

Once again this year, at our Trinity Lutheran Elementary School, we shall be teaching reading and writing, arithmetic and history, music and science, art and physical education. There is nothing unique about that. Most elementary schools teach those things. What makes Trinity Lutheran Elementary School special is that all these subjects are taught in the light of God's Word—and that changes everything. As an example, let's look at our world.

The universe is a huge, complex, marvelously well-ordered place. Since it exists, you have to explain where it came from.

One possible explanation for how something got here is that *it was self-created*. It came from itself. This is basically the theory of evolution, which is taught as a fact in our public schools, our public museums, and on TV. But that theory doesn't follow logically and it is not good science. Let me show you why.

Let's start with one of these (Pepsi can). Have you ever wondered how this got to be the way it is? Where it came from, or how it was formed? Let me tell you about it. Millions of years ago, an incredible big bang came out of nothing and nowhere, and sent a massive rock spinning through space. As it cooled, a brown, sweet, bubbly liquid formed on its surface. As time passed, aluminum crept out of the water and shaped itself into just these dimensions...which just happened to be the right shape and size for a human hand, which would develop a few million years later.

Over time, this thing formed itself a one-time retractable lid, then a crease started to appear a bit off center on the top of the lid, and out of it grew a pull-tab.

Centuries later, red, white, and blue paint fell from the sky and clung to this thing, forming the letters P-e-p-s-i on its surface. Obviously, these five letters have a deeper meaning to them, because you see them everywhere. The really cool part is that the primordial force that generated this pattern even thought to put a little trademark symbol next to it.

Question: Have I convinced you that this is how the Pepsi can came into existence...that this can happened by chance? What are the odds that something this complex and this coincidentally useful and comfortable and attractive came about as a result of a random collision of molecules? It's too carefully designed to be chance or coincidence, wouldn't you agree? And this is just a Pepsi can. If you won't believe the simple Pepsi can happened by chance, why would you believe that this world, this universe, or that YOU came about by chance?

Of course, you would not believe such a silly thing. God has graciously given us his Word that tells us how the universe and we came into being. We read in the very first verse of the Bible: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)**. Because we know that God created the universe and us we look at everything differently. All of our subjects in school take on a new reality—reading and writing, arithmetic and history, music and science, art and physical education. The purpose of our education, the purpose of our earthly lives, is to bring glory to our God who created us, saved us from our sins, and worked saving faith in our hearts. To help us remember this, our theme for this school year is: **"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:4a)**. God bless our school year! Amen.