

Lutheran Schools in Action

Students Save, Shop, and Fill Church Pantry

Mrs. Leidecker's first grade class at Immanuel, Macomb took part in a service project in February that has special meaning in more than one way.

Mrs. Leidecker has taught first grade at Immanuel for 21 years, and she has received more than her share of Christmas gifts from her students. So for the past 10 years, her students have put their teacher gift money toward a special project that also helped them learn a valuable life lesson. The money they ordinarily would have spent on a gift for their teacher goes to fund a "shopping trip" on which the students get involved in purchasing specific items for the Immanuel food pantry. The students participate in a field trip to a local grocery store where they shop for food items from a list they put together. They learn to stretch the money to put as much food into the food pantry as they can. When the students return to Immanuel with their purchases, a pantry volunteer explains the purpose of the Im-



L-R: Noah Murray, Maxx Lepera, Sheri Murray

manuel pantry, how it helps many families who are hungry and cannot afford to buy food.

Mrs. Leidecker expressed her appreciation: "This year the Christmas gift took on additional significance as one of my students took the pop can return money he had been saving for a charity since summer and added over \$150 to the total given for this project. It's a joy to see the children realize that they have so much more than many and that Jesus wants them to share these abundant blessings with others."



New Association School to Open

Hosanna-Tabor, Redford and St. Paul's, Farmington Hills are joining together to start the first Lutheran association elementary school in southeast Michigan. The new school will be named Concordia Lutheran School.

"The word Concordia is Latin, meaning 'Harmony' or 'with one heart,'" Principal David Kusch said. "We felt it was a fitting name for the ministry both churches are undertaking."

The churches have each operated their own Christian school since each church opened, in 1955 for Hosanna-Tabor and 1892 for St. Paul's. They believe operating a school is a vital part of their overall ministry to members and the community. The Senior Pastor of Hosanna-Tabor, the Rev. Paul Undlin, said: "This is an exciting joint venture between the two churches. Even in the midst of the economic struggles of our communities, God has richly blessed us with the opportunity to continue offering a quality, Christ-centered education."

Kusch added: "We have the opportunity to offer

small class size but keep one grade per classroom, which has been the traditional way of educating. This will allow our students the one-on-one experience in a group setting. We truly can offer the best for our students in this atmosphere."

Rev. John Meyer, Pastor of St. Paul's, said: "Christ for children has been and remains the focus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the two congregations uniting in one venture. This is a step forward in faith to maintain quality, Christ-centered education in suburban Detroit. We anticipate the ongoing support of both congregations and hold out the hand of welcome to any and all who would like to join us in this venture."

The schools of St. Paul's and Hosanna-Tabor begin the transformation into Concordia Lutheran School at the close of school on June 5, 2009. When the doors open in fall 2009, it will not only be a new beginning for Concordia Lutheran School but for the community it represents. Concordia Lutheran School is accepting registration for grades K-8. For more information call 313.937.2233.