

As You Come into the Office...

There is a sign, a banner, that states: St. Stephen Lutheran School, *Celebrating 153 Years!* Reformation 2017, *It's Still All About Jesus!* "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." ~Hebrews 13:8

Reformation 2017 (500 year anniversary).... Our school year theme (in boldface print above) and the Scripture it is based upon.... But it's the number 153 in *Celebrating 153 Years!* that had me thinking. Where did I see that number before?

I found it in the 21st chapter of the Gospel of John, the telling of Jesus appearing to seven disciples who were fishing all night. They caught nothing. As dawn was breaking, Jesus was standing on the shore, although they didn't know it was Jesus yet. Jesus revealed Himself when he told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat, where they caught so many fish they could barely haul it in. Verses 10 & 11 say, "Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn."

Why 153? What's the significance?

More research. I checked with the footnotes in a couple study Bibles, looked up the verses in a few Commentaries and other Biblical study helps, and conducted a search online. In most cases the significance is that God provides more than we expect or need. Our God is indeed generous. He gives what is needed and then some. He doesn't just fill the cup, it runs over (Psalm 23). Remember, there were seven disciples and Jesus. 153 large fish was more than enough for the eight men. Such a large catch reveals the nature of gracious and loving God.

During the summer, I stopped by the old St. Stephen Lutheran School on the corner of Maple and Cedar streets. The owner of the Porsche 924 shop that now occupies the building was nice enough to show me around. I could picture students, teachers, the work and responsibilities. How many lives were touched through the sharing of Christ's love, shaped, and molded there?

Months earlier, my wife, daughter, and I were eating ice cream at the Ice Cream Station. Across the street, I noticed the front doors open to what was once St. Stephen Lutheran Church on Cedar and Lake Streets. I was curious, so I stepped inside and met the pastor of Marsh View Ministries which gathers there presently. The building has changed some, but I could picture congregation members worshipping, communion, baptisms, and more. How many lives were touched through the sharing of Christ's love, shaped, and molded there?

Pastor Seehafer and Pastor Szczesny graduated from the seminary in Fort Wayne 20 years ago, with Pastor Seehafer serving in ministry here for all 20 and Pastor Szczesny the last 10 years. Our 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Amy Rupnow, and 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Beth Miskimen, have completed 20 years in educational ministry, while Mrs. Lisa Janus has served for 30 years. Have many lives have been touched, shaped, and molded through the sharing of the love of Christ over the course of their ministries?

In a short time it will be 2018 and we will mark and celebrate 160 years of God's faithful guidance and abundant blessings poured out on St. Stephen Lutheran Congregation. Wow!

The next few times you're in our present facilities, think about how many lives have been blessed, and are being blessed, by the ministry here. Recall the memories of past events and experiences. Think about what's to come. Number the blessings and give thanks and praise.

Numbers. What's the significance? They help reveal the nature of our gracious and loving God. Our God is indeed generous. He gives what is needed and then some. He doesn't just fill the cup with blessings, the cup runs over. Boy- have we got good reason to be thankful!!!

And even more- God loved us so much that He gave His one and only Son to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might not perish but have eternal life with Him. It's Still All About Jesus!

In the meaning of the 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther writes, "*All this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.*" Sounds like a great response to a loving, gracious, and generous God.

And what about the days ahead? Will the Lord continue to bless? You can count on it!

Peace & Joy! Mr. Joel Bahr, Principal

KNIGHTS PAGE

Pleased to Present a Parent

One of the true blessings here at St. Stephen Lutheran School is the love and support parents have for our school. Their contributions are very valuable to the operation of our ministry. We are very grateful for them all and are “*Pleased to Present*” the following parents this month.....

Breaking from what has been the routine format, we are grateful for:

Volleyball Coaches: Mike Morell, Pam Steiner, Crista Slade, Katie Becherer, and Morgan Cina.

For Mike and Pam, after several years of coaching here, this past season is their last. Their efforts have been crowned with success and great memories for them and those that have played for them. Along with Crista, Katie, and Morgan, they have done a great job teaching basic skills, team-work, and Christian character.

Board of Education Members: Ryan Slade (Chair), Jenn Franz, Katie Schwartz, Keith Kanzenbach, Kyle Schick, Lori Marschke, Marilu Marquardt, Mark Gregor, and Tasha Manthey. The time and energy our Board of Education puts into our school ministry is so important and valuable-and most of these parents have been doing so for a few years.

We recognize and appreciate our Volleyball Coaches and members of our Board of Education, giving God thanks and praise for them. We are blessed to work with them and pray for God’s continued guidance and blessings upon them.

Happy Birthday to

Nov. 1	Brenna Buelter
Nov. 6	Chloe Biermann
Nov. 7	Bryce Wianecki
Nov. 8	Mikayla Schultz
Nov. 12	Grace Kerske
Nov. 22	Cora Tubbs
Nov. 29	Jacob Marquardt Christian Schwartz
Nov. 30	Kellen Geschke

Upcoming events

Nov. 2	Picture Retake
Nov. 2/3	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 3	No School
Nov. 11	Fall Family Fun 3:00-5:00 p.m. St. Stephen Gym 5 th -8 th Grades Sing in Church 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	PreK-1 st Grades Sing in Church 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 22	Early Release 12:30 p.m.
Nov. 23-24	No School

KNIGHTS PAGE

NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Pizza Lettuce Salad Applesauce	<i>2</i> Hamburger/Bun Tator Tots Yogurt Picture Retake Parent/Teacher Conferences	<i>3</i> Parent/Teacher Conferences No School	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Pepperoni Bosco Sticks Lettuce Salad Peaches	<i>7</i> Mac 'n Cheese Corn Dogs Veggies & Dip Mixed Fruit	<i>8</i> Chicken Noodle Soup Salami Sandwich Veggies & Dip Banana	<i>9</i> Meatballs & Gravy Noodles Green Beans Dinner Roll Mandarin Oranges	<i>10</i> Sub Sandwiches Chips Veggies & Dip Pears	<i>11</i> Fall Family Fun in Gym 3:00-5:00 5 th -8 th Grade Choir Sing in Church 5:30 p.m.
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Nachos Meat & Cheese Lettuce Salad Applesauce	<i>14</i> Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Veggies & Dip Yogurt	<i>15</i> Hamburger/Bun French Fries Oranges	<i>16</i> Pizza Lettuce Salad Banana	<i>17</i> Chicken Nuggets Potato Smiles Peaches	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> PK-1 st Grades Sing in Church 10:30 a.m.	<i>20</i> Meatball Subs Veggies & Dip Mixed Fruit	<i>21</i> Lasagna Lettuce Salad Pears	<i>22</i> Pancakes Omelet Sausage Oranges Cinnamon Roll Early Release 12:30 p.m.	<i>23</i> No School Thanksgiving	<i>24</i> No School	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Hard or Soft Taco Lettuce Tomato Onions Cheese Applesauce	<i>28</i> Chicken Patty Tator Tots Peaches	<i>29</i> Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Lettuce Salad Mandarin Oranges	<i>30</i> Pizza Lettuce Salad Banana		