



Bear Facts

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

Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Just a random thought to share with you this week: This Friday our teaching staff will say “goodbye” to an old friend, AOL Instant Messenger. We’ve used this messaging service for many, many years as a way to communicate with each other without disturbing the teaching process. Many times the messages are quick questions (“Hey, do any of you have extra paper plates in your room?”) or reminders (“Fire drill this morning!”) Sometimes they are words of encouragement (“Great devotion this morning!”) or stories that remind us why we chose this profession (“My class is singing while they work...love it”) Looking back over the archived messages is a peek into what it takes to work together as a team at a school.

We’ll replace our AOL friend with a different messaging service and continue our conversations with another medium, but I will miss seeing the little yellow icon flashing at the bottom of my screen. ☺

On an entirely different note, we’ve been hit HARD with colds/flu (9 second graders were gone yesterday!) If your child has a fever, please keep him/her at home so you don’t share the “joy” with others, and encourage lots of hand-washing!

Blessings on your week!
Dr. Fink

Project Shepherd

Bethany Bears, help us feed hungry families right here in our own neighborhood! See the attached flyer listing the items we are collecting at each grade level to fill the shelves at Project Shepherd this Christmas.

**Food items are due this
Wednesday, Dec. 13!**

Planning Ahead

Bethany Lutheran School will be hosting a group of Chinese middle school students from February 3-9. We will need host homes for pairs of students! Hosts are reimbursed \$25 per night per student hosted. That’s a cool \$300 for hosting two students! Contact the school office if you are interested in hosting!



School Bulletin #16

December 12, 2017

DON'T FORGET

- ☺Dec. 20-Christmas service- Grades 3-5, 9:00 and 7:00
- ☺Dec. 22-Minimum Day
- ☺Dec. 25-Jan. 5-Christmas break
- ☺Jan. 8-School resumes
- ☺Jan. 15-Martin Luther King Day-No School
- ☺Jan. 19-End Quarter 2
- ☺Jan. 22-National Lutheran Schools Week begins and the **In-n-Out truck** will be here!!!
- ☺Jan. 28-Trinity sings 8:00, Troubadour sings 9:30, K-2 sings 10:55
- ☺Feb. 3-9-Chinese Students visit
- ☺Feb. 9-Region II Spelling Bee
- ☺Feb. 14-Ash Wednesday
- ☺Feb. 16-No School-Teacher Inservice
- ☺Feb. 19-Presidents Day-No School

Boys' Basketball Coaches Needed:

Our school is in need of two coaches for our boys' teams this coming season. Our 7th-8th grade boys make up our Varsity team, and our 5th-6th grade boys make up our JV team. Varsity boys play on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school at 3:30PM, while the JV boys play on Wednesdays after school at 3:30PM.

Practices will start after the first of the year with games starting the week of January 15, 2018. Coaches are paid a modest season-end stipend.

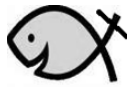
If you are interested please contact Karl Fink as soon as you are able. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this fantastic opportunity to serve our youth!

Ring Out the Good News!

*Please join us for
Grades 3-5
Christmas Service*

**December 20, 2017
9:00 AM and 7:00 PM**





The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

Do you like to paint? (Walls, not paintings. ☺) We have a couple of spots on campus that could use some painting TLC. Contact Dr. Fink if you are interested!

More Smencils!!

Smencils will be for sale after school this week on Wednesday and Friday. Thanks for supporting our 8th Graders' DC Trip!



It's a Christmas tradition

for Bethany students to bring individual Personal Hygiene Kits for distribution by Lutheran Social Services of Long Beach. We do this instead of giving gifts to each other. LSS tells us these kits are SO important to their ministry! Each kit is a gallon zip lock bag containing:

1 bar of soap, 1 washcloth
1 tube of toothpaste, 1 toothbrush
1 small size shampoo, 1 comb

At school the children will create a Christian Christmas message, to which they add their first name only, and these will be included in the kits. Our December chapel offerings will also go to Lutheran Social Services!



Shop Till You Drop?

Not this year! Avoid the crowds, the traffic, the lines, finish your Christmas shopping with Scrip/gift cards! You can shop in the school office between 8 am and 4pm, or even send your order to school with your child. We have many popular restaurant and retail store gift cards on hand.

Special Orders: The last day to place a Special Order (gift cards not on hand) is December 19 before 10 AM.

Teacher Wish Lists:

To help you choose the perfect gift for Bethany teachers and staff we have their Wish Lists in the School Office. Gift Cards to their favorite restaurant or retail store are appreciated by our teachers.

Free gift card

holders: We have a selection of beautiful Christmas gift card holders for you to choose from to make your gift complete. We will give you 5 gift card holders per order, if you would like more you may purchase 10 for \$2.

The perfect gift for anyone you would like to say "thank you" to at Christmas, is a gift card from Bethany Scrip. Choose one of our gift cards for coaches, babysitters, co-workers and neighbors.



Do you shop on Amazon.com? Does your business use Amazon? Will you be shopping on Amazon for Christmas gifts?

Did you know you can SIGNIFICANTLY support Bethany Lutheran School with your shopping and *it does not cost you a dime*. Here's how:

- **Use Amazon Scrip gift certificates!!** We sell these at the Scrip table every Sunday and in the office throughout the week. You can add the certificates to your Amazon account to make purchases. Some people "load up" their account with gift certificates so the balance is readily available, then purchase more when the balance is getting low. **(In fact, if you plan to purchase lots of Christmas gifts on Amazon, why not get your Amazon account ready now? That way you can shop from the couch in your PJs. ☺)** Every Amazon gift certificate you purchase through our Scrip program returns 3% to Bethany's ministry.
- **GIVE Amazon Scrip gift certificates as gifts!** Amazon carries pretty much anything, so Amazon gift certificates are welcome gifts for pretty much anyone!
- **Start your shopping on AmazonSmile.com instead of just Amazon.** When you go to AmazonSmile, you can choose Bethany Lutheran Church as an organization you'd like to support. The website looks exactly the same, you'll still use your regular Amazon account, and the prices are exactly the same, but a portion of your purchase is donated to Bethany.

Are you missing the red bow from the wreath you bought from our 8th

Graders? After a long journey across the ocean, they have arrived and are here in the school office!! Pick up yours today. ☺

Greetings Bethany Families,

During the Holidays, we all know it is an important time to give thanks for the many blessings we have and to share with those less fortunate. For many years, the Schools of Bethany Lutheran have been working with Project Shepherd in providing Christmas dinners to local families in the Long Beach & Lakewood area. Last year we donated over 50 meals with your generous contributions! Help us help our neighbors again this year.

To better serve Project Shepard, I worked with them to create a list of the most needed, and often overlooked items to more efficiently fill their shelves.

Below you will find the requested donation items for each class. *In addition to the below listed items, we also request a cash donation of **\$5/student** to purchase grocery script cards needed to purchase turkey or hams for each meal. Please place money in a small envelope to ensure it gets to your child's teacher.*

Please have your child bring items no later than Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

Kindergarten:	Rice	Jello or Instant Pudding
1 st grade:	Instant or Regular Oatmeal	Rice
2 nd grade:	Cereal	Canned (small) fruit
3 rd grade:	Bisquick/baking Mix	Bag of pasta (any variety)
4 th grade:	Mayonnaise	Ketchup
5 th grade:	Sugar	Can Soup
6 th grade:	Cereal	Jello or Instant Pudding
7 th grade:	Bisquick/Baking Mix	Bag of pasta (any variety)
8 th grade:	Potatoes (instant, boxed)	Mustard

****Please do not purchase items in glass bottles or jars, as they can break- only plastic/boxes/cans. Avoid Costco sized items, remember BIGGER is not better, buy 2 small instead of one large. All items can be found at various local Dollar/99 Cent stores to keep things economical. Have your student participate in the shopping with you!**

Want to do more ? Please feel free to donate a larger cash donation so we can purchase more gift cards. Also appreciated are more quantity of items and coloring books/crayons/stickers for children.

*****Fish Hours will also be given to any parent wishing to volunteer on Wednesday morning 12/13/16 8:30 – 10:00 am to help in boxing the meals together for pick up by Project Shepherd. Questions or volunteers, please email Kim Ryskamp - PTL VP at kimryskamp@gmail.com***