



The Buzz

September 29, 2022

Living for Jesus Means Looking Forward to Heaven

"We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."

-2 Corinthians 5:1

Do you ever dream about wanting something very, very special? Maybe your dream is to have a horse someday. Maybe you dream about becoming a famous athlete or performer. Maybe you dream about living where it is always warm or where you will always have snow to enjoy. Today we will hear about a man who dreamt about a very special place, and before he knew it, his dream came true.

In the New Testament church, the apostles did the preaching and teaching while specially chosen people helped with the other jobs like preparing food for all the people, distributing clothing to the needy, and handling all the other chores that come with any growing ministry. We may call them elders today. Stephen was one of these people. Stephen was always living for Jesus. The Bible says he was a man *"full of . . . faith, grace and power"* (Acts 6:5,8).

But Stephen had a problem. The Bible tells us that *"Opposition arose . . . from members of the Synagogue . . . These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke"* (6:9,10). Leaders in the Jewish church hated Stephen because they lost every argument they had with him. They hated his righteous ways. But finally they found a way to get rid of him. They had Stephen arrested and when they took him to court, they claimed he had spoken against God. But that was a lie. Stephen loved the Lord. When Stephen defended himself, he spoke wisely and put the members of the Sanhedrin to shame.

That was more than they could handle. The Bible says: *"They were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. . . . They covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him"* (7:54,57,58).

While Stephen flinched as each stone hit him, God was planning a special reward for him. In his loving mercy, God opened the window of heaven and let Stephen peek inside. He permitted Stephen to catch a peek of heaven's throne room. There he could see God's glory and Jesus standing on the right side of God.

It was a wonderful picture for Stephen to see. He wanted to be with God and he so dreamed that he would be in heaven. And then it happened! Within a few moments Stephen found himself standing inside of that very vision. Within minutes Stephen was really in heaven bowing before the throne he had just seen from earth. Within minutes the Bible says Stephen *"fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep"* (7:60). Stephen died and was taken by God's angels into the same heaven that he had just peeked into. Now he was really there!

Sometimes God pulls extra strings to show his love to his children. For now, however, all we can do is envy Stephen and thank the Lord that one day he will show us the same paradise that Stephen now enjoys! Everyone who is living for Jesus will one day have that very same dream come true, because living for Jesus means looking forward to heaven. We will all get to enjoy heaven just as Stephen did. What a wonderful thing to wish for.

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

Volleyball Practice:

Thursday, 9/29: NO PRACTICE

Tuesday, 10/4: 3:30-5:00

Volleyball Games:

Thursday, 10/6-We will travel to St. Mark in Eau Claire.

B Team-4:00

A Team-5:00

Drivers are needed. We will leave from school at 2:30. Drivers should be here by 2:15.

Directions to St. Mark Lutheran School, 3307 State St, Eau Claire

Because of the road construction, you will need to take Highway 12. Put the school address into your phone GPS.

Flag Football Games:

Monday, 10/3-We will travel to St. Mark in Eau Claire.

We will play at 4:00 and again at 5:00.

Drivers are needed. We will leave from school at 2:30. Drivers should be here at 2:15.

Directions to St. Mark Lutheran School, 3307 State St, Eau Claire

Because of the road construction, you will need to take Highway 12. Put the school address into your phone GPS.

Flag Football Practice:

Wednesday, 10/5: 3:30-5:00

No Sunday School: There is no Sunday School this Sunday (10/2) as we will be taking pictures for our church directory. Sunday School and Bible Class will resume the following Sunday, October 9th.

Field Trips:

9/29-9/30-Grades 6-8: Grades 6-8 will be taking an overnight field trip to Camp Phillip today and tomorrow (9/29-9/30).

Mon, 10/3-Grades K-3: Grades K-3 will be going to Osseo to see a play.

Tues, 10/4-Grades 4-5: Grades 4-5 will be going to the Highground.

Walk to School Day-10/5: Next Wednesday is "Walk to School Day." Anyone walking to school should meet in the IGA parking lot by 7:30. Wear black and gold to show your school spirit! Adult volunteers will be at IGA, and parent chaperones are encouraged to walk along with the children.

No School-10/7: Parents, please note that there will be NO SCHOOL next Friday, October 7th. The ELC will be open for childcare.

Picture Day: Picture Day is Monday, October 10th. Picture order envelopes have been sent home with the children today. Those should be returned to school, with payment, on or before picture day.

If you prefer, you can order pictures online at the link below:

<https://inter-state.com/FlyerEntry/71259HF>

Apparel Order: We are doing another ELC and "Hornet" apparel order. All ordering and payment will be done online, at the link below. **The due date is this Sunday at midnight.** Check out the color and logo options for many items on the website.

<https://stjohns22fa.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

Upcoming Events

Thurs-Fri, Sep 29-30

Grades 6-8 Camp Phillip
Field Trip

Sun, Oct 2

Worship 9:00 am

No Sunday School or Bible
Class

Mon, Oct 3

Grades K-3-Field Trip-Play

FB Games @ St. Mark
4:00 & 5:00

Tues, Oct 4

Trip to Highground-Gr. 4-5

VB Practice 3:30-5:00

Worship 6:00 pm

Wed, Oct 5

Walk to School Day

Chapel 8:20 am

FB Practice 3:30-5:00

Thurs, Oct 6

VB Games @ St. Mark, Eau
Claire

B Team 4:00

A Team 5:00

Fri, Oct 7

NO SCHOOL

Sun, Oct 9

Worship 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

Bible Class 10:15 am

Mon, Oct 10

School Picture Day

FB Games @ Home

4:00 & 6:00

Tues, Oct 11

VB Games @ Immanuel,
Medford

B Team 5:00

A Team 6:00

Worship 6:00 pm

Fall Dinner: The Friends of St. John's is sponsoring their annual Fall Dinner on 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 Schmitty'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!

If you would like to help out by providing food donations or working in the kitchen, please fill out and return the donation sheets that were sent home with the children this week. Thanks!

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!

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. Shadrack at 715-897-0903.

Parent Conversations Website: Being a Christian parent is challenging. Although we have a wonderful resource in God's Word, the Bible doesn't always answer our parenting questions with black and white answers--and neither does the "Parent conversations" website. What "Parent conversations" does provide is real-life perspectives from parents who are struggling with the same questions as you.

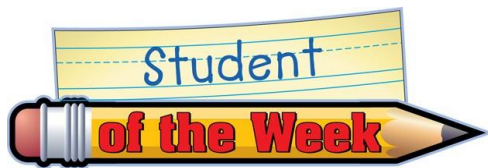
Looking for insight on a particular parenting topic? Search the "Parent conversations" archive. More articles continue to be added, so check back regularly. You can access this website by going to the link below.

<https://forwardinchrist.net/parents>

Mark Your Calendars: 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.



Alexa Wilke

The student of the week is Alexa Wilke. Alexa is in 2nd Grade. Since the beginning of the school year she has been a hard worker, gets her work done, is polite and respectful, sets a good example in the classroom, and is very helpful to her fellow classmates.



Congratulations Alexa!

Swim Team: The Neillsville Rec. Dept. is looking to start a “swim team/swim camp” on Thursday nights after school. The only prerequisite is that swimmers should be at least level 3 (confident swimming in deep water). All grades of kids are welcome. This is a perfect chance to get some exercise and have some fun, in addition to becoming a solid swimmer. Sign up by calling the Rec. Dept. at 715-743-2400. First night of practice will be Thursday, October 6.

Thank You and Farewell: We would like to thank our school cook, Mrs. Melani Gaddis, for her faithful service the last several years and her delicious meals. Today is her last day at St. John’s. We ask God to bless her in her future endeavors. We will miss you, Mrs. Gaddis!!