

**A Special Letter to First Lutheran Church Members
from the First Lutheran School Board**

Dear First Lutheran Church Members:

The First Lutheran School Board would like to sincerely thank the many members of our congregation who have faithfully supported our Preschool and Classical School over the last 17 years. Your continued prayers, words of encouragement, volunteer assistance, and ongoing monetary support have been so much appreciated by our school board members, our dedicated teaching staff, and our amazing students. Operating a parochial school is truly a collaborative effort between all stakeholders, and the First Lutheran congregation has provided our school with tremendous support over the years.

Unfortunately, despite all the School Board's efforts to advertise, market, and otherwise promote our Preschool and Classical School, especially in the last few years, we have not been able to increase our student enrollment to the point where the school could become financially sustainable. For this reason, after much discussion and prayer, the First Lutheran School Board made the extremely difficult decision on August 3 to discontinue our Preschool and Classical School. Our teaching staff and parents of students were notified immediately and refunds of any prepaid tuition or book fees have been fully refunded.

But even in our sadness, we are comforted by the promises, hope, and wisdom of Holy Scripture. We, the First Lutheran School Board, truly believe that "the plans of the Lord stand firm forever" (Psalm 33:11) and "it is God who works in [us] to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13). We also take comfort knowing that many seeds have been planted by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our past and most recent Preschool and Classical School students that will continue to grow and blossom in due season. May Jesus Christ be praised for the many students and their families our dedicated First Lutheran teachers and church members have ministered to over the years.

In Our Lord's Service,
Sherry Rossiter, Board Chair
Art Pencek
Nick Keller
Marlit Thiele
Jan Murray
Diane Dickson
Linda Firebaugh
Mary Carlson