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

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**Worship Schedule:**

Monday, January 8th @ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 14th @ 10:00 a.m.

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

**Congregational Update:** At the December 17th Voters' Meeting the 2024 congregation budget and new teacher proposal was discussed. The congregation has approved the calling of a new teacher for the 24-25 school year. School and congregational leadership will be discussing what teaching position we will be calling for and will bring the proposal to the voters at the Congregation Annual Meeting on January 21st for approval. Lord willing, we will have a call meeting by early February.

**Worship Encouragement:** I pray that your Christmas and New Years' Celebrations were full of joy and you were able to reflect on the wonderful blessings our God has provided for us, especially our salvation through Jesus. As we move out of the holiday season, there are still opportunities to join together as a church family. I pray you and your family take advantage of our Sunday morning or Monday evening worship opportunities as we continue to gather around God's Word. See you there!

**Michigan Lutheran Seminary/Cantate Choir:** The Concert Choir from Michigan Lutheran Seminary will be singing for our worship service on January 14 at 10 am. They have invited our Cantate Choir to join in singing with them for one of their songs. We hope to have all of our choir members in attendance for this special opportunity!

**Munger Potato Festival:** This year our church and school has been selected to run the food tents/concessions at the Munger Potato Festival on July 25-28, 2024. This is an excellent way to get funds for projects for our church and school and, if it goes well this year, we will have the opportunity to do this on an every-other-year rotation. The main thing we need is volunteers for this event as on the evenings of the Figure 8 event, we will need up to 25-30 at one time in order for things to run smoothly. **There will be more information in the coming months but please SAVE THE DATES of July 25-28, 2024 to help us at some point that weekend by working a shift.** If everyone pitches in for a shift (and students can help as well!) it will be a fun time and no volunteers will feel overworked. If you have specific questions, please contact Jenni Thunberg at [jennithunberg@gmail.com](mailto:jennithunberg@gmail.com) but we will have an information meeting and sign-ups available in the coming months.

**Lutheran Schools Week:** Our annual celebration of Lutheran Schools is coming up the week January 21st through January 28th. The week will include special events and will culminate on Lutheran Schools Sunday on January 28th. A Penny Challenge will be ongoing throughout the week to collect funds for a local food pantry for veterans. Here is a look at the schedule for the week:

- Monday: *Bowling at Monitor Lanes from 12:30-2:30*
- Tuesday: *Breakfast with a Buddy - Students and their favorite adults are invited to enjoy a light breakfast before school starts. Pastries, fruit, juice and coffee will be served. Due to limited space, one adult per child please. After breakfast, we will play some games. We are also in need of food donations. Please check the QR code to see what you can help with! Thanks!*
- Wednesday: *Live Reptile Encounter - Join us Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30pm for an exciting encounter with creepy, crawly reptiles. Tim Muxlow is excited to share some of his favorite friends with our Bethel families and teach us more about them. Tickets are \$3 per person 3 and older. Pick up your tickets in the school office on a first come, first serve basis, beginning January 8.*
- Thursday: *Game Day - Students will get together throughout the school during the school day to play games in the gym*
- Friday: *Sledding at Ridge Road Park (weather permitting)*



**CEA Trivia Night:** We are about two months away from our 5th Annual CEA Trivia Night on Saturday, March 2. Big change this year as we will be holding this event at the Arbeiter Hall above Governor's Quarters where you will be able to purchase food and adult beverages during the event - no outside food will be permitted but the cost for trivia will remain the same at \$10 per team member (6 max per team) and the event will run from 6-9 pm. Participants must be high school age and older.

Parents, this is replacing a normal fundraiser for CEA that would involve selling pizza kits, cookie dough, candy, etc. It has been a successful annual event and we get enough support that we do not have to have any other fundraisers during the year. If every Bethel family finds at least one team to compete in the Trivia Night it will be a great evening - the more teams, the more successful the event. Teams may register online on the Bethel School Website or using the QR code. If trivia is not your thing, please consider helping in some other way that evening. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet in the hallway at school. Any questions regarding this event please contact Jenni Thunberg at [jennithunberg@gmail.com](mailto:jennithunberg@gmail.com).



**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 resume calling for a pastor this month. Please keep Good Shepherd's ministry, as well as Pastor Killinger, in your prayers during this time of vacancy.

**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.

**Popcorn Friday:** Popcorn Friday will be this Friday! Have your child bring \$0.50 to school on Friday if they would like to get a bag of popcorn. The following upcoming Fridays will be Popcorn Fridays:  
1/26; 2/9; 2/23; 3/8; 3/22

**Science Presentation at St. John's, Bay City:** *Top Science Questions for Today's Christian*, presented by Dr. Kevin Peil. January 21st @ 4:00 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church (706 W. Jane, Bay City). This presentation will cover some of the more popular science questions for today's Christian: Did God really create the entire universe in six 24 hour days or did he use evolution to create everything? Don't stars that are millions and billions of light years away mean that the universe is billions of years old? Could Noah's Ark really have held all those animals? Was there an ice age at one time? Did humans really live for more than 900 years as the Bible describes? What about climate change? Do all of the recent genetic discoveries show that evolution is true? Come and get answers to all of these questions! We will have a free pizza supper after the presentation. **(RSVP by January 19th that you will be attending the supper - 989-684-6791) Babysitting will be provided in the gym for children 3 and up. Hope to see you there!**

**Enrollment for 2024-2025:** Enrollment for the 2024-2025 Preschool year begins January 15. Applications are available from Mrs. Virant.

**CEA Winter Meeting:** The next meeting for the Christian Education Association (CEA) is scheduled for Sunday, February 11th after church. At this meeting updates will be given on items that took place in the fall as well as update progress on upcoming events and projects sponsored by the CEA. Please make an effort to attend if you are able.

**MLS Fine Arts Fair:** The MLS Fine Arts Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd at MLS. Students in grades 3-8 may participate in the various categories. For information about registration, rules and different competitions, go to the MLS website (<https://www.mlsem.org/>) and click on the Science and Fine Arts Fair tab. MLS is using that link as their center for all information related to the Fine Arts Fair.

#### **Birthdays:**

Jade Beyer - January 13th - PreK-3

#### **Coming Up:**

- 1/15 - 24-25 Preschool Enrollment Begins
- 1/19 - End of 2nd Qtr. (½ Day Faculty In-Service)
- 1/21 - Jr. Bobcat Poms Cheerleading Camp
- 1/22-1/26 - Lutheran Schools Week
- 1/24 - Qtr. 2 Report Cards Sent Home
- 1/28 - Lutheran Schools Sunday
- 2/05 - Pastor/Teacher Conference (No School)
- 2/23 - ½ Day of School (Faculty In-Service)
- 2/26 - Kindergarten Screening Begins
- 3/01 - Principals' Conference
- 3/02 - CEA Trivia Night
  - MLS Fine Arts Fair
- 3/04 & 3/06 - Preschool Kindergarten Visitation
- 3/08 - MALL Athletic Meeting
- 3/22 - End of 3rd Qtr. (½ Day Faculty In-Service)
- 3/23 - MALL Volleyball Tournament
- 3/27 - 3rd Qtr. Report Cards Sent Home
- 3/29 - Good Friday Worship @ 1:00 (Grades 1-8 Sing)
- 4/01-4/05 - BLS Spring Break (No School)
- 4/08 - BLS Classes Resume
- 4/15-4/20 - Grades 1-8 Play Week

### **Upcoming Singing Schedule Dates:**

- **1/14 - Cantate Choir**
- 1/28 - Preschool -Kindergarten & Grades 1-8
- 2/14 - Cantate Choir (Ash Wednesday)
- 2/21 - Cherub Choir (Wednesday Lenten Service)
- 3/06 - Cantate Choir (Wednesday Lenten Service)
- 3/13 - Cherub Choir (Wednesday Lenten Service)
- 3/29 - Grades 1-8 (Good Friday)

### **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)

### **Cheerleading Practice:**

- **1/10 (3:00-5:00)**
- 1/15 (3:00-5:00)
- 1/18 (3:00-5:00)

### **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)

### **Basketball Practice:**

01/08 - 5:30-7:00

01/11 - 5:30-7:00

**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.

Visit [www.mlsem.org/apply](http://www.mlsem.org/apply) to submit your application today, and encourage others to do the same!

### **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/>.

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/>.

