

September 30, 2009

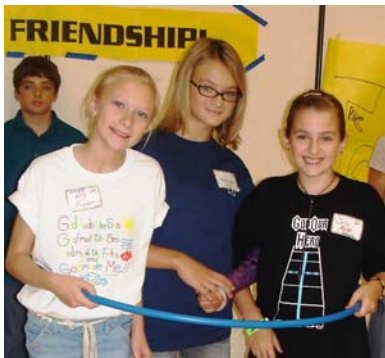


Saints Celebrate: 'In Christ We Can'...Be Kind!

Saint Michael Lutheran –See You at the Pole & Welcome to Middle School Retreat

Dear Friend of St. Michael,

Our theme this year is “In Christ we can...” and we are learning in September that “In Christ we can...be kind!” Our students are learning that being kind to one another starts with prayer. Students gathered around the flag pole (SYATP: <http://www.syatp.com/home/>) on a recent morning to pray for each other, their families, their school and their world. Led by Mrs. Lori Schwan, our Director of Nurturing Ministry, the students demonstrated their kindness through prayer by putting others first in their hearts and minds.



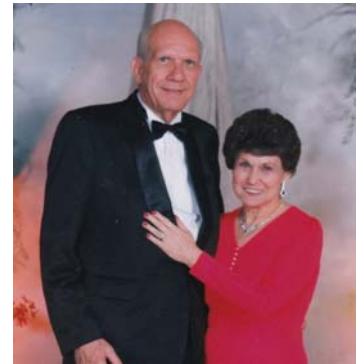
The middle school students continued their stewardship by participating in the **Annual Welcome to Middle School Retreat!** Started 3 years ago by our guidance counselor, Mrs. Melissa Owen, this special event focuses on helping our new sixth graders transition into the new and challenging world of middle school. The eighth grade class prepared themselves to act as mentors to the new sixth grade class. Each eighth grader is paired with a sixth grader to mentor for the entire school year.

At the retreat, the partners met and shared a day of spiritual direction, team building activities and friendship. Partners were encouraged to get to know each other and try to discover why they had been matched together. This is an ongoing process that will continue through the year as friendships are forged at gathered and non-gathered events. The partners were reminded to “never underestimate the power of friendship” and were encouraged to spend time together

through a series of games, a picnic lunch, and an ice cream social.

The retreat this year was especially meaningful, as this eighth grade class was the first class to have mentors and become mentors! The difference that being kind to one another can make was discussed during a special retreat chapel that focused on bald eagles and the choice the parents make to “push” their children out of the nest in order for them to learn to fly. The students discovered that “even eagles need a push” and that sometimes in order to be kind you have to give your friend a push—to do the right thing, to try something new or to stand up for what they believe.

We also are preparing to celebrate our theme by honoring some of the founders of our congregation at the **Founders Fellowship event** on Sunday, October 4. This year we are honoring **Tom and Dot Orthman** who have lived our theme of “In Christ we can...be kind” by bringing their time, talent and treasures together to be stewards for the St. Michael experience. Everyone is invited to this very special event which celebrates the birthday of St. Michael Lutheran. When you support the celebration of the founding of the **Saint Michael Lutheran Experience** you enhance the opportunity for someone to join the church family and experience God’s creative care in ways they would not otherwise experience (1 Kings 17). Your support of the **Founders Fellowship** will help ensure the continuation of the Ministry and support children’s dreams for **tomorrow’s miracles**.
<http://www.smlcs.org/>



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> .