

TEXT: Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” NIV

Dear Teachers, Parents, Students, and Friends of Trinity Lutheran Elementary School:

What are your plans for this school year? Maybe as a teacher, you plan to always be prepared for every class and to never get behind on your correcting. Maybe as a parent you plan to make sure your child is at school on time each day and that every night you will make sure to check on your child’s homework. Maybe as a student you plan to make the honor roll all four quarters this year. Maybe you plan to win the perfect attendance award. Maybe you plan to rack up the most AR points ever. Maybe you plan to get all of your assignments in on time and never have your name on the board. Maybe you plan to sing God’s praises in Junior Choir or to play your best in soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Maybe you plan to have a great role in the school play this year.

All of those are great plans and if those are your plans, I hope that you are able to fulfill them. But we all know how many of our plans go, don’t we? We might be able to carry out such plans for a week or two, maybe even the first six weeks of school, but then something comes up. Homework gets forgotten. TV or video games are more compelling than that AR book. You catch the flu, have to stay home, and get behind in your assignments. You sprain your ankle and can’t play sports. There go your plans out the window.

Because of sin, we are weak and cannot always carry out our good plans. Because of sin, sometimes we just don’t want to do what is good. So much for our good plans.

But as our God declares in our text, the theme chosen for this school year at Trinity Lutheran Elementary School, he

has plans for you and me—good plans to prosper us, to give us hope and a future.

His plans do not change because of sin or weakness. Our God is perfectly holy and almighty. His plans for you and me began even before we were born. When Adam and Eve sinned and ruined the perfect world God had created, we heard in Genesis, chapter 3, how God planned to send a Savior to defeat the devil and restore our friendship with him. We know how God sent his Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life for us, to die the death we deserved, and to rise from the dead to assure us that our sins are forgiven, we are right with God, and will live with him forever in heaven. That was the best plan ever, and God carried it out.

God has made each one of us prosper—and it doesn’t matter one bit how much or how little money you have in your pocket. You are prosperous because you owe no debt of sin. Your sin is all paid for. You can’t get richer than that.

God has given each one of us hope. You can get up each day—even every school day—and know that your loving heavenly Father is in control and that nothing is going to happen to you that day that God won’t make turn out for your good. That gives teachers, parents, students, and pastors the confidence to face each day with hope and a smile.

God has given each of us a future—a future that is better than anything we can even begin to imagine on this sinful earth. We are promised a future with our Savior-God in heaven where everything is perfect, where every test score is a 100%, A+, where happiness is perfect with no pain or sadness.

And God has a plan for each of us on this earth, a plan that will use us for his purposes and bring us safely to him. Part of that plan is for you to learn more about him and his wonderful world through your studies at Trinity Lutheran Elementary School. So let’s get started. Amen.