



ANCHORAGE JUNIOR ACADEMY

Committed To Christian Education

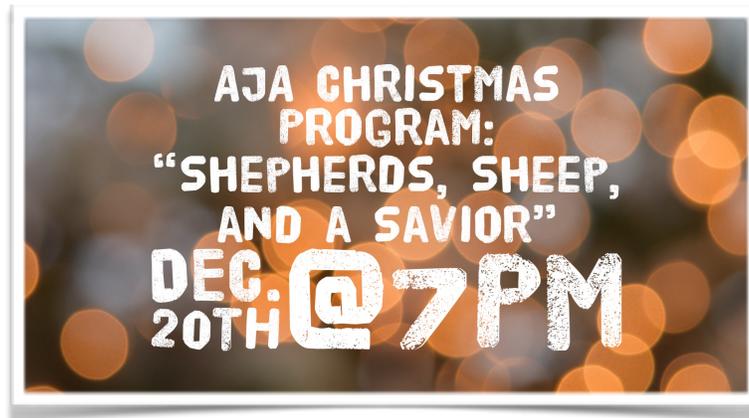
GLACIER ECHO

Weekly Newsletter

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AJA thrives when more wonderful families just like yours hear about our program from you. We'd love to follow-up on any referrals you have made to friends, neighbors, or colleagues. Just drop off the contact info with Ms. Richmond or the office, and we'll see if they'd like to learn more!



- **AJA students arrive @6:30pm**
- **Hillside-O'Malley SDA Church**
- **Black and white attire.**

Principal's Message

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15

The focal prayer of Advent is: "Come, Lord!" Remembering the yearning of Israel, we prepare to celebrate the first coming of the Messiah at Christmas. We also look forward to his second coming. And we invite him to come into our lives through his Spirit, bringing forgiveness, healing, calling, and power for service.

The beloved Christmas hymn, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," is also a song about coming. But now, the invitation is not for the Lord, as in Advent, but for God's faithful people. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is a translation of a Latin hymn *Adeste Fidelis*. The precise origins of the original hymn are not known, but it was probably written by John Francis Wade in the middle of the eighteenth century.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" draws us into the Christmas story in Luke 2:8-16. In this beloved passage, angels appear to shepherds, glorifying God because of the birth of the Savior, the Messiah, who lies in a manger in Bethlehem. After the angels leave, the shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem in order to find the Christ child. They may very well have said to each other things like, "Come, let's go to Bethlehem. Let's come and behold the King of Angels." But, now, our beloved Christmas hymn invites all of God's faithful to come, including you and me.

"To increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

Luke 2:52

Christian education doesn't cost...it pays!

On the path to the future, there are no shortcuts. No investment too large, no sacrifice to great. Thank you for choosing AJA for your child's future. Please let us know how we can pray for your family or better meet your needs this year.

Of course, we cannot literally visit Jesus in the manger. Even if we were to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the place where Christian tradition believes Jesus was born, we wouldn't find a babe lying in a manger. But, we can come to Bethlehem in a sense. We can come in our imaginations as we allow the Christmas story to inspire us. We can come as we reflect on the miracle of Jesus, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing." And we can come in worship, adoring Christ, once born in a manger, once living on earth as a sign of God's kingdom, once dying on a cross for our salvation, once raised from the dead on Easter, now reigning in heaven, welcoming us into his presence, ready to come again and complete his work of establishing God's kingdom.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, -Ms. Richmond

Creation Kids

December's focus is **Environment**

The next two months focus on environment, that which is around us and how it affects all that is within us. Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." This month we will focus on creating healthy spaces inside of us including: getting plenty of fresh air, clean water, adequate sunshine, and managing stress and anxiety.



AJA's Fundraising Thermometer

Upcoming Dates



- **December 10-20** Food Drive for Northside SDA Church Food Pantry
- **December 20** 1/2 day dismissal for program, 12:15pm
- **December 20** AJA Christmas Program at 7pm, kids arrive at 6:30pm
- **December 21-January 6** Christmas Vacation
- **January 26** Chili Feed

Office Announcements

- Snowy weather is upon us. Please ensure that your child has the **appropriate snow gear** to wear outside and their **fleece jacket** to wear inside!
- The **Letter Drive** is still underway. Please submit addresses of friends, family, colleagues, and acquaintances who may be in a position to contribute to our annual fund. Address forms are available in the lobby. You can also grab ready to go envelopes, and just submit the number of letters you've sent out on your own. **Remember our goal is +250 letters sent out. That's about 8 letters per child! Top senders earn a \$40 Target Gift Card.**
- **Earthquake Food Supply** bags have been brought in by a number of students, but not all. Thank you for helping your student be prepared!