



*Educate.  
Equip.  
Encourage.*

*The Timber Times  
December 2, 2021*

## School News

### Advent Services

Over the next two Wednesdays—12/8 & 12/15—we will have advent church services! Advent is the time before Christmas we use to prepare our hearts not only for Christ's birth at Christmas, but also his second coming. Please consider joining us! Services are at 3:45 & 6:30PM.

### December Calendar

Our December calendar is available for viewing [here](#). Please note especially the children's Christmas Services and dress rehearsals. What a wonderful and busy time of year!

### 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. Both lists are being sent home today with the newsletter, or you can 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.

### K-8 Christmas Service

We have closed the K-8 Christmas Service sign up because we have reached capacity. If you would still like to see the children's service, it will be livestreamed to our YouTube channel. **We will also be having a viewing on December 9 from 10:30-NOON**, so if you would like to attend then please do so!

### BookIt! Calendars

Please be sure to turn in your BookIt! Calendar to your teachers for those free personal pan pizzas from Pizza Hut!

### Advent Calendar

If you are looking for a great family devotional during this time leading up to Christmas, [please look at Martin Luther College's devotional!](#) It is available on their website and as a PDF. We hope you are able to use this resource throughout the Advent season!

### Basketball

If you have not already returned your forms, please return them as soon as possible. Please make sure to have signed up for the remind app. A lot of communication will be done via the remind app. Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45-5:00. Games will be scheduled on December 15. Be on the lookout for a schedule

### 12/3 Cleaning

**Biebert/Taasaas/Boys:** Roth  
**Most/Rosenbaum/Girls:** Miller

before Christmas break.

### Blessing Bags

We have already heard a ton of wonderful things from those who have handed out blessing bags, but there are still several left! Feel free to take one and give to someone in need!

### Parenting Article

There has been some interest in different parenting topics, so we thought it might be nice to include articles in our weekly newsletter. The first article is from "Love and Logic" and it has great tips for getting children to listen. Please view that [here](#).

Make sure to check out the  
latest scrip forms!

## Classroom News

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### Preschool News

Miss Donna Lindsay(509.638.5361)

What a beautiful week to be back together again!! I am praying that all of you had an amazing Thanksgiving celebration last week. I sure did! This week begins a brand new theme: Christmas!! Our centers are also brand new!! We have some letter tracing in our Reading Center, a life-size felt Christmas tree in our Drama Center that the children can decorate with felt ornaments, and we have a nativity set in our Science Center that the children can play with. This week was focused on our Christmas program and its practice, but all of the classes were able to make a Countdown to Christmas chain. Please have your child tear/cut one loop from the chain each day and they can see how many days until Christmas!!

Please continue to practice all of the songs and recitations that were sent home these past few weeks. I sure need your help!! Okay, I am personally in a big panic right now!! The Christmas program is Sunday, December 12, at 2:30 pm. We will have a BIG dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 8 at 12:00 noon. A note has been sent home regarding this procedure.

Green Day is next week Thursday and Friday. Please have your child wear and/or bring something green to school on that day. What a fun day this will be!!

Next week is our letter review week. We will be reviewing letters F, G, H, I and J. Have your child (4-year old classes) bring a show 'n' tell item that begins with any of those letters.

Our bible memory verse for next week is: Luke 1:31 "Give him the name Jesus."

Have an amazing weekend with your family. See you next week!!

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### 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. November calendars are due no later than Friday, December 3.
- Growth mindset affirmation of the week: **When I struggle I grow!**

#### Christmas Party

Our party will be on Friday, December 17. I have a sign up sheet on our classroom door. Please sign up for one thing to contribute to our party. The school will be providing pizza, if your child does not want pizza you can pack them a lunch.

#### Santa

Everyone has different thoughts on Santa. If your family is not a family that incorporates Santa into your Christmas celebration I completely understand. I try to leave that out of any discussions but sometimes students bring it up. Please remind your child that "some families choose to celebrate with Santa and we don't want to ruin it for others." Please speak with me if you have any questions.

Some families also choose to participate in the magic of the Elf as well. If you want an easy way to incorporate the Elf into your family tradition I have a friend who has made a 24 day Elf kit, everything is prepared for you. There is a regular version and a Disney version. Please speak with me about prices if you would like one.

#### Baby Wipes

We are running low on baby wipes from Costco. If someone could pick us up a box it would be greatly appreciated!

#### Names on all items

If you have not done so, please put your child's name on all snow gear. GLOVES INCLUDED. Everybody seems to shop at Costco so we have a lot of the same coats and gloves.

#### Practice Practice Practice

Work with your child on zipping up their own coat. Some kiddos still struggle with this.

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### 1st-2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

#### Memory Work/Christlight

- 12/7 - Christmas Recitations - separate note
  - 12/9 - Christmas Recitations - separate note
- Please read the Bible stories from this week with your child this weekend and sign and return the TEAL sheet.

#### 1st Grade Homework

- Lightning Words (Theme 4-1) will be due December 10th. Please make sure to return these otherwise a free pass will be used.
- Purple bookmark (Theme 3 Week 3) is due December 13th.
- Spelling Test 12/10. Here are the spelling words for the week: on, not, got, box, hot, top, pond, doll, come, your. Please work with your child to learn these words as well as helping them to use the words in a sentence.
- Math flashcards will be coming home this weekend. Please practice them with your child so they can show you what they

have been working on.

- Read 20 minutes a day. Make sure to be adding your minutes to the Book It calendar.

### 2nd Grade Homework

- Spelling Test 12/10. Here are the spelling words for the week: preorder, predict, unknown, unusual, mistake, misbehave, incorrect, incomplete, rewind, rewrite, overheat, overflow. We have been working on base words plus prefixes the last few weeks. After Christmas, we will start to work on base words plus suffixes.
- Math flashcards will be coming home this weekend. Please practice them with your child so they can show you what they have been working on.
- Read 20 minutes a day. Make sure to be adding your minutes to the Book It calendar.

### Extra Notes

- New Book It Calendars came out this week. I encourage you to record how many minutes your child is reading everyday.
- Winter is upon us! Please make sure that your child is bringing a coat, gloves, hat, and boots (if there is snow on the ground). Every day except Wednesday, we will be using the upstairs church entry rather than the basketball entry for drop-off and pick-up.
- AR tests will be taken on Fridays as it is less chaotic for the teachers who have to assist the students while they use the chromebook.
- Our Christmas party will be on December 17th. There will be a sign-up in the classroom for items that we will need for the party. If you are able and willing, please volunteer to donate something. We will be doing a gift exchange that day where boys buy for boys and girls buy for girls.. Please purchase a \$5 gift with your child for a boy if your child is a boy or for a girl if your child is a girl. Thank you in advance!

## 3rd-4th Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

**Christmas Service/Christmas Recitations/Memory Work** - Coming up on December 9th & 12th, the children will be singing for the Children's Christmas Service. We have been hard at work in class working on all the music for this special service. A packet of blue papers was sent home before Thanksgiving break with your child that has all the songs typed up on it. The songs in bold print are for their memory work Christmas recitation days on December 2, 3, and 7. Please go over the words with your child as often as possible to help reinforce all that has been taught in class. Thank you!  
Also, I am sorry about the misprint in the memory work book. I am still trying to figure out what happened there, but all the memory work is there for the year, just a bit out of order for December and January. Sorry!  
December memory work calendars were sent home with your child today.

**Science** - The students are working hard learning about electricity and magnetism. Before thanksgiving break we had the pleasure of having Mr. Ted Allestad tell us more about electricity and help us learn how to make electromagnets. A great time was had by all. We will be wrapping up this chapter before Christmas break and having a test on it.

**Social Studies** - The students have been learning about the exploration of Washington before it was a state. The current chapter will be wrapping up early next week, so the test is scheduled for Tuesday or Wednesday.

**Reading and Writing** - Main characters, summarizing, and lessons learned oh my! The students have been reading different myths to find the characters, summarize it, and then find what we can learn from the myth. They are also gathering information about a Greek god or goddess to write an informational report about them with pictures. To top it all off, they will also be adding a myth in picture form to the paper mache vases they were working on in art class. I can't wait to see how it all turns out!

**Spelling** - There will be a new spelling list each week up to Christmas break. The spelling test for the week of December 13-17 will be on that Thursday since Friday is Christmas party day!

### Extra Notes

- **Advent Services** - Advent church services will be held the next two Wednesdays at 3:45 and 6:30. Please consider joining us for worship for the next two weeks. Also, since I am playing piano for the services, I need to be at church early for setting up and preservice music. I will be heading over to church to do so at about 3:35. Miss Taasass will be dismissing any students not picked up by then from her classroom door. No need to rush, I just wanted to inform you so as not to cause any alarm.
  - **December Book-it Calendars** - December calendars were given to your child yesterday (Wednesday). If it works for you and your child, please keep the calendar in their binder. I'd like to try to encourage your child to be doing their best. If your child finishes a book, please remind them to write it on their A.R. chart sheet in their binder to take a test on it.
  - We will be decorating stockings again this year for our classroom gift exchange. Please see the note sent home today for more details about the stockings and gifts.
  - **Christmas Party Sign-up** - A list will be finalized soon and placed on the bulletin board by the classroom door. Please consider stopping by and seeing if there is something you could bring. Thank you in advance!
  - **Christmas gift bag** - Please send a Christmas gift bag (at least 9"x6"x4") to school with your child by Wednesday, December 15th. I have a sample inside the classroom sitting on the filing cabinets.
- Wrapping Paper "building permits"** - The students have the opportunity to use their classroom cash to purchase a "building permit" to add wrapping paper to their desk. The wrapping paper can be added to decorate their desk beginning next week before school (provided there is enough time) or after school (not Monday or Wednesday). Depending on the permit they are

purchasing, supplies are brought from home, some supplies are from home and others are from school and you help them add it to their desk, or Mrs. Most will supply it all and add the paper to their desk for them. Time to make the classroom all “merry and bright” for the Christmas season!

Have a blessed Advent season!

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### 5th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

We have been continuing our balancing act of time spent in the classroom along with practicing for our Christmas program. A reminder that there will be two services. One will be the normal time that has been on the calendar, and the other will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-12:00. I hope you get a chance to come and see the children praising their Savior.

Here is next week's memory work:

Monday 12/6: 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:3,4; Thursday 12/9: Holy Is Your Name; Friday 12/10: Romans 1:16; Romans 8:28

The 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing to look at early European discoveries in North America. Our latest study was on Mr. Henry Hudson and his discoveries for the Dutch in the New World.

The 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade has finished up their infographics that corresponded to their study of the Walla Walla Treaty Council. They presented their findings to the class. Their infographics will be displayed in the classroom for your viewing pleasure.

The 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking a catechism test next week Wednesday. Their study guides have been given to them and our study process has begun.

We have started our brand new life science books which we will use moving forward for the rest of the year. The students were asked the question if it is important to study science and why. Some students chose no, and other students chose yes. Both groups had great answers to the questions. We are now working on conducting a science experiment that will help us with understanding the scientific method.

God's blessings on your weekend. I hope you have had a marvelous start to your Advent season.

### Jesus Humbles Himself to Redeem

Khaleesi is a one-and-a-half-year-old miniature long-haired dachshund dog. She recently ran after a rabbit and kept running when the rabbit ran into a drain tube roughly 6 inches in diameter. The rabbit got all the way through. But Khaleesi didn't—she got stuck in the vertical position about four feet down. The dog's owner called the fire department for help. But when they got to the scene later that evening, they concluded that because it was dark, the terrain was rough, and the retaining wall the pipe was in was already in danger of collapsing that they wouldn't be able to safely do anything until the next morning. The owner didn't sleep that night. The next morning, everyone returned to the scene. The firefighters used the jaws of life to carefully cut away sections of the pipe without hurting Khaleesi. Everyone could hear Khaleesi crying and whimpering the entire time. But finally, 20 hours after she got stuck in the pipe, Khaleesi was set free. She jumped into the arms of her owner, with her tail wagging excitedly.

Like Khaleesi in that drain tube, we long for relief too.

We are eager to find relief from stress, anxiety, guilt, and worry. We're eager to be relieved of broken hearts, loneliness, regrets, and shattered dreams—which can all affect us for much longer than 20 hours.

Thankfully, the Bible tells us that Jesus has done everything necessary to bring us relief from all of these things. And one day, when Jesus returns "with power and great glory," we will experience that relief in full. Until then, do not let the pain of this sinful world overwhelm your faith in the Savior

who humbled himself to redeem us all from pain, death, and sin.

#### Prayer:

Gracious Redeemer, have mercy on me and keep my eyes of faith always fixed on you, and my heart always eager for my redemption. Amen.

**"At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."**

**Luke 21:27,28**