



Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of
Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA
www.bethanylutheran.org



Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



When I took the call to be Bethany's principal, a seasoned administrator gave me this advice: "You're going to be pulled in lots of different directions and have lots of folks around you with lots of opinions. Remember to keep this focus: **it's all about what's best for students.**"

I've been thinking about that phrase as we've planned our next stretch of learning from home. What is best for students? Certainly having some sense of routine, some continuity in learning and continued connection to their teachers is important. But even more important is for students to feel safe and loved as their world (and ours!) is turned upside down. We know that this season of learning is not the same as an in-the-classroom experience. But when regular instruction begins again, teachers all over America, including our stellar faculty here at Bethany, will do what they've always done: meet students where they are and guide them further down the academic road.

I've also been thinking about "what's best for students" as we contemplate the balance of the school year here at Bethany and whether or not students will return to campus.

What's best for students is first and foremost that they are SAFE. We don't want to put our students in any kind of danger when it comes to this virus. But I also firmly believe that as soon as it's safe to do so, students need to come back to campus to see their school family, to share their experiences, and to hear that they were missed and loved these past weeks. That might mean coming back in smaller groups, or by appointment or....TBD.

For now, we will continue to provide learning-at-home experiences until further notice and monitor California's roadmap to re-opening. And we will pray, pray, pray for our students, our families and everyone affected by this pandemic.

**We miss you.
Be safe.
You are loved.**
Dr. Fink

P.S. A big "thank you" to those who filled out our last parent survey. Your input is so helpful! We will use that info to make adjustments as we learn how to learn-at-home together.

School Bulletin #31

Apr. 21, 2020

DON'T FORGET

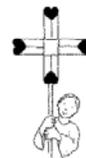
- ☺ April 21-Hat Day!
- ☺ April 22-Sports Jersey Day
- ☺ April 23-Red, White and Blue Day
- ☺ April 24-PARADE!!

Preschool:	12:45-1:45
K-2:	2:00-2:30
3 rd -5 th :	2:30-3:00
6 th -8 th :	3:00-3:30

Please enter the campus by turning right off of Clark Ave. And please consider supporting Christian Outreach in Action with a donation...see page 2 of the Bear Facts for info. ☺

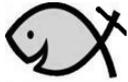
Chapel

We will post a chapel service each week on Wednesdays so we can be united in worship! This week Mrs. Orr will bring us the message.



Bethany Parents, we know some of you have been affected financially by this crisis. Please reach out to Dr. Fink if you need to make any adjustments in your FACTS account or are in need of any other kind of assistance.

We are standing by ready to help as best we can!



The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

Parents, of all the things to stress about right now, FISH Hours should not be on your list. Please don't give it a second thought. ☺

Middle School Corner

This week in Advisory we have a special guest speaker!

All middle school students are strongly encouraged to join the Guest Speaker Google Meet on Wednesday, 4/22 at 1:00 PM. (The Google Meet link will be posted in the What's Happening in the Middle School Google Classroom on Wednesday, just before 1:00 PM.)

This week's guest speaker is Pastor Kyle Blake.

Kyle Blake is the pastor at The Gathering Lutheran Church in Long Beach, a sister congregation to Bethany. Pastor Blake's wife is the kindergarten teacher at Bethany. You've likely seen him around campus before! Pastor Blake's ministry focuses on connecting hearts to Christ, restoring neighborhoods into communities, and the purposeful outreach to gang-impacted and formerly-incarcerated individuals.

We hope to see all middle school students in this event!



Bethany Lutheran Church Worship

Our church services are pre-recorded and posted online...you can find the links on the Bethany website: www.bethanylutheran.org
Are you in need of pastoral care? Please call the church office: 421-4711



Let's help, Bethany Bears!

When you come for Friday's parade, **please consider bringing a donation for Christian Outreach in Action** here in Long Beach. They are now serving 200-300 people a day who are hungry and struggling. COA desperately needs **reusable grocery bags** (cloth or heavy-duty plastic), **diapers** and **to-go containers** for handing out meals since they can't serve meals in their facility due to COVID-19. You can also donate **Smart and Final gift cards** or donate the cash for us to purchase the cards through our Scrip program. We will be ready to safely take your donation as you pass through the parking lot in Friday's parade. Learn more about COA and their ministry [here](#).

Seeking gently-used jewelry and accessories!

Student Success will once again be hosting our gently-used accessories sale on **Saturday, May 16** during the Bethany Block Party and Sunday Morning, May 17 between services.

Are you cleaning closets while you are sheltering in place? Please save your gently-used accessories (jewelry, scarves, handbags, belts, etc.) and drop them off for Jill Moorman when school is back in session. Separately-bagged items are greatly appreciated. (Items remaining after the sale will be donated to a worthy cause.)

If you would like to help with this sale, please contact Jill Moorman: jmoorman@bethanylutheran.org
562-307-6123

My desk calendar reminds me daily ways to get out of my own way and get moving. One page last week stood out to me in all this madness we're living in and I wanted to share it with you.

Here's the good news:

1. We all know WAY more than we give ourselves credit for knowing.
2. We are drawn to things we're naturally good at (which counts more than having a graduate degree in the subject, BTW).
3. There's no better teacher than necessity.
4. Passion trumps fear.

I'm kinda struggling, guys, with all of this. The lockdown, the endless meals, the Zoom meetings, remembering a mask when I go somewhere, working at home, schooling at home, EVERYTHING AT HOME. I feel like I'm not equipped for this and can't handle it all. This reminder gave me a little boost that I needed. **Necessity is our guide right now and boy, am I learning a lot.** We DO know more than I give myself credit for sometimes and we CAN do this. We're experts at our own kids, family and homes and we're *really good at it*. My passion for loving hard on these kiddos right now will tower over all the news media noise, a virus or any other pressure I feel. I've got the master teacher at the helm of all of this and He's got it under control.

Stay sane, friends, stay safe and know that you are loved. We can do this, BearFam!

Jen Carlson, PTL President