



BEAR FACTS

Issue 14: Dec. 5, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Several years ago I taught an adult education class about "slowing down the Christmas machine." The purpose was to help families re-focus on the meaning of Christmas and the messages we send our children in the way we choose to spend our time and money during the holidays. (Parenting is such a minefield, isn't it? So glad we're in this together!)

Society in general (and retailers in particular!) would have us believe that the meaning of Christmas is found in the giving and receiving of gifts. We, as Christians, know it is about the giving and receiving of THE GIFT: The Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. That doesn't mean we don't give gifts to our kids, but it does mean we use every opportunity to focus their eyes heavenward during the Christmas season.

We here at Bethany are committed to help you with this task. We offer Advent worship opportunities on Wednesday nights (a no-homework night!), we've given each child an Advent calendar that teaches the Christmas story and our K-2 students are preparing an amazing program that will re-tell the story for us.

God's blessings as you and your family prepare for Jesus' birthday!



Dr. Fink

COMING UP

- **Dec. 4-7**-Christmas Store
- **Dec. 6**-Cook's Night Out-CPK
- **Dec. 7**-PJ Dress-up Day!
- **Dec. 5**-K-2 Sparklers
- **Dec. 10**-Annual Bethany Christmas Concert, 3:00 and 7:00
- **Dec. 10-17**- Book Fair
- **Dec. 12**-Middle School Game Day
- **Dec. 15**-K-2 Christmas Program, 9:00 and 6:30
- **Dec. 22**-Minimum Day, Noon Dismissal
- **Jan. 8**-School resumes
- **Jan. 12**-Middle School Movie Night
- **Jan. 15**-No school in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **Jan. 19**-End Quarter 2



Missing a jacket/sweatshirt/lunch bag/water bottle? Check the cart by EDC by Dec. 22. We will be donating the leftover items over Christmas break!

Leading chapel this week:

Mrs. Leicht

Parents, you're welcome to join us! !

Cook's Night Out

Join us at CPK tomorrow night!
Bring or show the flyer at the end of the newsletter.



Bethany Lutheran Church is hiring!

Bethany Lutheran Church is seeking a new Congregational Office Administrator and Worship Service Coordinator. This position serves with Bethany's entire ministry team, supports the ministry staff and is accountable to the Senior Pastor and Worship Leadership Team. The primary function of this position is to oversee the general supervision, management, and operation of the church office of Bethany Lutheran.

This servant represents the ministry through a Christian lifestyle, a respect for confidentiality, and a devotion to the goals and objectives of Bethany Lutheran Church and School. As Worship Service Coordinator, this individual will oversee the schedule of worship services, the preparation of worship bulletins and the schedule of those serving in worship leading volunteer positions.

For a complete job description stop by the church office or contact Pastor Kevin Kritzer: kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org

PAJAMAS ALL DAY

It's a Pajama Day on Thursday!
Come in your comfy jammies
(uniform code-friendly, please)
and robes! Be sure to wear
recess-ready footwear!



This month's offering is going to Free Wheelchair Mission, a God motivated mission which gives people the opportunity to move around on their own. They have distributed wheelchairs to almost 100 countries around the world.

FISH Hour Opportunities



WE'RE RECRUITING ELVES!!!
Christmas Store this week: [Sign up here.](#)





RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Last week of Dazzle Days! Lots of brands on bonus - physical cards and eCards. Daily flash bonuses too. Stock up before it's too late! Upcoming event: December 9 - 18 / bonuses on eCards / great for last minute gift buying or giving!

Did you know? There are three options for making your Raise Right purchases online including the NEW lower convenience fee debit card - now 1% down from 2.6%; credit cards are still 2.6%; most cost-effective option is to link your bank account (.29 convenience fee per transaction)

Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator

rlopez@bethanylutheran.org

562-420-7783 ext. 58

Middle School Corner

Curiosity Fair Check-in

Students should be actively working on their Curiosity Fair project at this time. The months of December and January are the time dedicated to learning their new knowledge or skill. Please take pictures of them completing the project, these are needed for the display board.

The Curiosity Fair display boards were sent home in November. Please locate those and keep them in a safe location. The boards are due February 16th.

"The important thing is not to stop questioning; curiosity has its own reason for existing." - Albert Einstein



Car Wash and Bake Sale

The 8th Graders will be washing cars and selling yummy treats this Saturday here at Bethany, 9-1.

Hope you can stop by and support!

BETHANY LUTHERAN MUSIC MINISTRY

presents

Joy to the *World*

Noah Freeman, director

Kevin Bowers, accompanist / Robert Bottoms, organist

52nd Annual Christmas Concerts

*featuring the choirs & ensembles of
Bethany Lutheran Church & School*

December 10, 2023 | 3:00pm & 7:00pm

4644 Clark Avenue, Long Beach, CA

Childcare for children aged 5 and younger will be available in the church nursery at the 3:00 PM concert. The nursery will open at 2:45 and close 15 minutes after the concert ends.



THE CLOTHING OF THE KING MID-WEEK ADVENT SERIES at Bethany Lutheran Church

Every morning, the sun rises, alarm clocks sound, foggy eyes open, and then, at some point, we get dressed. Socks, underwear, pants, shirts, and shoes: we don clothing that rightly corresponds to our vocations, our culture, and even the weather outside. Our clothing serves as the marker that sets us apart as a species and as an indicator of societal and individual values and traits.

As Mark Twain once said, "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society." Twain may have been right on that first part, but his statement excludes the first naked people in history, Adam and Eve.

The biblical authors use both metaphorical and actual descriptions of priestly and royal garments to point us to the one true Priest and King, Jesus. And it's this King, first wrapped in the rags of a swaddle, who then hangs naked on the cross in order to clothe us in the riches of his righteousness.

You are welcome to join us for mid-week Advent Worship here at Bethany:

December 6th at 6:30 PM in Bethany's Sanctuary: "The Foretaste of Fashion"

December 13th at 6:30 PM in Bethany's Sanctuary: "An Envious Style"

December 20th at 6:30 PM in Bethany's Sanctuary: "Clothed in Conviction"



If you'd like a downloadable daily Advent devotional of this series, go to www.1517.org/advent.



The Literati Book Fair will be at Bethany Lutheran next week, December 10th-17th in the Parish Lounge (located next to the church offices across from the Sanctuary.) All proceeds support the Bethany High School Youth Group as they plan for future Youth Gatherings!

Hours and Classroom Visits

Your child will visit the Book Fair during class time and have an opportunity to shop for books. If sending money with your child(ren) to be spent in the Book Fair, please include 10.25% for sales tax. Cash, checks (made out to Bethany Lutheran) and credit/debit cards are accepted.

This year, we are utilizing Literati Gift Cards as a way to pay! You can sign up using [this link](#). If a Literati Gift Card is not completely used at the end of our Winter book fair, it will roll over to future book fairs and can be used online throughout the year!

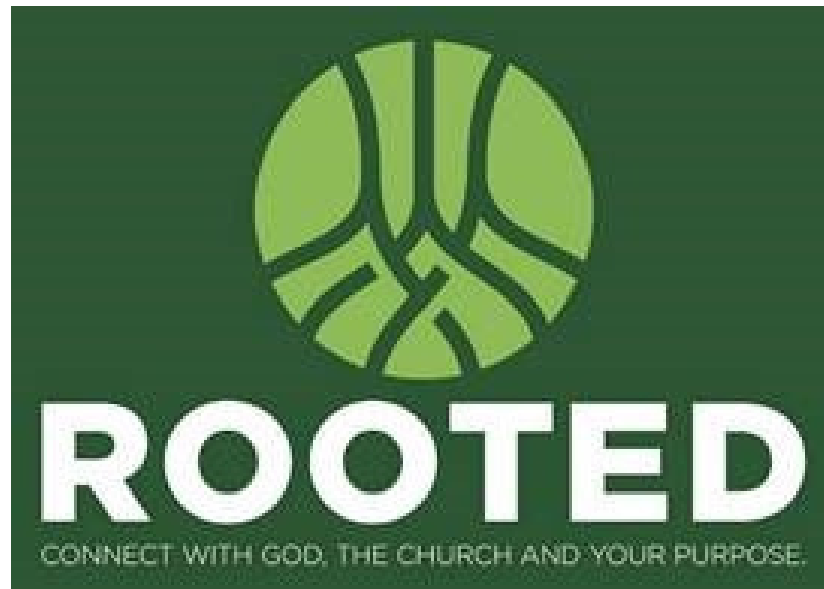
Parents can attend before school, after school, or during our Wednesday Family Night. Help your teachers by purchasing books for their classrooms from their wish list. Wish lists will be posted on the doors to the Parish Lounge.

Book Fair Hours

December 10: 7:30-11:00a.m. (Before and after Christmas Concerts)
December 11-12: 8:00-9:00am, 12:00-1:00pm, and 3:00-4:30pm
December 13: 8:00-9:00am, 12:00-1:00pm, and 3:00-4:30pm,
plus a special Family Night from 5:00-6:30pm
December 14-15: 8:00-9:00am, 12:00-1:00pm, and 3:00-4:30pm
December 17: 7:30-11:00a.m.

Online Book Fair

Can't make it to the Book Fair? Visit our online fair from now until 12/16/23 at <https://efairs.literati.com/>



You are invited to join us!
Sundays: Jan. 7 – Mar. 17, 2024
11 am – 1 pm

- Women's and Men's groups
- Childcare free for kids potty-trained to 5th grade
- Break for President's weekend
- Group service projects in community
- Closing celebration Sat. March 23 at noon
- **Online Registration: Now to December 18, 2023 at midnight**
- Registration fee: \$40 book & closing celebration (assistance available)
- Registration for repeat Rooted Participants is \$20. (without a new book)

ROOTED is not a program, seminar or life-long small group; ROOTED is a catalyst for life change. ROOTED provokes questions and conversations that are designed to help us find ourselves in God's story. Rooted is a means to further you walk and our walk together as disciples of Jesus!

"ROOTED impacted my life GREATLY! Every week for 10 weeks, I had the privilege of bonding with women who TRULY are my sisters in Christ! I endearingly call them my ROOTED sisters, as we cried, laughed, prayed, and fellowshiped together with God at the center. I would strongly encourage anyone who is looking for a deep ROOTED experience in God to join! You will certainly come out on the other side, STRONGER!"

Brandi Lewin (Murdock), Bethany school parent

Register here: <https://bit.ly/rooted24>

12 Christmas PRAYERS



Joy

May the joy
of Christ be felt
through us. **Luke 1:44**

Love

Help us see ways to turn
love into action this Christmas.
Matthew 25:40

Peace

May the peace of Christ
cover the busyness
of this season.
Isaiah 9:6

GRATITUDE

Thank you for all of our blessings,
not just the gifts under the tree.
Luke 1:49

OBEDIENCE

Help us to be obedient
to You even when we
don't fully understand.
Luke 1:38

HOPEFULNESS

Fill us with hope for
the coming of our savior,
Jesus Christ. **Daniel 2:44**

AMEN!

TOGETHERNESS

Thank you that the gift
of Jesus makes us one family
together in Christ. **John 1:12**

GENEROSITY

Show us what gifts we have
to offer and help us
give them generously.
Matthew 2:11

SIMPLICITY

You came as
a baby in a manger,
help us find value
in the simple things.
Luke 2:7

PROMISE

Thank you for the promise
of eternal life through Jesus.
John 3:16

LIGHT

May the light of Christ
shine from within us.
Isaiah 9:2

FAITH

Increase our faith so we fully trust in
Your promises. **Matthew 1:24**



california
pizza kitchen

PIZZA WITH A *PURPOSE*

Show this flyer or mention the organization listed below
on your visit, and California Pizza Kitchen will
DONATE 20% OF ALL FOOD & BEVERAGE SALES
on your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include
dine-in, take-out, catering, and online orders at CPK.com
when you enter **BACK20%** at checkout.

Fundraiser in support of:
Bethany Lutheran
Wednesday 12/6/23
11:00a.m. to 10:00p.m.

Valid at the following location

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN
Lakewood
125 Lakewood Center Mall Lakewood, CA. 90712
cpk.com

Fundraiser valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location(s) identified on this flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for orders placed or fulfilled through third-party delivery. Void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly. Not valid at franchise locations in Guam, stadium, university, international, airport locations, or the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino.

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