



Shepherd of the Hills

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Believe, Belong, Become

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

May 22, 2020

It is with both sadness and fondness that I compose my last "Principal's Newsletter." It has truly been an honor to serve the students, faculty and families of Shepherd of the Hills Christian School. I remember taking my turn with the "golden shovel" some 35 years ago when we broke ground for a Christian School...the only Christian school in our area. At that time, our pastor, Henry Fingerlin, and first principal, John Senechal, had a vision to provide an education for any and all students who wanted a Christian education. Since that time, we have educated over 6,000 students.

Without question, it has been a year of deep sadness and disappointment with the announcement of the closing of Shepherd...with COVID-19 another blow. However, it has also been a year of laughter, accomplishments, friendships and learning. I choose to spend my time and energy remembering the good; I pray you all will too.

As a therapist by education, not a principal, I am convinced that God uses the pains and struggles of life as opportunities for us. We may or may not seize these pains and struggles as gifts; yet they are. Many of us tend to think it is somehow God's job to make and keep us healthy, wealthy and happy. These are our priorities. God's priorities are to forgive us, transform us and send us. My prayer for all our students, parents and faculty is that we would seize this year of pains and struggles as opportunities while we savor and remember the great good of this past year.

Great good number one: God has **forgiven us** in His great love by the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ so that we might have a life changing relationship with Him. By Holy Spirit inspired and maintained faith, we have the full measure of His forgiveness now! That fact alone should change the way we all live.

Great good number two: God wants and is ready to **transform us** into the image of His Son, Jesus. In His great love, He is not content to allow us to remain static in our faith-walk with Him. He uses the pains and struggles of life to transform us, making us ever more dependent on Him. One does not grow into the image of Christ by having life go well. In the scheme of life, I know our students will have the opportunity to be stronger because of this year.

Great good number three: God forgives us and transforms us so that we might be **sent out** into the world to proclaim the Good News through word and deed while doing acts of love and mercy in His name. Our students understand the honor and seriousness of being witnesses. This year has had the opportunity to equip them in ways they would not have had if the year had gone smoothly.

Forgive us, transform us and send us. These are God's priorities for us. He will not force us to seize these opportunities, but He holds them out to all of us. Few events are emotionally harder for parents than to watch their children suffer. Many of you have watched your children suffer this year from disappointments and social isolation and future fears. Our children will look to us to see how we handle the pains and struggles of life. May we present a good example.

Anything that stands in the way of our faith in God, He will remove. Whatever is left, He will hold out as opportunities for us to grow. I choose to savor the good, and there is much good. Wherever your children go to school next year, I pray they will find friends, do well academically and stay close to the Savior.

Mr. Jack

Thank you for choosing Shepherd!

A Ministry of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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