St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter 16

The Principal's Perspective

I have been so blessed! My heart was full on Christmas morning as I received a text and picture from our faculty, staff, and friends from St. John's. A beautiful stained glass window (*pictured below*) was placed above our Luther Seal window which read, "Jesus said, 'let the children come to me'". The text read as follows: "Merry Christmas, Deitt! The overhead window is in honor of Deitt Schneider's 46th year calling as an LCMS teacher and principal. The window is a reminder of the ultimate goal of serving the children and their families during her decades-long career." I was moved to tears for the thoughtfulness of the faculty, staff, and friends for this special gift given to the school. The verse will remind us of our mission to serve and bring children to know Jesus as their loving Savior for generations to come. "Thank you" seems so small but heartily appreciated for this wonderful gift. I have been blessed to share this mission over the years with many dedicated servants of God and I am thankful to have shared this ministry with all of them and the members of the schools I have served.



Life is full of surprises! We held our awards day for the second quarter on January 12th. The teachers present attendance awards for school, church and Sunday School attendance and honor awards for the older students. At the close of the presentation, Mr. Becker announced that there would be one more award and that would be for me! Again, I was totally surprised not knowing what was to come and moved to tears at the presentation! (Are you catching this common theme of tears?) Mr. Connor Guebert, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, presented me with the Teacher of the Month award for the month of December. The plaque reads as follows: "This award is presented to Deitt Schneider in recognition of her dedicated service and outstanding leadership. Deitt continues to set an example for others to follow." I have been involved with selecting the Teacher of the Month award for all the years it has been presented to St. John's Lutheran. I never expected to have this honor. I have been blessed to teach all 46 years of my ministry. Even as a principal, I wanted to have a class to teach, to have more interaction with the students, and to know what my teachers experience each and every day. It has been a joy and privilege to serve in this capacity.

What do I see in the near future? I know many days of doing things as a principal will take place as doing them for the last time. I have experienced some of these days already and more are to come. Will there be tears? Most definitely, but tears of appreciation, joy and thankfulness! I have been so very blessed to have been able to serve all these students and families throughout these many years. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for me and my family, but I will miss my school family and the people I have been privileged to serve.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

May God bless and keep you always, Deitt Schneider



Deitt and Bruce Schneider with their family, Jonathan, Krissy, Hudson, and Annley.

A Visit With an Alumna: Lori Moeller Langrehr

I have been a lifelong resident of the Red Bud area and member of St. John's Lutheran Church. My husband, Kenny, and I have 2 children, Leslie (Mark) Froemling, Andrew (Jennifer) Langrehr, and 5 grandchildren.

St. John's Lutheran School holds a special place in my heart, as there have been 4 generations of my family attending it; my parents, Rich (Class of 1947) and Jane (Guebert) Moeller (Class of 1951), my brother, Brent (Class of 1976), myself (Class of 1975), Leslie (Class of 1996), Andrew (Class of 2000), my daughter-in-law, Jennifer (Class of 2001), and now my grandchildren, Liam and Amelia Langrehr (currently in 1st grade). It's been neat to be able to have talks between all of us about the different times and teachers we've experienced at St. John's.



Confirmation Class of 1975: Left to Right 1st Row: Rev. Robert Holstein, Angela Schnepel, Mary Lou Guebert, Diane Miller, Jean Prigge, Nancy Luttman, Jacquelyn Gross, David Spradling, Michael Liefer, Curtis Schrieber, Katherine Van Hoy, Vicar Mark Scheve. 2nd Row: Glen Muench, Susan Stumpf, Steven Odehnal, Charlene Buch, Richard Schmidt, Stanley Voss, Curtis Winkelman. 3rd Row: Jyneane Guebert, Tracy Hartman, Kalvin Koester, John Liefer, Karla Liefer. 4th Row: Lori Mesnarich, Tim Byrd, David Fuhrhop, Lori Moeller, Karen Papenberg, Mr. Ron Snyder, Timothy Guebert, Randy Guebert, John Hicks, Gerald Guebert, Kalin Liefer.

There have been many physical changes to the school throughout all of those years. Mom and Dad went to the two-story school, which was located just west of the current building. I started 1st grade in the "new" school in 1967, and when I was in the 4th grade, there was an addition of 4 classrooms to the east. In 2001, came the expansion for the daycare program.

With the expansion of the daycare facility, my grandchildren Austin (Leslie's son), Liam, Amelia, and Ben (Andrew's children) were able to get a head start at St. John's instead of waiting for kindergarten. The daycare has an excellent staff of caring individuals whom I have enjoyed



as the kiddos have made their way through the different levels…the grandkids have always called daycare "school" and would be quick to correct me if I said otherwise.

Many different teachers have taught inside these walls and have given the families here not only a Christian education, but one that is great and lasting. I remember the teachers as being strict; now looking back, I would say it was hard work but also fun. Some of the memories that I have are of—1st grade with Mrs. Kuring; 6th grade of Mr. Werning starting the children's choir and his wonderful music; and 7th grade of Mrs. Stellhorn in English. I too remember the diagramming of sentences in her class, and Mr. Snyder in 8th grade teaching Luther's Catechism, Memory, and US Constitution. I was lucky enough to have Mr. Snyder teach both my children, Leslie for 8th grade and Andrew having him as a substitute.

I have been able to enjoy the 8th Grade Washington DC trip multiple times. I feel it is a great trip full of history, learning, fun times and memories…starting and ending each day with devotions and fellowship.

I am blessed now that I get to see the school through the eyes of a grandparent. I love watching the kids leading chapel services, playing chimes, learning new songs that they sing to me, and of course, the Christmas programs.



Lori and Kenny Langrehr with their grandchildren, in back, Amelia, Ben, and Liam Langrehr, and in front, Austin and Wyatt Froemling.

Confirmation Classes of the Family of Alumna: Lori Moeller Langrehr



Confirmation Class of 1947: Left to Right 1st Row: Pearl Hanebutt, Fern Schmuck, Wilma Liefer, Mr. A. L. Persson, Rev. Karl Eisele, Elsie Wirth, Edna Guebert, Florence Buss. 2nd Row: Theodore Stellhorn, Fred Voss, Lowell Liefer. 3rd Row: Merlin Liefer, Carl Zschiegner, Willard Guebert, Donald Guebert, Donald Stellhorn, Harry Wetzel, Richard Moeller.



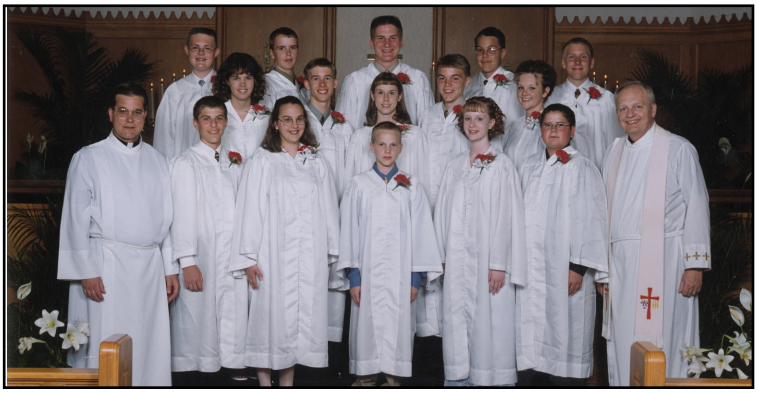
Confirmation Class of 1951: Left to Right 1st Row: Mary Ann Huetsch, Viola Voss, Loretta Liefer, Pearl Koenig. 2nd Row: C. John Prigge, Roy Wirth, Oliver Liefer, Roger Sathoff, Robert Rehmer. 3rd Row: Rev. Edwin Sommer, Mary Ann Guebert, Grace Burgdorf, Jane Guebert, Shirley Kueker, Mr. A. G. Sommerfeldt



Confirmation Class of 1976: Left to Right 1st Row: Kathleen Voges, Thuy Tran, Delonda Mesnarich, Sharon Birkner, Cindy Menke, Holly Gossett, Cynthia Spradling. 2nd Row: Rev. Robert Holstein, Roger Williams, Beverly Zschiegner, Nancy Ehlers, Marsha Jacobs, Susan Guebert, Steven Burgdorf, Brian Guebert, James Snyder, Daniel Liefer, Mr. Ron Snyder. 3rd Row: Kenneth Walton, Cynthia Voss, Lynn Seymour, Sandra Deterding, Laurie Muench, Mark Scheffert, Bonnie Schliefer, Bruce Schneider, Brent Moeller, Todd Wagner, Dale Schmitz.



Confirmation Class of 1996: Left to Right 1st Row: Ryan Dannenberg, Benjamin Guebert, Shannon Stolte, Jodi Hentscher, Shannon Birke, Travis Deterding, Derek Voss. 2nd Row: Nicole Herman, Matthew Blind, Angela Grohmann, Timothy Schumer, Karla Bartuch, Jessica Koester, Daniel Schumer, Stacia Aycock, Brian Zeiger, Scott Whelan, Rev. Donald Schultz, 3rd Row: Vicar David Byler, Timothy Liefer, Amanda Stellhorn, Blake Salger, Jesse Weiler, Bradley Mueth, Crystal Falkenhain, Justin Papenberg. 4th Row: Melissa Liefer, Leslie Langrehr, Aaron Stellhorn, Ryan Herriman, Cody Liefer, Michael Notter, Quinn Liefer.



(Pictured at left) Confrimation Class of 2000: Left to Right 1st Row: Vicar Scott Perry, Bradley Koester, Krysta Kelley, Nicholas Uffelmann, Shana Tindall, Travis Burmester, Rev. Donald Schultz. 2nd Row: Megan Horrell, Todd Liefer, Candace Herman, Andrew Langrehr, Kortney Miller. 3rd Row: Jason Langrehr, Ryan Muench, Adam Guebert, Andrew Stellhorn, Christopher Schield.

A Visit With an Alumnus: Gerald Hanebutt

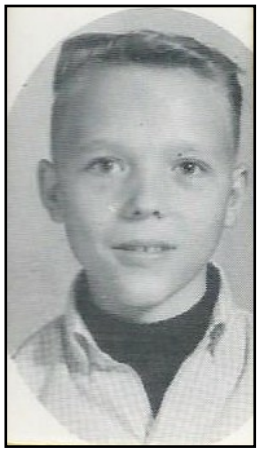
Greetings from a member of the Class of 1966 at St. John's Lutheran School. My name is Gerald (Jerry) Hanebutt. I am still a member at St. John's, having lived within an eight mile radius of Red Bud my entire life. I was employed by Ken & Joan Voges at Red Bud Industries and spent over 45 years working with the Voges family at both RBI and TMW.

My wife, Jill, and I have been married for 45 years. We have three daughters: Stephanie (married to Brad Wilmotte and living in rural Columbia); Rachel (married to Nathan Mathews and living in Columbia); and Andrea (married to Marc Mastrantuono and living in Waterloo). We have been blessed with 6 grandchildren and expecting the 7th in March 2022.



My journey in Lutheran education did not start at St. John's in Red Bud, but at St. John's in rural Ruma in a one room schoolhouse. My 1st teacher was Rev. Henry Kuring Sr., the pastor of the congregation. My 1st grade class consisted of Sue (Kruse) Guebert, Martha (Kruse) Krick, Carl Ellner, and myself. We are now all members at St. John's Red Bud. After 4th grade, the school was shut down, and the students started to attend St. John's Red Bud in 1962. In 1964, my family moved to Red Bud, and we became members of St. John's.

The first year I attended St. John's was my 5th grade year. We had Mr. Bruce Gutknecht for our teacher. All these years later, it was the cooks that I remember the most from that first year. Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Jung, and later on, Mrs. Koenig, who made the best doughnuts and rice pudding. Mrs. Stellhorn was my teacher for 6th grade and for some subjects our 7th grade year. I vividly remember the angst of diagramming sentences in her class, but I truly believe it still helps me to this day. If my memory is accurate, Mrs. Stellhorn was the one that gave Darrell Guebert his nickname of "Gabby." She told him that he talked too much. Mr. Snyder was our teacher in 7th and 8th grade. Several months into 7th grade, we lost one of our classmates, Donald Reinhardt. I can still remember that morning when Mr. Snyder told us about the accident. Donald was a great friend and wonderful classmate. The class missed him tremendously. Having Mr. Snyder our 8th grade year was a Godsend to us as students. He always told us that one thing he wanted to accomplish was to prepare us for high school and beyond. He certainly did that by teaching us the necessary things such as math, science, and how to think for ourselves. He also had an amazing knowledge of the Bible and was able to make it relevant for our lives. We learned a lot about Martin Luther and his part in the Reformation and Johann Sebastian Bach (vocal emphasis on Bach). When asked, who is my favorite teacher, I would not hesitate to answer Mr. Snyder.



I would like to conclude by writing about my Lutheran heritage and lengthy legacy here at St. John's. My Lutheran heritage in the U.S. began in 1844 when my ancestors from both the Hanebutts and Liefers immigrated from Germany. I have many relatives from both sides buried in the cemeteries at Trinity in Prairie, St. John's in Ruma, St. Peter's in Evansville and St. John's here in Red Bud. I have some limited knowledge that my ancestors were from a Lutheran background as far back as the 1600's in Germany. My legacy began here at St. John's when my great grandparents transferred their membership from St. John's Ruma to St. John's Red Bud in the early 1900's. My grandfather, Herman Liefer, was confirmed in 1921 by Rev. Hartenberger and had Mr. Persson as his teacher. Grandpa's four siblings also were confirmed at St. John's. Grandpa married Lily Huber (who was also taught by my 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Stellhorn, somewhere in the Prairie area). Their four children: Margaret, Lowell, Dorothy, and Paul attended St. John's Lutheran School. All 14 of Herman and Lily's grandchildren were taught at St. John's. My mother, Margaret, was confirmed in 1946 by Rev. Eisele and also had Mr. Persson as her teacher. Margaret married Roland Hanebutt and had me, Kathy and Bill. I was confirmed in 1966 by Rev. Gross and had Mr. Snyder as my teacher. Mom and Dad have eight grandchildren and six of them attended St. John's. I married Jill Queen, and we have three daughters, Stephanie, Rachel, and Andrea. They went to St. John's and all three were confirmed by Rev. Schultz and taught by Mr. Snyder.



Mr. & Mrs. Herman Liefer



As you can see, this represents the past 100 years of St. John's 166-year history. Because of the commitment made by my great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and all the members of St. John's, there have been thousands of children that have had the opportunity of receiving a Christian education at St. John's. Jill and I, and all of St. John's have continued that commitment to provide a Christian education and we pray that it will continue for many more years to come.

Pictured at left, Dad (Roland), Mom (Margaret), Bill, Kathy, and me.

Confirmation Classes of the Family of Alumna: Gerald Hanebutt



Confirmation Class of 1921: Left to Right 1st Row: Emma Eickhorst, Mr. A. L. Persson, Clara Loesche, Rev. J. H. Hartenberger, Una Gilster. 2nd Row: Edna Harms, Alma Voss, Viola Burgdorf, Thea Wegener. 3rd Row: Herman Liefer, Lillie Brand, Clarence Koester.



Confirmation Class of 1946: Left to Right 1st Row: Carol Scheffert, Rose Guebert, Mr. A. L. Persson, Rev. Karl Eisele, Betty Wagner, Twila Hanebutt. 2nd Row: Leland Nagel, Margaret Liefer, Dorothy Koenig, Clifford Papenberg, Emily Rahn, Jeanette Guebert, Gilbert Goedelmann. 3rd Row: Richard Rehmer, Norbert Wilkening, Orville Liefer, Glennard Schmitt, Donald Rathert, Robert Rohlfing.



Confirmation Class of 1966:Left to Right 1st Row: Darrell Guebert, Gerald Hanebutt, James Deterding, Dale Heller, Peggy Guebert, Ruth Schettler, Wayne Voss, Carl Ellner, Gordon Koch, Kenneth Burgdorf. 2nd Row: Terry Liefer, Jeff Krause, Valerie Fortmann, Sue Kruse, Rev. M. H. Gross, Barbara Vogt, Shirley Rowold, Clayton Prigge, Larry Heinemeyer.

The Pastor's Perspective: Rev. Mark Nebel

While I am not an alumnus of St. John's Lutheran School (instead, Trinity Lutheran School, Jefferson City, Missouri, 1978), four of our five children did graduate from St. John's. When we moved to Red Bud in the summer of 2007, our oldest daughter, Mary, had graduated from Trinity Lutheran School in Hoyleton, Illinois, and already finished her freshman year at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri. Our second child, Chelsea, was entering 8th grade. I thought that she would have the hardest time with this move as she would have to change schools for her final year of elementary school. However, she was the most excited about coming to Red Bud. She started packing as soon as I announced to the family my acceptance of St. John's call. Our son, Michael, was going into sixth grade and quickly fit in with his class, particularly by playing sports. Our younger son, Matthew, was going into fourth grade and over the years developed a posse of usual suspects that he hung around with. Our youngest child, Clara, was going into third grade when we came to Red Bud and thus was the one who spent the longest time at St. John's. She made friends that she still gets together with whenever she comes home.

While Red Bud probably seems to be a small community to most people, it is much larger than where we had been in Hoyleton. Both the community of Red Bud and St. John's Lutheran Church and School provided our children with a larger setting, expanded experiences, and more opportunities for academics, activities, and athletics. While they all went to Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri, and now have graduated from college and live in other places with jobs of their own (no more need for dad's money!), and with four of the five now married, I tell them that Red Bud still is their home. The picture below was taken after worship on Sunday, January 2, 2022, as they all came home for the New Year's weekend.
God's blessings,
Pastor Mark Nebel



Pastor Nebel's family: Left to right 1st row Hannah (Minor) Nebel, Christa (Beckemeyer) Nebel, Cindy Nebel, Chelsea (Nebel) Smithson, Clara Nebel, and Mary (Nebel) Hemme. 2nd row: Matthew Nebel, Michael Nebel, Rev. Mark Nebel, Shane Smithson, and Michael Hemme

Memories With Alumna: Betty Wilkening Fausz



"The school I went to during grade school (grades 1-8)." Photo submitted by Betty Wilkening Fausz, class of 1950.



Confirmation Class of 1950: Left to Right 1st Row: Merlin Kueker, Richard Junge, Rev. Edwin Sommers, Mr. A. G. Sommerfeldt, Omar Stamm, Al Sommerfeldt, Jr. 2nd Row: Lois Moeller, Edna Gaitsch, Wanda Leeper, Edna Goedelmann, Betty Wilkening