

# SOTL School News

“Inspiring Excellence, Nurturing Faith”

810-227-6473

September 4, 2009

## A Message from the Principal



HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR! Student response – Maybe caution. Parent response – Joy! Teacher response – Anticipation. Whatever, but praise God for the opportunities in ministry that lie before us this coming year.

I have received a ground swell of thanks for taking the principal’s position. Of course, toward the end of August, the immediacy of need was kind of like Cinderella at the ball with midnight approaching. What I most appreciated about this ground swell was that indicated that many of you share my strong belief that Christian education is vitally important for our children. With the current state of our country and the world, one knows that the value of Christian education can not be over-emphasized. The truth is that we have a sacred responsibility in sharing this legacy with our children.

Kathy Choroba is our new preschool teacher for four year-olds. Welcome her warmly. She served as a preschool director at Pilgrim Christian Preschool in Burton, Michigan for about a decade and as a classroom teacher in Lapeer for over a decade before serving as a substitute teacher at SOTL last year. We are delighted to have her join our excellent teaching staff.

We have added a Spanish curriculum in grades 1-5. Packed along with the curriculum is the vivacious Christina Gaertner. Give her a big welcome also. Christina is a graduate of Valparaiso University and comes from a long line of Lutheran educators. Her husband is the Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran in Hamburg. We are delighted to have her as an addition to our specials curriculum.

As for me, Dr. Jim (as I prefer to be called), I have been in the teaching ministry for over four decades. Coming out of college, I taught at Redford Lutheran in Detroit. In 1976 I received a call to Lutheran Special Education Ministries where I served as a school and clinical psychologist. I consider it a privilege to be serving the children and members of SOTL.

We at SOTL have much to be thankful for including:

- The ongoing and vital involvement of our parents, volunteers, support staff
- A wonderful staff of dedicated Christian educators
- An excellent curriculum in basic instructional areas
- The guidance of our School Leadership Team

- The support from a Pastor dedicated to ministry to our school
- A congregation that seeks to support ministry to “all of God’s children”
- A very dedicated, competent school secretary

Dr. Jim Pagels



## Start of the Year Excitement!

I am excited for the start of the school year on Tuesday. Our new interim principal, Dr. Jim Pagels, has been working hard getting ready for the students to come. Already we've seen the fruit of his labor. Through his ability to evaluate students and communicate with parents, we've picked up a few kindergarten and 1st grade students in just the last couple weeks. He has also been busy meeting with our teachers to evaluate curriculum and plan for personal growth in the coming year.

We have a few exciting milestones this year. Sandy Decheim will welcome our largest 1st grade class ever (19 students!) Our pre-kindergarten class is full. Our kindergarten class has 20 students. The future is very, very bright. We will also begin a Spanish curriculum in our elementary grades. The students will receive excellent training in music and art.

The one thing that won't change this year is the desire to share Christ in all things! We are building God's workers as we partner with families to raise young people to love Jesus in word and deed. Whether you have a child in the school or not you can still help this ministry move forward. Take advantage of the SCRIP program, and the Kroger and Meijer Community Rewards program. Drop off your paper for recycling and Box Tops for Education. Share the good news of our programs. Pray!

I'm excited. I know our teachers and staff are as well. We can't wait to see the excited kids this week and have a great year!

Pastor Milatz



**Fundraising Spotlight on:**  
*Paper Recycling: Stop Throwing Money Away!*

How many times have you complained about the amount of junk mail, papers, flyers and catalogs you receive in the mail? Did you know all that paper is worth money to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School? So stop throwing away money by recycling all that junk mail and other discarded paper. We've all driven past those large green and yellow bins in the parking lots. Do you think to yourself, "What items can I put in there?" Here is your answer:

**The following items can be placed in the Paper Retriever bins:**

- **Newspaper and Inserts**
- **Magazines/catalogs** – with the exception of any paper coated in wax.
- **Office/School papers** - We are able to accept window envelopes, paperback books, workbooks and staples without a problem. Shredded paper is acceptable but please bag the shreds before putting them in the Retriever bin. However, please do not recycle colored construction paper, wrapping or tissue paper, carbon paper or sticky notes.
- **Mail** – Please recycle the mail that you feel comfortable putting in our recycling bin.

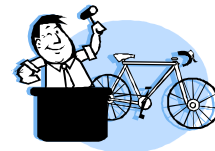
**The following items cannot be placed in the bins:**

- No Cardboard
- No food boxes, fiberboard or chipboard.
- No textbooks or hard cover books
- No Phone Books

Last year, we were able to raise \$1415.00 through our recycling efforts. Put a box or bin near your main trash cans at home or the office and see how you can "Go Green" in more ways than one!



**Annual SOTL School Auction**  
**"Building God's Workers"**  
**November 7, 2009**



The Auction Committee is in great need of volunteers to help with all aspects of the auction: acquiring donations, decorations, food, etc. This help is needed both during the planning stages, and on the day of the event. Whatever your availability, your talent and enthusiasm can be put to good use. Many hands do indeed make light work!

Please consider making a *tax deductible* donation of a service, merchandise or cash to our school auction. Contact Gail Milatz at 810-229-0745 or [milatzclan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:milatzclan@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or contributions for the event, or if you would like to volunteer your time.

*Our Mission*

*Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School nurtures children with Jesus' love to grow spiritually, thrive academically, and mature socially.*

**Don't Forget to Order Your Scrip Cards!**

Plan ahead and order your Scrip Gift Cards now! The next order dates are:

September 14                      September 28

Order forms are available in Preschool and Elementary wings and by the Church mailboxes. Your order will be available for pick up at the Church Office during regular business hours beginning the Friday following the order date. Remember: a percentage of Scrip cards sales are donated to Shepherd of the Lakes Church and School!



**Upcoming Events**

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|---------|--|
| Sept 8  | First Day of School                        |
| Sept 10 | School Leadership Team Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. |
| Sept 14 | Scrip Orders Due                           |
| Sept 18 | Apple Fest @ 6:00 p.m.                     |
| Sept 30 | Spirit Wear Orders Due                     |