



Educate.  
Equip.  
Encourage.

The Timber Times  
December 9, 2021

## School News

### Mission Offering

We are asking that families work on the Advent Food Drive for the mission offering through Christmas. This food drive calendar was sent home on Tuesday, and teachers have extra copies. Each day you add an item to a grocery bag, and on December 17 you can bring the bags to school! During Christmas Break, someone from school will deliver the bags to 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest. If you would like to donate money instead, that is also welcome! Thank you for helping!

### Advent Services

Our last Advent service will be on Wednesday, December 15, 3:45 & 6:30PM. Please join us in preparation for the Newborn King!

### Christmas Programs

Christmas programs are coming up so quickly! The preschoolers did their dress rehearsal yesterday, and as I type up the last of the newsletter, K-8 is performing their dress rehearsal as well! A couple of notes for the service: **Doors open at 3:30, and we ask that the children stay with parents until 3:45. At 3:45, kids should head to church basement to line up for the processional.** Thank you!

### 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 Cash??

Several kids found \$20 cash by the ball shed (by Mrs. Most's room). If you are missing \$20, come claim it in the office. If nobody claims it by Friday after school, it will be put in the mission offering.

### Piano Recital

Mrs. Roberg's piano students will have a recital on December 14 at 6:00PM. Please come support the students who have been perfecting their instrumental skills all semester long!

### Free Pass Activity

If your child is eligible for the free pass activity, please sign and return the yellow half sheet that was sent home this past Tuesday. The activity will be taking place on December 15!

### 12/10 Cleaning

**Biebert/Taasaas/Boys:** Velikanov

**Most/Rosenbaum/Girls:** Tripp

### 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

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 before Christmas break.

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

### Christmas Parties

Please be in touch with your child's teacher, if need be, about Christmas parties! All elementary Christmas parties are on Friday, December 17.

### DC Hot Lunch

Right after Christmas Break, on January 6, the DC kids will be having another grilled

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

PRESCHOOL: 2:30pm

K-8: 4:00pm



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.

### Parenting Articles

Parenting articles continue! Please check out the next article [here](#). This web article focusing on helping your child gain independence.

## Classroom News

### Preschool News

Miss Donna Lindsay (509.638.5361)

Oh my, what a busy week we have had in preschool!! Our theme is still focused on Christmas and Jesus' birth. The centers have remained the same, but still so much fun!! Our Sensory Center is now a cutting center. We have a bin full of wrapping paper and curling ribbon that the children can practice their cutting (and wrapping) skills. We have water coloring in our Art Center and we continue to have our felt tree in our Drama Center that the children can decorate with felt ornaments. Lots of fun during Center Time!!

This week we had fun water coloring a Nativity Scene for our Memory Books, working on parent presents (SHHHHH!!) and even easel painting trees to decorate our classroom!

We had our BIG dress rehearsal yesterday!! Both 4-year old classes were present, along with so many 3-year old children!! The kids did an absolutely fantastic job sharing the good news of Jesus' birth and they had a great audience, too!! The entire grade school was watching our performance, along with so many parents and grandparents. What a great practice prior to our big program on Sunday. Please arrive on Sunday, no later than 2:15 p.m. The program begins at 2:30 p.m. The children have been working SO hard for so many weeks!! THANK YOU, parents, also, for working with your child on all of our songs and memory work. I sure couldn't have done this without YOU!! I love your support!! You are a HUGE gift to me!! And what a blessing it is to have our children tell the beautiful Christmas story of Jesus' birth!!

Our Christmas parties will be next week Thursday and Friday. Please look for our signup sheet for food for the parties. A note also went home regarding our gift exchange. Please bring to school a wrapped book, \$5 or less - a book appropriate for a boy or a girl. Our gift exchange, hot potato-style, will take place during our party.

Now that the weather is getting colder and snowier, please send your child with appropriate snow gear for playing outside. I would love to have all of the children play outside together, but that can't happen unless everyone has the proper clothing: coat, snow pants, boots, hat, gloves/mittens. Thank you SO much!! Feel free, also, to put a pair of slippers in your child's backpack. This way, their boots might be wet, but their feet will stay warm and dry in the classroom.

Next week we will be focusing on letter "L". Four year old classes, please bring a show 'n' tell item to school that begins with "L".

Our bible verse next week is I Timothy 1:15 "Jesus came . . . to save sinners."

Have an amazing weekend with your family and stay safe and healthy!!

### 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.
- Growth mindset affirmation of the week: **When I struggle I grow! (same as last week...it's been a hectic week)**

### Christmas Party

Thank you for signing up for the Christmas party. A reminder note will go home tomorrow. Stockings can be brought in at any time. You can choose to wrap the presents inside or not, it's fine either way.

### Baby Wipes

You guys are awesome! Thank you for the wipes!

### Christmas Program

The doors will open at 3:30 pm on Sunday so you can reserve your seat. Please have your child stay with you until 3:45, make sure they use the bathroom. If your child is ill on the day of the program and they will not make it be sure to text me so I know.

### 1st-2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

### Memory Work/Christlight

- 12/14 - Mark 10:45
- 12/16 - 1 John 1:7b
- Please read the Bible stories from this week with your child this weekend and sign and return the TEAL sheet.

### 1st Grade Homework

- No Spelling words for next week. The next week for spelling words will be January 10th.
- Lightning Words (Theme 4-2) is due December 17th. These need to be returned!

- Purple bookmark (Theme 4 Week 1) is due December 13th.
- Read 20 minutes a day. Make sure to be adding your minutes to the Book It calendar.

### 2nd Grade Homework

- No Spelling words for next week. The next week for spelling words will be January 10th.
- Read 20 minutes a day. Make sure to be adding your minutes to the Book It calendar.

### Extra Notes

- The kids have been practicing very hard for the Christmas service. I hope to see you on Sunday so that you can hear the message they will be sharing through songs!
- 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). Make sure their names are written on their gear so nothing will be lost. Every day except Wednesday, we will be using the upstairs church entry rather than the basketball entry for drop-off and pick-up.
- Please remind your child that anything that is not finished during the school day becomes homework and it needs to be taken home. After many reminders, some students are still forgetting their homework folders or they take them home but don't do anything inside. I expect that the homework will be completed the next day before school begins.
- Our Christmas Party will be December 17th. We will do a craft, decorate sugar cookies, play a few games, and a gift exchange. 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. Wrap your gift as well. You can bring the gift anytime starting next week. Thank you in advance! Please let me know if you need a reminder of what you signed up to bring to the Christmas party.

### 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. Thank you for your help in assisting your child in learning the words for the music for the service.

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!

**Science** - The students are working hard learning about electricity and magnetism. We will be wrapping up this chapter before Christmas break and having a test on it.

**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. We'll get as far as we can before Christmas break and then finish up after break.

**Spelling** - Due to some things coming up, I've had to make a change and this will be our last week of spelling before Christmas break. There will not be a new spelling list next week.

### Extra Notes

- **Advent Services** - The last Advent church service will be held the next Wednesdays at 3:45 and 6:30. Please consider joining us for worship for the next week. 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.
- We will be decorating stockings again this year for our classroom gift exchange. Please see the note sent home last week for more details about the stockings and gifts.
- **Christmas Party Sign-up** - A list has been 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 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. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the classroom!

Have a blessed Advent season!

### 5th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

Well, we have had our first Christmas service and the students did amazing. They worked very hard over the last month plus to learn the message of Christmas. It is wonderful to see children displaying their faith through action in word and song. We have one more service this Sunday at 4:00. The doors open at 3:30. Please don't have your children gather in the church basement until 3:45. Thank you for all your help in making sure they are on time.

Here is next week's memory work:

Monday 12/13: Romans 8:28, 2 Timothy 4:18; Wednesday 12/15: 2<sup>nd</sup> Article up through is my Lord; Friday 12/17: Psalm 119:161b

The 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking a map test on the North Eastern part of the United States next Tuesday. They will also be wrapping up their study of chapter 7 next week. They will be taking a test likely on Thursday. This test might possibly be open book.

The 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade is taking one more look at land and how it changed pre-treaty and post-treaty for the Plains Indians. They are looking at different websites to help them with this.

The majority of our work in science recently has been spent on learning the scientific method and conducting individual experiments to help learn this method. The students will be presenting their experiments and their scientific method steps next Thursday.

I can't believe it is almost Christmas break already. Please remember to talk to your children about who they had for the secret Santa gift exchange which will take place next Friday. The afternoon will be our Christmas party/gift opening on that day.

God's blessing on all of your weekends! I hope to find some safe ice to fish on Saturday. I will let you know how it goes!

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## Preparing the Way

Today's Bible passage begins with a list of some powerful individuals: emperors, governors, kings, and high priests. The author wanted to pinpoint for us the time in history when the ministry of John the Baptist started. The incidents in the life of Jesus that Luke would go on to describe were verifiable historical events. But as influential as these rulers were in their day, someone far more important was about to arrive on the scene.

When VIPs travel, they want to ensure that everything is ready for their arrival in advance. Messengers and assistants are sent ahead to make necessary arrangements, looking to maximize the impact of the dignitary's visit. If this is true in the case of mortal men, how much more appropriate this preparation was when the Son of God himself was due to arrive!

In truth, nothing we can do would ever be enough to prepare to meet this King of kings, Jesus Christ. We cannot successfully rid our hearts of hatred, greed, and the mountain of other sinful attitudes that are re-

pugnant to the holy God. But God himself prepares us to receive him. He works the change of repentance in our hearts through the preaching of his law and gospel. Do you want to be ready to celebrate Christmas this year? Plant yourself at the feet of those who prepare his way through clear gospel preaching.

### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for sending messengers to prepare my heart for your coming. Amen.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

**Luke 3:1-6**