



Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of
Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA
www.bethanylutheran.org
Learn+Love+Lead+Serve



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I'm sure it comes as no surprise that we have LOTS of volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep things running here at Bethany. Some of those volunteers are school parents and some are church members. They are truly a blessing, and our community is better for their service.

This past week we lost one of our biggest blessings: Sam Gierhan (or "Grandpa Sam" as he was affectionately known around the school.) Sam's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended our school, and Sam was our head Trustee for many, many years. He was my first call when something needed fixing, when something flooded or when I couldn't find the right circuit breaker. He would drop whatever he was doing and head this way in his big white pickup. He would also come to campus in the middle of the night if an alarm went off, or he'd come on a Saturday to replace lightbulbs so he wouldn't disturb classrooms. I'm pretty sure I saw him every single day the first 10 years as principal, and I can't look anywhere on campus without seeing his fingerprints.

A few years ago I asked Sam if he was tired of his volunteer position. He told me, "I can't preach, and I can't teach, but I can do this. And I'll let you know when I don't want to do it anymore."

My life, our lives, are richer because of people like Sam. I'm looking forward to seeing him again someday. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Dr. Fink

Parents, you can help keep our Bears safe by:

- Monitoring your child for illness.
- Keeping your child home if he/she shows ANY signs of illness, then contacting the school office to obtain a rapid test to rule out COVID (even if your child is fully vaccinated.)
- Keeping your child home if he/she is exposed to COVID outside of school (family members, friends, etc.) unless he/she is fully vaccinated.

The rules for quarantine due to exposure have changed per the Long Beach Health Department:

- **If students are exposed to COVID by a classmate at school**, they do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. We will provide rapid tests to rule out COVID, as well.
- **If students are exposed to COVID outside of school and are not full vaccinated**, they must quarantine for 5 days. If no symptoms develop and they test negative on Day 5, they may return to school.
- **If students test positive for COVID**, they must quarantine for 5 days. If there are no symptoms and they test negative on Day 5, they may return to school. Otherwise they must continue to quarantine.

**"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble."
Psalm 46:1**

School Bulletin #18
January 18, 2022

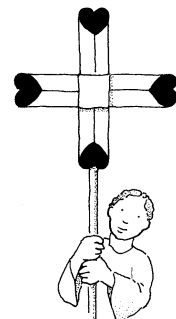
DON'T FORGET

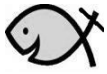
- ©Jan. 21-End Quarter 2
- ©Jan. 23-Student Singing is POSTPONED TO MARCH (K-2, Trinity, Troubadour)
- ©Jan. 24-Acadience Testing begins, Grades K-2
- ©Jan. 25-PTL Meeting (by ZOOM only)
- ©Feb. 7-18 MAP Testing, Grades 3-8
- ©Feb. 9-2022 Kindergarten Info Night-6:30
- ©Feb. 15-Middle School Info Night
- ©Feb. 18-Minimum Day-Noon Dismissal

Who's leading chapel this week?

- 1/19-Mrs. Tucker
- 1/25-Mrs. Rodrigues
- 2/2-Mrs. Blake

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



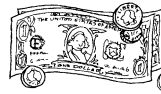


The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

Our nativity set took a beating in the rain...we could use some help giving it a bath and packing it up!

Calendar Change:

**Friday, March 11
will now be a
minimum day
with noon dismissal.**



**CHAPEL
OFFERING**

Our January chapel offerings will be going to [Free Wheelchair Mission](#). This AMAZING organization has the following mission:

“Providing the transforming gift of mobility to people with a disability living in developing nations, as motivated by Jesus Christ.”

Cook's Night Out

Watch this space for our next event!



Gift card fundraising is the easiest and best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. The brand is the one giving back. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted. Earn a rebate towards tuition costs or the Bethany ministry of your choice.

Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator
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Middle School Corner

During Advisory, the middle school students continue to have the opportunity to learn about themselves and grow into the person God created them to be. We celebrate that we are uniquely and divinely created in God's image!

This past week, the students completed a Left/Right Brain Self-Assessment and used their results to learn about the characteristics of left or right brain dominance and suggested aids for learning.

Here are a few of the suggested techniques for learning-

LEFT	RIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break down concepts into smaller, sequential parts or steps • Encourage logical step-by-step problem-solving techniques • Use graphic organizers to illustrate the parts or steps combined to achieve the whole concept • Discuss or repeat orally while writing • Play games, use or create humor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss, draw, or write the major concept first before learning it • Discuss the role of feelings in decision making, use role-playing activities • Use illustrations whenever possible • Observe completion of task before trying it independently • Use spelling aids and visual memory strategies

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18***



Family Matters

A CHRIST-CENTERED RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS



In All Things ... Hope

By now, the beginning of 2022, we had thought this pandemic would surely be over! Yet, it still lingers.

By now, we had hoped things would be back to normal — but they are not. Things, in fact, may never be quite the same as they once were — we hear the terms “new normal” or “emerging normal” entering our discussions. However we characterize what lies ahead, the feelings can perhaps be summed up in one word — hope. We hope this virus will go away. We hope that no one else gets sick. We hope that we can feel safe again as we move about and gather in social settings. We hope, indeed.

We hope for a lot of things in life! We hope for simple things, like the elevator will get us to the next floor. We hope that the light will stay green. We hope that the weather will be nice today. We also direct our hopes to more complex concerns, such as we hope crime rates will go down and that our children will get a good teacher this coming year. We hope for safe travel for our loved ones, and we hope for peace in the world.

Hope is more than just wishful thinking. While some may consider hoping and wishing to be the same, as people of God we know they are different. For the be-



liever, hope is anchored in faith and tied to love. The writer to the Hebrews noted, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (HEB. 11:1). Hope is something that can happen, that is indeed possible as guided by God! Wishes are usually just fanciful thinking and dreams that we know probably won’t come true.

So, as a parent, what are you hoping for this coming year when it comes to your family? Certainly, health and safety for your family during the waning days of the pandemic. Financial security is something that parents seek. What else? Do you hope for an increase in faith of those in your household? What about your leaders? Your boss, supervisors and those in local, state and national government positions — what hopes do you have for them?

As previously mentioned, hope is tied to faith, and one example of faith in action is prayer. With the wonderful gift of prayer, we can direct our hopes to God. We can turn our wish lists into prayer lists — putting our hopes into requests to God in the name of Jesus.

In all things, let us remain hopeful and prayerful.



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: A PRAYERFUL START TO 2022

PURPOSE

To engage family members in creating a more active prayer life as a family and as individuals.

OPENER

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

- › What is something you hope will happen for you during 2022?
- › What is something you hope will happen within our family during 2022?
- › What is something you hope will happen in our church or community during 2022?



PARENT SHARE TIME:

Allow each parent and any other adult gathered with the family to share their responses to the follow open-ended questions.

- 1 Share one thing you hoped for as a young person that came true later in life.
- 2 Talk about how long it took for this to become reality, and how you managed to stay hopeful about things along the way.
- 3 Identify for the young people gathered some tips on staying hopeful in the midst of uncertain times.

TURNING HOPES AND DREAMS INTO PRAYER!

Prayer is conversation with God. It is sharing our thoughts, hopes, concerns and requests with Him (even though He knows them already). There are many circumstances to pray about and many people to pray for as 2022 starts to unfold. As a family, take a look at the chart below and discuss:

- 1 Who your family will want to be praying for — friends, other family members, leaders, neighbors, pastors, teachers, coaches, etc.
- 2 What the prayer focus could be during the coming year — health, success in school or work, wisdom in leadership, etc.
- 3 When and where you will pray — in the morning, evening, dinner, on your own, during family devotions, etc.
- 4 How often you will pray — daily, multiple times a day, weekly, etc.

	WHO	WHAT	WHEN/WHERE	HOW OFTEN
Dad	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mom	_____	_____	_____	_____
Child 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Child 2	_____	_____	_____	_____
Child 3	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____	_____

Fill out the chart and post it somewhere in the home where family members will see it often and be encouraged in their prayer life.

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 Father in Heaven, thank You for giving us hope in Jesus, who died for our sins, and rose to give us the hope of eternal life. Help us to always trust in Your promises, to always put our hope in You and to remain faithful in the year ahead. In the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

A RESOURCE OF LCMS SCHOOL MINISTRY

Lutheran Schools WEEK



January 24-28

**"In ALL Things"
Colossians 1:15-20**

**JAN. 24
MONDAY**



SUPERHERO DAY

Jesus is our hero! Wear your superhero gear to school. Please no costume masks or props.

**JAN. 25
TUESDAY**



ALOHA DAY

Bust out your Hawaiian shirts and leis for a day on the islands. Please no swimsuits or revealing clothing.

**JAN. 26
WEDNESDAY**



WACKY TACKY DAY

Forgo all fashion rules! Bring on the mismatched clothes.

**JAN. 27
THURSDAY**



CAREER DAY

Dress up in clothes for the job you want to have when you grow up. Jog-a-thon jumpers will be here, so plan your outfit accordingly.

**JAN. 28
FRIDAY**



PAJAMA/COZY CLOTHES DAY

Let's be cozy today! Wear your pajamas or loungewear to class.

Bethany Lutheran School