



Educate.
Equip.
Encourage.

The Timber Times
December 6, 2018

School News

Mission Offering

This week we begin the topic study on the next Fruit of the Spirit: "forbearance," which is another name for patience. We are looking forward to digging deeper into what God's word says about patience.

Special Thank You

Jacob and I just wanted to take a quick second to say thank you so much to everyone here at St. Matthew. I'm sure many of you parents heard already, but last week the kids were able to be with Josey as she took her first steps right here at school! How absolutely amazing that the kids are able to share in these special moments for Josey!!! It means so much to us that the children here love her and are so sweet to her. Your children are a wonderful blessing to our family. We feel so blessed that we are able to bring Josey to school with us each day, and that the kids want to be with her and teach her new things.

Box Tops

Our Box Tops Competition ended on Tuesday in a miraculous way. Grades 5-8 ended up pulling off one of the greatest comebacks in history, and tied K-1 with 282 box tops each! Grades 2-4 finished second with 184 box tops! That is a total of \$74.80 just in box tops!!! And all this

money was raised in just a month! I think all the classes deserve a movie day (hint, hint teachers...!)

St. Matthew Apparel

All order were submitted yesterday and apparel should arrive the week before Christmas Break! Thank you for your orders!

Basketball

Basketball practice started on Tuesday, and we will have another practice tonight! We look forward to a great season, Mighty Timbers!

Mr. Sauer Update

Mr. Sauer's surgery went successfully, and he was released from the hospital on Tuesday. I was able to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Sauer briefly on Wednesday, and Mr. Sauer said he is doing so well, is grateful to be home, and is looking forward to God's healing hand. He asks that we please continue to pray for him. We are looking forward to your full recovery, and seeing you again soon around church and school Mr. Sauer!!!

Giving Tree

We have already had so many donations from you brought in to school for Shepherd of the Hills Preschool! Thank you!!!! However, there are still

Upcoming Dates

December

- 6 Basketball Practice 4:00PM-5:00PM
 - 8 Christmas for Kids—St. Matthew 10:00AM-12:00PM
 - 11 Basketball Practice 4:00PM-5:00PM
 - 12 Preschool Christmas Program Practice 12:00PM
 - 12 Advent Service 7:00PM
 - 13 Basketball Practice 4:00PM-5:00PM
 - 14 Public Reading of *Finding Scrooge*—St. Matthew 6:00PM
 - 14 Giving Tree Gifts Due!!!**
 - 16 Preschool Christmas Program 2:30PM
 - 16 Grade School Christmas Program 4:00PM
 - 16 D.C. Trip Bake Sale—11:00AM (after church) 1:30PM (before PreK Christmas Program) 5:00PM (after Grade School Christmas Program)
 - 18 McLaughlin's Providing Hot Lunch 12:00PM
 - 18 Basketball Practice 4:00PM-5:00PM
 - 19 McLaughlin's Providing Hot Lunch 12:00PM
 - 20 PreK 4 Christmas Parties
 - 20 Basketball Practice 4:00PM-5:00PM
 - 21 PreK 3 Christmas Parties
 - 22 Grade School Christmas Parties PM
- December 24-January 4
NO SCHOOL—CHRISTMAS BREAK**

January

- 7 Classes Resume

several tags on the giving trees, so if you would still like to take a tag, please do! If you would like to donate, but don't feel like shopping, we are also in need of money to

General School News Continued
on p. 2. →

**THE GREATEST GIFT
THE WORLD
HAS EVER KNOWN**



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS THIS SATURDAY!!!

Don't forget to register for this fun family event!!!

General School News – Continued

help with shipping costs. Please remember, all gifts need to be returned (unwrapped) by **Friday, December 14.**

Find Mighty Timber

Mighty Timber has yet to be found, so he has another clue for you this week! See the clue below.

Christmas for Kids

Our Christmas for Kids will be taking place **this Saturday, December 8** from 10:00AM-NOON. We are excited for this event, and look forward to seeing you there!!!

Advent Service

Please note, our Advent service at St. Matthew is **next Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00PM.** We hope many of you can join us in preparation of Jesus' coming!

D.C. Trip Bake Sale

The upper graders who are planning on going to Washington D.C. next year are holding a bake sale on December 16 in order to help raise money for the trip! They will have their items for sale after

church on Sunday at about 11:00AM, again before the Preschool Christmas Program at 1:30PM, and once more after the Grade School Christmas Program at about 5:00PM. This sale will be in our church basement, which you can access through the door by the basketball court.

Scrip

Christmas is coming up, and Scrip is a great gift to give your friends and family! If you would like to know which gift cards we have on hand, please speak with Mrs. Biebert at (715)402-0114.

Book Reading

Jason McDonald, who attends our sister church The Vine, has written a sequel to *A Christmas Carol* called *Finding Scrooge*, written in the style and spirit of the original. He will read the book in its entirety, taking about an hour, **next Friday, December 14 at 6:00PM.** This event is open to the public and has been advertised in the Spokesman Review. You will have the opportunity to buy copies of the book for \$20.03 after taxes. We are fortunate to have such an author in our midst and that he will use our venue for the reading, introducing our facility to many new people.

11/30 Cleaning

Upstairs: Patterson

Downstairs: Patterson

Meal Train

There are still a couple open dates for the meal train for Mr. Sauer. If you are interested in making a meal, please go to the Sauer's meal train at <https://mealtrain.com/wyw751>.

Christmas Practice

The children have been hard at work for a while now memorizing lines and songs for the Christmas program, which is now only about a week and a half away! (EEEEK, I can't believe that; time is FLYING by!!!!) Please make sure you are working extra hard with your children during this crunch time to make our Christmas programs run as smoothly as possible.

"I am loving it that nobody has found me yet."



URIAH PRITCHETT



GRADE: PreK-4 AM

FAVORITE HOBBIES/THINGS TO DO:

I like to race my dad, play nerf guns, go to the park, and play with my dog.

WHICH ANIMAL WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE?

I wish I could shoot laser beams from my eyes so I could cook my family dinner.

WHICH ANIMAL WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE?

I would be a cheetah because they run fast..

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SCHOOL:

I love my teachers and playing outside.

IF YOU WERE PRESIDENT, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD DO?

I would do the Pledge of Allegiance.

YOUR FAMILY:

My mom, dad, sissy, nana, papa, gigi and gigi pa (great grandpa). We like to ride bikes, dance, and go sledding.

ANNICA BEST-LEIDLE



GRADE: PreK-4 PM

FAVORITE HOBBIES/THINGS TO DO:

Play in playground/play with sister.

SUPER POWER:

Marshall (Paw Patrol) firefighter.

WHICH ANIMAL WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE?

Baby crocodile so I could play in the water.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SCHOOL:

Circle time with Miss Lindsay.

IF YOU WERE PRESIDENT, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD DO?

Feed everyone.

YOUR FAMILY:

Dad, Mom, Sister, Grandma—play together.

Classroom News

Preschool News

Miss Donna Lindsay(509.638.5361)

WHAT??? A "normal" week in Preschool? We didn't have a field trip. We didn't celebrate a color day. Pretty normal?? Not quite!! We have been feverishly practicing our Christmas program. The four year old classes have realized how strong they really are. They have been seen walking down the sidewalk with a preschool chair in their hands, ready to practice in church. They are pretty amazing!! Get ready, three year old classes - that will be YOU next year!!

We had a great week - did some handprint projects and also easel painted Christmas trees. Come check out our classroom!! We are just screaming, "Merry Christmas!"

Last week, I sent home a note asking for help with the children's songs and memory work for the program. Please work with your child! It will create so much more confidence in them for our performance. THANK YOU!!

Next week, we will be studying the Letter "K". So, our four year old classes, please bring in a show 'n' tell item that begins with "K".

On Wednesday, December 12, the preschool classes will be having a HUGE program practice at 12:00 noon. A note went home about that, also. It is going to be the complete Christmas program from start to finish. The grade school is going to come and watch it, and parents (and grandparents) and siblings are welcome to come, too. It will truly give me an idea of how things "might" go on Sunday, the 16th. But, as you know, these children are so unpredictable!! I just know it will be amazing, though - thanks to all of your help, parents!!

Have a beautiful weekend!! God's blessings to you this Christmas season!!

K-1st Grade News

Miss Rachel Taasaas(360.271.5201)

Homework

Kindergarten

- Read 20 minutes (or more) each day. Don't forget to add your minutes to your Book it calendar. **November calendar was due December 3 if you have not turned it in please do so by Friday, December 7.**
- Our new Word family is the -an family.
- New sight words: said, eat, saw. We are continuing to learn more and more sight words each week. It is important you review these with your child. "Christmas Lights" will be going home in your child's yellow, put these up around the house and help your child practice the sight words.



First grade

- Read 20 minutes (or more) each day. Don't forget to add your minutes to your Book it calendar. **November calendar was due December 3 if you have not turned it in please do so by Friday, December 7.**
- Reading books will be sent home tomorrow. Please listen to your child read their stories and sign the bookmark.
- Lightning words are due tomorrow, December 7.
- Spelling test tomorrow, December 7. Next week's list will be in your child's yellow folder please make sure you start practicing with your child over the weekend. I know these are difficult words but I know your child can do them. If you feel you want your child to have a different spelling list please speak with me.

Art project

We will be working on an art project for Christmas that requires the use of acrylic paints. I will make sure that your child wears their paint smocks but I am also going to encourage you to dress your child in older clothes that you don't mind if they get paint on them. The first date of painting was today, December 7. We are also painting tomorrow. I will keep you updated on the other dates. Please make sure you are signed up for the Remind texts because that is how I will be communicating the other dates.

Christmas Gift Exchange

This year the students will be exchanging books. Kindergarteners will exchange with students from their grade level and First graders will exchange with students from their grade level. Please bring a NEW Christmas/winter themed book wrapped with a tag that says "To: ??? From: (your child's name)" We will exchange gifts during our Christmas party on Friday, December 21. Please keep the cost of the book at \$8 or less. Bring the wrapped book to school no later than Wednesday, December 19. If you already have your book and you want to put it under our tree feel free to bring it in.

Miss Taasaas' News Continued
on p. 5 

Communication

Please make sure you are checking your child's white bucket EACH DAY for notes. Some things are time sensitive and need to go home on the day I put it in your child's white bucket. Also check your child's bucket for food and other unnecessary things. The only thing they should have in their buckets are slippers, water bottles, and chapstick.

2nd-4th Grade News

Mrs. Kelsey O' Haver (509.570.2023)

Last week we started talking about our new Social Studies Unit - See the USA. In this interactive unit, the students, or Travel Teams, are working together to travel from the West Coast to the East Coast. They have to make stops along the way and research where they are staying. They will be creating post cards, posters, and billboards along the way, as well as keeping a budget and writing checks. What a fun unit! We will probably carry this over into the new year and finish up at the end of the second quarter.

Thanks to everyone for coming into the classroom and wrapping your child's desk. Our room is so festive. It is fun to see the children and their Christmas joy! They have been working very hard on their Christmas program as well. There is so much to learn this year! Please continue to practice the memory verses with your child at home, even if they are ones that have already been said. They must all remain fresh in their minds!

Blessings on your week.

5th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

A very busy time is upon us with basketball starting and also practicing for our Christmas program. Please make sure that you are asking to see your child's planner to make sure they are continuing to put down assignments and due dates. We will be taking a little bit of extra time over the next couple of weeks to make sure everyone has a system in place to track short term and long term assignments. Here is next week's memory work that can go in their planners right away.

Next week's memory work: **Monday(12/10): 1 Peter 5:7, Joshua 1:9, Jeremiah 29:11 Tuesday(12/11): Christmas Narration Wednesday(12/12): 1st Article; Thursday(12/13)Who is He?;Friday(12/14):Psalm 32:5, 1 John 1:9, Romans 5:18, Romans 13:14**

The students did very well on their Indian Removal Act presentations. All the students have certainly been improving in their overall presentation skills. Next week Tuesday will see both classes taking a history test. The study guides were sent home this week. Keep up the good work with studying.

We will continue our study of work and energy next week. We are getting close to test time, but I don't think we will end up taking the test next week. We may start reviewing next week though. The students created energy saving plans for at home. Hopefully they got a chance to talk to you about these or at the very least that you get a chance to see them.

As things get busier please don't hesitate to text, email, or call if any questions come up about school work. Have a great weekend!

Weekly Message

What is God's Means of Grace?

Grace usually refers to the free, undeserved love of God. We need this grace because we are dead in our transgressions. But, how do we get his grace? Romans 1:16 says: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.* It is saying the gospel (which means "good news") is God's power. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel to work faith in our hearts. Using the gospel, the Holy Spirit invites us to learn about God's salvation through the gospel. The gospel is a Means of God's Grace.

Another Means of Grace is baptism, because in Titus 3:5 it says: *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.* The "washing of rebirth" means baptism. "He" means God. The verse means "God saved us through baptism". In baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, through faith in God's word. Baptism is a Means of God's Grace.

The last Means of God's Grace is Holy Communion. Matthew 26:26-28 says: *While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* John 5:24 says: *Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my (God's) word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.*

These verses tell us that Christ's word gives Holy Communion to bless us with forgiveness, life and salvation, which we receive through faith. Holy Communion is a Means of God's Grace.

In conclusion, The Means of Grace is the gospel in word and sacrament.

What do The Means of Grace Mean to me?

To me the Means of Grace are a wonderful blessing, because through them I receive forgiveness, and eternal life. These Means of Grace lead me to thank and praise God for the wonderful things he has done for me.

Means of Grace (M.O.G.)

Laura West
Connections 58