



Christ Lutheran School

caring ... excelling ... growing in Christ

State of the School Report January 2018



For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

Stepping Outside in Faith

Originally the plan for the new playground was to use the backyards of the two houses north of the school. We were truly blessed when the voters assembly of Christ Lutheran congregation instead voted to purchase the entire lots of the three houses to the north of the school. This will provide enough room that we will be able to reinstall some pieces of the former structure and purchase additional pieces for the children to play on.

The project will also provide green space for playing soccer, football or just running around. A basketball area and 4 square area planned for the project. With the addition of the 3rd lot, we should be able to have all students in preschool through grade 8 using the playground and not the parking lot between the church and school.

Commitment to the project was immediately demonstrated as persons



Three lots North of school (seen above) will be home to the new playground

offered to help fund the purchase of the property and the preparation of the land. The school has engaged in fundraisers and has also been awarded a grant toward the project. Approximately \$175,000 remains to be raised.



Students in the junior high Christian Service elective ready hurricane bags for Texas

Where's Martin?

It was 500 years ago that Martin Luther stood up for what he believed the Bible spelled out so plainly. We as sinful people are justified by grace, through faith, in Christ alone. There is nothing that we can do to earn God's forgiveness or heaven. It is only through the death and resurrection of Jesus that our sins are forgiven.

To celebrate this important anniversary, we have two life-size cutouts of Martin Luther. One stands on the ramp at the gates of Wittenberg with the 95 theses. The other cutout makes his way around the school. You never know where he

might show up. So far he has been to all school meetings, the lunchroom, a few classrooms, and even to the principal's office. Students have made small cutouts and taken him with them on field trips and other adventures. He provides opportunities for students to share their faith out in public as well as at school.

Quick links to frequently requested information.

School website
www.clnorfolk.org

Principal email
stortz@clnorfolk.org

PowerSchool
clnorfolk.powerschool.com

Accelerated Reader student progress and book list
<http://tiger.clnorfolk.org/acceleratedreader.php>

School Phone & Address
(402)371-5536
511 S. 5th, Norfolk, NE 68701

School Mission Statement
Christ Lutheran School partners with families to develop God-given abilities in students so that they can may grow in knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and live as effective citizens in His kingdom.

*"My teacher supported me when I needed help with problems outside of school." "I always felt like I could go to them for anything."
CLS Graduates*

Teachers – Always Learning

As the saying goes, you are never too old to learn. If we want students to grow in knowledge, then as teachers we should lead by example. This year the faculty, along with about 300 other teachers in the Norfolk area have been studying the Marzano method of instruction.

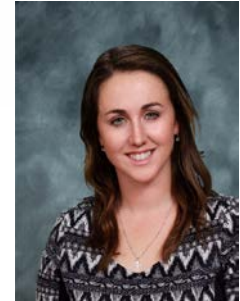
The Marzano method focuses on specific teaching/learning skills which have been shown to be the most effective in improving student achievement. The top 5 strategies with the greatest impact are: 1)

identifying similarities and differences, 2) summarizing and note taking, 3) reinforcing effort and providing recognition, 4) homework and practice, 5) setting objectives and providing feedback.

Many of these are strategies already employed by teachers, however we are learning to be more intentional with these methods and to use them effectively.



Miss Nicole Phelps



Mrs. Angela Wingert

New Teachers Join CLS This Fall

Do you speak Chinese? If so, then Miss Phelps is the one to visit with. Having spent the last two years teaching in Lutheran schools in China, she was ready to return to the states and close to her home in South Dakota. With her Secondary Science teaching degree, she is now the science teacher for students in grades 5-8. She is a hands-on teacher who believes in students doing science, not just reading about it.

Mrs. Wingert currently calls 4th grade home. Last year she helped a couple hours a day with upper grade PE, but now finds herself with all subject areas. Before her time at CLS she taught 8th grade history in Napa, CA. This native Minnesotan is learning all about Nebraska history

along with the students. She is married to Matt who serves as the Director of Christian Education for Christ Lutheran Church. She has a two-year old daughter, Grace, and is expecting her second child this Spring.

Mrs. Wood came to us straight out of Midland University, Fremont where her student teaching experience included time in a 1st grade classroom at Valley, NE. Her husband Dustin is a music teacher for Norfolk Public Schools. She is excited to begin her teaching career at CLS.



Mrs. Darienne Wood

Once in a Lifetime

With only two days of school under our belt, the students in grades 4-8 had their first field trip of the year. We journeyed to Concordia University in Seward to watch the total eclipse of the sun.

Miss Phelps prepped her science students beforehand, and the professors at the university did a fantastic job explaining everything that was taking place while we were there. Students still talk about the event.

We were excited to have this opportunity and witness the awesome power of the God who created both heaven and earth.



New Student Group Formed

God Squad was formed as a way to strengthen the opportunities for students to witness their Christian faith. The group is open to grades 6-8, and members have to follow certain guidelines to apply and remain in the group. They have helped with school meetings, serving at the kindergarten live nativity, helping out at the city of Norfolk Christmas kick-off, and providing Reformation treats to all the students in school.



Students in grades 4-8 view the solar eclipse in Seward.

“CLS gave me a firm foundation in faith, and taught me how to apply religion to most real world situations”

CLS Graduate

We are His Workmanship, Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works



Mrs. Bobette Ferguson
33 years



Mrs. Grace Hanft
28 years



Mr. Gary Weber
33 years



Mrs. Mary Herley
25 years



Mrs. Sally Splittgerber
28 years

As the 2017-2018 school year draws to a close, we will be saying farewell, and asking for God's blessing on several dedicated servants of the Lord at Christ Lutheran School.

Before joining the CLS staff as a special education teacher, **Mrs. Ferguson's** first time in the building was in that same role for Norfolk Public several years before. Other schools that she has served at include Prague, Columbus, and Germany. This will be her 2nd time retiring.

Mrs. Hanft has served the last few years as our full-time art teacher. She came on board in 2006. Before adding lower grade classes to her schedule, teaching preschool was part of her responsibility. Following her husband in his various pastoral Calls, she has taught in Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Michigan, and Alabama.

Mr. Weber came to CLS in 1993. Since that time, he has worn many hats as 8th grade teacher, assistant principal, athletic director, and upper grades social studies teacher. He began teaching in Michigan for 8 years, then moved to West Point to pursue other interests. The Lord then led him back into the teaching ministry. "I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as a teacher here at Christ Lutheran for the past 25 years. I have always considered it an honor and privilege to work with the students here. My experience here has been very rewarding in many ways and I have learned a lot about myself and life. The time has come however for me to start a new chapter in my life. I would also like to thank everyone for all the support and assistance I have received over the years as without that the activities and projects we worked on together could never have been accomplished. I am looking forward to the future as I will have more time for grandchildren and other activities."

Mrs. Herley has not always been an administrative assistant. Before coming to CLS she was a high school business teacher at Stromsburg, Norfolk Catholic, and the Preschool Director for Kings Kids at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Splittgerber is probably best known for her role since 1998 in the hot lunch program and attendance. However, she hasn't always had that role. While her sons attended CLS she started in 1985 as one of our volunteer "copy ladies" and lower grade paraprofessional. She is a great source of knowledge when it comes to knowing students and families.

With nearly 150 years of experience between them, we will truly miss their work among us.

Exciting Times Still Ahead

We are only 1/2 way through the school year and the busiest time is yet to come. Kindergarten open houses will be held February 6 & 22. Then kindergarten registration and roundup will be held March 7 & 19.

We are looking forward to our annual Grandparents Day celebration on March 22nd. This event packs the gym and lunchroom. We are looking at expanding into the band room if needed.

Grades 3-4 will host this year's musical on March 23rd.

You won't want to miss out on REVEL this year on April 13th and the plant sale May 4-5.

These are just a few of the highlights. Check the website and newsletters for more events.



Student Life Well Rounded

Student life is more than just books. Students enjoy the fine arts with the upper grade play, the lower grade musical, band and choir along with art. Those who are looking for sports have plenty to choose from; whether it be volleyball, cross country, football, basketball, or track. There is something for everyone!



Keep in touch with what is going on at school. Download the CLS App! Now available on Apple's & Google.



Board of Education

Chair - Tina Bredehoeft
 Vice – Leah Buhrman
 Secretary – Sara Blom
 Daniel Blomenberg
 Clint Bowland
 Nick Cleveland
 Robert Hafer
 John Hancock
 Ivan Petersen
 Brad Ranslem
 Amy Schroeter
 Jeff Thoene
 Karri Wiederin

CLS Faculty

Principal
 Mr. Steven Stortz
 Grade 8
 Mr. Gary Weber
 Grade 7
 Miss Nicole Phelps
 Grade 6
 Miss Jeanette Schipporeit
 Grade 5
 Mrs. Lisa Booth
 Mrs. Susan Harstad
 Grade 4
 Mr. Von Portwood
 Mrs. Angela Wingert
 Grade 3
 Mrs. Susan Colligan
 Mrs. Carey Portwood
 Grade 2
 Mrs. Donna Johnson
 Mrs. Christy Owen
 Grade 1
 Mrs. Lois Leckband
 Mrs. Darienne Wood
 Kindergarten
 Mrs. Marcia Bliss
 Mrs. LaRhea Voelker
 Preschool
 Mrs. Sarah Moje
 Mrs. Phyllis Glaser
 Art
 Mrs. Grace Hanft
 Band/Music
 Mrs. Earleen Gansbom
 Computer
 Mrs. Charlene Stortz
 Special Education
 Mrs. Bobette Ferguson
Support Staff
 2 Secretaries
 Mary & Sally
 7 Teacher Aides
 Joye, Nicole, Kristi, Amy,
 Michelle, Kathy, Leila
 3 Kitchen Staff
 Dorothy, Glenna, Joy

Excelling in Academics

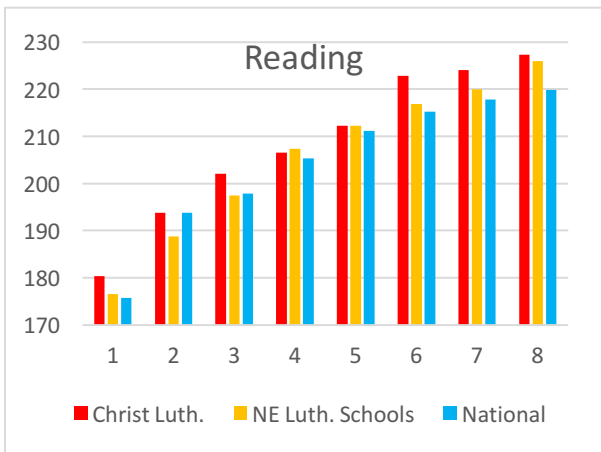
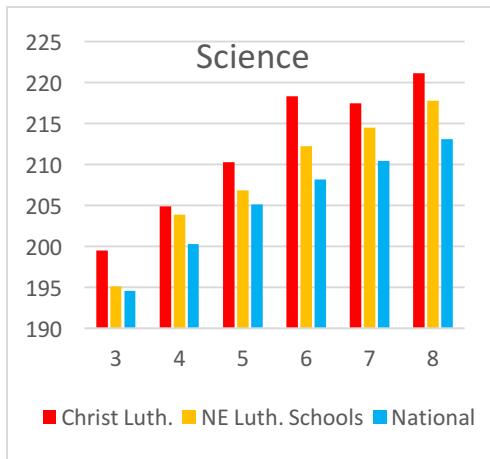
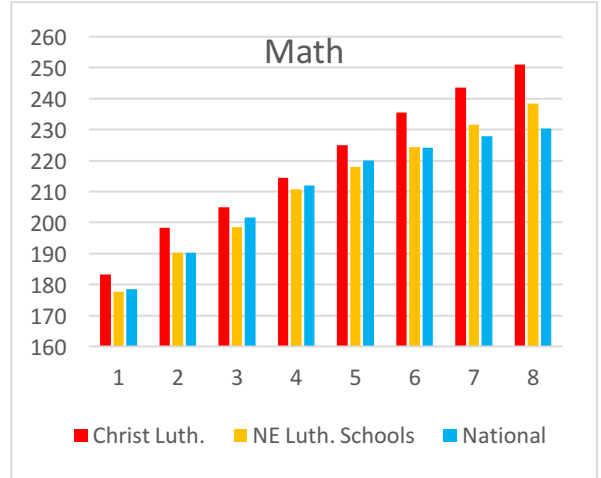
Parents want their child to develop a strong relationship with their Lord Jesus Christ. Parents also want their child to be well prepared academically. Christ Lutheran School continues to excel in both these areas as a college preparatory school.

The scores to the right and below are from our Spring 2017 MAP (Measurement of Academic Performance) testing. Instead of percentile rank, they use RIT (Rasch Unit) scores. Most Nebraska schools (Lutheran and public) have switched to MAP testing. Students are assessed at the beginning of the year so the teacher knows what areas to work on, and at the end of the year to measure growth and evaluate curriculum.

CLS and National scores are provided by NWEA, the company that does MAP testing.



The NE Lutheran Schools data is provided by the Nebraska District LCMS Office.



Preparing the hearts, souls, and minds of the children of God.

