St. John's Lutheran School
Alumni News

Newsletter 9

Greetings!

"Let His Light Shine" was the theme chosen for our 2018-2019 school year. The theme verse from the Bible is John 8:12, "Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" Our students have had several opportunities to proclaim His light and will continue to do so throughout the year.



Our school enrollment is very good! We have 180 students in K-8 with a double class of Kindergarten and 4th grade. Our 27 sixth graders are combined this year as we departmentalize all subject areas, so the teachers take turns giving instruction to this large class. We have 40 in Preschool and another 72 children in Daycare so our grand total is 292. We are so blessed to have this many students/children hear the words, prayers, and songs about Jesus that take place throughout the day. We welcomed our new 7th grade teacher, Nancy Whelan, to our school; she has served us for many years as a faithful substitute teacher. On our first day of school, we gathered by the bell tower for a picture and rang the old school bell (*pictured above, right*). The PTL surprised us with a Welcome Back sign which was appreciated by all the students.



Something else new this year was our Cougar Prowl Fun Run. Instead of selling items door to door, the PTL sponsored a Fun Run (*pictured at left*). Each student received pledges or flat donations, and the students ran or walked the course 21 or more times. The students had a great time! Refreshments were provided, and each child received a t-shirt for their efforts. We thank our committee members and sponsors for this event. We deem this event a SUCCESS and plan to continue the Cougar Prowl Fun Run next year!

A day we all look forward to is Grandparent/Special Guest Day which was held on September 21 (*pictured below, right)*. The guests were invited for Chapel, and the students gave the message in verse and song. The theme was what a Grandparent means to them. The words to describe our grandparents were: **G**enerous, **R**elationships, **A**ffectionate, **N**urturing, **D**edicated, **P**recious, **A**ppreciate, **R**espect, **E**mbrace, **N**ice, **T**rust, and **S**torytelling. The day was enjoyed by all, and we are so very thankful for the love and support of these special people.



May God continue to bless you in all you do. You have been a blessing to us in your support of our school.

With a thankful heart,
Deitt Schneider

Our School

This child, given by God, first to the parents, then to us.
For the shortness of our days we hold tomorrow in our hands.
We hold them close so God can hold them closer;
for someday they will be alone, and God's hands are stronger than our own.
And so we pray that our little red schoolhouse
might be a lighthouse on the shores of our faith.

Vic Both and his wife, Marty, are supporters of our school from a distance with their Thrivent money (plus other sources) without knowing anything about St. John's Lutheran School. He sent the poem above and calls it "Our School." We thank Mr. and Mrs. Both for their generous support of our beloved school.

A Visit With Alumni: Tammy Moll & Jamie Korando

While the building has changed since the beginning of St. John's Lutheran School, the connection that many have to the school has not. When one finds themselves walking around school, whether it's during a school day and volunteers are helping or a school event such as the fall festival, grandparents' day, or a sporting event, there are many alumni who play an active role in our school. Many generations of St. John's alumni still play an active role in our school from volunteering to read books, coaching a sport, to serving on our Board of Parish Education. It is evident that the role that St. John's Lutheran School has had in their lives and their desire to ensure it for future generations.

Tammy Moll

Hello St. John's Alumni! I'm Tammy (Luthy) Moll. I graduated from St. John's in 1995. I married Danny in 2004. We have two boys and they currently attend St. John's. Isaac is in 7th and Ian is in 4th grade. I am grateful that my children are able to attend St. John's and receive a Christian education like I received. It's wonderful to see how much the school has grown since I attended. I was fortunate to be a part of the latest Capital Campaign committee which was a rewarding experience. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments here at St. John's since I graduated and I currently serve on our Board of Parish Education.



Tammy pictured with her family; husband Danny and children Isaac and Ian.

I am fortunate that, with the Christian education I received, I'm able to share my beliefs with others I meet. At my current job as Social Service Director at Oak Hill Care Center in Waterloo, religion is a big part for most of my residents. I love to hear them discuss their beliefs and to join in conversation with them. This makes me reflect on my education I received and grateful that my parents felt it was important for me to receive as well.

I would like to conclude with a sincere gratitude to the alumni and current church family that support SJL. Without this support, our school would not be as successful as it is today!

Jamie Korando

My name is Jamie (van Buren) Korando, and I am a 1992 graduate of St. John's Lutheran School. I live in Red Bud with my husband, Joe, and my two children. Natalie, 11, is in 6th grade and Colin, 8, is in 3rd grade at St. John's. They have both been attending the school since daycare. My parents, Denis and Brenda van Buren, and grandparents, Amos and Erna van Buren, all had a Christian education, and I am proud to be passing those same values onto my children. I may not have appreciated it at the time; however, looking back, it was the greatest gift my parents could have given me.

When I left home for college, I neglected Church and decided that it wasn't as important as it once had been. The good news is that I held the knowledge instilled in me from little on - God was still with me even if I wasn't giving Him my attention. With the foundation I was given, my decisions and actions were grounded in my Christian faith. I want to give my children the same opportunity. Teaching them at a young age the word of God and the blessings He provides will guide them through the difficult times. Even if they stray and step away for a time, the Holy Spirit will be at work in them and lead them back.



Jamie pictured with her family; husband Joe and children Natalie and Colin.

I began attending Church again regularly after moving back to Red Bud in 2005. We enrolled our children in the daycare when they were each only a few months old. Right away we could feel the love and caring that the school provides. As our kids got older, I became a more active and involved member of the congregation. I have had the opportunity to be a member of the Parish Board of Education for the past three years. It has immensely improved my understanding of what it takes to keep this school improving and progressing. I look forward to seeing the school and Church continue to grow and be a blessing for generations to come.

A Visit With An Alumnus: Evelyn Muench

I was raised in a Christian home by my parents, Alfred and Norma Guebert. There were six children in our family: three girls (Doris, Eileen, and me) and three boys (Donald, Glenn, and James). Don is no longer with us. All six of us graduated from St. John's.



From left to right are Evelyn and her sisters Eileen, and Doris.

Life on a farm meant there was always work to be done: putting up hay, milking cows, gathering eggs, chopping and carrying wood. My main job was to help my mother in the house. She taught me how to cook and bake. An important part of our family life was our devotion time every night after supper.



Pictured above is Evelyn with her step mother and siblings In front is Edna Guebert Evelyn's step mother. Middle row is Eileen, Doris, and Evelyn. Back row is Jim, Don and Glenn.

I spent the first eight years of my education at St. John's in the old two-story brick building. My confirmation class was small: three boys and five girls. Four of us are still living. One memory of my early years is playing softball at recess. We had only one ball. When it came apart, we had to take it home and sew it back together.

There were no organized sports. The boys and girls were not allowed to play together at recess. One day we did and got in trouble!

I have always enjoyed singing in the choir. When I joined, there were only women members, so we sang three-part harmony. It was during the war, and the men were in the military. My sisters were in the choir as well.



Evelyn and Vernon

When I was 18, I was asked to teach Grades 1-7 at St. Peter's Lutheran in Evansville. What a challenge! The school building was old and didn't have running water. But it did have a furnace to keep us warm on cold winter days. There was no cafeteria so the students had to bring their lunches. During my second year, we were invited to eat lunch at the Evansville public school, which had a lunch program. So each day, we all walked there for lunch.

After teaching two years at St. Peter's, I came to St. John's and taught Grades 3, 4, and 5. Teaching three grades in one classroom is very different from today. The students learned a lot from each other and from students in the other grades.



From left to right are Evelyn's daughters; Laurie, Jan, Marcia and Nadine.

In 1951, I married Vernon Muench. We were blessed with four loving daughters: Nadine, Marcia, Janice, and Laurie. We have five grandchildren: Peter, Ben, Lee, Jill, and Brooke, and one great-granddaughter, Charlotte.

I retired from the Red Bud Public Library after serving as librarian for 25 years. During that time, I met and worked with many interesting people. I tried to point students to the information they needed for their school work. When I worked there, the library was part of the City Hall building. That part is now occupied by the police department. In 2003, the library moved to a larger facility on South Main Street.



A library is an asset to a city, and we should be proud that we have one.

St. John's has and always will be an important part of my life. May God continue to bless our church and school.

The Pastor's Perspective

This past May I had the privilege of attending the annual Alumni Association meeting and banquet at my home congregation and grade school, Trinity Lutheran in Jefferson City, Missouri. It had been 40 years since I graduated from elementary school there.

It just so happened that they had honored me with their annual "Person of the Year" award. They gave me a chance to speak at the meeting (it is always dangerous to give me time at a microphone), presented me with a framed certificate that is now on a bookshelf in my office, and added my name to their plaque of honorees from the past. It is a privilege to see my name listed alongside former teachers I had and fellow graduates of past years who have made a positive difference in this world.

I have a couple of thoughts to share with you about that experience. First, though it was the 40th anniversary of our graduation, I was the only one from my class in attendance. I really wish I could have seen some of my classmates, but I realize that, like me, many of them have left town and live in other parts of the nation. They have taken the Christian education that they received at Trinity in Jefferson City and used it to bless communities and congregations elsewhere. Some of you are in that same situation when it comes to our school, your alma mater of St. John's, Red Bud. You have taken the education in the faith that was given to you here and used it for the glory of God and the service of His people where you now live. The next time we hold an alumni banquet, I do hope that you will be able to attend.

Second, and more positively, I did see parents of my friends and other older adults whom I remembered from my childhood. Not only did they support the Christian ministry of our school back when I was a student, they have stayed around and continue to support their congregation's school ministry. Some of you are in that same situation when it comes to our school here at St. John's. We continue to need your support of our congregation's school ministry as others supported the education that you received when you were in school here. We want to provide the same blessing of Christ for children in the future as you were given here in the past.

May God bless you and keep you in His great grace and mercy for us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

In His Name,
Pastor Mark Alan Nebel

Down With the Debt

A generous matching gift offer has been given to us. From now until December 31, we can have our special gifts, over and above our regular offerings, matched up to $100,000. This will help lower the building and operating debt that we continue to carry. While worship offerings during 2018 are 7% higher than in 2017, our expenses are running 8% higher than last year. This is on top of previous year's operating shortfalls and what is still left to pay from the church remodeling and school expansion project. Due to current budget constraints, we have ceased our monthly loan repayments for the rest of 2018. Please consider making a gift toward this matching fund by mailing it to the church office (noted "Down With the Debt") or using a blue envelope to put into the offering plate during worship. Thank you!

