

**CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAMUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

500 Village Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

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Rev. Keith Schreiner, Pastor (507)828-3333
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From the **PASTOR**—

“And Mary said: ‘My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior’” Luke 1:46-47.

Mary has often been depicted by artists as sorrowful. Certainly she was no stranger to sorrow and tears. But the words above, spoken after the angel Gabriel brought the unbelievable news of her miracle pregnancy, show us the joy of merry Mary.

On that first Christmas morning, Mary must have felt merry indeed. After all, she held in her arms a perfect man-child. Like all young mothers, she probably marveled at the perfect, tiny toes and the way he clutched her finger. Most pictures of the first Christmas show Mary as calm and serene. But remember, she is probably a teenager, and maybe she giggled and bubbled with laughter. Surely she talked baby talk and kootchy-kooed with the infant, as most mothers do.

Maybe she even showed Jesus off to the shepherds with a smile of wonder. Perhaps she walked around with Jesus in her arms, talking to the animals in the stall. Surely on that first Christmas day Mary felt joy. Yet also the awe, excitement, wonder, and mystery of the promise of the ages in her arms must have overwhelmed her. Like all mothers, she looked at her baby as the most beautiful baby ever born. But here the similarity stops. Mary also saw in this child the miracle of a virgin birth, the true God come as a babe, the Messiah promised, the Redeemer of all. What joy filled her heart as she saw before her eyes the answer to sin and guilt! The Savior is come, “My spirit rejoices in God **my** Savior.” Mary was merry at seeing her salvation. During this Christmas season may we be merry for the same reason! God bless our worship of him this Christmas season!

COUNCIL CORNER

This month we hear from Mark Patzer, Evangelism Chairman. The Advent season offers great opportunities for Evangelism. In December there are a few events going on to help spread the message of our Savior's birth. On Wednesday, November 30th the Evangelism committee will be hosting a spaghetti supper before the first Advent service. Proceeds from this meal will go towards evangelism outreach material. On Wednesday, December 7th and the 14th, the Samuel School PTF will be hosting suppers before the Advent services, a free will offering will be taken these evenings which any proceeds will go to the schools PTF group. The PTF supports the school with purchases of needed equipment and also helps plan activities for the kids throughout the year.

December 17th we will be holding our annual Christmas for Kids, a one day vacation Bible school, at Samuel School. It will take place from 10:30-1:00, after the children's Christmas service rehearsal. Please note it is the second weekend of Christmas practice. It will be an afternoon of faith and fellowship with music, lunch, crafts and, most importantly, the Christmas story. More information on this can be found later in this newsletter.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season.

CLYF

As a group we are happy that we are able to offer the Christmas greenery to the members of Christ. This year we had orders for 98 items! The cross wreaths that hang outside of church at both entrances were also purchased by our group. We will not be meeting in December but want to wish all a blessed Christmas.

PIONEERS

The Pioneers met on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at Samuel Lutheran School. A total of 19 Pioneers were in attendance. The Pioneers each selected a metal ornament and chose from one of three paint colors for painting the ornaments. Between coats of paint, time was spent in the gym playing basketball and other games. Even with the unseasonably warm weather outside, hot apple cider was enjoyed. The painted ornaments will be on display at church during the month of December. The Pioneers will meet again on January 8, 2017.



PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS

Parents please remember that during the season of Advent, when we have midweek services, our Public School Confirmation Class is held from 5:00-6:15 PM on Wednesday evening AT CHURCH. I know that it is not always easy getting your child there at that time but please remember how important this class is for their spiritual growth.

ADVENT SEASON

The Advent Wreath, which originated after the Reformation, is probably the most common used fixture for the season. Four Advent candles are used in an Advent wreath to mark the four weeks before Christmas. One additional candle is lit each week of the Advent season. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the coming of Christ, when the light of prophecy concerning the Messiah became brighter and brighter until he himself appeared. Originally four white candles were used, but now most churches, including ours, use either blue or purple to match the paraments. One pink, or rose-colored, candle is used and lighted the third Sunday in Advent. Our Advent wreath also has a single white candle in the middle of the wreath called the Christ candle. We pray that this wreath and all other church signs and symbols help focus our attention on the object of our worship – Jesus Christ, God’s Son our Savior.



Our midweek Advent services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. The dates are November 30 and December 7, and 14. We hope you will take time and let God prepare your hearts to receive the Christ child during this most blessed season. This year there will be a meal served in the church basement before each of these services. The meal will run from 5:30 – 6:30.

Then a reminder of all the Christmas services taking place at your church. We start with the children’s service on Christmas Eve held out to Samuel starting at 5:30 PM. A favorite of many is the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service held at church at **9:00 PM**. There is something special about holding a candle (symbolizing the Christ child as the light of the world) and singing “*Silent Night*” with the lights of the church dimmed. If you have not experienced this before you might want to consider doing so.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

It's not too late to join us for our new Bible study from the book of First Corinthians. We will see in this book many of the problems of the church in Paul's day still plague the church today. But now as then God preserves his faithful people with Word and Sacrament. Why not spend a little extra time mining the treasures of God's Word!

CHURCH DECORATING

Holiday decorating will start at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 3rd. Stick around after for a chili dump lunch. Everyone provides the chili – everything else is provided by the church.

NEW TIME FOR OUR CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Don't forget to note the new time for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight service** this year. We have moved the start of this moving service up to 9:00 PM in hopes that some who maybe felt it ended too late might be able to join us. This contemplative service always has special music and joy as we welcome the light of the world into our hearts and lives with candles illuminating the way.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN NIGHT

Since last year was such a wonderful success Pastor and Jennifer are once again going to be setting up a "fun night" for all Christ Lutheran children and our area WELS churches in **grades 5-8** on Thursday, December 29th from 6-9PM. We will play some games, get to know the other kids, maybe do a craft, have a short Bible study and enjoy some snacks. Watch for more details and a signup sheet in the month of December. Talk to anyone who attended last year and you will find out that you won't want to miss out on the fun.

SLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 4th the children of Samuel will present their Christmas concert. The concert begins at 3:00 PM in the school gymnasium. Coffee and Christmas cookies will be served following the concert in the cafeteria.

JESUS CARES MINISTRY

Jesus Cares Ministry, our ministry to the developmentally disabled, will hold its Christmas service on Thursday, December 15th starting at 6:30 PM at the church. The congregation is invited to attend and watch and listen to our JCM participants tell and act out the Christmas story. Bring the kids, they are sure to enjoy it.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Our first practice will be on Saturday, December 10th. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will begin at 9:00 AM. Pre-K students are asked to be at practice at 10:00 AM. All students will be dismissed at 11:00 AM. The following Saturday, December 17th ALL the students will practice from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM. Pre-K – 4th grade students are invited to stay for *Christmas for Kids* which begins at 10:30 AM (see below for details). Parents, on the 17th we could use your help packing the Christmas bags while the children are in practice. We will do this in the cafeteria. On Christmas Eve the students need to be at school no later than 5:15 PM.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

The Evangelism committee will be hosting it's "Christmas for Kids" one day Vacation Bible School on Saturday, December 17th for kids from Pre-K 3 year olds through 4th grade. It will run from 10:30 AM (right after our second children's Christmas practice is over) until 1:00 PM. The purpose of this is to tell the story of the birth of Christ, to use it as an outreach tool for those who might not have a church home, and to provide an opportunity for anyone who sends their child to take care of any last minute Christmas related details. If you have friends with children be sure to invite them. There is a sign up sheet at church or you can call the church office to register.

CALENDAR(S)

You will notice that this month on the back side of the December calendar is the January 2017 calendar. That is because the January newsletter has always been relatively "light" on the news side of things. We feel that we can easily convey all the information we need to for the month of January in the Sunday bulletins. We will also save the cost of postage for the month.

GOD'S GIFTS

There is no question that everyone who reads this newsletter is richly blessed by God. First and foremost to be called God's children makes us rich beyond measure. That's not counting all the physical and material blessings we enjoy as well. I pray that you will prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and how you will respond as we close out another year. There is also no question that the church depends upon a strong financial finish to the year in order to make our budget. It's also a good time to consider what we will regularly and cheerfully return to him in the coming year. When was the last time you either as an individual or with your spouse took time to really look at and prayerfully consider your gifts to God?

Also a reminder that we offer the opportunity for you to give your weekly offerings online with our e-giving program. If you have any questions about this don't hesitate to talk to pastor or a member of the stewardship committee. More information about this can be found on our website. That is also where you go to sign up for the program as well. If you currently use this means to offer your gifts to the Lord you might need to see if you set an expiration date for these transactions to stop. For example if you set it up to take out funds for 12 months it will stop after that time frame has expired. So be sure to check that out so you can continue to support the work of the Gospel here at Christ.

Lastly, don't forget that it is not only financially that we spiritually have the opportunity to be good stewards. Our talent and time are also gifts to us from God. There are many, many ways that we can use those in service to God and our fellow Christians here at Christ. When we are tempted to think and say, "Let George do it", all of us are GEORGE!

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

How wonderful it would be to have a full church at this service as we look back at the past year of God's blessings and look forward to a new year of his continual grace! If you have not been in the habit of attending this services why not think about spending less than an hour in devotional thought? The service time is 7:00 PM. You will still have plenty of time to get together with family and friends to welcome in the New Year!



SNOW REMOVAL

We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church and at school. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? Please check out the sign-up sheets by the bulletin board in the church narthex. Snow blowers and shovels are available at both locations. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Schreiner (828-3333).



ENDOWMENT FUND

Many times the end of a year is a time that people think about giving a special gift to the church. Many times it might just be to the general operating budget, other times it might be for a special cause. Don't forget about our relatively newly established endowment fund. There are many different ways that one can give to this fund. Bequests, memorials, stocks, bonds, life insurance, real estate and other special gifts can be used to contribute to this fund. Certainly the tax advantages to these gifts and various techniques for giving are many. For more information about our Christ Lutheran Endowment Fund be sure to take a brochure from the rack by the steps to the basement. Gifts can be designated to either the church or the school.

ANNUAL REPORT

Just a reminder for all church related organizations that you can start thinking about getting together what you would like to see in the 2016 Annual Report. The deadline will be January 6th, 2017.

FACEBOOK

I know that many of us are on Facebook for our social media fix! While I know that this can potentially be used in a way that is not the best it can also be a great way to communicate and keep in touch. That is why the church has a Facebook page. Have you checked it out? If not why not? What are you waiting for? We do not to overboard with our postings so you won't get sick of us but we do have posts that we hope will be informative and at times inspirational. We just added the WELS daily devotion. We also hope you will "like" us so that others too might be able to see that not only is our church alive and active but on a personal note – it is important to you!

BUDGET/ELECTION MEETING

The Budget/Election meeting will be held December 4th at 7:00 PM at church.

SLS NEWS AND NOTES

Our Fun Friday for November had a Wild West Theme. The cook worked on special western menus to eat for the week and the faculty planned some fun activities for the students. We had to delay the activities until Wednesday, November 23 because of the snow storm on November 18. The students had hobby horse races in the gym and also played Western Bingo. They dressed in western attire and had a great time. The Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten celebrated Thanksgiving last week with their annual Pilgrim and Native American feast. They made butter and pumpkin pie, and played games together. We are well into our practicing for the annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 pm. December 2, we have invited grandparents to help with our Christmas Cookie decorating. We are also preparing for our celebration of Jesus' birth in our Christmas Eve service at Samuel on Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm. As we continue through the winter snow season, remember to send your children to school with proper attire, which includes boots, hats, scarves, mittens, and a warm jacket. When weather threatens, stay tuned to the local KMHL radio station or log on to marshallradio.net for winter weather announcements.

AFRICA CALLING:

The Central Africa Medical Mission is accepting applications for Nurse-in-Charge for the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Malawi) for a 3 year term of service. The nurse-in-charge must be an RN with clinic or hospital experience. The nurse-in-charge supervises clinic staff and maintains all clinic functions. Preferred applicants are single females due to living arrangements. The term of service will begin in November 2017. Because employment permits for Malawi take almost a year to process, candidates will be selected in early 2017.

All applicants must be in good standing within WELS or ELS membership. An application may be obtained by contacting Beth Evans (evans.bc57@yahoo.com) or Linda Liesener (cammcontact@charter.net)

LADIES AID

Submitted by Jo Palmer - November 3, 2016

Pastor Schreiner opened our meeting with a short study of the life of Martin Luther. One highlight I found of interest in his study was when Johann von Staupitz, an Observant, sent Martin Luther to Rome with other monks. While Martin Luther was in Rome, he found that the city was corrupt, the seat of the devil and the pope was worse than the Turk in Constantinople. Staupitz was a father figure to Martin Luther but was not involved with him during the Reformation.

Vice President Sue Mitzner called the meeting to order and thanked Pastor Schreiner for his study. She then asked for the secretary and treasurer reports to be read.

Vice President Mitzner asked for a motion to accept the reports. A motion was made by Anne Rockman and seconded by Darleen Gladitsch – all voted in favor.

Committee Reports:

OWLS: None.

MLC Auxiliary: None.

Visiting Committee: Anne Rockman visited Vi Brackman and Margaret Haberman.

Cards to members: Birthday: Pastor Schreiner, Vivian Mix, Vera Mohwinkel, Judy Ziegenhagen; Anniversary: Gary & Mary Radtke, Jim & Gladys Jacobson; Baptism: Lillian Carlson, daughter of Johanna Halloff & Dustin Carlson.

More sympathy cards were ordered.

Old Business: Flower committee chairs want to resign. Jo Palmer spoke to Sue Mitzner and asked her to continue to serve. No decision made at this time – she will think about it.

Officers elected for 2017:

President – Sue Mitzner Vice President – Veronica Meyer

Secretary/Treasurer – Teri Knutson

These are all two year terms.

New Business: Ladies Aid Christmas Party – December 1st at noon – Potluck – Invite the congregation.

Christmas gifts to be given this year to our students attending MLC – Lucas Thooff, and Great Plains High School – Sarah Werner, Paxton Schultz, Kristina Hagberg, and Carlie Heil - \$25 each and \$100 to Pastor Schreiner. A motion by Jo Palmer to have our free will gift go the summer music program. It was seconded by Vivian Mix.

Sue Mitzner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Darleen Gladitsch and seconded by Merna Thomsen.

No meeting until March 2017. Serving will be Deb Herrmann and Anne Rockman.

Serving lunch was Veronica Meyer – hot chicken sandwiches, chips, pickles, and cookies. It was delicious – thanks Ronnie.

Ten members present today plus Pastor Schreiner.

Flowers in December – Kelly Konietzko and Amy Barker; January – Deb Herrmann; February – Pam Lundberg.

Pastor Schreiner led us in the Lord's Prayer and common table prayers.

MISSION SOCIETY

Submitted by Julie Festerling—November 10, 2016

The November 10th meeting of Christ Lutheran Mission Society began with the singing of CW620 "To You, Our God, We Fly" accompanied by Pam Ellingson. Pastor Schreiner then led us in a Bible study of Church and Government. As Christians, it is our duty to pay taxes for government services, obey the government unless they ask us to do something that is against God's will, and especially pray for our leaders. We need to remember that it is GOD who has instituted and established the government.

President Joyce Flock thanked Pam for playing and Pastor for the Bible study. The business meeting was called to order. The Secretary's report from September 8th was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved with a balance of \$653.55.

Joyce gave a report on Central African Medical Missions. We need to keep them in our prayers. Things we take for granted such as clean water and a dependable power source are often non-existent or very unreliable for our missionaries and medical staff there. Joyce also read correspondence from Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School and California Lutheran High School and shared a thank-you note from Mr. Festerling thanking us for the gift card for NPH that Mission Society gave him for his anniversary.

Old business—We held elections for vice-president and secretary. Pam Ellingson was elected for vice-president and Julie Festerling will continue to be the secretary.

Since this was our end of the year meeting, we also needed to choose missions to which we can send our treasury money.

Jennifer supplied us with a list of missions from our Mission Projects book. The following missions will each receive \$75.00: Multi-Language Publications, Outreach to the Muslims, Pastoral Studies Institute, and Hmong Evangelist Training. CAMM will be given \$100.00. We will also give \$50.00 to Lucas Thooft who is attending Martin Luther College and \$100.00 to Pastor Schreiner. We will be having our Christmas Potluck on Thursday, December 8th. The meal will begin at 6:00. Mission Society officers will be in charge of table decorations and drinks.

Roll Call was taken with 4 ladies and Pastor present. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer and Common Table Prayer. Refreshments were served by Pam Ellington.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Lyle Patzer—October 10, 2016

Opened with devotion and prayer

Present: Gary St Aubin, Pastor Schreiner, Lyle Patzer, Craig Heil, Kevin Lee, Mark Patzer, Tom Werner, Tom Vanderwerf, John Festerling, Dan Herrmann, Todd Konietzko

Minutes of September 2016 council meeting were read, modified and approved

Pastors Report: Pioneers went to the apple orchard in October. CLYF will help out with the Reformation lecture and lunch. CLYF is looking to hook up with a couple of smaller churches and go to Camden. The "Christmas greenery" fundraiser is in progress. The CCCW (Care Committee for Called Workers) met and had good talks with the called workers and any concerns and ideas are being addressed. The council thanks the CCCW for their efforts. The nominating committee sent out 49 prospect letters. Twenty no's; 2 yes for council; 2 yes BPE. The committee will contact those who did not respond. The Reformation Rally is Sunday Oct 30th. Meal 4:30-5:30, presentation 5:30-6:30. We will give an \$50 annual amount to the RWF conference account. Continuing Education – Pastor will attend Reformation Lectures at Bethany LC Oct 27-28, \$20 registration fee + 2 nights at hotel, church will cover this. GPLHS Sunday is Oct 23rd. Pastor David Maertz will preach, there will be a door offering. Motion by Dan H second Craig H "give \$150 to GPLHS to defray expenses" - passed. Sunday New Year's Day discussion, it was decided to have regular Sunday services 8 and 10:30 on Sun Jan 1. It was noted that our new custodial service, C & C cleaning is doing a great job. Pastor will be attending a

leadership seminar Oct 14th at the Marshall High School. We will continue with Mr Guerts for snow removal at Samuel this winter.

Elders Report: Motion board second Lyle: Out by release per request Tiffany Meuelebroeck (Laura, Jakob), passed. Motion board second Mark P: Out by release Katie Hoflock passed. Motion board, second Craig H: Out by Transfer Jeremy Hoflock to Zion LC, Tracy, MN – ELS passed. Motion board second Mark P: In by Affirmation Adam and Kallie Bauman passed.

Financial Secretary: Report was presented.

Treasurer's report: Loan from savings is \$0. The mutual Fund gain ytd is \$7,440. Mission offering are at \$10,390 thru Sept. Budgeted offerings are up \$5092 vs py. The Tree of Life fund has \$1691 as of Sept 30. The Religion curriculum at Samuel was paid total was \$2,937. Bathroom remodel project expenses are \$8486 thru Sept 30. ECC is \$11,157 in the black fiscal 2016, it was noted that there was a “pre-payment” of \$9,300 included in this amount.

Stewardship: Committee will encourage endowment funding in the newsletter before end of the year.

Evangelism: We participated in the SMSU homecoming parade again this year. Consider giving something other than candy next year.

Education Report: We may organize and host a seminar or presentation on bullying and also ask for parent input on the topic. ECC attendance next year is projected to be down. We may face an “over staffing” issue. PTF has asked the school board to consider a “script” program. Kick it for cancer in RWF on Sept 30 raised \$3000 for the cancer fund. We have an extra scoreboard that was donated, hope to have it installed soon. Volleyball will be wrapping up in New Ulm this October.

Maintenance: Trees at church have been removed and others trimmed. Now discussing how large and what type of trees to replace them with. Will consult with and get bids from Rye's and Garvin Nursery.

Old Business: Newsletter council corner writer next month is Kevin Lee (Budget)

New Business: Auditing committee suggestions are Cecil Naatz, Dan Herrmann and Greg Lecy. The 1st draft of the 2017 Church budget was presented and discussed. There was early discussions on what to do with the Village Drive property, sell it or continue renting it.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 9:15 pm

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Submitted by David Biastock—October 4, 2016

Attendees: Neil and Gail Schultz, Darik Lyons, Pastor Schreiner, Charlie Hoflock, Craig Heil, Mr. John Festerling, and Dave Biastock.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Care Committee for Called Workers: Neil and Gail Schultz reviewed with the board the outcome of their meetings with our called works (Pastor and teachers). A written summary of concerns and suggestions was provided which will be used by the board to see if there are areas where changes can be made. It was also noted that we are fortunate to be blessed with dedicated and hardworking called workers. At the conclusion of their discussion, Neil and Gail excused themselves from the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections from the September 6 meeting.

Financial – Treasurer Reports: Darik reviewed financial activities for September along with current account balances. All outstanding balances from the summer childcare program have been paid. One family with outstanding tuition has begun making weekly payments.

Old Business: Early childhood - Pre-paid 5% discount – the board will revisit this policy at a future meeting prior to next spring's roundups. Budget was reviewed. Concern was raised with lower enrollment in the 3 year old program that it looks like we are losing money and will need to look at our staffing. Darik and Craig will meet with Mrs. Zander to further discuss. One lunch period free per month – Mr. Festerling asked if this was still something that we wanted to explore as this was a suggestion from the school image discussion. The board was in agreement to move forward and asked Mr. Festerling to put something together as to what is all needed to make this happen. MLC in-service – first in-service was held on September 16 from 2:30 to 5. Mr. Festerling reported that it was a good meeting with lots of interaction.

Lunch Report: Review of lunch program – will be occurring next spring. Initial conference called scheduled for March 20th and on-site review will take place April 20 and 21.

Pastor/Teacher Reports: CLYF – will be getting together with area youth from other congregations at Camden State Park on

October 16. Pioneers – will be going to Holmberg Orchard on October 9. PTF Leadership – it was suggested at the last PTF meeting that maybe one board member should serve in a leadership role as very few people who are attending the meetings are volunteering to take on a leadership roles. The board felt leadership roles should be filled by those who are attending the meetings rather than appointing a board member. Enough volunteers have now come forward to fulfill the leadership positions. Kick-It For Cancer – it was great day. Everyone enjoyed the bus ride which was something new that we tried. To top it all off our school raised over \$3000 for a very worthy cause! Script program – Craig will further discuss with Ms. Sarah Zander. Scoreboards – we will want to get the donated board installed prior to the start of the basketball season.

From the Board: Bullying program – Marshall Public Schools offers programs from time to time that our families could attend. We have resources internally that we can tap into. The teachers will try to emphasize it more over the coming weeks.

Next meeting – November 1 at 7:00 pm

Pastor closed the meeting with the Benediction.

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS AT CHRISTMAS

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Pastor Keith Schreiner (507) 828-3333

Worship Services

Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

(Memorial Day-Labor Day: Sunday: 9:00 AM, Monday: 7:00 PM)

(Advent & Lent: Wednesdays - 7:00 PM)

Holy Communion: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

Service Broadcast times

KMHL Radio Station at 8:00 AM on Sundays
VAST cable channel 17 and Charter cable channel 180
at 6:30 PM Tuesday and 12:30 PM Wednesday

Samuel Lutheran School

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Principal: Mr. John Festerling

Teachers: Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Nicole Kotecki
Mrs. Julie Festerling Mrs. Lois Zander

