



**Assisting Parents
in Bringing up their Children
in the Training
and Instruction of the Lord.**



THE PARTNERSHIP POST

December 6, 2020

Divine Calls

Dear SVLS families,

On Sunday, December 6, both Mrs. Steinmetz and I received Divine Calls to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Belle Plaine, MN. My call is to serve as their school's Principal and 7th-8th grade teacher, and her call is to serve as their Preschool teacher.

Over the next few weeks, we humbly ask that you would keep us in your prayers as we deliberate our calls both to SVLS and to Trinity and consider how and where we might best serve our Savior. We also invite you to reach out to either of us and share your thoughts and input with us as we deliberate.

In His service,
Jacob and Ashley Steinmetz

Classroom Christmas Parties and Gift Exchanges

The teachers have been discussing how to go about having a classroom Christmas party and what to do about Christmas gifts for this school year. After some good discussion and weighing the options, here is what we decided to do:

+ Christmas Party Snacks - Instead of asking you to buy or bring something food-related this year, we're asking that, if you're willing, to donate a few dollars to your child's classroom. Then the teachers will go shopping and purchase food for the classroom Christmas parties. We ask that if you're going to donate a couple dollars for this, you get the money to the teachers by the end of next week (December 18).

+ Christmas Gifts - We have been in contact with the Hope Center here in Appleton, a branch of WELS United and located on the campus of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. This year, in place of a student-to-student gift exchange, we are asking the children to consider donating a gift (or gifts) to the Hope Center. Prior to COVID, the Hope Center typically had 30-40 families per month who were in need that came to them. In November 2020 alone, they had 120 families come to them in need of some help!

This Christmas, please consider sharing the blessings you have with other families in the Fox Valley who don't have as much as you do. The biggest needs the families have right now are daily necessities such as body wash, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toilet paper, hand soap, liquid dish detergent, bleach wipes, diapers, and baby wipes. Additionally, reading books or crafts for children would be appreciated. All items should be new and in store packaging. They also ask that nothing be gift wrapped. We are asking that your child(ren) bring any gifts to school by December 18 to give the Hope Center sufficient time to make them ready for their families. Thank you for considering this Christmas giving opportunity through SVLS to the Hope Center!

Athletics Cancellation Announcement

In response to the recent shift to virtual learning for a sizable subset of our school's students, there will be no basketball or cheerleading practices this week. We will tentatively plan to resume practices on December 15. If this date changes, that information will be communicated to you.

Hot Lunch this Friday December 11th

spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, veggie, fruit
\$3.00

Scrip

Next week will be the last order for physical gift cards before Christmas. There are many eGift Cards and reloadable card options that can be ordered online at www.ShopWithScrip.com or their new mobile app RaiseRight.

Children's Christmas Service

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School's Children's Christmas service will be conducted virtually this year. Each classroom has prepared recitations and a song. On each weekday beginning Monday, December 14, one segment of the Christmas service will be published on our SVLS Facebook page, with the service being released in its entirety after all the segments have been published. A Christmas message from Pastor Schumann will precede the full service on December 22. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SVLSgradeschool) to view our 2020 Children's Christmas service. May the Holy Spirit enrich and build you up through the Christmas message the children will be sharing!

Virtual/At-Home Worship Opportunities

We encourage you to make use of a virtual option from one of our congregations

Mt. Calvary - A recording of the Thursday service is published to [Mt. Calvary's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/mtcalvarymenasha) (<https://www.facebook.com/mtcalvarymenasha>) and also to [Pastor Johnston's YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) ([revjjohnston](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)).

Bethel - The 8:00 Sunday worship service is live streamed on [Bethel's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) (Bethel Lutheran Church - Menasha, WI) and then kept on YouTube. Additionally, Bethel also has Worship At Home videos on [the homepage of their website](http://www.bethelmenasha.org) (www.bethelmenasha.org).

St. Luke - All worship services in December are live streamed on [St. Luke's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeslittlechute) (<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeslittlechute>) and kept there. Additionally, recordings of worship services can be found at [St. Luke's Vimeo channel](https://vimeo.com/user19193641) (<https://vimeo.com/user19193641>).

1st Semester Mission Offerings

We have chosen to support the WELS Prison Ministry with our school's first semester chapel mission offerings. WELS Prison Ministry is a special ministry of WELS which seeks to build relationships and share Jesus with individuals who are incarcerated and in prison. So far this semester, SVLS has collected \$881.00 for WELS Prison Ministry.

Midweek Advent Worship

During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Join us at our midweek Advent services on the next two Wednesdays, December, 9th and 16th:

Bethel - 11:30 a.m.

Mt. Calvary - 4:00 p.m.

St. Luke - 6:30 p.m.

We encourage all our SVLS families to attend Advent worship, whether on-site or virtually. If your family will be attending the 4:00 service at Mt. Calvary after school, please notify your child(ren)'s teacher(s). The children will remain in their classrooms after dismissal, and when you arrive for worship, we will send your children to you.

Worship at Bethel

920-725-1822-English
920-840-5490-Espanol
Thursday Worship English 6:30pm
Sunday Worship-English 8:00, 10:30am
Los Domingos Misa-Espanol 12:00pm

Worship at St. Luke

920-788-4408
Wednesday at 6:30pm
Sunday at 9:00am

Worship at Mt. Calvary

920-731-4001
Thursday at 6:30pm
Sunday at 8:00 & 9:00am in Menasha
and 6:30pm in Stockbridge
11:00am Advent Worship

SVLS COVID-19 Update

As you are likely aware by now, we have had to quarantine a substantial subset of our school students and are going virtual with two of our classrooms. This is not because families have thrown caution to the wind and stopped taking their precautions. No, it simply means that even though we are taking precautions in school and you are taking precautions out of school, COVID still happens because of the community spread. And with that community spread, it makes tracing the origin of each specific infection extremely difficult, if not impossible. That's not to say we will stop taking the precautions we've been taking; rather, it's crucial that we continue taking the precautions we've been taking! And we continue to be extremely thankful for what you are doing with your families and for your proactive communication with us! Thanks in large part to the precautions you've been taking, we've been able to conduct in-person learning for the vast majority of this school year! In fact, our whole-school overall average rate for in-person learning versus fully virtual learning is 95%! Thank you for doing what you're doing, so we all can continue doing what we're doing at school!

You may also be aware that there is revised guidance from the CDC regarding quarantine durations and such. We are currently actively working with the Calumet County Health Department and with other local and regional school leaders to discuss the details and logistics of the revised guidance and its potential effects. Expect further communication on this topic sometime this week, especially if your child is currently in quarantine.

We continue to appreciate the abundance of caution we have seen our SVLS families take with keeping their children at home if they're sick, and we appreciate your patience as we work together to keep things as consistent as we can during the pandemic. May God continue to give us all a rich measure of patience!

It certainly can be difficult though! Should I keep my child home or send them to school? Should I get tested for COVID-19? Should I take my child to get tested for COVID-19? In most cases, if your child has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the recommendation of the health department is to get them tested, if only to rule it out. The chart below summarizes when to get tested for COVID-19, according to WI-DHS guidance:

People with the below symptoms or combination of symptoms may have COVID-19. The table below outlines WI-DHS recommendations of who should receive COVID-19 testing in Wisconsin. If you have these symptoms, **stay home, call your school office and get tested.**

Box A (any <u>one</u> symptom present)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cough (above baseline) <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell
OR
Box B (any <u>two</u> symptoms present)
<input type="checkbox"/> Congestion or runny nose (above baseline) <input type="checkbox"/> Chills or fever (100.4) <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat (above baseline)
<small><i>"If you choose not to get tested, you must remain home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset AND at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without use of medicine AND other symptoms have improved."</i></small>
OR
Box C
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a close contact of someone with COVID-19
<small><i>WI-DHS recommends getting tested if you are a close contact. If you test negative during your quarantine period, you will still need to complete your full 14-day quarantine before it is safe to go back to school or be around others</i></small>

For all other illnesses, follow typical school illness protocol by staying home, calling the school office and once your child is 24 hour symptom free they may return. For

For determining whether to keep your child at home or send them to school, please keep your child at home if:

- They are sick
- They are being tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting test results
- They test positive for COVID-19
- They are a close contact of someone with COVID-19
- A family member experiencing COVID-like symptoms is being tested for COVID-19

As always, please feel free to contact Mr. Steinmetz (jacob.steinmetz@svls.us or 920-731-4001) if you have any questions. God be with all of us this Advent season and in this stretch leading up to Christmas break. Thank you for your continued cooperation, patience, and support!