



# Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of  
Bethany Lutheran School  
Long Beach, CA  
[www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)

Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



The last two weeks we had a very special visitor in our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom: 14-year-old Mao Yurui was visiting from Shenzhen, China. His parents are considering sending him to the U.S. to study next year and they wanted him to get a taste of American education.

He picked a great time to come and visit us, although I wondered what he thought about our crazy dress-up days last week. 😊 Yurui is a good student and loves to play the piano. I couldn't convince him to play for our students, but he played beautifully for me!

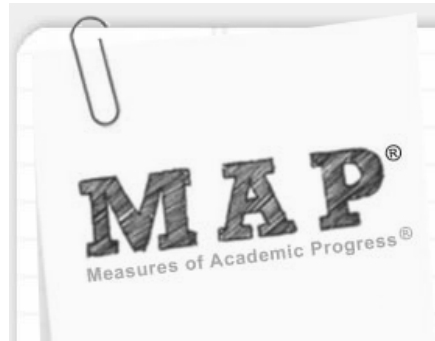
I was so proud of our middle-schoolers and how they welcomed and embraced Yurui. I'm also grateful to the Valle family for hosting him. All of you certainly made him feel welcome! He sent this message as he left: *"Thank you for letting me join this big family. Thanks, Dr Fink. I look forward to seeing you next time."*

We sent Yurui home to China with some fun memories and a Chinese/English Bible signed by his American classmates 😊

*Blessed to be at Bethany,  
Dr. Fink*

### Grades 2-8 Parents:

Our next round of MAP testing will occur over these next 2 weeks. Please avoid out-of-school appointments during the school day, and make sure your children get plenty of sleep and a good breakfast in the morning to help them do their best.



### Congrats to the following students who will be competing in the Region II Spelling Bee this Friday!

- 3rd- Anika Morgensen and Benjamin Evans
- 4th- Norah Vu and Devin Cordova
- 5th- Charlie Peck and Jamie Long
- 6th- Austin Tonsay and Aensli Ruiz
- 7th- Philip Attia and Isaiah Youngblood
- 8th- Quincy Wells and Mekhi Trotter



### School Bulletin #22

Feb. 4, 2019

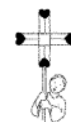
### DON'T FORGET

- ☺Feb. 5-Varsity Boys at St. Mark's-Hacienda Heights
- ☺Feb. 5-Varsity Girls at Mt. Calvary, Diamond Bar
- ☺Feb. 6-JV at Christ, Covina
- ☺Feb. 4-15 MAP Testing Grades 2-8
- ☺Feb. 8-9 MS Lock-in
- ☺Feb. 11-No school
- ☺Feb. 11-Re-registration opens!!
- ☺Feb. 15-Minimum Day-Teacher Inservice
- ☺Feb. 18-No School-Presidents' Day
- ☺Feb. 22-3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports
- ☺Feb. 26-PTL Board-6:30 PM-Library-Childcare provided!
- ☺Mar. 5-Concordia Choir Festival
- ☺Mar. 8-Curiosity Fair/Open House

### Chapel Schedule

- Feb. 6-Becca
- Feb. 13-Grade 6
- Feb. 20-Stefanie

*Chapel is at 9:00  
(in the gym while we are under construction.)  
Parents are always welcome to join us!*



Congrats to our Geography Bee champion, **Weston Parker**, and his worthy competitors: Jamie Long (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Anthony Corona, Jake Antonio, Ryan Wolfenbarger, Mia Kabicinski, Emma Olsen, Quincy Wells and Mariah Moorman. We will recognize these scholars after chapel this week. Weston will now move on to the next level of competition. **Good luck, Weston!!**



The FISHin' Hole  
Opportunities to Serve

**HELP! HELP!**

Carol Grudt could use some volunteers to sell Scrip on Sundays between services. Please contact her at [cgrudt@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:cgrudt@bethanylutheran.org) if you are interested/able to help.



**CHAPEL OFFERING**

This month we will be working with our sister Lutheran schools to support **Hope and Care for Children**, a ministry to children in Liberia. We are trying to raise \$40,000 to build a medical clinic. You can learn more here: [.hopeforchildrenorphanage.com/hearts-for-jesus.html](http://.hopeforchildrenorphanage.com/hearts-for-jesus.html)



**Shop with Scrip for Valentine's Day!**

Fall in love with earning rebates while you find the perfect gift cards for your sweethearts.

Choose something special from Bethany Scrip, top choices include: *Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, iTunes* and *Starbucks*. Our \$5 *Starbucks* cards are perfect to put in a Valentine card to surprise a special friend.

**Date Night Inspiration:** Give your Valentine a dinner and movie night. Buy movie tickets for AMC or Edwards/ United Artist Theaters and choose a restaurant from our On Hand or Special Order list. There is still time to choose a restaurant that isn't on hand and place a Special Order.

A chocolate treat from *See's Candy* is always popular on Valentine's Day. You can give *See's Candy One Pound Certificate's*, and let them choose their own treat, or use *See's Candy \$25 Gift Card's* if you are shopping for Valentine treats.

Don't forget to use Scrip when you buy treats for Valentine's Day parties!



**It's time to turn in your Boxtops!**



We'll be collecting through February 22. The three classes with the MOST boxtops will win PIZZA! Clip, clip, clip!!

**Bethany Music Academy Enrollment**

Our spring semester is open for 12 weekly private lessons. We offer instruction in piano and violin (Gr. 2 and up) and trumpet (Gr. 4 and up.) Lessons are held on our campus after school between 3:10 and 6:00. Tuition is \$275 plus \$25 annual registration fee. Enrollment forms are available in the church and school offices or on the Bethany website. Forms are due Friday, Feb. 8 to secure a spot. Questions? Contact Mara Widmann at ext. 55 or [mwidmann@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mwidmann@bethanylutheran.org).



I am still thinking about how fantastic our talent show was last week! All the acts were top-notch, well-planned and rehearsed and took a good dose of courage and bravery to perform in front of a crowd of parents and peers. From the adorable little ones singing, to musicians, dancers and magicians, to silly 7<sup>th</sup> graders, teachers and PTL parents, we have quite a talented family here! I'm proud to be in the company of this exceptional group.

Sometimes I don't feel like I have a talent – does that ever happen to you? That you just feel like you exist to run kids to school, practice, rehearsal or other event, make dinners, lunches, breakfasts and snacks too, to handle the laundry, the housekeeping, the homework and more? And on top of it, handle adult responsibilities like work, paying bills, and keeping food in the fridge? I have to stop and remind myself that I do have a talent – we ALL have a talent – being parents, stepparents, grandparents and friends of these amazing kids and no one does a better job for them than YOU. God has given us an innate talent that only we possess – to build, grow, nourish and support these young ones in a way that YOU only can. Unlike the talent show last week, you perform 24/7 and are always "on". God chose us to lead them and it's a talent we should take seriously, even when tiring, daunting or just plain exhausting. No one does it better than you, friends, and I think you're doing a fantastic job. #KeepItUp

*Jen Carlson, PTL President*

We have enough host homes for our student visitors from JAPAN (late March/early April) but we could still use one more home for the teachers!

友情

**Brianna Esswein Memorial Golf Tournament News**

Bethany's annual Brianna Esswein Memorial Golf Tourney is scheduled for Friday, March 22, at the Lakewood Country Club. Grab some friends and join us for a day on the links! A portion of the proceeds from this event support Bethany Lutheran School scholarships! Check-in time is 11:30. Shot-gun start at 1:00PM. Cost is \$125/golfer. Registration forms are available in the school office.





# Family Matters

A CHRIST-CENTERED RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS



## REAL. PRESENT. GOD. God IS Love

*“It is what it is.”*

This common expression, which has surfaced in recent years, seems to be heard and shared in a variety of settings:

- › In business and work settings;
- › In conversations among friends;
- › In the family setting;
- › In competitive contests and games of chance; and
- › In the realm of sports.

In nearly every setting, it is used as phrase or comment of reluctant acceptance. It is an acknowledgment of the status quo. It is usually a phrase that doesn't sound very satisfying as it states the obvious, and it even implies a bit of helplessness.

Sometimes, we like to take the easy road when it comes to parenting children. We will often avoid conflict, not give correction when needed, look past issues that need attention, accept situations as presented and be content with the reality that, “it is what it is.”

As parents who want to do our best in our God-given responsibility as leaders in the home, we want to walk the path of love and address concerns and issues related to the shortcomings of our child. This doesn't mean that we ignore what has occurred, but that because we love our child, we explain things in such a way that they understand and accept what is expected of them by us as parents, by society and by God.

When we say, “God is love,” it is a statement of what is obvious! We are explicitly told in 1 John that “God is love” (4:16). In addition to just describing God as love, we also see that God is love through His actions. God intentionally sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. He gives us the promise of eternal life through His resurrection from the dead. This is love. This is comfort. This is peace.

As the people of God, we can also count on the presence of God's love in our lives. When we fall, when we fail, when we are fatigued — God loves us, supports us and encourages us. He will never leave us in a time of trouble. He will comfort us when we are hurt by the world.

It is God's nature to love, and that is truth — truth we can count on and know for these earthly days, and for all eternity.

God is love — and “it is what it is.”



## FAMILY LINKS // Activities for families to reinforce Bible truths in the home.

Gather the family together in a comfortable place for study and discussion using the outline below.

### OPENING PRAYER

Led by the family member who is planning to give the most valentines to friends and family.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION TIME

Have each family member respond to the following items:

A nice thing somebody said about you recently is ...

A nice thing you said about somebody else recently is ...

### FAMILY STUDY TIME

Have various family members look up the following verses and read them aloud.

What do the following verses say about God?

Genesis 17:1 (*all powerful*)

Leviticus 19:2 (*holy*)

John 21:17 (*all knowing*)

Acts 17:27 (*everywhere*)

John 3:16 (*loving*)

### LOVE IN THE FAMILY ACTIVITY

- 1 In advance, have a person cut several large hearts (approximately five per family member), of various sizes, out of red, pink or white construction paper.
- 2 Write the words, "YOU ARE..." at the top of each heart.
- 3 Distribute several of these hearts to family members.
- 4 Next to the words on each of your hearts, write in the name of each family member.
- 5 Now in the heart, write positive descriptions of that person. For children or others who are unable to write, have a parent or older sibling write down their descriptive words.
- 6 When everyone is done, sit in a circle and have each person read their hearts aloud.

### CLOSING ECHO PRAYER

Have an older sibling or adult read the following prayer, with everyone else in the family repeating the words, phrase by phrase.

Dear God. Thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus as a sign of love. Help us to love each other as You love us. Help us to love all of those around us. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.



A RESOURCE OF LCMS SCHOOL MINISTRY

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