



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

**Worship Schedule:**

Monday, January 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 28th @ 10:00 a.m. (Lutheran Schools Sunday)

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

***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!***

**Congregational Update:** At yesterday's Voters' Meeting the congregation approved a proposal that we begin calling for a grades 1-2 teacher for next school year. The proposal included a reshuffle of faculty teaching duties due to the new classroom structures for next school year. The current plan is to hold a call meeting on Sunday, February 4th to discuss who we will call for our new teaching position.

**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. Guests may arrive at 7:45 and meet in the gym. 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)*

- Sunday: *Lutheran Schools Sunday & Chili Cook-Off (sign-up via QR code)*



**Inclement Weather:** A reminder to all our school families that we follow Bay City Public schools in the case of inclement weather school closings. You can find information about school closings on local tv stations or local news websites such as WNEM or ABC 12.

**B Team Boys' Basketball Tournament:** Over the weekend our boys' basketball B team participated in their tournament in Tawas. They won all their games and finished in 1st place! Congratulations to the team on their tournament championship!

**2nd Qtr. Report Cards:** Last Friday was the end of the 2nd quarter of the school year. Report cards will be sent home this Wednesday (01/24). Please sign your child's report card envelope and return it to school the next day.

**Enrollment for 2024-2025:** Enrollment for the 2024-2025 Preschool year began on January 15. Applications are available from Mrs. Virant. A few applications have come in for both programs already. For the most up to date openings available for next year, check the board outside the preschool classroom. As of this writing there are ***12/16 spots available*** in Pre-K4 and ***12/14 spots available*** in Pre-K3.

**Science Presentation at St. John's, Bay City:** *Top Science Questions for Today's Christian*, presented by Dr. Kevin Peil. February 4th @ 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 if 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.**

**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 \$52.01 and students have collected \$357.62.

**Boys' Club:** The Boys' Club will meet next on Wednesday, January 31st from 3:00-4:30 in the gym. Snacks and drinks will be provided and the kids will be having fun with Legos. Lego pieces will be provided.

**Girls Club:** The Girls' Club will meet next on Wednesday, January 31st in the MP Room from 3:00-4:30. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**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.



**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).

**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.

**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 currently has a call out for a new pastor. Please keep Good Shepherd's ministry, as well as Pastor Killinger, in your prayers during this time of vacancy.

**Popcorn Friday:** The following upcoming Fridays will be Popcorn Fridays - 1/26; 2/9; 2/23; 3/8; 3/22

**Birthdays:**

Emma Powers - January 21st - 2nd Grade  
Lilah Foster - January 25th - Kindergarten

**Coming Up:**

- 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)
- 2/11 - CEA Meeting
- 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

**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)
- 04/28 - Pine Car Derby (Powers)
- TBD - Family Movie Night (Wilson)
- TBD - Board Game Night (Friske)

**Upcoming Singing Schedule Dates:**

- 1/28 - Preschool -Kindergarten & Grades 1-8 (Lutheran Schools Sunday)
- 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)

**Cheerleading Practice:**

- 1/22 (3:00-5:00)
- 1/25 (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):**

- 1/23 - 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:**

**1/22 - 5:30-7:00**

**1/25 - 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**

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/>.

### ***Our Open House is coming soon, February 16, 2024!***

All 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families are welcome to attend this or any of our open houses throughout the school year. These are excellent opportunities to become familiar with campus, learn about the academics and extracurriculars at MLS, sample the dining hall cuisine, and watch an MLS Cardinals' sporting event, play performance, or concert.

Here are some of the things you can plan to see and do at most of our open house events:

- Listen to a brief introduction to our school and enjoy a mini-concert from our show choir, *The Shadows*.
- Visit classrooms and meet with our students, teachers, and coaches.
- Ask questions of MLS faculty and current MLS parents about the pros and cons of MLS.
- Take a tour of the school and get acquainted with the campus.
- Speak with the dorm staff and see the dormitories.
- Eat dinner in the dining hall and attend a home game or event.

If your family is interested in attending, MLS asks for advance notice to help accommodate visitors. Families can register online or call (989)793-1010.

[Open House Online Registration Form \(QR Code\)](#)

We look forward to seeing you!

In Christ,

Instr. Cameron Schroeder  
MLS Admissions Counselor

