

St. James

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-2016

Church phone: 731-4057

Email: stjameschurchberg@gmail.com

Website: www.saintjameslutheran-niagarafalls.org

“Like” us on Facebook

Serving in God's House in September

Trustee: September 3rd – Dave Milleville
September 10th – Chris Schimschack
September 17th -Brian Milleville
September 24th – Justin DeVantier

Readers: September 3rd – Maureen Milleville
September 10th – Sue Milleville
September 17th -Danielle Nemi
September 24th – Kristen Rafter

Altar Care: Barb and Joyce Schimschack

Communion Assist:
September 3rd – Duane DeVantier
September 17th – MaryAnn Kowalski

Organist: September 3rd – Jennifer Parris
September 10th – Janet Galvano
September 17th -Jennifer Parris
September 24th – Janet Galvano

Sunday School Resumes September 10th

In Memory of Robert Haseley,
\$215 was given to Caring
Friends and \$75 was given to
the Capital Improvement Fund.

In Memory of William Buerger,
\$50 was given to Caring Friends.

In Memory of Michael Galas,
\$220 was given to St. James
VBS.

Coffee hour will be 10:30am-
11:30am second Sunday
every month starting
September. Sign Up sheet
will be on the table by the
gray room for those who
would like to help.

Tuition Form - If you will be enrolling your
child/children in a parochial school, you must fill
out an application prior to the school year. It must
be submitted to the board of elders for their
review and approval. You can find them on the
table outside of the office.



**St. James Christian Day School
Alumni & Friends Reunion:** All former
students of St. James Christian Day School
and any who are interested are invited to
attend.

WHEN: Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 4 – 8 pm

WHERE: St. James Fellowship Hall

COST: \$25 per person which includes beverages and
buffet dinner. Volunteers are needed to bring desserts.
Registration/Payment forms are available at the gray room
and bell tower entrances, or, scan the QR code above to
access forms. Deadline to register and pay is September
1, 2023. Contact Marcia Gardiner (716-804-4526) or
Donna Driess (716-930-6135) with any questions. Spread
the word and hope to see you there!

Protecting Our Cubs

Kelli and I recently returned from a trip to the Smoky Mountains. It was a wonderful trip full of memories we will never forget. One such memory was our close encounter with a black bear. While hiking a popular trail we came around a bend to find ourselves face to face with a momma bear and her two cubs. Momma went right into protective mode placing herself between us and her cubs. Momma was all business as she walked toward us forcing us to retreat. Protecting her cubs is instinctive behavior for the momma bear just as protecting our children should be instinctive for us. The problem is we don't always recognize the danger.

We posed no danger to those cubs. Unfortunately, Satan doesn't come to mess around. The Word says, "Be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8) Satan is not some harmless observer. He's after our kids while they are most impressionable, working to keep them from growing as disciples.

The enemy attacks our kids through their thought lives, and we know this because it's the same way he attacks us as adults. The struggle is very real, even as parents, to guard our minds against the evil of the day. What can we do as parents to help? Here are three helpful suggestions:

1. SLOW THE INPUT

Our kids are bombarded far more with input today than we ever were as kids and every bit of this information gets filed as either a truth or a lie. A lot of lies are coming at your children disguised as truths. The more they hear them, the more likely they are to believe them and become desensitized to the actual lie. We need to be aware of this onslaught and understand that sometimes it's okay to simplify their lives for them.

This is the first line of defense against the attacks of the enemy – to pull back from the lies for a bit, helps our kids get quiet, making sure they feel seen. Sometimes, we need some distance and some quiet to be able to discern what the lies are. Make time to engage with them. Perhaps institute "No screen Sundays" (parents too). Make a lunch date with your child and have some one-on-one time with each parent. Be more selective of what they watch on TV and other means of video entertainment.

2. NOURISH THEM WITH TRUTH

It's impossible to renew our mind if we aren't filling it from the only TRUE source, God's Holy Word. We have to read the Bible and model it for our children. It's imperative for our own lives and to protect our own minds against the enemy. It's also very important that we model it for our children. Our actions speak so much louder than our words. Not only should we be in the Word ourselves, but we should read the Word to, and with our children. I have written of this before, that we should have daily family devotional time. In that time we can show them the Savior who loves them, the One who died for them, the One who fights for them.

This time of spiritual nourishment must be an extension of Sunday worship. When we make worship secondary to the things of this world we teach our kids that it is unimportant. This means going to worship as a family. Simply dropping the children off at Sunday school or Catechism class sends them a message that worship is not a priority. This is not simply an option, this is your God-given duty as a parent and a promise you made when your child was baptized.

3. TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO TALK TO GOD BY PRAYING TOGETHER

This is different than the devotional time previously mentioned, although that is also a time to pray together. St. Paul tells us, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Pray with your children at meal time (even when eating out). Pray with them when you are driving. Pray with them before and after the game, or recital, or concert. Pray with them for others, like when you see that ambulance with its lights flashing. Just pray with them.

Now, these suggestions merely scratch the surface for ways we can protect our children from the enemy. The Word uses strong language when it talks about the enemy. Not because you are to fear him, but because you are meant to be aware of his influence and to understand that through Jesus Christ you have the tools to deny his lies. We need to teach our kids, at age-appropriate levels, that they too can combat the lies of the enemy with love-covered, Christ-centered, truth-filled minds. As parents we can help protect our kids from the enemy's lies by slowing the input, nourishing them with truth, and teaching them to pray.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)