



BEAR FACTS

Issue 14: December 10, 2024

From the Principal

Do you love poetry? I do, but I wish I were better at taking time to seek out/read good poetry. (I used to subscribe to the [Writer's Almanac](#), a site that sends a poem a day...probably need to get that going again!)

I really appreciate [Tanner Olson's](#) poems, like this one:

You can pray for the big things and the little things / for the parking space to open up / for the worker behind the counter / for patience / for oppression to end / for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done / for the sick and hungry / for today and tomorrow / for forgiveness / for the meal that is before you / for peace / for the children / for the person behind you at the check out line / for the elderly / for trust to grow / for cancer to be cured / for every disease to be cured / for daily bread / for the brokenhearted / for the person you don't want to pray for / for anxious minds / for the ambulance you hear in the distance / for rest / for the thing you don't want anyone to know about / for the crops to grow / for the lonely / for the pain to go away / for mercy / for courage to pray with faith / for us to be led far from temptation / for wholeness / for the grocery store to have fresh mangoes / for the things you don't know you need to pray about / for your enemies / for the rain to come / for the sun to follow / for restoration / for the dream to become a reality / for the single parent down the road / for the joy of the Lord to be our strength / for the fast food drive thru line to move quickly / for the person hanging lost signs for their missing pet / for our hands to release control / for miracles / for His is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever and ever.

Pray for the big things and the little things
and all the things between.
May it be so.

I'm thrilled that Tanner Olson himself will be helping to lead our Advent worship service tomorrow night at 6:30, along with Blake Flattley, our artist-in-residence. Please join us...you will be blessed!

*Journeying to the manger with you,
Dr. Fink*

Coming Up

- **Dec. 15**-Annual Bethany Christmas Concerts
- **Dec. 18**-Middle School Advent Service
- **Dec. 20**-Minimum Day/Noon dismissal
- **Dec. 23-Jan. 3**-Christmas Break
- **Jan. 6**-School resumes
- **Jan. 7**-Vision Screening
- **Jan. 17**-End Quarter 2
- **Jan. 20**-No school-Martin Luther King Holiday
- **Jan. 26-31**-National Lutheran Schools Week
- **Jan. 31**-Talent Show! 6:30 PM
- **Feb. 3-14**-MAP Testing
- **Feb. 14**-Minimum Day-noon dismissal
- **Feb. 17**-No school-Presidents' Day

Leading chapel this week:

Mrs. Morgensen's class

Parents, you are welcome to join us at 9:00 in the church.

I will be placing two final orders for gift cards on Wednesday, Dec. 11 (arrives 12/13) and Monday, Dec. 16 (arrives 12/18). **If you want to be sure you get the specific cards you need, please place your orders prior to those dates - online or in person.**

Holiday Giveaway 2024

Whether you need gifts, garland, or green bean casserole, Instacart's got it all. Get your holiday essentials delivered in as fast as 30 minutes through Instacart, plus enter for the chance to win a \$100 Instacart gift card and a year membership to Instacart+.*

What You Can Win

- 1 grand prize winner: \$100 Instacart gift card plus a 1-year Instacart+ subscription.
- 9 runner-up winners: \$50 Instacart gift card plus a 6-month Instacart+ subscription.

How To Enter

- Order at least \$100 of any gift card type from Instacart or Instacart+ from December 7-13.
- Get 1 entry for every \$100 spent (ex. \$100 order = 1 entry, \$200 order = 2 entries).
- Earn 5% for your organization with every gift card purchase.



Moms in Prayer

Moms in Prayer won't be meeting 12/17,
but will be back after the break on 1/7, at 8:30am in the youth room!

Merry Christmas!

Middle School Corner

Parents, please support your middle school student with the following items for Christmas at the Beach!

- The middle school students have been working hard and are excited to share Christmas at the Beach with you on Wednesday, 12/18. Every middle school student is important to the success of the chapel and evening service.
- The students are leading chapel at 9:00 AM on 12/18, parents are welcome!
- The students are also leading the evening Advent Christmas church service at 6:30 PM on 12/18. (Students need to arrive and report to their homeroom classrooms no later than 6:00 PM. Thank you!)

For these services, we are asking the students to wear summer/beach-type clothing. Please do NOT buy them anything new or specific. We're certain they all have something that will work.

Here are some guidelines and ideas:

- Boys may wear board shorts and t-shirts
- Girls may wear shorts and t-shirts (they are not wearing bathing suits)
- Everyone can wear Hawaiian-style shirts if they already own one or can borrow one from someone in the house.
- Every student will need a pair of sunglasses
 - Please do not buy sunglasses for this occasion, but if the student has sunglasses already, please send them to school.
 - We will provide sunglasses for those who need them.
- During the services, students may wear sandals/crocs that fit appropriately, and the student can easily walk around while wearing them.

Chapel Offerings

This month our chapel offerings will go to Lutheran Social Services, the same ministry where our Christmas hygiene kits will go!

Lutheran Social Services operates a food pantry on Pine Avenue in downtown Long Beach and provides so many more services to people in need all over Southern California.



HYGIENE KITS



PARTNERING WITH LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES TO BLESS THE HOMELESS IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS SEASON



PLEASE BRING THE ITEMS ASSIGNED TO YOUR CLASS:

- KINDERGARTEN- WASHCLOTHS
- 1ST- HAND SANITIZER
- 2ND- BAR OF SOAP
- 3RD- TRAVEL SIZE SHAMPOO
- 4TH- TRAVEL SIZE CONDITIONER
- 5TH- GALLON SIZED ZIPLOCK BAGS
- 6TH- TOOTHPASTE
- 7TH- TOOTHBRUSHES
- 8TH- HANDSANITIZER

BRING TO THE YOUTH CENTER ENTRYWAY
BETWEEN DECEMBER 2-16, 2024

QUESTIONS? PLEASE REACH OUT TO
YOUR BLS STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OR ALISSA BREGE



“Remem-bear”:

- Missing a jacket/sweatshirt/lunch bag/water bottle? Check the lost and found cart by Dec. 20! We will be donating the leftover items over Christmas break!
- Students may wear Christmas sweatshirts/sweaters/hats, etc. on December 20. (Jeans are ok, too!)
- The school office will be open 9-1 on the following days during Christmas break: Dec. 23, 27, 30, 31 and Jan. 2

Monthly Awards

This year we are recognizing students who demonstrate growth in Bethany Lutheran's Student Goals to
Learn, Love, Lead, Serve.

November/December award winners:

Klay Jones
Hunter Macias
Samuel Quezada
Dylan Baldwin
Ivy Osborn
Zoey Castillo
Jameson Steele
Ethan Attia
Sofia Brown

Awards will be handed out at the end of chapel tomorrow!

ST. MARY'S LOW VISION CENTER
1055 LINDEN AVE, LONG BEACH, CA. 90813
562-491-9275

Vision Evaluation Authorization Form

Location: BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Date: TUESDAY JANUARY 7, 2025 Time: 8:30am

Do you know how your child sees?

Everything looks right to a child, and children often cannot tell if anything is wrong with their vision.

The incidence of eye problems increases at each grade level in school.

1 in 4 children has a vision problem.

SCREENINGS TO BE PERFORMED:

We use the latest technology, the Titmus II Vision Screening equipment, to evaluate:

1. Binocularity Levels
2. Color Perception
3. Farsightedness
4. Distance Visual Acuity

The test takes just a few minutes and is non-invasive. Test results will be sent home with each student!

WHO WILL CONDUCT THE SCREENING?

The screening will be performed by the staff of the St. Mary Low Vision Center.

PLEASE NOTE:

We need the signed consent form to be returned to the student's teacher PRIOR to the screening date.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WITH GLASSES OR CONTACT LENSES WEAR THEM TO THE SCREENING.

SCHOOL NAME: BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL DATE: TUESDAY 1/7/25 TIME: 8:30AM

STUDENT NAME (Please Print) _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME (Please Print) _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN HOME PHONE # / CELL # _____

PLEASE CIRCLE GRADE K / 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8

THE EVALUATION IS PROVIDED AT NO COST TO YOU OR THE SCHOOL!