



BEAR FACTS

Issue 32: April 28, 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

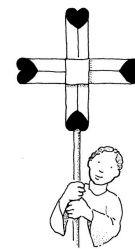
On Saturday, our 8th graders will be traveling to our nation's capital, Washington DC, then on to Gettysburg and New York City. (Our 4th graders will head to Sacramento shortly after that.) I love student travel for SO many reasons:

- There's a huge difference between reading about history and seeing/touching it.
- Traveling with a group, moving through the airport with many travelers, and, for the 8th Graders, rooming together at the hotel is an education in manners, social graces and coping abilities. ("Who's showering tonight and who's showering in the morning?")
- Learning to pack a suitcase (that you can carry) and keeping track of your stuff is a learning experience, too.
- Travel inevitably comes with challenges/delays, etc. Developing patience and flexibility while facing the challenges together deepens relationships.
- Can you say "budget"? Kids learn not to spend all their money in one place.
- If students have never been to the east coast, they are often AMAZED at the number of trees! (And maybe develop an appreciation for the challenges the first settlers faced!)
- Freedom is not free, and hopefully our 8th Graders will get that message loud and clear at the war memorials and Arlington Cemetery.

Please keep our travelers in your prayers!
Dr. Fink

COMING UP

- **Apr. 27-May 1**-Scholastic Book Fair
- **Apr. 28**-PTL Meeting 6:30 PM
- **Apr. 29**-Vision Screening
- **Apr. 30**-Bethany Lutheran School Spring Concert
- **May 1**- 4th Quarter Progress Reports
- **May 1**- Track Meet (all day)
- **May 1**-Minimum Day-school dismissed at noon
- **May 2-8**-DC trip for 8th Graders
- **May 4-15** MAP Testing
- **May 4**-Star Wars Dress Up Day
- **May 10** K-2 Sings 9:30 service
- **May 11-12** 4th Grade to Sacramento
- **May 15**- Trinity/Troubadour/TrebleMakers to Knotts



Leading chapel this week:

3rd Grade

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

Our chapel offerings this month will go to Voice of the Martyrs



RaiseRight™

Mother's Day bonuses continue through May 7. Bonuses are good on all types of gift cards. Make Mom's day special - books, flowers, restaurants, spa and more! You can give mom a gift card, or make it more personal by using gift cards to purchase gifts for her.

Teacher Appreciation is a great time to show your child's teacher some love! What better way to do that than with gift cards! Use gift cards to help them find a good book, catch a movie, grab coffee or just have some fun! Barnes & Noble, AMC, Regal, Starbucks, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Dave and Busters, Spa & Wellness, and so much more. Check the Teacher Wish Lists in the school office for your teacher's favorite gift card brands. Give yourself time to order what might not be on-hand.

Raise Days starts this week on Friday (May 1 - 4) with a sneak peek on Thursday (RR app only). Bonuses on eGift cards, reloads and online shopping only.

Middle School Corner

Bethany Lutheran middle school students have the opportunity to experience different elective classes throughout the school year. Electives are designed for students to enjoy unique experiences that educate them as a whole-child of God. It's always exciting to see which students discover a new skill or hobby they want to continue to develop.

The students are currently participating in one of the following electives:

- Origami - Mr. Royuk
- The Silver Chair by C.S.Lewis (audiobook) – Mrs. Evans
- Nertz – Miss Einspahr
- 3D Printing – Mr. Brege
- Miniature Model Making – Mrs. Zakharia
- TTRPGs (Story-telling game style like Dungeons & Dragons – Mr. Hicks
- Survival Scenarios - Kayleigh

·"Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely." - Auguste Rodin

Monthly Awards

For April, we are recognizing students who demonstrate **HUMILITY**:

"He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way."

Psalm 25:9

We will hand out monthly award certificates after chapel tomorrow.

Congratulations to these HUMBLE students:

**Nathalie Toten, Cameron Woike, Joey Briles, Luke Dicecca, Dylan Baldwin,
Scarlett Kremer, Zoey Castillo, Nathan Haro and Alex Cuizon.**

Staffing Changes

We have some staffing changes coming for the year ahead: Steven Lee and Maraley Shaeffer will be retiring, and Sarah O'Conner will be moving to Tennessee. We will miss these faithful servants! Their work has strengthened our church and school ministry in so many ways:

Sarah O'Conner has served since 2000 as a homeroom and middle school math teacher, and as our K-8 math interventionist. Through her passion for learning, thoughtful instruction, and steady encouragement, the Lord has strengthened the understanding and confidence of countless students.

Steven Lee has served as Custodian since 2017, providing more than nine years of dedicated care. Through his consistency, quiet faithfulness, and diligent work, the Lord has used Steven to help create a welcoming, well-cared-for place of worship and learning.

Maraley Shaeffer has served as Financial Administrator since 2016, offering nearly a decade of careful stewardship and behind-the-scenes commitment. Through her diligence and integrity, the Lord has brought order and faithfulness to the work of our ministry.

We know each of them will continue to use their gifts in new ways, and we wish them God's blessings in their next endeavors!

Playing recommended tracks

Make a Joyful Noise!
*A Free Spring Concert ft. Trinity Choir,
Troubadour Choir, & The Treble-Makers
Handbell Choir*
Thursday, April 30 | 7:00 PM | Bethany Lutheran
Church

1:17 -2:18

www.BethanyLutheranMusicMinistry.org

**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: APRIL 29, 2026 Time: 9:45 AM

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. Color Perception
2. Distance Visual Acuity
3. Near Visual Acuity

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

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: WEDNESDAY 4/29 TIME:9:45 AM

STUDENT NAME (Please Print)_____ **Screen?** ___ YES

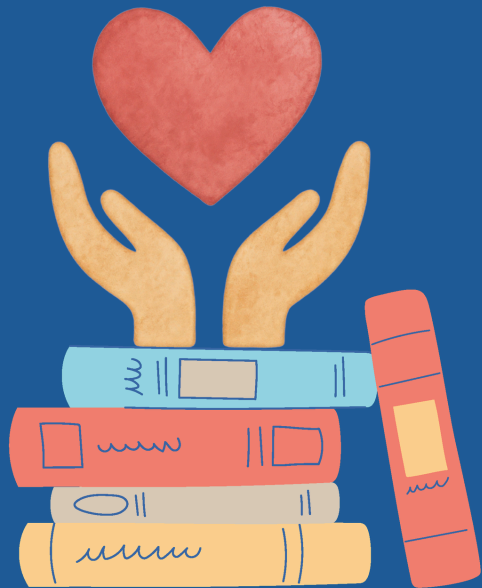
Does your child wear glasses or contacts? ___ YES ___ NO

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!



TEACHER

Appreciation MONTH

MAY 2026

Celebration Schedule

Gracias Teachers!

Tues. 5/5



Taco Bar Lunch for Staff!
Give your teacher a
handmade card or sweet
note!

In Full Bloom Because of You

Tues. 5/12



Staff, enjoy a Garden Party
themed lunch!
Bring your teacher their
favorite flower!

Thanks a Latte!

Tues. 5/19



Coffee cart and continental
breakfast for staff!
Students, bring your teachers
their favorite snacks!

Mahalo for all you do!

Tues. 5/26



A luau lunch for staff!
Students, bring your
teachers their favorite
sweet treats!

*Thank you Teachers and Support Staff for all that you
do for our children and families!
Love, Bethany Lutheran PTL and Parents*