



Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA

BEAR FACTS

Issue 15: December 13, 2022

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

If your family is like mine, the Christmas season is a time full of traditions. Have you thought about "tradition" lately? Here's a definition:

tra· di· tion

1. The passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation, especially by oral communication.
2. A time-honored practice or set of such practices.

Traditions are so important to families, and especially children. There's a sense of security in knowing, "this is how we do things in our family."

Whatever your family traditions may be, I pray they will include time to worship the newborn King, the Reason for the Season.

If you do not have a church home, you are welcome to add any of Bethany's Christmas services to your family calendar:

Christmas Eve: 1:00, 3:00 and 11:00 PM

Christmas Morning: 9:30 AM

Blessings on your week!
Dr. Fink


COMING UP

- **Dec. 13**- "Christmas in Reverse" Christmas program-Grades 3-5- 1:30 and 6:30 PM
- **Dec. 21**- Minimum Day/Wear your Christmas sweaters/hats/shirts!
- **Dec. 22-Jan. 3**- Christmas break
- **Jan. 4**- School resumes, Morning Coffee Hour
- **Jan. 16**- Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School
- **Jan. 20**- End Quarter 2
- **Jan. 24**- In-n-Out Truck!!!!



CHAPEL OFFERING

For December, our chapel offerings are going to make Lutheran education accessible to children in Liberia. The Liberian economy has been destroyed by war and Ebola, leaving the educational system in a state of disarray. There are 21 Lutheran schools in Liberia and tuition is only \$95 for each child for the year.



Cook's Night Out

Thanks for supporting our 8th Graders' trip to Washington DC. ! We've raised \$2572.06 so far....wow!!!!

Join us at Panda Express tomorrow for our last 2022 fundraiser (more to come in 2023!) Check out the flyer at the end of the newsletter...it has all the details!



Presents, wrapping paper, travel, and more - eGift cards are a great way to finish up your shopping OR send them easily as a gift by email - available on RaiseRight.com and now in the mobile app too.

Plus, check out limited-time bonuses on several great eGift card brands, now through Dec 19, to help you earn even more!

For your physical gift card needs stop by the school office Monday through Friday (8am - 4pm) or after services on Sundays in Friendship Square.

Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator
rlopez@bethanylutheran.org
562-420-7783 ext. 58

Middle School Corner

After we ring in the New Year, these exciting events will soon be here! Please mark your calendars and watch for more information in January.

January 22-28, 2023	National Lutheran Schools Week	More information to come
February 9, 2023	Grades 6-8 : Middle School Spring Musical <i>In The Big Inning</i>	9:00 am and 6:30 pm Bethany Lutheran gymnasium
February 14, 2023	Grades 6-8 : Field Trip to Sofi Stadium	We will need parent drivers/chaperones- please watch for the permission slip in January. Approximately 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
February 23, 2023	Grades 7-8 : Field Trip to see The Outsiders stage production at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts	We will need parent drivers/chaperones- please watch for the permission slip in January. Approximately 8:00 am – 12:30 pm
March 16, 2023	Grade 6 : Field trip to see The Lightning Thief stage production at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center	We will need parent drivers/chaperones- please watch for the permission slip in February. Approximately 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Family Matters



A CHRIST-CENTERED RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS



Lifelong Disciples ... Persevere

ADMIT IT ... most of us would rather take the easy road than the hard road. As parents, we like it when:

- › the kids go down for a nap or to bed at night without a fuss
- › our spouse takes care of a task that we've been ignoring for weeks
- › the playground is not overcrowded with children when we go to the park with our kids
- › our children would rather watch a video or play on their own so we can get something done
- › the kids want cold cereal and milk for breakfast rather than a hot, cooked meal

There are enough situations in life that are hard, so when the easy option shows up, most of the time it's a no-brainer, and we take the easy road.

But, when those tough times really do arrive, do we get tougher? Do we step back? Do we simply ignore the situation? Or, do we step forward, meet the challenge and persevere until we complete the task?

As Christmas approaches, we are reminded that Mary and Joseph had several challenges facing them as they were preparing to become a family.

1. Mary finds out before she gets married that she is pregnant — through the Holy Spirit.



2. Joseph knows he is not the father, but wants to do the “honorable” thing. He is troubled.
3. Mary leaves town.
4. Joseph is told by God in a dream that it’s ok to wed Mary.
5. They then discover they have to go on a long journey in the final month of the pregnancy.
6. When they reach their destination there is no place for them to stay.
7. They wind up in an animal stable for the night, where Mary gives birth.
8. Shepherds from the nearby hills come by that very night to visit the newborn child.
9. When Mary and Joseph take their Son to the temple, a stranger takes Him in his arms and breaks out in song.
10. They need to flee the country because the king puts out an order to kill all young boys.

Whew! What an ordeal. So much for enjoying the easy road that first Christmas.

The road for God’s people is not often easy, although we think it should be. It’s filled with challenges because we live in a world filled with sin and darkness. On that quiet night in Bethlehem, even though Mary and Joseph had a tough ordeal concerning the birth of Jesus, our road to eternal life was made clear and simple. It is to believe in this child — who would walk a rocky and challenging road to Calvary, die there on the cross, be put in a borrowed tomb, presumed dead and gone, and then rise from the dead to conquer the grave, so that we can receive the gift of eternal life. Jesus took the hard road and did the hard work for us!

We will have challenging days as God’s people. There will be family squabbles. Kids won’t behave as we would like. We might have tenuous job situations. We might go broke. We won’t always enjoy the easy road, but because Jesus took the hard road to the cross, we have been given the pathway to heaven.



Fundraiser for

Bethany Lutheran Church and School 8th grade Fundraiser

20% of event sales will be donated

Fundraising for our 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.



When

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Time: 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM

Where

Panda Express located at:

**5945 E. Spring St. Long Beach CA 90808
(562) 421 - 0283**

How to Order



Online

**PandaExpress.com or the App.
Enter 346161 in the fundraiser code box**

OR



In-Person

**Bring paper flyer or show it on
your smartphone**

Order ahead or on the event day Wednesday, December 14, 2022



**Health
and Safety**

Committed to your health and safety. Panda Express
is recognized as **America's safest restaurant brand.**

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right cancel any and all fundraiser events, if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed. Panda Restaurant Group will donate 20% of all purchases made, pre-tax and before fees, at the designated date, time, and your Panda Express location when purchased with your unique code at check-out or when a copy of this flyer is presented. Purchase(s) of gift cards do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible.

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ST. HEDWIG PONY BASEBALL 2023 SPRING BALL REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN



SHETLAND
AGES 4 - 6

\$225

REGISTRATION
CLOSES
DECEMBER 31st

\$250

PINTO, MUSTANG,
BRONCO
AGES 7 -12

sthbaseball.com

**EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT
ENDS 12/4!**



VILLAGE BASEBALL

Spring 2023 Season

Ages: 4- 13

**Divisions: Quickball, Coach Pitch,
Farm, Minors, Majors, 50/70**

**REGISTER AT
VILLAGEBASEBALL.ORG**



Follow our social media:

**FACEBOOK: @VILLAGEBASEBALL
INSTAGRAM: @VILLAGE_BASEBALL_LITTLE_LEAGUE**