



Educate.
Equip.
Encourage.

The Timber Times
December 20th, 2023

School News

Advent Church Service

Advent service after school today—please join us!

Merch Update

All merch was given to the oldest child in your family's teacher, so if you purchased any apparel, please see your child's teacher. Double check that all items match your order. If there are any issues, please speak with Kayla Biebert (715)402-0114.

Mission Offering

Please keep in mind that our second quarter goal is \$250! As of last week, we have given \$59.45. Please continue to encourage your children to give their offerings each week. Thank you for your generous giving!

Christmas Eve and Day Worship

Please see the attached business card for worship times this Christmas. We would love for you to join us in celebrating the Newborn King this season! These special services are held near and dear to so many, and we would love to share the joy with you!

Christmas Break

Christmas Break starts today after school! We pray this break is a blessing to you and your family, and that you return healthy and well-rested! Joy to the world—the Lord is come!

Hot Lunch 1/5/23

DC kids are planning their next hot lunch for the Friday we return from school. Food served is pizza! \$5/meal. Please look through your child's backpack and return the form to your child's teacher when you get

back from break on January 3rd!

The Princess and the Gamer

Reagan Billiau—8th grader at St. Matthew—recently published her very own book, titled *The Princess and the Gamer!* Reagan has worked incredibly hard to make this dream a reality for her, and we are excited to share with you! If you are looking for a good read for your child, please check her book out here, and make sure to congratulate Reagan if you see her!



Lost and Found LAST CALL!

LAST CALL — Is your child missing: gloves, hats, sweatshirts, coats, spoons, sunglasses? If they are please check out our lost and found in the hallway between Miss Taasaas and Mrs. Most because we have all of that and MORE!

All items will be donated over Christmas Break, so please double check to make sure your child didn't accidentally

leave snow pants or other winter gear here!

Violin Teacher

The St. Matthew Music program is looking to hire a violin teacher. This is a very part time position: 3 hours per week during the school day. If you are interested, know someone who may be interested, or want additional information please reach out to Holly Roberg 509-991-7411.

CHRISTMAS BREAK STARTS TODAY!!!

Classroom News

Preschool News

Mrs. Donna Driesbach (509.638.5361)

Kindergarten News

Miss Rachel Taasaas (360.271.5201)

1st Grade News

Mrs. Kelly West (509.362.4916)

2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

3rd Grade News

Miss Avery Broyles (208.995.3465)

4th Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

5th-6th Grade News

Mr. Glenn Metzger (734.788.4637)

7th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)



Joy

Why is the third candle pink? That is probably the most asked question about the tradition of the Advent wreath. The story is a bit complicated, so we will focus only on the basics of these devotionally symbolic colors.

In recent decades, blue, a symbol of hope, has become a more common color for Advent. Purple previously was, and in many churches still is, Advent's predominant color. Repentance, traditionally symbolized by purple, is one of Advent's several themes. Think of John the Baptist's repentance message heard in worship on the second Sunday of the season: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2).

On the Third Sunday in Advent, several of the Bible readings and commonly sung hymns exude a joyful tone. Repentance-purple doesn't seem like the right color. The color pink, a symbol of joy, captures the joyful expectation or anticipation proclaimed on the third Sunday of this season.

Sometimes anticipation makes us impatient. Sometimes it makes us anxious. But anticipation also can bring us joy. That's not hard to imagine when Christmas is just a handful of days away. Think of a child's excitement as Mom and Dad help their son or daughter count down the days until Christmas on their family wall calendar. Think of the joy children have decorating the tree with family, trying to guess

what's in the presents that begin to appear under it, wondering if their most hoped-for gift will be inside one of those colorfully wrapped boxes.

How much greater joy is there in the hearts of believers who know, with childlike faith, that the greatest Christmas gift they could ever receive will be unwrapped in a matter of days! What joy to know that our sins will soon be taken up by the holy and innocent Christ Child! What joy to know that our rescue from guilt and the grave is coming not in a beautifully wrapped box but in a miraculously sent child named Jesus! What joy to know that our greatest need will be satisfied by the greatest gift God could give to humankind: his own dear Son from eternity, who became one of us and one with us in time.

The anticipation of these days before Christmas brings joy to children of God of all ages! Rejoice that a Savior came for you once and will come for you again!

Prayer:

Gracious God, in this world of sin and sorrow, you give us joy in Jesus and his coming into our world. Amid the anxieties of this busy time, lead us to rejoice continually that your Son became one of us to redeem us and bring us everlasting joy. Amen.

Want more daily devotions?

I get them here!



Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Psalm 98:1-6