



FALL 2022 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

# CROSSWAYS

A PUBLICATION OF FARIBAULT LUTHERAN SCHOOL



# Trinity Lutheran Church

## Service Times

Sunday Worship

Saturday Worship

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.



## Trinity Lutheran Church

530 4th St NW

Faribault, MN

P: 507-331-6579

Email: [trinity@trinityfaribo.org](mailto:trinity@trinityfaribo.org)

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services live streamed at:

[www.trinityradioandvideo.org](http://www.trinityradioandvideo.org)

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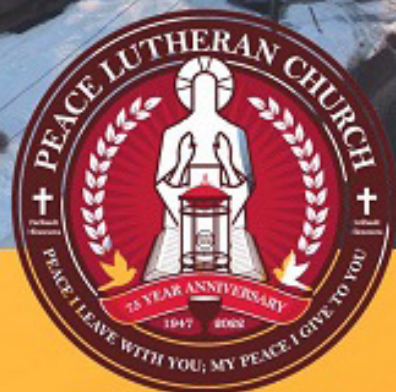
# Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Summer Sunday Worship

9:00AM



Address:

213 6th Ave SW

Faribault, MN 55021

Email: [peacelutheranlcms@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranlcms@gmail.com)

Phone: 507-334-9610

Website: [peace-lcms.org](http://peace-lcms.org)



# Letter from the Principal



Greetings! I am thrilled to be writing the letter for our inaugural issue of the Crossways magazine – a magazine highlighting what we know – that FLS is a wonderful pillar of Christian education in our community!

Faribault Lutheran School (FLS) has been serving the Faribault community since 1995 when Trinity Lutheran School and Peace Lutheran School consolidated. Prior to that, Trinity had served the educational needs of families since 1885 and Peace since 1948. Faribault Lutheran School officially welcomed their first class in fall of 1996.

While many times I have identified FLS as the school across the street from McDonalds, it is so much more than that. FLS truly is a family in Christ, providing opportunities for learning, growing one's faith and so much more.

The teachers and staff at FLS share their faith with their students and families each and every day, but also with every person who walks in the glass doors of FLS. When you walk through those doors at FLS, you feel the family atmosphere that so many mention when asked why they send their child to FLS. From athletics to spring musicals to chapel, along with rigorous academics, our students bring forth joyous praise to Jesus Christ in all they do.

FLS truly embodies the love of Christ throughout everything that is orchestrated here at the school.

It is a wonderful opportunity to have FLS in the heart of Faribault, and we look forward to continuing to provide a loving, Christian education in the community.

Thank you for being a blessing to our school.  
We hope you enjoy Crossways!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrysteena Saehler". The script is cursive and elegant.

Chrysteena Saehler, FLS Principal



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Chrysteena Saehler, Principal

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Sara Hewitt

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# FLS GALA

## *A Night to Remember*

**G**old. Glitter. Glitz. All those things and more make an appearance at the annual FLS Gala.

This evening of elegance started in 2019, with sisters and parents of FLS students, Jen Becker and Kristina Rauenhorst at the helm of this annual fundraising event.

“We decided to co-chair the event as it is a lot of work for one person. We didn’t know how many volunteers we would end up with so felt working together was best,” says Becker.

The FLS Gala features a silent and live auction, appetizers, dinner, and cocktails for attendees. The idea for the Gala originally came from when the now closed, Cannon Valley Lutheran High School

used to host their annual fundraising evening.

“It provided the opportunity to focus on one large fundraising event versus having multiple smaller ones throughout the year,” says Becker. “That way families didn’t have to feel like they had to sell or deliver items.”

The Gala is an important funding piece to larger, capital projects at FLS. All funds raised from the evening go to support capital projects at FLS that may not get done otherwise through normal dollars.

“Without the Gala, many of our large projects at the school would take years to get done,” says Principal Chrysteena Saehler. “The donors from that evening help keep our school moving forward.”

Former FLS principal Seth Winter was instrumental in getting the Gala off the ground as well. He had a hand in ensuring the Master of Ceremonies,



Joel Landskroener, Executive Director of Mayer Lutheran High School, made the evening entertaining for attendees.

“Seth Winter had heard about me from friends and relatives who had seen my emceeing work for our local school and civic clubs,” says Landskroener. “I love to have fun and help our schools succeed in raising funds – being the MC enables me to do so.”

The Gala has provided funds for an updated security system at the school and most recently, new curtains for the stage for all the FLS performances. Currently, funds are being held as seed money for a capital campaign for a complete gymnasium renovation for the school.

“The Gala raises a lot of funds for the school that otherwise wouldn’t come in, but also brings together current and past families, members from our supporting congregations and community members who support the school and Christian education,” says Becker.

“The improvements we have been able to make with Gala funds in security and with our performing arts area helped make the school a welcoming and safe space for our students and families,” says Saehler.

Landskroener, like many of the attendees, is a large advocate for Christian education and understands the important role the Gala plays to providing a Christian education to students from Faribault and the surrounding communities.

“We need Jesus in our classrooms, gyms, theaters, and athletic fields. A truly well-rounded education must include scripture and the truths taught therein,” says Landskroener. “Providing a Christian education for our kids is one of the most important things we could ever do for our children and the Church.”

While the Gala continues to be a success with Becker and Raunhorst leading the charge, they have goals to get more families involved with attending but also volunteering. “It is a very rewarding to volunteer – it is a fun event to be a part of,” Becker adds.

Volunteers have options with how they want to be a part of the Gala. They can serve by specialty or

interest area on the committee, help with securing donations, or even just help with event preparation in the days leading up to the Gala.


“The Gala committee works hard to go out and find donors and make the event feel special - they spend months leading up to the event making sure every detail is taken care of,” says Saehler. “I cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication and all they do for the kids and school.”

“I always enjoy volunteering at the FLS Gala and always feel a warm welcome to this strange man from Mayer. Having so much support from FLS lifts my spirits and assures me that the students in Faribault are in good hands,” Landskroener adds.

*For more information about the FLS Gala and for 2023 dates, please visit [flsgala.weebly.com](http://flsgala.weebly.com) for updates.*

*To get involved with the FLS Gala Committee, email Jen Becker at [jenbecker1120@yahoo.com](mailto:jenbecker1120@yahoo.com) or Tina Rauenhorst at [tina\\_braun@yahoo.com](mailto:tina_braun@yahoo.com).*


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# *A Night to Remember*

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Thank you to so many additional area businesses, organizations, and individuals who donated items to the FLS Gala silent auction.





# PTO

## ***Parent Teacher Organization Starts Fresh***

The family atmosphere at FLS is one that the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) works to cultivate throughout the entire school year.

This past year, after a hiatus, PTO became operational once again at FLS. PTO took over the yearly carnival and added a Christmas extravaganza and glow dance to the activities for FLS students and families to participate in. They also held a cheesecake fundraiser to help raise funds for supplies for these events. PTO also provided lunch and treats for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Sheana Schlichter, Chair of the PTO organization, says “PTO plays an important role as an additional way for parents to get involved and support the school. It ensures that we, as parents, understand how to best support our students and staff. It also provides amazing opportunities to build a strong school community through fundraisers and fun events.”

“Being involved in PTO gives you the opportunity to support the staff that provide one of the most important services to our children, the education that sets them up for lifelong success,” says Sabrina Henry, member of the PTO.

Data continues to show that students with parents who are involved with their school experience, do better academically overall.

“I am thrilled that FLS has a PTO because I feel it brings a ‘better than typical’ school experience for everyone. It is fun to have opportunities like the glow dance for students to gather and interact outside the school day,” says Henry. “I greatly enjoyed being involved with the activities and preparing those opportunities, and I am excited for new members to join throughout the year.”

FLS PTO is always looking for more FLS families to become involved. With a variety of ways from just volunteering to serving on the committee, PTO has room for however a parent may want to be involved. The PTO uses an online system for volunteering called Sign Up Genius which allows volunteers to pick the shifts and areas they may want to assist with for an event.

“There are a ton of opportunities to volunteer and help plan fundraisers and events. You can also support the PTO through monetary donations which help with events and staff appreciation opportunities,” says Schlichter. “We are always trying to come up with fun new ideas – you don’t need to commit large amounts of time – even just sitting in on a meeting or two to provide input so we ensure we are capturing as many ideas as possible.”

With a new year full of events slated, the PTO is sure to continue to help FLS families, students and teachers feel they are part of the FLS community.

*All are welcome to join PTO. PTO meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the FLS gymnasium.*

*To get in touch with the Faribault Lutheran School PTO email [faribaultlutheranpto@gmail.com](mailto:faribaultlutheranpto@gmail.com).*



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# A YEAR IN PHOTOS



**1. CLOSING CHAPEL AT THE END OF THE YEAR.**

**2. OUR FANTASTIC KITCHEN STAFF.**



**3. THE FLS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS A HIGHLIGHT FOR PARENTS AND THE SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS EACH YEAR - HEARING THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS FROM THE STUDENTS.**



**4. ALL SCHOOL PHOTO FEATURING GRADES K-8.**







**1. 2022 HERITAGE DAYS PARADE CREW.**

**2. MRS. JAROCKI, 1ST GRADE TEACHER, WITH A WINNING CHEESE FONDUE SOUP DURING THE 2022 FLS SOUPER BOWL.**

**3. FLS STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2022 WATERVILLE BULLHEAD DAYS PARADE.**

**4 + 5. ATTENDEES HAVING FUN DURING THE 2022 CARNIVAL WITH GAMES AND TIE-DYE SHIRTS.**



# DIANA KITZMAN

## Faith in God's plan

Diana Kitzman has always had a passion for teaching and found her home at Faribault Lutheran School.

Kitzman, originally from south Minneapolis, attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, earning her B.A. in Elementary Education. Her first teaching job was at Laurel Hall Lutheran School in North Hollywood, California.

"I taught at Trinity Lutheran School for two years before the consolidation of Trinity and Peace into Faribault Lutheran School," says Kitzman. "Although I wasn't officially a called teacher, I knew God called me to teach here. Shortly after I began teaching, I pursued my colloquy from Concordia St. Paul."



Kitzman has noted that her time at Faribault Lutheran School has been a strong anchor in the growth of her own faith and relationship with God.

"My faith, and the faith of my family has grown because of my involvement with our school, and I know that God's hand was directing that from the start. I will always be grateful that the Board of Education at Trinity at the time saw something that led them to choose me."

"Spending the last 27 years helping children grow spiritually, emotionally, socially and academically has been an honor that I would not have thought I was up for, but God did," says Kitzman. "I'm sure I've made mistakes in all those areas, but just pray that those students with which He trusted me, still know how much God loves them, and what Jesus did because of that love. Each of those children blessed me in some way, and I hope I was able to do the same for them."

Kitzman has been instrumental in the success of various reading programs and the book fair at FLS. She organizes the read-a-thon along with summer reading challenges for students.

"She wants kids to love to read and to explore through reading and her commitment to the reading programs like the read-a-thon and summer reading program is truly amazing," says Principal Chrysteena Saehler. "She also ensures her students have devoted time in her classroom to reading and reads out loud to her students too."

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The goals Kitzman have for her classroom and students each year are exemplified through her teaching, and the relationships she has created with past students. Her philosophy centers around focusing on the love Jesus has for her students, working in partnership with the students' parents, supporting and encouraging her students in faith along with their physical and emotional needs.



"I want to keep kids excited about learning and wanting to come to school, and much of the time that has nothing to do with academics," says Kitzman. "A child's social and emotional health has always been important to me, but it seems that now is more important than ever."

"Diana is a calm person by nature, but is very personable. She connects with others in a way that not many can do," says Saehler "She is the first to turn to prayer during good and hard times, and she shows this example to her students and the staff."

"I try to connect with each child every day and help each of them know that they are an important part of our classroom," says Kitzman. "I hope that children and families remember me as a teacher who loved them no matter what, and who always found reasons to like each of them as well."

A yellow excavator is shown in action on a construction site, digging into a pile of dirt. The background shows some greenery and a clear sky.

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# HAVE FAITH IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

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## Questions about Faribault Lutheran School?

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