

Why a Lutheran School?

Her family came forward – each one in turn - to offer words of comfort, encouragement, and love. The treatment would begin soon – the treatment that held the hope of a cure – freedom from the pain that attacked her body – freedom from the bonds of the disease that threatened her very life.

The room grew quiet as her husband leaned next to her head, his ear close to her mouth to hear every word. He moved his mouth to her ear and whispered – words only the two would hear. The gathered family strained to listen. Soon a chuckle was heard – they were laughing! The laughter seemed out of place for such a solemn moment – yet it grew stronger. Soon the couple laughed louder – tears of joy flowed from their eyes.

Abruptly the laughter stopped. The quiet roared in contrast to the happy laughter. The family tensed – what would be next?

A small, weak voice was heard – humming. Soon the voice gained strength. Words were added to the familiar tune. She was singing, her eyes closed in memories long past, her face glowing.

"What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer!"

"Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there."

Forty years after she knelt at the Confirmation altar, the words of the hymn that she learned in the Lutheran school brought her comfort – brought her peace. She was able to sing them with gusto. Her parents brought her to the baptismal fountain to receive the Holy Spirit, her Lutheran school teachers helped her parents open to her the Bible and hymnal, and the Holy Spirit blessed her.

The Lutheran school trains children for this life – but more importantly for the next. Her Lutheran school training gave her the foundation to live her life as an example of a dedicated Christian woman. Her openness of faith gave her family comfort as she parted – she is in heaven – walking with Jesus.

Fellow Parents, this is why we have Lutheran Schools. This is why we make sacrifices to send our children here. This is why teachers choose to work longer hours for less money than their public school counterparts. This is why my parents sent me to a Lutheran school and why I send my children to one as well. It is so that, when those moments come that test our faith, we have the tools to face them. Christ's disciples, flawed as they were, all stood the test of faith in the end. May we also, because of our Christian training, be prepared for that test.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).