

St. John

LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
SCHOOL

November/December 2004

Mr. Christopher Urquhart

Principal

Mrs. Lari Mulholland

Preschool

Mrs. Wendy Lochhead

Kindergarten

Mrs. Connie Mattingly

First Grade

Mrs. Pam Sheely

Second Grade

Mrs. Jeanne Wagner

Third Grade

Mrs. Janet Baldwin

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Kathy Belcher

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Meg Knop

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Sabrina Jeremiah

Seventh Grade

Mrs. Donna Elson

Eighth Grade Aide

After School Care

Mrs. Jane Blechle

Music

Mrs. Cathy Eggers

Computer/Art

Lynn Powley

Office Administrator

Mr. Roy Fedderke

Mr. Charlie Mattingly

Mr. Roger Lefler

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The Hornet's Nest

A Monthly Newsletter for the People of St. John Lutheran Church and School

The Best Present of All

Without a doubt, Christmas is my most favorite time of the year (with the possible exception of the last day of the school year). I like to decorate the house inside and out and I look forward spending time with my wife, daughter and her husband. This year, the excitement will be heightened because of my granddaughter, Lily.

It is the holiday most looked forward to by all children (with the possible exception of the last day of school). This past weekend I watched as children filed by, sat on Santa's lap, and gushed out their wish list of presents. Finding gifts under the Christmas tree is a tradition that is held by most of us and expected by our children. They expect to wake up on Christmas morning and find the one thing they had their hearts set on be it an X Box, or a Red Rider BB Gun (no way - you'll put your eye out!!). Some children are disappointed but most children get at least some of what they wanted. They have faith in their hearts. They believe that their wishes will be granted. They don't understand what the word

"impossible" means. That is not a word a child wants in his or her vocabulary. Money should be no object. After all I remember being told by my daughter "how can you be out of money? You still have checks left in the checkbook!

Two thousand years ago the Lord saw the need to send a gift to His children on earth, a gift that would be more valuable than any other gift possible. He to must have agonized over what he knew would be the cost of that gift just as much as parents today agonize over gifts their children want. But God had a plan for us. He sent His Word in the form of His Son to be the greatest gift to all mankind. The gift of eternal life through His Son. I am sure it was difficult to explain just how Mary conceived. I'm sure that she was ridiculed by people. We know that Joseph was at first going to "quietly divorce her". But Mary knew she was chosen by the Holy Spirit and she would have undoubtedly gone on even without Joseph. But the days and the months went by and then the day came for Jesus to be born. There was no hospital. There was

no Lamaze, there were no birthing centers. Just Mary, in a stable, which was most likely a shallow cave with animals, filled with the stench of those same animals. But all of that was not important because she realized that she was giving birth to the Son of God and the Savior of all men.

The Lord loved us so much, that He sent Jesus to provide us with an escape from our sinful lives, through Grace by faith. And He loved Mary enough to trust her with carrying that child knowing that she would love and nurture Jesus. God knew that the child would be safe with these earthly parents until it was time for the Gift of Grace.

Students of the Week/Month Recognized

St. John is pleased to recognize the following students who were named as Students of the Week during the months of October and November.

Students were chosen by their teachers on the basis of their helpfulness, classroom cooperation, and willingness to help their classmates. Pictured are the following students. Front row left to right are first graders Joey Williams, Derek Mott, Sarah Hecht, Lucas Rock. Second row: second graders Logun Deere, Dustin Lilley, Nicholas Rinehart, Danny Moeller; Third Row: third graders Jarred Johnson, Joseph Marks, McKenna Achenbach, Hunter Cushman; Back row: fourth graders Kate Lynn Fricke, Chelsea Schroeder, Kalyn Wingenter.



October and November Students of the Week

Student of the Month

The students pictured were selected by their home room teachers as Students of the Month, for the month of November. As a result of this selection, the students were treated to a lunch at the Chester Pizza Hut.

Congratulations to Taylor Marks (5th), Lisa Kern (6th), Aaron Grah (7th), and Ronald Baughman



News from the Classroom

Preschool

The month of December has been very exciting. We have been practicing writing our names and are up to the letter "L" in the alphabet. We are very eager to learn.

We have spent a lot of time learning the songs for our Christmas program. We enjoy singing and are looking forward to celebrating the birth of that special baby boy.

During our "Jesus Time", we have told and retold the Nativity story with our felt board. The children are making a "Christmas Memory" book, in this book the children are tell me what they know about Christmas. Having a nice warm bed as opposed to a bed of hay seems to be one of the most talked about differences.

This month we have decorated cookies for our families, made some Christmas ornaments, decorated a cone Christmas tree, among other activities.

May the joys of Christmas be with you every day of the year.

Mrs. Mulholland and all the preschool kids

Kindergarten

November and December have been fun, exciting, and special months in Kindergarten.

In **November**, the Kindergarten children created a "Kindergarten Blessing Book." Each member of our class constructed/authored a page. It was refreshing to see what or who truly matters to a young child. Their faith in Jesus, their families, and their friendships with each other was evident on each page. We ended the month with a wonderful Thanksgiving Celebration at school.

In **December**, the children have been busily preparing their hearts and minds for the birth of Baby Jesus. They have been practicing their program during Jesus Time. Their special lines and songs from the program help all of us remember the meaning of Christmas. When we see angels, evergreen branches, and candles - we remember the real reason for Christmas - Baby Jesus! May all of us cradle the love this Baby brings this Christmas. . . and for the rest of our lives.

It is our prayer that you may search for the child within you this Christmas - and join with us as we say our special prayer to the Christ Child:

**"Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay.
Close by me forever - and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care.
Take us to heaven to live with Thee there."**

**Christmas Love to you and those you love,
Mrs. Lochhead and the Kindergarten
Children**

First

The first grade class has enjoyed our last two months of November and December. We enjoyed studying the Thanksgiving stories and preparation for our Christmas service and special projects. It has been a very full two months.

We have studied the Old Testament stories

of the children of Israel's journey into the Promised Land. These included the 12 spies, Joshua, and the fall of Jericho. We also studied Daniel.

Then we switched to the New Testament to study the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Our math lessons covered the adding on fact, counting backwards, and counting by 10's, 2's. We also counted money - dimes and pennies. We learned to tell time to the hour. Finally we covered subtracting 0 and subtracting a number from itself.

Our phonics lessons have covered every letter except Q. We learned to detect the vowel, consonant, vowel pattern. We played out the sneaky e character, scaring the vowel into saying its name. We also covered contractions and digraphs oo and sh. We learned the "floss" rule and how to identify final stable syllables.

We are reading more and more books every day and continue to move forward into more challenging vocabulary. Our reading levels continue to grow and improve. We have read a class total of 200 books so far this year.

We want to thank Mr. Mattingly for donating many hours each week to test us in Accelerated Reader and to Mrs. Welge and Mrs. Mueller for listening and helping us with our reading.

We only had one birthday to celebrate this quarter, that very special birthday was Jesus' birthday. We had a birthday party for Jesus on our last day of school.

Our class wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Second

As everyone knows, the month of December is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year and this year was no exception. What a wonderful job the boys and girls of the second grade did in the Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 19. For that matter, what a great job all the children did in the Christmas program! The children put in many hours of hard work in rehearsing their lines and songs for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

The second graders were also able to enjoy making and decorating their Christmas ornaments for our class Christmas tree.

The ornaments looked beautiful! A special thanks goes to Kelly Moeller (Danny's Mom) and to Becky Bunselmeyer (Brett's Mom) for buying the

ornaments that were decorated. Thank you!!

Christmas is such an exciting time for the children. They have learned that Christ is what **Christ**mas is all about. Not what you can get for Christmas but what you can give to others.

The class is excited about learning to write in cursive handwriting. We will start on cursive after we return from Christmas break. I always look forward to seeing how well the children do as they enjoy being "grown up" while they progress in their handwriting skills. In math, we started adding 2 digit numbers as the children learn about "carrying" their one to the next column. It takes practice but the children catch on and are really proud of what they accomplish. In religion, we started the stories in the New Testament which includes the birth of John the Baptist to the birth of Jesus.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed and safe Christmas season.

Third

What a wonderful time of year! The children had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day Luncheon. They preformed a play called "The Ugly Turkey" and did a choral reading entitled "Thanksgiving." They did a great job and had lots of fun preparing for it.

On Tuesday the children made the meal that was served to their parents on Wednesday. They made dressing, Jell-o salad, pumpkin desert, homemade bread, and peeled potatoes for mashed potatoes. With the help of Judy Frazier, Maria Achenbach, Jamie Henry, and Angie Redeker, The children prepared food for our 54 guests. We decorated the tables with Indian corn, turkeys, colored leaves, and Pilgrim placemats all made by the children.

On Wednesday Maria Achenbach and Jamie Henry, Janelle Knowles, Vicki Jany, and Janet Lochhead helped to warm the food and put it out on the tables. Roy Fedderke put up the tables and chairs. Lynn Powley did the lamination of the placemats. And many parents helped put the tables and chairs away and did the clean up. The third grade would like to thank these people for making their meal a success. We could not have done this

without the help of all of these people.

We are excited about the Christmas Program. The children have learned their lines and songs and can hardly wait for Sunday. We hope that you will have a chance to see the program.

May all of the families everywhere have a blessed and joyous Christmas holiday.

Fourth

Well, I finally finished reading Charlotte's Web to the class and not a minute too soon. In January I plan to read another E.B. White book The Trumpet of the Swan. These two well written books are a good example for the children who will begin working on their own Young Authors stories during the third quarter.

The schedule will also change in January and we will switch from the study of Social Studies to Science. Many of the children are already wondering what projects I have planned for them.

Math will also provide an increasingly difficult challenge with the introduction of long division, changing fractions into decimals, and multiplying by three digits.

Wow, the new year offers us a lot of challenges but with God's help, it will be smooth sailing.

Fifth

We had a visitor from Virginia on Monday 12/13. Justin Fleming who is a former student of this class came to visit all day. Justin loves school and his new home. The students all enjoyed Justin's visit. They like to email him from Mrs. Belcher's computer from time to time.

In Religion class we have been learning about true friendship as we study David's relationship with Saul's son Jonathan. The students have compared their own relationships to these Old Testament people and tried to find parallels. They are getting better and better at reciting Memory work and understanding the purpose for it.

We have played with fractions for quite awhile. We are beginning to take decimals now and make connections to fractions. The class is doing well and seems to have mastered the fraction/decimal concept. Be sure to ask your child to cut the next pizza into sixths or eighths. They should be able to do so quite well.

History class is all about the beginning of our country right now. The 5th Graders are studying about the colonies in 1770s. They are being introduced to George Washington, Patrick Henry,

and Ben Franklin. It never ceases to amaze me what the early Americans did to win for all of us our liberty. We will continue to study this time of History through much of January.

We have been exploring the outer reaches of the galaxy....at least through our imaginations and our textbook. The Solar System has taught us about stars and planets in Science. The students have been discussing what constellations they have witnessed in the night sky right now. Some of these students are really fascinated by the stars. I wonder if we will have an astronaut among them.

Speaking of stars, I believe each of my students is a star. They have been working very hard to perfect the Christmas Program so that everyone is proud of them. I hope you will be there Sunday 12/19/04 to hear God's Word spoken through our most wonderful asset....our children.

Sixth

It's hard to believe that half of the school year is over. It seems every year the time goes faster. My mother said it would be that way. The sixth grade, still a delight, just finished reading a "Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. We took it slowly and discussed each section as we traveled through the past, present, and future with Scrooge. The class enjoyed the book even though it is written in a style and language pattern that is sometimes very difficult to understand. We wrapped up this literature unit with the movie "The Muppet's Christmas Carol" that we watched on the last day before Christmas break.

History finds us in the ancient Holy Land of The Fertile Crescent of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. It was of interest to the class that this is the very cradle of civilization mentioned in the Bible. We have learned how the ancient people of this region were successful in modifying their environment with levees, ponds, and irrigation systems to make this barren land productive. We included with this unit an experiment using Mississippi River water that we let settle for a couple of weeks. We did this in order to see an example the fertile sediment that was left in this region of the Middle East after the flooding of these two ancient rivers.

I'm sure on our return in January, new and exciting adventures will await the Sixth Grade

class as they explore God's world around them.

We pray that you had a safe and Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!

Mrs. Knop & 6TH Grade

Seventh

Our classroom has been a hustle and bustle this time of year, as with anywhere it seems. In History, we are working our way up to the American Revolution and freedom from Britain. Science has taken us on several food journeys including viewing the bacteria in your favorite grocer's yogurt!

The students have also submitted individual essays on a wide variety of viruses and infectious diseases. Each student conducted research of all different venues including online sites, books, encyclopedias, journals and much more. The students were then given a volunteer opportunity to read his/her essay aloud in class. I learned a lot that day, as I'm certain the rest of the class did.

This month culminated with the ringing in of Jesus' birth in a fantastic Christmas Program performance. I was extremely proud of each student's effort and contribution on the night of the program. We also had a joyous birthday party for Jesus on December 21, and thanks to all the parents who sent goodies. But, most of all, thank you to all for raising such a great batch of kids and allowing me the privilege of educating them.

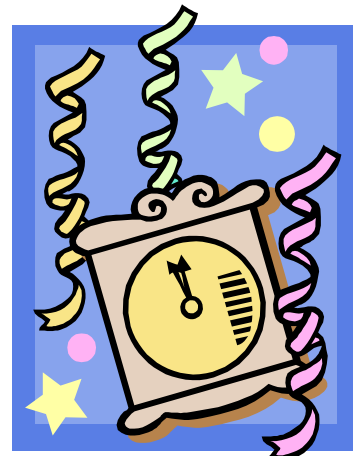
God's Richest Blessings & Happy Holidays,

Mrs. J ☺

Eighth Grade

The second quarter has come to a rapid and sudden end. We had our first experience at taking semester finals in Algebra I and Pre-algebra.

We also finalized and turned in our Confirmation/Graduation banners.





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Thank you to the following contributors to our "My Gift of Support" Program

Mrs. Mildred Young of Chester, Illinois and Mrs. Amy Evers of St. Louis, Missouri