



# St. James Lutheran School Newsletter

December 4, 2020

## Equipping and Empowering Families and Students Through Christ

Chapel Offerings this year are designated for the Orphan Grain Train. Remember your offerings every Wednesday to help this organization help people near and far. So far this quarter we have collected \$122.86.



Everyone should have received an email this week through Fast Direct explaining the procedure for picking up assignments as we work our way through these days of increased absences. A table is set up between the two sets of doors at the main entrance (Fellowship Hall doors) where the teachers will place homework by 3:00 p.m. The outer doors remain unlocked so that parents may pick up assignments at their convenience. Parents may also leave completed assignments on that table.

Things you can turn in as fundraisers: Our Family barcodes, Loaves for Learning labels, Coke lids or codes from inside Coke cartons, used ink cartridges, (name brand or generic) and aluminum cans. If you shop at Coborns, log in to moreRewards.com and follow the instructions for their rewards program. General Mills boxtops now have an online program as well. You scan your store receipt to the General Mills app and St. James will get credit for your purchase.

### Final Scrip order before Christmas is due Dec. 14

You can use these cards as gifts for others, or use them yourself to get take out, or purchase gifts and necessities. You pay the full price for the card and you get the full value of the card when you shop, but you also receive a percentage (listed for each vendor on the order form) as credit to next year's tuition.

**We welcome** Isabel Morress to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. Please add this info to your School Directory:

**Shawn & Kelli Eastman**  
1109 Woodland Dr.  
Howard Lake, MN 55349  
(859) 815-9785

8 Isabel Morress



In Our Prayers: This upcoming week please add these prayer requests to your daily prayer time:

- † For proper preparation of our hearts as we go through Advent and anticipate Christ's second coming.
- † For healing for all with illnesses or injuries, especially Diane Odenbrett's husband, Duane recovering from broken ribs.
- † For Connie Baumann and Lesley Stueven as they continue with cancer treatments.
- † For missionaries serving your church throughout the world.
- † For all those serving in the military and their families.
- † For all those who work to keep our communities safe and provide help in times of trouble or danger.
- † For all who serve in government positions, to be guided by honesty and integrity.

Remember too, that you can join the 9 at 9:00 prayer group at any time, in person or from the comfort of your home.

Ring the Bells! Our staff and students have begun preparations for our annual Christmas program. In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, and still share the joy of Christ's birth, we will be recording the Christmas program and making it available to all our families to view at their convenience.

children's  
program



### Next Week at St. James School:

Fri., Dec. 4

Spirit Wear Day

Sun., Dec. 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Mon., Dec. 7

6:30 p.m.

PTL meeting in the library

Wed., Dec. 9

8:10 a.m.

Chapel

1:30 p.m.

Advent Worship

7:00 p.m.

Advent Worship

Thurs., Dec. 10

Library

### At the reception desk:

- Mayer Knights information
- Scrip order forms
- December menus
- Church and school newsletters



**Advent prayer:** Stir up we ask You, Your power, O Lord, and come that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**With the colder temperatures** coming, please remember to have your child(ren) wear their warm coats, hats, mittens, snowpants, boots etc. for recess times .



**Things you can turn in as fundraisers:** Our Family barcodes, Loaves for Learning labels, Coke lids or codes from inside Coke cartons, used ink cartridges, (name brand or generic) and aluminum cans. If you shop at Coborns, log in to moreRewards.com and follow the instructions for their rewards program. General Mills boxtops now have an online program as well. You scan your store receipt to the General Mills app and St. James will get credit for your purchase.

### **Mayer Lutheran High Open House**

You are welcome to visit Mayer Lutheran on either January 19 or February 9<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 and 8:00 PM for a student/parent panel, presentation, campus tour and refreshments. Masks are required and safe distancing will be practiced.

### **Students of the Week:**

**Karina Penkert** joined our fourth grade class this year. She was born on October 7. Her parents are Angelina and Emmanuel, and she has siblings, Yanik, Agnesa and Jesse. Jesus is her favorite person in the Bible and reading is her favorite subject in school. She enjoys horseback riding, hiking and fishing in her free time. Karina's favorite TV show is Home Alone and her favorite movie is Impossible. Potatoes and gravy are her favorite thing to eat. Karina would like to see covid go away so that people don't die. When she grows up, she wants to be a horse trainer.

**Oliver Tarning** has just joined our fifth grade class. He was born on September 14 in Hutchinson. His parents are Brent and Chelsea and he has younger siblings, Morgan, Claire and John. Oliver's favorite person in the Bible is Jesus, and PE is his favorite part of the school day. He likes to eat pizza and in his spare time likes to build with Legos, play football or watch Marvel movies. He enjoys watching Walker Texas Ranger on TV and Spiderman is his favorite movie. To change the world for the better, Oliver would put an end to fighting. When he grows up, Oliver would like to be a football player and then a Lego designer.

### **Band Olympics**

The eleven students of the Advanced Band completed ten weeks of friendly "Band Olympic" competition, our replacement for the postponed 2020 summer Olympic games. They competed in events such as dynamic diving, technique triathlon, and even a "javelin throw" (by playing progressively larger intervals on their instruments). Each of the ten events focused on a fundamental instrumental skill, and the students earned gold, silver, or bronze stickers at each lesson for their successful attempts. They were ranked according to points for each medal earned, and the top five medal-winners were: Tanner Glessing, Olivia Cardinal, Mason Glessing, Vivian Nikko, and Ma'Kenzie Teorey. Congratulations to all the band Olympians for their hard work! (Missing from the photo are: Olivia Cardinal and Garrett Hatcher)



Greetings from Saint James Third and Fourth grade room!

By the time you read this month's newsletter, the month of November and the Thanksgiving holiday will have come and gone. During the month of November the students and myself spent some time reflecting on what we were thankful for. This year of the pandemic and election has proven to be challenging for many people. The students have witnessed and experienced these challenges just like the adults have. Despite challenges of the year 2020, the students were able to find plenty to be thankful for!

As part of our discussion on thankfulness, the students and I discussed the meaning of the term **silver lining**. We discovered that a **silver lining** is a sign of hope or a positive aspect in an otherwise negative situation. The phrase is often seen as part of the proverb "every cloud has a **silver lining**", meaning that there is hope or something good to be found in every bad situation. The students were able to verbalize many **silver linings** to the challenges of this year. Leave it to kids to see the positive and bask in the assurance of God's presence! I thought it would be nice to share their perspectives. Here are some of their thoughts:

- People have been able to get projects done.
- We do not need to worry as much about Covid because kids do not become very sick from it.
- We can get things done at our house.
- We do not need to worry about the election because it is in God's hands.
- One good thing that came out of Covid is how fast they discovered a vaccination.
- In quarantine, we can get stuff done that we could not before.
- We have been able to enjoy the nice weather.
- The good thing about quarantine is that we can stay home and not get sick.
- The doctors are able to take away the virus.
- There are two vaccinations.
- Doctors will find out things they did not know before.
- We are able to discover hobbies we did not have before.
- We are able to be at home and stay safe.
- When we are at home we can discover new things to do.
- Life is sometimes better when we are not so busy.
- We get to spend more time with our family.
- God is with us!

I am grateful for these **silver linings** and words of thankfulness and positivity the young minds of our classroom were able to offer. Yes, God IS with us!

Another **silver lining** to the challenges of this year is that our classroom and school have been blessed with many new students. Getting to know these precious

souls and having them join us at Saint James has been a wonderful blessing. Enrollment is up at Saint James. We have 108 students enrolled this year. Here is the enrollment by grade, if you are interested in the size of our classrooms: Three year old preschool has 6 students. Four year old preschool has 11 students. Kindergarten has 14 students. First grade has 16 students. Second grade has 11 students. Third grade has 10 students. Fourth grade has 12 students. Fifth grade has 9 students. Sixth grade has 8 students. Seventh grade has 5 students. Eighth grade has 6 students.

Last January, thanks to the generous gift from the Wolfsteller estate, our congregation made the decision to offer free tuition to first year students at our school. In our wildest dreams we could not have realized that the reality of an unforeseen virus would allow many new students to be able to benefit from this gift to our school. A definite **silver lining** to this new reality is that many new students are able to be a part of our school and able to grow in the faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior!

Another highlight of the month of November was the tremendous outpouring of our students in their chapel offerings and collection of Thanksgiving food items. The students' chapel offerings totaled \$353 earmarked for the Orphan Grain Train and they collected over 643 items destined for local food shelves.

As we look forward, the students have been working on preparing for the Christmas program. This year's program will be recorded and presented online. Many of you who could not have attended our program in person will be able to view this year's Children's Christmas Service. Although we will not be gathering in person, this is a **silver lining** to our Advent and Christmas preparations.

The challenges of this year may alter many of our plans...but those challenges CANNOT stop us from celebrating our Savior's birth. And of course, we remember the ultimate **silver lining**: the sadness of our Savior's death leading to the gladness of His resurrection and gift of forgiveness! The third and fourth grade and myself wish you God's richest blessings during this Advent. We hope you are able to find the **silver linings** in the upcoming days and beyond!

Saint James Third and Fourth Grade