St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter 10

The Joy of Children

I am writing this article as we complete our last Christmas service for December (pictured below). What joy and enthusiasm we have had with each and every service! Yes, we may have had to encourage our older group more than the younger ones, but joy was evident in the singing and recitations made. The children have the best news to share about the birth of Jesus, and they let us know all about it! They witness so well the story we have heard our whole lives! The real meaning of Christmas is told over and over again, year after year, and it never grows old! The best news is proclaimed loud and clear, just as the angels and shepherds did so long ago! Thanks be to God for these dear sweet voices which proclaim this wonderful news!



What's new around school? We have been blessed to have the Parent Teacher League provide needed items for our school safety, health, and school appearance. The windows have been tinted and doors now have a protective coating which makes them shatter-proof. Yes, I pray we never have to need it, but it is there for our protection. The new front building signs have been installed and they look great! These signs complete the look of the building and help direct people to the right entrance as well as letting everyone know who we are. The new shed has been approved, and we are waiting for the work to begin. Hopefully, the winter will not be too bad and the work can be completed before too long. New goals will also be added into the new gym for the students to use during recess and practice. The process will take a little time, but it should be completed before our next season. Through funds from the Parent Teacher League, water fountains were also added in the new gym, which the students enjoy daily. We thank everyone who has helped in any way to provide for the improvements we make to our school. You are a blessing from God, and we thank you for your continued support.



New signage recently installed on the building showcases the school's name as well as designating entrances.

I hope many of you follow our school on Facebook. The teachers have been posting pictures of the many activities we experience each day. Mr. Becker posted activities using Lego robotics that we were able to borrow from the Lutheran Elementary School Association which our school is a member of. The students had great fun learning and playing with their created robots! The Christmas services and special classroom projects have been posted so please enjoy them!

Blessings to you as we begin the New Year of 2019!

Deitt Schneider



Students enjoying the Lego Robotics held after school recently.

A Visit With an Alumna: Danette (Sachtleben) Miller–

My name is Danette (Sachtleben) Miller. My three siblings and I are St. John Lutheran School alumni. We were in grade school in the 1970's and early 1980's. Our parents are Earl Sachtleben from New Minden, IL and Mary (Krohne) Sachtleben from Okawville, IL. I was born in St. Louis, MO, in 1963. My parents lived in Clayton, MO, while dad was in law school at Washington University. Dad joined Paul Nehrt's law firm, and they moved to Red Bud a few years later.

I started grade school in 1969. The teachers during my time were Mrs. Erna Kuring, Mr. William Tetting, Mr. John Wiatr, Mr. William Boss ("the Boss" he always wrote), Mr. David Polnick, Mrs. Isabelle Stellhorn, and Mr. Ronald Snyder. Mrs. Stellhorn taught us English, and I am sure most in my class can still remember how to diagram a sentence. We had a children's choir and a pep club I participated in. I played volleyball, softball, was a cheerleader, and worked on the Discipulog (yearbook) staff. I was confirmed by Reverend Robert Holstein and graduated in 1977. Our Vicar then was Reverend Joe Lecke, and he and his wife Karen became strong friends of the youth group. At that time, the 8th grade students would predict their future occupation. I said Lutheran School Teacher - I was wrong. The Walther League (Youth Group) was directed by Mr. Larry Grass and Mrs. Joyce Carnahan. I have wonderful memories of those times with Joyce, and a wonderful friendship started that has lasted through the years. I graduated from Red Bud High School (RBHS) and went to the University of Illinois, graduating with a degree in finance in 1985. I got my Certified Financial Analyst designation and have been a stock analyst specializing in the energy, utilities, and material spaces. I have worked with the same group under a couple of different owners and names since 1991. I am married to Barton Miller, and we have two children. Bart works as a Parts Manager and Service Technician for Red Bud Industries. Our children are Michael (age 21 - SJL alum Class of 2012) and Tessa (age 20 - SJL alum Class of 2013). Both children are in college at Southeast Missouri State. Michael is majoring in Corporate Communications and Tessa in Nursing with a view to Physicians Assistant.



The Sachtleben Family in 2018



Earl and Mary Sachtleben Family 1977

Douglas Sachtleben was born in 1966. He started at SJL in 1972 and graduated in 1980. His teachers were Miss Vera Laufer, Mrs. Eunice Wiatr, Mr. John Wiatr, Miss Christina Braunschweig, Mr. Larry Grass, Mr. William Boss, Mrs. Diane Boss and Mr. Ronald Snyder. He participated in softball, track, and basketball. Douglas predicted he would become an attorney, he also guessed wrong. Doug graduated from RBHS and attended SIU - Carbondale. He graduated with a degree in Marketing. Doug worked 11 years in the transportation sales/leasing business for Ryder & Fruehaul Trailer. The last 15 years he has owned Sachtleben Appraisals in IL and MO. As of December 2018, he is the Randolph County Supervisor of Assessments and continues his private practice in nearby counties. Douglas has a son Brandon Sachtleben who works at Red Bud Industries. He is married to Kristin (Liefer) Sachtleben, a SJL alum (Class of 1998) and is a former Lutheran school teacher. They have three children: Jack , Henry, and Claire. Jack and Henry are current students at SJL. Doug is married to Trish (Davis) Sachtleben, a paralegal, and has a stepdaughter, Samantha Lee. Samantha is a SJL alumni from the class of 2011 and recently graduated from Southeast Missouri State with a major in Hospitality Management. She works as a wedding planner at ALTAR'D events.



Doug, Danette, Deb, and Dan 1988

Daniel Sachtleben was born in 1967 and attended SJL from 1973 to 1981. He had many of the same teachers as Doug but add Mrs. Mary Ann Polnick and Miss LuAnn Larabee. He participated in basketball, track, and softball. He tells stories of all kinds of athletic records he broke and

supposedly still holds. We just smile and nod. He predicted he would be a helicopter pilot- wrong again. But he says he is still working on that. He graduated from RBHS and attended SIU-Carbondale, where he received a degree in Journalism, majoring in advertising and a minor in marketing. The next 10 years, he lived in Chicago and worked in media/advertising. He loves outdoor fun/adventure and the mountains, so he moved to Colorado in 1999, where he continues his work in the media and health/fitness areas. Daniel and his wife Roxanne, along with their two sons Max and River, currently live, work, and play in Salida, CO.

Debra (Sachtleben) Page was born in 1970. She attended SJL from 1976 to 1984. Her teachers were Miss Laufer, Miss Valeda Tegtmeyer, Mr. Ted Boettcher, Mrs. Karen Boettcher, Miss Margie Morgan, Mr. David Ingwersen, Miss Larabee, and Mr. Snyder. She participated in volleyball, softball, track, and girl's basketball. She was also a member of the Discipulog staff which she says she has fond memories doing. She predicted she would be an accountant. We have a winner! She graduated from RBHS and attended the University of Illinois where she graduated with a degree in accounting and then got her CPA. She worked in St. Louis for two years at Ernst and Young. Currently, she lives in Bloomington, IL working at State Farm and has been there for 24 years in various financial positions. Debbie has two children - Addison (15) and Aiden (13). She is married to Jeff Page and has two stepchildren - Lindsay(24) and Jordan (22).

Our days began with pledges to the United States and the Cross, we marched, singing from memory at Christmas Eve to "*Oh*, *Rejoice, Ye Christians*, *Loudly,*" and ended each day with The Lord's Prayer and singing "*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing.*" We graduated with our Ten Commandments, Creeds, Bible stories, and many Bible passages memorized. We are grateful for our Lutheran upbringing and years at SJL. Graduates of SJL entering RBHS at that time were usually ahead of the curve, thanks to the dedication of our teachers. If you have a few extra minutes in your day and have your old Discipulogs, I suggest a look. It has brought us a few smiles.

A Visit With an Alumna: Mary Gross

Hello,

I am Mary Rohlfing Gross. I was born in Red Bud on February 26, 1935, the daughter of Herman "Sam" and Ida Rohlfing. In fact, I was born right across the street from the house I now live in. I was raised by my loving Christian parents who knew the value of Christian education. So, I received my elementary education at St. John's Lutheran School, confirmed in 1948 (*pictured right*), and graduated from Red Bud High School in 1952. Many of my classmates are still some of my dear friends today.



Our Pastor in the 1950's was Reverend M. H. Gross. He and his wife became very dear to me as they became my in-laws when I married their son in 1955. Over the ensuing years, we were blessed with four beautiful children. Bob, lives near Red Bud, Meg lives in Chester, Jackie lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and Rhonda, who was killed in an auto accident in 1977, is living in eternal bliss in heaven.



Bob, Class of 1971, Jackie, Class of 1975, Mary, Class of 1948, Meg, Class of 1971

My then husband was in the Air Force and we moved many, many times, traveled from one end of the country to the other and spent 1962-1963 in Australia. Sadly, in 1967, my marriage ended in divorce. Faced with raising my four children alone and not having any real home, I chose to come "home" to Red Bud where my parents still lived.

I talked with Principal Ron Snyder and enrolled my three oldest in my alma mater, St. John's. My youngest went to public school kindergarten. (No preschool or kindergarten was available yet at St. John's.)

At this same time, Pastor Gross had accepted a call to serve a congregation in Colorado, which put St. John's in vacancy. Pastor

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Henry Kuring from Trinity Prairie agreed to serve as our vacancy pastor providing St. John's would provide him with secretarial help throughout the vacancy. Mr. Snyder suggested I apply. So, I became secretary to both St. John's and Trinity. By the time the vacancy ended, St. John's realized they could not expect the new pastor, Reverend Robert Holstein, to do all that the former pastors had done. They needed a full-time secretary! Would I stay on? Yes! I stayed almost 35 years, and retired in 2001.



St. John's Lutheran Church Confirmation Class of 1975

Meanwhile, my children grew up, married, and have families of their own. Bob married Cate, and they have two sons; Sam (Jill) and children Austin and Makayla, and Mike (Cheryl). Bob works for Monroe County Electric as a lineman. Meg married Terry Knop and they have five children; Chris, Hanna, Brent, and twins, Ted and Tyler. Meg has been in the Lutheran School system as a teacher for nearly 40 years. Jackie works for Coca-Cola and has two children, Colin and Sarah. So, I have nine grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and many extended family members. I am now in my "golden years" (you do the math) and enjoying retirement.



St. John's Lutheran Church Confirmation Class of 1971

With each event in my life, both the ups and the downs, I have grown closer to my Savior, Jesus Christ. Every day I am reminded of the importance of the Christian education I received, first at home, and then at St. John's Lutheran School.

I mentioned earlier that I live across the street from the house where I was born. That is a short span. But, oh, the years in between. In hindsight, I can definitely see God's planning for my life, guiding and leading me all the way.

That's my story. It is supposed to tell you to love and trust Jesus, love your family, love your church and school, and love life – both the ups and the downs. All are God's gifts and we should thank Him every day.

The Pastor's Perspective

I recently received an envelope in the mail from my home congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. What could this be, I wondered, as I opened it. I have been asked to preach there in the past when they observed an anniversary, but I didn't think any such special event is upcoming. The contents turned out to be somewhat similar to what we send to you, the alumni of St. John's Lutheran School of Red Bud, Illinois. They report that students have been baptized, children sing in church, sports teams are active, and amazing memories are being made. The goal of the school is to help students grow in faith, find their passions and provide the best possible facility. To do so, they need to do some "replacements and renovations," and provide some "new" items. One completed project is a security camera system for student safety. They have many more plans moving "forward."

Thank you
for partnering with us
as we work to improve
our school for our
amazing students

As I read what is happening at my Lutheran grade school alma mater, I am amazed at how familiar it all sounds. We have been, are, and want to do very similar things here at St. John's. Of course, as with Trinity in Jefferson City, so also with St. John's in Red Bud, to maintain, improve, and increase our educational ministry requires broad-based support. We desire your prayers for our students, faculty, and staff. We value your financial support. I echo what this letter tells me, "Every gift is appreciated and every gift helps." I also will close with what the pastor and principal of my home school wrote to me, "Thank you for partnering with us as we work to improve our school for our amazing students." Pardon me for writing only briefly. Now I need to send a check to Trinity in Jefferson City.



God's blessings,
Pastor Mark Nebel