

STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS

LEADER GUIDE



2023-2024—SEASON 29

We are one-third of the way through the school year and our season. These middle three months are packed full of fun, faith-filled stories. Several are MY SCHOOL stories suggested or sent in by you—thank you! Continue to send us your MY SCHOOL ideas and/or sent-in stories and pictures. Tell us what is unique about your grade school, Sunday school, early childhood education center, etc. Send MY SCHOOL emails to kidsconnection@wels.net. Next season is our 30th season! Yikes!

Think about how you can help us celebrate. More to come in March!

A continued thank-you to Northwestern Publishing House for running our subscription services. If you are not a subscriber, you can go directly to the *Kids Connection* page: wels.net/kidsconnection. Click on the red Subscribe Now button. Please contact laura.schulz@wels.net for subscription assistance.

It is our prayer that *Kids Connection* and the gospel it shares will encourage you and your students to stay connected to each other, to others in WELS, and, most importantly, to Jesus.



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DECEMBER 2023

This Christmas we will sing hymns in church. Some of your churches may use pianos, guitars, violins, trumpets, and maybe timpani. Many have organs. Today we meet John Miller, an organ builder. He enjoys the opportunity to use his God-given gifts to help people worship.

Next, we enjoy a sent-in story from Abiding Peace in Simpsonville, South Carolina, where students decorate for the city's Festival of Trees, celebrating

their Christ-centered Christmas joy with the community.

Finally, Pastor Tony Schultz has a lesson in patience (it looks like he's sick, but he's not!).

"Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind'" (Luke 2:13, 14).

QUESTIONS TO SPARK DISCUSSION

1. What are your favorite Christmas decorations? How can decorations remind us of the birth of Jesus?
2. When is it difficult for you to be patient?

JANUARY 2024

Happy 2024! Many schools have a "buddy system" that pairs a younger student with an older student. They do projects together, sit together at chapel, and maybe exchange small gifts. They also learn about Jesus together. In January we have a sent-in MY SCHOOL story where students from St. Paul's in Stevensville, Michigan added another buddy, a "senior buddy."

Next, we have another MY SCHOOL story, this time from St. John's (68th

and Forest Home) in Milwaukee. Here we see more examples of older and younger buddies encouraging one another. This time in athletic competition!

Finally, Pastor Tony Schultz reminds us that Jesus laid down his life, for us!

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

QUESTIONS TO SPARK DISCUSSION

1. Of all the games you saw in the second story today, what is your favorite and why? How can you encourage others while you play?
2. Do you know any first responders? How can you thank them for their work?

FEBRUARY 2024

In the New Testament book of Revelation God tells us that heaven will be filled with people from every tribe, nation, and language. In our first MY SCHOOL story we stop by Christ Alone in Thiensville, Wisconsin for their Adventures Around the World.

Next, how do you feel when you get a letter in the mailbox? It's kind of exciting, right? In our second story we see a mailbox ministry in action.

Students share God's Word with others through letters of comfort, encouragement, and celebration.

Finally, Pastor Tony Schultz reminds us of the many reasons God gives us to rejoice.

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9).

QUESTIONS TO SPARK DISCUSSION

1. Think about someone who could use a note of encouragement or comfort. What can you write to them?
2. What are some reasons to rejoice in your life?