

SCHOOL NEWS

WORD OF LIFE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL DECEMBER 2011

2011 FALL VOTER'S ASSEMBLY

Word of Life Lutheran School will be holding it's fall voter's assembly on Sunday, December 18, 1:00 PM. This meeting is just one of two meetings throughout the year where the business of the school is carried out. Major items on the agenda are:

1. Review of the audited financial records of the 2010-2011 school year
2. Necessary financial resolutions concerning staff tax status
3. Report on 2011 school year
4. Revision of the 2011-2012 budget
5. Input for planning the 2012-2013 program and budget

Special items of interest will be:

1. K4 / K5 enrollment
2. Office staffing
3. School staffing
4. Spanish curriculum
5. Furnace and classroom upgrades



Centennial Lutheran

We look forward to your input into each of these important issues. Details on needs and options can be found in the Voter's Assembly packet available December 10th in the school office and the narthex of Centennial and St. Andrew churches.

PASTOR GREG PUF AHL

Centennial Lutheran church has called Pastor Greg Pufahl to replace Pastor Anderson who is retiring. Keep Pastor Pufahl in your prayers as he asks the Lord's guidance. Keep Star of Bethlehem church in Savoy, IL and Centennial church in your prayers. The Lord of the harvest is at work within his church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Join the children of Word of Life for our Christmas service.

The service will be
Friday, December 16th at 6:30 PM
at Centennial Lutheran Church.

Join us as we celebrate

Light a Candle



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| December 3 | WISCO Grade School Band Concert |
| December 11 | Junior Choir sings at Centennial |
| December 15 | Children sing at Wilson Commons |
| December 16 | Word of Life Children's Service, 6:30 PM at Centennial |
| December 18 | Word of Life Voter's Assembly, 1:00 PM at Centennial |
| December 20 | School Christmas parties, 12:00 PM dismissal |
| Dec. 21-Jan. 2 | Christmas vacation |
| January 3 | School resumes |

**WORD OF LIFE
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN**

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You and I can learn from the shepherds. They heard the good news of Jesus' birth and shared it with others. We have the same message to share today. It's a message filled with peace and joy. That message is the simple fact that God sent to the world the most precious gift of all — His Son and our Savior.

We're on the WEB
www.wordoflifeschool.com



Have a happy and healthy
Christmas season!

Not Just Some Old Customs

Our parents not only passed on centuries-old family customs; they passed on a legacy of faith.

Christmas at the Grandma Koch's house was always something special. Following the church, we would head to GG's house for the day's festivities. 50 people would cram into the house. Piles of presents encircled the tree. Peanut butter balls. Chocolate-covered pretzels. Christmas carols complete with the scratchy needle on the vinyl of the old LPs. The party continued until the younger children were carried out asleep. One important trait of healthy families is the strong sense of belonging created by observing special family customs and traditions. Whether elaborate or simple, traditions are part of what makes every family unique. These traditions help us remember where we came from and who we are.

Furthermore, meaningful traditions have a way of adding stability and consistency to the lives of children and adults alike. In a world that is constantly changing, traditions serve as anchors of security when life seems to spin out of control. They provide a framework for strengthening family relationships and creating lifelong memories. Unfortunately, because we live in a world of broken families, hurried lives, and commercial distractions, many family traditions have fallen by the wayside. In a well-intended effort to provide "more" for our children, we sometimes deprive them of the simple things that can add depth to their lives.

God established many traditions for his Old Testament people, some of which are still recognized by Jews today. Passover, for example, is still celebrated annually to commemorate God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. One of the marks of a present-day Christian home should be the presence of meaningful family traditions centered on Christ. As Christian parents we have the opportunity to create memorable experiences for our children, founded and focused on the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

As a child, family devotions around the Advent wreath were a regular part of our preparation for the Christmas season. We coveted the role of "candle lighter." Our nightly ritual gave us an opportunity to grow together in applying God's Word to daily living. These devotional readings also helped us refocus our attention on the true reason for the season. Little did I understand then that my parents were not just passing on a centuries-old family custom; they were passing on a legacy of faith that had been passed on to them by their parents.

New family traditions need not cost a lot of money, and they don't have to take a lot of time. What's important is that you create a chance to grow together as a family in which Christ's love is shared. Perhaps there are a few traditions from your own past that you could revive for your children. Or ask your children what they enjoyed most from last year that they would love to repeat again in the coming months.

Like you, I want my kids to look back on their childhood with fond memories. I want them to know that, regardless of what life throws their way, they have a safe place to weather the storm. I want them to remember where they came from and who they are. Most important, I want them to hear the good news of their Savior, who loves them dearly. I want that love of Jesus to be reflected in their relationships as they look forward to someday having families of their own.

Things have certainly changed since those Christmas Eves of my childhood. My sisters and I now have families of our own. Our grandparents are no longer around to preside over the activities. The joy of receiving gifts from others has been replaced by the joy of watching my own children eagerly tear the wrapping paper away to see what new treasure lies beneath. My wife and I have started some of our own family traditions. We have come to recognize that holiday traditions may come and go, but the story of God's grace must be shared with our kids so they can pass it on.

Favorite Traditions

- Take turns sharing the highs and lows of your day at each mealtime.
- Volunteer as a family to help serve a Christmas meal at a shelter.
- At your Christmas meal, have family members share one thing for which they are most thankful.
- Prepare the holiday meal with your children. Kids love to bake and cook!
- Have children select "gently used" toys to donate to a local family shelter.
- Take the whole family out to cut your own Christmas tree.
- Bake Christmas cookies to share with neighbors, attaching a copy of the Christmas story to each batch.
- Watch traditional Christmas movies together at "Family Movie Night."
- Watch videos of past holidays, or look at photo albums, trading stories and sharing memories.
- Go hiking or sledding, build snow forts, or make snow angels together. Afterward, enjoy some hot cocoa and talk about the day