

# INSPIRE DIRECTOR

MARIE LENG



Take a deep breath. Breathe in the fresh crisp fall air. Isn't it invigorating? As a former teacher, this time of year was always so exciting and special for me. The anticipation of welcoming a new bunch of kiddos into the classroom, the excitement of my own girls growing and starting school, and the energizing feelings of the change from a steamy, sticky summer into a cool, crisp, vibrant colored fall. While I no longer teach in a classroom, I am a constant educator of faith and the love that Jesus has for us to my daughters on a daily basis. This education will likely never stop and I am thankful for that. Teaching Jesus' love is a necessity in life, especially in our society today. People of every age, every religion and every race need to FEEL and KNOW that Jesus loves them. Whether they show that by being an active participant of faith or just keep it hidden to themselves is not up for debate. As Christians we are called upon and told to share and spread God's love. One of the best ways to do that is through the ministry of our school. We at St. John's Lutheran Church have a huge advantage over many churches as we have a school only a few steps away. We are a double whammy! We have our church AND our school to spread the message. The question is not how that message is received, but how can we spread it further. We have been blessed to be able to share the message with so many open hearts and minds- the children! Our school has reached full capacity and the Growing Roots Campaign has just started! This is where YOU come in. The Inspire team is excited to meet with every congregation member and family in the month of October! We are looking forward to meeting and catching up with old and new friends, share our love of the church and school and discuss the ways you have been impacted by the ministry of St. John's Lutheran School! We will be visiting individual homes, nursing homes and hosting small cottage style group visits. This is going to be an exciting fall, so take a deep breath, keep an eye out for an Inspire team member contacting you soon and get INSPIRED to GROW with us!

## STEWARDSHIP BIG & SMALL

This summer the JEC program became the first contributors to our Growing Roots capital campaign by holding a lemonade stand. Working over 2 days the lemonade stand raised over \$1200. Kindergartner and JEC student, Ruby Radabaugh, was so inspired that she went home and held her own lemonade stand for her family and neighbors. Ruby raised \$60 and donated half of her profits back to the campaign. Way to go Ruby! She is an example of how even our smallest people can make a difference!

The  
smallest people  
can make a  
BIG difference!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Please note the following events and dates.

- Inspire Services: October 2-3, October 9-10, October 16-17, October 23-24
- Prayer Experience Weekend: October 2-3
- Initial Commitment Event: October 26
- Commitment Celebration: November 6-7
- Dedication Weekend: November 21

## PRAY WITH US

Heavenly Father, Colossians 2:7 says we are "rooted" in Christ. This is so fitting. Just as plants are nourished by nutrients coming through roots, so Jesus feeds our faith through His Word. The Growing Roots campaign will ultimately result in rooms and offices where Scriptures is taught, shared and quoted. This makes these spaces sacred, places where faith is strengthened. For this, we give you all thanks and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# GROWING ROOTS

NEWSLETTER TWO

## A WORD FROM THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

### WHAT IT TAKES TO GROW ROOTS

Wow, how time flies! It just seems like yesterday that we were contemplating summer and all of the fun it would bring. Fast forward to today and we are already 5 weeks into the school year. We watch as days get shorter, nights get longer and our weather turns to fall. This fall weather reminds me of a Bible passage that I memorized at Concordia Lutheran Grade School in Fort Wayne Indiana. As a third grader, it was one of the toughest ones I ever had to memorize, and yet as an adult it still makes sense.

*Isaiah 55:10-11* <sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup>so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.



JIM VANDRE

I get excited when I think of our campaign. I get excited when I think about getting our students out of the modulars and back into the main building, where they don't have to brave the elements going back and forth from building to building. I get excited when I think of covered walkways and wonderful room for the drop off loop. I get excited when I think about all the kids being able to have their own classroom and the cafeteria being able to be used as the CAFETERIA!!!!

However, I really get excited when I think about more and more children being fed God's word. "As the rain and the snow come down..." Think about those minds that are being fed God's word every day, and at every opportunity presented. Think about those roots that are being started in the preschoolers and nourished as they progress all the way to eighth grade. As God promised, "It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Who are we to know what difference it will make in that child's life? We just trust in God that He will accomplish His purpose.

The best time for planting trees and shrubs is in the fall. It allows the plant to focus on growing the roots instead of the rest of the plant. Roots are important for the rest of our lives too! As we think of "Growing Roots" Faith, Fellowship and Future, may this inspire you to want to be a part of our campaign. Whether you decide you want to be a visitor for the every member visit, or you want to welcome folks into your home to hear our message, may God so inspire you to dig deep into your heart. Dig deep for time, talents or treasures. It's all in accordance with what you are capable of, and what God so inspires you to do!



...rooted and built up in Him,  
strengthened in the faith as you  
were taught...  
(Colossians 2:7)