



The Buzz

August 31, 2023

*Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment. **Matthew 15:21-28***

When you think of heaven, what do you think of? Maybe you think of the people you'll see there who you can't wait to spend the rest of eternity with! But have you ever thought of the people you'll see in heaven that might surprise you? Do you think you'll be walking down paradise street and see someone you weren't expecting? How many "surprises" will be with us in heaven?

When Jesus was on the cross, he was dying next to one of those "surprises"—a man who had a track record of crimes. He knew he deserved to die for his sins. But Jesus? Our Savior deserved no punishment at all. So the criminal asked Jesus for help. He asked Jesus to simply remember him after this was over. What did Jesus do? Laugh? No. Jesus promised he would be with him in heaven that very day. The man believed in Jesus. In the end, that's all that mattered in his life.

Jesus wants us to view the people in our lives through the perspective of his love and forgiveness won on the cross. Do we always do that? When someone who doesn't fit the profile of a "regular church-goer" walks through the doors on Sunday morning, what goes through our minds? Are we welcoming or hesitant? Do we wait to get to know the person, or do we judge them simply based on their appearances or past history?

The disciples assumed the worst about the Canaanite woman who came to Jesus for help in Matthew 15. They thought they were watching out for Jesus when they asked him to send her away because she wouldn't

leave him alone. Besides, the disciples grew up with prejudice towards any Canaanite who lived on the wrong side of their shared border. Their hearts were trained to look down on her.

Jesus needed to show them a better way, *his* way. He sees her hurt and he hears her cry for mercy. She just wants Jesus to heal her daughter. But Jesus also wants to use her to teach a lesson for us all. He tests her. He seems to push her away, but she won't give up. She won't leave without his help. She knows Jesus is all she needs now and forever. "Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith!'" And he heals her daughter right then.

Faith. That is what Jesus looks for. He wants us to come to him knowing we're anything but perfect. He wants us to come to him when we need help. He wants us to come to him when we need forgiveness. And he promises to give us all the help and forgiveness we need.

Jesus welcomes "surprise"—anyone who comes to him regardless of age, race, gender, talent, or popularity. He knows we all have the same problem. He gives the same solution to all—himself. So let's ask ourselves, if this is how Jesus views and treats me, then shouldn't I do the same with the people in my life? And shouldn't I especially do the same when someone visits my church for the first time? Absolutely! And you can!

May Jesus give you all the love you need to view others with his same love.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Aug 31

VB Practice 3:30-5:00

Friday, Sep 1

No School

Sunday, Sep 3

Worship 9:00 am

Monday, Sep 4

Labor Day
No School
ELC CLOSED

Tuesday, Sep 5

3K/4K First Day of School

VB Practice 3:30-5:00

Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Sep 6

Chapel 8:20 am

FB Practice 3:30-5:00

Thursday, Sep 7

VB Practice 3:30-5:00

Friday, Sep 8

No School

Thurs-Sun Sep 7-10

Church/School Campout at
West Arbutus County Park

Saturday, Sep 9

Bags Tourney Noon

Supper 5:00 pm

Worship 6:00 pm

Sunday, Sep 10

Worship 9:00 am

Monday, Sep 11

FB Practice 3:30-5:00

School Board 5:15 pm

School Schedule: There is **NO SCHOOL** Friday, September 1, Monday, September 4th, or Friday, September 8th.

ELC Closed: The ELC will be closed on Monday, September 4th, for the Labor Day holiday.

Flag Football:

Monday, Sep 4 No Practice

Wednesday, Sep 6 Practice 3:30-5:00

Volleyball:

Tuesday, Sep 5 Practice 3:30-5:00

Thursday, Sep 7 Practice 3:30-5:00

Campout: Our annual school campout will be held September 7th-10th (Thursday-Sunday) at West Arbutus Jackson County Park. **All school parents and children are invited.**

There will be a potluck supper Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. and a worship service Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to come for the potluck and worship service even if you are not camping.

The campground does not take reservations after Labor Day, but there should be plenty of room for all. You can pick your site when you come out.

We hope many of you can join us!

Bean Bag Tournament: We are excited to have our third bean bag tournament this year at the campground. The tournament will start with the youth singles at noon on Saturday (9/9). We hope to have a youth singles tournament, an adult singles tournament, and an adult doubles tournament. There will be no entry fee; we just want as many people to come and play as possible. Prizes for first place winners are being donated by the kind people at Ratsch Engineering.

Survey: Our annual parent survey is available for you to fill out online. Please take a few moments to fill out the survey. We appreciate your input! Once the survey is closed, we will be drawing a name to receive a \$25 Kwik Trip card.

Click on this link to access the survey: [2023-24 Parent Survey](#)

Parent/Guardian Covenant: Paper copies of our annual Parent/Guardian Covenant are being sent home with the children today. The covenant is also included as an option in our annual online survey. If you are reading and “signing” the covenant online through the survey, you do not need to return the paper copy.

Breakfast/Lunch Info: Breakfast and lunch will be available every day. Breakfast costs \$2.00/day and lunch costs \$3.00/day. Milk at snack time (Gr. K-1) or milk with a cold lunch costs 30 cents.

We would strongly encourage parents to fill out the free/reduced lunch applications that were included in your summer mailing if you think your income and family size may allow you to qualify. Not only does this help our families who are eligible, it also benefits our hot lunch program. Please turn in applications to the school office as soon as possible. Reduced breakfast price is \$0.30/day, and reduced lunch price is \$0.40/day.

We ask that parents please pay money for breakfasts and lunches ahead of time. We will put that into your meal account, keep track of your child’s meals, and let you know when your account is running low. **PLEASE TURN IN LUNCH MONEY NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31.**

School Band: If your child from grades 4-8 is still interested in learning an instrument this school year and hasn’t signed up already or is interested in learning more about a variety of instruments, Mr. Leiterman would be happy to explain and sign your child up for lessons. Please email him at mr.leiterman@stjohnsneillsville.com or call/text at (920) 615-5136.



Meet Our Student Teacher, Mr. Bryce Marohn:

My name is Bryce Marohn. I was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. My dad was the principal at St. Mark, Eau Claire, and I can recall

visiting St. John’s, Neillsville a few times over the years. In 2010, our family moved to Lannon, WI where I finished grade school and attended Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS for three years. In 2017 we moved to Howards Grove, WI, and I finished high school at Manitowoc Lutheran.

I went on to attend MLC, from where I will be graduating this December. Funnily enough, my family moved back to Eau Claire this summer. My dad will be the principal at Cornerstone Lutheran.

I have five younger siblings. My oldest sister and her husband just graduated MLC and are both starting their first year of teaching over in Michigan. I have two brothers who will be attending MLC this year and two sisters who will be at Cornerstone Lutheran.

One of the things I like to do in my spare time is play basketball. I also like watching basketball once the NBA season comes around. Another thing I’m interested in is computer programming. I started teaching myself some years ago, and I enjoy trying to make apps/games.

(Mr. Marohn will be our student teacher from September 5 through November 10 in the 6th-8th grade room. We look forward to meeting him!)

Friends of St. John's: This is our parent-teacher group. This group is for all parents and friends of St. John's-not only those who are members at our church. There will be three scheduled meetings throughout the school year.

The first Friends of St. John's meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13th, in the school gym starting at 6:00. We will begin with a light supper, then have a short devotion and our business meeting. All of you are invited to attend.

We thank the parents who have signed up to provide supper before the FSJ meeting. They are: Jenny Shadrick, Kristine Boon, and Craig & Rachel Anderson. Thanks for your willingness to help out!

Seal A Smile: Information packets from the Clark County Health Department were included in your orientation folders. In that packet from CCHD you will find a permission slip for the 2023-24 Clark County Seal-A-Smile program. This is a school-based oral health program with a focus on dental sealants. Please fill out and return the permission slip, even if you do not want your child to participate, to the school office by Thursday, September 7th.

New Playground Open House: We will be having a party on our playground on Sept. 16th from 10am-12pm. We're inviting the school families and our congregation as well as the community to come and check out the new area for infants-age 5. There will be outdoor games and activities for children and adults of all ages. We want to thank everyone who has given support for this project in the last few years. Please come check it out and stay for some fun! If you're interested in

helping out, we could use homemade cookies. Thank you!



Alexa Wilke

The student of the week is Alexa Wilke. Alexa is in 3rd Grade. She has started out the year with a great attitude, listens and participates in class, follows directions in the classroom and on the volleyball court, and has been very helpful to fellow students.



Congratulations Alexa!