St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter Volume 4 No. 6

Greetings!

Greetings to you as we begin the New Year of 2017! I pray that you are blessed in the new beginning of the year.

Recently, I was recognized for having taught in Lutheran Schools for 40 years. That is quite an accomplishment, and yet the time really has passed rather quickly. I taught my first seven years at Trinity Affiliated Lutheran School in Prairie (Red Bud). My other years of service have all been here at St. John's Lutheran. I have been blessed to serve the Red Bud area families and feel they are part of my extended family.



The second grade students telling the story of Daniel in chapel.

What makes a Lutheran School different? Of course, we have prayers, devotions, Chapel and Religion/Confirmation instruction everyday along with our other core subjects. Yes, we still have trouble with students not getting along, homework at times incomplete, feelings hurt and at times words said in haste without thinking of how they will make another person feel. Yes, we have many of the same problems that any other school has, so what makes us different?

On Nov. 23, 2016, we had the wonderful opportunity to witness the baptism of one of our first grade students during the morning Chapel service. Throughout my teaching years, this has happened here at school, in church privately or in a regular Church service at St. John's Lutheran Church. These are such special moments for me, because this is a witness as to what makes us different. The children who become baptized have heard the Word of God each and every day they are in school. The Holy Spirit has worked in their hearts. Sometimes the teacher has initiated the discussion of baptism, but at other times, the child has asked to be baptized because of what they have heard in the classroom. At times, my teachers or I have been asked to serve as sponsors. What a blessing! So when I am asked "what makes us different?" this is my answer. What makes us different is the opportunity to share God's love with our students each and every day. That makes us different. This is why my teachers and I have chosen to do what we do. We serve as educators and missionaries in the places God has called us to serve. It does not matter where we serve, just that we share the wonderful news of our Savior each and every day. You are called also to share this great news wherever you are. It is a wonderful blessing to bring a person to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.



Baptism of Braylin Eggemeyer, daughter of Brandon and Lindsay Eggemeyer.



Our boy's B-Team placed third at the the Holy Cross Tournament.

May God who has called each and every one of us as His children, rejoice in this great blessing of knowing Him as our Lord and Savior!

Blessings in Christ,
Deitt Schneider

Honoring Forty Years

Dr. Paul L. Schrieber describes his life as an "incredible one." Those who know him give an account that he is God fearing, has high integrity and intellect; a man who has given his adult life to spreading the Good News of salvation through our Lord and Savior, Jesus, to many.



Born in 1949 with Leber disease (near blindness), Dr. Paul did not let this disability stop him from doing the amazing work which God had planned for him. His parents were told that he should be sent away to a school for the blind. Fearing this may happen, Paul tried all the harder to excel in school so he could stay at home and attend St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud. Unable to see what the teachers wrote on the blackboard, he watched the movement of their arms so he would have an idea of what they were writing. His mother taught him to play piano and his dad taught him drums. In third grade, he played drums with the high school band. Throughout elementary school, he played the piano for his teachers who did not play. Later on, he received professional lessons for both piano and drums. Dr. Paul has greatly enhanced St. John's worship through playing tympani at special services.

In high school, Dr. Paul's counselor advised him to study engineering, but Paul had different ideas. He hungered to know the Bible in a deeper way and one day to teach it. Through using a file system in his mind, Paul was able to memorize the lessons the previous day that would be taught. He did not want his students to know he was nearly blind. At Concordia University, Chicago, where he taught for five years, his reputation preceded him and he was called to teach at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. While living in St. Louis, Paul's chief mode of transportation was his bike. Unable to drive a car due to his blindness, he rode the seven miles each way to and from the seminary in rain, sleet, or sunshine. Paul's servanthood for the Lord took him all over St. Louis visiting shut-ins and administering to the sick in hospitals and nursing homes. He earned his doctorate degree while teaching at the seminary. After 20 years at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Paul retired.

The family consisted of eight children. In 2001, when he moved back to Red Bud, three children were already with the Lord. A daughter, a twin, died when a virus swept through a Chicago hospital shortly after she was born. Two of his children, a daughter and son, were severely handicapped and were not expected to live past six years. But through Paul and Jean's care for them, they lived to be 20 and 13 respectively.

On October 23, 2016, Dr. Paul celebrated his 40th anniversary of his ordination at St. John's Fellowship Hall. Former students and colleagues came to honor him. One student, now a pastor, said to hear him was like hearing Jesus, Himself, teaching the class. The immense respect and love was evident by all seven speakers. His students knew they had a godly person standing in their midst!

After Dr. Paul retired, he came back to Red Bud. Having a severely broken hip from a bike accident and Parkinson's Disease, he had many doctors' appointments in St. Louis. Joan Voges got to know him as she volunteered to drive him to his various doctors' appointments in St. Louis. She said, "This blind man taught me to drive in St. Louis. I became more familiar with St. Louis streets. Paul recognized landmarks and let me know in time when and where to turn. Later on, I engaged him in editing my articles and Lilyfields' music which I wrote. His encouragement was genuine and subtle."

Dr. Paul's last big project was to write the story of Martin and Katie Luther in 2012 as told through the eyes of Katie. It is recorded on the Lilyfield CD entitled, "The Morning Star and the Nightingale." After much research, Dr. Paul wrote the play which will be performed in Katie's home in Wittenberg as part of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

To sum up his accomplishments: Dr. Paul wrote: "I became the accompanist for many choirs, including high school, college, and seminaries. My quest for knowledge and the skills I developed enabled me to learn German, Spanish, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. I even taught Hebrew and Aramaic to large classes on the doctoral level. I arranged details in my mind like a file system. Although I live with many serious disadvantages, I have learned that God works through them as advantages. I received the gifts of reading and teaching the Bible in its original languages. I have not been cheated a bit, and I no longer try to hide my disabilities. May the Lord continue to turn them into blessings."

A Visit With An Alumnus Jennifer Krick

I attended St. John's Lutheran School for first through eighth grades, graduating in 1993. I remember my time there fondly. I made some lifelong friends there, including my lifelong best friend, Tracy, whom I met in the first grade. I am very grateful that my parents decided to send me to a Lutheran grade school. Attending St. John's strengthened my faith in God, which is still important to me today, and provided a top notch education. The teachers always pushed us to be our best. They not only taught us to be good students but good people and Christians. I remember Mr. "B," my third grade teacher, teaching us silly mnemonics to remember our multiplication tables. My love of reading started in the 5th grade when Mrs. Schneider would read to us every day after lunch. I have lots of memories of attending St. John's, and I especially remember all of that memory work we were assigned. I didn't realize it at the time, but all of that memory work prepared me well for high school, college, and beyond. Learning how to efficiently memorize lots of information benefited me greatly in medical school, which I went on to after graduating from SIUC with a biological sciences degree. I went to medical school at University of Illinois, and then went on to do a pediatric residency at Cardinal Glennon in St. Louis. I graduated from residency eight years ago now, and have been practicing general pediatrics at SSM Maryville Pediatrics in Maryville, Illinois, ever since. I discovered I loved working with kids in medical school, and I don't think I could have chosen a specialty more suited for me. I love working with kids because they are so resilient and tend to rebound quickly from illnesses, which is very rewarding. It is also amazing to watch my patients grow over the years. It's hard to believe that newborns I saw when I first started my job are now coming to see me for their eight-year-old checkups! Needless to say, working with kids always keeps me entertained. Some of the things my patients say have me laughing out loud (and sometimes their parents cringing). When I'm not working, I love to cook and bake, spend time with family and friends, and travel. I have been lucky enough to get to travel everywhere from Vancouver to China.



The Krick family: Jennifer with her parents Martha and Wil, brother Travis, sister-in-law Erin, niece Sydney and nephew Brewer.

The Pastor's Perspective

Like you, I am an alumnus of a Lutheran elementary school, Trinity Lutheran School in Jefferson City, Missouri. Like you, I can tell many stories about teachers, classmates and activities from my eight years in Lutheran grade school (no kindergarten back then!). Like you, some of my teachers are still around in my home congregation (my 8th grade Art teacher is now the Senior Pastor and my 5th grade teacher just retired as the Principal). Like you, I have grade school friends who still live back home and others who have spread across the country. Like you, my grade school has grown in students, flourished in opportunities and expanded its building over the years (more classrooms and a new gymnasium, sounds familiar). Like you, the education I received during those years still benefits me every day of my life. Like you, the faith in Christ formed within me through my Lutheran grade school is of greater value to me now than I ever understood back then.

I hope that you share with me a love for your Lutheran grade school and the important part it played in your life. I also hope that you have not put your time here at St. John's in some box as if that were another lifetime, but that you remember your years here regularly. I also hope that you share with me in praying for your Lutheran grade school, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance of our current teachers and students. I also hope that you share with me in supporting your Lutheran grade school as we continue the mission that helped make you who you are today, the teaching of Jesus Christ, Him crucified and risen from the dead for the forgiveness of our sins, new life in His name and eternal life in His presence.

In Jesus' Name
Rev. Mark A. Nebel



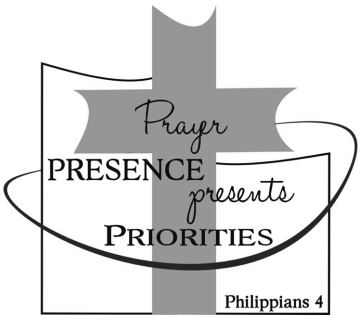
Capital Campaign

Happy New Year!

We recently closed the book (sort of) on a three year long Capital Campaign. The blessings we have received as a result of this campaign will impact St. John's for generations to come. As the final numbers are tallied, we see that through unpledged gifts, we were able to exceed the initial pledged amount. There are a few unfilled pledges remaining so we may still see this number continue to climb. If you made a pledge three years ago but were unable, for whatever reason, to completely fulfill it, please consider continuing to contribute to the Capital Campaign even though it has been "completed."

Many of us have learned through this Capital Campaign what our true giving potential is. Maybe three years ago, you stretched the budget a little bit and made a contribution over and above your normal tithe. If you did that, look back and think about God's blessings to you during that period. Maybe you discovered that you were able to make that additional contribution without as much impact on your life as you originally thought. If that is the case, prayerfully consider continuing to give to the same level. Test what you learned in 2 Corinthians 9 and sow bountifully and cheerfully.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
And God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:6-8



Bringing the Past Into the Present

The time is fulfilled for the undersigned to make some personal reflections: One of the greatest influences on my life as a Lutheran educator was my wife's father. Theophilus John Koch, father of 12 children plus one foster child, professor, musician, composer, artist, philosopher, poet, gardener, Bible scholar, when compared with his contemporaries, did not achieve high sounding titles, positions or wealth in his life. He faithfully served his Lord Jesus, in all capacities, St. Peter's Lutheran Congregation, Columbus, Indiana, for over 40 years. T.J. Koch taught in Lutheran schools for 53 years and was dramatically translated to heaven while instructing a Bible Class. Often when disputing with the "learned" doctors of the day, he would inform them that his title was O.A.T.

This picture of this year's eighth grade is significant in this wise. This is the thirty-fourth eighth grade that the undersigned has been privileged to instruct at this school. During these years, there have been various opportunities to move on to more prestigious positions. But for the sake of family and love of eighth graders and their parents (most of whom were very supportive), I have stayed on. We have been bountifully blessed by our Lord in this place. We have touched, by God's Grace, the lives of many young people. As we near the end of this school year, we will be travelling to the impressive sites of our Nation's Capital. These students will long remember these experiences and the fine preparation for the future that this school has afforded them. We have taught them to observe "all things that the Lord has commanded them." We have attempted to "know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 2:2) Now before our Good Lord Jesus Who is ALWAYS with us, I remain---

Only A Teacher. *Ronald A. Snyder* 3/17/89



St. John's class of 1989.