



*"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 16th @ 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 22nd @ 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, December 24th @ 6:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve Candlelight)
- Wednesday, December 25th @ 10:00 a.m. (Christmas Day Worship)
- Tuesday, December 31st @ 4:00 (New Year's Worship)
- Sunday, January 5th @ 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:** It was announced yesterday after church that Mrs. Virant has returned the divine call to Little Lambs Preschool in Baxter, Minnesota to teach preschool. It is a blessing that Mrs. Virant will be continuing her ministry here at Bethel. Please keep the Little Lambs Preschool in Baxter in your prayers as they continue to look for a teacher.

**MLS Girls' Tournament:** Our girls' basketball team participated in the MLS basketball tournament this past weekend. The girls played well throughout the tournament and won the championship! Congratulations to our girls basketball players on their achievement and on a great ending to their season! Thank you to all the players for their hard work this season as well as the coaches and parents for their support of the players.

**Christmas Room Parties:** Students in K-8 will have their individual room Christmas parties on Thursday, December 19th in the morning. Please don't send your child's exchange gift until that morning. The morning will begin with our last rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Service at about 8:30 a.m. Room parties will follow starting around 10:00 a.m. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon. If you have any questions about the parties, please contact your child's teacher.

**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.

**Christmas Caroling:** This week our students in preschool through 8th grade will be going across the street to the assisted living facilities to carol and bring the residents part of our Children's Christmas Services. Preschool and Kindergarten will be going over on Monday (today) and students in grades 1-8 will be going over Tuesday afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to bring the gospel message along with some Christmas cheer to people in our community!

**Children's Christmas Service:** Preparations are being made for both our Children's Christmas Services. 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!

**Christmas Vacation:** Bethel's Christmas break will be from Thursday, December 19th through Sunday, January 5th. Classes will resume with a full day of school on Monday, January 6th, 2025. Enjoy the holidays and celebration of our Savior's birth with your family and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Basketball Uniforms:** Girls' basketball team members are reminded to clean and repair their uniforms and return them to school by this Thursday. Thanks!

**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 \$55.10 Our total for 2nd qtr. is \$237.21.

**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.

**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:**

**Birthdays:**

- Avery Kukla - 8th grade - 12/12
- Reid Collicker - 3rd grade - 12/16
- Wesley Beyer - 1st grade - 12/19
- Aiden Pillot - 1st grade - 12/23
- Blake Clark - 4th grade - 12/26
- Connor Roth - Kindergarten - 01/04
- Bowen Rouse - Kindergarten - 01/04
- Kameron VanDenBoom - 4th grade - 01/05
- Taylor Thunberg - 7th grade - 01/05

### **Coming Up:**

- **12/19 - Grades 1-8 Children's Christmas Service @ 6:30**
  - **Last Day before Christmas Break & Classroom Parties**
- **12/20 - Beginning of Christmas Break**
- 1/06 - Classes Resume
- 1/10 - Principals' Conference
- 1/15 - '25-'26 Preschool Enrollment Opens
- 1/17 - End of 2nd Qtr./Faculty In-Service- Noon Dismissal
- 1/19-1/25 - Lutheran Schools Week
- 1/19 - Family Movie Night
- 1/22 - 2nd Qtr. Report Cards Sent Home
- 1/26 - Lutheran Schools Sunday
- 2/21 - Faculty In-Service - Noon Dismissal
- 2/24 - No School: Pastor/Teacher Conference
- 2/28 - Grades 1-8 Music Concert
- 3/01 - Bethel Booster Trivia Night
- 3/02 - Coffee Hour - Sponsored by Bethel Boosters
- 3/05 - Ash Wednesday
  - Soup Supper Sponsored by Bethel Boosters

### **Upcoming Singing Schedule Dates:**

- **12/19 - Grades 1-8 Children's Christmas Service**

### **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, 12/17 - 5:30-6:30**
- **Wednesday, 12/18 - 6:30-7:30**

### **Cheerleading Practices:**

- January 5th - Clinic from 11:30-2:30
- Monday, January 6th - 3:00-4:30
- Wednesday, January 8th - 3:00-4:30
- Monday, January 13th - 3:00-4:30
- Wednesday, January 15th - 3:00-4:30
- Monday, January 20th - 3:00-4:30
- Wednesday, January 22nd - 3:00-4:30
- Monday, January 27th - 3:00-4:30
- Wednesday, January 29th - 3:00-4:30

**Bethel Booster Sponsored Activities:**

- 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)

**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](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).