



The Buzz

April 18, 2024

WALK WITH GOD—TALK WITH GOD

Dave Dravecky Walks With God

“Serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.”

-1 Samuel 12:24

There’s a poster that says it all: “Be Patient—God Isn’t Finished With Me Yet!” It’s fascinating to discover people who were given special talents in one area, yet were called by God to serve in another. We see many such instances in the Bible. David was a shepherd who had no idea he would be a king. Saul was on his way to persecute Christians before the Lord called him to be a missionary to the Gentiles. And it still happens today!

“Here’s the pitch, and Dravecky falls over. Dravecky stumbled on the mound. He threw a wild pitch, and he’s holding his shoulder.” Those were the scariest words ever said about Dave Dravecky. They signaled one of the most amazing stories in the history of major-league baseball.

At age 7 Dave Dravecky began his dream of one day becoming a major-league baseball pitcher. In 1978 his dream began to unfold when he received a phone call from the Pittsburgh Pirates to join their minor-league club. For the next three years, he gained recognition. Finally, in the early 1980s, he was traded to the San Diego Padres. While there, he met Byron Ballard, formerly with the New York Yankees. One thing that impressed Dave was Byron’s Christianity. Byron challenged Dave to read the Scriptures and find out for himself who Jesus was and what he had done. This was the beginning of a long relationship with Jesus. Dave said, “It was amazing when I think back on those days how God had designed this incredible plan for me to be exposed to the one who died for me on the cross.”

Dave went from baseball player to baseball star. In 1983 he was chosen to play on the All-Star team and in 1984 he pitched in the World Series. The next few years saw Dave’s wins increase. In 1988 he was certain to win 20 games. However, as he puts it, “My plan was for twenty games. God’s plan was for something else!” In October 1988, Dave underwent cancer surgery to remove 50% of the deltoid muscle in his pitching arm. The doctor told him it would take a miracle to pitch again, yet on August 10, 1989, he stood on the mound and threw the first pitch of a 93-pitch game. To the amazement of everyone, his pitches still had the same 90 m.p.h. velocity as in the past. Just five days later, he was again scheduled to pitch. Prior to the game he had lunch with friend Bob Nepper, and he told Bob of the great blessing he had received to be able to throw again. Yet he also told Bob that it fell far short of the greatest miracle of salvation. Little did Dave realize that just five hours later he would be lying on the pitcher’s mound in pain. While throwing a fastball in the sixth inning, his arm finally gave way and broke. His battle with cancer had become a war, and he was losing. A short while later, Dave’s pitching arm was amputated. His career was over—forever!

Although Dave Dravecky’s story seems like a tragedy to us, he has a much different viewpoint. “You know what?” he says. “This cancer’s really been a blessing. It’s been unbelievable.” Dave realized that through his cancer he could devote all his energy to telling others the good news of Jesus. Life has not been easy for Dave or his wife. There were terrible adjustments to be made. But Dave learned that there is certainly more to life than “just” being a major-league baseball star. **Knowing Jesus as our Savior, knowing Jesus as our Friend is far more important!** Praise be to God that your children hear this message every single day. This truth helps us go through life in good times and in bad while we *“consider the great things He has done for us.”*

In Christ,

Mike Allard, Principal @ St. John’s

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Apr 21

Worship 9:00 am

Fundrive Item Dropoff
10:00-12:00

Presentation on MLC
10:15 am

No Sunday School or Bible Class

Youth Group Bake Sale

Picnic Lunch 11:00 am

Mon, Apr 22-Sat, Apr 27

Fundrive Item Dropoff

Sunday, Apr 28

Confirmation Worship Service 9:00 am

Grades 4-8 sing

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Piano/Band Recital
1:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 30

Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday, May 1

Chapel 8:20 am

Thursday, May 2

Seal-A-Smile

Sunday, May 5

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Monday, May 6

School Board 5:15 pm

Wednesday, May 8

Chapel 8:20 am

FSJ 6:00 pm

Math Bowl: Congratulations to our Math Bowl team!! They took first place at the Math Bowl at St. Mark of Eau Claire on Friday, April 12. Team members were: Natalie Boon, Noah Wilke, Carter Hannasch, and Jesse Backaus. Noah also took first place in the individual competition. Great job kids!!!



Pine Car Derby: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pioneer Pine Car Derby and chili cook-off. Congratulations to Caleb Anderson - 1st place, Kenaniah Thell - 2nd place, Wren Thell - 3rd place, Fastest looking car - Atticus Thell, most realistic car - Jordyn Allard, best designed car - Addie Allard.



Congratulations to the Allards for the winning chili - chocolate chili.

Mission Fest-April 21: We will have a special guest preacher for our Mission Festival worship service on April 21, Professor Jacob Behnken, Dean of Chapel and Professor of Music at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Presentation: Following the worship service, Professor Behnken will be giving a special presentation on Martin Luther College. The presentation will be held in the school gym.

Meal: Our Day Camp staff will be serving lunch in the school gym following Professor Behnken's presentation. The menu will include burgers and hotdogs and all the extras.

All of you are invited to attend our worship service, the presentation, and the meal! We hope to see many of there!

Bake Sale: Our Youth Group will be having a bake sale on Sunday, April 21st, with proceeds going to help cover costs for the International Youth Rally in Colorado in June.

Fundrive Item Collection: You can drop off your items for the Fundrive Collection starting on Sunday, April 21, from 10:00-noon. A trailer will be here in the parking lot, along with volunteers to assist you.

We will be collecting items all week; please see pg. 3 for more details.

FUNDrive: Clear your clutter for a cause!

Please bring your bags and covered boxes of unwanted household items to the collection trailer in the St. John's Lutheran School parking lot. Regular collection times are:

Sunday, April 21 from 10:00-12:00

Monday, April 22, through Friday, April 26, 7:30 a.m.-8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday, April 26 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Proceeds help make our original school bathrooms handicap accessible!

We Are Collecting--

Clothes

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books & Media

paperback, magazines, hard cover - all genres; **media needs to be boxed separately *no encyclopedias or text books*

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

Science Fair: Our Science Fair will be held on Friday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. Grades K-8 will be participating. All are invited to come and view the students' projects.

Confirmation Sunday: Two of our 8th graders will be confirmed during the worship service on Sunday, April 28: Mason Anding and Seth Kaiser. *Grades 4-8 will be singing during that worship service as well.*

Piano-Band Recital: We will be having a piano-band recital on Sunday, April 28th, at 1:00 p.m. Watch for more details.

ELC Position Open: Our Learning Center is still looking for someone to fill an opening beginning this summer. Summer hours are very flexible. By next September we will be needing a full-time aide to work in the Toddler Room with ages 1-3. Must be at least 18 years old, organized, a good communicator, and ready to share Jesus's love with little ones! Previous experience working with children is great but not required. Please consider this for yourself or those whom you know. Stop by the school office or contact Megan Allard 715-937-7535 or preschool@stjohnsneillsville.com if interested.

Call Returned: "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. John's,

Three weeks ago, Megan and I received calls to teach at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Beverly Hills, FL and to be their principal. As we once again go through this deliberating process to see where we can serve best, according to our gifts and talents, we are humbled that God uses us to do such an important task of spreading His Word.

The good Lord always has a purpose for what he is doing and His timing is not always what we expect. Having calls this late in the school year meant that one congregation would be left scrambling for what to do at the end of

the call season, which is today [last Sunday]. While we talked to many people in both congregations two things became clear to us—there are amazing outreach opportunities for us to potentially be a part of in Florida and there are amazing outreach opportunities for us to be a part of here in Neillsville. We often times take the little things for granted around here. Both congregations are being blessed tremendously by the Holy Spirit and more people continue to be brought to faith through the hearing of God’s Word. This call was a chance for Megan and I to take a breath and appreciate that here.

We have decided to return the calls to be teacher and principal at St. Paul’s and will continue to serve the Lord here in Neillsville alongside all of you.

I want to thank everyone for the comments that have been made to both Megan and myself throughout this process. Please continue to keep us in your prayers while we carry out God’s work according to His will here at St. John’s with all of you.

May God continue to bless His ministry in every place. To Him be ALL the glory!

Thankfully Serving in Christ,”
Mike and Megan Allard

24-25 Registration: 2024-25 school registration forms have been sent home. Please look for those, and return them to school as soon as possible. Thanks!

Parents’ Meeting-5/8: We will hold our final parents’ meeting of the school year on Wednesday, May 8th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. All of you are invited to attend. Childcare will be available.

Please make plans to attend this meeting. We will be talking about important information for the next school year—including will be a discussion on the tuition increase for next school year.

Parents who signed up to help provide supper that evening are: ***Ed & Jenn Schmid and Mike & Megan Allard***. Please contact one of them if you would like to help provide food.

Alternate Bussing-5/10: We will have our alternate bus routes on Friday, May 10th, as the public school has that day off.

Music, Lit, & Skit Night-5/16: Our annual Music & Literature Appreciation Night will be held on Thursday, May 16th, at 6:00 p.m. in the main part of the church.

What kind of show will it be? We would like to have singers, piano players, and other instrumentalists, but we'd also like to broaden the show to involve people who may not be musically inclined. We are also looking for people who may want to read an excerpt from a favorite book, or read a poem they've written, or act out a skit...The list is endless. There are no "prizes" involved; we just want to share our God-given talents with each other and have a fun evening.

Hoops for Heart-5/17: Grades 5-8 will be participating in Hoops for Heart at St. Mark in Eau Claire on Friday, May 17th. Lunch will be provided at St. Mark (there is no charge to parents). If any parents would like to come along and could drive, please talk to Mr. Allard.

Awards Banquet-5/17: Our Awards Banquet will be held in the school gym on Friday, May 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will be handing out awards for honor roll, perfect attendance, athletics, band, etc. for students in grades K-8, and will be acknowledging our students of the week. We are hoping that all school families can attend this special event. A light supper will be served. So that we can get a count of how many will be attending, RSVP sheets will be coming home with the students soon.

Graduation Sunday-5/19: Students in grades K-8 will be singing for our Graduation worship service on Sunday, May 19th. The service begins at 9:00 a.m. In a special ceremony during the worship service, our 8th graders will be receiving their diplomas.

Track Meet-5/20: Everyone in Grades K-8 will be participating in our annual track meet at UW-Stout in Menomonie on Monday, May 20th. A small lunch will be provided at the meet; students can bring other food along if they wish. Watch for further details.

Last Day of School-5/23: Our last day of school will be **Thursday, May 23. That is a half-day only.** We will have a closing chapel service that morning at 8:20, to which all parents are invited. We will have a picnic lunch at **11:00**, to which all parents are also invited, and school will dismiss after lunch. There will be no busses at noon, so parents will need to make arrangements to transport their children home.

We will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. If you are planning on joining us, please bring a dish to pass. Thank you!

Intramural Softball: Students in grades 4th-8th will be playing each other during the afternoon recesses throughout the weeks until the end of the year. Remind your child to bring his/her glove. Thanks to Pastor Wilke for setting this up and being our umpire.

Counseling: In light of recent events that our school family is dealing with, please feel free to make use of counseling or other resources provided by Christian Family Solutions. Their website is: <https://christianfamilysolutions.org/>
Don't hesitate to reach out.



Jackson Schruth

The student of the week is Jackson Schruth. Jackson is in 7th Grade. He has been working hard all year and has shown great improvement in setting a good example for his classmates, gets his work done on time, and usually has that work done well.



Congratulations Jackson!