



*"Let us run with endurance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."  
Hebrews 12:1-2*

**\*Please note that the next edition of the school newsletter will come out on Monday, December 2nd.\***

**Worship Schedule:**

- Monday, November 18th @ 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 24th @ 10:00 a.m.
  - Sunday School & Bible Class @ 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 27th @ 6:30 (Thanksgiving Eve)

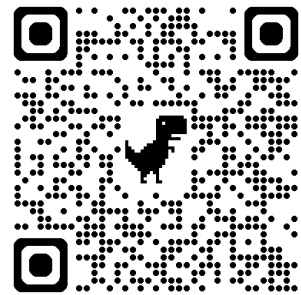
**Worship Encouragement:** With the holiday season upon us, we have many special opportunities to gather as Christ's family to celebrate the birth of our Savior. I would like to remind our families of the opportunity we have to gather as that church family. Each Sunday (and Monday night) we gather together around God's word to ask and receive His forgiveness, hear of His great love for us, thank him for the blessings He has provided us in our lives as well as celebrate the fellowship we have as a church family.

You are missed when your family is not present in worship. I pray and encourage all our school families to gather around God's word as often as they can, both at church and at home as well as to be present and active in our worship services each week.

**Divine Call Update:** I have received a call to serve as principal and upper-grade teacher at Samuel Lutheran in Marshall, Minnesota. Please keep my family and me in your prayers as I deliberate where the Lord would have me serve. I welcome and encourage any feedback you may have during this deliberation process.

Mr. Peterson has received a divine call to Beautiful Savior in Grove City, Ohio to teach third, fourth, and fifth grade. Please keep the Peterson family in your prayers as they deliberate the call. I encourage everyone to reach out to Mr. Peterson to discuss the call with him.

**Mall Girls' Tournament:** We are the host school for girls MALL basketball tournament on December 6th and 7th. THE tournament will be hosted at St. John's School (706 W Jane St, Bay City, MI 48706). Please review the available slots (scan the QR code) and click on the button to sign up. Concessions will report to the concession stand for their shift. Score table volunteers will report to the scorers table in the gym. These volunteers are responsible for running the clock/scoreboard and the official book for the games. Ticket takers will report to the concession stand and then be assigned which entrance to take tickets at.



***Please consider taking more than one game to ensure everything is covered. We need MANY volunteers to make this a great tournament for our students. Thank you!***

**School Picture Retake:** If your child missed picture day, please contact Mr. Thooft about picture retakes ASAP.

**Mission Program:** Our 2nd quarter chapel offerings have been designated to Thai Village. Thai Village is a nonprofit organization that works locally with Thai artisans to support economic self-sufficiency and provide Christian education. The organization exists to develop long-term relationships with local people and produce handmade crafts that reflect their diverse cultures. They do so by training and employing low-income people. They support Christian outreach and education and create opportunities to share God's love in our community. I pray that families take this opportunity to teach their children the importance of supporting the work of the church. Last week our chapel offering was \$46.84. Our total for 2nd qtr. is \$97.11.

**Library Display:** Bethel students' artwork will be displayed at the Alice Wirt Library in November. Stop by the children's section of the library and see what our students have created.

**Advent by Candlelight:** We will once again celebrate "Advent by Candlelight." We will celebrate on Saturday, November 23rd. More details will follow soon. Please think about hosting a table. A signup sheet is located on the school hallway bulletin board. Contact Alice Danell for further information.

**Pie Night:** Join the families of Bethel for a pie-tasting evening on November 26th from 6:30-7:30. Bring your favorite pie to share (homemade or store-bought) and wear your comfy pajamas as we enjoy pie and a movie.

**Popcorn Friday:** Our next Popcorn Friday will be 12/13.

**Christmas Gift Exchange:** As part of our Christmas celebration, PreK to 8th grade students exchange names for gifts. Your child's teachers will exchange names before Thanksgiving break. Please help your child purchase a gift for his/her exchange in the range of \$5 to \$7. Please do not send your child's gift to school until the last day before Christmas vacation, Thursday, December 19th, when room parties will take place.

**Thanksgiving Church Service:** Bethel will have a special Thanksgiving Eve church service on Wednesday, November 27th at 6:30. Both of our school choirs will be singing in that service. I pray that all our school and preschool families join us for this special service of thanks to our gracious God.

**Children's Christmas Service:** Preparations are being made for both our Children's Christmas Services. The Preschool and Kindergarten will have their service on Sunday, December 15th in the morning. Students in grades 1-8 will have their service on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30. As parts are assigned please help your child to be prepared for these special services and make sure to mark the dates on your calendars!

**Living Christmas Card:** This year's Living Christmas Card will be hosted at Trinity. The Living Christmas Card is a live nativity event going through the Christmas story. The event will take place on December 7th and 8th from 5:00-7:00.

**SCRIP:** If gift cards are part of your holiday routine, please consider helping out Bethel along the way. A percentage of every card purchased supports our special projects. Contact Laurie Gies or catch up with her after worship to make a purchase.

**Bethel Business Directory:** We are working on updating the Bethel Business Directory. If you own a business and would like to have your information added to the directory please scan the QR code and submit the form.

If you have any questions or issues please email Liz Faulk at [lizsarkella@gmail.com](mailto:lizsarkella@gmail.com).



**MLS Bethel Contact Person for MLS - Job Description:** A Bethel member volunteers to line up a group of other volunteers from the Bethel congregation to serve food in the MLS concession stand during the fall football season on Thurs. JV or Fri. V games. Bethel has a group already that is eager and willing to work at MLS. Also, this contact person could be called by MLS during the year if there are any other events that they need volunteers for. Depending on the football game, 5-9 people are needed with arrival at 5:15 or 6:15. (cashiers, beverage servers, food servers, etc.). During the summer - June or July, Bethel's contact person receives a call from the Congregation Coordinator, Carla Miller. (coordinator for all the area congregations for the football schedule) The contact person chooses a date, contacts the volunteers to see who can work for that game, then lets the Coordinator know. If you are interested in this position, please contact Mr. Thooft.

**Check these out!:** Did you know our Synod had a variety of family resources? 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.



**Scan the second QR code for family devotions that can be used at home.** I pray these resources are helpful to you and your family.



**Student Spotlight:**

Owen Raushi - 3rd grade  
Teagan Shorkey - 2nd Grade  
Iris Nordstrom - K  
Sutton Kramer - Pre-4

**Birthdays:**

Chloe Szostek - 5th grade - 11/22  
Warren Collicker - Kindergarten - 11/22  
Justin Krohn - 7th grade - 11/29

**Coming Up:**

- 11/22 - Grades 5-8 MLS Play Field Trip
- 11/23 - Advent by Candlelight
- 11-27-11-29 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- 12/01 - Board of Education
- 12/07-12/08 - Living Christmas Card @ Trinity
- 12/15 - Preschool & Kindergarten Christmas Service
- 12/19 - Grades 1-8 Children's Christmas Service @ 6:30
  - Last Day before Christmas Break
- 12/20 - Beginning of Christmas Break
- 01/06 - Classes Resume
- 1/10 - Principals' Conference
- 1/15 - '25-'26 Preschool Enrollment Opens

**Upcoming Singing Schedule Dates:**

- 11/27 - Cherub & Cantate (Thanksgiving Eve)
- 12/15 - Kindergarten & Preschool Christmas Service
- 12/19 - Grades 1-8 Children's Christmas Service

**Bethel Booster Sponsored Activities:**

- 12/15 - Coffee Hour (Powers)
- 01/19 - Family Movie Night (Faulk)
- 03/01 - Trivia Night (Thunberg/Wilson)
- 03/02 - Coffee Hour (Leppek)
- 03/05 - Ash Wednesday Soup Supper (VanDenBoom)
- 04/25 - Mother/Son Activity (Thunberg/Wilson)
- 05/02 - Father/Daughter Dance (Thunberg/Wilson)
- TBD - Pine Car Derby (Powers)

**Girls' Basketball Game Schedule:**

*(On nights in which both A and B teams have games, B team games will start at 5:30 with A team playing afterward)*

**Girls' Game Schedule:**

- 11/19 - vs Trinity @ Bethel (AB)
- 11/22 - vs Trinity @ Trinity (AB)
- 12/6-12/7 - MALL A Team Tournament @ SJBC
- 12/13-12/14 - MLS Tournament @ MLS

**Girls' Basketball Practices:**

- Tuesday, 11/26 - 3-4:30
- Tuesday, 12/3 - 3-4:30
- Thursday, 12/5 - 3-4:30
- Tuesday, 12/10 - 3-4:30
- Thursday, 12/12 - 3-4:30

**Google Calendar:** If you have not, please check out our Google calendar for the latest dates of events. It is important that you have access to our Google calendar because that is the primary way to know when events are

happening at Bethel. If you need assistance with setting up access to the Google Calendar, please contact a staff member.

**Find us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BethelBayCity>

## **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**

### **MLS GIVING TUESDAY**

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving and this year, MLS is excited to participate in this effort to support our mission of equipping and encouraging the next generation of Cardinals! Our goal is to raise \$8,000 for 8 new digital pianos for our piano lab, which provides students with the opportunity to develop piano skills and use them to serve the Lord in WELS congregations. Here's how you can get involved:

**Penny War (Dec 2-6):** The Student Council will lead a fun "penny war" where the class with the greatest donation wins a pizza party with the President!

**Can Drive (Dec 1, 6-9 pm):** Local MLS families can drop off cans and plastic bottles (no glass) at the maintenance shed. The Student Council will redeem them for donations supporting Giving Tuesday.

**Donate Online (Dec 3):** Alumni and friends are invited to donate via our MLS website or Facebook. Every dollar donated up to \$4,000 will be matched by a generous alumni supporter! Together, we can make a big impact on our students and the ministry at MLS. Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday, December 3, and help us reach our goal!

### **MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY PRESENTS "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"**

Tickets are now on sale for the MLS production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on November 23-24. Join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and the gang as they discover the true meaning of Christmas. There will also be a COOKIE WALK at both performances. Bring a couple dozen cookies to the Commons before the show, and fill a bucket with cookies to take home after the show. A freewill offering will be accepted for those. To purchase tickets visit [www.mlsem.org/fall-play](http://www.mlsem.org/fall-play).

### **MLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Join us at Michigan Lutheran Seminary on December 20 at 7 pm for our annual Christmas concert, "Worship Christ, the Newborn King." The choirs and instrumentalists will share new and familiar carols that will surely enrich your Christmas celebration. Doors will open at 6:30, and there is no reserved seating. A freewill offering will be gathered for the music department.

### **NOW HIRING - MLS BUSINESS MANAGER**

MLS is seeking to fill our Business Manager position. The MLS Business Manager is responsible for the financial affairs of MLS, serves as the chief Human Resource officer, and is responsible directly to the President of MLS. Visit [www.mlsem.org](http://www.mlsem.org) for a position description and how to apply.

### **MLS OPEN HOUSES**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary would like to invite you to one of our Open Houses this school year! We have open houses on February 14th, March 8th, and May 2nd! This is a great opportunity for 5th-8th grade students and their families to learn about the campus, academics, and extracurriculars at MLS! You'll have a chance to meet faculty, talk to parents and students, try our dining hall cuisine, and take a tour of the campus! If you're interested or would like more information, contact us at [admissions@mlsem.org](mailto:admissions@mlsem.org) or call (989) 793-1010 ext. 421.

### **MLS APPLICATIONS FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR**

It's already time to think about applying for the 2025-26 school year! If you have an 8th grader who wants to come to MLS next year, applications will be officially open on November 1st! Be sure to apply as soon as you can so that you are eligible for the tuition discount drawings. If you apply before November 30th, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$500 tuition discount; and if you apply before December 31st, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$250 tuition discount! For any questions, contact us at [admissions@mlsem.org](mailto:admissions@mlsem.org) or call (989) 793-1010 ext. 421. To apply, go to [www.mlsem.org/apply](http://www.mlsem.org/apply).