

Enriching lives and sharing Christ through quality Lutheran education.



The Purple Note

November 13, 2020

[Visit our Website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

25th Early Dismissal 1:00
NO Afterschool ABC Care

26-27th Thanksgiving Break



THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FAMILIES

This week we remember Rylee Zuraff, Creed Thompson, Emjay Joshua and Gideon Kwandt. If you know of a family you would like us to include in our prayers, please let the office know.

Chapel Wednesday, November 18 at 8:30 am.

Chapel services will be live streamed on the

Martin Luther 2020-2021 Facebook group.



We certainly embrace the gift of Music at Martin Luther School.

As Martin Luther himself stated,

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given

to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.”

Whether we are lifting our voices in song or playing a musical instrument, we have always appreciated this wonderful gift God has given us.

Due to our rising numbers of COVID-19 in our community, we have chosen to NOT hold our traditional Christmas concert in-house as we have in the past. There simply isn't enough room to hold everyone, socially distance, AND be able to easily see. We will however, make a video recording of our program to share in DVD form with our families. Due to privacy issues, we will not be airing it on Facebook or the MLS website.

Our concert will include the traditional choirs, bells, and band. We still look forward to making a joyful noise to celebrate our Savior's birth. We can't tell you how much we miss having everyone together for this. It honestly is one of the highlights of our year. We hope that we will be able to share with you through Scripture and song, the true message of Christmas, the birth of our Savior.



**World Lutheran
Deaf Outreach**

Our chapel offerings during the second quarter will go to support Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

[Click here to see what we learned in chapel with Pastor Reinke and Lutheran Deaf Outreach!](#)

Last quarter \$180.00 was given to support Central Lutheran School in Newhall, Iowa that had sustained significant damage from the derecho that past through the midwest this August.

**~Coffee and Pie~
Online
THANK YOU!!**



On behalf of the Martin Luther School students, staff, and board, thank you to all that helped make MLS' first ever online auction/fundraiser a great success. Whether you donated items, bid on items, made a cash donation, or offered prayers for MLS, all were greatly appreciated.

In total, approximately \$5,500 was raised to go towards the purchase of much needed replacement iPads and projectors!

Please continue to keep MLS in your prayers as it provides Bismarck-Mandan area students the opportunity to learn about, not only traditional academics, but also God and our Savior Jesus Christ in a Lutheran setting.



Martin Luther Gear For Sale!

Have you seen our
MARTIN LUTHER LION
GEAR for sale!
Check out our newest
Luther Lion Logo!

Addressing COVID Concerns

To parents of students in Kindergarten-6th grade.

(This DOES NOT pertain to PRESCHOOL CLASSES.)

When it comes to the battle against COVID 19, we do have some great advantages at Martin Luther School.

- Our small class help us to more easily social distance in the classroom. Students are able to do seat work or use flexible seating while still social distancing.
- We have installed a HALO LED air purifying system which constantly is working to clean and recycle air through the building.
- By God's grace and measures listed above, the number of positive COVID cases in our student population is extremely low with symptoms minimal.

However, even with these factors in place, the possibility of one of our students, staff, or a member of our families contracting COVID is very real that needs to be addressed.

As much as we try to keep our classes separated and contacts limited, the reality is that we have several teachers who are "floaters," who teach different classes. There are many overlapping relationships in our small school where

all it would take is one positive COVID case to put several classes in quarantine or isolation due to close contacts.

We all see the numbers of COVID cases on the rise on our community and state. We currently are dealing with a significant number of staff members and families who are absent because they have either tested positive and need to quarantine, or they are close contacts and forced to self-isolate. When staff members, as well as our substitutes are absent, this puts an extra burden on the staff that IS present at school. These measures can be addressed simply by having our teachers and students periodically wear masks in school.

Current COVID protocols by health care officials include:

When both parties are wearing masks or maintaining 6-foot distance, only the person who tested positive would need to quarantine. Close contacts would need to self-monitor for symptoms while continuing at school.

Because of our current situation in our community, our students and staff will use masks on a more frequent, yet very limited basis.

Times we will require mask use:

- Small group work where students are working less than 6 feet apart, “centers” work
- Teacher and student working closely, one-on-one
- Classes where grades are intermixed and not able to be 6 feet apart
- ABC Care when less than 6 feet apart.

Times when masks are NOT needed

- When students are seated or in an activity where they are already 6 feet apart
- Lunch
- Recess
- Depending on the activity, gym

Our goals

- To maintain a healthy environment for our students and staff.
- To maintain adequate staff to serve our students and their families while taking safety measures to address close contacts and positive cases
- To continue as much face-to-face education for our students as we can.

We will begin this safety measure this Monday. If they are in morning ABC Care, they will need to have a mask. Several students have already been wearing masks on their own and have found what works for them. (One class has pretty much been up and running with this practice purely on their own.)

Consequences and concerns about COVID-19 are multi-faceted. Reactions and opinions reach widely across the spectrum. This has been a challenging decision to make. My hope and prayer is that we can navigate through this process together in a spirit of unity, illustrating God's care and love for one another. What a blessing it is to help our kiddos grow not only academically and spiritually in the knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. (wolfgram@lutherschools.org or 400-1179) As always, I welcome your input. In His service,
Denise Wolfgram

It's COLD OUT!

Now that the weather has turned chilly, please remember to send the necessary clothing items to keep them warm as they head out to recess.



After School Pick up and ABC Care Notes

Since the weather has turned cold, I cannot tell you how much we appreciate your **name signs at pick up time!** Even if you are far down in the line up, if we can clearly see a name on the right side of the window on your dash, we can get your kiddo out to you pronto and on your way promptly. If we can't identify your car, we will simply wait until you are up by the school, at which which time we can then dismiss your child.

Preschool Families:

We will get signs made for you to have at pick up time, as well, so afterschool ABC Care pick up, we can more easily tell who it is we are dismissing. We will also make sure that the kiddos have their coats on and are ready for the elements. It may take us a few minutes, but we know how important it is to be protected from the cold.

My child's class is quarantined! Now what?

I think it's fair to say that having face-to-face education IN school is what everyone prefers. Nevertheless, temporary distance learning will likely happen at one time or another during this school year. When a positive case or close contact is acknowledged, it means that we'll need to take action quickly.

What you can expect:

When class goes into quarantine, it hits everyone by surprise. Even the best of teachers will need to have some time to get packets ready, most likely a week's worth of materials, for their students. Depending on the age level of the student, they may not have much schoolwork to do on the first day.

The teacher will compile a packet of materials for your child. This will include work sheets, textbooks, and other items needed to complete the schoolwork. If you need to check out a Chrome book to use for the duration of the quarantine, please let us know and we'll get that ready.

Once the packets are ready, you can pick them up at the school. If you are unavailable to come pick them up, let us know and we can

make arrangements to get them to you.

Attendance:

Once we get past the first day or two, you will be asked to have you or your child sign in daily for attendance, either through Google Classroom or Seesaw, the platforms our school has chosen to use if we needed to go with distance learning during any quarantine.

Online expectations

The teachers will have an assigned time for a group devotion time with their students as well as some time to assist with lessons that are assigned. Please understand that **this will not be virtual learning**, as in being online throughout the day. Our teachers will have likely at least one lesson a day (preferably math) done in a way that is either live or video recorded to assist students.

Teachers, (assuming that if are healthy or at least asymptomatic if they are the one with the virus) will be available to assist students if needed.

Do not expect your child to be doing schoolwork for the same amount of time that they would have been in school. Time needed for completing the work at home is typically takes less time than that of a school.

Confidentiality. If you or your family member is the one who tests positive, please do not feel as though you “brought” COVID to the classroom. Even with the safest precautions taken, we can’t control how this disease spreads, or even the validity of the COVID test itself. Please know that we will not divulge identity of the person who has tested positive.

We hope and pray that we can get through all of the COVID concerns soon and get back to normal. Until then, we are taking precautions to help keep everyone safe and healthy to the best of our abilities.

Dealing with the sniffles

BPS has created an "Illness Decision Tree" shown below. We will use this diagram to help direct us as we deal with the illnesses throughout the year.

On the right in the blue box are a variety of symptoms of common illnesses. If your child presents with these symptoms, it doesn't necessarily mean that he or she has COVID-19. However, we need those symptoms assessed by your primary care provider along with a letter of verification before allowing your child coming back to school.

Pick Up During the School Day and Office Access

One of the hardest adjustments for us to make at MLS **AND** the hardest restriction to have to enforce is to limit parent access to the building. We've always appreciated the opportunity to visit with our parents and grandparents at drop off and pick up time. We appreciate your understanding when we work to reinforce new procedures to help keep all of us healthy and in school.

Just as a reminder for our K-6 grade guardians/parents.

- Parents are to drop off their student at the south door and not enter the building.
- If you need to contact Julie or Mrs. Wolfgram in the office, call the office (224-9070) and we will arrange to let you in and meet with you.
- In the case that you are in the building, we ask that you wear a mask.
- If you need to pick up your child early or for an appointment during the school day, contact the school when you have arrived, and we will escort your child to the front door to meet you.
- **Please note that the NORTH door is for Zion Lutheran Church activity only. Martin Luther families are to use the SOUTH and WEST doors only, NOT THE NORTH DOOR.**

If you need to visit in person with Julie, our office manager, call her at 224-9070, and she will arrange a time for you to meet with her.

IMPORTANT INFO----SNOW DAYS!?!?!

We've already had our first bit of cool weather, and soon we'll be seeing snow in the forecast. To be informed about any cancellations due to weather, we will be using the "Remind" program and will contact parents via text.

To be included in the system, enter this number: (Like the phone number to whom you are texting) **81010**

Text the message: **@mrswolfg**

If you do not text, simply send an email to the following address:

mrswolfg@mail.remind.com.

Thank you for participating We don't want to leave anyone out in the cold!
(No pun intended. It just happened.)

Tacete! Audite! Listen up!
We are learning some great new commands!

Prior to the COVID outbreak Martin Luther School made the decision to implement philosophies and methods of classical education. Even though we are facing various challenges dealing with COVID-19, we have decided to move forward and make the necessary changes to gradually transition into a classical school.

Learning Latin is one of the basics in classical education. While our students in the past have learned Spanish and even a little French, we are going back to the common denominator of the two-- Latin.



School Lunch

We are LOVING the good eats that our cook, Miss Beverly, has created for us! From the office and kitchen staff, we apologize for any menu changes that

have taken place as we have gotten started. We will try to announce those changes earlier to allow you time to make any arrangements as you see fit. We sometimes need to make substitutions as we navigate through this new program with the "Summer Lunch Program" which allows us to provide these meal at no cost to you.