St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter 19

The Principal's Perspective

The 2023-2024 school year has started out well. I am indebted to the Pastors, teachers, staff, and recent retirees here at St. John's who all helped to make the Southern Illinois District (SID) Day of Spiritual Renewal, which we hosted on August 10, a success. All these individuals in one capacity, or many, helped to get our school in pristine shape for the event. We were able to successfully feed, spiritually and physically, around 230 workers from churches and schools throughout the SID.

Our enrollment is down as we had a class of 27 graduate and a class of 8 Kindergarten students began. Our K-8 educates 139 students. Our Preschool has 31 students and our Daycare has 87 more students that are not included in our Preschool number, so we have a total of 257 students hearing the good news of Jesus Christ on a daily basis! We give thanks for all our children and pray for God's blessings to be upon them throughout our year.



First day of school 2023

In many ways, we as a staff, school, and church are enjoying many of the staples of our school year. Grandparents and Special Guest Day (pictured below) was held on September 22. We had guests from far and near see God's awesome work at St. John's. Another event we





Students singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and "God Bless America" at the St. Louis Cardinal ball game.

enjoy every year is the Fall Festival with in-person dining and our costume parade as well as our carnival games which will be held on October 27. Christmas services and a full group musical will be some of our major winter and spring events. These traditions are all made possible by the energy and action of our staff and/or volunteers from the church and school. We are truly blessed!

After last year's successful monthly service projects, we have made some adjustments and look to do quarterly service projects by grade groups. A focus this year will be to include the students in the service portion. During the first quarter, our third through fifth grades look to assemble birthday kits for the Royal Table (Red Bud Elementary's student food pantry), the junior high students will look to have game days at a local assisted living community, and our Kindergarten through second grade look to assemble summer snack packs for the Royal Table. 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.

All of these returning activities and new ideas will keep the teachers, staff, and students of St. John's busy throughout the 2023-2024 school year. So, please keep us in your prayers and consider helping 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 Alumna: Vickie Heller

Greetings! I am Vickie (Scheffert) Heller and this is a little bit about myself and family. I was born August 8, 1953, to Elroy and Darleen (Krause) Scheffert who are also alumni of St. John's Lutheran School (Classes of 1940 and 1944, respectively). We lived in Freeburg until 1962. I attended Freeburg Elementary school 1st thru 3rd grade. While living in Freeburg, we attended St. Paul's Lutheran church in New Athens. We moved to Red Bud in August '62 so my sister Janel (Kassing) and I could start school at St. John's. We moved in with my mother's parents, Paul and Ida Krause, because our house was not finished. In October '62, our house was complete so we moved again. Later that month, my brother Mark was born.



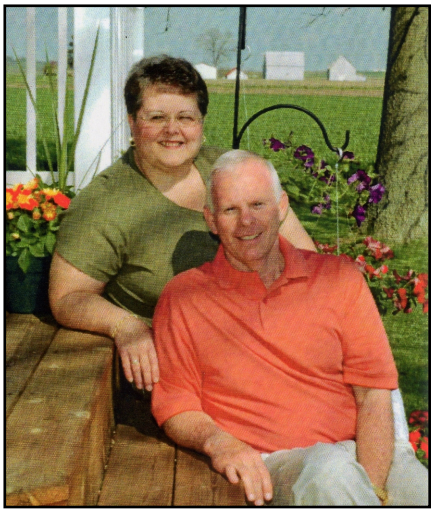
I have many fond memories from my time at SJL. The teachers I remember the most are Mr. Rhiver, Mrs. Stellhorn, and Mr. Snyder. I was confirmed in 1967 by Pastor Kuring as he was our vacancy pastor between Pastor Gross and Pastor Holstein. My confirmation bible verse is Proverbs 30:5 *"Every word of God is flawless, He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."*



Pictured from left; Janel, Darleen, Mark, and Vickie.

After graduating from SJL, I attended RBHS and graduated in 1971. I graduated on a Friday, and the following week I started school in Belleville at Coiffure School of Beauty Culture to become a beautician. After beauty school, I worked in a shop in town. I later opened my own shop at my parents' house and then in my own home. I have also worked at the Red Bud movie theatre, Anderson's Produce store, C J Auto repair, and sold Home Interiors and Gifts. In 2017, I retired from working at the Red Bud Senior center after 27 years being the head cook and also site coordinator.

In July 1973, I married the love of my life, Dale Heller. Dale was also an alumnus of SJL graduating in 1966. After high school graduation, Dale attended Wabash Valley Jr. College in Mt. Carmel, IL. Dale was a petroleum specialist for FS for 42 years until his passing in 2014. Dale was very active in the congregation, holding many different positions on the church council. Dale was also a member and past president of the rural fire board and a member of the Red Bud FFA alumni.



Dale and I were blessed with 3 children – Scot, Lisa and Sara. All three of our children are alumni of SJL. Dale, myself, and all three of our children were very blessed and very fortunate to have been students of Mr. Ron Snyder. I think we are possibly the only family that may have had this honor.

Scot – After graduating RBHS, Scot attended Rend Lake College. He worked for ADM, Nobbe's, Ultra Play, sold Thrivent insurance, and then finally decided to go back to school to pursue his passion to become a Firefighter/Paramedic. He is presently employed with the Creve Coeur fire department. In 1996, Scot married Sarah (Luebkemann). Scot and Sarah have two children, Brenden and Alyssa, who are also alumni of SJL. Sarah is a math teacher at RBHS. After graduating from RBHS, both Brenden and Alyssa attended SEMO and have completed the nursing program. Brenden graduated in 2021 and is



Pictured from left; Scot, Sarah, Colton, Alyssa, Cami, and Brenden.

currently a RN working in the ER at the Red Bud Hospital. Alyssa graduated in 2023 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and is currently a RN in the NICU at Children's Hospital in STL. In 2021, Brenden married Cami White, also an alumna of SJL. Cami is a RN at St. Mary's Hospital in STL. On October 25, 2022, Brenden and Cami made me a great grandma for the first time with the birth of little Colton.



Pictured from left; Austin, Brie, Isaac, Emily, Lexi, Tim, and Lisa

Lisa – After graduating high school, Lisa attended SWIC and received an Associate Degree in early childhood education. Lisa married Tim Luebkemann in 1997. Tim is a draftsman at RBI. Lisa has had a daycare in her home, was a preschool teacher at Trinity Prairie, and is presently working at COSLHS as their Director of Athletics, Marketing, and Admissions, as well as their FFA Advisor and volleyball coach. Lisa and Tim have 4 children, Lexi, Brie, Emily, and Isaac. Lisa's family belongs to Trinity Lutheran Church, Prairie. They are very active with altar guild, leaders of youth group, and Tim is the chairman of the congregation. Tim and the kids are all alumni of Trinity. All their kids have attended COSLHS. Lexi attended Lakeland Community College and graduated with an Associate Degree in Ag Production and Management. Lexi has worked on cattle ranches in Iowa and Nebraska and is presently employed as the manager at the chemical facility at Gateway FS in Baldwin. Brie will graduate SEMO in December of this year with a Bachelors in Agribusiness Plant & Soil Science and a minor in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. She recently finished an internship at Top Ag in Okawville working with drones and also works at Menard Auto Sales. She is engaged to Austin Dillow, and they are planning an August 2024 wedding. Emily is in her second year at SEMO in the Ag program. She recently did an internship at Braeutigams Orchard and has worked at SLAM catering and IGA. Isaac is a Junior at COS and has worked the last two years for Country Bloomers lawn care. Isaac is in FFA, is a member of the trap shooting team, and plays basketball at COS.

Sara- After graduating RBHS, Sara attended SWIC and received an Associate Degree in early childhood education. Sara was part of the opening staff of the daycare at SJL until 2005 when she moved to STL and married Dale Watson. She joined the staff at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church daycare as a teacher and later became the assistant director. Sara is presently employed at Wohlwind Elementary School as an Administrative Assistant. Dale is a mechanic for Ameren in STL. Dale and Sara have 2 children, Drew and Danielle. Drew is a sophomore at Oakville High School and has his own lawn mowing business. Danielle is in the 7th grade at Oakville middle school. Sara's family are members of Peace Lutheran Church, and they are very active serving as ushers, as well as being involved with the youth group and working with VBS.



Pictured from left; Drew, Danielle, Sara, and Dale

I feel very blessed that my family has had a very good upbringing in the Lutheran faith and have been led by good Christian parents, pastors, and teachers. Over the years, I have served the church/school in many ways. I have been a Sunday school teacher, VBS teacher and helper. I have served on the St. John's Board of Finance, School Board, COSLHS Board, flower committee, and have been a member and past officer of the Evening Guild. I have also been a volunteer at the school. I love spending time with my family and friends traveling, camping, and playing games. MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!

Confirmation Pictures of Sheffert and Heller Family



1940 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Darlene Valentine, Leora Burgdorf, Mr. A. L. Persson, Rev. Karl Eisele, Melba Obst, Pauline Heumann. 2nd Row: Ralph Voss, Roger Williamson, Clifford Guebert, Elroy Scheffert, Leona Eisele, Louis Koch, Lloyd Voss, Richard Saxenmeyer, Alvin Moeller.



1944 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Helen Heumann, Lois Saxenmeyer, Darleen Krause, Dorothy Junge, Eileen Gregson. 2nd Row: Mr. A. L. Persson, John Wetzel Jr., Omer Liefer, Richard Von Dach, Rev. Karl Eisele.



1966 Confirmation Class: 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.



1967 Confirmation Class: Left to Righ 1st Row: Dennis Papenberg, Randy Menke, Gary Schmitz, Michael Carnahan, Dave Krause, Mark Fehr, Robert Guebert, Darrell Hitzemann, Bruce Cowell. 2nd Row: Faye Moeller, Janel Hartmann, Kathryn Wetzel, Vickie Scheffert, Sandra Seders, Brenda Kruse, Diane Melliere. 3rd Row: Dave Guebert, Terry Warren, Gary Nurnberger, Kenneth Guebert, Rev. Henry Kuring, Mr. Ron Snyder, Larry Gielow, Bruce Nagel, Mark Vogt, Wayne Schmitz.



1988 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Jarred Heller, Chad Crafton, Christopher Liefer, Stacy Wegener. 2nd Row: Amelia Wiatr, Steven Miller, Willard Uffelmann, Shannon Hartmann, Scot Heller. 3rd Row: Vicar William Dorow, Andrew Liefer, Rev. Donald Schultz, Donald Schrader, Mr. Ron Snyder.



1997 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Steven Stellhorn, Jonathan Liefer, Andrea Hanebutt, Kelly Sparrow. 2nd Row: Rev. Donald Schultz, Chris Korves, Josh Voss, Miranda Moeller, Sara Heller, Oliver Koester, Shane Seiber, Vicar Garry McCracken. 3rd Row: Erin Stamm, Randy Muench, Cole Stenzel, Nick Moeller, Sarah Buatte.





1991 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Chad Grohmann, Joy Prigge, Lisa Heller, Tara Voss, Kelly Juereziz, Gretchen Liefer, Kirk Liefer. 2nd Row: Mr. Ron Snyder, Matthew Ruwald, Joanna Prigge, Kristy Heller, Sara Schnepel, Jamie Nehrt, Angela Mallott, Jackie Buch, Christopher Wolters. 3rd Row: Mac Moeller, Michael Hemmer, Nicholas Kassing, Rev. Donald Schultz, Vicar Gary Osburn, Ted Wiatr, Travis Niklich.



2013 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Taylor Dilley, Daulton Neuhaus, Sydney Schweizer, Dustin Marshall, Ember Marshall, Shelbie Heaton. 2nd Row: Rev. Russell Koen, Skylar Valleroy, Nicholaus Valerius, Ciara Hogendobler, Brooke Hartman, Gavin Braun, Clara Nebel, Rev. Mark Nebel. 3rd Row: Tanner Van Dorn, Elizabeth Unnerstall, Brenden Heller, Erica Unnerstall, Tessa Miller. (not shown; Corey Ratcliff)

2015 Confirmation Class (at left): Left to Right 1st Row: Tanner Valleroy, Kambri Moffitt, Hannah Meyer, Callie Todaro, Brianna Hudson, Jarrett Fleming, Rev. Mark Nebel. 2nd Row: Rev. Russell Koen, Amber Mollet, Bailey Montroy, Alyssa Heller, Jessie Deterding, Brittney Pensoneau. 3rd Row: Kole Liefer, Michael Ratcliff, Gage Baldwin, Nicholas Guebert, Tyler Koester, Austin Whelan.

The Pastor's Perspective: Rev. Mark Nebel

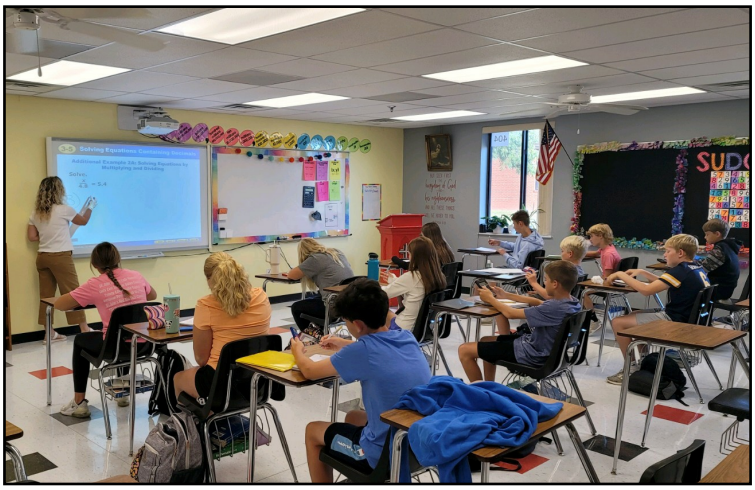
The promise of the Parousia (end-time return of Christ) is "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). While the beginning of a new school year is not the end of the world (well, it may seem that way to students who do not like school), there is a newness to it in the midst of much sameness. Our new theme is "Seek First the Kingdom of God" from Matthew 6:33.

Students are entering into a new grade level to be challenged and taught new material. In our setting, they all have a new teacher (at least in their homeroom). They bring with them new clothes, new shoes, and new school supplies. Teachers have new students in a newly decorated classroom.



Mrs. Heather Nowak with her Preschool class.

Here at St. John's in this school year, we welcomed a new Preschool teacher for the first time in three decades. Mrs. Heather Nowak replaces Mrs. Cindy Steele who retired over the summer. We welcomed new as a teacher someone who, years ago, was a student with us. Mrs. Kristin (Liefer) Sachtleben is teaching part-time in upper grades mathematics.



Mrs. Kristin Sachtleben with her 7th grade math students.



Students enjoying the outdoor pavilion.

New to our property is a pavilion next to the playground and between our two classroom wings. While intended to serve as an outdoor classroom and seating area, the students at the end of last year found it to be a great shady spot to play six-square. Our Preschool and Kindergarten classes found new homes over the summer as they moved rooms to provide our Daycare with two larger rooms better suited to the age level of their children.

What certainly remains the same in this new school year is our mission, purpose, and joy, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). We look forward to another year of sharing Jesus as our Savior from sin with the students in our school. We thank you for your support in carrying out this mission.



Pastor Nebel with his grandson, Hudson, during Grandparent's Day.

In Jesus' Name,
Rev. Mark Alan Nebel
Senior Pastor

Seek First the Kingdom of God