

From the Principal.....

November is the month when we naturally turn our hearts towards thankfulness. Yet, if we are honest, it's often easier to point out the negatives in this world and focus on what we don't have, rather than see the blessings God has already given us. Our theme this year at St. Stephen centers on JOY, and every day I see countless reasons to be joyful here in our school.

In September, our 7th and 8th graders went on their outdoor education trip to Camp LuWiSoMo in Wild Rose. As with any overnight trip, there were a few things that didn't go exactly as planned. It would have been easy to dwell on those hiccups. But instead, what I saw was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn, grow in their faith, enjoy the beautiful world God created, and making lasting memories together.

At the end of September, our students sang together for the first time at the Saturday evening service. Could we have sung louder? Did we get "off" just a bit? Sure. But that's not what I noticed. What I saw was our entire student body lifting their voices in praise to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a beautiful testimony of faith and community!

In sports, too I've seen these same lessons. Our soccer team may have had more losses than wins this year, but what I witnessed was students building one another up on the field, encouraging teammates, and playing with all their hearts. At volleyball, I saw coaches pouring time and energy into their players, teammates supporting one another with words like, "Shake it off, it's ok, nice serve!", and even after a win, the whole team giving glory to God together.

It reminds me of the children's book which I read in kindergarten in November called The Thank You Book by Mo Willems. In it, the characters take time to stop, reflect, and express gratitude for the people who have impacted their lives. That same spirit is what I see in our school family each day...students, parents, and staff lifting each other up, encouraging one another, and giving thanks to God in all circumstances.

As we move into this season of thanksgiving, may we keep our eyes fixed not on what we lack, but on the abundant blessings God gives us daily. The apostle Paul reminds us:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ, Jesus." 1Thessalonians 5:18

Let's continue to look for the joy, the good, and the blessings, because they ARE here at St. Stephen in abundance!

Mrs. Seehafer

KNIGHTS PAGE

Upcoming events

- Nov. 2 PK-2nd Grades sing in Church
- Nov. 4 STEM Club - after school
- Nov. 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 8 3rd-8th Grades sing in Church
- Nov. 10 Board of Education 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Program
- Art Club – after school
- Nov. 18 Kids For Christ – after school
- God's Kids Club – after school
- Nov. 20 Picture Retakes
- Nov. 26-28 No School-Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Birthday to

- Nov. 3 Sam Purdy
- Nov. 7 Bryce Wianecki
- Nov. 8 Ellie Mueller
- Nov. 18 Adley Miller
- Nov. 20 Santana Wehrle
- Nov. 21 Pastor Seehafer
- Nov. 29 Jacob Marquardt

Let's make a meaningful impact this November!

Each week in November, your chapel offering helps support the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces—a vital outreach that brings the comfort of Christ to those serving our country. Whether it's a few coins or a generous gift, your contribution matters.

Let's come together as a school community to show our gratitude and share God's love with those who protect our freedoms.

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Stephen Lutheran School is to prepare our students to be disciples of Christ through academic excellence with a firm foundation in God's Word.

Vision Statement

It is our vision at St. Stephen Lutheran School to be the model in Christian education for delivering academic excellence, faith-based education, and enhanced student achievement.

KNIGHTS PAGE

Do you use SCRIP?

Scrip is a simple way to support St. Stephen without spending extra money. You purchase gift cards for everyday expenses—like groceries, gas, dining, or shopping—and a percentage of each purchase goes directly to St. Stephen at no extra cost to you!

How to Use It:

- Buy scrip gift cards through the school office or online via the designated platform.
- Use them just like cash at participating retailers.
- Every purchase earns a rebate for St. Stephen—**at no extra cost to you!**

Benefits to St. Stephen:

- Helps cover school expenses such as classroom supplies, technology upgrades, and extracurricular activities.
- Supports church and school needs and improvements.
- Builds a stronger, more connected congregation through shared support.
- **Bonus:** 50% of the rebate you earn can be applied directly to offset your family's tuition for the following school year!

It's a win-win: you shop as usual, and St. Stephen—and your family—benefit directly!