

FILS students participate in Patriot's Pen contest

*Five students
recognized by
Cedarburg-Grafton
VFW*

CEDARBURG — First Immanuel Lutheran School made an excellent showing in the Cedarburg-Grafton Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

Of the top 10 essays recognized by the Cedarburg-Grafton VFW Post, five were written by First Immanuel students — eighth-graders Anna Pahl, Bella Zellmer and Sadie Leonhardt; seventh-grader Lilly Rutkowski; and sixth-grader Ellery Nelson.

VFW Post 10171 Cmdr. Jerry Smith presented each of these students with their awards at a school chapel service Jan. 22. All five finalists received a cash prize; Leonhardt who placed second, received a \$50 check and each of the other students received a \$25 check.

All essays were based on the 2015-16 theme "What Freedom Means to Me." Grace Bertram, the FILS middle school teacher who coordinates the students' participation in the essays, said, "This year's topic was especially special because it allowed the students to express their understanding of the importance of freedom." Bertram further said, "The Patriot's Pen essay is a fantastic way for students to not only practice writing, but also show their love for their country. In class we discussed important events in history that led up to us receiving our freedom and how men and women fight to protect our freedom every day. I hope the students were impacted by the topic as much as I was. I am so honored to teach such amazing and patriotic students!"

The VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest provides sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards are given at the local, district and state levels. Each year, more than 100,000 students in grades six through eight enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The first-place winner from each state competes to win one of 46 national awards and the opportunity to compete for first place nationally.



Photo submitted

Winners of the VFW's Patriot's Pen Essay Contest from First Immanuel Lutheran School in Cedarburg are pictured with Cedarburg-Grafton VFW Post 10171 Cmdr. Jerry Smith.