

Calendar of Events

Fri, 12/18

Chapel at 8:15 a.m.



Spirit Day Theme: Christmas Sweaters, Ugly or Beautiful!

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



Mon, 01/04

SCHOOL RESUMES
In-Person Learning

Fri, 01/08

Chapel at 8:15 a.m.



Spirit Day Theme: St. John's Red Shirts and Colors
Fun First Friday Surprise!

A Christmas Message from our LCMS Synod:

About 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah shares the Christmas Good News, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given." The Child and Son is Jesus. Isaiah shares the Good News that Jesus is born for us. Jesus was born for all the people of the Old Testament who had believed that God would keep His promise. Jesus was born for Mary and Joseph and the shepherds who greeted Him in Bethlehem. Jesus was born for us. The Gift wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger is God's gift to us.

God's Word names the Gift to us. **Jesus is a Wonderful Counselor.** Our parents, teachers, pastor, principal and professionals that God uses are our counselors. They give us good advice. Jesus is the most Wonderful Counselor who always listens to us. His Word gives perfect direction for our lives.

Jesus is also named Mighty God. The Baby in the manger looks lovingly and helplessly human. He is also the God who made everything. He is the God who rules the universe. He is the God who alone has the might to save us from our sins.

Jesus is the Everlasting Father. Coming to earth from His heavenly Father, he brings the Father's care and compassion into our world. Unlike other humans whose lives are always limited to days or decades, Jesus is from everlasting to everlasting. Because of His birth, death and resurrection, He promises us everlasting life.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We are often saddened because there may not be peace in our homes or peace in our communities or peace in our world. Jesus brings us the peace of knowing that our sins are forgiven. He brings us the peace of knowing that He will be with us in times that are not peaceful.

**Which title is most meaningful to you?
The Good News is that Jesus is all the titles all the time.**



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 the week after Christmas Break can be found at the end of the newsletter...

COVID-19 Protocols during and after Christmas Break

PLEASE READ

As we transition back to school after this much-needed Christmas break, it will be increasingly important to be diligent about our protocols. **Please take a moment to review the following expectations.**

No matter whether we are in-person learning, distance learning, or on break, you should STAY HOME and notify the school in the following instances immediately:

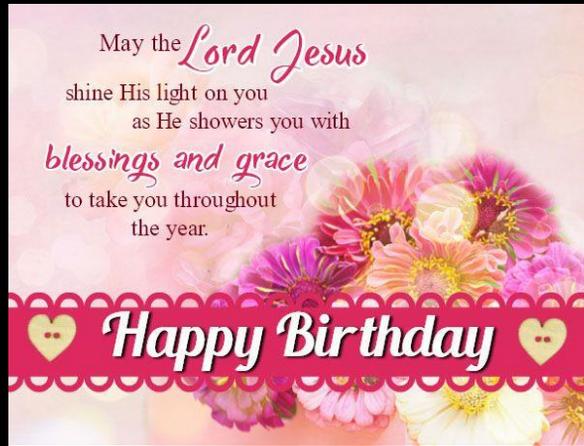
- If your student is sick or if anyone in your household has any COVID-related symptoms listed on the decision tree (attached)
- If anyone in your household has been identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- If anyone in your household is awaiting test results due to exposure to a close contact
- If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19

Having this information as soon as possible helps us to mitigate risk for others, stop any spread, and continue to maintain in-person learning.

Continued in the next column...

Happy Birthday, Mrs. Dolan!

We love you! We hope you have a great birthday! God's blessings on your next year of life. We hope you have a wonderful day celebrating!



If anyone in your household develops symptoms this weekend or in the next few days, please let the office know immediately so they can determine if other school families will need to quarantine over the break.

If you have concerns about any possible exposure over Christmas Break, quarantining (post-travel or otherwise), or resuming in-person learning on Monday, January 4, please reach out to me to discuss. We want to support all of our families in the various decisions you face as best we can. The physical, mental, and spiritual health of our entire school family is paramount.

Avoid unnecessary risks. Please know that the Board of Education and I take the decisions that must be made on behalf of our teachers and students/families very seriously. Your support of our school no matter what comes is needed and appreciated! Remain ready to pivot as needed.

Continue to pray for our devoted faculty/staff and our Board of Education -- all of whom are working hard to keep students in-person. I give thanks to the Lord for each and every one of you, for our school, and for God's continued care and blessings this year. Merry Christmas!

PLEASE READ

COVID-19

PLEASE READ

COVID-19 Testing Help

The following is communication from the MN Department of Education to be shared with all school families:

Schools throughout Minnesota are working hard to keep staff and students safe while providing a high-quality education and social-emotional support during these unprecedented times via in-person, hybrid, and distance learning models. We know that this has been a challenging time. We are currently seeing a surge in COVID-19 positivity across the state and want to ensure that our schools are supported in utilizing COVID-19 testing as a mitigation tool.

Testing for COVID-19 is a way of identifying and isolating the virus and preventing the spread within the school community. Testing, along with other mitigation strategies such as masking and social distancing, can extend efforts to maintain in-person/hybrid instructional strategies in schools. We recognize that testing is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. This email is to make you aware of the “no-barrier” testing options available to the Pk-12 school communities. Information and registration for these sites can be accessed below and through the links provided. **Please share this regularly with your school community.**

At-home COVID-19 saliva testing

Minnesota offers free, at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for people who believe they need to be tested, with or without symptoms. **This has been expanded to all counties in the state**, and can be ordered using the [COVID-19 Test at Home](#). Right now families can order up to five test kits per household. Families will be asked if they have insurance, but the state will cover the costs for any uninsured or underinsured families. You should not receive a bill using this testing option.

COVID-19 Community Testing Sites and Events

All COVID-19 testing is free at a Minnesota Department of Health community testing event. We are always planning more community testing events across the state, working together with communities to make sure everyone can get tested.

- You won't need to show identification.
- Tests are free, and insurance is not required.

Click on the links

[Find Nasal Swab Community Testing Events](#)
[Find Saliva Community Testing Sites](#)



“Sent to Serve” Chapel Offering 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. 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!

3RD Grade and 4th Grade have been using their Chapel Offerings to support their chosen ministries this Christmas season. 3rd Grade is sending Christmas packages to active military members, most of whom attended St. John’s as children. 4th Grade is sending Christmas Stockings to the children staying at Crescent Cove, a Respite and Hospice Home for kids in Brooklyn Center, MN.



WATCH VIDEO



Click on the links to watch the videos about these Chapel Offering Projects.

3rd Grade Chapel Project:

https://youtu.be/_xAPryBGvyc

4th Grade Chapel Project:

<https://youtu.be/AOf0XH-H0m4>

If you ordered St. John’s Gear from the Spirit Shop, it will be delivered to your house next week.



Spirit Day on Friday, January 8

Welcome back to school after Christmas Break! Wear your St. John’s red shirts and/or sweatshirts and/or St. John’s colors today to show off your Eagle Pride.

We’re happy to see everyone back at school!



Watch for Spirit Day announcements in the newsletter every week.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

LEARN. PRAY. GROW.

The Week of the Epiphany: Jan 3-9 2021



LEARN-BY-HEART

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

Bible Verse

3rd gr+ [Jesus said,] "As the lighting comes from the east and flashes to the west,
So also will the coming of the Son of Man be...
Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matthew 24:27, 44)

The Lord's Prayer

PreK+ 4th Petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

1st gr+ God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers,
Even to all evil people,
But we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this
And to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

2nd gr+ *What is meant by daily bread?*

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body,
Such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home,
Land, animals, money, goods,
A devout husband or wife, devout children,
Devout workers, devout and faithful rulers,
Good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control,
Good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.



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

The Epiphany - January 6th

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

The First Sunday after Epiphany - the Baptism of Our Lord

Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17 *or* Isaiah 42:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 3:13-17



HYMNS

Church Hymn of the Day "To Jordan Came the Christ Our Lord" (*LSB* 406)

School Hymn of the Month "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (*LSB* 395)



FAMILY DEVOTION

May God Richly Bless Us in this New Year

The fourth petition of the Lord's prayer humbles us. Everything we need and everything we have comes to us from God's fatherly hand. He gives it to us as an answer to prayer, even though we often fail to ask for such things. We simply take them for granted, or we think they are up to us to go get. But God is the giver of all these things. He even gives them to evil people whom He knows will never thank Him for such goodness!

So we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize our total reliance upon Him. We are dependent. We are needy. In other words, we are *His Children* and He invites us to think of Him as our Father and to ask Him for all these things. So let's do that. Let's consciously, intentionally pray for each of these things. If we have it, let's pray with thanks to God for it and ask He continue to give it to us. If it is something we are lacking, let us pray God mercifully give it to us.

That's your task this week. Go through each of the items listed in our Catechism. Is it something God has given or has withheld? Instead of complaining- which is what we often do when we don't have something we need (good government, good weather, health, etc.) let us turn to our Father in humble prayer. Acknowledge and thank Him for all that He has given and then humbly ask Him to provide what we see lacking. Then we may rest peacefully and confidently. He has heard our prayer. It's in His hands now.