



Early Learning News

childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org

December 2017

Dear Friends and Families,

As I returned from my Thanksgiving holiday, I immediately felt the excitement of Christmas in the air at St. James. I walked into the church and I saw the Advent calendar hanging outside of the church office and decorations had begun in the worship area! The children were already singing Christmas songs (which had begun directly after Halloween) and were talking about seeing Santa and what gifts they wanted for Christmas.

Not to be Grinch, but at this time of year it's the perfect opportunity to teach the children about the gift of giving instead of receiving and turn their focus around. In the spirit of giving this holiday season, please consider donating one item from our Giving Tree for the Gettysburg Cares Program located outside of the Early Learning office. You can do so by taking a leaf from the tree for an item(s) you wish to donate.

For those of you who do not know about the Gettysburg Cares Program, here is a description: *"Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S (Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter) is a cold weather shelter program that provides shelter and services when no other shelter can be found. The Center is open full time October through the end of April with limited hours during September. The Emergency Shelter is provided by area churches in our community and individuals that are homeless sleep at night in different areas churches."*

This year, St. James Lutheran Church will be hosting families and children two weeks prior to Christmas, including Christmas day. We thought this was an exciting opportunity to teach the children about the spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate. We will take the donations and wrap them, mark them for girl, boy, woman or man and take them upstairs the Friday evening before Christmas.

Now is the time to teach that it is a far greater gift to give than it is to receive. Thank you for supporting the Project Cares this holiday season! Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed holiday season,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- ▲ **Thursday, December 7th and 8th, 2017** – Holiday Family Outreach in the Dining Room.
- ▲ **Friday, December 8th** – Staff Christmas Party Donations due. Please note in the Memo line on the check "Staff Xmas".
- ▲ **Monday, December 11th, 2017 at noon** – Final Gift Card Orders due for our last minute holiday shoppers.
- ▲ **Monday, December 18th** all Holiday Vacation Request/Schedule Changes due: with the holiday season approaching, I want to remind everyone to please put any vacation/schedule change requests in writing two weeks prior to the changes. We ask for two weeks advance notice so that billing and staff schedule changes can be made. You can submit changes via email to: childcare@stjamesgettysburg.org
- ▲ **Thursday, December 21st** - Christmas "Advent"ure. Please join us from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the dining room for food, fun and festivities!
- ▲ **Monday, December 25th** Center Closed: for the Christmas Holiday.
- ▲ **Monday, January 1st** Center Closed: for the New Year Holiday.