



"I am the vine; you are the branches." - John 15:5

****A special note about this newsletter: due to our upcoming Christmas Break this newsletter will cover information from now until we resume classes on Wednesday, January 3rd. I wish God's blessings to you as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and on your Christmas celebrations****

Worship Schedule:

Monday, December 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 17th @ 10:00 a.m.

- Sunday School & Bible Class @ 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 20th - Children's Christmas Service @ 6:30

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve @ 10:00 a.m.

- Candlelight @ 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 31st - News Year's Eve Day @ 10:00 a.m.

Congregational Open Forum: Discussions about the future of our ministry are ongoing. We have had several open forums to discuss the potential expansion of our staff, the impact that it will have on our ministry and how we can support that expansion of our ministry as well as get your feedback. A summary of the proposal will be sent out this week to those who were not able to participate in the forums.

The next step in the process will take place at our Yearly Budget Meeting this Sunday (12/17) after church. At that meeting the voters of our congregation will discuss and approve the budget for the upcoming 2024 year. The proposal of our potential staff expansion will be discussed and a final decision will be determined at the budget meeting.

Thank you to all those that participated in these important forums. I wish God blessings on our upcoming discussions and ministry going forward as we seek His guidance on what best to do for our ministry.

Worship Encouragement: During this holiday season we have several special opportunities to gather together as a family of believers and reflect on the wonderful reason for the season: the birth of our Savior Jesus. Please look for the schedule of holiday services and make it a priority to be present in worship during this holiday season.

MLS Tournament Results: This past weekend our girls' basketball team participated in the MLS tournament at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. The girls won the two games and lost in the championship finishing in 2nd place. The girls had a great season as they finished the season with only one loss. Join me in congratulating our girls on their fantastic season!

Mrs. Friske Divine Call: Mrs. Friske has received a divine call to St Paul's in Franklin, Wisconsin to teach first grade and assist with school music. Please keep the Friske family in your prayers as they deliberate the call. I encourage everyone to reach out to Mrs. Friske to discuss the call with her.

Congregational Christmas Caroling: All ages are welcome to join in our congregational caroling to our shut-in members and area nursing homes on Sunday, December 17th. We will meet at school at 4:45 p.m. and leave shortly after. Bring a few cookies to share and hot chocolate will be provided. We will eat the cookies and hot chocolate when we return from caroling.

Christmas Room Parties: Students in K-8 will have their individual room Christmas parties on Wednesday, December 20th in the morning. Please do not send your child's exchange gift until that morning. The morning will begin with our last rehearsal for our Children's Christmas Service. Room Parties will follow starting around 10:00. Students will be dismissed at 12:00. If you have any questions about the parties, please contact your child's teacher.

Children's Christmas Service: Preparations are being made for our annual Children's Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 20th. Soon, our students will begin practicing for this special service. As parts are assigned please help your child to be prepared for this special service and make sure to mark the date on your calendar!

Mission Program: Our second quarter mission offering is going to support Christian Life Resources and the Care Center in Saginaw. Our chapel offering last week was \$62.63 and students have collected \$230.33.

Basketball Uniforms: Girls' basketball team members are reminded to clean and repair their uniforms and return them to school by this Friday. Thanks!

Cheerleading: Cheerleading is going to be firing up soon. A note was sent home with expectations and a schedule of practices and games. If you have any questions about the cheerleading program, please contact Mrs. Killinger.

Scrip Cards: Scrip cards will be available on the following dates and times in December:

Friday, December 15th - Noon & 3:00 pm

Tuesday, December 19th - Noon & 3:00 pm

Also now available is Moe's Southwest Grill. If anyone needs cards at a different time they can contact Laurie Gies @ 989-233-8836.

Good Shepherd Pastoral Vacancy: Our sister congregation, Good Shepherd in Midland, is currently without a pastor. Pastor Killinger has been serving as vacancy pastor for their congregation. Good Shepherd plans to hold another call meeting this week as they seek their next pastor.. Please keep Good Shepherd's ministry, as well as Pastor Killinger, in your prayers during this time of vacancy.

Birthdays:

Avery Kukla - December 12th - Grade 7

Ada Figley - December 12th - Grade 8

Reid Collicker - December 16th - Grade 2

Wesley Beyer - December 19th - Kindergarten

Aiden Pillot - December 23rd - Kindergarten

Blake Clark - December 26th - Grade 3

Coming Up:

- **12/19 - PreK-3 Last Day before Christmas Break**
- **12/20 - Children's Christmas Service @ 6:30**
 - **½ day of school before Christmas Break**
- **12/21-1/02 - No School (Christmas Break)**
- **1/03 - Classes Resume**
- 1/12 - Principals' Conference
- 1/15 - 24-25 Preschool Enrollment Begins
- 1/19 - End of 2nd Qtr. (½ day Faculty In-Service)
- 1/22-1/26 - Lutheran Schools Week
- 1/24 - Qtr. 2 Report Cards Sent Home
- 1/28 - Lutheran Schools Sunday

Boys' Basketball Schedule

(Games begin at 5:30, when A and B team play on the same night, B team plays first followed by A team):

- 1/9 - vs Kaw/Mid @ SJBC (AB)
- 1/12 - vs Owosso @ Bethel (AB)
- 1/16 - vs Trinity @ Trinity (AB)
- 1/19 - vs Tawas @ Tawas (B only)
- 1/19 - vs Lansing @ Bethel (A only)
- 1/20 - B Team Tournament @ Tawas (One Day Tournament)
- 1/23 - vs SJBC @ SJBC (AB)
- 1/26 - vs SJBC @ Bethel (AB)
- 1/30 - vs Chesaning @ TBD (AB)
- 2/2 - vs Trinity @ Bethel (AB)
- 2/6 - vs Kaw/Mid @ Bethel (AB)
- 2/9-2/10 - MLS Tournament (Two Day Tournament)
- 2/13 - vs Burton @ Bethel (AB)
- 2/16-2/17 - MALL Tournament @ SJBC (Two Day Tournament)

Boys' Basketball Practice Schedule:

- **Wednesday, December 13th - 5:30-7:00**

CEA Sponsored Activities:

- 02/14 - Ash Wednesday Soup Supper (VanDenBoom)
- 03/02 - Trivia Night (Thunberg/Wilson)
- 03/03 - Coffee Hour (Leppek)
- 04/26 - Mother/Son Activity (Thunberg/Wilson)
- 05/03 - Daddy/Daughter Dance (Thunberg/Wilson)
- TBD - Pine Car Derby (Powers)
- TBD - Family Movie Night (Wilson)
- TBD - Board Game Night (Friske)

Upcoming Singing Schedule Dates:

- **12/20 - Children's Christmas Service**

Popcorn Fridays:

The following are dates that we will have Popcorn Friday: 12/15

Forward in Christ Parent Conversations: Our Synod's monthly magazine, *Forward in Christ*, is a great resource. Every month there is a section of the magazine with articles for Christian parents and families called *Parent Conversations*. Scan the QR code to get access to this great parent resource. This resource includes Christian parenting articles, podcasts and more.



Check these out! Did you know our Synod had a variety of family resources? Below are a couple links that include family devotions that can be used at home as well as articles on a variety of parenting and family topics. I pray these resources are helpful to you and your family. Family

Devotions: [Family Devotions – WELS](#) (QR code)



Michigan Lutheran Seminary

MLS NEW STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Applications for NEW students are now being accepted for the 2024-2025 school year!

It's 100% FREE to apply, and it will take you less than 10 minutes. Filling out an application is the easiest way for you to stay in the loop with everything you need to know about enrolling a student at MLS. We'll also keep you informed about events taking place on our campus throughout the school year.

Families who apply before Nov. 30th will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 tuition credit, and families who apply before Dec. 31st will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 tuition credit.

Visit www.mlsem.org/apply to submit your application today, and encourage others to do the same!

MLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"Alleluia!" Come celebrate our Savior's birth with Michigan Lutheran Seminary at the annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. The choirs and band of MLS will present both familiar and new carols that will be sure to add to your Christmas celebration. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. No reservations are offered.

MLS CONCERT CHOIR AT THE SAGINAW SPIRIT

The MLS Concert Choir will be performing the American & Canadian National Anthem before puck drop at the January 28th Saginaw Spirit game against the Windsor Spitfires. Upper Level tickets are \$17. \$5 per ticket sold by using the link will be donated back to the Concert Choir.

Purchase tickets at: <https://www.saginawspirit.net/groupsales/>

USERNAME: MLSCHOIR128

PASSWORD: SPIRIT

Or call 989-497-6507

MLS FOUNDATION EVENTS

November kicks off our annual Light Up a Student's Life campaign to raise funds for financial assistance at Michigan Lutheran Seminary! More information on how to donate can be found at <https://mls-foundation.org/luas/>.

Discounted tickets available now through 12/31/2023 for our annual dinner & auction, Cardinals in Wonderland! Join us for an evening of fun, food, and entertainment to support Christian education at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Our event will take place on Sunday, February, 18th at the Great Hall in Midland. Ticket and auction information can be found at <https://mls-foundation.org/events/dinner-auction/>.

