



Early Learning News

childcare@stjamesgettyburg.org

December 2018

Dear Friends and Families,

As I returned from my Thanksgiving holiday, I immediately felt the excitement of Christmas all around, both in the church and out! As I drove to work, people had already hung Christmas lights on their homes and trusty old St. Nick was sitting on a tractor on the Fairfield Rd. 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 Christmas ornament 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 from Christmas through New Year's 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 6th and 7th, 2018 – Holiday Family Outreach in the Dining Room.

Wednesday, December 12th at noon – Final Gift Card Orders due for our last-minute holiday shoppers.

Monday, December 10th 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@stjamesgettyburg.org

Friday, December 14th - Christmas "Advent"ure. Please join us from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the dining room for food, fun and festivities!

Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th – Center Closed, have a wonderful Christmas Holiday!

Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st – Center Closed, have a safe and happy New Year Holiday.

KIDS CLUB FAMILIES:

A reminder to all families that sign up for additional services in our school age program. When you sign them up on the sheet, you are contracting for additional services on that day. You will be billed the additional fee regardless if your child comes or the funding stream for care. Please read the sign up sheet carefully before signing your child up.