



# St. Paul's Lutheran School

## SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



### St. Paul's Teaching Staff:

Dave Hall, Headmaster, 6-8 Teacher

Rev. Kevin Koester, Pastor, Religion and Catechesis Teacher

Holly Klotz, Secretary, Art Teacher

Scott Gercken, Kantor, Teacher

Vicky Greco, 3-5 Teacher, Athletic Coordinator

LaDonna Hoffman, K-2 Teacher

Rebekah Koester, Math Teacher

Anne Clark, Teacher Assistant

### Past Event Photos

Below are a few pictures from our annual Christmas banquet and class plays.



### Headmaster's Message

Welcome to our second newsletter! Thanks for your feedback from the first newsletter, I really appreciate it! And, thank you St. Paul's Lutheran Church members for all of your support for the school, we could not do it without you! We have a busy few months coming up, as the school year comes to a close. I am very proud to be the Headmaster at St. Paul's, and I am trying to do the best job I can, but it is not easy filling the shoes of great men of the Church like Mr. Ted Lams and Pastor Joel Brondos. Thankfully, I have been able to talk with both of them and "pick their brains" in order to get some great information on how to successfully manage the school. Thanks again for supporting our mission.

- Dave Hall, Headmaster -



### Who is Scott Gercken?

I'm Scott Gercken, and I've been the chief musical officer (Kantor) at St. Paul's for eight years. I grew up on a corn & soybean farm near Bellflower, Illinois, and attended Immanuel Lutheran Church in Osman, Illinois. I met my wife, Rebecca, when we were 6- and 7-year-old piano students of Immanuel's music director.

I later became the official organist at Immanuel at age 14 and Director of Music upon graduation from the University of Illinois, where I studied music composition and music education. I taught grade 5-12 public school band and choir in Oakwood and Altamont for seven years, but I've served continuously as an LCMS parish organist for about 25 years.

In 2015, I started teaching music part-time at St. Paul's while I was a full-time grad student at Concordia University in River Forest. My firstborn started kindergarten at St. Paul's the same year. After finishing MA degrees in music (2017) and religion (2020) from Concordia, I continued teaching music, but added Latin, math, English, science, religion and spelling full-time at various times and grade levels. Last school year, Rebecca, myself, and our seven children, Julianna, Marilyn, Charlotte, Evie, Fritz, Katie, and Henry, moved from Berwyn to Brookfield.

I enjoy photography, writing with fountain pens, tinkering with Raspberry Pi single-board computers, and practicing piano at home. I'm an FCC-licensed ham radio operator and a NOAA-trained storm spotter. I also teach piano and organ privately. I'm not giving up hope on earning my PhD because I enjoy academic writing and speaking at conferences. I don't plan on retiring from being an organist, but if I retire from teaching, I'd like to work part-time for an organ builder.

### We Are Hiring

#### TEACHER POSITION

- ✓ 1st-2nd Grade
- ✓ Full-Time Position
- ✓ 2023-24 School Year

**APPLY NOW**

Send Your Resume To:  
dhall@spbrookfield.org



# School Happenings...

## 2023 Spelling Bee!



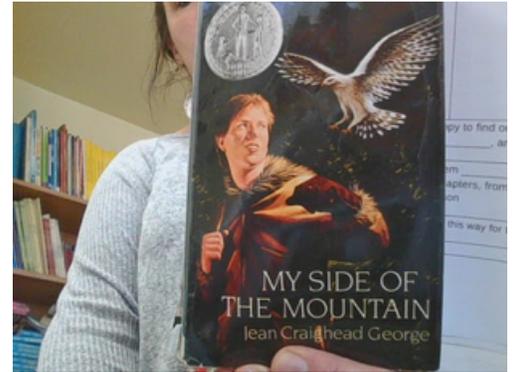
## K-2nd Grade Reading

In Mrs. Hoffman's class, students read the folktale "Stone Soup", and then made a delicious soup for everyone in the school! What is stone soup? It is a European folk story in which hungry strangers convince the people of a town to each share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal that everyone enjoys, and exists as a moral regarding the value of sharing. In varying traditions, the stone has been replaced with other common inedible objects, and therefore the fable is also known as axe soup, button soup, nail soup, and wood soup.



## 3-5th Grade Geography

The 3-5th graders have reviewed the Western Hemisphere and are all learning about Africa now. Very exciting to see the students look at the world in wonder. We had a discussion about how God made the land and seas and what we noticed about the shapes of the continents on a world map. Also, one of my students took his knowledge that the Equator runs through Ecuador and asked if the same was true with Equatorial Guinea!



## 3-5th Grade Literature

Mrs. Greco is currently teaching the novel to her students, "My Side of the Mountain." The students are really enjoying it! Mrs. Greco is using this book to teach figurative language as well. Last week we made pottery just like Sam and Bando do in the book. This week we are going to paint our creations and begin making dioramas of Sam with Frightful and The Baron.

## 6-8th Grade History

At the end of December students finished world history, and now they are studying U.S. history. We have a textbook for this called "The American Republic". Students are learning about the great explorers and the first colonists that settled in America. We use an activity book for this class, and students receive a few assignments a week from the book. We also read many first hand sources, as I believe that is the best way to really learn history. For example, we will soon be reading parts of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense".



## Upcoming School Events and News

- April 30th: School Art Show/Book Sale, starting after church service
- April 30th: Open House 1-5pm
- May 5th: Field Trip to the CSO
- May 9th: Field trip to Cantigny and 1st Division Museum



## Open House/Book Sale and Art Show!

Sunday, April 30th, 1-5pm

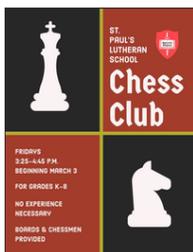
- Learn about our school and staff!
- Browse our library for a variety of books to purchase!
- Scholarships may be available!
- Register for the 2023-24 school year!



## St. Paul's BASKETBALL



CLUB!!  
TUESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL  
3:30-4:30



# Should Christians Send Their Children to Public Schools?

Students are falling in love with reading!



Amazing Art!



***"If you turn your children over to progressives to be educated, they will be returned to you as strangers."***

- Grant Horner -

Unfortunately in today's day and age, it is not wise at all to send your children to public schools. That is why our mission at St. Paul's is so important.

We offer a real alternative to the many dangers that children in public schools face. The following are just a few reasons why you should not send your students to a public school if you are a Christian.

## Removal of School Prayer, Removal of God

You can't leave God out of school otherwise students will come up with their own personal form of morality, but this will not work. Ultimately, they will choose not what they need, but what they want, many times at the expense of others. "Education is teaching our children to desire the right things" Plato. Removing school prayer was the last step in permanently removing God from public schools. By deliberately removing God from learning, public schools are not neutral, because a Godless environment is atheism, which is NOT neutral at all. A perfect example is the teaching of evolution. Evolution is a theory that all life was randomly assembled, without the involvement of a creator, and the belief that species can "evolve" into other species (change their DNA). There is NO scientific evidence for this, yet it is taught as if it is a scientific fact. By deliberately excluding God from learning, public school teachers are lying to children and essentially leaving them open to being influenced by ungodly forces. This is dangerous, and not "neutral".

## What is New is Always Better!

In schools, teachers are constantly bombarded with new programs, curriculum and teaching styles that their schools are adopting. They never fully work and are never fully integrated in the school. They are not supposed to be. They are designed to manipulate teachers into thinking that what is new is better, and one day something new will come along and solve their problems, but it never will. Most of these new reforms almost always have nothing to do with the content of what is taught, but the way it is taught, as if a new way of teaching will help students learn better. Teachers are therefore taught many "engaging" teaching methods, but are very weak in content and

understanding. They have also turned against time tested classics opting to teach new literature that they falsely believe is better, (mostly written by left-leaning socialists and Marxists). Most of this new literature contains very dangerous ideas for kids, such as the book "The Hunger Games" which is taught in many middle schools.

## The Terrible Disease of "Moral Relativism"

A very dangerous threat promoted by progressive ideologues and adopted by all public schools. This is the idea that there is no absolute morality (handed down by our creator). Another atheistic belief disguised as being neutral. Moral relativism basically states that whatever you believe is right for you, do it! There is no moral "yardstick" like the ten commandments, and students are encouraged to act on their own feelings, listen to their heart, and do what they think is best. All nice sounding, but incredibly dangerous and destructive. Not only does this ultimately turn the students into disillusioned and depressed young persons (they are too young to determine what is right and wrong for themselves, so they will just give up), but this will drive a wedge between them and their parents. A belief in God is also a belief that there is definite good and evil, and God has given this to us through his teachings, starting with the ten commandments. With no moral foundation and God, this leads to a very dangerous form of moral relativism and an "if you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything" way of life.

One of the fundamental teachings of Christianity is that we are born sinners, and must turn to God to confess our sins and repent. We can not be saved without God because of our fallen nature. Public schools create a "cult of the child" by telling them they are perfect the way they are, and only do wrong because of the world they live in. This form of secular humanism is not neutral but in direct conflict with God.

Christians believe that only God can know the ultimate truth. However, as Christians, the more we get to know God, the closer we can get to his truth. In public schools, students are taught that "truth is in the eye of the beholder". This false teaching allows for students to determine what is true in their eyes and teachers must accept this. This false philosophy has led to a huge surge in public school discipline problems that cause constant disruption, stress on teachers, and loss of learning for students.

**To be continued....**



# Lutheran Schools Week 2023!!

George Washington!!



Dan Van Gogh!!!



## The Museum of Science and Industry!



### LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK!

FIELD TRIP TO: THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE INDUSTRY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH



The students had a great time at the Museum of Science and Industry this year! The 3rd-8th graders took a tour of the U-505 submarine, one of the only three U-Boats that remain in the world.

