

The Cardinal Chronicle

May 7, 2025



Upcoming Events

- May 7 - Lutheran Pioneers meeting at Zion
Peshtigo - 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- May 13 - PTO meeting - 6:00 pm
- May 14 - 4K - Gr. 7 Field Trip
- May 16 - Track Day
- May 21 - Lutheran Pioneers Awards Banquet
(Potluck) - 5:30 pm at Zion, Peshtigo
- May 29 - 4K Graduation and Closing Service - 6:30
pm (Grades 4K - 8 sing)
- May 30 - Last Day of School/School Picnic -
Dismissal at noon

Hot Lunch

This week's hot lunch will be pizza, applesauce and an ice cream treat provided by the Lemke family.

Mission Offering

Progress:

Last week's chapel offering collected for God's Kingdom was \$63.00 bringing our total to \$822.53.

Please Help - Track Day Volunteers Still Needed

Track Day is almost here, but we are **still in need of 17 volunteers** to fill spots either in the morning, afternoon, or if possible, the whole day. If you or someone you know could assist us next Friday, please go to our Signup Genius on our website to sign up. We would like to have volunteers **signed up by this coming Monday, May 12th** in case we need to search for more helpers. Thank you so much for considering volunteering. Our wonderful parents and friends make this day a success.

PTO Meeting

Parents, please join us this coming **Tuesday, May 13th, at 6:00 PM** for our last PTO meeting for this school year. The PTO would like to review this year's efforts and lay out the framework for the next school year. We would love to see you all there.

Parent Conversations

As the school year ends and the busyness of summer begins, this month's Parent Conversations has some wonderful suggestions to help our families remain focused on God. Please take a moment to read this helpful article entitled: *How can our family grow together in faith over the summer?*

Busing for the end of Track Day

On Monday, an email was sent out to parents whose children ride the buses. Please reply to the email by this coming Tuesday, May 13th as to whether or not your child(ren) will ride the bus **home at the end of Track Day** so we can let the bus companies know in advance. We appreciate your help with this.

Busing for Last Day

On the last day of school, May 30th, there will be **busing in the morning to bring** your children to school. We ask that parents please make arrangements, however, to pick up their children that day following our noonish dismissal. Parents are invited to join the end of year festivities which will include a picnic/potluck lunch starting at 11:15 am.

VBS - Save the Date

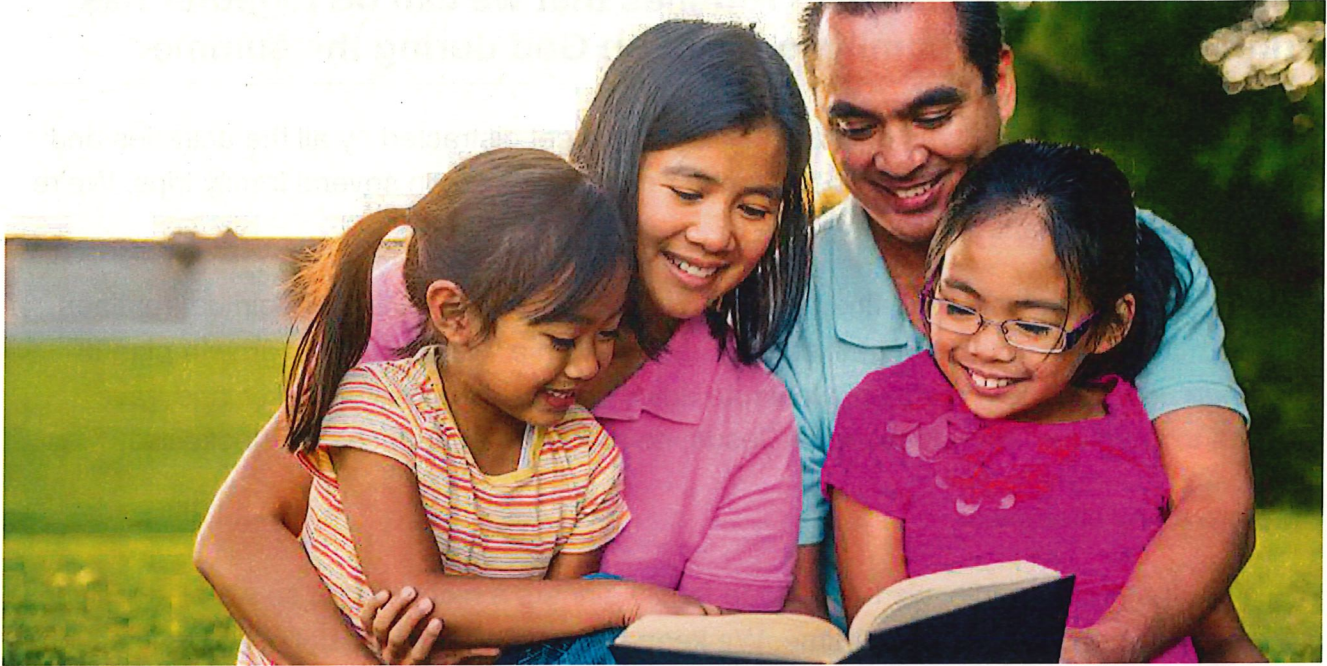
Both St. John and Zion Lutheran Churches hold a joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) every summer here at St. John School. This year our VBS date will be from **July 7 - 10**. More information will be coming, both on our school and church websites. Please save the dates and tell your friends and family!



Parent conversations: How can our family grow together in faith over the summer?

forwardinchrist.net/grow-in-faith-over-summer

May 23, 2024



The beginning of summer always feels like a fresh start. New routines set in, and I find that if I'm not intentional, they're not always the routines that I want our family to adopt. Can you relate? The articles this month focus on intentionality. They're written by parents who are so passionate about helping equip Christian parents that they maintain (or help maintain) websites devoted to that topic. Check out their articles, and if you find yourself nodding along, check out their websites too.

Nicole Balza

HOW CAN OUR FAMILY GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH OVER THE SUMMER?

If your family is anything like ours, you realize that parenting is anything but stagnant. As soon as we feel we've mastered a certain season of parenting, something changes. In our family, we discovered that written plans and routines help keep us focused and provide consistency during times of change.

For example, my husband, Derek, has been doing a bedtime routine with our kids for several years. He starts by reading an apologetics book, followed by watching two songs on YouTube. He does it at the same time and in the same location every night, so our kids expect it. Now even when he is gone, they still start their bedtime routine without him.

Writing down a plan with routines that we can do together has helped keep our family focused on God during the summer.

Summer is one of these times of change. It's easy to get distracted by all the activities and lose our spiritual focus. Our kids go to summer camps. We go on several family trips. We're doing more outdoor activities.

A few years ago, we wanted to find a way to be more consistent with our spiritual routines, even with these seasonal changes, so we came up with a written spiritual growth plan to help keep us focused. In our plan, we wrote down some simple daily, weekly, and travel routines to keep our family focused on Jesus, no matter what our schedule looks like.

Here are a few examples:

- In our daily schedule, we have made family dinners a high priority, so we also include family worship at our dinner time. We keep it simple: We read a devotion or a section from the Bible, sing a hymn together, and then pray.
- In our weekly schedule, we conduct a more in-depth family Bible study once a week in our home. We read the Bible a few verses at a time, answering questions and discussing the reading.
- When we travel on vacation, we follow a short routine each morning to start our day focused on God. We watch a short video devotion, sing a Christian song, and then pray together.

Writing down a plan with routines that we can do together has helped keep our family focused on God during the summer and other times of change in our family life.

Amy Weichel

I saw Pastor Tony Schultz from *Kids Connection* the other day. The first thing that ran through my head was his catchphrase, "Stay connected to Jesus!"

That can be challenging during the summer. The kids are out of school. We take family vacations. Our kids have summer jobs. They attend or help run camps. And we want to relax while enjoying the nice weather!

That's when I need to remember that God is just as busy taking care of us. God doesn't take time off in the summer. Through every season and throughout every day, God continues to provide all I need. And I continue sinning, even in the summer. I still need forgiveness of sins. I still need God to give me strength and hope and comfort as I hear his Word, remember my baptism, and receive Holy Communion. I still need to remember all that Jesus did for me and all that the Holy Spirit promises to do for me. I still need to know that I'm not alone. I still need other believers to encourage me and remind me that I'm not alone. Even in the summer, I still need Jesus.

“Stay connected to Jesus!”

So how does my family stay connected to Jesus even during the fun, relaxing times of summer? Since we don't go camping, we're usually home on weekends, even in the summer. We attend worship and Bible study. If we aren't home, we love looking for other WELS churches to visit. It's especially fun when we travel out of our area. If we simply cannot find a church to attend, then we'll connect to an online service. We also find joy in the extra opportunities to read God's Word together. Summer and vacation provide more chances for our family to be together at the same place and same time. While we plan many other fun things to do, there's nothing better than spending ten minutes together around God's Word.

While summer has its own schedule, we need God's blessings as much as any other time. Even though we don't watch *Kids Connection* in the summer, it's still good to remember to “stay connected to Jesus!”

Benjamin Berger

My husband and I have come to understand that we are discipling our kids every day whether we realize it or not. For example, we aren't a big sports family, and as a result, our kids don't seem to have a hunger for it either. But we do love being outside hiking, camping, bird watching, and gardening. As we have spent our summers enjoying these activities with our kids, it has nurtured a love for those things in their lives as well. Similarly, we have discovered that disciple-making doesn't turn off when we choose to walk in sin. It is a sad day when you clearly see your sinful behaviors in your kids' lives.

For my husband and me, our lives changed when God got us reading the Bible together daily. Through the law, he convicted us of sin. Through the gospel, he transformed us. He gave us a new love for the things that he loves. He gave us an eternal focus. We look very different than we used to, and this work of God in our hearts flows out into the lives of our kids. Growing in our faith as a family isn't another activity to add to our busy lives. It is our life. And this isn't something we can fake, because our kids can smell hypocrisy a mile away.

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So, what does this look like in our family this summer? It's loving God's Word and understanding the need for prayer. It is encouraging our kids to be reading the Bible for themselves. It's simply talking to our kids about God and his creation when we are out hiking. It's discussing the news, culture, worldviews, and apologetics with our older children. It's turning our neighborhood into our mission field. It's singing worship songs together as we drive in the car. It's being humble and quick to repent when we live selfishly, lose our temper, or say destructive words. It's a whole-hearted desire to honor God in every area of our life because of what Jesus has done for us. It's all day, every day. It's discipleship.

Katy Goede

Author: Multiple authors

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- Amy Weichel

Amy Weichel and her husband, Derek, are raising their four children in Nebraska. Amy is the founder of Faithful Parent, a ministry dedicated to helping parents be more intentional on their Christian parenting journey and keep their families focused on Jesus. Learn more at faithfulparent.org.



- Benjamin Berger

Benjamin Berger and his wife, Heather, enjoy any time they can spend with their children, Eliana (17) and Andrew (15). Ben serves as pastor of St. Paul, Winneconne, Wisconsin, and on his district's Discipleship Commission, which provides resources for families at myfamilytable.org.



- Katy Goede

Katy Goede is a homeschooling mom of six. She and her husband, Justin, are founders of Chosen Gen Ministry, a non-profit organization with a mission to outfit family discipleship. Learn more at chosengenministry.org.

