



Educate.
Equip.
Encourage.

The Timber Times
December 16, 2021

School News

Mission Offering

Remember, we are doing an Advent Food Calendar for our mission offering this holiday season. Please return your bag with non-perishable items tomorrow to your child's classroom! During Christmas Break, someone from school will deliver the bags to 2nd Harvest. If you would like to donate money instead, that is also welcome! Thank you for helping!

Christmas Programs

Our Christmas programs went so well! Thank you to everyone involved—the kids and teachers for working day after day, the parents for helping your children be prepared, Mrs. Most and Mrs. Nollmeyer for playing the piano and flute so beautifully, and Pastor West for leading the services. It is such a wonderful reminder to focus on Christ this Christmas season, and I know so many were moved by the programs. I will include the links to both services in an email.

Scrip

Tis the season for shopping! Consider using the scrip program for gift cards! I recently re-vamped our scrip order list to include e-cards. E-cards are so easy and convenient and available much sooner than physical cards! I have also included a list of physical cards that we have on hand. Please view them online [here](#).

RiteAid Fundraiser

St. Matthew is partnering with Rite Aid in order to support our school. How can you participate? All you have to do is sign up using the following URL link: <https://support.rxfundraising.com/>

StMatthewLutheranSchool

Once you click on/type in the link you will be prompted to create an account. You can then make use of your phone number anytime you shop at Rite Aid. Rite Aid promises to pay our school 1.5% of all your in store purchases and \$.50 from any prescriptions you have filled out at Rite Aid. Please let Mr. Biebert know if you have any questions or have any problems signing up to support our school.

Missing Winter Gear?

If your child is missing a hat, coat, or gloves, please see Miss Taasaas. Any items left at school after December 17 will be donated. Thanks!

Silent Auction!!!

We are pleased to announce that our Silent Auction this year will be held at **Northern Quest on April 23**—so please mark your calendar! Although they are not on sale yet, we know tickets will be \$60/person. We need volunteers to help procure items for this event, so if you are willing to help in any way, please check out our website—it has all the information we have right now! I have also included a QR code below for easy access.



12/17 Cleaning

Biebert/Taasaas/Boys: Lee

Most/Rosenbaum/Girls: Hallauer

Piano Recital

The piano students performed this past Tuesday, and what a beautiful show it was! Congratulations to all the students—it is a blessing to watch your progress!

Basketball

Miss Rosenbaum had a league meeting yesterday to schedule games and resolve several Covid issues; however, nothing was resolved at the meeting. Erika will send out a Remind message next week when she hears news. Sorry for the delay—we are pushing to keep the season as normal as possible for you!

Apparel Orders

About half the apparel orders are ready today, and the others will be finished up by tomorrow. Please see your child's teacher to check on your order. If you have not yet paid, please bring cash or check payable to St. Matthew.

NYE Plans

All School families are invited to attend New Year's Eve Christian concert at 6:30 p.m. Worship will be led by the praise band from our sister church, the vine, in Coeur d'alene. Children in fifth grade and up are invited to stay for a lock in to celebrate the holiday.

5-8 Bring Extra Shoes

If you are in grades 5-8 please bring an extra pair of shoes with you to wear throughout the day—Mr. Biebert is not particular about what to bring, but plan to bring either boots to go outside, or slippers

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



to wear inside once your shoes get wet from being outdoors. Thank you!

DC Hot Lunch

Right after Christmas Break, on January 6, the DC kids will be having another grilled cheese hot lunch. Please use the envelopes handed out today to return a donation if you would like to have hot lunch! Envelopes should be returned by January 4.

January Calendar

Our January calendar is available for

viewing [here](#). Please take a look to see upcoming events!

Parenting Articles

Parenting articles continue! Please check out the next article [here](#). This week's article details leaning into God's strength and mercy to help us become stronger, more merciful parents. I have to admit, this one definitely hit home for me! I can be a strong parent, only through Christ's strength!

December BookIt!

Don't forget to continue filling in those BookIt! Calendars while we are away on break! Reading for pizza never takes a break! :)

Classroom News

Preschool News

Miss Donna Lindsay(509.638.5361)

Woohoo!!! Our preschool Christmas program last Sunday was phenomenal!! What a beautiful way the children were able to share the wonderful news of our Savior's birth to everyone there that day!! What a special program for all to hear!! Thank you, parents, for bringing your child for this amazing presentation of the Christmas Story.

What a fabulous week we had in preschool!! We still have our Christmas theme, but we did change a few of our centers. We now have SNOW in our Sensory Center!! WHAT!!! And it doesn't even melt!!! Crazy cool!! And fun for the children to play with!! We have a new book and CD in our Listening Center: [Bear's First Winter](#). What a great adventure story for all. The children LOVE it!! In our Math Center, we have Christmas trees with ornaments on them. The children need to count the number of ornaments and find the star with that number to put on the top!! Great number recognition for the preschoolers!

This week, the children had fun making ornaments to take home. We made a candy cane out of tri-beads, a sparkly gem-filled tree or snowflake, and some of the classes made a tissue paper candy cane. We sure had fun making these ornaments to put on our trees at home. Great memories!! Our easel painted Christmas trees are finished and finally hanging up. They sure are amazing!! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the preschool!!

Today and tomorrow, we have our Christmas parties and gift exchange. We get to play Hot Potato and then open our gift of choice. Thank you to all of those parents who helped the parties run SO smoothly. You guys are GREAT and SO appreciated!!

We have the next two weeks off of school, and will resume classes on Monday, January 3. Our letter that week will be "Mm". Four year old classes, please bring something from home that begins with "Mm".

Our bible verse when we return in January is Luke 11:28 "Hear the Word of God."

Have a most blessed Christmas break, filled with love, laughter and beautiful family memories! Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year!!

Kindergarten News

Miss Rachel Taasaas (360.271.5201)

- Read 20 minutes each night with your child. They need to hear what a fluent reader sounds like as well as be reading to you. Add minutes to the Book it calendar. When you come back to school in January please bring the December calendar. I will hand out the January calendar at that time.
- Growth Mindset Affirmation of the Week: When I struggle, I grow!

Memory Work

January 6- Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it. Luke 11:28

Moms and Muffins

If you haven't done so yet please return the Moms and Muffins form. We need to get a head count so we know how much to buy for our craft. If you don't have the form you can always write your RSVP on a piece of paper.

Hot Lunch

We will be having hot lunch the Thursday we come back to school. If you are able to notify us this week as to whether or not your child is having hot lunch that would be super helpful. They are serving grilled cheese sandwiches and soup (it was a hit last time!). All hot lunches are a fundraiser to help the older students pay their way to Washington D.C in February.

Utensils

Just a reminder, we do not have plastic utensils in the classroom. If your child has anything in their lunch that requires a fork or spoon please pack it in their lunchbox. I have had people offer to bring utensils for the classroom but we just don't have the space, thank you for your thoughtfulness!

Yellow Folder

I will be sending their yellow folder home TODAY. Please bring it back tomorrow (Friday, December 17) that way you don't have to try to remember to bring it back in January.

Merry Christmas!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break with your family!

1st-2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

Memory Work/Christlight

- 1/4 - Ephesians 4:32
- 1/6 - Psalm 139:14a
- Please read the Bible stories from this week with your child this weekend and sign and return the TEAL sheet.

Book It Calendars

- December Book It calendars will be due by January 4th. January Book It calendars will be sent home on Monday, January 3rd.

Reading/Spelling

- I encourage you to read 20 minutes a day over the break.
- We will return to having spelling starting the week of January 10th.

Lunches/Water Bottles

- Please remember to be sending your child with the proper utensils needed for his or her lunch as well as water bottles everyday.

Christmas Break

- I hope that you have a blessed Christmas and New Year's celebration. I look forward to hearing the students' stories when we return from break. See you in 2022!

3rd-4th Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

Christmas Service-Thank you for bringing your child to sing for the service on Sunday! It was such a beautiful service!

Book-it - December Book-it Calendars are due on January 3 when we return after Christmas break. January Book-it Calendars will be handed out on January 3, but don't forget to keep track of minutes read on January 1 & 2.

Extra Notes

- **Christmas Party Sign-up** - Don't forget to bring in your items for the party tomorrow! Thank you for all your support!
- **Moms and Muffins** forms by tomorrow if you plan on attending.
- **Hot Lunch** envelopes are due back tomorrow if your child plans on having hot lunch on January 6.

Have a blessed Advent season!

5th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

Christmas break! Woohoo!! It has been a fantastic start to the school year in so many different ways. Everyone has been relatively healthy, we have been learning a ton educationally, and about each other as a class. Now, we have a wonderful opportunity to step back and just focus on our God and his mercy in sending our Savior.

A couple reminders:

Please have your child take everything home with them over break. That would include all winter clothing, old papers, random trinkets, etc. We want a fresh start after break!

Please also have your child bring home any possible missing work in order to get caught up over break. I don't expect your children to work all break, but there will certainly be down time over the break. This would serve as a great opportunity to get a fresh start in the homework department as well.

A reminder to also have your children bring boots on snow days and or slippers to change into after recess.

May God grant you a safe and restful Christmas break rejoicing in the birth of our Savior! Merry Christmas and see you in 2022.

The Enemy of Grief

Not long ago, a journalist by the name of Amy Paturel was driving to see her father. He was dying and did not have long to live. She stopped to gas up her car. She then promptly got back into her car and drove off—only to discover, too late, she had left the nozzle in her tank.

A neurologist by the name of Lisa Schulman describes a similar experience. Several months after her husband's death, Lisa was running a simple errand but somehow got lost. In that moment, she could not remember where she was or how she got there. She had to use the GPS on her phone to find her way home.

Such is the power of grief.

Researchers have discovered that grief can have the same impact on the brain as blunt force trauma. Signals between your left and right hemisphere take unexpected routes. Your body releases a cocktail of chemicals that affects how you process information. In addition, the journey of grief has no shortcuts. As someone has said, "Grief is a desert that must be crossed on foot."

Profound grief is, perhaps, one of the strongest remind-

ers we have that you and I live in a shattered world; a world shattered by sin—yours and mine.

When God the Son entered our time and space, he experienced our grief first-hand. "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows," Isaiah chapter 53 proclaims. But his whole purpose for stepping into our grief-stricken world was to see to it that grief would not have the last word. In our place, he lived a life of perfect holiness. As our substitute, he marched to the cross and paid our debt of sin in full. Then, to demonstrate his victory, he rose from death.

Does this mean that you and I will never experience grief? No, it does not. However, it does mean that as bitter as our tears of grief may be, such tears are temporary. We will taste them in this life alone. But the tears of joy are eternal. Because Jesus lives, the tears of joy we will taste forever.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, remind me that my tears of grief are temporary, and my tears of joy are eternal. Amen.

"Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10