
CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL
4333 Cleveland Avenue
Stevensville, MI 49127

Principal's Newsletter

September 8, 2009

Securing Each Child's Future- For a Life of Service!

The Same

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Lutheran schools across the nation are starting this school year under the theme, “Securing Each Child’s Future – For a Life of Service.” The theme text is in the middle above – 1 Corinthians 12:5.

In looking at the verses above, there are *different* directions in which we can go. Whoever chose the theme, decided to emphasize *service*. In titling this lead-in, I chose the words *the same* – used three times in the text. However, I also could have chosen the word *different* – also used three times.

Service is a fine word to focus on in this text, a good word for Christians, for churches and for schools. It is also something with which our families and our students are familiar. Christ Lutheran School and its families do, indeed, enabled by the Spirit and out of love for Christ, serve others.

Different stands out to me somewhat because it is a word we hear so often in our world today, although we more likely see and hear it as *diversity*. We frequently are reminded that we are a diverse people – yes, whether we like it or not, we’re different one from another. The text reminds us that these different gifts, abilities, interests, etc. are a blessing from God, for use in His service.

However, the words that stand out to me most of all in the text are *the same*. The reason for our service and the source of our different kinds of gifts and service is...*the same God*. God’s blessing to all this new school year as we use our different gifts for a variety of service all to the glory of the one God and Father of us all.

Sunday School will begin a “Great Exciting New Year” this coming Sunday, September 13th @ 9:30 a.m. All children in PS – 6th grade are welcome to come and learn about a few of the “Great Exciting Thing”s God has done for us.

WELCOME

We welcome the following new students this fall to our family at Christ Lutheran: Kindergarten – Elise DeWeerd, Tim Dokter, Mia Harris, Samantha Johnson, Drew Kelleher, Andrew Lies, Samantha McLean, Elliott Measel, and Malachi Messenger; Grade 1 – Bryan Schadler; Grade 2 – Sarah Moore; Grade 3 – Andrew Measel; and Grade 6 – Lauren-Kate Harner.

We also welcome Pastor Martin Measel to our Christ staff. Pastor Measel is a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. He and his wife, Jill, are the parents of 3 boys: Andrew, Elliot, and Isaac, and are expecting another child in February.

CALENDAR THINGS

- Lito Ramirez (and sketch artist Bob Williams) will be with us this fall conducting the Coaches Against Bullying program with our 5th graders starting the week of September 21. Mr. Ramirez will also be making follow-up contact with our 6th graders who took his class last spring.
- MEAP tests will be given to 7th and 8th graders during the month of October.
- Teachers Conference is October 29-30, and school will not be in session those days.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Gerry Kabelman for installing our third interactive board over the summer. The new board, made possible by a generous memorial gift from Cora Littke (grandmother of the late Heidi Tanner), has been installed in the 2nd grade room. Thanks, also, to Fred Huff for fashioning a bracket to enable hanging this board low enough for young students to reach.

Thank you to Mike Jackemeyer for installing white boards in the 6th grade classroom. *Thanks*, also, to Mike, for securing a load of fresh wood chips for the playground.

Thank you to Mr. Wallace and last year’s 8th grade class for the terrific job they did on the yearbook!

Thank you to Mrs. Sukupchak, Mrs. Beach and Mrs. Jackemeyer for volunteering to do our next yearbook.

INSTANT ALERT

CLS has signed up through the Berrien RESA to participate in the Instant Alert System which is used by many public school districts in our county. This has done away with the need for developing our own phone calling pyramid that has been in place for so many years. I know many of our families are already familiar with the Instant Alert system if you have older children in high school, and this is the same company. As with your other children's schools, you will be asked to go on-line to input your personal contact information with Instant Alert. In the event of a weather-related school closing, messages will now be sent to you automatically from Instant Alert to as many devices as you designate (home phone, cell, computer, etc.). This system will also be used to contact families and subgroups in our school with other school-related information.

SWINE FLU

I got "yelled at" by a couple fellow principals this summer for using what apparently in some regions has become a politically incorrect term – *swine flu*. But since government and health officials are still using it, I'm probably going to continue to err. Pretty much what you've already heard through the media is all I have to report. We will be reminding students to cough into their elbow, wash hands regularly and thoroughly, etc. and ask that you reinforce such practices at home. We will also rely heavily on health department officials for current information and guidance regarding closings. Anyone interested in donating a few containers of those disinfectant wipes that many of us use at home to their child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher and let them know – these could certainly be helpful in wiping down toys, desks, doorknobs, etc. Thanks for your help.

MAGAZINE SALES

The annual PTL Magazine Sale begins tomorrow with a kick-off assembly at 9:00 a.m. Look for all the information needed to come home with your student tomorrow afternoon. For many years the bulk of our Parent-Teacher League's budget has come from the Student Magazine Sale, and P.T. L. spends that money almost entirely on things for our students. I greatly appreciate being in a school where we are not constantly having our students out selling items, and I thank our congregation for their strong support of the Magazine Sales.

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunches begin tomorrow, Wednesday. Look for the September menu to come home with students today. A volunteer will be selling tickets out in the hallway tomorrow morning.

Cost is \$2.50 per lunch for students in grades 1-5 and \$2.75 for students in grades 6-8.

Free & reduced price lunches are available through the State of Michigan for low income families. Information and applications are being sent home with each student.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- All school fees were due by today. Please submit to the school office or let the office know when they can expect to receive your fees.
- Kindergarten students pay for their morning milk/juice by the semester. The cost for the first semester is **\$36.00**. Please drop your payment off at the school office.
- Kindergarten green health forms should have been turned in by today, as well as Hearing & Vision Screening forms. 6th grade students are also required to submit an updated green health form.
- If you are a tuition family, we have assigned you a mailbox out in the Commons area. The school secretary will be happy to show you where your box is located. Tuition payments are due the 1st of each month beginning with September and running through June, 2010.
- Time for students to turn in their Summer Reading forms.
- **There is no parking before or after school in the front row, up to the second walkway. This rule is to allow everyone a clear view of children crossing the drive. Please watch carefully for children when backing up. Please remember that there is no dropping or picking up students from the main drive whenever a school bus is present.**
- All students need a separate pair of gym shoes for use in the school gym.
- All students playing sports in grades 5-8 should have turned in a sports physical form by today.