

The Cardinal Chronicle

January 14, 2026



Upcoming Events

Jan. 14 - End of 2nd Quarter

Jan. 16 - Grownups, Goodies and God (Wear Tan School themed T-shirts)

Jan. 18 - Gr. 4K - 8 Sing in Church (Wear Tan School themed T-shirts)

Jan. 21 - Lutheran Pioneers meeting at Zion Peshtigo - 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Jan. 22 - Basketball at Faith Christian, Coleman - 5:00 pm

Jan. 29 - Basketball at St. Paul's, Algoma - 5:15 pm

Hot Lunch

This week's hot lunch will be chicken patties, French fries, grapes and a cookie provided by the Hartwig family in honor of Oliver's October birthday. The cost is \$2.00.

Mission Offering Progress:

Last week's chapel offering collected for God's Kingdom was \$70.75 bringing our total to \$1,990.80. This is the final total for the first semester offering.

Grownups, Goodies and God

Grownups, please remember to join us this Friday, January 16, for a delightful morning of breakfast **goodies** starting at 7:45 am. Then we head over to church for our chapel devotion where we will hear **God's Word** and our students will also sing our school theme song "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing." **We ask that children please wear their tan school theme t-shirts on this day.**

Singing in Church this Sunday - January 18

Our students in **Grades 4K - 8** will be singing in church this **Sunday, January 18**, sharing this year's school theme song "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" at the beginning of the service. We ask that the children **meet in the church basement at 9:45 am**. After the song, the children will join their parents in the pews. **Please also have your children wear their tan school-theme t-shirts for this service as well.**

Parent Conversations

It's wonderful seeing families in church together. But we also know that it can be quite challenging at times, especially with young ones. This month's **Parent Conversations** from our WELS publication ***Forward in Christ*** is entitled ***Ideas to foster a family-friendly church***, which offers some support and encouragement to families.

Report Cards

Today, January 14, marks the end of the second quarter of our school year. Report cards will be sent home on Monday, January 19 for the students in Grades K - 8.

Social Studies Fair

This year we will be holding a Social Studies fair on **February 27**. The students have begun working on their projects and will display and present them on the 27th. Friends and families of the students are invited to come to view the projects from 2:15 - 2:45 pm that day. Also, the tri-fold boards for **grades 1-8** students will be provided by the school. They will be handed out on **Friday, January 16** to any parents that are here for Grownups, Goodies and God, so that many students can avoid taking them on the bus.

Preschool/Kindergarten Open House (Save the Date)

We will have our annual Preschool/Kindergarten Open House on the evening of **Thursday, March 5** for children that will be 3 years old by September 1, 2026 through those that will be entering Kindergarten next school year. Please mark your calendars and join us on that evening if you are interested in enrolling your child for either 3K, 4K or Kindergarten.

Parent conversations: Ideas to foster a family-friendly church

forwardinchrist.net/family-friendly-church

FIC

December 27, 2025



We tell parents that they are supposed to bring their children to church, but how do we support and encourage them in that endeavor? Here are some family-friendly ideas. They won't necessarily all work for your church but consider which ones may and adopt one or two in the new year.

Nicole Balza

This message from Peace, Hartford, Wis., lets families know that children are welcome. Consider including a similar message on your website and in your bulletin.

Sometimes parents (and even churches) can think that church is not a place for children. At Peace, we're convinced that nothing could be further from the truth. We want children in church worshiping with their families and learning about Jesus' love. Why?

- Even from the earliest of ages, children are models of faith that all of us can learn from ([Luke 18:16,17](#)).
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together but is ideally suited for active engagement and participation by all, including children.

- The sights and sounds of active children within our congregation are a great joy to us and evidence that God is blessing our future even now.

We realize that, especially at first, having children in church can be a challenge for parents. To help, we offer a parents' room, equipped with "practice pews" and a television with a live feed of the worship service.

Other ideas:

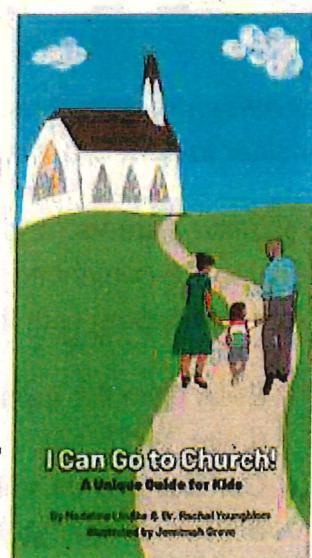
- Purchase children's activity bulletins from Northwestern Publishing House.
- Have activity bags available with crayons, coloring pages, puzzles, and quiet fidget toys.
- Recruit a "Grandparents Brigade" for an extra set of hands to help parents during church.
- Consider staffing your nursery so that parents can drop off fussy young ones on occasion.
- Preview something from next week's service (a hymn, portion of liturgy, etc.) in the bulletin so that families can familiarize themselves with it.
- A new book from Northwestern Publishing House titled *I Can Go to Church!* by Madeline Lindke and Dr. Rachel Youngblom helps guide children and those who are neurodiverse or have special needs through worship. Have some on hand as families enter church.

Learn more about products from Northwestern Publishing House at nph.net or by calling 800-662-6022.

I Can Go to Church

I Can Go to Church! is an encouraging guide designed to help every child—especially those who are neurodiverse with shorter attention spans or special needs—experience worship in a way that feels safe; meaningful; and, most importantly, doable. This simply illustrated resource breaks down each part of the service using simple language and images, making the flow of worship clear and approachable for even the littlest learners.

One of the standout features is its three-hole-punched, fully rearrangeable design, allowing families and churches to adapt the book to their own worship order. The sturdy rings, durable paper, and ten additional pages for hymns and prayers make it practical for real-life Sunday mornings.



The step-by-step prompts help kids know what they can do in each moment, while the communication board offers a way to share needs or emotions quietly. Perhaps the most Christ-like message woven throughout is: Your child may not make it through the entire service—and that is perfectly okay. Worship is lifelong learning, and small steps matter.

This book is for families with neurodivergent kids, children's ministry leaders, and any congregation wanting to make worship more accessible.

As a mom of a wonderfully complex neurodiverse kiddo, I can say wholeheartedly: Tools like this don't just help kids—they help parents breathe easier, celebrate progress, and see God's grace in every tiny victory!

Kaycee Welke, St. Paul, Lake Mills, Wisconsin

[Read Kaycee Welke's article on bringing her neurodivergent 11-year-old to church.](#)

Author: Multiple authors

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