

Trinity Lutheran School

ALUMNI connection

Spring 2006

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." Habakkuk 3:18

What's Happening...

May

- 13th - IDE BB SS Tournament @ Williamsburg
- 13th - PTL Plant Sale Pickup
- 16th - Band/Choir Concert 6:30 PM
- 20th - IDE Track and Field @ Trinity
- 24th - 25th - 8th Grade Class Trip to Chicago

June

- 2nd - Last Day of School-rescheduled
- 4th - 8th - Grade Graduation 10:30 AM
- 5th - 9th - Girl's Basketball Camp
- 12th - 16th - Boy's Basketball Camp (6th & 7th grades)
- 19th - 23rd - Boy's Basketball Camp (4th & 5th grades)
- 28th - Lutheran Family Day @ Adventureland

August

- 7th - 11th - Girl's Volleyball Camp
- 12th - Alumni Basketball Tournament & Cook-out
- 14th - Girl's Volleyball Practice Begins
- 23rd - First Day of School

Words from the Principal

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

What **JOY** it is to be "speaking" with you again. I am so excited about the alumni newsletter and the opportunity to re-connect with many of you. It has been good to hear from you and find out what you are doing these days. Don't hesitate to drop us a line here at Trinity and keep us updated on events in your life. We are currently working on updating the TLS website (www.trinitycr.org).

As the school year winds down, we reflect on our theme for the year, which has been **JOY**. In this section of Scripture, we hear clearly what Habakkuk is saying...that in spite of sufferings or loss, pain or heartache, we can still rejoice in our Awesome God. This is one of the greatest statements of faith. Whether we go through difficult times at school, in relationships with one another, in financial situations, we can still find **JOY** in our Savior. The word **JOY** is an acronym for **J**esus **O**thers **Y**ourself. This school year, we have been focusing on sharing that joy with one another in our words and actions. May the Lord of all, fill us with that **JOY** and peace that surpasses human understanding.

In Him,
Ruth Lavrenz
Principal

Trinity on Top

Numbers don't lie.

Trinity Lutheran School eighth graders posted the highest composite ITBS scores of any middle school within Eastern Iowa, according to the March 5, 2005 edition of the Cedar Rapids Gazette. The Gazette listings included both private and public schools.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) indicates how students perform in reading, math, and science.

Trinity eighth grade students posted 13+ national ratings in all three subject areas. In other words, they tested at a college freshman level in reading, math, and science. No other middle school came close to those scores.

"It's obvious our students work hard and we're very blessed with the teachers we have," says Trinity Principal Ruth Lavrenz.

Fourth graders taking the ITBS were tested in reading and math. Of 94 elementary schools, Trinity posted the highest overall composite scores. They ranked first in Math, with a score of 6.7 and 4th in reading with a score of 6.5.

The scores didn't surprise Heidi Larsen, mother of Sidney and Thomas, who both took the 4th grade test in March 2005.

“It just reinforces my feelings that the teachers at our school do a phenomenal job at helping our students meet their potentials,” she says.

“The trend just seems to be, the longer the students are in the Trinity system, the higher their scores,” explains Principal Ruth Lavrenz .

“All the TLS alumni I know of, and their parents, testify that their child is more than prepared for high school - academically and socially,” says Susan Benya.

Larsen says parents of graduates feel that Trinity provided great study habits and gave them an edge academically.

There will be some skeptics who argue private schools have a built-in advantage because they spend more money on their students. Interestingly, on a per-pupil basis, Trinity Lutheran School spent less than any other school district reported in the Gazette section.

It’s time to get the word out.

“We have a good curriculum; it’s well-balanced across the board,” says Lavrenz.

“Really, I don’t know why a greater percentage of the Christian community, particularly the LCMS community and Trinity Church in particular, don’t send their children to TLS. We don’t need, as I often hear, ‘more Christians in the public schools,’ we need everyone in the Christian schools,” says Benya.

Nancy Owen
TLS Parent

Athletic Ministry

Mark Mueller was 29-years-old when he took the reins as the boys head basketball coach at Trinity Lutheran School. Now, twenty-one years later, Mueller is still between the lines coaching basketball at TLS.

It was at the Tri-State Tournament hosted by Immanuel Lutheran School in Freeport, Illinois, this past March

that Mueller was on the sidelines coaching his way to his 500th win as coach of Trinity seventh and eighth grade team.



From left to right: Porter Zigmund, Kurt Accord, Lane Volden, Chris Schroeder, Mark Mueller – 1986

“I feel blessed to be able to do something that I really like doing. One hundred forty-three boys who played basketball their eighth grade year have graduated from Trinity since I’ve been here, and I have always felt that the time outside of the classroom and on the court with these guys was just such a special time. We really have a great basketball program at Trinity, and all these guys have helped make it that way.”

Mueller said he can’t imagine not coaching because it is such a big part of his ministry.

As for next season... “We won’t have any eighth graders, but we have some talented kids who work extremely hard. We are just going to try to play hard, play smart and play together.”

Sounds like more wins.

Former Teacher Checks In

My wife, Connie, and I taught at Trinity from the fall of '75 through the spring of '80. I taught departmentalized science in the mornings and had a sixth-grade homeroom in the afternoon.

As I remember, Richard Thompson was the pastor and Bill Dunk the principal. Bill’s wife, Delores, was on staff, as was Terry Otto and his wife, Karen. Larry Saalfeld, Deanna Acord, Karen Kroemer, Cheryl Johnson, Linda O’Neil, and Robin Wagner were other

teachers whose names I remember. It’s been a long time, but my years at Trinity, though relatively brief, are years I cherish and were among the best years of my life.

Blessings to you and your staff as you carry on with the ministry!

Bill Souza
Former Teacher

Shaping the Future

The Parent/Teacher League at TLS recently raised over \$3,200 for new science equipment by hosting a community Potluck and Dessert Auction in the school gym. Thirty-eight gourmet desserts were featured, each of which was auctioned off by the “MC,” Pastor Offt.

On Monday, March 13, PTL sponsored a guest-lecture which featured Mount Mercy College Professor, Rick Zingher, on the topic of “How Dads Make a Difference.”

PTL will continue its fundraising efforts on behalf of our school in May with the annual Plant Sale (May 13th).

May also includes Teacher Appreciation Week – an important opportunity for the school community to thank the teachers who share their talents and energy with our students everyday. Teachers are treated to a variety of treats including gifts, catered lunches, and even free massages by a certified therapist!!

Susan Benya
PTL President

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Alumni Annual Fund Drive

Trinity Lutheran School is blessed with generous financial supporters. We would like to encourage the alumni to support a financial need here at the school.

The Alumni Committee is challenging you to assist in a project we have already raised \$2,000 towards. By next school year TLS would like to replace the classroom chalkboards with magnetic dry erase boards. The Everwrite Dry Erase Boards are guaranteed for the life of the board.

In addition to the dry erase boards, the school would also like to purchase one interactive dry erase board for use in our computer lab. This board would be linked to the computers and the teachers could use it for teaching needs in the computer lab. The total Dry Erase Board project is \$10,825.00.

A dessert auction fundraiser last year raised \$2,000 towards this project. We are in need of an additional \$8,825 from the alumni to make this project a success.

If you are interested in donating towards the Dry Erase Board project please fill out the enclosed insert sheet and make your donation payable to Trinity Lutheran School. Once your donation is received in the school office we will mail you a receipt for your tax records. *If you are a Thrivent member or employed by a company that offers a matching fund program, we encourage you to get your donation matched.*

Thank you for your continued support of Trinity School. Your financial donations, volunteer time, and encouragement are all ways you make a contribution to Trinity.

Alumni Basketball Tournament and Cookout

Hey guys, come on back to TLS August 12, 2006, for a day packed with basketball and food!

The plan is to have a basketball tournament featuring combined teams from Trinity's storied past. There will be a lot of playing time...that is, if you can still get up and down the court!

We want to build a new gym so we need to start raising some bucks. This

tournament and cookout will go toward that goal

Details will be mailed to you soon, so get this "HOOPS EVENT" on your calendar.

Mark Mueller
Athletic Director

Trinity Website Worth "Hitting"

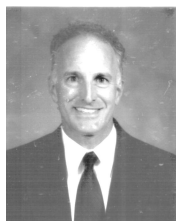
Wondering about TLS? Want to know what's going on at TLS? Why not visit the TLS website at www.trinitycr.org where you'll find a variety of great information such as:

- Information about the school and curriculum
- On-line student application
- Photos of students' activities
- Student artwork
- Teacher pages for their classrooms
- Sports and Fine Arts pages
- An Alumni page
- Coming soon...a virtual tour of the school!

So, when surfing the net, check out what's happening at TLS at www.trinitycr.org

Genius is the gold in the mind, talent is the miner who works and brings it out.

Marguerite, Countess of Blessington



Alumni on Staff

Mark Mueller, 8th Grade Teacher and Alumnus – As I boarded the old yellow school bus

parked in front of Trinity, little did I realize that the class trip I was taking with my eighth grade classmates would eventually lead me back to Trinity in 1986 as an eighth grade teacher.

We spent three days and two nights at Concordia High School (CHS) which

was on the same campus as Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska. What we did in that small town for 72 hours, I don't remember. I just know I had fun and that I liked it there. So much so, that I asked my parents if I could attend CHS that fall.

I attended Concordia for just two years before it closed. I came back home to complete my high school education at Jefferson.

After being recruited in track and cross-country by mostly NCAA Division III schools, I chose to attend Concordia Teachers College (CTC). I'm not sure why I chose to attend CTC, except that I was familiar with it from my high school years. As it turns out, God was preparing me for the teaching ministry.

After four years at Concordia, I took my first call to an inner city school in Chicago. I spent five years at Resurrection Lutheran School as a teacher, athletic director, and a coach. It was a great place to start teaching. The people were very supportive of me and very loyal.

Deciding that I wanted to pursue a basketball coaching career, I took the freshman and sophomore hoop jobs at Leo High School in Chicago. They found me an algebra class to teach so that I could coach there. It was a high intensity environment.

Then I got a phone call from Trinity Lutheran School in Cedar Rapids, asking me if I would be interested in being considered for a call to the Home of the Trojans.

It has been a great ride here at TLS. I was planning on staying for five years and then heading back to high school coaching. I'm going on twenty years as a teacher, athletic director, and coach at Trinity, and I'm lovin' it!

Never settling for less than my best, I try to "do all things through Christ who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)



School Staff:

Ruth Lavrenz *Principal*
 Vonnie Andrlle *Secretary*
 Pam Wilson *Tuition Assistant*
 Jim Freese *Maintenance Engr.*
 Ellie Wemndt *Transportation Dir.*
 Katrina Burke *Extended Care Dir.*
 Lois Hinrichs *Cafeteria Manager*

Faculty:

Tracie Payne *Preschool*
 Mary Becker *Kindergarten*
 Lois Nord *First*
 Joan Tietz *Second*
 Karen Kroemer *Third*
 Jo Schumacher *Fourth*
 Josie Hester *Fifth*
 Barb Frahm *Sixth*
 Kris Boyles *Seventh*
 Mark Mueller *Eighth*
 Judy Schroeder *Life Skills/Art/Lit.*
 Jennifer Curtis *Band/Math*
 Robin Wagner *Librarian*

PTL Officers:

Susan Benya *President*
 Lisa Osborn *Treasurer*
 Deb Williams *Secretary*

Board of Christian Schools:

Chad VonKampen *Chair*
 Bob Kohtz
 Steve Loesch
 Diane Higgins
 Carl Barshinger
 Lea Hepworth
 Mark Holt
 Mike Steffans

Church Staff:

Jonathan Offt *Senior Pastor*
 Parker Knoll *Associate Pastor*
 Carol Goldfish *Deaconess*
 Hannah Turley *Admin. Assistant*
 Pat Ehler *Business Director*