

Calendar of Events

Thurs, 12/10 OR Fri, 12/11

Report Cards go home in your
child's folder

Fri, 12/11

Chapel at 8:15 a.m.



Spirit Day Theme: Wear Christmas
Colors!

Tues, 12/15

**ALL BOOKS RETURNED TO THE
LIBRARY**

Band Day



Fri, 12/18

Chapel at 8:15 a.m.



Spirit Day Theme: Ugly Sweaters

Upcoming...

**CHRISTMAS BREAK: Monday,
December 21 – Friday, January 1**



From the desk of

Mrs. Dolan

ECB: Group Activity

Dear Families,

Focusing back on our Eagle Community Building as promised, I wanted to finish outlining the process for you. The next piece to share with you focuses on the Group Activity portion of ECB. Group activities are brief, fast-paced, and involve the entire class. They could connect to something academic, or they could be purely focused on building community in the class. As identified in The Morning Meeting Book, group activities have several purposes:

- Contribute to the class's sense of community and group identity
- Foster active and engaged participation
- Encourage inclusion and cooperation
- Help students to learn the value of persistence and practice
- Strengthen academic and social skills

Group activities should be cooperative rather than competitive and allow all members to take part! Group activities provide the chance to learn about body and voice control, taking turns, dealing with mistakes, helping and including others, and working with partners or small groups. To this point in time, we've shared some fun school-wide activities that are the same for each classroom such as a rousing game of "Would You Rather?", a dance-off game, and conversations focused on particular topics. We've captured some of these moments on our school Facebook page and will continue to do so. While we always aim to have fun at school, the point of group activities is not simply to entertain students, but primarily to ENGAGE them!

Next week, I'll outline the final phase of Eagle Community Building (ECB) time for you: Morning Message. Thanks for reading and taking an active part in this process by asking your child about it each Friday!

In Joyful Service,
Mrs. Dolan

Nature Valley Drawings after Chapel

We will be starting a fun drawing after Chapel every week! Thanks to a generous donation from Nature Valley, we have a year's supply of Nature Valley snacks and treats to share with the students! Every Friday after Chapel, Mrs. Dolan will draw a few student names to win some of these goodies! If you have allergies to any of the snacks, she will provide you with alternatives. Be listening every week to hear your name! A reminder to parents – you can always watch Chapel with us, too! Turn on the Facebook livestream to join us for worship and to listen to the announcements and Nature Valley drawing after Chapel.



Our Teachers are Learners, too!

Our teachers at St. John's strive to be the best teachers they can be. To that end, they participate in professional development classes, conferences, and seminars. Currently Mr. Peterman is participating in TEC21, a year long course about integrating technology in the classroom. TEC21 equips teachers serving in Lutheran schools to use technology to equip, motivate, and educate students. Learn more at <https://tec21connect.com/>.

Stay tuned for more information about TEC21 from Mr. Peterman in future newsletters.

There will be special Christmas visitors helping Mrs. Dolan deliver the treats tomorrow after Chapel. The lucky Nature Valley winners will get a visit from these special Christmas characters!



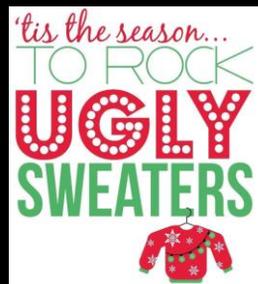
With state numbers rising, it will take the cooperation of everyone to keep us in person at school. We want to err on the side of caution as much as possible. We ask that you be extremely cautious and diligent about any symptoms of illness your child may exhibit even if it appears the symptoms are not COVID-related. Please call the school prior to sending your child to school if they exhibit ANY symptoms. It is important to know about symptoms right away as that determines the window of exposure for others.



If your child exhibits symptoms over the weekend, please email the secretary at secretary@stjlutheran.org. The school office is monitoring communication daily.

Spirit Day on Friday, December 18

For this Spirit Day wear your best UGLY SWEATER! This is our last day at school before Christmas Break so be as festive as you can! Besides your ugly sweater, do you have a Santa hat? Wear it! Do you have a Christmas necklace? Wear it! **LET'S SEE YOU ALL DECKED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS!**



Watch for Spirit Day announcements in the newsletter every week.

“Sent to Serve” Chapel Projects



As you know, our school theme at St. John’s this year is “Sent to Serve” based on Matthew 20:28. As God’s Children, we are called to serve our neighbors near and far. We are sent to serve others at school, at home, in our communities, and around the world. Each grade at St. John’s, Pre-K through Eighth Grade, chose a ministry to support this year as they follow Jesus’ lead and are “sent to serve” their neighbors. We love because He first loved us!

1st Grade has completed one part of their “Sent to Serve” Chapel Project this holiday season. They wrote cards to veterans to say ‘thank you for your service’ and ‘Merry Christmas’! Watch this short video to learn about their “Sent to Serve” Chapel Project.

WATCH VIDEO



<https://youtu.be/fl0obX8qJ54>

Return Library Books



Our students have enjoyed the opportunity to read books from the school library the last few months. We will not be checking out anymore books until we come back to school after Christmas break. This will give our librarian an opportunity to enter new books and check in with classes on books they want to see in January. **Please have all library books returned by December 15th.** The librarian will be sending out emails to let parents know what books their children have at home. Remember, books make wonderful Christmas gifts! If you would like suggestions on new series or books for your students feel free to email your teachers or our school librarian, Mrs. Woodgate, for ideas. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas!

Eagle Pride: Emmy Haag



Congratulations to Emmy Haag in 3rd Grade for completing ALL of Lexia! This is a huge accomplishment! The lower grades at St. John’s do a lot of work on Lexia and have the goal of completing all the levels. Lexia is a great tool to help students grow in their reading skills. We are so proud of Emmy for working hard on Lexia and staying focused on the goal of completing all the levels. Her dedication to learning is to be commended! Way to go, Emmy!

(While we will only feature one person or group each week in this Eagle Pride section, we are proud of our ENTIRE Eagle family.)

Chapel Services

Join us for Live Stream Chapel services at 8:15 a.m. on Friday. You can watch the Chapel service online (just like the students at school) by going to this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/STJLutheran/>

Learn.Pray.Grow for next week can be found at the end of the newsletter...



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

LEARN. PRAY. GROW.

The Third Week of Advent: Dec 13-19 2020



LEARN-BY-HEART

MEMORIZE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY
SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPECTED TO RECITE ON FRIDAY

Bible Verse

3rd gr+ [Jesus said,] "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31b-32

The Lord's Prayer

PreK+ 3. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

1st gr+ The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer,
But we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

3rd gr+ *How is God's will done?*

God's will is done

When He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose

Of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature,

Which do not want us to hallow God's name

Or let His kingdom come;

And when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.



PRAYERS

MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE TO PRAY BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT TO
PRAY FOR. USE THIS GUIDE TO PRAY FOR DIFFERENT NEIGHBORS IN THEIR VARIOUS NEEDS.
LET US PRAY...

Sun ...for all who attend the Divine Service today, that they may be fed with His Word and Sacrament
...for all who do not know the joy of the Resurrection, that they hear and believe the Gospel

Mon ...for all who begin a new week of work, for the unemployed, for our government, and for our teachers and
students who begin a new week of school

Tues ...for rescue from temptation and sin, for repentance for those who have fallen away, for the guilty to be
comforted with the Gospel

Wed ...for all husbands&wives, for all parents&children, that all families may live in peace according to God's Word

Thu ...for our Church, our pastors, our teachers, for our missionaries, for all who serve and volunteer at St. John's

Fri ...for all who preach Christ crucified this weekend, for Christians who are persecuted, for all who are sick &
dying

Sat ... for the Holy Spirit to preserve our faith to the End, for our hearts to be ready to hear God's Word at the
Divine Service tomorrow



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

STUDY TO HEAR NEXT SUNDAY

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Philippians 4:4-7

John 1:19-28



HYMNS

Church Hymn of the Day “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (*LSB* 357)

School Hymn of the Month “Savior of the Nations, Come” (*LSB* 332)



FAMILY DEVOTION

Do You Know What's Coming?

The People of God in the Old Testament looked backward and they looked forward. The BIG event in their past was their redemption from slavery in Egypt, their rescue at the Red Sea, and God’s miraculous providing of food and drink for forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Countless times from the Book of Exodus onward the prophets and poets point the people of God back to what God had done for them. And that wasn’t just for history’s sake. The prophets as mouthpieces of God were pointing the people to what God had done as proof that He would fulfill the promises He had made about what was still *coming* - the Messiah.

And so the Old Testament looks back at things like Creation and the Exodus but also looks forward to the coming of God’s own Son, the Messiah, the Son of David, the Savior. The faithful people knew what they were waiting for, looking for, hoping for, even as many of the people did not believe in these promises. They took the history for whatever it was worth and went their own way. But let’s remember that in every generation there were faithful people of God, trusting His Word of promise and looking forward to the coming Savior.

Now in the New Testament era we are at risk of becoming *only* a historical religion (and the risk being we too will take it for granted and go our own way, doing our own things, instead of the things God has given us to do). We look back to the cross and empty tomb, and rightly so! But we also have promises from our Lord Jesus Christ that are set in the future: His reappearance. His glorious return to raise the living and the dead.

Scripture says it will be sudden. We cannot predict when it will be, so we must always be prepared through repentance and faith, the fruit of that being born in how we busy ourselves with the things of God. So let us learn from the faithful people of the Old Testament who looked back to Exodus and forward to the Messiah coming. Let us imitate the New Testament saints that we meet in Scripture. They believed and proclaimed what God had done in the *first* Advent, the ministry of Jesus with his death and resurrection. They also lived godly lives and encouraged one another to look ahead. The here and now is passing away- look to the End and Christ’s return in glory. Know what its signs are. Be hopeful for it, rejoice in it, and be watchful for it, just as the Saints of Old were who waited eagerly for the Lord’s Messiah to make His first appearance.