



# BEAR FACTS

Issue 16: December 20, 2022

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's our tradition here at Bethany to gather in the gym in our Bear teams to sing Christmas carols. (We did that today, in fact!) One of our favorites is an alternative version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Ask your child to sing it for you *and* do the motions:

On the first day: a Savior to set me free!  
On the second day: Mary and Joseph  
On the third day: three wise men praying  
On the fourth day: four donkeys braying  
On the fifth day: five golden angels  
On the sixth day: six shepherds running  
On the seventh day: seven sheep baa-ing  
On the eighth day: eight cows a-mooing  
On the ninth day: nine no's from innkeepers  
On the tenth day: ten silent minutes  
On the eleventh day: eleven bits of straw  
On the twelfth day: twelve twinkling stars

*Merry Christmas, Bethany Bears. God bless your celebrations with friends and family!*  
*Dr. Fink*

## Congrats!

Congratulations to Jennifer Langevin (2nd Grade) and Olivia Sanchez (3rd Grade) who were winners in the Lutheran Hour Rose Parade Float coloring contest! **Way to go, girls!** Watch for the Lutheran Hour float, titled "A New Day with Jesus" in this year's Rose Parade!

## COMING UP

- **Dec. 21**-Minimum Day/Wear your Christmas sweaters/hats/shirts!
- **Dec. 24:** Trinity and Troubadour sing 3:00 PM
- **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!!!!
- **Jan. 27-TALENT SHOW!**

### Holiday School Office Hours:

12/21: Closed at 1  
12/22: Open 9-1  
12/23: Closed  
12/26: Closed  
12/27: Open 9-1  
12/28: Open 9-1  
12/29: Open 9-1  
12/30: Closed  
1/2: Closed  
1/3: Closed



## **Product Update: Safeway/Albertsons reloadable gift cards**

Effective December 29, you will no longer have access to add new funds to your reloadable Safeway/Albertsons physical gift card. The partner is launching new gift cards in 2023, so reload on existing cards will be unavailable until the new cards are introduced, expected in mid to late January.

Any funds added to your current gift cards before December 29 will continue to work until the funds are gone. eGift cards are also available to print and use in-store. Note: eGift cards may experience a short period of unavailability the first week or two of January due to the change but will be available in advance of the new reloadable gift cards.

Safeway cards can be used at any Albertsons, Safeway, Pavilions, Vons.

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## **Monthly Award Winners**

Each month we recognize one student from each class for a character trait that leads to success! Sometimes it can be hard to choose just one student from each class, so if your child does not "win," it doesn't mean they don't have the trait. (And as an aside, we keep track of which students have won awards each year so we can attempt to recognize a variety of students.)

For December, we watched for students who are Diligent: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart." Colossians 3:23. We will hand out monthly award certificates after chapel tomorrow.

Congratulations to these diligent students:

Sofia Brown, Jagger Simon, Aaron Castellanos, Branden Luu, Estevon Benard, Alyssa Flores, Ivy Osborn, Luke DiCecca, Ava Rogers, and Benjamin Evans,

# 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<br>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 |



## School Theme Sweatshirts, etc.

Unfortunately, these are on backorder and will not be in until after Christmas. "Supply chain issues". according to the company. :(



**Christmas Worship at Bethany**  
 Christmas Eve: 1:00, 3:00 and 11:00 PM  
 Christmas Day: 9:30 AM

*Join us to celebrate the birth of the Savior!*

# Parent Pages

RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



## NURTURING DISCIPLES WITH A “Because, Now” Mindset



**“If, then,”** is an effective way to set up an informal contract with your child. For example, “if you pick up your toys, then we can have a snack.” Or “if you mow the lawn, then I will drive you to the swimming pool.” Children understand these simple contracts because the expected action and the desired result are clear. Parents like them because it helps to avoid having to explain too much or endure whining. “If, then” contracts are a win-win.

At the same time, we cannot, and should not, shield our children from all technology. It is an essential part of our world. Unfortunately, however, our world is rarely concerned with the best interests of our children. Therefore, we must be discerning about technology use and teach discernment to our children.

“If, then” statements feel good to our brains, too. God wired our brains to look for cause and effect. Cause and effect explain much of the world’s workings and is a beneficial tool for learning social skills. For instance, through experience, children learn that if I hit my sister, she will get mad and tell Mom. Or, if I share with my friend, he will share with me. It is a simple system, but it works.

Furthermore, your children will experience “if, then” in nearly every aspect of life, from work to relationships.

One of the reasons “if, then” seems to feel right is how our sense of morality develops. For example, many children are at a

stage often referred to as “reciprocity.” Reciprocity is a stage where a child will do a kind thing for another person because they expect equally kind treatment. Then, as children grow, they move on to other reasons for behavior.

However, our faith is one area where “if, then” does not apply. We do not have an “if, then” God. Our God does not say, “if you do good things, then I will offer you salvation.” Instead, He tells us that **“the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (ROM. 6:23)**. God says *because* Jesus died and rose again, now I will gift you with salvation.

The **“because, now”** promise turns “if, then” on its head. We do not earn salvation, love or any blessings God extends.



“If, now” is so easy to accept that many Christian faiths adhere to it, believing they need to do good works to earn God’s blessings. Because our brains look for cause and effect, we somehow want to believe that we merit God’s favor. It is hard to accept that salvation doesn’t have anything to do with us. The “if, then” faith is dangerous, not only because it is untrue, but because it causes us to focus on our efforts instead of the work of our Savior.

So, how do we raise “because, now” children in an “if, then” world? We do it with God’s help and by diligent use of the Gospel. Here are some things to consider:

### Forgiveness

Your children need to know you forgive them. While it is good to expect your children to apologize, they must understand that forgiveness is not dependent on repentance. Instead, help them see that repentance and apology are a natural reaction to knowing you have forgiveness. Don’t wait to forgive your child until the punishment is complete. Forgive first, and let them know the consequence is to help them learn.

### Mercy

God shows us mercy when He does not give us the punishment we deserve. When we show mercy to our children, we are tenderhearted and consider expanded circumstances. For example, we ignore some behaviors when we know our child is ill or tired and temporarily has less control over emotions. When you show mercy

to your child or encourage them to show mercy to others, point out what you are doing and why Jesus is the reason for compassion.

### Grace

Grace is when God gives us a blessing we did not earn. We continually show grace to our children but may not identify it as such. For example, when you give your child an unexpected treat, let them know it’s because you love them and then make a simple connection to God’s love for us. When we help children recognize grace and give thanks for it, we steer them away from feeling entitled to everything they want.

We want to teach our children to apologize, serve others and improve their behavior, but it is central to our faith to teach them why we do these things. We want our children to understand that these behaviors come from the joy of being saved children of God. We want them to know that we do these things because of what Jesus did for us.

This thinking is different from what the world teaches, where everything is earned or deserved. As Christians, we are not people of entitlement. We are people of grace. A “because, now” mindset is emotionally healthy because it steers us away from bitterness or shame. **Most importantly, the understanding that because Jesus died and rose again for me, now I am a forgiven and blessed child of God brings us joy in our faith.**

# 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](http://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**



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