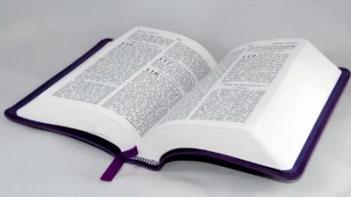


CRY OF THE CARDINAL

December 20, 2019 • St. John Lutheran School Newsletter • Issue 10

Pastor's Message



What is it that makes this time of the year most wonderful? In his well-known song, Andy Williams says that it has something to do with kids jingle-belling; with greetings and visits from friends; with parties for hosting, marshmallows for toasting, and scary ghost stories; with mistle-toeing, caroling, and the nearness of loved ones. Is that what makes our hearts glow? Is that what makes this the most hap-happiest season of all? Don't get me wrong - all those things are wonderful and enjoyable.
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Prayer

Jesus, Prince of Peace, fill my heart with delight and amazement as I once again prepare to celebrate your birth. Amen.

Principal's Message

It is the million dollar question that is seemingly asked of every child sometime during the month of December, "What would you like for Christmas?" It seems like such a simple question, with so many simple answers. How would you answer it? Some may answer a new car, larger home, no more bills, less work hours each week, better health, and the list would continue. As we near Christmas, I would challenge all of us to focus not on a "want," but rather a "who." What will you and I do knowing that God sent His son? Will we focus on getting, or on what has been given already?



St. John
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
Ignite. Infuse. Inspire.

Will we focus on the joy of that one special day, or the joy that never ends? No, that doesn't mean stop giving gifts, but rather with the giving of gifts let's also remind those around us about THE GIFT that keeps on giving. . . His love, protection, and so many blessings. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

What's Happening?

Birthdays

December

- 4 Lincoln C.
- 7 Braxton R.
- 19 Nathaniel B.
- 25 Jules C.
- 26 Asher F.

Upcoming Events

- 12/20- Hot Lunch
- 12/23-12/1 No School
- 12/24- Christmas Eve Worship 4pm and 9pm
- 12/25- Christmas Day Worship 9am
- 12/29- 150th Anniversary of Potluck Breakfast 8-9:30 (Worship at 10 am)
- 12/31- New Year's Eve Worship 6:30 pm

Bible Passage: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

School News

Pastor's Message- continued from front page

All those things contribute to feelings of good cheer. But the holiday season is also the time for the highest cases of depression, anxiety, and loneliness. How could that be? Maybe it's because none of those things can provide the peace we REALLY crave - the peace we REALLY need.

But there is something that does provide that kind of peace. Peace came to earth at last that chosen night. God himself embodied love in the person of his Son who came down to live in flesh and blood for us. He came to carry our sins, to take our place, to be our perfect substitute. He came to claim us as his own, to deliver us from fearful guilt, and to give us hope for a wonderful and eternal future. That's what the Christmas holidays are all about! That's what makes this the most wonderful time of the year!

In Christ's service and yours -Pastor Mike Gehl

Calendar Events from St. John Lutheran Church

Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve Worship (4:00p or 9:00p)

Dec. 25th- Christmas Day Worship (9:00a)

Dec. 29th- 150th Anniversary Closing Service (10:00a)

Dec. 31st- NY Eve Worship (6:30 pm)

Worship in the New Year

All students along with their friends and families are welcome to worship at St. John. We'd love to have you join us at any time and you are always welcome to talk to us about joining our church. Regular worship provides opportunities to learn more about God's Word, feed your faith, and to connect with other Christians. Consider starting the new year with new worship patterns. If you don't already have a church home, consider letting us help you make St. John your new church home.

PTO/CES Needs You

We know that all of our parents and teachers are very busy, but we could still use more help. In fact, there are a number of school activities that cannot happen without your help. We are so thankful to the small group of parents that have already committed countless hours to our school's events and we could do so much more if we had more help. Please consider volunteering your time and talents this coming year to improve what we offer our students and community.. We do not meet in December, but the rest of our meetings will always be the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm. We meet in the church basement. A lot of parents also find this a great way to meet other parents at our school. ☺

CAMM Missions

Thank you to all of the families that are helping us support the Central African Medical Mission (CAMM). We have already met two of our goals! Mr. Raddatz has pledged to provide the school with an ice cream party if we could reach \$400 and if we could hit a mission money total of \$600 or better, he would dye his hair! Since we have already hit that \$600 mark, the students are pretty excited to learn more about when they will get those "prizes". Please continue to keep CAMM in your prayers.

Classroom News

Mr. Raddatz's Classroom

It is hard to believe that we are on the cusp of closing out another calendar year. Wearing the teacher cap for a moment, I would like to remind you and your child that following Christmas break, there are **ROUGHLY 2 weeks** left in second quarter. Parents, if you find that your child could be better suited not spending the vast amount of their break in front of the TV, I pass on this kind reminder that there are several assignments that can be fixed or improved before those grades are sealed for second quarter. Please note as part of our classroom page, assignments can be completed and submitted online, right from home or wherever you may be traveling to. I will be providing your child with a list of incomplete, missing, or "fixable" work that can be worked on during the break. If you would have any questions, you most certainly can email or call, and I would be happy to assist.

As your child looks forward to returning from break. . . cough, cough. . . it maybe a good time to set new goals, for the new year. Goals that may focus on better preparation for quizzes and tests, being more thorough in work completion, better usage of assignment notebook, **READING, READING, READING**, and continuing to challenge themselves in becoming better problem solvers. Your children and I have discussed several of these items, and I am quite certain that a larger break might provide an opportunity to reset, and reapply more focus when they return.

Teacher cap is removed.

I wish you and your family a truly wonderful Christmas and New Year. May we all take the time to celebrate the GREATEST gift given, Jesus. May He bless you and your family in the year ahead.

Mrs. Bunn's Classroom

My apologies for allowing your children to get all "sugared up" this past week or so. We've had a number of birthdays this month, an ice cream sundae prize, cupcakes, candy, cookies, cookies, and more cookies... I'm hoping to get my money's worth out of my exercise bike over Christmas break.

I've really enjoyed preparing your children for the Christmas service this past Sunday. What an amazing experience for the students! They did a wonderful job sharing the good news of our Savior and I heard so many compliments in regards to their beautiful singing voices. This year I was particularly impressed with how many students were willing to do some positive risk-taking. It's scary to sing solos, play an instrument, or do a speaking part on your own in front of so many people. I can't believe how well they did and again heard so many positive things about how they did in all areas of that service. Keep encouraging them to serve God and others in this way!

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Our last Advent devotion again connected with our Christmas service. It discussed what is meant by “The Key of David” that the students sang about in the song “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” A key is an important tool when you don’t want to get locked out and also a great symbol to explain the meaning of the promised Messiah. When the first people decided to sin, they were locked out of the Garden of Eden forever and ever since then we’ve all been locked out of God’s kingdom because of sin. It was God’s plan to unlock his kingdom, heaven, to us through the promised one, Jesus. He is our key, descended of David, that unlocked heaven by dying for us and rising again. The Father now waits for us with open arms to someday welcome us home to heaven. Praise God for “closing the path to misery” and “opening wide our heavenly home”.

Advent Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Unlock our ears to hear Your Word. Unlock our hearts to believe and trust Your promises. Open wide our heavenly home and lead us safely there. Amen. (*Celebrate While We Wait*, 1977)

Mrs. Wicks’s Classroom

Mrs. W. does not have anything new to report this week. Check back next time!

Ms. Buss’s Classroom

I want to take a quick moment to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! I hope that the next week and a half off give you some time to rest, and also reflect on the amazing gift of Christmas. I hope that you are able to enjoy some time with family and/or friends that you treasure. With New Year’s coming up as well, I wish you a safe New Year as well as a happy one. I look forward to seeing you all back on Thursday, January 2, when school resumes. Until then, have a great break and God bless you.

Mrs. Foelske’s Classroom

Mrs. Foelske has nothing new to report this week. Check back next time.

