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The Timber Times
December 12th, 2024

School News

Christmas Practice Reminder

Last practice is tomorrow at 1:30PM. If you are driving for that, please arrive around 1:25PM. Remember to pick your child up at the Naz Gym. Thank you to everyone who has graciously transported many all our students up and down Country Homes Blvd over the last couple of weeks! It's a lot of work and coordination, but the practicing is well worth it! Which — speaking of practicing...

Christmas Program

Tomorrow is our annual Christmas service! Please invite all family and friends to come for this service at 5:30PM. Not only is it a chance to show off how darling your kiddos are; most importantly, it is an AMAZING opportunity to see your child's faith in action. Each year I am brought to tears listening to these children share God's love so boldly and eloquently. It is truly special, and I hope this service is just one of many reminders as to why you make the sacrifices you do so your children can have a Christ-centered education. Each and every day your children are reminded of God's great love for them here at school, and moreover, they are prepared to share that love with others!!! We look forward to seeing you there tomorrow evening!

When to Arrive — Christmas Service

Please have your child to the Naz Gym no later than 5:15PM tomorrow evening. Give yourself plenty of time to make sure your child uses the restroom. Thank you!

Also, if your child is playing pre-service music, Miss Holly will send you a message regarding any earlier time arrival. Thanks for your help with this!

Basketball

The game schedule for both teams is almost finalized. Miss Rosenbaum hopes to have the schedule out by next week. Thanks for your patience. Also make sure your child is not leaving any of their belongings after practice. Please make sure to continue to communicate with Miss Rosenbaum if your child is in need of a ride to prac-

tices.

Christmas Parties

Next Friday, December 20th is the last day of school before Christmas Break! Please check with your child's teacher to see if there is anything special that needs to be brought for your child's Christmas parties.

Additionally, pizza will be served for lunch! Mrs. Laete and Mr. Biebert will be picking it up and delivering it to each classroom, and GF pizza from Cole's will also be ordered for those who need it. Please bring a lunch only if your child does not want pizza!

DC Fundraiser — Cards for a Cause

Deadline to order is tomorrow, December 13th. The DC kids will be taking orders after the Christmas program tomorrow! Get your box before it's too late!

DC parents: please make sure all order forms AND money are turned in to Lara Ramsay tomorrow morning to ensure timely delivery for ordered cards. Thank you!

Advent Worship

We have one more Advent worship at 3:45PM next Wednesday, 12/18. This is a perfect opportunity to refocus on Jesus during the holiday season, and it's conveniently right after school on Wednesdays! We look forward to having many of you join us. We also have a soup supper directly after the service — YUM!

Junior Choir National Anthem

The Junior Choir will be singing the National Anthem for the Chiefs hockey game on January 20th. It will be here before we know it! Order tickets [here](#) or by using the QR code on the flyer on the next page to support the kids and come watch the Chiefs!

Food Drive

Our church does a food drive every year between Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you would like to donate items, please drop any pantry items off with your child's teacher or here in the office. Thank you so much!

Upcoming Dates

December

- 13 Children's Christmas Service 5:30PM
- 17 NO Basketball Practice
- 17 Piano Recital 5:30PM
- 18 Advent Worship 3:45PM — Potluck to Follow
- 19 Basketball Practice — A Team (4:00-5:30) / B Team (4:00-5:10)
- 20 Last Day Before Break! Christmas Parties K-8
- 12/23-1/3 Christmas Break

January

6 Classes Resume

Last Call Update

Mrs. Most has returned the call to serve in Wisconsin. We thank God for your continued service here at St. Matthew, Mrs. Most!!

Holiday Recipes

Last call — email, text, screenshot, whatever works! Just send us those yummy holiday recipes! Deadline is tomorrow! Thanks for participating!

I will send out the recipes next week!

Get merch by clicking [here](#) or use the code! Start the new year off with new swag!



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

HOCKEY NIGHT WITH THE SPOKANE CHIEFS!

Friday January 24, 2025 vs
Medicine Hat Tigers

St. Matthew's Junior Choir will
be singing the national anthem!

TICKET INFO

Special Group Rate For
St. Matthew Lutheran Church

[CLICK HERE](#) or scan QR
code below for tickets.

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE: 01/20/2025



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Classroom News

Preschool News

Mrs. Donna Driesbach (509.638.5361)

What a beautiful week this has been!! A few Christmas Program practices, lots of Christmas activities . . . and SO much fun!!

We are continuing our celebration of our Christmas Theme in preschool!! Our easel painted trees have been decorated with some ornaments and a star!! They are now hanging in our classroom!! It's looking a lot like Christmas in our Preschool!! Come and check them out!!

There is a fun new book in our Listening Center, Grumpy Badger's Christmas. Why is Badger grumpy and does Badger stay grumpy all through Christmas?? The preschoolers get to listen to this great story and find out what happens!! We still have our life-size felt Christmas tree in our Drama Center that the children can decorate with felt ornaments. This is SO much fun to decorate and redecorate!!

We also had a great time watercoloring a picture of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. The children were able to build a stable for the happy family, too . . . and of course, they included a star in the sky!! What a great picture to add to our Memory Books!!

Our Preschool Bookstore is still open for you to purchase a book for our book exchange that happens next week at our party!! Come and check that out, also!! Please purchase a book and take it home. Please wrap it WITHOUT a to/from tag on it and bring it back to school. We will exchange them during our party on the 19th and 20th while playing a game of Hot Potato!!! It will be a great and fun game for ALL!!

There is a sign up sheet for our upcoming Christmas party that takes place on the 19th and 20th. We sure would love your help in providing a special item to make our party fantastic!!! Thank you!!

This week, the preschool is having fun celebrating the color GREEN!! Yup - you guessed it . . . we all have fun wearing green and playing hide and seek with green stars . . . even in the dark!! Okay - not the typical color for stars, but this was our shape and color we focused on this month!! Still SO much fun!! Color Days are GREAT days!!!

Tomorrow night is our amazing Christmas program!! Please come and join us!! All of our kids have worked SO hard on this beautiful Christmas message for YOU!! Please arrive at the Nazarene Church no later than 5:15 pm. We teachers will keep your kiddos in our care while you make yourself comfortable in a special seat for the program!! You won't want to miss this!!

NEXT WEEK IN PRESCHOOL:

- * **Christ Light Bible Story:** "Jesus the Savior is Born"
- * **Bible Memory Verse:** I Timothy 1:15 "Jesus came . . . to save sinners."
- * **Theme:** Christmas
- * **Letter of the Week:** "Mm"
- * **Snack Person:** 3's AM Blair 3's PM Navie 4's AM Grayson 4's PM Crew
- * **Upcoming Events:** Dec. 12, 13 Green Day
Dec. 13 Christmas Program Practice 1:15 - 3:30 pm
Dec. 13 Christmas Program - Naz Church 5:30 pm
Dec. 19, 20 Christmas Party
Dec. 23 - Jan 3 Christmas Break
Jan. 6 Classes Resume

Have an AMAZING weekend with your family!! See you next week!!

Kindergarten News

Miss Rachel Taasaas (360.271.5201)

Christmas Service- Please arrive at the Nazarene gym no later than 5:15 pm tomorrow. You will need to make sure your child uses the bathroom when they get there.

Patience- Thank you for your patience over these last few weeks. I definitely do not enjoy being gone from school and having the kids out of their normal routine. The kids have been great and have been such good helpers. Here's hoping I make it through a full 5 days next week!

Christmas Party- A note is stapled to your child's yellow folder highlighted with the item(s) you signed up to bring for the Christmas party. If you are scheduled to bring something on Monday please bring it in the morning so I can get it to the parent who is making our treat.

Stockings- Christmas Exchange stockings are due Wednesday, December 18. If you have misplaced the paper there is one taped to our door.

Nightly homework:

- Read with you for 20 minutes. Fill out the Book it calendar.
- Review Christmas memory work. There is no memory work next week. We will resume memory work from our regular sheet in

January. Please let me know before Christmas break if you need a copy and I can give you a new one.

1st Grade News

Mrs. Kelly West (509.362.4916)

Hello, First Grade Families!

I have a few reminders about upcoming Christmas items:

1. Tomorrow, Friday, December 13th is our Christmas Program! Please bring your child to the Nazarene gym at 5:15 p.m. Please have your child wear dressy clothes and use the bathroom.
 2. Next Friday, December 20th is our class Christmas party! Please sign up to bring a small food item for lunch that day. The sign up sheet is on our door. Your child can bring the food item to school with them in the morning.
 3. For our Christmas party, please buy 12 small items like fun pencils, small toys, scented erasers, candy, stickers, etc. Your child will give one to everybody for the gift exchange. Hobby Lobby and Dollar Tree have a lot of such items. I'm sure Target and WalMart do too. You can drop off the gifts with me anytime, or your child can bring it the day of our party.
- In Science today we did a fun activity of smelling something we couldn't see and guessing what it was. A lot of kids guessed correctly! The items were coffee, onions, toothpaste, vinegar, cocoa powder, limes, vanilla, and cinnamon.
I pray God blesses you and your families. Have a good weekend! See you Friday evening!

2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

Christlight/ Memory Work

- No memory work until after Christmas break.
- Please read the Bible stories from this week (Crossing the Red Sea; God Send Quail and Manna; and God Helps His People in the Desert) with your child during the weekend.

Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day. Add your minutes to your December Book-It Calendar.
- Spelling: will resume after Christmas break.

Extra Notes

- Math - we wrapped up our chapter on two-digit subtraction and addition. We will start chapter 6 which is going to dive into geometry.
- Reading - the kids got to read the story "Helen Keller". The kids read about how Helen lost her sight and hearing. They got to read how Helen persevered through those challenges she faced. We got introduced to the suffix -ly. Lastly, focused on the phonics skill of the long o (o, oa, and ow).
- Science - we are continuing to look at states of matter. We focused mainly on gases. We got to do an exploration of carbonation with pop, pop rocks, and a balloon (ask your child about it). Then we wrapped up the week by discussing the different ways matter can change.
- Writing - we are diving into verbs - linking and action. Then we took it a step further and started working through the different verb tenses - past, present, and future. We have been listening to some catchy songs to help us remember what we have been working on with verbs.
- Social Studies - we finished up our unit on the working world. We will talk about different U.S. symbols to wrap up the final week before Christmas break.
- Our Christmas program is tomorrow Friday, December 13. Please have the children arrive no later than 5:15 pm. You don't want to miss it!
- Our Christmas party is coming up quickly (December 20). Thank you for signing up to bring something for our party. Please make sure to bring a wrapped gift for either a boy or girl before Dec. 20.
- Thank you to everyone who is helping transport children either to the Nazarene church or back to school. We appreciate the help.
- We are almost out of paper plates. If you are able to donate some, we would appreciate it. Once we run out the kids will have to use a paper towel to warm up their food. Thank you in advance if you are able to help us out.

3rd Grade News

Miss Avery Broyles (208.995.3465)

Christlight/Memory Work

- 12/17 - Psalm 103:1,2
- 12/19 - Matthew 18:20
- 12/20 - The Third Commandment
- Please read the two bible stories with your child (God Gives His Law to His People & The Golden Calf)

Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day
- Work on spelling words
- Xtramath practice
- Add minutes to the December calendar

What are we learning?

- In math we are finishing up chapter 5 and working on more multiplication facts
- In social studies we are talking about the Southeast states for our scrapbook.

- In reading we have started an I Survived book, the kids are really enjoying it.
- In writing we have been working through two sentences a day in which the students have to change the sentences to be correct.

Extra Notes

- No spelling next week due to the Christmas party.
- The 3rd graders are participating in a book exchange for our Christmas party on December 20th. Please buy gently used or new books (no more than \$10). Please keep the book at an appropriate reading level. We will wrap the books in school, so please bring them no later than December 16th.
- The Christmas party sign up is by the door, please sign up for whatever you can!

Have a great weekend!

4th Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

In the Classroom:

Word of God - Through reading about Moses and the Israelites, we have learned God in his mercy spares his "holy people" when they sin. We saw how the Lord gave his people the Law and we obey those laws out of love for God, and trust in Jesus for forgiveness when we sin.

Reading - We have begun watching the series "Little House on the Prairie." Episode one is all we will be watching as it goes along with our book. It has been fun finding the discrepancies between the two.

Math - We are now hard at work learning more about division and understanding it.

Science - We are working on learning about the planets of our solar system. Students have chosen a planet to work on with a partner to teach the rest of the class about on Wednesday.

Extras

- Please check out the sign up sheets for our Christmas Party on Friday, December 20. We still have a few spots open, including having sugar cookies to decorate at the party.
- A note was sent home last week about our stocking gift exchange. If you did not receive one, please stop by and I will give you another one.
- Please send a small (5x7 or so) Christmas gift bag to school with your child by tomorrow, Friday, December 13. Thank you!
- Please make sure your child has a coat, gloves, and boots available to wear for recesses. Please only send snow pants only if there is enough snow to play in. We have limited space in our hallway for hanging all the outerwear. Also, if they don't have a pair of slippers/crocs etc. for inside the classroom, please send a pair with them.

5th-6th Grade News

Mr. Glenn Metzger (734.788.4637)

Our student message of the week comes from Prisma who says: "Bark." Welcome to middle schoolers, folks.

In our classes this week, we are wrapping up the plagues in Egypt and starting to look at the 5th Commandment in Religion class. In Math classes, both grades are starting to work with adding and subtracting fractions. In Science class, we are starting to look at Newton's 3rd Law of Motion. In English, we are working on enhancing sentences to make them sound better. In Reading, students will be having a discussion with Mrs. Benson about how the rights of characters in the book have been threatened or violated. This will be their assessment for the unit, in place of a written assignment. It will probably take two or three days to finish those discussions, but they should all be done before Christmas. Finally, in Social Studies, we are beginning a study of the ancient Mesopotamian civilizations.

Our class's Christmas Party will be on Friday the 20th. School will be providing two slices of Costco pizza for each student. If they'd like more than that for lunch, they are welcomed to bring it. I will send out more details about the party as soon as the class has finished planning it.

Finally, I think I mentioned last week that I was going to try to take the class ice skating before Christmas. I've moved that field trip to January instead. Once I have final confirmation of all the details, I'll send home the permission slip.

7th-8th Grade News

Mr. David Zabel (941.201.7896)

Please refer to My Planbook whenever your child is absent from school. This way they can keep up with their assignments.

<https://app.planbook.com?t=2011934&k=1234&v=W&y=92524834>

This week in Bible class we are going through lesson 4 "God Guides Our Dating Lives". The key points in this lesson will focus on how everyone must be care when deciding whom to date, what kind of activity should be chosen for a date, and what part should parents play in the dating lives of their children. The students will learn that in all things give glory to God.

The students have finished chapter 6 "The Age of Exploration". They will begin to review the material for this section to prepare for a test. The test date is unknown at the time of this writing because of Christmas practices.

In science we have been studying simple plant life: mosses, liverworts, vascular and nonvascular plants. The students have begun to review the material for this chapter. As mentioned above the test date is unknown at the time of this writing.

The students have exchanged names for our annual Christmas party. They are currently writing their wish lists on the board. The gift exchange amount is between \$8-15. I have class coordinators in charge of food and drinks (Benny and Gracie), games (Maycee and Sage), and a movie (Kade) for the party. They are to have their information ready for me by December 1st. I will put a list together of food and drink items so you know what the students have volunteered to bring.

We have our final practice on Friday 13th @1:30 pm. You can pick up your children at 3:30 pm. All students are expected to be back at the NAZ by 5:15 pm so they can take their bathroom break and be ready to go by 5:30 pm. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The student may bring their gift exchange next week Monday. They ***should not*** put the name of the person on the gift they are giving. I want to keep it somewhat of a surprise. If they want to do the secret "Santa" gifts for their person, I am ok with that. All the items they have volunteered to bring for the party can be brought on Friday the 20th.

The kids have asked me to pass along my Christmas list – popcorn tin (the kind that has three different flavors in them), Movie gift cards, Walmart gift card, Dairy Queen gift card, Amazon gift card, John Deere stuff, I like dark chocolate, I am a MN Viking fan, great value Energy drink mix – Acai Blueberry, and Strawberry, and Cherry Slush; sausage, beef jerky (plain or teriyaki), ect.

Finally, I need a bunch of old magazines for an art project in the 7th and 8th grade room. If you have any lying around and want to recycle them – please send them to school with your child. Thanks

Mr. Z

Principal Thought you Probably Didn't Want :)

A note from Jacob (715.402.0094)

Asking for a friend

I recently had a conversation with one of my math students where they told me they had never seen a Hallmark Christmas movie. I told this person that if you have seen one, then you really have seen them all. Every one of them has to have some magical old man, hot chocolate, a magical Christmas town, flights that get delayed, visits that get extended while romance blossoms, and of course a rich man or woman who gets the opportunity to see a different side of things while they fall in love..... ahhhh! This all sounds like the true meaning of Christmas.

Anyways, this didn't seem to satisfy this particular student. They seemed to truly want to know which Hallmark movies were good and where to start. Well, a quick Google search tells me that there are 478 Hallmark Christmas movies out there with 32 new ones this year alone. I don't actually pay attention to titles, because they all do seem to be the exact same plot line. Perhaps every movie could be titled "Romance without Jesus at Christmastime." So, I have no idea where to start.

If you have Hallmark titles that this student just has to watch, then please let me know so that this student's Hallmark itch can be scratched.....And, I am asking for a friend.....this story is not about me. I will openly admit to watching them. It is a weird sensation of not being able to look away while at the same time puking in my mouth over acting that could be classified as less than desirable.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas program this Friday. If you are attending the Chiefs game on Saturday, then please stop by the St. Matthew booth. We have a good looking crew.....minus myself, who will be running one of the food and drink booths at the game.

God's blessings on your weekend!

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

President Nixon's aide, Chuck Colson, was a key player in the Watergate scandal. Because of his involvement, Colson faced prison time. During that dark time, a friend gave Colson the book *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. He began reading, and God's Spirit began working in him.

One night, Colson cried out to God, confessed his sins, and promised to change his life. He pled guilty, and after serving time, Colson kept that promise. He founded Prison Fellowship, a global ministry that shares the gospel with prisoners and their families.

Colson's conversion reflects the psalmist's words. From the depth of his need, the psalmist promises to honor God's faithfulness. When he was in trouble, God delivered. So, he vows to sacrifice a sizable thank offering to the Lord.

Christmas invites us to reflect on how, when we were in trouble, God delivered us. "When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under

the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4,5).

Because Christ sacrificed himself for us, we joyfully submit ourselves to him. In the morning, we make appropriate and well-thought-out vows to live for him. We promise that whatever we do, we will do it all to his glory. In the evening, we humbly confess our sins, acknowledge our guilt, plead for his mercy, and rejoice in his forgiveness.

Let this Advent season be a time when you, like the psalmist, joyfully bring your sacrifices to God, your Savior. And come to worship him in his temple.

Prayer: (*Christian Worship: Hymnal – 324, vs 1*)

O Jesus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way, to show me how to please you, to guide me every day. Amen.

*Want more daily devotions?
[I get them here!](#)*



I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.

Psalm 66:13-15