

ALUMNI NEWS

*Truly Higher
Education*

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WINTER 2009

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Family Fall Festival



On October 4 we had our first ever Family Fall Festival on Sunday evening in our wonderful picnic shelter. In spite of the chilly day,

we had a great turn out. Our playground was bustling with all kinds of activities. The pavilion sheltered tables loaded with delicious food and hot drinks. The PTL dads grilled up hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone. The children enjoyed pony rides, thanks to two of our school families—Joe and Jackie Black and Eric and Michelle Klemm. Former school parents, Ed and Lorraine Thiele provided hay rides throughout the day and

Mr. Wilt endured a bombardment of cold whipped cream pies in the name of technology. Anyone could throw a pie at the principal for a price. Almost \$250 was raised for our Technology Fund. We love you, Mr. Wilt! Thank you for being such a good sport!

**“YOUR ATTITUDE
SHOULD BE THE
SAME AS THAT OF
CHRIST JESUS”
PHILIPPIANS
2:5**



Visit to Ambrose Farm

Our eighth graders were invited to “glean the fields” on October 8 at the Steve and Wes Ambrose family farm, which has turned into an annual fun and informative servant event. We thank them for allowing us to pick two farm trucks full of fresh produce which were then delivered down the road to Concordia Home and the Salvation Army kitchen

in Butler. Thanks to our Director of Admissions and Development, Mrs. Karen Barrios, for alerting the

local newspapers. Did you see our pictures on the front pages of both the Butler Eagle and the Valley News dispatch?



8th graders: Connor Probeck and Levi Shearer

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Mark A. Neubert Memorial Endowment Fund



Mark Neubert
Class of 1966
8th Grade Photo

This past summer God called home one of His faithful servants, Mark Neubert. Mark was an alumnus of St. Luke School and a lifelong supporter of the school's ministry. A school endowment fund (a fund whose purpose is to help offset the cost of the school and to allow for school improvements) has been named in Mark's memory. The Mark A. Neubert Memorial Endowment Fund will help to ensure that fu-

ture generations will share the same benefits and learn the same timeless lessons taught at St. Luke Lutheran School for 143 years.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"

Matthew 19:14

"THERE IS A TIME
FOR EVERYTHING,
AND A
SEASON FOR
EVERY ACTIVITY
UNDER HEAVEN"
ECCLESIASTES
3:1

Chapel Partners

Each year students from the upper grades are paired with students from the lower grades. These students sit with each other in chapel throughout the school year. Our 8th graders interviewed a few of our chapel partners and produced the following article:

Have you ever thought: "Why do I need a chapel partner?", "What's the use of this?", "Have you ever actually thought of what you get out of having chapel partners?" We

interviewed a couple of students to see what they really think of their chapel partners. **Sydney Alter (Kindergarten)** says that her chapel partner, **P.J. Gourley (Grade 5)**, is really nice! Sydney says he helps her with reading, so she can follow along with him. She also says she can understand words better by asking him. Her favorite part of chapel is singing. We also interviewed P.J. about what he thought of having a chapel partner. He said that

Sydney is very nice and is good in chapel. P.J.'s favorite part of chapel is listening to the message. The last person we interviewed was **Juliana Bish (Grade 1)**. Her favorite part of chapel is singing. She says she loves to sit and talk with her chapel partner. Juliana says she made two new friends because of having chapel partners and she hopes to make many more!



Sydney Alter



P.J. Gourley



Juliana Bish





Willis F. Follstaedt Memorial Scholarship Recipients

This year we were fortunate enough to be able to give away more than one scholarship.

The recipients were

Sarah Cook (Class of '05), Travis Tasker (Class



Sarah Cook

of '05) and Cody Tasker (Class of '03). Sarah started her first year at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, studying to be a Physician's Assistant. In addition to her demanding classes,

Sarah has been working with single mothers through the school P.A. program and volunteers in the Public Affairs Office. Travis is a freshman at Allegheny College in Meadville, majoring in Biology/Environmental Studies. He also has a full schedule, but still

makes time to be a starter on the varsity soccer team. Cody

continues his junior year



Travis Tasker

studies at Mansfield University (PA) in Fishery Science; last

summer he completed a salmon studies internship in Alaska.

Cody is an active member of Campus Crusade and the Aqua Culture Club at school. He also makes time to hunt and fish each week.



Cody Tasker

Mark Wilt: The Mad-Hatter

How many hats does Mark Wilt wear? How many has he worn over the past 30 years? You need only to hang out at St. Luke for a day to quickly realize what Mark does at the school. Each day you will see his smiling face as he wears his **"Greeter Hat"** while he helps the students off their buses. From there, he goes back and forth wearing his **"Principal Hat"** and **"8th Grade Teacher Hat"**. Then he wears whatever **"HAT"** is tossed his way. Whether it's the hat of a **Moving Man, Plumber, Painter, Janitor, Carpenter, Gardener, Travel Agent, Tour Guide, Sanitation engineer, Babysitter, Chauffeur, Construction Worker, Delivery Man,**

Event Coordinator, Long-Suffering Committee Member, Lumberjack, Financial Advisor, Life Coach, Dutch Uncle, Lowly Gofer, or the **W.W.A.W. Hat** (working with all women) he makes it through each and every day tending to the chore at hand as a man working for the Lord.

He aims high at each undertaking; Mark expects a first-class job to be done at rock bottom prices by dedicated workers who give their all until the job's done. He expects, however, no less from others than he demands from himself. Mark strives to have a heart like Jesus', one overflowing with humble and selfless servitude.

Mark has dedicated himself to the students and families of St. Luke School for the past 30 years. All the hats worn by him over the years can be embodied by one single topper, the hat of a true servant of the King. St. Luke has been greatly blessed through his devotion to our school, to our church, and to God. Thank you, Mark Wilt, for your thirty years (and counting!) of Christ-like service.

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

John 12:26

**"JESUS CHRIST
IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND
TODAY AND
FOREVER"**

HEBREWS

13:8





A Word from Bertha Blabb!

(a.k.a. Sharon Klein Ambrose,
Class of '75)

The older I get, the more I realize that my memories of life are becoming little snippets of events, places, and people. My first recollection of **Mark Neubert**



(Class of '66) is a big, boisterous, unknown high schooler singing and goofing around at church in the late '60's--when you're 9, an age difference of 8 years is huge! Next in my mind is a photo hanging in his mom's kitchen, his young, plump face beaming, with Patricia at his side (her sweet, freshly scrubbed cheeks were much rounder, too). By then, I knew he was the oldest brother of my girlfriend, **Barb ("The Beave" Neubert) Tasker, ('75);** yet in a few years, I would not recognize Mark one Sunday morning up in the balcony. That's because he was recovering from burns he received in a brush fire; thankfully, he healed completely. I got to know Mark better while he managed one of St. Luke's three softball teams in the late '70's into the '80's, before the church league was dissolved. I can picture him rounding third base, lumbering towards home, fiercely determined, but kind of comical. This fun-loving guy hosted many Friday night postgame parties--don't know why Pat let him invite this bunch of grubby, obnoxious, ravenous yahoos to their lovely custom-designed (by Mark and Pat) modified A-frame, but we sure had good times! I'm not sure when I first noticed a resemblance between young Mark and John Lennon (during the smiling, mop-top Beatlemania era, not the angry, skinny, Yoko years), but I do recall being floored when I found out he was also super smart; he helped develop some sort of industrial innovation now used around the world—who knew? When the Lord called Mark home, St. Luke lost a kind, caring, upbeat, generous, gregarious, multi-

talented, hard-working, faithful and God-fearing friend. I wrote the following note for Mark on behalf of St. Luke's choir, but time did not allow its inclusion in his funeral service, which was beautifully moving and spiritually uplifting, packed full of meaningful music, touching tributes, and humorous memories shared by his family and friends. Although I'll never forget his ruddy, smiling moon-face, Mark's unmistakable voice (St. Lukers always knew when any Neubert was nearby during worship) is what I will remember best and already miss the most.

Mark and Pat have been faithful, talented choir members for more than 30 years, and we're thankful for that. Mark truly personified the Bible verse, "**Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!**" Like the rest of his family, this man just **loved to sing**--maybe not always with perfection, but definitely with **exuberance!** Hearing his big, booming baritone voice coming from the back row was great encouragement for the rest of us to sing out. Mark's enthusiasm was delightful, and whether we were learning a new modern arrangement or digging out a golden oldie from the archives, he gave it his all. Sometimes, when Mark had to "tone it down" when we performed more quiet songs, it was all this poor, sweet, guy could do to hold it in! We can only imagine Mark now, singing to his heart's content, loud and pitch-perfect, strong and joy-filled, giving eternal praise and glory to our Lord on high!

At the huge funeral dinner, someone mentioned that Mark's mother, **Phyllis (Bachman) Neubert ('43)** was working on a Neubert/St. Luke School family history. She was gracious enough to share some of her thoughts with us:

"John and I, both lifelong members of St. Luke, married here in 1951. John and his brother Jim lived right up the road and attended St. Luke School all 8 years. I attended 3 years, as did my brother Bob, for 2 years. (It was a "dedicated" custom for members of St. Luke Church to attend our school for at least 2 years so all children could receive their catechetical instruction.) We had no

*transportation, so we rode bikes, walked, or occasionally got a ride for the 3-mile trip from Great Belt. My mother, **Minnie (Lang) Bachman** traveled to St. Luke by horse and buggy or sleigh from her Winfield Road farm, 5 miles away. John's parents, **Ralph and Esther (Paul)**, also attended our one-room schoolhouse; our granddaughter, **Rachel McCall**, was one of the last grades to hold classes in "the Old School". We were blessed with 7 children, all of whom attended St. Luke School, in addition to our nephews and nieces, grand-nephews and nieces, grand- and step-grandchildren, and godchildren. All totaled, 37 kids attended from 1957-present, with a continuous attendance throughout those years, which means when our youngest grandchild, **Sarah Neubert**, graduates in **2011**, it will be 54 years with at least one (some years, as many as 14) family member enrolled in St. Luke School! (That's one for the record books!)*

With so many of my dear ones having gotten their elementary beginning at St. Luke, I can attest for our school being a place of top educational training, along with God's word. I have seen much success in my offspring, who have had excellent records of furthering their education in various colleges and universities, as well as achieving many accomplishments in numerous professions and hobbies; this is in addition to being well-adjusted citizens, committed Christians and witnesses for their Lord. I want to stress to parents the importance of a Christian education and encourage our members and others in the community to take advantage of St. Luke's day school by enrolling their children here. John and I always considered the Christian learning which was instilled here to be such a blessing and privilege. We humbly thank God that our loved ones have come to know Him and have the firm foundation that is offered through our school. What a wonderful heritage we have at St. Luke, as we see the fruits of our labors fulfilled in the precious ones that have been prepared to serve the Lord the rest of their lives. We have just seen our Mark leave this world but are sure of his heavenly home. He was truly a supporter of St. Luke, and it was his desire and goal that all who wished to attend would be granted a possible means to do so."

(If YOU have alumni news for the next issue, please send it to the school office—Thanks!)



St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

330 Hannahstown Road – Cabot, Pennsylvania 16023 – 724-352-2221

St. Luke Lutheran School has been truly blessed. We are thankful for God’s grace from generation to generation. In order for our school to continue to share the Gospel and excel in academics, additional materials and resources are needed. We always give thanks for the alumni volunteers who give of themselves in and around the school. As giving of yourself in such a personal way is not always possible, once again many of you have asked how you can support the school in other ways. There are special needs which can only be supported through private gifts. Specific funds have been established in order to provide our students with an ever broadening and enriching educational experience. We thank everyone for their generous support in the past and pray that God grant us the grace to continue touching others through this ministry of quality Christian education.

MARK A. NEUBERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND: This fund’s purpose is to assist the congregation in the funding of her school. The interest from gifts and bequests given to this fund will directly go to offset the cost of the school, helping to keep the tuition rate affordable for all. Up to 50% of the interest from this fund may also be used for school enhancements.

PLANT A SEED FUND: This fund is committed to providing a Christian education to families who otherwise could not afford to send their children to our school. It assists non-member families, who are in financial need, in paying their tuition costs. This allows all families the opportunity for a Christian education, without discrimination in regard to their ability to pay.

O.J. NICOL MEMORIAL LIBRARY: In 1965, the library fund was established in memory of Principal Otto J. Nicol. The Nicol Memorial Library is used by the school children and congregational members as well. Gifts given to this fund will be used to purchase additional books, videos, and other resources. It is also used to maintain the library’s furnishings.

WILLIS F. FOLLSTAEDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: This college scholarship fund is an endowment fund of which only the interest will be used to provide college scholarships for qualified students. Applicants for this scholarship must be graduates of St. Luke Lutheran School and active church members of the congregation.

ANNUAL FUND: The Annual Fund is an on-going fund in which a major portion goes to Plant-A-Seed to assist families who can’t afford the entire tuition with the remainder going to the school’s technology fund.

If you would like to remember the school through one of these funds or in other means not listed, please detach and return the bottom portion of this page

Please accept my gift to help continue the ministry of quality, Christian education at St. Luke Lutheran School.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

My gift is an offering supporting the:

Mark A. Neubert Memorial Endowment Fund Plant-A-Seed Fund O.J. Nicol Memorial Library Fund

Willis F. Follstaedt Memorial Scholarship Annual Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Please send me more information about _____

6th Annual Fund

“Greetings from St. Luke Lutheran School”

St. Luke Lutheran School launched its 6th *Annual Fund*. Over 1,000 letters were mailed and three evenings were set aside to make follow-up phone calls. At least two-thirds of your contributions to this year’s *Annual Fund* goal of \$40,000 will directly and immediately benefit students and families, ensuring that all who desire an education at St. Luke School can attend. Quality facilities are important in equipping students for success as they journey through early education and later in life. A portion of this year’s *Annual fund* contributions will improve St. Luke School’s technology, upgrading computer and information systems and ensuring that St. Luke students will learn skills necessary to live in the modern world, now and for the future. The final portion of your contributions will strengthen our school’s endowment fund.

A heart-felt thank you goes to everyone who has contributed to the 2009 *Annual Fund*. We are currently at the \$39,000 mark, working toward the \$40,000 goal.

Class of 2017



Alumni News

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