



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

Worship Schedule:

Monday, January 29th @ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 4th @ 10:00 a.m.

- 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: Our congregation has 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. A call meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4th to discuss who we will call for our new teaching position.

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.

2nd Qtr. Honor Roll: Students in grades 6-8 only are eligible for Honor Roll. There are two levels - all A's and A's & B's. For the second quarter of the school year the following students have made Honor Roll in grades 6-8:

All A's & B's:

Ada Figley - Gr. 8

Caleb Powers - Gr. 8

Eliza Figley - Gr. 7

Easton Jacobs - Gr. 7

Grace Janz - Gr. 7

Avery Kukla - Gr. 7

Ian McGehee - Gr. 7

Collin Nitz - Gr. 7

Laney Wilson - Gr. 7

Nicklas Barclay - Gr. 6

Avaree Fuhrman - Gr. 6

Lucas Killinger - Gr. 6

Leah Nitz - Gr. 6

Taylor Thunberg - Gr. 6

Landon Zube - Gr. 6

Pastor/Teacher Conference: There will be no school on Monday, February 5th due to your staff attending a conference in Saginaw. Please plan accordingly and enjoy the day off!

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 **11/16 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.**

Cardinal for a Day: Students in grades 1-8 will be attending Cardinal for a Day at Michigan Lutheran Seminary on Friday, February 16th. They will be picked up by a MLS bus shortly after arriving at school and return before the end of the day so that you can pick them up at the normal dismissal time. Students will attend some mini classes, attend chapel, have some gym activities and are provided a free pizza lunch. No additional chaperones are required. A permission slip will be sent home this week.

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.

Ash Wednesday Supper: Wednesday, February 14th begins the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30. The CEA is in charge of the meal before the service. There is a sign-up to help with this supper on the bulletin board and online (QR code). Please contact Nicole VanDenBoom or Mr. Thoof if you would like to help with the meal.



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.

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 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 - 2/9; 2/23; 3/8; 3/22

Birthdays:

Kody VanDenBoom - January 29th - 5th Grade
Elli Kain - January 30th - 5th Grade
Chandler Asel - February 4th - PreK-4
Ian McGehee - February 4th - 7th Grade

Coming Up:

- 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:

- 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:

- **1/29 (3:00-5:00)**
- 2/08 (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):

- **1/30 - vs Chesaning @ TBD (AB)**
- **2/1 - vs Salem, Owosso @ Bethel (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:

1/29 - 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 JR CARDINAL WINTER POMS CLINIC

Members of the MLS Poms team would like to invite girls from grades K-5 to their Winter Poms Clinic. The MLS Jr. Cardinal Poms Winter Clinic is scheduled for February 11, 2024! The clinic is for girls from K-5th grade in a WELS/ELS church or school. Each participant will be taught a routine that they will perform with the MLS poms team at halftime of the MLS varsity basketball game on Friday night, February 16, 2024.

The cost of the clinic is \$20 and includes a shirt and snack. Poms and hair bows can be added on if needed. To register, visit www.mlsem.org. Deadline to register is January 31 at midnight. Questions? Please contact MLS Public Relations Coordinator, Michael Priebe at mdp@mlsem.org

MLS FOUNDATION DINNER & AUCTION

Tickets are still available for our MLS Foundation Dinner & Auction. Our event will take place on Sunday, February, 18th at the Great Hall in Midland. Join us for an evening of fun, food, and entertainment to support Christian education at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. There will also be an online auction with separate items beginning on February 5th! Go to <https://auctria.events/MLS2024> to get your tickets and to register for the online portion of our auction!

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

All 5th - 8th 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

