



# Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of  
Bethany Lutheran School  
Long Beach, CA

[www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)  
Learn+Love+Lead+Serve



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It's my privilege to work with Bethany Student Council each year. These student leaders are tasked with "learning, loving, leading and serving" their fellow students throughout the school year. They meet twice a month and use their time to *learn* about the qualities of effective leaders, to show their *love* for their fellow students by bringing their concerns to the Council, to *lead* at functions on campus like the flag salute and to *serve* by utilizing their time and talents to improve our school. Along the way, they also learn about Robert's Rules of Order and effective meeting strategies. Previous Student Council members have gone on to serve in student leadership in high school and college!

Here are the members of this year's Student Council:

**President:** Jamie Long

**Vice-President:** Charlie Peck

**Secretary:** Bella Acebo

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Class Representatives:**

Maya Peavler

Timothy O'Conner

Ava Hidalgo

Maya Vega

Ben Evans

Adam Vega

Reenie Long

Hailey Avila

*Blessings on your week!*

*Dr. Fink*

Please join us for  
**Fall Fling  
Open House**

**Oct. 1  
6:30-8:00**

Stop by to see your  
child's classroom and  
visit with your Bethany  
family!

Need plans for dinner?

[Click here to order a  
pizza dinner](#)  
and support our  
8<sup>th</sup> Graders' trip to DC!

*(They'll start serving at 6:00  
in the lunch area.)*

Parents, we already have kids out sick with cold/flu-like symptoms. So far, no one has tested positive for COVID...good news! If your child is sick, PLEASE keep them home, let their teacher know AND contact the school office to let Kim Yoshiyama know. Then schedule a COVID test (or use an over-the-counter test) to confirm that your child does not have COVID before he/she returns to school.

**School Bulletin #4**  
September 21, 2021

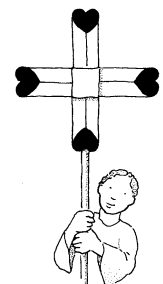
## DON'T FORGET

- ©Sept. 20-24-7<sup>th</sup> Grade to Catalina
- ©Sept. 24-Progress Reports
- ©Sept. 24-Minimum Day-Noon Dismissal
- ©Sept. 27-Oct. 8: MAP Testing Grades 2-8
- ©Sept. 28-PTL Meeting-Library-6:30 PM
- ©Oct. 1-Fall Fling Open House 6:30-8:00
- ©Oct. 6-8 5<sup>th</sup> Grade to AstroCamp
- ©Oct. 8-Kindergarten Community Builder

## Who's leading chapel this week?

- 9/22: Pastor Blake
- 9/29: Pastor Kritzer
- 10/6: Mr. Fink

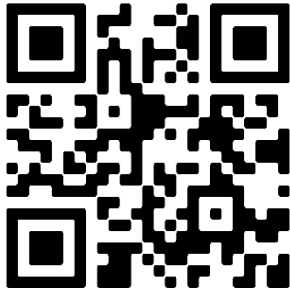
*Parents, you are always  
welcome to join us at  
9:00 in the sanctuary!*





The FISHin' Hole  
*Opportunities to Serve*

Have you signed up to volunteer with the PTL yet? Fill out [their survey](#) and join the fun!



The governing board of Bethany Lutheran School is comprised of six members of the church. They are elected to serve a three-year term. We are grateful for their sacrifice of time and talent.

### Meet a Board Member

Name: Dawn Raya

Family information:

Husband Martin, Sons Avery (age 16, graduate of BLS, current Junior at McBride High), Lucas (age 13, current 8th grader at BLS)

Current and/or past career(s):

Currently a school psychologist, previously a preschool teacher at Bethany Lutheran Preschool

Members of Bethany since 2008.

“Why do you choose to serve on the Board of Schools?”:

I want to help influence the positive direction the schools are heading, as well as bring a unique perspective.

Favorite Bible Verse:

Romans 12:2



**CHAPEL**  
OFFERING

In August/September we will be donating to [Samaritan's Purse](#). This organization is serving refugees from Afghanistan as well as the earthquake and storm victims in Haiti and New Orleans.

### Cook's Night Out

Support our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and their DC Trip AND take the night off from cooking!

Panda Express  
September 24

*See the attached flyer!*

### Shop With Scrip!

There is a Cook's Night Out coming up this Friday, September 24 at Panda Express and we have Scrip for that! They only offer a physical card (\$25) and I do have a few on hand with more coming on Wednesday. Support the Washington DC fundraiser and earn a rebate at the same time! This fundraiser is unique in that you can go to any Panda Express in the US and use the code 904997 - super convenient! Online orders only.

Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator  
[rlopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:rlopez@bethanylutheran.org)  
562-420-7783 ext. 58

### Middle School Corner

This week the 7th graders are taking the classroom to the sea! The 7th grade extra-curricular trip to Catalina Island provides the students with a truly unique learning experience that includes marine biology classes, kayaking, hiking and snorkeling. They always return with amazing stories to share and new knowledge gained. Plus, no white-noise sound machines needed: they will fall asleep to the sound of the Pacific Ocean just outside their cabins! We pray that the Lord blesses their trip!

We lift up prayers of thanks for the safe return of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class who went to Catalina last week!

*"I have never been closer to my class." - Jenna, 8th grade*

*"There were many exciting and unforgettable learning experiences!" - Diana, 8th grade*

*"The ocean is now a whole new world for us." - Charlie, 8th grade*





# Cook's Night Out to Benefit 8<sup>th</sup> Graders DC Trip

Date: 9/24/21

Time: All Day

Location: Anywhere in the US

Details: Online orders only!

Apply code 904997 in the  
coupon code box during online  
checkout at

[order.pandaexpress.com](http://order.pandaexpress.com) or via  
App



# Family Matters

A CHRIST-CENTERED RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS



## IN ALL THINGS

# Having All Things in Order



**We hope this school year will be a step closer to normal.**

There is no doubt that the 2020–21 school year was out of sorts in so many ways. Some schools began instruction online and then moved rather quickly to on-campus teaching. Other schools had to wait to hold on-campus classes and then had to do so in a staggered manner, welcoming various grades back at different starting dates. Some students never made it back to campus at all and remained online the entire school year. For those who did return to on-campus instruction, they know all about the safety measures of mask requirements, washing of hands and maintaining social distance. It was anything but normal.

As much as students, teachers, parents and administration bemoan the routines of school life, let's admit that we missed them this past year. It is human nature for many

of us to want to set patterns for daily life, as it gives us a sense of predictability. The seasons of the year, sleep cycles and the schedule of national holidays and church festivals all create a sense of routine and offer us welcoming patterns for our daily lives. Many hope that this coming school year will usher in those friendly and known routines we haven't recently experienced. We'd now welcome them back like old friends.

It is also helpful to think also about finding order at home within our families as parents. Within our households, it is also a good thing as moms and dads to strive for routine and set healthy patterns that create order and well-being among family members. Hard work, planning and scheduling have a payoff in the gift of peace of mind and emotional stability.

Our spiritual life is different however. While there are benefits to serving others and growing through personal study and prayer, we can never get our faith-walk fully in order. We are always going to come up short due to our sinful condition. The truth is that we won't always do what we should do but will often end up doing what we shouldn't do, even in spiritual matters. It is only through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross that our spiritual life gets in order. It is through the perfectly lived life of Jesus, who died an undeserved death on Calvary, that order is restored in our relationship with God.

While we hope this fall brings a return to order in the schooling of our children, and likewise in our homes, it is reassuring to know that Christ has made all things new in terms of our spiritual lives and gives us the assurance of eternal life.

## FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY //

Gather the family together in a comfortable setting, with no electronic distractions, preferably around a table (or other hard surface) to enjoy the family activity outlined below.

### ACTIVITY TITLE: STEPPING INTO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

#### PURPOSE

To engage family members in an activity that challenges them to plan and celebrate the coming school year.

#### OPENER

Ask the following questions in your family setting to get a conversation going.

- What was hard about last school year?
- Was there anything good about the last school year?
- What are some things you are looking forward to this coming school year?

### FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY: FOOTPRINT PLANS

- 1 In the place where the family members are gathered, please provide the following supplies:
  - Large piece of paper (at least 11 inch by 17 inch) for each family member
  - Multi-colored markers and pencils (crayons could also work)
- 2 Have each family members use a dark color to trace his or her right footprint with the shoe on in the center of the paper.



- 3 Have each family member then draw a cross in the center of the footprint, signifying that Christ guides and directs our steps in the school year ahead. Have family members draw the cross in various styles and enhance it with vibrant colors.
- 4 In a clockwise pattern, have each member of the family write something they hope to see happen this coming school year and circle it. They can highlight it in a special color or decorate as well. Family members unable to write down words can draw a picture of something they hope to see occur or have an older family member write the words for them.
- 5 As family members write down items on their paper, ask them to share with the family what they hope to do or see happen and to share why.
- 6 Family members can write down as many items as they would like to share.
- 7 When each person has completed the poster, have him or her draw a line with a dark-colored marker or crayon from the encircled item to the traced footprint. Then have that person draw an arrowhead point at the end of the line so that it connects with the outline of the footprint, signifying that it is our hope that what we do in the coming year will always point to Christ, who guides and directs our steps.
- 8 Place the completed “footprint plans” in a prominent place in the home, where family members and visitors will see them often and be reminded how the Lord would guide our ways in the coming year ahead and every day.

### CLOSING PRAYER

At the close of the family session, have an adult or older sibling say the following echo prayer, phrase by phrase, with everyone repeating the words.

**Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for watching over us this last school year. Please guide and direct us in the year ahead. Help us to grow in knowledge, and in faith, and in service to others. In the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.**

A RESOURCE OF LCMS SCHOOL MINISTRY