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The Timber Times
September 7th, 2023

School News

Chapel

Last week's chapel offerings were \$17.48. Please set a reminder for yourselves to bring your chapel offerings with you to school on Thursday mornings! Thank you for your giving hearts. :)

Chapel offerings are going to the Corr and Diaz families. If you would like to donate any gift cards to them as well, please reach out! You can give them directly to the family, or Mrs. Biebert can arrange a time to pick up.

Layne Family

Please keep Sandy Layne in your prayers, as well as her family. Sandy has been in the hospital due to complications from surgery. She is hopeful to return home later this week depending on her progress.

We can be confident that God answers prayers, so please pray for a quick recovery! If you are able, we also have a [meal train](#) for the rest of this week (which may be extended depending on needs), so you can sign up for a date here, or with the QR code below. Thank you!



4-8 Soccer

We had our first practices this week! We have a lot of kids playing this year, which means playing time will be different than last year. If you plan to stick around at practice, we could always use some extra hands at setting up drills/equipment. Make sure to be

checking the schedule online. Contact Miss Rosenbaum if your child needs a ride to the practices or games 24 hours in advance.

K-3 Soccer

Practices will start Wednesday, September 13th 3:45-4:45. See the schedule online for the rest of the season schedule.

Call Received

Pastor West has received a call to serve at St. John's in Wauwatosa, WI. Please keep Pastor, Kelly, and their family in your prayers during this time, as well as the ministry at both schools. If you have any input to provide, Pastor would love to hear from you! Please reach out (509)217-9617.

Dads & Donuts—RSVP

We created an RSVP for our Dads & Donuts event! Please fill out [this form](#) regardless of your ability to be there. Note that we are holding this event on September 21st from 8:00-8:40AM.



St. Matthew Worship & Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, September 10th, our worship schedule returns to regular hours. Bible Class & Sunday School will be at 9AM, followed immediately by worship at 10AM. There will be fellowship in the church basement following the service. If you are looking for a church home, please consider joining us!

Playground

The plan is still for the playground to be delivered mid September. If you are able to help set that up, please reach out to Mr. Biebert (715)402-0094.

St. Matthew Retreat

The last weekend in September, our church and school is hosting the annual retreat at Riverview Bible Camp. Information was sent home last week. Each teacher should have some extra copies if needed! We will not have school that Friday, September 29th. If your family would like to attend, please fill out the information on that sheet and return to your child's teacher. If you have questions, please direct them to Pastor West (509)217-9617.

Singing in Church

K-8th grade will be singing on Sunday, September 24th. Please make it a point to join us for worship that day and to hear your child sing praises to their Lord and Savior! All the children's voices help to make a joyful noise to the Lord, so it is noticeable when one or two voices are missing as we all practice together to be united in Christ.

Junior Choir

Junior choir is set to begin Monday, October 2nd. All students in grades 3-8 are welcome to participate in the Junior Choir. Practices will be Mondays from 3:45-4:30 (unless notified of a change). The children will meet in the 4th grade classroom (Mrs. Most's room). Children will be working on fun songs, and songs to sing for church and chapel. Mrs. Most will be sending home forms and schedules the week of September 18-22. The schedule is mostly in the Google calendar. If you have any questions, please speak with Mrs. Most or email her at michelle.most@stmatthewspokane.org

Don't forget to [RSVP](#) to Dads & Donuts!

Classroom News

Preschool News

Mrs. Donna Driesbach (509.638.5361)

WELCOME TO PRESCHOOL!!

What an amazing first week of school the four year old classes had!! And what a fabulous first DAY of school the three year old classes had!! Your children are doing such a wonderful job of listening, learning and obeying all of the new school rules and procedures. My aides and I are having fun getting to know each of your children. Please get to know our aides, also. Miss Karen and Miss Sammie are in our AM 4's, Miss Christie and Miss Alicia are in our PM 4's, Miss Kiersten is in our AM 3's and Miss Rebecca is in our PM 3's. I sure love working side by side with each one of them. They are going to be a fantastic blessing to you, your children AND me!! This is going to be a wonderful year of learning about Peace and Hope through Christ – our new school-wide theme!!

We had fun learning about Frogs this week. Our centers were filled with Frog activities and there were some Back to School activities, too. We had a sand table in the Drama Center that the children could use magnets to move frogs, reptiles and boats around!! The Reading Center was chocked full of Back to School books to look at. Our Sensory Center had a water table that contained floating lily pads. The children placed the plastic frogs on the lily pads, and sometimes let the frogs just swim!! Water is ALWAYS a fun place to play and learn!! Some of the classes even had fun making a frog craft with the words "I'm hoppy to be in preschool". All of the children were able chose their favorite color in order for my aides and I to paint and stamp their hands. You will find these priceless prints on our bulletin board next week. What a colorful message these handprints make!!

The four year old classes will begin show 'n' tell next week. Be sure to check the schedule that was sent home so that your child can bring their show 'n' tell item on their assigned day. Next week will be "A" week. Please bring an item from home that begins with the letter "A". The bible verse we focused on this week was Psalm 115:3 "God is in heaven". Next week it will be Genesis 1:1 "God made the heavens and the earth." We work on these verses in class, but I would love for you to review them at home, also.

Please be sure to sign up for Remind – this will be an easy way for me to stay in touch with each class very efficiently. Let me know if you need the classroom code or if you need any help with this. Have a beautiful weekend!! Be safe and stay healthy!!

Kindergarten News

Miss Rachel Taasaas (360.271.5201)

Singing in Church- We have been practicing our song that we will be singing in church at the end of the month. I hope you are able to make it because the kids sound like beautiful angels! If you would like to help your child practice the song you can look for it on YouTube, it is called Peace in Christ.

Parent Homework- I still have not received a letter from everyone about their child. It is so helpful to hear from you about your child. Please take a few minutes to jot down some things about your child. It can be e-mailed or handwritten, nothing fancy!

Remind- Please make sure to sign up for Remind otherwise you could miss important notifications about class.

Lunch dates- Each Tuesday and Wednesday I pick 3 students to have lunch with me at the back table. It just gives us an opportunity to visit and for them to tell me about themselves and to get to know their classmates.

Reading- We have been discussing ways to read a book. See if your child can name all 3 ways! (1. Read the words. 2. Make up a story with the pictures. 3. Retell a story.)

Phone number- Please make sure you have my phone number saved in your phone. In the past when I have called parents because of an emergency they have not always answered because I have a 360 area code and they think it is just a spam call. You can find my number at the top of this newsletter section. If you send me a text with your name I can add you to my phone and as I take pictures throughout the week I can send you a quick text. Thank you so much!

I look forward to getting to know everyone this year! We all really are a family at St. Matthew which is one of the things I love best about our school. Also, I want you to know you are not taking up my time if you stay after and chat for a few minutes. The only day I can't visit too long is on Wednesdays because we have our faculty meeting at 3:45.

1st Grade News

Mrs. Kelly West (509.362.4916)

Hi First Grade Families!

I have been enjoying getting to know your child. This class is full of kind, helpful children! In ChristLight we have been learning about the birth and youth of Jesus. In Reading we are reviewing letters and their sounds. These kids really know their letters well! In Math we are reviewing numbers and counting. In Science we are learning how to make observations and work with a partner, and in Social Studies we are learning about neighborhoods.

The memory work for next Thursday, Sept. 14 is Isaiah 43:11 "I, even I, am the Lord and apart from me there is no savior." We are so blessed to have a God who himself came down to earth to save us from our sins! I hope you have a relaxing weekend!

2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

Christlight/ Memory Work

- 9/12 - The Fourth Commandment
- 9/14 - John 1:29b
- Please read the Bible stories from this week (Simeon and Anna See Jesus; Wise Men Worship the Savior; Herod's Wicked Plan) with your child during the weekend and sign the orange sheet in the orange folder. The Christlight stories can be kept at home every week. Please do not keep them in the orange folder.

Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day.
- Continue to work through the extra math program.
- Spelling: next week we are working on vowels and consonants. Your child's spelling words for the upcoming week will be in his/her orange folder every Friday. They will have 15 words each week which are focused on the skill for the week. Spelling tests will be on Thursday of every week unless noted otherwise.

Extra Notes

- It can get pretty cold sometimes at school so it would be good to have your child pack a light sweatshirt for the classroom.
- Please leave toys at home as they become a distraction at school.
- We have started practicing the song "Peace in Christ" at school. The kids will be singing this song at church on September 24. Please plan to attend.
- Please get in the habit of asking your child if they have homework and checking your child's backpack for any important notes throughout the week. Homework needs to be returned the next day completed unless your child was absent for the day.
- Orange Friday Folder - please empty this folder at home. I have seen a few kids have all the papers in their backpack.
- Our first field trip will be happening in October - stay tuned for more details.

3rd Grade News

Miss Avery Broyles (208.995.3465)

Christlight/Memory Work

- 9/6 - Isaiah 43:11
- 9/7 - Psalm 91:11 & Psalm 103:1,2
- 9/8 - The Third Commandment
- It is really important your child is practicing their memory work at home since it results in their grade.
- Please read the Bible stories from this week with your child (The Wise Men Worship the Savior & The Escape to Egypt)

Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day
- Work on spelling words. This week we are focusing on short vowels i, o, u. Spelling tests will be on Thursday. If your child misses 2 or more words, they will take it again Friday. Their highest score will go in the gradebook.

Extra Notes

- Water bottles need to be brought home everyday.
- Make sure Friday folders are coming back empty and you are looking through your child's assignments. Please let me know if you have questions.
- Also make sure you are signing your child's assignment notebook everyday and bringing it back to school.
- I need some volunteers to help with Memory work in the mornings, please let me know if you are available to help.
- Also if you are willing to help in the classroom a few hours during the week, please let me know.
- We now have hooks for each student. Please remind your child to take everything they brought in with them. Nothing should be left.
- Please try and send lunch with your child that doesn't need to be heated in the microwave, it slows down our lunch time.
- If your child is coming from an appointment and is late to school or you are picking up your child for an appointment, please go to Mr. Biebert's room.

Have a great weekend!

4th Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

Word of God - This week we have been learning about the Savior and how he was worshiped by the wise men and what we can learn from them and apply to our lives. Our song for the week, "Peace in Christ" is the song we will be singing with the whole school when we sing in church on September 24 @10:00.

Memory Work - The books of the Old Testament are coming up next week. We are working on them in class also, but extra practice is beneficial.

Math - We have been working on place value. The pretest for this chapter was sent home today. Please look it over as it will show you what areas are potentially needing extra practice with your child.

Social Studies - The focus is the geography of Washington state and how geography shapes the way we live?

Science - We are focusing on the main essential question: How does Earth's water affect weather?

Reading - Mood and perspective, two very important parts of books, are the focus this week in our book, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. We are wrapping up our book this week and focusing on our essential question, "What lessons about life can we learn from literature?"

English/Writing - Reviewing the parts of speech is the focus for the first two weeks of school. We have also already written our first poem of the year! Come check them out on the 4th grade feature month board, downstairs in the basement of the church on Sunday, September 24th when we sing in church. We are working on descriptive writing this week and the beginning of next week.

Spelling/Vocabulary: Due to the short week, no spelling/vocabulary this week.

EXTRA NOTES:

- September is the fourth grade feature month. Something new we are doing this year. Special projects we have been working on will be on display in the church's basement. Also, we are helping to serve during coffee hour on Sunday, September 24 (the same Sunday we sing). More information will be sent home in a special note.
- If your child has not yet returned the Learning Contract, please return it as soon as possible. If you need a new one, please write me a note in your child's assignment notebook.
- Your child should be bringing home their binder and assignment notebook/planner every night. Please check the assignment notebook/planner to see what homework needs to be completed and initial that work was finished. Any homework to be completed should be found in the homework envelope in the front of their binder. Please put completed homework back into the homework envelope to be returned to school and handed in. All of this helps with accountability in the classroom and at home. The better we are about it now, the better the rest of the year will go.

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

5th-6th Grade News

Mr. Glenn Metzger (734.788.4637)

We are fully up-to-speed this week, with all the pieces of our curriculum implemented into our daily routine. Over the next several weeks I am going to go a little more in-depth into one of our classes, to give you a better idea of what's happening in class.

This week I'm highlighting Memory Work. Each week, students will have a variety of Bible passages to choose from. We take the time on Thursday afternoons to look at all of the passages, and make a choice about which ones they will memorize. My hope is that they are picking passages that will challenge them in their memorization skill, that will broaden their knowledge of God's Word, and that have personal meaning to them. There is also a piece of the catechism that students will learn every week. Students can recite passages any time from Thursday to Thursday, or choose to write out their memory work on Thursday morning after school starts. Next week students will have TWO parts of the catechism on their schedule, so be sure to start studying those right away.

Onto the other classes! In religion we are learning about the early life of Jesus, as well as wrapping up what we believe about God the Father. In math, we are getting ready for our first tests, which will be next week Tuesday. In science, we are studying the characteristic properties of waves, and just starting to explore how sound and light waves are used. In social studies, we have begun our study of the ancient Greek civilization. Finally, in English we have started drafting the rough drafts of our practice essays. (No spelling this week because of a short week.)

I am looking for chaperones for our first field trip coming up on Friday, September 22nd. We will be going to Koi Gardens Pond Specialists to learn about ecosystems. Please make sure if you want to volunteer for any events at school this year that you have contacted Mr. Biebert to make sure you have an up-to-date background check on file, as well as a current copy of your driver's insurance.

Please save 2-liter bottles for an ecosystem project that we will be starting after the field trip.

7th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

I hope you all had an amazing Labor Day weekend. It sure made for a fast week at school having one less day. This made for a great week to review a few things in math, finish up a few group projects we had started, and grow closer to our Savior.

Here is the memory work for next week:

9/11: Hebrews 11:3, 1st Article of the Apostles Creed; 9:14: Hymn 422:1-4; 9/15: Deuteronomy 33:27, Job 12:10, Psalm 33:18a

Washington's regions was where we hunkered down for the week. We identified how Washington is both a part of a physical region and an economic region. Do you know which each is? We also identified how within Washington State alone there are 5 different regions. The students are working in groups to research their assigned region of Washington State.

We are beginning to wind down on skin. We have looked at many of the common skin conditions that affect us in a negative way. We have looked at what skin cancer is and created an experiment to see how sunscreen can help protect our skin. We looked at the layers of our skin and what the different parts within those layers do. The last topic we will focus on is acne, how it happens, and myths that are out there about it.

God bless your upcoming weekend. I am very excited, because Kayla and I are attending the Badgers vs. WSU game this weekend. It will be wonderful to enjoy a victory in person. Go Badgers!!

My Soul in Stillness Waits

When our first child was born, I was not allowed to be in the room. Like the wizard in the land of Oz, I had to stand behind the curtain. I could hear the groans of my wife. I could hear the doctor's encouragement.

"You're doing great."

"I can see the head."

"Here she comes."

Then there was silence.

The silence was agonizing. Was it a boy or a girl? Was the child healthy? Was the child alive? The silence only lasted seconds. It felt like an eternity. I couldn't wait for our child to be revealed. Then I heard the peace-inducing words: "Okay, Dad, you can see your daughter."

Like a Father waiting behind the curtain for his child to be revealed, you and I are waiting eagerly for God to reveal what our existence will be like after this world ends, and he creates a perfect, new world for us to enjoy. While we wait, we groan as we endure the agonies of this imperfect world. Thankfully, though we don't know what God is doing behind the scenes, he still speaks

peace-inducing words to us in his Word, "You are my child. I am coming soon. In the meantime, take comfort. I know the plans I have for you, and I am working good in all things for you whom I love."

And one day, what joy will be ours when we hear Jesus say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Take your inheritance—the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." What joy. What joy. What joy.

Prayer: (*Christian Worship: Hymnal – 325*)

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you, our hope reborn in dying and in rising. Amen.

Want more daily devotions?

I get them here!



Creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. . . . We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Romans 8:19,22