



*"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*

Worship Schedule:

- Monday, December 9th @ 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 15th @ 10:00 a.m.

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: Mrs. Virant has received a divine call to Little Lambs Preschool in Baxter, Minnesota to teach preschool. Please keep the Virant family in your prayers as they deliberate the call. I encourage everyone to reach out to Mrs. Virant to discuss the call with her.

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 \$55.00. Our total for 2nd qtr. is \$202.61.

MALL Girls' Tournament: This past weekend our girls' basketball team participated in the MALL basketball tournament. Unfortunately our girls lost both the games that they played over the weekend. The girls will have a chance to rebound with their final tournament of the year next weekend at Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped run the tournament this past weekend. It is a lot of work to organize and run a tournament like this, so thank you to all those who helped make this tournament a success. I am thankful for the volunteer efforts of our school families that help give our students special opportunities and experiences. Go, Bobcats!

MLS Girls' Tournament: Our girls basketball team will be back in action for the MLS basketball tournament next Friday and Saturday (12/13-12/14). The girls' first game will be on Friday at 1:30 pm (see the attached bracket for full tournament details). The grades 7-8 classroom will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. on Friday. Tournament admission will be \$5 for adults (high school and older) and \$1 for students in K-8 for each day of the tournament. MLS students and children younger than kindergarten are free. Only cash will be accepted for admissions.

Christmas Gift Exchange: As part of our Christmas celebration, PreK to 8th grade students exchange names for gifts. Your child's teachers exchanged 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.

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!

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. Scrip cards will be available for purchase on Wednesday @ 2:45 and Tuesday, December 17th @ 2:45.

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

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:

- Blake Clark - 4th grade
- Laney Wilson - 8th grade
- Nicklas Barclay - 7th grade
- Eva Watkins - Pre-4

Birthdays:

- Avery Kukla - 8th grade - 12/12

Coming Up:

- 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:

- 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' Game Schedule:

- 12/13-12/14 - MLS Tournament @ MLS

Girls' Basketball Practices:

- **Tuesday, 12/10 - 3-4:30**
- **Thursday, 12/12 - 3-4:30**

Boys' Basketball Game Schedule:

- 1/10 - vs Kaw/Mid @ Bethel (AB)
- 1/14 - vs Salem @ Owosso (AB)
- 1/17 - vs Trinity @ Bethel (AB)
- 1/21 - vs Hemlock @ Christ Shields (AB)
- 1/24 - vs Tawas @ Tawas (AB)
- 1/25 - B Team Tournament @ Trinity
- 1/28 - vs Trinity @ Trinity (AB)
- 1/31 - vs SJBC @ SJBC (AB)
- 2/4 - vs Hemlock @ Bethel (AB)
- 2/7-2/8 - MLS Tournament @ MLS (Two day tournament)
- 2/11 - SJBC @ Bethel (AB)
- 2/14-2/15 - MALL Tournament @ SJBC (Two day tournament)

Boys' Basketball Practices:

- **Tuesday, 12/10 - 6:30-7:30**
- **Wednesday, 12/11 - 6:30-7:30**
- Tuesday, 12/17 - 6:30-7:30
- Wednesday, 12/18 - 6:30-7:30

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 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 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 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 or call (989) 793-1010 ext. 421. To apply, go to www.mlsem.org/apply.