St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter Volume 1 No. 1

Greetings!

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior! Please let me introduce myself, I am Deitt Schneider and I have the privilege of being the Principal here at St. John's Lutheran School. I have been here for 30 years so I may have had you as a student. It is with great joy that I tell you about how our school has grown.



Live nativity held outside of church.

We are blessed to include Daycare and Preschool in our school program. Our Daycare director is Amanda Falkenhain with Kellie Shields as the Assistant Director. Our other Daycare workers include Joyce McDaniel, Jennifer Givens, Pam Henry, Shawn DeRousse, Jennifer Pfannebecker, Lisa Quinn, Eileen Seibold, Nicole Kadlec, Jennifer Mudd, Beka Nagel, Cindy Ebers, Kristy Neff, Julia Chandler and Christy Deterding. Mrs. Cindy Steele teaches our Preschool program with Eileen Seibold, Lindsey Dethrow and Lori Pensoneau as aides. We have 33 children in our Daycare who are not enrolled in the Preschool program and 48 students in our 3 and 4 year old Preschool. We have 22 students in Kindergarten taught by Mrs. Betty Schmitz and Shawn DeRousse as an aide, 31 students in two classrooms for 1st grade, 16 taught by Mrs. Rachel Miller and 15 taught by Mrs. Stephanie Valleroy. There are 17 students in 2nd grade taught by Mrs. Rebekah Liefer, 17 students in 3rd grade taught by Mrs. Lauri Koen, 15 students in 4th grade taught by Mr. Bill Becker, 20 students in 5th grade taught by Mrs. Darlene Letcher, 13 students in 6th gade taught by Mrs. Doreen Schnepel, 16 students in 7th grade taught by Mrs. Michelle Hines and 15 students in 8th grade taught by Mr. Justin Palm. Each and every day our 247 students hear about Jesus through singing, prayer and Bible stories. Our pastors, Rev. Mark Nebel and Rev. Russell Koen teach Confirmation and are our Spiritual leaders, Mrs. Julie Ratz and Mrs. Sarah Kueker handle our offices, Mr. Loren Harms is our custodian, and Mrs. Jill Gross and Mrs. Marilyn Oettle are our fabulous cooks. We have a host of volunteers who help in the classrooms, serve as tutors, work in the library, coach our sports teams and assist in the kitchen. Everyone helps to encourage and instruct our students to be the best they can be.

Our theme chosen for this year is "Christ is our Cornerstone" based on Ps. 127:1a, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Thank you to those who have supported our school in our Capital Funding Campaign. Your gifts are a blessing to us. Out of this program came the idea for an Alumni group. We look forward to having this Alumni organization to stay in touch!

I wish for you God's blessings for the New Year!

In His love,
Deitt Schneider



A Visit With Alumni and Retired Staff

Jennifer Becker-Roscow Class of 1983

My parents, Carl and Betty Becker, moved to Randolph County in the early 1960's. They had two small children, my oldest brother, Michael, and my only sister, Ann. They first moved to Chester, where my father opened a law practice. Soon after the move to Chester, he learned that Judge Reese was selling his law practice in Red Bud. What attracted my parents to Red Bud was the fact that St. John's Lutheran had a wonderful school. My father purchased Judge Reese's law practice, moved the family to Red Bud, and he and my mother joined St. John's Lutheran. The family expanded to include Matthew, Carl and me.



Both of my parents were very active in the church and school. They served on committees, volunteered for school events and helped with the school expansion in the early 1970's. My mother was quite proud to be one of the first women to serve on the school board.

All five children attended St. John's Lutheran school from 1st to 8th grade. My time at St. John's school was wonderful—being a cheerleader, playing on the sports teams, singing in choir and making life time friends. The teachers were the most wonderful part of St. John's, sharing their faith in Christ every day and making it a part of my education. This has given me a foundation on which I still live my life. After graduating from St. John's, I graduated from Red Bud High School and went on to receive my Bachelor's Degree and Law Degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Throughout my post grade-school education, I always carried the values of my Christ-centered education with me—treating others with love and compassion—just as Christ treated us.

After getting my first job as an attorney with a law practice in Marissa, I returned home to Red Bud. I didn't have to look too far to find my church home—St. John's Lutheran! I married Michael Roscow in 1999. I went to work for the Washington County State's Attorney in Nashville as the Assistant State's Attorney. Michael and I have been blessed with two sons, Dylan and Samuel. My sons now attend St. John's—Dylan in 5th grade and Sam in 1st. I feel so blessed that I can send my children to my alma mater knowing they will also receive a Christ-centered education with teachers who hold the same Christian values as I do. My hope is that they will also experience having a strong Christian foundation which they can carry throughout their lives no matter where they live and/or what they do.

We sadly lost my mother, Betty, July 2009. She volunteered for the school office for many years up until her passing. I know she is missed by the office staff. Her picture still sits on the desk of our school secretary, Sarah Kueker. It makes me so proud that she was such a big part of St. John's. My father, Carl, retired in 1989 after serving as the Circuit Judge for Randolph County for 27 years. He is still a member of St. John's and loves watching his grandchildren in the school musicals and Christmas programs. My oldest brother, Michael, and his wife, Becky, reside in New Hampshire. My sister, Ann, and my brother, Matthew, both live in St. Louis area and are both still members of St. John's. My brother, Carl, resides in Indianapolis with his two children, CJ and Evan. They all still have love of Christ that first started with my parents and continued with St. John's Lutheran School.

I am very happy to be a part of St. John's again, now as a parent and Sunday School teacher. I also attend Bible studies and lead the local chapter of Lutherans for Life. I have once again made life-long friends who I know will be there for me in good times and bad. I am thrilled that the school has decided to expand. With this expansion, more children will have the opportunity to be part of St. John's and we can share Christ's love with them as they receive a valuable education.



RETIRED ON THE "PRAIRIE"

One Mile East of the Bones of Martin Stephan

Two score and eighteen years ago, this young Lutheran teacher and his new helpmeet were assigned by Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois, to fill the call to St. John's Lutheran School and Church, Red Bud, IL. The call read "teach grades three and four and direct the Walther League." Upon arrival in Red Bud, our duties expanded 'considerably." ONLY by the grace and help of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was this young couple able to serve and survive and raise eight children – ALL great blessings from God!



Now, as is often said, 'the rest is history."

We moved to the 'prairie" in 1989 and were blessed to teach with our daughter, Rachel (first grade), for nine more years before retiring.



In our retirement, we visit our children and their spouses and our 22 grandchildren. We read, plant and trim trees, gather leaves, cut grass, plant garden, share insights in the Holy Scriptures and sing in the church choir. In the garden, we grow strawberries, asparagus, rhubarb, sweet potatoes, squash, peas, golden beets, tomatoes, sweet peppers, cucumbers, green beans, and experiment with other veggies. We harvest pecans and apples in season. All fruit and garden produced, we share with our children and others. The "LORD HAS BLESSED US HITHERTO WITH HIS SURPASSING FAVOR!"

Eunice and Ron Snyder

A Word From Pastor

Greetings to you from your grade school alma mater! As a 1978 graduate of Trinity Lutheran School in Jefferson City, Missouri, I share with you an appreciation of the common education we received in our Lutheran grade schools.

We benefited from those who were our teachers during the school day and fellow Christians at all times. We enjoyed classmates whose friendship lasted well beyond our school days. We took part in traditions that connected us to students who came before us and to those who followed us.

The education we received in grade school may not have come at high cost, but it was of high quality. The classrooms and hallways were spaces where God's will was obeyed but also places where God's grace was shared. Along with the reading, writing and 'rithmetic, we also learned revelation, that is, God's Word, living in His Son, Jesus, and written for us in the Holy Bible.

While some of what we were taught in grade school may not have stuck with us (for me, science), other elements have become second nature to us (reading, writing, etc). Hopefully, the faith of the Church passed on to us in our families, congregation and this school also has become part of your new nature, that Spirit-given and directed life that leads us through this world into our heavenly home.



I assure you that your alma mater is in good hands and doing well. Our enrollment has increased by 60% over the past six years. We are keeping up with technological advancements. We are active in the Red Bud community. I enjoy working with our teaching staff, most of whom have been here longer than my six plus years at St. John's (which shows that we have a steady and stable faculty).

I hope that you have enjoyed receiving this update from your grade school alma mater. If you are interested, we would like to make contact with you on a more regular basis.

God's blessings,
Rev. Mark Alan Nebel
Senior Pastor

Dinner Auction

On Saturday, March 15, 2014, St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud, IL, will host its 6th annual Dinner Auction, "A Night at the Vineyard," to benefit the school. Please accept our invitation to be a part of this very worthwhile event. If you would like to attend, a form to purchase tickets is included in this newsletter. This event has become our biggest fundraiser and is vital in helping our school continue to provide the highest level of Christian education for our growing student body. St. John's Lutheran School is home to over 200 students in grades Pre K through 8th grade. These students will all greatly benefit from the funds raised from the Dinner Auction. To those of you that supported our past Dinner Auctions, we are extremely grateful. If you would like to donate an item to this year's auction, please complete the enclosed donation form.

Please contact Amber Piel at 618-282-5334 or apiel@htc.net if you have any questions regarding purchasing tickets or making a donation. Donations can be mailed directly to:

St. John's Lutheran School
Attn: Dinner Auction
104 E. S. 6th Street
Red Bud, IL 62278

Thank you for your time and consideration in helping make our 6th annual Dinner Auction a success!

Respectfully,
St. John's Lutheran School Dinner Auction Committee

St. John's Lutheran School is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. Our non-profit tax ID# is 370696440. Please see enclosed forms for more information.

Capital Campaign

Dear Alumni of St. John's Lutheran School,

It is my privilege to give you an update on the progress and success of our capital funding campaign, "Prayer, Presence, Presents, and Priorities."

The need to expand our school facilities and make improvements to the church has been a topic of discussion for nearly six years. The PTL Dinner Auction has been the major fund raising project during that time and will be held for the sixth time on March 15, 2014. While this has been and will continue to be a great blessing to St. John's, it was deemed necessary to expand the funding appeal further.

At the January 2013 Voter's Meeting, the decision was made to enlist the help of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Reverend Dr. John Sproul was assigned to St. John's to be our consultant during our Capital Funding Campaign. Meetings began in June, and a Leadership Team was chosen. As the campaign progressed from June until the present time, well over 200 members of St. John's were directly involved. These people worked in 13 separate areas both individually and collectively in an effort to bring the message to everyone. Members of the School Emphasis Committee assembled a list of addresses for the letter that was sent to you, the alumni of St. John's Lutheran School.

An initial commitment event was held on November 5 at our school. Over 150 people were in attendance and commitments totaling $1,911,340 were received. On November 16 and 17, a Commitment Sunday Celebration was held at church with a reception following the service in our Fellowship Hall. Additional commitments of $356,588 were received that weekend. The school children saved their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars, and they raised over $3,100.

The non-member Alumni of St. John's Lutheran School and the non-member grandparents of our current students have responded with commitments of over $113,000. Additional commitments continue to be received, and the campaign total to date is over $2,550,000. God has truly blessed St. John's Lutheran Church and School, its members, alumni, and everyone else connected with our expansion project.

Thank you to all of our alumni and grandparents for their prayers, dedication, interest, and support of the mission here at St. John's. Just as your lives have been influenced and blessed by your Christian education in our school, generations to come will be the beneficiaries of your generous support.

To God be all the glory!
In His Name,
Kevin Liefer
Class of 1968