St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter 17

The Principal's Perspective

The 2022-2023 School year has started out well. I have already learned a lot and have been grateful for the Pastors, teachers, and staff here at St. John's who have all helped to make the transition as easy as possible for me, as well as Mrs. Deitt Schneider. She has been willing to serve as counselor, confidant, and advisor for me in my role as Principal, a role that I never envisioned myself doing when I looked to attend Eastern Illinois University to become an educator. However, God had His hand in my journey and steered me to the Lutheran Education System by using a family illness which helped to start my career at Trinity Lutheran Centralia, a location that was just a stone's throw from Trinity Lutheran Hoffman, the school I attended as a child. My four-year tenure at Centralia helped me to discover my fondness for Math and Science Education and lead me to get endorsements into those fields, so I was more well equipped to teach them at a junior high school level. This was instrumental in my coming to St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud 12 years ago. St. John's has since been a place that I have come to know as "my church and school" as I am a proud member of both. Now in my 13th year here at St. John's and my 17th year in education, I have been blessed to become principal and look forward to help spread God's Word through my new position.



Our enrollment is up slightly as our K-8 educates 163 students. Our Preschool has 23 students and our Daycare has 97 more students that are not included in our Preschool number, so we have a total of 283 students hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ on a daily basis! We give thanks for all of our children and pray for God's blessings to be upon them throughout our school year.



In many ways, we as a staff, school, and church are looking for a return to pre-Covid normalcy. We have been brought through the fires of this pandemic by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and look forward to a year full of what we "used to do." This included a return of our Grandparents and Special Guest Day *(pictured below)* which was held on September 23, having guests from far and near get to see God's awesome work at St. John's. Another event we hope to return is the Fall Festival with in person dining and our costume parade as well as our carnival games on October 28. Finally, and most excitedly, we anxiously await the return of large group Christmas services and a full group musical. The aforementioned events highlight some of the "old events" we hope to return to St. John's.



However, not only do we look to bring back the old but also want to introduce new. A new idea is to showcase a service project from a specific class each month of this school year. The teachers have taken on this challenge and are working to show the students that we are blessed by God and; therefore, should be a blessing to others. The 8th grade kicked off the year by doing a Diaper Drive in the month of September that supported Life Network of Southern Illinois. I am proud of them for expanding this beyond the school to include many parts of the community. Businesses in Red Bud served as drop off locations in addition to St. John's Lutheran School.

All of these returning activities and new ideas will keep the teachers, staff, and students of St. John's busy throughout the 2022-2023 school year. So please keep us in your prayers and consider helping out by volunteering at the school in many available roles; to find out more, please contact the school office.

May the Lord Bless and Strengthen You,
Justin Palm

A Visit With Alumni: Harry & Jean Voss

Oh, blest the house, what-e'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
Yea, If He were not dwelling there,
How dark and poor and void it were!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care of cost!
May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Then here will I and mine today
A solemn covenant make and say:
Though all the world for-sake Thy Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord. (TLH 625:1,3 & 5)

"Oh, Blest the House, What-e'er befall" was one of our parents' (Harry & Jean Voss) favorite hymns. Often, they used it in reference when raising us through the years, and hymns generally were an intricate part of our upbringing. Dad loved singing hymns (neighbors say they could hear him singing above the farm tractor at times), and after Mom passed away (May 2004), we found out she loved praying the hymns. Many hymns have been committed to memory, from singing in church every Sunday morning, yet most from "Memory Work" given throughout the years at St. John's Lutheran School.

Attending St. John's Lutheran School was for the purpose of strengthening and reinforcing the Christian values taught at home (this thought was instilled in us through the years). Dad was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran on April 10, 1938, and Mom on March 24, 1942. The 12 of us children attended St. John's Lutheran School for a combined total of 90 years and were all confirmed in the faith at St. John's. As for the second generation of Voss's, 17 of the 39 grandchildren attended and/or were confirmed here. While the remaining 22 grandchildren attended and/or were confirmed in other LCMS affiliated schools/churches. A couple of grandchildren even went on to attend an LCMS affiliated Lutheran High School.





Pictured left to right:1st Row: Cindy Ebers (1976), Tim (1982), Bonnie Marshall (1984), Pam Henry (1986). 2nd Row: Wayne (1966), Nola Jean Vallett (1970), Mark (1973), Stanley (1975). 3rd Row: Dennis (Class of 1960), Lela Koester (1962), Vernitta Wolter (1963), Randall (1965).

Continuing with the third generation of Voss's - of the 66 great grandchildren, many have and are still attending St. John's Lutheran School or other LCMS affiliated Schools (too many to calculate exact numbers). As the fourth generation is just getting started, the four great-great grandchildren have been baptized into the faith and our prayer is that the Holy Spirit would guide and keep the next generation, and the generations to come, in the One True faith through their parents and perhaps with the help of Lutheran Schools like St. John's Lutheran Red Bud.

With so many family members attending St. John's Lutheran School over the years, the memories are too numerous and unique for all of us to start telling them here. Our memories include but are not limited to:

1) Mr. Ron Snyder taught those of us from the first and second generation of Voss's, Mrs. Deitt Schneider taught those of us from the second and third generations, and not to mention the great number of other teachers who taught all of us throughout the years.

2) Weekly Chapel Services and each grade leading a service or two throughout each school year.

3) Religion curriculum that also included memory work-the memorization of many Lutheran Hymns, a multitude of Bible verses, and all sections of the Lutheran Catechism

4) The annual Christmas Programs.

5) Friends and so many St. John's Lutheran Members who became an extension of our family.

Certainly St. John's Lutheran School and Church have had an enormous impact on the Voss family in a multitude of ways! It has and continues to be an intricate part of our family life, the building and strengthening of our faith.

Two Bible verses that stand out from our Christian upbringing, and were referenced often by our parents were: ***"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it."*** Proverbs 22:6 and ***"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*** Joshua 24:15c

To God be all the Glory!

The Children of Harry & Jean Voss



Confirmation Classes of the Family of Alumni: Harry & Jean Voss



1938 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Victoria Guebert, Lorraine Ross, Dorothy Voss, Rev. Karl Eisele, Mr. A. L. Persson, Ruth Diercks, Pauline Everding, and Una Valentine. 2nd Row: Orville Wetzel, Ralph Wehrenberg, Leroy Guebert, Alvera Schnepel, Sylvester Burgdorf, Richard Schrieber, and Harry Voss.



1942 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Helen Guebert, Lorine Koester, Elmer Buss, Jean Junge, Leroy Rehmer, Edna Hapke, and Ruth Hanebutt. 2nd Row: Willard Uffelman, Wallace Loesche, Rev. Karl Eisele, Arthur Krause, Mr. A. L. Persson, Paul Schuette, and Leonard Candler.



1960 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Curtis Hartmann, John Preston, Dennis Voss, David Guebert, Glenn Schnepel, Omar Koester, Richard Liefer, Richard Loesche, Dennis van Buren. 2nd Row: Jo Ann Warren, Carol Stellhorn, Mary Preston, Wanda Behnken. 3rd Row: Barbara Stamm, Judith Schettler, Donald Carroll, Robert Liefer, Ruth Ann Heinemeyer, Sherry Lowry,



1962 Confirmation Class: Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Danny Guebert, Gary Kalmer, Rose Prigge, Don Koch, Wayne Matthews, Roger Guebert, Doris Roth, Iona Warren, Ronald Voss, Jim Preston. 2nd Row: Sue Prange, Mary McBride, Vickie Stellhorn, Betty Roesemeier, Kenneth Gielow, Rev. M. H. Gross, Lenny Kloepper, Sherry Gail Boothe, Sharon Rosenberg, Erlene Nurnberger, Lela Voss.



1963 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right:
1st Row: Darrell Schrader, Dale Hartmann, Vernitta Voss, Carol Dannenberg, Peggy Deterding, Nancy Cozean, Danny Schmitz, Marc Loesche. 2nd Row: Connie Kloepper, Richard Warren, Joyce Heller, Colleen Lowry, Paul Schrieber, Rev. M. H. Gross, Carol Schrader, Dennis Kalmer, Gloria Koester, Charlotte Uffelmann, Michael Vogt, Sharon Liefer.



1965 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right::
1st Row: Glenn Gielow, William Ratz, Michael Ackermann, Margaret Seders, Janel Scheffert, Karen Deterding, Gary Schnepel, Randall Voss. 2nd Row: Richard Guebert, Keith Melliere, Robert Carnahan, Kathryn Guebert, Kathleen Matthews, Rev. M. H. Gross, Brenda Ehlers, Diane Rosenberg, David Koch, Steve Fehr, Roger Nurnberger.



1966 Confirmation Class. Pictured 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.



1970 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right:
1st Row: Sharon Bievenue, Melonie Dannebrink, Bruce Ackerman, Phyllis Thies, Arthur Neely, Richard van Buren, Patricia Tindall, Charles Leeper. 2nd Row: Mr. Ron Snyder, Herbert Rowold II, Marilyn Dannenberg, Deborah Deterding, Margaret Kadlec, Betty Kelkhoff, Karen Koester, Timothy Snyder, Rev. Robert Holstein. 3rd Row: Ronald Schleifer, Gary Schleifer, Gail Guebert, Dwight Krause, Marcia Muench, Lynn Jacobs, Nola Voss, Linda Muench, Cindy Engelhart.



1973 Confirmation Class (at left). Pictured left to right:
1st Row: Rev. Robert Holstein, Kimberly Koester, Rhonda Gross, Steven Uffelmann, David Fehr, David Liefer, Linda Buch, Ann Becker. 2nd Row: Vicar Wayne Jensen, Kenneth Wetzel, Mark Tindall, Arlan Koch, Mike Spradling, Marilyn Weber, Mr. Ron Snyder. 3rd Row: Mark Voss, Joseph Snyder, Toby Guebert, Kevin Hartmann, Deborah Stamm, Carol Fuhrhop, Cynthia Stellhorn, Sandra Jacobs.



1975 Confirmation Class. Pictured 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 Winkelmann. 3rd Row: Jyneane Guebert, Tracy Hartmann, 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.



1982 Confirmation Class. Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Kevin Mehring, Keith Liefer, Stephanie Althoff, Kristi Graper, Nancy Buss, Ruth Clark, Angela Weber, Angela Stellhorn, Cynthia Ruwald, Timothy Voss, Michael DeRousse. 2nd Row: Timothy Kueker, Renee Roehrkasse, Randy Burgdorf, Chris Luttman, Erin Hartmann, Jacqueline Rahn, Thomas Voges. 3rd Row: Vicar Robert Wagner, Todd Birkner, Mark Schnepel, Timothy Roy, Jonathan Schultz, Rev. Donald Schultz, June Guebert, Pamela Guebert, Kim Clark, Mary Snyder, Mr. Ron Snyder.





1976 Confirmation Class. Pictured 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.



1984 Confirmation Class (at left). Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Bonnie Voss, Kimberly Liefer, April Wagner, Christine Fricke, Julie Oxmann, Brenda Williams, Darren Fadler. 2nd Row: Deborah Sachtleben, Ted Schrader, Gerald Holmstrom, Timothy Stellhorn, Brian Gilpatrick, Gary Bievenue, Douglas Pratt, Mr. Ron Snyder. 3rd Row: Rev. Donald Schultz, Christine Liefer, Christine Zanders, Stacy Koester, Janel Guebert, Cory Aschermann, Julie Guebert, Jeffery Guebert, David Stellhorn, Vicar Michael Maddick.

1986 Confirmation Class (at left). Pictured left to right: 1st Row: Brian Liefer, Jeremy Schultz, Brian Gregson, Bruce Stoll, Craig Stamm. 2nd Row: Karolyn Sellers, Pamela Voss, Lynette Junge, Shelly Liefer, Leah Burgdorf. 3rd Row: Mr. Ron Snyder, Steven Hanebutt, Craig Guebert, Jarod Tobin, Rev. Donald Schultz, Vicar Gary Sears.

The Pastor's Perspective: Rev. Mark Nebel

We have begun a new school year! In one way, this year is more new than it has been in a long time. In the 15 school years that I have been Senior Pastor at St. John's, we have had three total teaching staff changes. Many Lutheran schools in our district will have that many changes in a year or changes in staff every year.

This year, however, we have had our principal, Deitt Schneider, a classroom teacher, Darlene Letcher, and a classroom aide, Patty Schnepel, all retire. We thank them for their service to St. John's. We wish them God's blessings as they transition to a new period in their life, family, and service to our Lord.

As you have seen from another part of this newsletter, our former 8th grade homeroom teacher, Mr. Justin Palm, is now our principal. Miss Amanda Ruhmann, a Prairie native who formerly taught at Trinity Lutheran School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is now our 5th grade teacher. Our biggest challenge was finding an 8th grade homeroom teacher with a Math and Science emphasis.

We contacted the schools of our Concordia University System. There was no such candidate who had interest in our position. In fact, there were only 88 teachers available on the elementary level from all of those universities. We need the young people of our congregations to consider and enter into church professional careers!

We also tried calling from the field. Again, there were not many teachers who fit the criteria we had. Those who did either had received and accepted another call already or were not interested in relocating to Illinois (insert your own comment here). So, we are covering those classes on the upper grade level from within as a number of our staff members are taking on an extra class or two.

Anyhow, back to staff stability. This is how it affects you, our school's alumni. Though you may have graduated from St. John's up to 25 years ago, we still have teachers here that were teaching at St. John's when you were in school with us. Through them you still have a close connection to St. John's and our ministry of Christian Education.

A few years ago, I was at a St. Louis Cardinals' game with my family when on the big screen appeared a familiar face in the crowd. It was Mr. Hartman! He had been my 5th grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Jefferson City in 1974-75 (his second year as a teacher). Later he went on to be the principal there and then moved to St. Louis when he retired. When I pointed this out to my children, their response was, "You mean he is still alive!" (Why I keep them in my will, I don't know.)



Perhaps you can have a similarly memorable moment with your children when you come back to visit us here at your alma mater, St. John's Lutheran School of Red Bud, Illinois.

Rev. Mark Alan Nebel
Senior Pastor



Congratulations to the St. John's boy's baseball team for a 17-3 season, which included winning the Marissa tournament the Trinity Edwardsville tournament, the SIJHSAA Region 4 tournament, and 3rd place finish in the SIJHSAA state tournament.

Pictured left to right: 1st row: Ty Voss, Brodie Stenzel, Colby Voss, Landon Ruebusch, Colin Korando, Liam Kilpatrick. 2nd row: Coach Quent Stenzel, Alan Wolter, Lucas McCarthy, Brayden Schlesinger, Connor Bumann, Coach Jeremy Voss, Landon Kilpatrick, Barrett Wagner, Ian Moll, Cason Birch, Coach Cadin Voss.

SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 18, 2023
DINNER AUCTION

Attention!

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please send your email address to alumni.stjohn@gmail.com.
We will remove you from our mail list while adding you to our email list.