



# IN THE LOOP



Nebraska District LCMS  
Administrators Newsletter of the Nebraska District LCMS

December 2011

## From the Superintendent's Desk

### Witness

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:8-20

*Good News of Great Joy!*



In a recent Bible study, our group considered the many facets of the concept of witnessing. Witness can mean observing, as the shepherds experienced the message of the angels. Witness also means to tell. The angels gave witness to the shepherds, and the shepherds, in turn, gave witness to what they had seen by glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. Witness can affect people, as the shepherds were affected, and as their own witness perhaps affected others, enough certainly for Luke to have heard the story clearly. Witness changes people so that they act differently than they would have without it, whether that witness is heard, seen, or experienced over a period of time.

I can proclaim with certainty that the Holy Spirit is at work in your heart because I witness you acknowledging Him as the Lord and Savior of your life. Someone witnessed to you. That witness made a difference in your life.

As educators in the church, we, too, are powerful witnesses. The things we say and the actions we do speak loudly about this Jesus we proclaim as the Lord and Savior of the world. What a great time of year to give a clear witness. I trust God to bless each of you in your ministry.

-Don Weber



*Jesus is our Lord  
& Savior!*





# Messiah, Lincoln

written by Matt Stueber, principal

Messiah Lutheran School is blessed to serve 294 students in preschool through grade five. The students are from our church and the Lincoln community. The staff strives to provide their students with an academically strong experience that doesn't compromise our Christian worldview. We are excited to observe a growing trend to serve non-parish families from Lincoln, up from 4% of our elementary school population five years ago to 11% in 2011.

Our core values at Messiah School focus on providing excellent service through a twenty-first century program that empowers parents and students to experience success, and honors the role of stewardship in our ministry.

Messiah students and teachers make service to their community a priority. We look forward to another Christmas season in which we do not exchange classroom gifts. Instead, each classroom adopts a local, regional, or global service project to assist during the month of December.

The recent acquisition of twenty acres of additional land has allowed us to develop athletic fields and a certified Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom. In Fall 2011,

Messiah students and local YMCA teams were able to enjoy, for the first time, our new athletic field. We are looking forward to formally dedicating the outdoor classroom in Spring 2012 and then sharing it as a valuable resource with the Lincoln community.

In our classrooms, we were blessed by generous donations to help accelerate our technology adoption initiatives. Prior to the school year, each teacher received a mobile teaching tablet and two student tablets. These Mobi tablets connect with the teacher's laptop computer and digital projector to provide an engaging multimedia teaching and learning experience in each classroom.

Messiah's Nutrition Manager, Nancy Heinicke, has spent several years focusing on providing a variety of healthy choices for students at lunch. Physical Education instructor Rochelle Brummer collaborated with Nancy and the Messiah student wellness council to host a Family Fitness Night. In 2011, these efforts were recognized not only by the Messiah community, but also by the Nebraska Department of Education and the USDA. Messiah was the first school (public or private) in Nebraska to qualify for recognition under the USDA's HealthierUS Schools initiative.



LEFT:  
Messiah's new athletic field

The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize those schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity.

In February 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama introduced [Let's Move!](#), incorporating the HealthierUS School Challenge into her campaign to raise a healthier generation of kids. At that time, monetary [incentive awards](#) became available for each HUSSC award level: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Gold Award of Distinction.

Schools may [submit applications](#) for the HealthierUS School Challenge by U.S. mail or online. A [simplified district application process](#) is available if there are two or more schools applying from one school district.

Since the beginning of the HealthierUS School Challenge in 2004, awards have been given to schools in 45 states. As of October 20, 2011, there are 2161 schools certified.

Source: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.html>

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