

December 3, 2009

Saints Celebrate: 'In Christ We Can'...Be Thankful!

Harvest Festival-Steward Rudy Rouse-Thrivent GivingPlus Program—Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast



Dear Friend of St. Michael,



In November, we learned that “In Christ we can...Be Thankful!” We are so thankful for our wonderful students and their families who demonstrate the Christian way of life everyday. The PTL (Parent Teacher League) sponsors a Harvest Festival each year as a way of saying thank you to our students for all of their hard work. Formerly known as the Pumpkin Patch, the PTL Harvest Festival offers food, fun and fellowship for the students in a controlled, supervised environment of fun with PLENTY of candy, thanks to our St. Michael families! A great time was had by all with giant inflatables, a chance to dunk our favorite teachers at the dunk tank, delicious cotton candy and carnival-type games for all ages!

A special mention must be made about Mrs. Owens's 6th grade religion class who acted as “Secret Turkeys” to each and every St. Michael employee as they “Gave Thanks” by writing heartfelt notes and giving small token gifts of appreciation for the whole week leading up to Thanksgiving to show that they are thankful for what each person at St. Michael has done for them and how they have made a difference in the lives of these very special sixth-graders! Way to go Sixth Grade!

As this is the time of year to reflect on our blessings, we truly are blessed to have incredible Christian stewards here at St. Michael. One such steward is **Mr. Rudy Rouse**. Rudy is a long time church member and St. Michael School Board member whose two daughters are St. Michael alumni. In fact, one of his daughters teaches at our sister school in Dallas, Texas! As a result of his commitment to our school and his strong belief in its programs, Rudy is a consistent financial supporter who uses the **Thrivent GivingPlus program** to match his gifts to St. Michael. According to Rudy, “*The Bible teaches us to be good stewards of time, talents and treasures. St. Michael Church and School have been an inspiration and blessing to our family and me. I feel committed and dedicated to the support of St. Michael ministries. With the Thrivent Matching Funds Program, I have an opportunity to greatly enhance my giving to the Foundation and School!*”

The Thrivent Financial Group is an organization that provides a variety of financial products which are available to church members as well as school families. One program in particular, **GivingPlus**, offers a unique opportunity for members. Thrivent members can give one gift per year to Saint Michael and its Foundation of up to \$600 per member.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent will then MATCH each gift for \$.50 on the dollar—or \$300 to the school and/or Foundation for a \$600 donation!

In order to take advantage of this remarkable program, you must be a Thrivent member, which is as easy as placing \$1,500.00 in a Thrivent money market account (it remains there and remains your investment). This in turn, allows Thrivent to match any donation you make to the school and/or Foundation (up to \$600 each)! ****You do not have to be a Lutheran to utilize these products and reap the benefit of the matching program. ALL SCHOOL FAMILIES ARE ELIGIBLE AND EACH PARENT CAN JOIN SEPARATELY TO INCREASE THE GIVING OPPORTUNITES** However, this program ends December 31, 2009.** Please consider this *incredible* opportunity for giving to Saint Michael, as this program will change in 2010. If you are interested in becoming a Thrivent member click on the logo above

Mrs. Flynn's and Mrs. Graham's kindergarten classes were involved in some interactive learning in November with their Thanksgiving Feast celebration. Both classes learned about the very First Thanksgiving and had an opportunity to experience some hands-on learning while making



cranberry relish, pumpkin muffins and playing Native American games. Mrs. Flynn's class dressed as pilgrims and Mrs. Graham's class dressed as Native Americans and the two classes came together for a special Thanksgiving feast that they will remember the rest of their lives.

We are instructing for life, here and for eternity! That's the St. Michael Difference!

In Christ,

Robert J. Ziegler Principal, LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator
U.S. Department of Education and NAESP National Distinguished Principal

P.S. The Saint Michael Foundation, Inc. continues to work toward the establishment and funding of various endowments. Check out the “Support St. Michael Today & Tomorrow” program by visiting: <http://foundation.smlcs.org/index.html> .