



The Buzz

October 13, 2022

Living for Jesus Means Being God's Friend

"You are my friends if you do what I command." -John 15:14

What makes a true friend? There is a story told about the young artist Albrecht Durer. Both he and his brother wanted to become artists. However, coming from a family of eighteen children, neither could afford the cost for the education. So they flipped a coin and agreed that the winner would go on to study art while the losing brother would work in the mines to pay the cost of the other's instruction. Then, after the one brother graduated and began selling his artwork, the other brother would begin his study. Albrecht won the toss and attended school for the next several years while his brother worked in the mines to pay for Albrecht's schooling.

At a family gathering after returning home, Albrecht proposed a toast to the brother who worked so hard for him. To everyone's surprise, his brother couldn't raise his glass. His hands had become so crippled from crushed fingers and arthritis that he got while working in the mines, that he could not grasp a glass. He also could no longer hold a pen for the fine paintings he once dreamed of creating.

One day Albrecht began sketching his brother's crippled hands and artistically designed a masterpiece he simply called *hands*. These were the scarred and broken hands of his brother and dearest friend. These were also the hands that were to become the most famous work Durer ever created. What an example of true friendship! Albrecht Durer's brother was the closest friend Albrecht could have wished for. Their friendship was remarkable.

The Bible includes some wonderful examples of real friendships. We read of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20, "*Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself*". We also know of Ruth who said to her mother-in-law Naomi, "*Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay*" (Ruth 1:16).

As God's children, we enjoy knowing that God is our friend. We even sing the beautiful hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Those words, however, go in one direction, from us to God. We say that he is our friend. But have you ever wondered if God would ever call you **his** friend? The Bible tells us that is exactly what God did when he spoke about Abraham, a man who lived for the Lord. James writes, "*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend*" (2:23). Why would God want to call us his friends? What makes a true friend?

First, friends think alike. Our closest friends think like we do, and Abraham thought like God did. The Bible says "*Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws*" (Genesis 26:5).

Second, friends are loyal and dependable. True friends are the ones you can count on no matter what. Abraham proved he was a true friend when God tested him in the slaying of his son Isaac.

Third, friends are able to trust one another. They are the ones with whom we can share our deepest secrets and feelings. The Lord knew he could trust Abraham with his plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. The Bible says, "*The LORD said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?'*" (18:17). God trusted Abraham with his secrets. Friends trust one another. Just as God shares his thoughts and plans for us in his Word, so we can pour out our hearts in trust to him by sharing with him our deepest thoughts.

God was Abraham's friend, and Abraham was God's friend, too. Can we ever share that same kind of relationship? What a blessing it is for God to call us his friends, for with the help of the Holy Spirit, we think alike, we are loyal to him, and we share with him our closest thoughts and feelings. That is why God called Abraham his friend. And that is also why God will call us his friends.

Jesus spoke some wonderful words to his disciples when He said, "*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends*" (John 15:15). Jesus says the same to us today. How wonderful knowing that living for Jesus means being God's friend!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Mission Fest Service when the kids in 3K-8th sing and at the Fall Dinner this Sunday.

In Christ, Mike Allard, Principal @ St. John's

Volleyball Games:

Thursday, 10/13-We play our final regular season games at Home vs. St. Peter.

B Team-4:30

A Team-5:30

Come and cheer for the Hornets! Volunteers to help in the concession stand are needed and welcome!!

Alternate Bus Routes-10/14: The public school has the day off on Friday, Oct. 14. We will have school as normal. Buses will be running our alternate routes, as they did in August. Any questions about bus times, please contact the school office.

Volleyball Tournament-10/15: Our A-Team will be participating in the Northland Grade School Volleyball Tournament this Saturday, October 15th.

Our first game will be played at 9:00 a.m. at St. Peter's in Schofield. **PLAYERS SHOULD BE AT ST. PETER'S BY 8:30 SATURDAY MORNING.**

Directions to St. Peter Lutheran School, 115 Eau Claire St., Schofield

Follow US-10 E to WI-34 N in Carson. Take exit 208 from US-10 E. Get on I-39 N/US-51 N in Knowlton. Continue on I-39 N/US-51 N to Rothschild. Take exit 171 from WI-29 E/WI-29 Trunk E. Follow E Grand Ave to Eau Claire St. in Schofield.

Singing-10/16: Grades 3K-8th will be singing for our worship service this Sunday, which begins at 9:00 a.m. The children will be singing early in the service, so if some of you need to leave to attend your own church service, that will hopefully make it easier for your children to come here to sing.

Fall Dinner-10/16: The Friends of St. John's is sponsoring their annual Fall Dinner this Sunday, October 16, from 11:00 to 1:00 in the school gym.

The menu will include chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cheese curds, salad bar, delicious homemade pie and all the extras! (*Chicken is being provided by Schmitt's on Main.*) Proceeds from the free-will donations raised at the dinner will go toward the playground equipment fund. All are invited to attend!

Our honored guests at the Fall Dinner this year are Joel & Darlene Zschernitz. Both of them have worked hard out of love for the Lord and in service to our church, school, and ELC. They both have helped out with the two Galas we have had at Fannies', helped with our Kids' Carnivals, worked at our school-church garage sales, done cleaning and maintenance work around the ELC and the school, are hosting our two student teachers, Miss Stobb and Miss Hoffer, Darlene has volunteered in the school office...the list could go on. They are always looking for opportunities to help out. We thank them and honor them for their devoted service to our church, school and ELC!

Pioneers: Our next Pioneer meeting will take place next Wednesday, October 19th, at 6:00. All boys and girls in grades K-8 are invited to come. We will be learning about first aid.

Upcoming Events

Thurs. Oct 13

VB Games @ Home vs St. Peter
B Team 4:30
A Team 5:30

Fri. Oct 14

Public School Day Off-Alternate Bus Routes

Sat. Oct 15

Northland VB Tournament (A Team only)

Sun. Oct 16

Worship-Grades 3K-8 sing
9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Mission Presentation
10:15 am

FSJ Fall Dinner 11:00-1:00

Tues. Oct 18

Worship 6:00 pm

Wed. Oct 19

Chapel 8:20 am

Pioneers 6:00 pm

Fri. Oct 21

Faculty Meeting 3:15 pm

Sun. Oct 23

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

WELS Youth Night
5:00 pm

Wed. Oct 26

Chapel 9:00 am

Grandparents Day Program
9:30 am

School Dismisses at Noon

End of the 1st Quarter

Thurs-Fri. Oct 27-28

No School-State Teachers Conference

ELC Open for Childcare

Teens & Fun Around God's Word: Join other Christian teens from our area for WELS Youth Night at St. Mark in Eau Claire on Sunday, October 23rd. Designed to be like a local Youth Rally, the event will include games and fun fellowship, worship, and Bible study. Plan to meet here at St. John's at 5:00 p.m. We will drive to Eau Claire for supper, and be at St. Mark from 6:30-8:30 that evening before driving home. Contact Linda Biebert if you would like to be part of the fun and don't hesitate to bring a friend!

Flag Football Wrap-Up: Our flag football season has come to a close. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our coaches, Mr. Brandon Leiterman and Mr. Matthew Ladd, for all their time and hard work. We also want to thank our drivers and referees, and all the parents and players for their participation and support. We look forward to next year!

Flag football jerseys should be washed and turned in to Mr. Leiterman as soon as possible.



Fire Safety Presentation: We thank the volunteers from the Neillsville Fire Department for visiting us this week and giving a presentation to the students.

Trunk or Treat: Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 30, from 4:00-6:00.

Children are encouraged to dress up in costumes if they wish.

We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to decorate their trunks and bring treats to be handed out. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact Mrs. Shadrick at 715-897-0903.

We will have the tools necessary for pumpkin carving during Trunk or Treat, **but please bring your own pumpkins.**

Grandparents Day Program: Grades 3K-5th will be putting on a program for grandparents (and aunts, uncles, parents, etc.) on **Wednesday, October 26th**.

We will have chapel at **9:00** that morning, and following chapel will continue with the activities being planned.

All grandparents and other relatives are invited to join us for chapel at 9:00 and for the activities/program, which will be done at 11:00.

Grab and Go snacks will be available during our Grandparents Day Open House. If anyone is interested in helping to provide muffins, cookies, or bars - please let your child's teacher know. Thank You!

School Schedule 10/26-10/28:

Parents, please take note of the upcoming school schedule.

Wed, 10/26: We will dismiss at noon.

Thurs, 10/27: No School (3K-8th)

Fri, 10/28: No School (3K-8th)

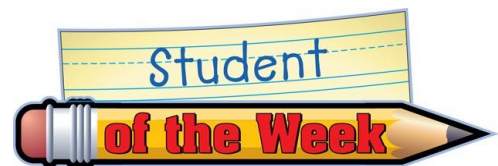
Our teachers will be attending state teachers' conferences in Milwaukee on the 27th and 28th. On the days we don't have school, the ELC will be open for childcare.

End of 1st Quarter: The first quarter comes to an end on Wednesday, October 26. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, November 4th.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-teacher conferences will be held Monday through Thursday, November 7-10. Sign-up sheets are coming home TODAY. Please mark down your first, second, and third choices for day and time and send those back to school as soon as possible. Thanks!

Picture Retakes: Picture retake day has been set for Thursday, November 17th, for those who were not satisfied with the first picture and would like to get a retake. We will also be taking candid and sports photos that day for the yearbook.

Flu Clinic: The Clark County Health Department is sponsoring a flu vaccine clinic on Wednesday, October 19th at the Neillville High School Auditorium (West entrance) from 4:00-5:30 pm. Children six months old through age 18 will be able to receive free flu vaccinations, regardless of insurance status. Adults can also receive a standard-dose flu vaccine, but **MUST** present insurance card(s) prior to administration. Private pay option for adults is \$40.



Noah Wilke

The student of the week is Noah Wilke. Noah is in 5th Grade. Since the beginning of the school year he has been polite and respectful, sets a good example, gets his work done well, and is a good sport and hard-working player on the football field.



Congratulations Noah!