

Open house and registrations

Join us during our Open House to be held on Sunday, March 25 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and see what West Lutheran High School is all about – where we serve the whole student – spiritual, academic and extra curricular. We are currently accepting registrations for all grade levels, especially the class of 2011. Registration forms may be turned into the West office immediately and registration deposits may come later. If you are unable to attend the open house, please contact the school office at 763-509-9378 for an information packet, a personal appointment or tour. ■

Devotion: Mercy

For centuries, theologians have spoken of the opinio legis. The opinio legis means “opinion of law” in Latin. It refers to an attitude that each of us has. It’s the attitude, the opinion, that you and I are good enough to follow God’s laws and earn heaven someday.

Problem is that this opinio legis is purely, utterly, fantastically wrong. God’s Word says so.

Nothing like God’s Word to puncture my inflated view of myself and to replace it with something better. “[God our Savior] saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy,” *Titus 3* says. My going to heaven has nothing to do with what I think I have done for God. It has everything to do with what God has done for me.

And why did God our Savior do what he did? Why did he rise from death and create the miracle of faith in my heart through the power of his Word? “Because of his mercy,” he says. He did it not because I had done anything to impress him. He did it because he saw that I was so hopelessly lost. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. ■

Memorials

In Loving Memory of:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Harvey Schulze
Todd and Mary Schulze
Agatha D. Schulze ■ Pat Sinkel
Kenneth & Jacqueline Nielsen
Wise Penny Thrift Shoppe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Walter Gutknecht
Duane & Rita Beise ■ “Dick” Muellen
Fred & Jean Pfothenhauer ■ Sharon Bey
Paul & Karen Byrne ■ Irene B.M. Zabel
Robert & Marianna McCrea ■ Charlotte Ratsch
Leland & Mary Magle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ryley Arnold
David & Becky Klatt ■ Cindy Wescott
Paul & Karen Byrne ■ Lucille Engel
Steve & Barb Trebesch ■ Myrtle Schlomer
Doug & Deb Beise
Duane & Rita Beise
William & Audrey Reich
Doug & Bonnie Johnson
Guy & Marlene Petersen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ray Anthony
Paul & Karen Byrne ■ William P. Laird
Bob & Marianna McCrea <p><i>In Honor of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pastor Duane Schmeichel, Anne Schroeder and Greg Charleson
Steve & Tracy Tracy |
|--|---|--|---|

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news *from West*

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PREPARING YOUTH AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THEIR SAVIOR

CALENDAR

March 31: Wise Penny Luncheon at Wild Marsh Club in Buffalo

April 2 – 9: Easter Break – No School

April 14-15: Handbell Festival at West Lutheran High School

April 20-22: Spring Play “Absolutely Murder”

April 27: Prom

May 4 & 5: Wise Penny Garage/Bake Sale

May 19: Spring West 5K Fun Run/Walk

May 21: POPS Concert 7:30 pm

May 26: Graduation – Class of 2007 – 2:00 pm

West Granted Accreditation for 2007

In January, West Lutheran received a letter from the Board of the Minnesota Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) which explained the results of the accreditation process that West is again pursuing. The letter discussed the school improvement plan and commended West for its exemplary Christian atmosphere. West has received a one-year accredited status. The letter also discussed issues for improvement during the coming year including the format for a seven-year school improvement plan and the completion of the school’s curriculum handbook. An initial report is due to MNSAA in June, with a final narrative with documentation on the challenges and recommendations submitted by the visitation committee in November to receive further consideration in 2008. ■

“Appreciating our Gifts”

By: Merl Meitner, Principal

I recently read an article by Mr. Stan Bauer, the Director of Development at Evergreen Lutheran High School in Des Moines, Washington. The article mentioned some of the blessings and challenges that ELHS faces in their ministry. The title of the article was “Backyard Blessings” and it got me to thinking how similar the history and challenges of our two high schools have been over the past 25 plus years. Evergreen Lutheran and West began within one year of each other. Both schools have a long history of locating a permanent facility. It took West 18 years; Evergreen is still seeking a permanent home. Both schools have a good number of both WELS and ELS students attending them. Both have had struggles with enrollment and financial support during much of their history. Both have been blessed with dedicated parents, faithful students, and supporters, all of which have helped by the grace of God to maintain the ministry to date. It is exciting to be a part of these area Lutheran High School ministries!

Beyond this, all of our area Lutheran high schools have the blessings of a dedicated faculty that are committed to training their students, spiritually and academically, while providing an excellent extracurricular program to enhance their students’ high school experience. It is our goal at West to train disciples of Christ for dedicated service to their Savior. This, in essence is the goal of all of our area high schools. This goal is evident to those who have attended West as students, been a member of the faculty, been a parent that have sent their child(ren), or have been supporters who have had a close association with this ministry. We have all been tremendously blessed. Sometimes, those who are unable to witness the daily benefits, or have stepped aside for a time, may not fully appreciate the blessings and the challenges that are present.

Over the past ten years West has grown from an enrollment of 70 students to a record high 240 during the 2005-06 school year. The class of 2006 had a record 68 graduates. This last year has presented us

with new challenges. Our current freshman class of 47 is 19 fewer than the graduation class. This fact, in addition to a higher attrition rate for the 2006-07 school year has caused a reduction in our enrollment to 208 students. When faced with a huge operating deficit for this year the Board of Regents reduced teaching and support staff. Over the past years the over-all amount of funds that we have received from our WELS/ELS association congregations have not kept pace with the percentage of increases in budgetary needs due to the growth in the operating budget of \$1.6 million as well as the payment on a \$1.7 million mortgage. If it were not for the tremendous gifts from the Wise Penny and the gifts of individual supporters, the situation would be even more serious.

Mr. Bauer in his article asked the supporters of the ELHS ministry to reflect on the “Backyard Blessings” that we have received from our God. He writes: “So often we take for granted the many material blessings given to us: our homes, cars, the food we eat, our relationships with family and friends, clothing, sports equipment – the list can go on.” While our challenges may be slightly different, the same applies to our association. We need your support. How? First and foremost, please pray for the ministry of West. Pray for the daily guidance as we, too plan for the future; pray for our staff and students; pray especially for an increase in enrollment; pray that more parents in our congregations are led to see the value of Christian Education — spiritual and academic; and pray for strong financial support.

As we look forward to the 2007-08 school year there will be continued challenges and concerns. First, is the need for students to teach. Other issues include: tuition assistance, endowment fund growth, operating budget, staffing needs, volunteers at the Wise Penny, and additional land for parking and extra-curriculars are all areas that continue to be addressed by the Board of Regents and the Administration of the school. This is an opportunity for you to show your continued, renewed, or new support for the West ministry. ■

A special thanks to Mr. Stan Bauer for his permission to utilize the ideas in his article “Backyard Blessings”. May Evergreen Lutheran High school also be continually blessed in the ministry to its association youth.

If you no longer wish to receive this mailing or need to update an address, please contact the school office or e-mail plingren@wlhs.net.

Honor Roll For Quarter 2

West Lutheran High School 2006-2007 School Year

HIGH HONORS

Seniors

Eric Byrnes
Rachel Franz
Alison Gerdes
Sarah Janisch
Britni Jensen
Cory Kent
Marshall Nelson
Kendall Paulson
Justin Peterson

Juniors

Bianca Cornelius-Fuentes
Megan DeSplinter
Janine Foggia
Luke Johnson
Shannon McGraw
Alex Nelson
Courtney Oakland
Kevin Reich
Daniel Russow
Caitlin Seichter
Crystal Smith
Steven Strong
Corey Trebesch
Alyssa Wiechmann
Beau Willar

Sophomores

Rachel Behmer
Michael Gauger
Jenna Gehl
Ashley Geistfeld
Heidi Heitzman
Caitlin Hooze
Phil Janisch
Ashley Jensen
James Johnson
Kelsey Johnson
Nikki Knutson
Megan Labitzky
Rebekah Leerssen
Zach Nelson
Paige Olson
Michael Paradis
Alanna Robinson
Megan Schmid
Olivia Smith

Ellen Tommerdahl
Jacob Usgaard

Freshmen

Nate Dwyer
Jon Eckberg
Taylor Funk
Kate Hallstrom
Ryan Klatt
Megan McCallum
Molly McGraw
Grace Merchant
Jared Smith
Dana Trebesch
Joanna Wordell

HONOR ROLL

Seniors

Wes Anderson
Courtney Bennek
Dan Cison
Lewis Epple
Robbie Franklin
Lee Handel
Luke Jannicke
Nick Jurrens
Emilee Keil
Megan Klatt
Dan Marggraf
Seth Neitzel
Derek Olson
Anthony Recht
Liz Schweitzer
Veronica Tsui

Juniors

Brian Cummings
Michael Engel
Trevor Funk
Nicole Garaghty
Katy Giefer
Marc Hanson
Tommy Heitzman
Jeff Huth
Dan Kobes
Sara Krueger
Dan Kuske
Andrea Lima
Sam Meyers
Chelsea Moberg
Whitney Mornson

Scott Nielsen
Paige Nystrom
Morgan Obraske
Michelle Olson
Kaitlin Peterson
Holly Recht
Luke Reznecheck
Dan Seefeldt
Ryan Soukup
JoAnna Weinand
Nathan Wordell
Kayla Zemke

Sophomores

Gina Berlien
Margaret Bilitz
Anne Crosby
Laura Degner
Alex Draeger
Aaron Johnson
Evan Johnson
Matt Kolander
Micah Lubansky
Blair Paulson
Lauren Rindt
Dan Rueb
Sam Sawtelle
Jesse Smith-Sonnenberg
Sam Trebesch
Katie Voelker

Freshmen

Kellen Anderson
Kelsey Bensen
David Boudreau
Megan Byrnes
Melissa Gauger
Amanda Johnson
Ryan Liberato
Lizzy McNamara
Natalie Moberg
Amber Nord
Karissa O'Neel
Nicole Pollard
Solveig Preus
Kaylyn Robinson
Joe Sawtelle
Leah Schweitzer
Vik Singh
Phil Wendt

Alumni news

■ **Megan Walz** ('05) leads the Women's St. Scholastica Track and Field team setting a school record in hurdling. She came in third place in a recent meet in the 55 meter hurdles in 9.75 seconds. She also took sixth in the triple jump with her season best jump of 31 feet.

■ **Abby Maxson** ('06) was named to the Dean's List for the Fall Semester at Minnesota State University-Mankato. In addition, she was named as the MIP for the Women's Soccer Program for the 2006 season.

■ The following WLHS graduates were named to the 2006 Fall Semester Dean's List at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. **Jessica Costello** ('05), **Megan Gerdes** ('03), **Aaron Halverson** ('06), **Susan Hegstrom** ('06), **Nik Schultz** ('03), and **Katie Wiechmann** ('03). ■

To submit alumni news for News from West, contact the school office or e-mail shalverson@wlhs.net.

Upcoming events

■ The **Annual Wise Penny Garage/Bake Sale** is scheduled for May 4 & 5. Can you help? We are looking for volunteers to help sort, price, supervise, and sell items at the sale. If you can help out the week of April 30 - May 5, anytime between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm, please notify Patty Lindgren by calling the school office or e-mailing plindgren@wlhs.net. Those wishing to donate items may drop off usable, clean items at the school gym April 30 and May 1-4. Baked goods may be brought in May 4 & 5.

■ The **Wise Penny Luncheon** is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 11:30 a.m. at Wild Marsh Golf Course Dining Area in Buffalo. Come and enjoy a sit-down dinner and entertainment—no salads to make, no fee for flooring, no free will offering—just come and enjoy! Please RSVP at (763) 682-4178 if you plan to attend.

■ The WLHS Players are pleased to present "**Absolutely Murder**" as the spring production. It is a play that will keep you on the edge of your seat with fun and surprise twists. Because this is a full length murder mystery comedy, the content is more appropriate for older children and adults. The production will be held on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21 at 7:00 pm and on Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 pm. Tickets will be sold at the door - \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and seniors.

■ The **Spring West 5K Fun-Run/Walk** will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 19, starting at West Lutheran High School. You can request a brochure and registration form to be sent to you by calling the Development Office at (763) 509-9378 or e-mail plindgren@wlhs.net. If you would like to be a race volunteer or sponsor, please contact the Development Office. ■

WLHS schedules online

For more details about West daily activities, check out the website at www.wlhs.net and click on the daily calendar link. This will show you up to the minute information about the activities for the day, week and month. It is updated on a daily basis. Join us for games, plays and concerts – you are always welcome. ■

Fund development information

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans recently made some changes in their **GivingPlus**® program and materials. As of January 1, only Thrivent Financial benefit members and individuals who own Thrivent Mutual Fund accounts or Thrivent Life Insurance Company products are eligible to participate in GivingPlus. Associate members who pay a \$10 annual fee to belong to their organization or have that fee waived are no longer eligible.

Additionally, Thrivent Financial has updated the GivingPlus Gift Form so that it is easier for participants to complete. Members are no longer required to include their Thrivent Financial customer ID on the Gift Form. Instead, they are asked for the first five letters of their last name and the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

Thrivent Financial is requesting that participants begin using the new Gift Form as they will no longer accept forms that have the organization's ID stamped on. The new Gift Form can be picked up at the table outside West's administrative office, or call the Development Office at (763) 509-9378 to have a form sent to you.

New planning opportunity for those with IRAs

Recent legislation offers a new opportunity for you if you are:

- Age 70½ or older
- Own an IRA, and
- Regularly make charitable contributions

The new Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows you to make distributions directly from your IRA to one or more charities, including West Lutheran and your congregation, *without* the distributions being included in taxable income and subject to withholding.

Previously, if you wanted to use IRA funds for a charitable contribution, you had to withdraw money from your IRA and then contribute it. The amount you withdrew was taxable, and the deduction for the contribution may or may not have offset the tax.

Another benefit of the new legislation is that the funds transferred from your IRA to a charity count towards your mandatory withdrawal (also known as required minimum distribution or RMD). These tax-free distributions can be made only in 2006 and 2007.

If you do make such a gift, please alert your WELS Christian Giving Counselor and the recipient charity that the gift is coming so that the acknowledgment letter will include the required substantiation. Since this is a complex gift process, the best way to take advantage of this opportunity may be to channel the gift through the WELS Foundation. They will be happy to assist you with this process and forward your gift to the ministries of your choice. ■

Your WELS Christian Giving Counselors can be contacted by email or phone at:

- michael.hatzung@sab.wels.net or (651) 770-4161 (home office) or (612) 420-4491 (cell)
- jonathan.rossman@sab.wels.net or (414) 559-6731 (cell)

We applaud...

- Junior students **Steven Strong** and **Dan Russow** were recently awarded scholarships from the WELS Boards for Ministerial Education. These scholarships are awarded to encourage preparation for the preaching ministry.
- This year's **Mock Trial** team just completed a very successful season. The year began with a team consisting largely of first year members and went on to make the final four of our fourteen team region.

The Mock Trial competition is managed by the Minnesota Bar Association and involves over 150 high schools. All schools are given the same case and must develop a prosecution and a defense side which includes both lawyers and witnesses. The trials take place in county courthouses and are judged by members of the Bar. Teams are judged on such qualities as case theory, direct and cross examinations and ability to play act a witness.

The Warrior team showed amazing growth not only in courtroom abilities, but even more so in their team work. The West Lutheran family can be proud of this extremely diverse group of competitors that became a team that learned how to use each other's gifts and strengths well enough to become one of the top teams in their region.

- West hosted B team and A team girls and boys basketball tournaments during the month of February. The winners of these tournaments were as follows:

A Team – Big Schools – Boys – 1st place – **Pilgrim**, 2nd place – **Bloomington**, 3rd place – **Salem Stillwater**, 4th place – **Christ North St. Paul**

Girls – 1st place – **Bloomington**, 2nd place – **Bethany**, 3rd – **King of Grace**, 4th place – **Christ North St. Paul**.

B Team – Small Schools – Boys – 1st place – **St. Andrew**, 2nd place – **Timothy**, 3rd place **Good Shepherd**, 4th place – **Cross of Christ**

Girls – 1st place – **Good Shepherd**, 2nd place – **Cross of Christ**, 3rd place – **St. Andrew**, 4th place – **Mt. Olive, Delano**.

Well done to all of our participants!

- **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** and their members for providing \$12,140 in supplementary funding to West through the 2006 GivingPlus Program. Their support of Christian education is deeply appreciated!
- Over the course of two busy days, the **West Lutheran Jazz Band** visited six of our area Lutheran Elementary Schools. While at each school, the Jazz Band presented concerts of both jazz and pep band music. Elementary school students had the opportunity to ask questions of the band, and band students had fun answering. It was exciting for the Jazz Band to perform for over 600 students in two days!
- The **West Lutheran Jazz Band** attended a jazz festival at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee on February 10-11. A highlight of the festival was the performance clinic where our jazz band played for professional musicians and received a critique to improve our performance. Junior **Beau Willar** represented West on the tenor saxophone in a special honors jazz orchestra that was assembled with members from the different high schools.
- Six West students were selected to attend the 2007 WELS National Band Festival in Appleton, WI, on March 9-11. The students representing West were: Seniors **Sarah Janisch** and **Megan Klatt**; Juniors **JoAnna Weinand**, **Beau Willar**, and **Nathan Wordell**; and Sophomore **Michael Paradis**. The festival band premiered a special sacred band selection, entitled "All Loves Excelling", that was composed by Mr. Ralph Hultgren from Queensland, Australia, who was the festival guest clinician and conductor. Congratulations to these fine West musicians. ■