



# St. John Lutheran Church & School

## February 2019 Newsletter

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### FACULTY/STAFF

- **Rev. Thomas Wilsmann 478-2986**
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Principal & 7th/8th
- **James Schuette**  
Athletic Director  
5th/6th
- **Hannah Hackbarth**  
3rd/4th  
Educational Tech
- **Karla Haley**  
Music Coordinator  
K-2nd
- **Linda Schwartz**  
Head organist  
K-8 Departmentalized
- **Tammy Musser**  
Administrative  
Assistant
- **Sandra Berndt**  
Custodian
- **Shari Kiesow**  
Kitchen Supervisor

**Church Website:**  
[www.stjohnwaterloo.com](http://www.stjohnwaterloo.com)



“Don’t it always go to show,  
You never know what you got till it’s gone?  
They pave paradise and put up a parking lot.”

Joni Mitchell “Big Yellow Taxi” 1970

The other day, one of our older members mentioned that we don’t see our families with younger children much in church anymore. Unfortunately, I had to agree. It’s a heart-breaking situation, because anyone who thinks about it, understands that young people and young children are the future of the Church. As the Scriptures declare, **“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”** [Prov. 22:6] and **“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,”** [Matt 19:14] Or, as we were told the other night about the state of churches, **“If there ain’t crying, you’re dying.”**

Anyone who has sat through any of the children’s Christmas programs, praises God for these little ones. Anyone who pays attention to our littlest ones’ expression of their trust and love for Jesus, comes away from them amazed at what the Holy Spirit works in them; in spite of their young age. So why is it so difficult for our parents to bring their young children to church every Sunday? The answer is not so simple, but I’d like you to consider the three ‘E’s: Ease, Effort & Embarrassment.

It’s certainly **easier** to sleep in with young children rather than get yourself ready, fight your other children, and wrestle a ‘young un’ into their snowsuit, (or jumpsuit), buckle them into a car seat, and drive off to church—only to arrive late to the judging glances of older members. After working all week, it takes a lot of **effort** to plan and implement how to keep really young children occupied for a full hour of church. And after you’ve done all that, when your child misbehaves—which they will—there’s the **embarrassment** of that interruption of other peoples’ worship. There’s also the humiliation of the un-approving glances; not to mention the question, “After all of that effort, what worship benefit is there for that dedicated parent?” Often, they go home frustrated, embarrassed and vowing, ‘Not to go through that again.’ Finally, there’s the attitude of the unbelieving world around our parents, which tells them, “Don’t force religion on your children, let them decide when they get old enough to understand what’s going on.”

It’s really a miracle that any of our parents of young children bring them to worship. It’s also a testament to their dedication as children of God. And the rest of us need to view each child entering our church building as a true gift of God; and their parent/s who bring them as superhero’s. So, when that baby, just won’t stop crying, that toddler just won’t stop talking to whomever they’re talking to, or the little one blurts out, “Is it done yet?” We need to smile, concentrate on our worship just a little harder, and say to ourselves, “Thank You Jesus for these little ones, and thank you parents for making the effort to bring them here to be with us.”

