



Forest Hills

Lutheran Christian School

Forest Hills Friday News
December 2, 2016

Well, it's officially started. The countdown to Christmas is on, and the question I've been asked repeatedly in various places is, "Are you ready yet?" What a loaded question! There's so much to prepare, so many things to do, and yet the days are going by so fast! This weekend, I intend to tackle one of the biggest projects - getting the house decorated!

It may seem like a relatively simple project, but it sure involves a lot of smaller tasks. From digging out those big Christmas bins, to finding decorations, setting up the tree, placing those decorations in just the right place, hanging garland and holly in the house - decorating a home can take quite a while, and it usually leaves me feeling exhausted!

However, after the home is decorated, it's nice to sit back and enjoy. It's nice to see those items that remind you of Christmas and help to prepare my heart to receive the greatest gift ever given to me - the baby Jesus. As I think about it, God is doing the exact same thing for me - He's getting His house ready to receive me on that day when He calls me home.

I don't know what my Heavenly home is going to look like, I only know that God is there preparing it for me. I wonder what kind of decorations it will have. I wonder what the celebrations in Heaven are going to look like. In John 14, Jesus talks to His disciples, reassuring them that He is indeed preparing a place for them. When the disciples became confused, Jesus shared one of His more famous phrases, saying, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In that passage, did you catch it? Did you catch the importance of Christmas? Without Jesus, we would not have that home waiting for us.

You see, in our sin, we were separated from God. Yet out of His great love for us, He sent His one and only Son into this world to endure the punishment that we deserved for our sins. Jesus lovingly took that punishment, and through Him, we have access to God the Father - we have a home that is waiting for us one day.

That's the importance of Christmas - it begins God's salvation plan for His people - for you, and for me. In my mind, that's why I decorate my home. It reminds me of much more than just the warmth of time spent with family and friends. It goes beyond the smell of the live Christmas tree and the taste of egg nog. It goes even beyond the music that I play to help get my mind in the Christmas mood. Christmas is about Jesus, and because it's about Jesus, it's about you too.

At Christmas, God truly fulfills what He says in John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life." So go ahead. Decorate your homes. Enjoy the good feelings that Christmas brings, but also remember that God is decorating a home for you. Because of Jesus, the first Christmas present ever, we can look forward with confidence and excitement to celebrate Christmas in our new home one day.

Mike Schiemann. <><
Principal



Coming Events

see our Google calendar at fhcls.org for game times

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| Friday, 12/2 | New Time - Class Meeting, 3:15 pm |
| Monday, 12/5 | Girls Bball at HOME Boys Green & White Bball at HOME |
| Thursday, 12/8 | Girls Bball at Pilgrim Boys Green Bball @ PJA Boys White Bball @ Gilkey |
| Tuesday, 12/13 | ALL Bball @ Tom McCall |
| Thursday, 12/15 | All School Christmas Walk |
| Friday, 12/16 | Christmas Devotion, 2:15 pm |
| Monday, 12/19 | Christmas Vacation Begins |
| Saturday, 12/24 | Christmas Eve |
| Sunday, 12/25 | Christmas Day |
| Friday, 12/30 | Happy Birthday, Mrs. Brennan! |
| Monday, 1/2 | New Year's Day observed, No School |
| Tuesday, 1/3 | Classes Resume |
| Friday, 1/6 | Epiphany Auction Kick-off Assembly CLASS Meeting |
| Monday, 1/11 | Happy Birthday, Mrs. Langbehn & Mrs. Van Scoten! |
| Friday, 1/13 | Professional Development, No School |
| Monday, 1/16 | MLK, Jr Holiday, No School |

Next Week in Chapel

SOAR - Standing On A Rock

We welcome Rev. Nick Koschmann, pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Forest Grove as our chapel leader on Wednesday, December 7. Pastor Koschmann will talk with us about "**Growing from a ROCK**". Our text for the week is from Isaiah 11:1-5.

The story of Jesus "growing" from the family of Jesse seemed impossible. This was a family that included a foreign woman by the name of Ruth. This was a family that included a king (David) who had committed adultery and murder. Like our families, the family of Jesse was far from perfect. God chose this family as an example of His grace.

Out of this family Jesus would be born. We remember all the Advent promises that God made to His people throughout the Old Testament. God chose the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God chose the family of Judah. All these families were sinful people. God chose to send His Son through them for the forgiveness of their sins and ours. We celebrate the fulfillment of those promises.

God continues to do His growing in some amazing ways and places. Our lives are sinful and our hearts are rocky. Yet God chooses to plant His Word in us. Our faith grows and gets rooted. Our faith not only grows, but, through the Spirit, "fruit" is produced in us.

Where does God want us to plant His Word? God invites us to continue to share His amazing, life-giving Word and to watch Him make it grow.



December 15 will be here soon and with it will come your opportunity to properly prepare for the Christmas season. On that evening, the students from Preschool through 8th grade will gather to show what Christmas is all about.

Our presentation will be a *progressive walk* through our campus.

Please join us **anytime between 5:30 pm and 8 pm**

Ways We Communicate About School Closure or Delayed Start

If we were to delay start or cancel school, we update our Facebook page, send out an e-mail to the whole school and news service and send you a text if you have signed up.

If you haven't sign up for texts from the school, send a text to **text@fhcs** to **81010**. You'll get a reply to then text your name so I know who you are. Once you've done that, you should receive a text from a different number, and that will be the number that you'll receive any text notifications from in the future.



Student Council Hosting a Food Drive

NOW through December 15th, students are asked to bring in canned food for our school-wide competition against Pilgrim Lutheran School. Which school do you think can bring in the most items to support the Oregon Food Banks?

Donations can be dropped off in the food-collection barrels in every building, but any glass bottles will need to go to the Main Building in the box labeled 'Glass'.

Please do not donate rusty or unlabeled cans, perishable items, homemade items, non-commercial canned or packaged items, soda, or opened/used items. Thank you for your contribution!

End of 1st Trimester



Report cards will be sent home in your Family Envelope on Friday, December 9.

Support us when you
shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you
shop at smile.amazon.com.

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Amazon will donate .5% for every purchase made when you shop smile.amazon.com. Click on this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1145946> when you do your **Auction Basket** purchase, and Christmas shopping.

Auction Reminder

Thank you for turning in your classroom basket commitment forms! If you haven't already turned it in, please put it in your Family Envelope and return it on Monday.

Our classroom competition will begin January 9th. Please bring your purchased items to school during the competition and don't forget to fill out and attach a donation form for each item. If you have questions, please email the auction committee at auction@fhcs.org.

