the job. Raising kids in a sinful world is no joke!

In her book *You Are Free*, Rebekah Lyons says, "God demonstrates his power through our frailty. In fact, this is the only thing we can boast in: His power is made perfect and on full display in our never-enough-ness. When we are weak, we are actually made strong in Christ Jesus" (2 Corinthians 12:9,10).

God nurtures us in the most perfect way. First, when I'm falling short, full admission of my weakness and asking God for forgiveness helps me seek forgiveness from my husband, my kids, or anyone else I've wronged. His forgiveness sets me back on the path he created for me.

So, while modeling kind words, gentleness, and love is extremely important in raising empathetic and God-fearing boys, so is admission of sin and forgiveness. Recognizing that I'm not a perfect wife and mother doesn't make me want to give up, but rather helps me recognize that I need God more than ever and makes me want to try better next time. A heart full of thankfulness for Jesus' love on the cross motivates me to display that love in all my relationships.

It's not always easy to admit weakness (sometimes the list feels so long that I don't know where to even begin), but I've regularly been asking God to show me areas of my life that I need to work on, areas that could use a little nurturing. My son pointing out that I wasn't using kind words could have made me angry, but it didn't. I believe God was using that sweet boy to kindly point out that Mommy needs to remember that "the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Luke 6:45).

Lyons also writes and reminds us to take action, "God delights in us. He doesn't want us to live in bondage. . . . He comes and says, 'Let's nail this thing. Let's not dance around it, perform around it, or seek validation to make it feel better. Let's just go after it.' "

Strength from God

So now, instead of just repeating my mantra when I drop my son off to play with other children, we speak it every morning, together, as a reminder for us both: "Today we will try our hardest to use kind words, gentle hands, and to be a good friend. With God's help, we can do it!"

God's calling to nurture and love my husband and these boys doesn't mean that every day will be easy, but he has fully equipped me with Christ's example and his promise that we are in this together.

Nicole Smith and her husband are raising two young boys in Sussex, Wisconsin. This article is reprinted with permission from holyhennhouse.com, a blog for "imperfect women spurred on by God's perfect grace."

Character formation can be messy

"Though the plan for character formation, along with the tools to make it happen, come from God, the process doesn't always go smoothly. Sometimes it isn't even linear. Character usually forms in a herky-jerky rhythm, with awkward starts and unexpected fits of regression. It can be clumsy, uncomfortable, challenging, frustrating, disappointing, depressing, costly, and messy. This is because human relationships can be messy. Nonetheless, character never forms in a vacuum. Our relationships, rooted in our relationship with our loving Lord Jesus, are the critical mass that God uses to get the job of character formation done. Our homes are His preferred culture for getting a good head start." Excerpt from the book *Embracing Godly Character: The Christian Community's Response to a Godless Culture* by Kenneth Kremer, pp. 42,43. Available through Northwestern Publishing House at nph.net or by calling 800-662-6022. \$14.99.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY

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Author: Nicole Smith

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