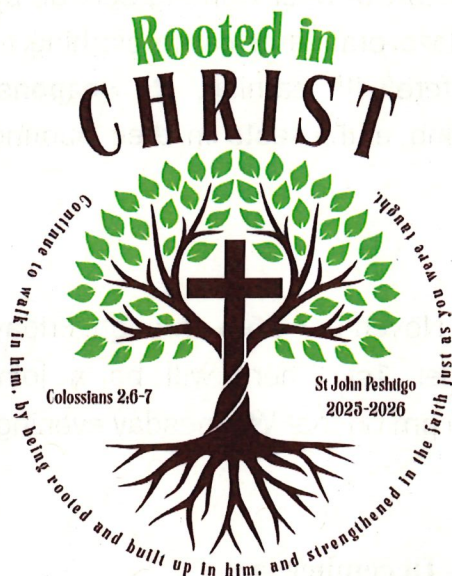


The Cardinal Chronicle

November 12, 2025



Upcoming Events

Nov. 14 - Recording song for church-wear school theme t-shirts

Nov. 19 - Lutheran Pioneers meeting at Zion, Peshtigo - 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Nov. 26-28 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Worship service at Zion, Peshtigo - 6:30 pm

Dec. 6 & 20 - Christmas Eve practices with Sunday School at church - 9:00 - 11:00 am

Dec. 13 - School Children's Christmas Service - 3:00 pm with Cookies & Cocoa fellowship after service

Hot Lunch

This week's hot lunch will be pizza, carrot sticks, dip and mini Oreo cookies provided by the Bruso family.

Mission Offering

Progress:

Our chapel offering for God's Kingdom so far totals \$642.15 for the semester.

Recording Song for Church

This **Friday, November 14th**, we will be recording the children in grades 4K - 8 singing songs to be shown in church on Sunday, November 16th and for the joint Thanksgiving service at Zion, Peshtigo on Wednesday, November 26th. **We ask that all the children in 4K - 8 please wear this year's Rooted in Christ school themed T-shirts that day for the recording.**

Parent Conversations

Please take a moment to read this month's powerful Parent Conversations article that reminds us of the blessing and privilege it is to be parents to our children.

Deer Hunting Dress Up Day - Next Week Friday

Next week, Friday, November 21st, we will kick off the start of Deer Hunting Season by having a fun dress up day. The children may wear blaze orange or camo clothing to school that day. Hats will be allowed unless they interfere with learning. **No weapons, please.** We look forward to seeing our young hunting enthusiasts in their hunting outfits.

Thanksgiving Break

This year's Thanksgiving break will be Wednesday, November 26th through Friday, November 28th. Classes resume Monday, December 1st. There will be a joint Thanksgiving worship service at Zion, Peshtigo at 6:30 pm on that Wednesday evening. All our families are invited to attend this service.

Save the Date - School Children's Christmas Service - December 13

St. John will once again be hosting a Children's Christmas Service on **December 13th at 3:00 PM** for all of our school children. This service gives all the children from our school the opportunity to share the beautiful Christmas story message of our Savior's birth through the songs and recitations they have been learning. We encourage all families to make an effort to attend this service and to invite your family and friends to join us. We will be practicing during school, and there will be no other practices outside of school time for this service.

Church (and School) Christmas Eve Service

St. John will also be hosting a Christmas service on **December 24th, Christmas Eve, at 6:30 pm**. This Christmas Eve service is for all children of our congregation, in addition to the children of our school. In order to prepare for this service, we will be having some practices on Saturdays in December. The dates for these practices are December 6th and 20th from 9 am-11 am. **These practices will only be for the students who will be attending the December 24th service.** If your family cannot come to the Christmas Eve service because you have other worship plans, please let your child's teacher know so that we can make arrangements for the service.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards/Car Wash Cards

Our PTO's Kwik Trip Gift Card Fundraiser forms were sent home last week. If you did not get an updated Car Wash form, please see Mrs. Sargent for one. **All forms with payments** are due **December 1st**. If you sell the cards to friends and family, you are responsible for distributing the cards to those individuals. When paying by check, please have checks written out to **CEA or St. John CEA**, not KwikTrip or St. John. Once the cards arrive at school, PTO volunteers will organize them, and we will let you know when they are available to pick up from school. We hope to have the gift cards ready for distribution by December 15th.

Winter Weather Closings and Delays



We are getting close to that time of year where inclement weather can affect our school days. In case of any winter weather school closings or delays, please note the following:

1. St. John follows the closings of both the Peshtigo and Coleman School Districts because of busing.
2. If both school districts are closed, St. John is also closed.
3. **If** the Peshtigo school district is closed, **but** Coleman is not, St. John **IS** closed.
4. **If** the Coleman school district is closed, **but** Peshtigo is not, St. John **IS** closed.
5. **If either** of the districts **is delayed**, St. John **is also delayed**.
6. Families will be contacted via **SchoolMessenger** as well to inform you of closings or delays. **Please make sure you have signed up for SchoolMessenger to receive those messages.**



Parent conversations: What is the role of a Christian parent?

forwardinchrist.net/christian-parent-role

October 31, 2025

In our fast-paced world, it's pretty easy to get distracted. Our time with our children can become a blur of after-school activities, rushed meals, and hectic bedtimes. That's why stopping to read this article from Stephen Kuehl is so important. It can help us press the "reset" button and remember what our job as parents truly is.

Nicole Balza

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A CHRISTIAN PARENT?

Most people would undoubtedly agree that the birth of a child is on the shortlist of life's most joyful events. Few events bring as much joy to families, relatives, and whole communities than the arrival of a newborn "bundle of joy." As the child grows up and celebrates a yearly birthday, it's not uncommon for parents to reminisce joyfully about the stories surrounding that child's birth.

Besides bringing joy, in most cases becoming a parent also awakens a depth of love within parents that was largely dormant beforehand. When a child is born, we parents naturally begin to love our newborn with a zeal and a tenderness that is unique to the parent-child relationship. This love grows out of the deep and visceral bond between parents and children. We can't help but love them deeply because, well, they literally came from us!

This strong bond between parents and their children is further strengthened by the fact that we choose our children's first names . . . and middle names . . . and bestow on them our last name (or names). On top of that, we do the hard and seemingly never-ending work of providing for them and taking care of them. For all these reasons we naturally and understandably think of our children as "ours," and the people around us strongly reinforce that idea by speaking of them in a similar manner.

Parenting God's children is nothing more and nothing less than an undeserved blessing and privilege.

While our children certainly are “ours,” we must always keep in mind that they belong first and foremost to the heavenly Father. Though they came from us, ultimately, they came from him: “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him” (Psalm 127:3). While we had a role to play in bringing them forth into the world, the Lord had a bigger role. David writes in Psalm 139, “For you [LORD] created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (vv. 13,14).

This understanding that our children are first and foremost God's is critical in our daily task of parenting because it reminds us that we parents are called to raise our children not according to our standards but according to the heavenly Father's standards. All parents are essentially foster parents (or guardians) who have the high and holy calling of parenting the heavenly Father's children on his behalf and raising them to know him and his ways most of all.

This calling begins with bringing our children to the font for Holy Baptism soon after they are born, for it is through Holy Baptism that God washes away their sins and adopts them into his family. Our calling then shifts to nurturing the faith that God gave through Baptism by “bring[ing] them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

We are called to teach them right from wrong—according to God's standards, not the world's standards—and not just in our words but through our actions and example too.

We are called to discipline them in line with God's Word and to point them continually to our Savior Jesus Christ, whose death atones for all of our wrongs.

We are called to be examples of faith for our children to emulate, even though our example will be marked with imperfection. We get to be God's “boots on the ground” for helping our children see that their central identity is this: children of God. We can even tell them that we as their parents view them first and foremost as God's children instead of our children.

This understanding that our children are first and foremost God's is also critical in the event that one of our children is called out of this life unexpectedly early in life. In such situations, it is not uncommon for there to be anger and rage against God for allowing such a thing to happen. Speaking as one who has endured the death of a five-year-old daughter, I am familiar with the grief and pain of losing a child. The pain is sharp, and the grief is weighty. Emotionally, it feels as though a part of you has died—and in a sense that is exactly

what has happened, for our children are flesh of our flesh. It is not wrong to grieve, for enduring the death of a child is not something God ever had in mind for us when he created us; it is rather the result of living in a sinful world.

We get to be God's "boots on the ground" for helping our children see that their central identity is this: children of God.

Where we must be careful, though, is when Satan seeks to sow seeds of anger, resentment, and bitterness toward God for calling a child of ours out of this life and allowing such a hardship into our lives. Unfortunately, Satan finds fertile ground in our sinful nature for these seeds to take root and grow up into weeds in our soul. The "weed killer" for these weeds in our soul is the biblical perspective that though our children are ours, they belong first and foremost to the heavenly Father. Our privilege is to parent them on his behalf for as many days as he has ordained for them in this life—whether that is a long time or a short time from our perspective.

If the heavenly Father has in mind to call one of his children out of this life to her true home in heaven, he is not doing anything wrong. In fact, he is granting her a monumental blessing—even though it involves a monumental hardship for us. With humble and faith-filled hearts, we say, "Thy will be done," in this circumstance too.

Parenting God's children is nothing more and nothing less than an undeserved blessing and privilege. So as Christian parents, let's be grateful for every day we are given. Let's also trust that God will weave our humble efforts of parenting his children into his eternal plan for them, us, and others.

Author: Stephen Kuehl
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Stephen P. Kuehl

Stephen Kuehl is a pastor who currently serves at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, Minnesota. He and his wife, Charis, had three daughters. In July 2024, a house fire at a vacation home took the lives of Charis; their youngest daughter, Stella; and four other relatives.



This entry is part 60 of 88 in the series parent conversations