

KNIGHTS PAGE

May 2018

More Than a Religion Class.....

Recently I received in the mail an advertisement from a Christian publishing company. To start things, the ad stated that Christian churches, schools, and families are in crisis, and then presented the following statistics: Only 10% of adult Americans have a Biblical/Christian worldview... “Unaffiliated” American adults (i.e. atheist, agnostic) grew by 42% in a 7-year span, from 2007-2014... The percentage of today’s teens who identify as atheist is double that of the general population... Christian churches and schools are trying to stand in the gap, yet almost 60% of high school students who regularly attend church stop going during the college and university years... Something is wrong.

The devotion in *Portals of Prayer* for Friday, April 20th mentioned the Bible has been translated into nearly 3,000 languages, yet only 31% of the world is Christian. The world needs us.

The Mission and Ministry of St. Stephen Evangelical Church and School is to bring Christ to all people and to help them grow in their Christian faith, life and service.

The mission statement above was adopted several years ago. It’s a good thing, from time to time, to review and reflect upon a mission statement--- sort of like taking a little time to check a compass to make sure you’re headed in the right direction.

With a closer look, there are a few valuable points in our statement worthy of consideration. The first comes with the words *Church and School...to bring Christ to all people*. Along with the home, we are in partnership with one another. When the home, school and church all work together and hold the same values, especially Christian values, it can be powerful and effective in support and benefit for the student.

To help them grow in their Christian faith..... We educate and nurture individuals. According to the dictionary, one of the definitions for nurture is the act of promoting development or growth; upbringing, rearing. Education is a process of development and growth, but nurture is a term we see in Proverbs 22:6: “Train a child in a way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” That ‘way’ connects itself well with Jesus’ words in John 14:6: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” In his letter to the Ephesians, chapter 6, verse 4, Paul says, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training (*nurture* in the King James Version of the Bible) and instruction of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 6:6-9 also speaks to parents’ responsibility of training and nurture. At St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, we assist and partner with parents in this responsibility and privilege.

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In our school, we begin each day with devotions, where students share in God's Word and prayer. We say our pledges of allegiance to the U.S. flag **and** the cross (Christian flag). We pray for families in our school family, in our congregation, and in the community. We pray before we eat lunch and at the end of the day, and often pray during the day when things aren't quite going right or when there is a need. We pray before and after events and gatherings, including athletic events, and tests, too.

Other Christian nurturing activities include weekly chapel worship services, monthly offering projects, Advent/Christmas worship, student choirs, catechism instruction, service projects and opportunities, and working with faith-based and faith integrated curriculum....more than just religion class. Even discipline (note the word disciple in the term) and conduct are more than just the "following of rules" it is about holding children and one another accountable to God's commands and God-pleasing behavior.

Our nurturing and education of students are supported by a Christ-centered environment. It is pretty easy to notice our Christian environment- we are connected to a church and use the sanctuary for school worship and other events. Bible verses, art, pictures, bulletin boards, banners, posters, and more depictions of the Christian life can be seen throughout the building. But atmosphere is also a part of the environment, and a Christian atmosphere is found in the examples, actions, and words of the professionals, parents, children, and volunteers that are members of our body. Most of our teachers have been trained for ministry by our synod and others have a heart for serving Christ and His people. There is fellowship with one another, and with other Lutheran and Christian schools, as well as other Christian ministries and agencies.

Spiritual growth and development is primary, but we also prepare students in the academic, social, and physical realms also- and we do it well. National test scores are solid and our graduates have performed well in high school and on the collegiate levels. We use computer technology in teaching and learning. Horicon Public Schools provides some services for our students. Extra-curricular activities and opportunities help offer a well-rounded experience.

The overall nurture, education, and preparation offered at St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School are to help in *developing lives of Christian service*, our purpose as His people in serving Him and others. Statistics show that 3% of students that attend Lutheran schools are called to professional church work. Others become the leaders and active supporters in congregations. When all is said and done, it's more than a religion class. The future of our church is dependent upon it. May the Lord guide and bless His ministry here and abroad.

To God be all honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving!

Mr. Joel Bahr, Principal

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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.....

Leslie Spoerl and Ron Spoerl... Leslie is an RN for Care Wisconsin in Dodge County, serving those with physical and/or mental challenges and disabilities as well as frail elders through the Wisconsin Medicaid program. Leslie has also worked at Community Memorial as an OB technician and a nurse intern on the medical floor, and at St. Joseph's Hospital, West Bend in med/surgery orthopedics. She has also been trained in Emergency Response Team and Disaster Action programs. Leslie has assisted on our auction committee and has also volunteered for several fundraisers such as Leroy Meats Brat Fries, rummage sales, and 8th grade fundraising. In the community, Leslie has served as secretary of the Horicon Phoenix Program and assisted with several of their community events. She enjoys traveling and has a garden at the Horicon Community Garden at the Kiwanis Park. Leslie also enjoys the outdoors, swimming, camping, cooking, and Zumba. Recently her interests have included researching her French Canadian, Dutch, and Slovak genealogy....Ron is an entrepreneur and is CEO of Hawk Corporation. His company has recently been focused on school safety and security products, and Hawk Corp is active in a number of states. Ron has been generous in support of our auction and the 8th grade class trip. He enjoys spending time with his boys and outdoor activities. There are three Spoerl boys: Caleb, Seth, and Nathan. Seth is a graduate of St. Stephen and will graduate from Horicon High this spring. Nathan is an 8th grade student-athlete here and will graduate from our school in June.

Richard Heller and Shelly Heller... Richard works for Steel Craft Corporation and resides in Hartford. Among other activities, he enjoys car and cart racing. Daughter #1 (Mercedez) races go-carts @ Slinger Speedway and other tracks... Shelly owned and worked many hours at Lombardi's Sports Bar & Grill in Slinger. (A recent picture in the newspaper shows her skill at the limbo.) She is active in the community and would have liked to do more here, but is proud of the Christian education and other opportunities she's worked to give her girls. Mercedez, an 8th grader here, is the class salutatorian. An excellent student, she played volleyball, basketball, softball, and track- all of them well. Azelyn is in our 4th grade. She is also a good student and athlete, and enjoys gymnastics, singing, and dancing.

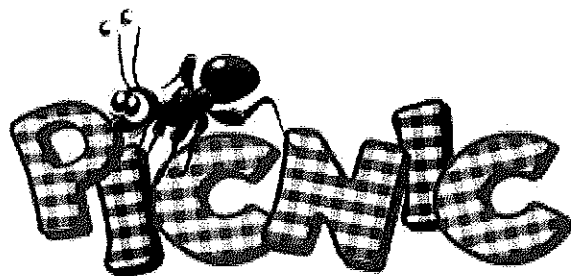
We recognize and appreciate the Spoerl and Heller families, giving God thanks and praise for them. We are blessed to work with them and pray for God's continued guidance and blessings upon them all.

Happy Birthday to

May 3	Molly Slade
May 8	Mrs. Gough
May 20	Miss Hedstrom
May 23	Emma Heckel
May 24	Olivia Greuel
May 27	Emily Bunkoske Bryce Franz
May 29	Rhys Wippermann

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End of School



May 24

ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR IS OVER!
COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!
JOIN US FOR FUN, GOOD FOOD, AND GREAT COMPANY!

Families are asked to donate the following:

Grade	Food Item
Kindergarten	Desserts
1 st Grade	Chips
2 nd Grade	Pasta/Vegetable Salads
3 rd Grade	Veggies & Dip, Relishes
4 th Grade	Fruit Salads
5 th -8 th Grades	\$5 per child to cover cost of meat

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Chicken Nuggets French Fries Orange Slices	2 Pepperoni Bosco Sticks Lettuce Salad Peaches 4:00 Softball Home	3 Sub Sandwiches Potato Chips Veggies & Dip Peaches	4 Diced Chicken in Gravy Rice Corn Mixed Fruit	5
6 5 th -8 th Sing in Church at 10:30	7 Hamburger Patty On a Bun Tator Tots Yogurt 4:00 Softball at Oakfield	8 Lasagna Lettuce Salad Peaches 4:00 Softball at Mount Calvary	9 French Toast Sticks Cheese Omelet Sausage Cinnamon Roll	10 Nachos Meat & Cheese Lettuce, tomatoes & asst. toppings Applesauce 4:00 Softball Home	11 Chicken Alfredo Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Mandarin Oranges	12
13	14 Pizza Lettuce Salad Applesauce	15 Hard & Soft Shell Tacos Lettuce, tomatoes & asst. toppings Yogurt	16 Mac 'n Cheese Corn Dogs Veggies & Dip Mixed Fruit	17 Brats Baked Beans Peaches	18 Chicken Strips Potato Smiles Applesauce	19
20 3K-1 st Sing in Church at 10:30	21 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Apple Slices	22 Spaghetti Meat sauce Garlic Bread Lettuce Salad Mandarin Oranges	23 Chicken Patty Tator Tots Peaches	24 All School Picnic	25 No Lunch Early Release Last Day of School	26

Walk/Run/Bike For Heart!

Our St. Stephen students are doing Walk/Run/Bike for Heart again this year! We will be walking/running/biking on Palmatory St. between the last residences and Conservation Hill at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 18th. (If we experience bad weather, we will go back to the Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart as we have done in the past.) Please note that if a student chooses to ride a bike, they MUST wear a helmet!

About halfway through the event, the kids can take a break to refuel, and we would like to have a snack for them during that time. If you would like to donate pretzels, popcorn, fruit (bananas, grapes, etc.), or a "quick dessert" (Rice Krispie bars, Chex Mix), please fill out the bottom portion of this sheet and return it to your child's teacher by Wednesday, May 16th.

Also, we need volunteers to prepare the snacks. If you would be willing to help serve that day, please fill that in, too.

Thank you for your donations and for your time!

Name: _____

Item to be donated for JRFH: _____

Yes, I would love to help out! _____