



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

Worship Schedule:

Wednesday, March 13th @ 6:30 p.m. (Lenten Worship)

Lenten meal @ 5:0

Sunday, March 18th @ 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 Wednesday evening worship opportunities as we continue to gather around God's Word. See you there!

Congregational Divine Call Update: At yesterday's call meeting our congregation was able to extend a divine call. Further details and information about the call will be coming out this week.

Mrs. Virant Divine Call: This past Sunday it was announced that Mrs. Virant has received a divine call to teach Kindergarten at First German Lutheran School in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Please keep her, First German and our ministry in your prayers as Mrs. Virant deliberates where to best use her gifts and abilities.

School Play Survey: To help plan for our upcoming play in April, we ask families in grades 1-8 to please take some time to fill out a short survey related to the play. The survey will be sent out via Remind or you can scan the QR code to fill out the survey.



Cherub Choir: This Wednesday (03/13) the Cherub Choir sings in our Lenten Service at 6:30. Cherub members are to meet in the multipurpose room by 6:15 p.m. to prepare for singing.

Enrollment for 2024-2025: Enrollment for the 2024-2025 Preschool year began on January 15. Applications are available from Mrs. Virant. Applications have come in for both programs. For the most up to date openings available for next year, check the board outside the preschool classroom. As of this writing there are **6/16 spots available** in Pre-K4 and **12/14 spots available** in Pre-K3.

Boys' Club: The next get together will be on Tuesday, March 19th at the YMCA to swim from 3:00-4:30. Some adult chaperones are needed for this activity. Please let Brianne Kramer or Liz Faulk know if you are able to help with this event.

Girls' Club: The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21st from 3:00-4:00 in the gym for crafts & snacks!



MALL Volleyball Tournament: We are once again hosting the MALL volleyball tournament at Bay City Central High School on March 23rd and are in need of ticket takers for the tournament. If you are able to help with tickets, please sign up with the QR code or talk with Mr. Thooft.

Mission Program: Our 3rd quarter chapel offering is going to support the Bethel Equip for Quality Fund (EQF). This is a special fund that is used to continue to make improvements to our school. I pray that families take this opportunity to teach their children the importance of supporting the work of the church. Our chapel offering last week was \$23.71 and students have collected \$230.49.

Library Display: During the month of March several of our student art projects will be on display at the Bay County Library downtown. If you are there, check out the kids section and take a look at our students' work!

March Reading Month:

Books for Breakfast

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. We will read our favorite books together and test your trivia knowledge.

If you signed up to donate food/products for the Breakfast with a Buddy in January, please check to see what you signed up for! Thanks!

Hats Off to Reading!

March Reading Challenge

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

For our March Reading Challenge, we are encouraging students to read every day in the month of March. Keep track of the minutes students have read, been read to, or listened to a book on tape. Parents are asked to sign off on their child’s reading log coupon (see the attached sheet) each day. Turn in each week’s coupon so we can keep track of minutes read. All reading log coupons must be turned in by April 9 (after Spring Break). Prizes will be awarded based on the total number of minutes read during March.

Please note the following in school-wide events associated with our Reading Challenge:

Read with a Buddy March 13	Bring your favorite book (or books) and your favorite stuffed animal reading buddy!
Read a Shirt Day March 19	Wear any shirt on it with words to keep us reading all day long!
Favorite Book Character March 22	Come dressed as your favorite book character. Be creative! This event will wrap up our Reading Challenge.
Books for Breakfast March 26	Bring a mom, dad, relative, or friend to breakfast. We will read books and test your book trivia knowledge.

MALL League News: MALL athletic directors met to discuss sports schedules for the 24-25 school year. I am happy to report that we were able to approve schedules for most of the sports for next school year. The Google calendar will be updated with next year's athletic events soon.

CEA Events: The Christian Education Association (CEA) is our parent group and has organized a number of events for the spring. We are in need of people to help volunteer at those upcoming events. If you are able or interested in helping with upcoming CEA sponsored activities, please contact the person in charge of the event or talk with Mr. Thoofth about how you can get involved.

CEA Sponsored Activities:

- 04/26 - Mother/Son Activity (Thunberg/Wilson)
- 05/03 - Daddy/Daughter Dance (Thunberg/Wilson)
- 04/28 - Pine Car Derby (Powers)

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.

Camp Lor-Ray Kids Camp 2024: Hey kids are you ready for some outdoor fun? Well tell your parents/guardians that Kids Camp 2024 registration is open and is awaiting your spot to be filled! It's a great time surrounded by other believers doing activities such as fishing, swimming, crafts and so many more games and silly songs! The weeks are 1st-3rd grade (June 30th -July 3rd), 4th-6th (July 7th-12th) and 7th-9th (July 14th-19th). Costs are as follows: 1-3 Grade: \$199 (Early Bird: \$175). 4-6 and 7-9 Grade: \$299 (Early Bird: \$275). Apply before April 30th at camplor-ray.org to secure the early bird discount. ps. parents there is a scholarship application on the registration so we can all be able to enjoy camp! Feel free to email us any and all questions, comments or concerns at camplorray@gmail.com.

Popcorn Friday: The following upcoming Fridays will be Popcorn Fridays - 3/22

Birthdays:

Elisha Thoofth - March 15th - PreK-4

Upcoming Singing Schedule Dates:

- 3/13 - Cherub Choir (Wednesday Lenten Service)
- 3/20 - Tone Chimes (Wednesday Lenten Service)
- 3/24 - Grades 1-8 (Palm Sunday)
- 3/29 - Grades 1-8 (Good Friday)
- 5/05 - Cantate Choir (Confirmation)
- 5/19 - Cherub Choir (Pentecost)
- 6/02 - Grades K-7 (Graduation Sunday)

Coming Up:

- 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
- 5/03 - ½ Day of School (Faculty In-Service)
- 5/05 - Confirmation Sunday
- 5/10 - BLS Career Day
- 5/20-5/22 - Grades 5-6 Camp Timbers Trip
- 5/22 - Last Day PreK-4
- 5/23 - Last Day PreK-3
- 5/24 - MALL Track Meet @ Garber
- 5/27 - Memorial Day (No School)
- 5/30 - ½ Day of School (Records Day)
- 5/31 - ½ Day of School (Last Day of School & Awards Day)

Volleyball Schedule

Monday, March 11	Practice @ Bethel	4:00 – 5:30 pm
Tuesday, March 12	Games @ St. John’s Bay City	4:00 pm & 4:45 pm
Thursday, March 14	Practice @ Bethel	5:00 – 6:30 pm
Monday, March 18	Practice @ Bethel	4:30 – 6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 19	Games @ Shields	4:45 pm & 5:30 pm
Thursday, March 21	Games @ Trinity Bay City	4:00 pm & 4:45 pm
Saturday, March 23	MALL Tournament @ BCC	TBD

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 BLOOD DRIVE

The MLS Student Council is working with the American Red Cross to host our spring 2024 blood drive on Tuesday, March 12th, from 10:00 am to 2:45 pm. Interested adult donors can sign up by visiting www.mlsem.org.

MLS BAND CONCERT

The MLS Bay Street Band will present their last concert of the year on Sunday, March 24 at 6:30 pm in the MLS chapel. Please join us for a very enjoyable evening of music!

MLS CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The MLS is hosting their annual co-ed volleyball tournament on Saturday, April 13. The main purpose of this tournament is to better acquaint church members with your ministerial education training school and its students, as well as the facilities, while also serving as a fundraiser for Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Money raised will go the MLS general fund. The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 6. For more information and to register visit www.mlsem.org/mlsadultvolleyball.

PROF. STEVE THIESFELDT 50TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

You are invited to a service of thanksgiving to our Lord on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the teaching ministry of Prof. Steven Thiesfeldt. The service will take place on April 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the MLS Chapel. Following the service and short program there will be generous hors d'oeuvres served in the MLS Dining Hall at 5:30 p.m. We do ask that if you plan on going to the meal you RSVP by visiting www.mlsem.org/thiesfeldt.

MLS SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for our 2024 MLS Summer Camps is now open! Our camps emphasize teaching teamwork, fundamentals and skills in a positive, Christian setting. The camp directors see this as an opportunity to use the beautiful facilities of Michigan Lutheran Seminary to work with our synod's youth. Our staff is dedicated to making our camps a positive experience for each camper.

Family Discount: If you will be registering for more than one camp within the same household we now offer a 15% family discount. Enter the code FAMILY when ordering to receive the discount. You MUST be signed up for multiple camps to use the code. If you use the code and have only signed up for one camp your order will be voided.

To register visit www.mlsem.org. Registration ends on June 1, 2024 at midnight.