

My name is Julie Titus and I teach kindergarten at St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School.

I was born in Cresco, Iowa where I went to St Joseph's Elementary School and Notre Dame High School. I graduated with 34 of the 75 students I started with in the first grade.

I have a BA degree in Elementary Education from the University of Northern Iowa. Also, I have a Special Education endorsement from Black Hills State University. I was a Special Education teacher for nine years at Black Hills Special Services in Sturgis South Dakota. Before that, I taught preschool for six years at Spearfish Coopertive Preschool.

I am married and have two sons. David is a senior and will graduate in June. Erik is a sophomore in high school. I enjoy gardening, camping and watching sports that my boys participate in.

In 2000 my husband job changed jobs and we moved to Baxter. I started volunteering at St. Francis in Dec. and worked as a kindergarten assistant. I started teaching kindergarten in Nov. 2002-2003. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year here at St. Francis.

Teaching kindergarten is like Christmas to me. I can't wait to open my gifts to see what is inside. We learn so much in kindergarten and it is fun to experience the growth of the children over the school year.

I feel very blessed to be teaching at St. Francis. The staff is very supportive and fun to work with. It's my home away from home.