



Bethany Lutheran School

Long Beach, CA

BEAR FACTS

Issue 1: August 26, 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the first day of school! We're so glad you are here (and we're so glad it cooled off for this first day!) I saw lots of happy faces and heard many excited voices this morning...what a great start!!

The teaching staff has been here the last two weeks participating in training, preparing materials and planning, planning, planning for a great school year. This morning we gathered for prayer and prayed specifically for our new students, for our 8th graders, for all our wonderful families and for our school. We hope you'll join us in those prayers.

Thanks for taking time to read the Bear FACTS each week. We work hard to make sure the best and latest information is right here for you. You can always find it in your email inbox or on the Bethany website.

Praying for a memorable and wonderful year, full of **joyful noise** to the Lord!

*Blessed to be at Bethany,
Dr. Fink*



Need lunch?

Sign up for [Choicelunch](#) using our code:
bethany

The Bear Facts is our weekly school newsletter. We will email it every Tuesday, post on our website and app AND text you a link so you can read it on your phone! (Can you tell we REALLY want you to read it every week??)

COMING UP

- **Aug. 26**-First Day of School, minimum day, out at noon
- **Aug. 27**-Classes begin at 8:30 for ALL students, K-8.
- **Sept 1**-Labor Day-No school
- **Sept. 2**-7th Grade Catalina meeting-6:30
- **Sept. 3**-New-to-Bethany Parent Zoom-6:30
- **Sept. 4**-8th Grade Launch Party
- **Sept. 10**-
6th Grade Camp Meeting-6:00
8th Grade DC Meeting-6:30
- **Sept. 10**-Moms in Prayer-Library-8:30-9:30
- **Sept. 11**-5th Grade Camp Meeting-6:30
- **Sept. 14**-Trinity-8:00 AM Troubadour 9:30 AM
- **Sept. 15-19**-7th Grade to Catalina
- **Sept. 23**-School Photo Day!



We have a GREAT school theme this year...we're looking forward to making lots of JOYFUL NOISE!

Dress Code Reminders

Students should be in uniform dress with red, white or navy polos on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Wednesdays, everyone (staff, too!) should be wearing their Bethany chapel polo.

On Fridays, students may wear jeans (or jean shorts or skirts) and Bethany theme/spirit shirts.

Teachers may choose to offer "free dress" as a class incentive on occasion at their discretion.

The dress code is [outlined here](#) on the Bethany website.

Camp/Outdoor Ed Meetings

Parents, please plan to attend the mandatory information meetings:

7th Grade: Sept. 2, 6:30 Room 205

5th Grade: Sept. 10, 6:00 Room 204

8th Grade: Sept. 10, 6:30 Room 203

6th Grade: Sept. 11, 6:30 Room 222

New for 2025-2026

New Faces!

- We have 32 new students, including our Kindergarteners!
- We have a NEW Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Ruiz!
- We have a NEW Spanish teacher, Senora Wickwire!
- We have a NEW PE teacher, Coach Whitfield ("Coach Whit!")

NEW curriculum materials:

- We have a NEW writing curriculum for Grades 3-8.

Also NEW:

- The Spanish room, teachers' workroom, teachers' lounge and boys' locker room got facelifts and new LED lighting!
- We have a new security system with additional cameras (thanks to last year's Jog-a-thon!)

Meet the Staff

Kinder-Mrs. Madison Ruiz
1st- Mrs. Lori Lange
2nd - Miss Stefanie Hinrichs
3rd - Mrs. Shannon Morgensen
4th - Miss Samantha Root
5th - Mrs. Heidi Leicht
MS History- Mr. Brad Royuk
MS Math- Miss Abby Einspahr
MS English- Mrs. Carrie Evans
MS Science- Mr. Paul Brege
Spanish- Mrs. Ali Wickwire
K Aide- Mrs. Christi Koehlinger
1st Aides- Mrs. Jessica Zakharia
2nd Aide- Ms. Julie Bunting
3rd-5th Aide- Mrs. Cory Steele
Workroom- Mrs. Jen DiCecca
Student Success-Mrs. Kelsey Cornett
Mrs. Connie Kritzer
Math Int. - Mrs. Sarah O'Conner
Art Teacher- Mrs. Jessica Zakharia
Music Teacher- Mr. Kevin Bowers
PE Teacher- Mr. Brent Whitfield
SEEDS Counselors-Eila Alvarez and Daniel Beak
Custodian- Mr. Steven Lee
School Secretary-Mrs. Kim Yoshiyama
Admissions - Mrs. Sara Cerulle
Scrip Coord.- Mrs. Ruth Lopez
Financial Admin-Mrs. Maraley Shaeffer
EDC Director- Ms. Carlota Brown
EDC Staff-Michelle Fischer, Jacob Lagana, Laci Carlson
IT Director-Mr. Josh Hicks
Pastor- Rev. Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music-Mr. Noah Freeman
DCE/Children-Families-Mrs. Alissa Brege
DCE/Youth -Mrs. Kayleigh Lopez
DCE/Care Ministry- Mr. Karl Fink
Principal- Dr. Mary Fink



School Photos

School pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 23. Please avoid out-of-school appointments that day. We do have a make-up day for absent students, but they will not be in the class photo.

Your picture package is pre-paid with your registration fee. You may also order additional prints.

Students should be in uniform dress for photos.



Welcome!

New-to-Bethany Parent Orientation is scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept.3 at 6:30 PM** by Zoom. (We will email you the link later.) This informational meeting IS REQUIRED and it is important that one or both parents attend. You will receive your electronic copy of our Parent Handbook, meet members of the staff and Bethany community and hear about many of the happenings here on the Bethany campus. We're looking forward to seeing you!



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Welcome Back!

My name is Ruth Lopez and I am the Scrip Coordinator for our RaiseRight program. You can earn a tuition rebate by turning your everyday expenses into earnings! Simply buy gift cards and shop online through Bethany's RaiseRight program, and brands automatically give up to 20% back to help pay for tuition or support the ministry of your choice (SSP, tuition assistance, youth, music ministry).

Use gift cards to pay for everyday things like groceries, gas, clothing, coffee, or dining out, and you could earn more than \$1,000 per year!

Plus, with eGift cards, reloadable gift cards, and a [mobile app](#) available, you can buy gift cards and shop online through RaiseRight anytime, anywhere.

Check the attached flyer for our Back-to-School Giveaway and join me for a presentation in the Choir Room on Wednesday morning at 8:45. I will teach you the basics and more for making the most of the program so you can earn an amazing rebate!

To learn more and request Bethany's enrollment code to join, contact Ruth Lopez at rlopez@bethanylutheran.org. 562-420-7783 ext. 58. Visit RaiseRight.com/Enroll to sign up and get started today!



CHAPEL OFFERING

Typically we take a weekly offering during our chapel services that is used to support a charity. These offerings teach our students the importance of using our financial blessings to make a difference in the lives of others.

Our end of August and September offerings will go to the [Coastal Mission Society](#), one of Bethany's ministry partners helping to share the Good News of Jesus with the people of Southern California.

Chapel offerings are entirely voluntary, but we encourage you to support this worthy organization!

FISH Hours

FISH stands for "Families Involved in Service Hours." Each Bethany family is required to give 5 hours of service each year. (Many of our families serve many more than 5 hours!) You can serve at events, drive for a trip/sport, bring in classroom supplies, assist your child's teacher and so much more.

You can log your FISH hours from the [Bethany website](#) OR from Gradelink. We'll send you a "FISHing Report" each quarter to let you know how many hours you've served.

Middle School Corner

Middle School Families, please keep this list someplace handy, we believe communication strengthens our partnership with you. Looking forward to a wonderful year!

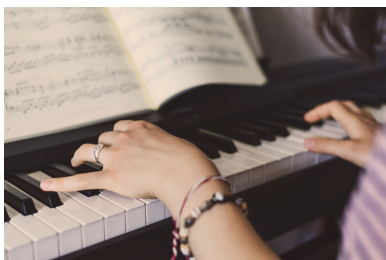
Middle School Faculty

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone Extension</u> <u>(562)420-7783</u>	<u>Room Number</u>
Dr. Mary Fink	mfink@bethanylutheran.org	17	School Office
Mrs. Carrie Evans	cevans@bethanylutheran.org	37	204
Ms. Abby Einspahr	aeinspahr@bethanylutheran.org	36	205
Mr. Brad Royuk	broyuk@bethanylutheran.org	38	203
Mr. Paul Brege	pbrege@bethanylutheran.org	39	206
Mrs. Ali Wickwire	awickwire@bethanylutheran.org	45	208
Mrs. Sarah O'Conner	soconner@bethanylutheran.org	35	217



We love our partnership with SEEDS! This amazing organization provides our students on-campus access to individual therapy, social-emotional skill groups, parent and staff training and so much more. We have already benefitted from our SEEDS partnership: our staff participated training about helping students who struggle with anxiety and emotional dysregulation.

We have witnessed over and over again the shortage of available therapy for children, and the frustration parents experience trying to find help. We know SEEDS is a valuable service for our families.



Music Academy

Bethany's Music Academy provides extra-curricular music instruction to students in Grades 2-8 after school, M-F between 3:15 and 6:30 PM.

We have Christian instructors who are professionals in their field and offer lessons in piano (Grade 2 and up) and trumpet (Grade 4 and up) and voice (Grade 6 and up.)

Tuition is \$350 per semester which covers 12 lessons each semester.

Information and enrollment forms are [available here](#). Enrollment forms are due September 2. Lessons begin Sept. 8.

Student Council

Congrats to our Student Leaders
for 2025-2026

President: Eric Vega
Vice President: Christian Cortado
Secretary: Elizabeth Albers
Spirit Coord.: Samuel Salazar
Servant Leadership: Riley Osborne

PTL

Parents, you are all members of the Parent Teacher League, our amazing group of parent leaders/volunteers and an important part of making Bethany such a special place.

We'll need your help to pull off our events in the year ahead (and it's a great way to earn FISH hours!) Please [click this link](#) and let us know where you'd like to plug in!

Our first PTL meeting of the school year will be on Sept. 23. Watch for more details in the weeks to come!

Did you know?

We have students from Valley Christian High School's "Christian Service" class who visit our campus once a week throughout the year. Their role is to be on the playground with our K-2 students and teachers, engaging students in games and conversation while demonstrating a Christ-like demeanor and attitude.

We LOVED our Valley Christian friends last year, and we're looking forward to welcoming a new crew this year!

RAISE RIGHT BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIVEAWAY



1 Ticket

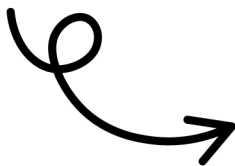
- Show that you have downloaded the RaiseRight App (app must show your name and Bethany Lutheran) Make a purchase
- online or in person between August 26 - September 2. (1 ticket per total transaction, not per gift card)



RaiseRight™

2 Tickets

- View the online presentation available on the BLS website on 8/26 and submit the code word to rlopez@bethanylutheran.org



3 Tickets

- Attend a presentation on Wednesday, August 27 at 8:45am - drop your children off and stay to learn how to earn a tuition rebate!
- This option is highly recommended, especially if you are new to RaiseRight.

Winners will be determined based on a random drawing.
Prizes will be awarded from 3rd place to 1st place.



**\$100
Gift
Card**

of your choice



**\$50
Gift
Card**

of your choice



**\$25
Gift
Card**

of your choice

Bethany Lutheran



Parents Assemble!!



Not all Heroes wear capes!

Check out the QR code above
to volunteer for PTL activities!

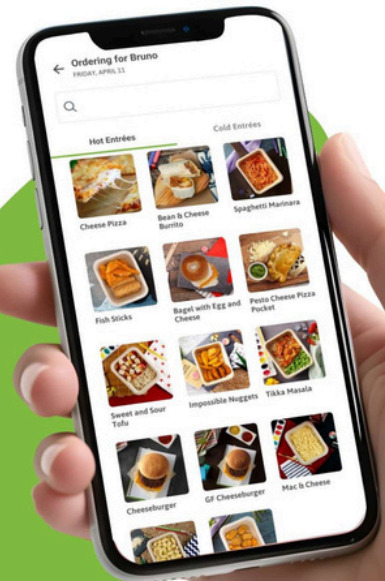


Healthy & Delicious School Lunches — Without The Morning Hassle

With Choicelunch, there's no prep, no packing, and no stress. We deliver hot, fresh, nutritious meals straight to your child's school—meals you can feel good about, and your kid will actually enjoy.

Ordering is quick and easy through our app. Full control, no lunchbox scramble.

Sign up at [choicelunch.com](https://www.choicelunch.com)!



Get the app:



Get Started in 3 Simple Steps

1 Sign Up

Visit www.choicelunch.com to create your account. Add your child's name, find their school, and select their grade.

2 Set Preferences

Add your child's dietary preferences and allergies to customize the menu to their needs.

3 Order with Ease

Select entrées and sides in just a few taps. Order days in advance or as late as 9 AM the day of.

Enjoy!

Tasty meals for your kids, peace of mind for you—every lunch is made with care and quality ingredients.

Real Foods Kids Love and Parents Trust

Every ingredient is carefully sourced for quality and freshness. Our recipes are chef-crafted to create better-for-you versions of kids' favorite foods — thoughtfully prepared with nutrition and flavor in mind.

- ✓ Made with fresh, whole ingredients. We avoid artificial or overly processed additives
- ✓ Up to 20 daily entrées and 60+ sides (snacks, drinks, fruits, and veggies)
- ✓ Different portion sizes to match growing appetites
- ✓ Allergy-friendly options, including gluten-free, soy-free, egg-free, vegetarian and more





Fall Soccer

Soccer Shots is an engaging children's soccer program for ages 2 to 10 years. Join the best coaches in the business for age-appropriate soccer skills, character-building and **FUN!**



Soccer On-Site!

Where: Bethany Lutheran Elementary- 5100 E Arbor Rd, Long Beach, CA 90808

Who: Ages 5-10 (TK-5th)

When: Thursdays | 3:30-4:15pm

Dates: September 11, 2025 to May 28, 2026

Cost: \$80/month- Flexible monthly subscription! \$40 once-yearly annual enrollment fee- includes a Soccer Shots jersey, season certificate, and prize.

Additional information: Weekly sessions held on campus Thursdays after school!

Soccer Shots is a non-competitive, skills-based program that places an emphasis on character development. Our coaches are experts at creating a safe, nurturing, and fun environment for ALL children to thrive.

Scan to Enroll!



Enroll now at soccershots.com/longbeach

Questions? longb-sela@soccershots.com | 714-716-2127

Each Soccer Shots® franchise is independently owned and operated. Programs may vary by location.

