

# SAINTS ALIVE!



## Newsletter

February 2009

[www.salemlutheran.com](http://www.salemlutheran.com)

**THEME FOR THE YEAR:** Always be prepared with an answer for the hope that is in you ... 1 Peter 3:15

### Notes from Dr. Gaertner

**During the first week of February, the third through eighth grades will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills**, the annual achievement test, and the Cogat, Cognitive Abilities Test, a test for aptitude. Isn't it a huge blessing that we do not spend countless hours and days "teaching to the test?" I have had many public school teachers affirm us about that. These tests do, however, have a very serious impact on how we go forward. Each student is evaluated as to his or her yearly progress and each class is evaluated as to particular skills of strength and weakness. After analysis, the teachers will discuss which skills to focus on for the next school year. A particular longitudinal (over the years) strength or weakness, could indicate a system change, such as in type of curriculum or particular instructional method. *So, to get the best results, we need the students at their best – lots of rest, a good breakfast, and 2, # 2 pencils. We do ask that you refrain from bringing your students late or removing them during the day for appointments due to the testing going on all week. These dates were reserved on the school calendar in August. Testing for grades one and two will be the last week of April.*

**Congratulations to our middle school students** for their success in the Academic Quest at Lutheran High North on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The following students medaled in their academic areas: Chase Cowart, Miller Ekas, Will Pankonien, Ryan Branson, Hunter Gatewood, Matthew Wanner, Seth Weinberg, Nicole Gibbs, and Lauren Doxey. We look forward to more academic competitions coming up very soon.

**Congratulations to our school Spelling Bee champion, Dalton Disney, and runner up, Caitlyn Olivares!** Dalton will represent our school in the Houston Chronicle Spelling Bee, on the road toward the national Bee.

**Our varsity boys and girls attend the state elementary school basketball tournament in Austin February 6-8.** We fully expect them to do well, based on their phenomenal success in the city league over this season. We will then set our sights on the national invitational tournament at

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“...Empowering a new generation of leaders for service to Christ.”

(Dr. Gaertner's Notes...from previous page)

Valparaiso University at the end of March. We will need to finish well at the state tournament to attend. We commend our student athletes, their coaches, and all of the parents who have supported and transported them throughout the season. Go, Saints! Thanks be to God for the blessing of the new gym for the eighth graders in their last season as Salem Saints!

**Valentine's Day** is on Saturday. We will, however, permit our very loving students to exchange valentines on the Friday before. We do not play up this day, but rather keep it to a minimum. Please look for information from the classroom teachers. We will permit students to wear red, white or pink. As always, modesty is in order – no sleeveless tops or straps, or ragged, low-wasted, baggy jeans. The same dress rules apply as for a non-uniform dress day. And if your child doesn't have red, white or pink, then regular Friday attire is always appropriate.

**Many thanks to all of you for your support of our post Ike Christmas Extravaganza.** We netted about \$67,000 and what's not included yet is the enormous success of our brisket sales! Those funds are very important to the general budget this year. **March 8** will be the date for the re-scheduled fun portion of our DFEST- we are calling it the Kidz Karnival. We will be part of the worship setting at 9 and 10:30 that Sunday morning, followed by the food, games, talent display, and more out on the pavilion and surrounding the soccer field from 11 am until 3 pm. Tickets for the food and games will begin approximately two weeks in advance of the event. We are purposely lowering the cost of the game tickets to accommodate families experiencing the economic downturn.

*A reminder to please pick up your re-enrollment packet in the school front office if you were not at the Parent Meeting. **Re-enrollment forms and payment are due February 27.** If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school office. Enrolment opens to those on the waiting list and the community in March.*

## Salem Band News

The Salem Band Members and Private Lesson Students are busy practicing and learning solos. Several students will be representing Salem and competing in the annual Bravo Solo and Ensemble contest on Saturday, February 7th at Seton Jr. High. Salem has been one of the top schools in the contest. Let's keep that reputation going!



Good Luck Salem Musicians! Bring home those ribbons and medals!

## Deutschesfest

### Brisket

### Sale



The Salem BBQ-ers are selling briskets as a way to help raise money for our school. Flyers are available at the school office. The deadline to submit your order has been extended to February 8, 2009, and the briskets will be delivered at the Kidz Karnival on March 8, 2009.

The cost for each brisket (approximate weight before cooking is 10-12 lbs) is \$55.00. If you want your brisket sliced, please add an additional \$10.00.

For more information, please contact 281-351-8122, ext 2239 or email [dfest@salem4u.com](mailto:dfest@salem4u.com).

## **FEBRUARY EVENTS**



Feb 2—ITBS Testing week  
for grades 3-8

Feb 4—Chapel (8:20 a.m.)

Feb 6—State Basketball Tournament in  
Austin, TX

Feb 11—Chapel (8:20 a.m.)

Feb 16—No School / Presidents Day

Feb 18—Chapel (8:20 a.m.)

Feb 19-21—Salem Varsity Basketball  
Classic Tourney

Feb 25—Chapel (8:20 a.m.); Early Dis-  
missal at 12:00 p.m.

All current sports calendar information is  
located on [www.salemlutheran.com](http://www.salemlutheran.com)

## **Spelling Bee Winners**

Congratulations to our school  
Spelling Bee champion, Dalton  
Disney, and runner up, Caitlyn  
Olivares! Dalton will represent Salem  
Lutheran School in the Houston Chronicle  
Spelling Bee, on the road toward the na-  
tional Bee.



## **Patriot's Pen Award**

Each year the students in Mrs.  
Graumann's writing electives are provided  
with the opportunity to write a Veterans'  
Day essay. This year, for the first time,  
she invited her students in both her writ-  
ing electives classes and her honors re-  
search class to enter their essay in the Pa-  
triot's Pen essay contest.

Hunter Gatewood from Salem Lutheran  
School earned a seventh place rating in  
the state, which brings with it a gift of a  
\$500 savings bond. Please join Salem Lu-  
theran School in congratulating Hunter!

## **Haiku Poetry**

*1st line—5 syllables  
2nd line—7 syllables  
3rd line—5 syllables*

- Grace Featherston:

Inauguration  
Barack Hussein Obama  
First black president

- Carson Campbell:

Salem Lutheran  
New Community Center  
We make learning fun.

- Jordan Noack:

Barack Obama  
Our forty-fourth president  
People's favorite

## Student Writing Achievements

It is very exciting to see Mrs. Graumann's talented writing students excel in the public arena.

- Hunter Gatewood—1st in district, 7th in state, Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, published in *The Tomball Potpourri*. Banquet was held in his honor on Saturday, January 24, 2009.
- Brooke Fick and Kelly Larson—published on the front page of the January 22, 2009 issue of *The Marion Record* newspaper, *America, Let's Get Back to Basics!*
- Nicole Gibbs—published in the January 29, 2009 issue to *The Tomball Potpourri*, *How Hurricane Ike Affected My Life*

Two of the essays mentioned above are included later in this newsletter. Please take the time to read them. You will be blessed by them.

Congratulations to these students for being disciples to others through the written word. We are very proud of your achievements!

## Valentines Day

On Friday, February 13, students may wear white, red or pink to school in celebration of Valentines Day. If you do not have white, red or pink, please wear regular Friday attire. Stay tuned for additional information from your classroom teachers.



## REMINDERS:



- Monday, February 16th is Presidents Day, and is a School Holiday.
- Early dismissal on February 25 at 12:00 p.m.
- Remember to print your March lunch calendar off of the school website, and turn it in to your homeroom teacher with payment by the specified deadline. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself!

## Academic Quest

Salem Lutheran middle school students participated in the Academic Quest held at Lutheran High North on January 28th. The following students medaled in their academic areas:

- Chase Cowart
- Miller Ekas
- Will Pankonien
- Ryan Branson
- Hunter Gatewood
- Matthew Wanner
- Seth Weinberg
- Nicole Gibbs
- Lauren Doxey

Congratulations to all of these fine students!

**SALEM LUTHERAN MINISTRIES PRESENTS.....**

**Chili Cook-off for the Jr. High and Senior High Youth fundraiser.**

**See flyer below for information. If you are interested in submitting your chili in the cook-off, we will be registering after each church service beginning February 1st, 8th, and 15th, as well as two days in the school lobby.**

**Please email Kathy Pruitt at [kathy.pruitt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathy.pruitt@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in participating!**

***Save the Date!***

Junior Hi Senior Hi

**Salem Youth  
Chili Cook-Off**

**Sunday, February 22,  
(after second church service)**

**Dust off your chili recipes, and  
get ready for fun,  
competition, and fellowship  
with your Salem Community!**

**More info to follow...**

***See y'all there!***



281.290.1214 or [dorrigo@salem4u.com](mailto:dorrigo@salem4u.com)

## AMERICA, LET'S GET BACK TO THE BASICS!

By Brooke Fick and Kelly Larson

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” This quote from Abraham Lincoln is a powerful warning that we, as Americans, must remain strong in our Lord and heed the commands that He laid out for us in His Word. As a new era approaches in our American history with the election of a new president, it is imperative that we reflect back on the Christian principles that are the foundation upon which our nation was built.

What are those Christian principles upon which our forefathers established a new nation? The founding fathers of America were men of deep religious convictions based upon the Holy Scriptures and their faith in Jesus Christ. The fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence made known through their writings the strong moral and spiritual convictions that motivated their actions. George Washington, our nation's first president, stated in *The Writings of Washington*, pp. 342-343, “*To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.*”

John Adams, our nation's second president and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote on page nine, volume III of his diary and autobiography:

*“Suppose a nation in some distant Region should take the Bible for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God ... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise this region be.”*

John Adams further wrote in a letter to Thomas Jefferson on June 28, 1813:

*“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”*

Thomas Jefferson, our third president of the United States and the drafter and signer of the Declaration of Independence, captured in his writings the essence of Deuteronomy 8:19: “If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.” Thomas Jefferson penned these similar, very poignant, words in the notes of the State of Virginia Query XVIII on page 237:

*“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever; That a revolution of the wheel of fortune, a change of situation, is among possible events; that it may become probable by Supernatural influence! The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in that event.”*

May we forever be a nation whose God is the Lord, a nation whose laws are in agreement with the laws set forth in Holy Scripture, and whose people strive to live their lives in obedience to the decrees established in the Word of God.

America, it is time to get back to basics!

## **Losing what is Important to You Makes You Realize...**

### **Looking Back on Hurricane Ike**

By Nicole Gibbs

This world takes so many things for granted. I know, because I am guilty of this myself. As I reflect upon the past year 2008, I am aware of the many ways this year that Hurricane Ike changed my life. Now, to others in our community, Hurricane Ike may not have had that much of an impact upon their life, but to my family it certainly did. After the winds of Hurricane Ike blew through, my house was left with three heavy trees strewn on top of it. One was a gigantic tree that went through my sister's bedroom. We were forced to move out of our home for about three months. It is not that bad. Now, when I look back at the years *before* the hurricane and how much I took for granted, especially my house, it makes me think about all the good things in my life. I have so much, and some people have much less than I. People have to work for what they get; yet, all I need to do is ask my parents. Whenever I complained before, I didn't think about other people; I only thought of myself. I didn't care that it would affect other people, but now I take it more seriously. I don't even want to go back to my old house until it is done, because every time I do, I think of *before*. I want to go back to my house...the one *before* the hurricane...so much. As G.K. Chesterton said, "When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them for gratitude." I learned through Hurricane Ike not to take things for granted, because they can disappear in a second.

This past Thanksgiving, I thought of all the things for which I am thankful: I am thankful for my family and friends; I am thankful for my school and teachers; I am thankful for my house. Most of all, I am thankful for God, because, without Him, I would have nothing. Some people have it much worse than me, but yet I still complain. Even though the hurricane was hard for my family; I can be thankful for it, because it brought me closer to my family and God. The hurricane also helped me not to take things for granted. Matthew 6:34 has taken on new meaning for me since the hurricane: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." I am trusting God, and I look forward to the day my family and I will return to our home. I will enter my home with a heart of gratitude and a new appreciation of the gifts I have each day. God has truly showed to me the truth of His Word in Romans 8:28, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."