



The mission of Gethsemane Lutheran School is to partner with families to provide a Christian education where academic excellence and faith formation walk hand in hand. We celebrate all students as children of God, nurturing their development in mind, body and spirit to equip them as servants of Christ in the world.

Annual State of the School Report— May 2020

Significant Changes

I. Overview

This year Gethsemane Lutheran School celebrates its 75 year of excellence in Maplewood, Minnesota! We ordered anniversary tee-shirts that students and staff could wear on Fridays to school instead of our normal uniform. We thank God for His goodness over these past 75 years and pray for His guidance over the next.

Gethsemane Lutheran School staff have continued to make progress on our five year improvement plan that was created as a part of our accreditation through MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic Accreditation Association.) Some of the major progress from this plan that has already take place are listed here. (Please see a full copy of our updated school strategic plan at our website geth.org) Teachers have continued to make connections between curriculum being taught and state standards. Our standardized testing was not completed this year due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We have decided to keep testing with the IOWA test as we move into the future. The main reason is that it tests more subject areas than just Language Arts and Math. The school principal finished his Master's program in Educational Leadership this school year as well.

Our technology teacher is continuing to work on updating our curriculum and the administration is finding ways to increase our technology budget. Our middle school teachers won a \$7500 grant to help create a makerspace for our school from MISF. This grant application was one of many we wrote to help improve our technology. During the Covid-19 outbreak we also won a \$1500 grant to purchase Chromebooks for our students to use from home.

I had a school mom email me the following, "I want to thank you ALL for your generous love and support during the whole past month. My family was blessed to celebrate the wedding of my daughter and the almost instant death of my mother. I was able to be fully in the moment with and for both of these special women. For that I am thankful. Thank you for giving me the permission to let go of my responsibilities at Gethsemane so I could! I truly felt your supportive presence. Thank you for the beautiful flower

arrangement sent for my mother's funeral. I was so proud to explain to my family and friends who Gethsemane was. The Gethsemane family is special. You are what your mission states "nurturing of body, mind, and spirit" for those who enter those doors. I thank God for all of you and I feel humbled to be working alongside all of you. You have made a difference in my life and all of our school families."

The following quote is from an alumni parent, "We just got done with our conferences at Tartan for our Son. The teachers there absolutely love him. How he respects the teachers and other students, how hard he works, how he studies, takes notes, and how engaged he is. I told my wife all those things he does at Tartan have been taught and reinforced at Gethsemane. Gethsemane is a pretty special place. Be sure to thank all your staff.

As a staff we take great pride in knowing all of our students and their families. These emails are a great example of the type of comments I hear from parents all the time. This makes me smile and be proud of the environment we have created as a staff. We continue to work on ways to build the sense of family that is evident when you walk into the building. The administration takes pride in connecting with all families and is available to discuss any issue. The assistant principal and principal made it a priority in the fall of the year to greet students and parents outside as they arrived at school. We continued to have teachers greet students by the front entry way daily.

We have continued to have a strong focus on our mission statement this year. We try to make our decisions on whether or not something helps guide us toward our mission. It has been added to the top of our weekly agenda for staff as well as our school board monthly agenda.

During the 2019-2020 school year K-8 enrollment was at 105 students which was a slight increase from 100 students the previous year. Gethsemane's Early Learning Center enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year was 57 students which is a little less than the previous year. We had more all day everyday students in preschool than in years past. Both of these numbers were a blessing from our Lord.

This year Gethsemane was forced to have a combined third and fourth grade classroom due to low numbers in our third grade class. In order to maintain a separate time for each class to have reading and writing we hired a teacher to work for the mornings to teach math and language arts separately.

We continued to have a mandatory parent meeting in the fall. Here we discussed expectations, monthly virtues, classroom parents, and volunteer opportunities. We suggested that each family donate 10 hours of volunteer time to the school. This was not tracked but some parents took this to heart. Classroom parents are people who try to organize activities for families outside of school hours. Some activities that took place because of this were: snow tubing, going out to dinner (just adults), swimming, movie nights, roller skating, and more.

We have stuck with our decision to have a monthly virtue to focus our attention on each month. This year our virtues were encourage, show humility, mercy, helpfulness, serve, love, speak kindly, courage, and grow. Each theme had a bible verse and was the focus of our chapel services for the month. We also had activities for teachers and parents to complete with the students based on these virtues.

This school year went very smooth. Many parents and students were involved in all of our community events. Our PTO worked very hard to prepare for and then postpone our annual gala. We are still planning to host it at Gethsemane this coming summer and have already sold over 200 tickets. In the fall of 2019 we had another great event in our non-public school marathon.

Our student council was quite involved this year. Our student council continued to fund a program for recycling milk cartons from our lunch program. Students took their roles very seriously and met often to be an effective voice of the middle school.

The school was advised by an excellent school board, which shared many ideas and had great enthusiasm. The school board continued to review school policy and make adaptations as needed.

Our annual Gethsemane School Sunday program was canceled this year due to the Covid-19 virus.

Our 8th grade class trip to Chicago has been postponed until midsummer. We also have delayed our 8th grade graduation of these 6 students from Gethsemane. As we think about our graduates, we look back on all the blessings our God has bestowed upon our school. We thank Him for making Gethsemane a place where each child is loved and has the opportunity to learn about Him daily.

At Gethsemane this year we did some restructuring that placed the preschool staff below our principal in the organization chart. Previously the Senior Pastor was in charge of our preschool staff. As a part of this restructure the leaders of their areas have weekly meetings with their staff. Then the core leadership team meets on a weekly basis to keep everything connected. The president of our congregation has also started coming to our school board and PTO meetings on occasion.

We also hired a part time development director to help increase third source funding. This year we ran a campaign to update the lighting in our building so that all of our fixtures are now LED and much more efficient. We are in the process of completing a recycling grant that would give us money to rebuild our dumpster area and improve our ability to recycle more goods.

This year we found even more ways for our pastor to be connected with our students and families. Pastor Elizabeth leads chapels once a month for our k-8 students and weekly for our preschoolers. She also teaches middle school religion classes twice a week and weekly leads an activity for our k-4 students.

Our goals for improvement that are scheduled for next school year are: deciding how to use our assessment data to better drive our instruction, developing a plan to support our advanced learners, developing a school wide development plan, implementing findings from school safety report, looking for ways to welcome new families, constitution review, and communicate our new school wide wellness plan.

II. Staff

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year we had to hire for a new second grade teacher. We were able to fill this position in late June with an outstanding teacher named Ashley Dawson. She is a first year teacher but is very gifted!

We continued to make an effort to better connect our preschool and kindergarten students. They had joint station days once a month and had many parents volunteer to help with this process. This is one factor that has led to a larger kindergarten class for the upcoming school year. We are very excited about this connection.

The preschool director, Chris Jorissen, did an excellent job with the preschool. The preschool passed its MN State License renewal in the fall. Chris continued to work with district 622 providing services to children with special needs. The district purchased ten of our spots for these children. The preschool teachers are always planning and implementing new themes and curriculum. They had a very successful VIP day and Christmas program. Unfortunately the spring programs were canceled. All programs were written and planned by the preschool teachers! Our families thoroughly enjoy the preschool program and all they have to offer. Preschool continues to join us at chapel one time per month this school year.

There were classroom visits this year by the assistant principal and principal. The classroom observations and evaluations were completed by the principal. The staff met Mondays for staff meetings.

2019-2020 school staff:

Kindergarten – Kirsten Head

First Grade – Cassidy Hauschild

Second Grade – Ashley Dawson

Third Grade – Kari Popko

Fourth Grade – Rebekah Moran

Middle School Science and Minnesota History – Cheri Stockinger

Middle School Language Arts and Elementary Fine Arts – Liz Compton

Middle School Math, American History and Assistant Principal – Bob Waedekin

K-8 Physical Education, k-5 Computers, – Mary Wegleitner

K-8 Choir and Music Theory – Dawn Marxhausen.

Band – Bruce Felt

Preschool Director and teacher – Chris Jorissen

Preschool Teacher and assistant director – Tammy Root

Preschool Teacher and assistant director – Susan Boll

Preschool Teacher – Theresa Dupont

Preschool Teacher – Samantha Aswell
Preschool Teacher – Krystal Buttner
Preschool Teacher and Kitchen Staff - Patti Hagerman
Kitchen Supervisor – Jen Linck
Kitchen Staff – Anna Huebner
Duane Schmitz - Technology Director
Head Custodian - Randy Travers
Administrative Assistant –Molly Templin
Principal – Scott Revoir
Senior Pastor – Pastor Elizabeth Wilder

III. Curriculum

During the 2019-2020 school year we reviewed our Religion curriculum and decided to continue using our current series.

Teachers continue to teach our social development and anti-bullying curriculum through Second Step. Teachers incorporated this into their school day with their students.

After school soccer (Soccer Shots) and Art (Young Rembrandts) classes were available again for students as well as a new STEAM class run by Young Engineers.

Teachers continued to use their “Students will be able to...” whiteboards. These were used in the classrooms to display the education standards that are currently being taught. This has been a great step for our teachers to focus more intently on meeting the standards.

IV. IOWA test of basic skills results

There are no scores for the Iowa Tests for the 2019-20 school year due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

V. Governance

Our school board worked diligently with the administration. Both administrators attended the meetings. Mr. Waedekin (our assistant principal) joins the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), in their monthly meetings.

School board voted to keep tuition costs at the same rate for the 2020-2021 school year. Our school board and PTO hosted our fifth annual spaghetti dinner and raised \$4000 to go towards some much needed computers.

The board had a small turnover of people whose terms were up. We currently have eight parents that attend the meetings. This group is a mix of parents who are members of our church, as well of members of other churches. We also have a teacher representatives, our Senior Pastor, business administrator, principal, and assistant principal who complete the board at large. It is our hope that God will bless

Gethsemane as we continue to challenge and celebrate students academically, spiritually and physically.

Our Parent Teacher Organization is outstanding as well. They planned many exciting events such as our non-public school marathon, skate night, and our 7th annual gala. Our PTO is very instrumental in school building improvements, teacher appreciation, social gatherings, and supplemental support of all programs in the building. They again tithed from the PTO budget to the overall budget of the faith community. They also contributed too many smaller projects throughout the course of the year. Bob Waedekin (our assistant principal) and Mary Wegleitner (our physical education teacher) serve as our representatives on this committee.

VI. Financials

This chart is the actuals compared to the budget that was passed in the fall of 2019.

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School
Statement of Activities - School K-8 (200)
For the 9 Months Ended April 30, 2020**

9 months= 75%

	Month Ending 4/30/2020			Year To Date 4/30/2020			Year Ending 07/31/2020	% of Annual Budget	Period Ended 04/30/2019
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget		Actual
Revenues									
Church Revenue	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -			\$ -
School Revenue	42,663	47,074	(4,411)	404,634	402,000	2,634	486,135	83%	393,497
Interest Income	-		-	-		-			-
Total Revenues	42,663	47,074	(4,411)	404,634	402,000	2,634	486,135	83%	393,497
Expenses									
Salaries and Wages	30,562	29,407	1,156	264,845	264,659	187	352,878	75%	268,416
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	4,470	4,028	442	41,403	35,958	5,445	47,101	88%	44,789
Church Program Expenses	-		-	-		-			-
Professional Fees	-		-	19		19			300
Building Related Expenses	-		-	-		-			-
Marketing	-	42	(42)	228	375	(147)	500	46%	2,506
Insurance	-		-	-		-			-
Office Related Expenses	-		-	161		161			776
School Program Expenses	1,395	1,812	(417)	28,189	25,007	3,182	33,100	85%	21,682
Interest Expense	-		-	-		-			-
Bad Debt Expense	-		-	-		-	3,000		-
Total Expenses	36,427	35,288	1,139	334,845	325,999	8,847	436,579	77%	338,469
Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 6,236	\$ 11,786	\$ (5,550)	\$ 69,789	\$ 76,002	\$ (6,213)	\$ 49,556		\$ 55,028

No assurance is provided on these financial statements and supplemental information. See selected information.

This chart shows that the school revenue is just under \$6000 short of the budget through the end of April. You will also notice that this means we are contributing a “profit” of nearly \$70,000 towards the general budget of the Gethsemane community. This number last year was much closer to \$33,000 to help with general administrative costs of the building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Revoir
Principal