# St. John's Lutheran School
# Alumni News

Newsletter Volume 3 No. 5

## Greetings!



The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start! The first day of school started with lots of smiles and enthusiasm! Our numbers are great, 298 counting Daycare, Preschool, and Kindergarten through eighth grade! What a blessing to have this many students learn about Jesus every day! On our first day of school, August 16, we took a wonderful picture of the students in the shape of a cross at our opening Chapel service. The picture turned out great and is included for you to see (at left).

The students are getting back in the schedule of school. Both the softball and baseball teams had a busy schedule, and the cross country team is working diligently also! The weather was hot but they persevered! Several athletes jumped right from baseball and softball to join the cross country team mid-season.



What a great day we had at Busch Stadium on Sunday, August 28! The students did a great job singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the 7th inning stretch. The amount of tickets sold, 480, was just wonderful! Thank you to all who supported this event. Yes, it was a hot one at the old ball game, but a day the students will not soon forget. Thank you to Patty Salger who organized the day for the classes of 2017 and 2020. The students wore their new school theme shirts, #In Christ We Can... The theme verse for the year is Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me."




September 30 was our Grandparent/Special Guest Day! We loved having so many visitors in the school with us that day. We started the day off with a program put on by the students in the new gym, followed by classroom visits, and activities in the old gym and cafeteria. The kids were very excited to have their grandparents and special guests there, and I think the adults had just as much, if not more, fun coloring and playing games than the kids.





*Blessings to you all,*
*Deitt Schneider*

# The Pastor's Perspective

This past summer I was asked to write a letter describing my involvement with our congregation's school ministry. I share the majority of that letter with you here:

I recognize and value the importance of Lutheran education for the faith-formation of member families and non-member families, as well as for the strength of the congregation and for the benefit of the community. As pastor, I am responsible for the ministry of the congregation's school through the service of our principal who supervises the daily operation of the school.



*Pastor teaching 8th grade religion*

The pastor needs to be visible in the school during the day and as much as possible also at school activities in the evening. Both here and in my previous congregation, I have located my office in the school building. I teach 8th grade religion class four days a week. I cherish and enjoy this time. I fill in for our principal in teaching her Luther and Illinois constitution classes in 8th grade. I attend morning faculty devotions and take my turn in leading them. I lead Bible study for most of our faculty meetings. I read to our Kindergarten class once a week. I take part in the children's Christmas services. I attend the Parish Board of Education meetings. It is my privilege to promote our congregation's ministry through our school in sermons, Bible classes, Voters' meetings, community activities, and in written correspondence.

There are ministry challenges to shepherding a school (staff, students, space, and shekels). There is also the intentional effort to learn the names of all the students and call them by their names. But all of this is well worth the time when one of the students sees me in the hallway and excitedly says, "Hi Pastor!" Or I walk into a classroom and the students say "Pastor is here!" Or, as happened at our community's recent summer picnic, a non-member student said, "You're the Pastor at my school!"

I hope these words give you a greater insight to the blessings and responsibilities, the privileges and challenges of pastoral ministry through a Lutheran elementary school.

*Yours in Christ, Rev. Mark Alan Nebel*

# Honoring Forty Years



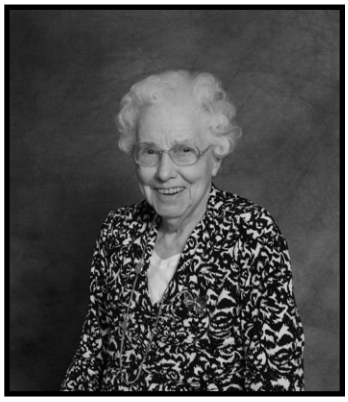
On Sunday, October 2, Deitt Schneider was surprised with a reception honoring her for her 40 years of service in Lutheran Education. Deitt was presented with a tile for the donor wall by the Board of Parish Education. It reads: Presented to Deitt Schneider with praise to God and in thanksgiving for her forty years of Lutheran teaching ministry, 1976-2016. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10b (her confirmation verse).

Deitt began her call in 1976 to St. John Lutheran Church in Baldwin, Illinois, as a teacher at Prairie Lutheran School. She remained there until her call to our school in 1983. She has served as teacher and principal, and at times, both at the same time. Deitt is not only committed to and very involved with our school, and she serves on many other boards and committees for Lutheran education.

*Ode to a Faithful Servant*

*Her first call she received in '76 from Baldwin to teach in the Prairie sticks.*
*She taught those students seven years you see, until a move came in 1983.*
*Off to St. John's in Red Bud she went, to teach the 5th grade by God she'd been sent.*
*The Lord could see a leader she'd make, "You want me as principal? That's a big step to take."*
*She wears many hats as teacher and leader, showing a servant's heart to all who would meet her*
*Many projects she's led at St. John's School: helping Bob share Christmas, kids thought it was cool!*
*Many weeds she has pulled, to show her green thumb, a beautiful school all will see when they come*
*Continuing on with a long tradition, many trips she has planned for our children's education.*
*Miles and miles she has driven to come to this place to share the love of Jesus and God's grace.*
*On Confirmation Day, so long ago, God knew with her life this verse she would show: Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.*

# A Visit With An Alumnus



In Memory of a Dear Alumnus, Arlou Hartmann (1918-2016)

We interviewed Arlou Hartmann earlier this year as one of our oldest alumni; Arlou went to meet her Savior on June 22, 2016. Born March 6, 1918, Arlou was a lovely lady. She was the only daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hartmann. Her siblings included two older brothers, Harold and Orville, and two younger brothers, Milton and Norman. Before Arlou and her younger brothers were born, Harold, her brother, died while working on the farm.

Arlou remembers all eight years walking to school except on rainy days. It was a mile to the highway and then another mile to school. On rainy days, her dad would hook up the horse to the wagon. The children would put a quilt over their heads as they rode in the wagon to school. There may have been as many as ten children riding with them, perhaps neighborhood children also got a ride. Her dad's brother lived by the school and kept the horse and wagon in the uncle's barn until it was time to go home, and on those days, that was their method of transportation home.

Her dad raised chickens (free range), cows, horses, and pigs. Wheat and oats were the crops he raised on the farm. They ate chicken on Wednesday nights and Sunday dinners. Someone commented to her dad that he wondered why they ate chicken twice per week. He said chicken was just as cheap as pork chops. While still living at home and for fun, Arlou said she and her brothers would jump off the barn roof.

Arlou attended St. John's Lutheran School all eight years but did not attend high school. Her dad said there was no need for girls to go to high school. That seemed to be the mindset for parents of girls at that time. Arlou liked school at St. John's Lutheran Grade School. She said the teachers were strict but nice. In her first three grades, she had a lady teacher, Mrs. Heumann. The teachers taught the students about Jesus but it was her mother who instilled a deep faith in her. There were 12 in her class. Arlou said she was in a clique of six girls, and sometimes she would stay in town overnight with one of the girls. In the lower grades, she played "Ring around the Rosie", tag, etc. with her friends. In the upper grades, the girls spent the recesses talking. Also, when she was in the upper grades, after school, sometimes she would spend an hour in the library.

Arlou never married. After grade school, she worked as a babysitter for the Charles Ford family in St. Louis. She said she replaced a girl who had appendicitis. At the age of fourteen, she packed her suitcase and left on New Year's Day via a Pevely Milk Truck. The driver stopped at Pevely Co. in St. Louis, and that's where she got off. She returned home that same way, the Pevely Milk Truck. (The Ford kids visited her twice while she was at Garden Place.) Later on, Arlou got a job at Bussman Fuse Factory making fuses.

Most interesting was her girlfriend who answered an ad for Arlou to work as a nanny in Alaska. At that time, Arlou was in her twenties. She went alone by plane to take care of a five-year old boy. She lived with the couple for a year and was responsible for the boy when his parents left home to gather sheep to butcher. When she learned the boy's parents were coming home, Arlou and the boy got on a horse and rode to meet them. Arlou said she liked the weather in Alaska.



Arlou had good memories growing up and her school days at St. John's. The family made homemade ice cream. Her mom saved the cream from the churner that separated milk from the cream. Her mom also made one-foot long coffee cakes. They had pie every week. As an adult, she traveled much including to California and Germany.

Arlou resided at Garden Place in Red Bud for a few years. Her nephew, Terry Hartmann, and his wife, Carol, took care of her.

*Above is the 1932 Confirmation Class: Left to Right 1st Row: Verna Dannenberg, Ruth Huber, Mr. A. L. Persson, Lucille Husemann, Margaret Koch, Rev. J. H. Hartenberger, Irene Waldron, Erna Moeller. 2nd Row: Mabel Melching, Emma Voss, Edward Kaiser, Telka Liefer, Orville Sauer, Mildred Schnepel, Arlou Hartmann. 3rd Row: Bernard Stellhorn, Rudolph Rehmer, Lee Guebert, Orville Voss, Emil Voges, Henry Wetzel.*

# Capital Campaign

What a difference three years can make! As we come to the end of our Capital Campaign, it is good to reflect on the blessings St. John's has received during this campaign.

We began with the dramatic interior renovations to the nave and the narthex as well as improvements to the parking lot. We now have a beautiful worship environment to welcome members and visitors. Work continued at the school with the daycare expansion. Our capacity was increased to 69 which was almost immediately filled. Our work culminated with the construction of new offices, library, gymnasium, parking lot, and four new classrooms. The end results are staggering, and the reception has been fantastic. The building committee along with the designers and contractors are to be commended for a job well done. We now have a beautiful, secure, flexible facility with continued room to grow. Praise be to God!

With this updated facility, we now are caring for 300 students from Daycare through 8th grade with room for even more. This is the true blessing. Every day we bring God's word to these kids and prepare them to live a God filled life and to spread God's Word to even more.

To date, we have received 98% of the pledged $2,619,840. This includes contributions that were made over and above the original pledged amount, and we continue to receive contributions to complete individual pledges. The physical building stage is over, and now we continue with the day-to-day operations. Over the past three years, many of you have contributed weekly, monthly, or quarterly over and above your ordinary contributions. I ask that everyone prayerfully consider continuing at least a portion of this extra contribution to be used for the day-to-day operation of the Church and school.

Right now, we have the perfect opportunity to continue our contributions through a matching fund campaign. Through the end of November, any contributions made toward this matching campaign will be matched dollar for dollar up to $50,000. This money will go directly toward lowering our operating debt which currently stands at $492,532.

Thank you again to everyone involved in the successful Capital Campaign and building project. Your work and contributions will be a blessing to St. John's for generations to come.

*Eric Fritsche*
*Congregation Chairman*

# National Accreditation

St. John's Lutheran School has been an accredited school through National Lutheran School accreditation since 2004. There are several benefits of accreditation, including publicly acknowledging the quality of our school through an objective outside agency and validating the mission of our school. While it helps identify the strengths of our school, it also pinpoints areas that need correction and plans are implemented as necessary. Beginning last fall, an accreditation committee was formed and began the process of going through the evidence-based accreditation. In 2016, the school completed the accreditation process for the third time as the visiting Accreditation Team made their visit in April and recommended accreditation. The SID accreditation team approved the report in June. The National Accreditation team also recommended accreditation in August. On October 2, 2016, Mr. Roger Sprengel, of the Southern Illinois District, presented Mr. Kevin Guebert, President of the Board for Parish Education, and Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal, the Certificate of Accreditation which continues until August of 2021. One hundred seventy schools throughout the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod were accredited this past school term. Rev. Mark Nebel was also presented a certificate for being An Outstanding Lutheran School Shepherd. Ten pastors were chosen from all the 170 schools being accredited for the National Shepherd Award. God has blessed the congregation and school with faithful pastors, faculty, and staff and the congregation has been a blessing to all who serve Him in this place.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

St. John's Lutheran School will host the 9th Annual Dinner Auction
**on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Hecker Community Center.**
This is the largest fundraiser for our school and has helped fund many projects and improvements at the school. As alumni, we hope you will consider attending the dinner auction or making a donation. This event is a great evening for fellowship and to show our deep love and commitment to our school.
For any questions, please contact Amber Piel at 314-277-4422 or fiveaps@gmail.com.