



BEAR FACTS

Issue 2: September 8, 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Bethany students will be logging into their school-owned/managed devices soon. Recent news about screen time has brought attention to an important question: What role should technology play in a child's education?

Concerns about children's increasing exposure to screens deserve to be taken seriously. We have discussed and will continue to address those as a staff. At Bethany, however, we believe there is an important distinction between screen time and purposeful use of technology for learning. Scrolling through short-form videos, playing games, or passively consuming content is very different from using a device to write an essay, conduct research, create a presentation, collaborate on a project, or practice a targeted skill.

Technology can be especially valuable in helping teachers personalize instruction. Used thoughtfully, technology can help us meet students where they are and move them forward. That doesn't mean a screen is always the *best* tool. Sometimes it's a Chromebook or iPad; just as often, it's a pencil, a book, an experiment, a math manipulative, an art project, a conversation with a classmate—or, most importantly, a great teacher. We are especially mindful of our youngest learners, for whom handwriting, movement, play, hands-on learning, and face-to-face interaction are essential.

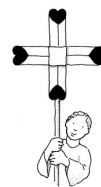
Our guiding principle is simple: Our goal is not simply to count minutes. Our goal is to make the minutes count. We encourage families to take the same thoughtful approach at home. Even when an app is educational—Jiji Math, for example—more is not necessarily better. Children need guidance to achieve balance at home, as well.

At Bethany, we want our students to think deeply, communicate clearly, create rather than merely consume, and learn to use technology wisely. Technology is one of the tools we use to accomplish those goals—it is not the teacher, not the curriculum, and certainly not the goal.

Learning along with you!
Dr. Fink

COMING UP

- **Sept. 8**-908 Day!
- **Sept. 8**-6th Grade Camp Meeting 6:30
- **Sept. 9**-New-to-Bethany Parent Zoom-6:30
- **Sept. 10**-8th Grade Launch Party
- **Sept. 14**-School Picture Day
8th Grade DC Meeting 6:30
- **Sept. 17**-5th Grade Astrocamp Meeting 6:30 PM
- **Sept. 20**-Troubadour sings 8,
Trinity sings 9:30 AM
8th Grade Meat-Smoking Competition Fundraiser 5 PM
- **Sept. 21-25** 7th Grade Catalina Trip
- **Sept. 22**-PTL Meeting 6:30



Leading Chapel this week:
Dr. Fink

Chapel offerings this month:
Convoy of Hope

Parents, you are always welcome to join us for worship at 9:00 in the church!



Welcome!

New-to-Bethany Parent Orientation is scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 9 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!

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:

6th Grade: Sept. 8, 6:30 Room 204

8th Grade: Sept. 14, 6:30 Room 203

5th Grade: Sept. 17, 6:30 Room 222



School Photos

School pictures are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14. Please avoid out-of-school appointments that day. We do have a make-up day for absent students, but they will miss being 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.



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How it works:

- Limited time bonuses, Sept. 11 - 14 only
- Bonuses exclusively apply to eGift cards and reloaded gift cards.
- Participants must have an online account to participate.



Ruth Lopez

Scrip Coordinator

Bethany Lutheran Church and School

562-420-7783 ext. 58

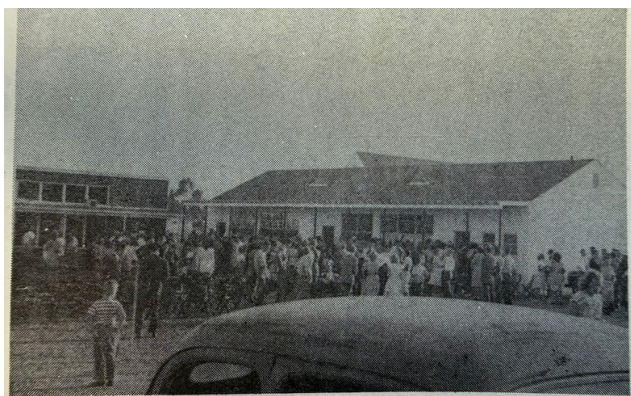
A Bear-y Long Time Ago

In honor of our 80th Year, we hope to bring you a little 'tidbit' of Bethany Lutheran School history each week, and maybe a few fun photos, as well!

This week:

Bethany Lutheran School began in 1947 as a partnership with St. John Lutheran in North Long Beach. St. John provided the principal, Mr. Eggert, and Bethany hired two teachers: Mrs. Eggert and Miss Schwimming.

The first school building had 3 classrooms, 3 teachers and **130 students!**



DEDICATION OF THREE ROOM SCHOOL - AUGUST 1947

Supervisory Volunteers

Would you like to drive for field trips or sports, or supervise a small group of students on a field trip? Sign up to be a "supervisory volunteer" by completing the following:

- Complete a [Volunteer Application](#) (if you haven't completed one in the past.)
- Complete [Mandated Reporter training](#) for volunteers.
- Complete a [Driver Form](#).
- Provide your [DMV driving record](#).

Turn in all forms/certificates to the school office. We will notify you when you've been cleared.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Middle School Corner

Advisory Teams!

Every middle school student is a member of a multi-grade Advisory Team.

Each week in Advisory, the students check their grades using Gradelink and graph their grade percentages on an online graph. Plus, they will check their school email account to practice building these skills for high school. The teams also focus on building skills in areas like executive functions, social and emotional development, growth mindset, and test-taking skills.

Throughout the year, the teams will participate in a few team tournaments that provide them with the opportunity to be part of a team, grow their communication skills, and have a good time.

Advisory Team leaders include (and each team has a color as well):

Mr. Royuk (orange), Miss Einspahr (blue), Mr. Brege (red), Mrs. Evans (green), and Mrs. Brege (yellow).

Last week, the 6th graders joined their Advisory Teams. Now the teams will get to work on choosing a team name - let the fun begin!





WHAT IS BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM?

The SSP was created by Jill Moorman in 2003 to ensure that all Bethany Lutheran School **students** have:

- The ability to independently read and understand the Bible.
- The skills necessary to access classroom content and successfully graduate from our 8th grade.



The SSP strives to ensure that all **parents** of Bethany Lutheran School students have:

- The support necessary for keeping their child at Bethany Lutheran when the student struggles.
- The resources and information to seek additional support and/or evaluations for their student, if necessary.



The SSP works to ensure that all **teachers** of Bethany Lutheran School students have:

- An understanding of each child's educational needs.
- The tools to meet each student's needs.
- The resources to expand their own skill sets.



WHAT DOES THE SSP DO? *Student Success Provides*



Small group reading and math instruction that supplements classroom learning and helps students stay caught up.



1:1 intervention using scientifically proven reading & spelling instruction.



Initial screenings for reading or math difficulties, as well as speech and language needs.



Evaluation and Assessment guidance



Accommodation Plan support



Collaboration with LBUSD to support students with public school IEP's



Information and support to help parents and families understand their student's learning needs.

MEET THE TEAM



Kelsey Cornett



Kelsey has been our program administrator since 2024 and had previously been a primary classroom teacher for 10 years.

She coordinates services and accommodations for our Bethany students, collaborates with the local districts to support those with IEPs and those receiving initial evaluations, and provides 1:1 and small group reading instruction.

She wears many hats, and loves them all!



Connie Kritzer



Connie has been working in our Student Success Program since 2004. She provides students with 1:1 reading support, and works with small groups as well.

She has been a Certified Barton tutor at the Master level since 2018. She has a deep knowledge of all things reading and dyslexia, and is an amazing asset to our team.



Amanda Mercado



Amanda joined our support team this year as our Math Interventionist.

She brings with her a wide range of mathematical talents and a love of getting to know and support students.

We are so happy to welcome her to our team!



Jeanne Ruiz



Jeanne is a credentialed Speech and Language Pathologist and a long time Bethany Lutheran church member.

She blesses us once a week by providing speech and language therapy to students from K-5th grade.

Additionally, you may see her substitute teaching in various classrooms across our campus!



MEAT SMOKING COMPETITION ... AND ... BBQ FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY,
SEPT 20

5-7PM

ORDERS DUE TOMORROW, 9/9!



BIT.LY/BBQFORDC

Bethany Lutheran School Field



BENEFITING BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL 8TH GRADE WASHINGTON DC TRIP



Not all Heroes wear capes!
Check out the QR code above
to volunteer for PTL activities!

Bethany Family Ministry Groups/Events



Sparklers!

Our Bethany Lutheran Youth Group for Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades - We normally meet the FIRST TUESDAY of the month September through May. In September, our first meeting will be on Tuesday, 9/8 (the one & only time on a second Tuesday this school year, from 3:10- 4:30 in the Youth Center, and also occasionally go to the field & gym. During our time together, we have devotions, play games, eat snacks & make crafts. Bethany students will be picked up from their class, and must be signed out by a parent at 4:30 (for Bethany students not picked up at that time, we will take them to EDC). Yearlong Permission Forms must be filled out in order to attend; the QR code is above. Parents are encouraged to volunteer. Questions? Ask Alissa Brege, DCE - Minister to Children & Families - abrege@bethanylutheran.org



★ CLUB 35
Youth Group for 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders

THIS IS A TIME SET APART FOR DEVOTIONS, GAMES, CRAFTS, SNACKS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER.

WE MEET AT BETHANY LUTHERAN, LONG BEACH CAMPUS, UPSTAIRS, IN THE YOUTH CENTER THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 3:10-4:30 STARTING, STARTING SEPTEMBER 15TH. PARENTS, IF YOU CAN'T PICK UP YOUR CHILD IN THE YOUTH ROOM BY 4:30, THEY WILL GO TO EDC.

BE SURE TO FILL OUT OUR YEARLONG PERMISSION FORM, IN ORDER TO ATTEND (QR CODE BELOW).

QUESTIONS?
ASK ALISSA AT ABREGE@BETHANYLUTHERAN.ORG

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart & lean not on your own understanding;" - Proverbs 3:5

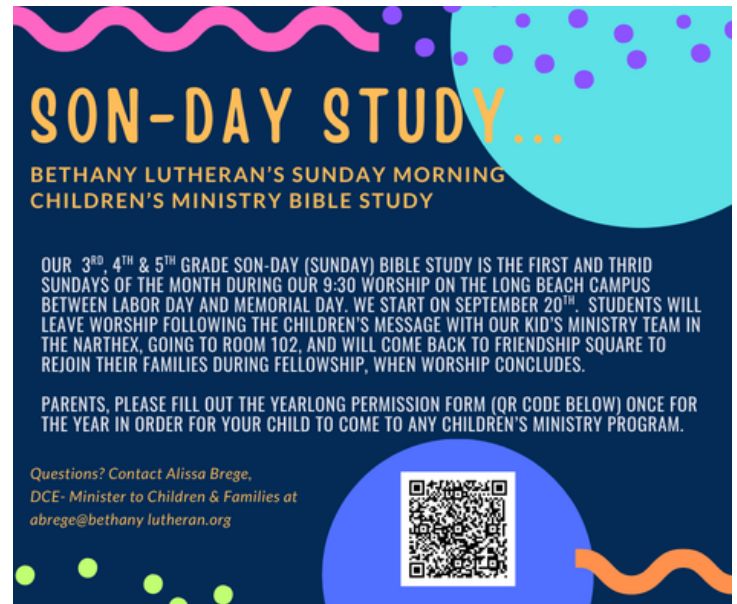


UNDER GRACE...
BETHANY LUTHERAN'S SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM

POTTY TRAINED 4 YEAR OLDS THROUGH 2ND GRADERS WILL START ON **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH** DURING 9:30 WORSHIP ON THE LONG BEACH CAMPUS. THEY MEET EVERY SUNDAY EXCEPT THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. THE KIDS WILL LEAVE WORSHIP AFTER THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE WITH THE KID'S MINISTRY TEAM IN THE NARTHEX (OR LOBBY AREA IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH) AND SHOULD BE PICKED UP FROM THE GYM DOOR THAT LEADS INTO FRIENDSHIP SQUARE (THE COURTYARD OUTSIDE OF THE GYM) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE.

PARENTS, PLEASE FILL OUT THE YEARLONG PERMISSION FORM (QR CODE BELOW) ONCE FOR THE YEAR IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD TO COME TO ANY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAMS.

Questions? Contact Alissa Brege,
DCE: Minister to Children & Families at
abrege@bethanylutheran.org



SON-DAY STUDY...
BETHANY LUTHERAN'S SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

OUR 3RD, 4TH & 5TH GRADE SON-DAY (SUNDAY) BIBLE STUDY IS THE FIRST AND THRID SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH DURING OUR 9:30 WORSHIP ON THE LONG BEACH CAMPUS BETWEEN LABOR DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY. WE START ON SEPTEMBER 20TH. STUDENTS WILL LEAVE WORSHIP FOLLOWING THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE WITH OUR KID'S MINISTRY TEAM IN THE NARTHEX, GOING TO ROOM 102, AND WILL COME BACK TO FRIENDSHIP SQUARE TO REJOIN THEIR FAMILIES DURING FELLOWSHIP, WHEN WORSHIP CONCLUDES.

PARENTS, PLEASE FILL OUT THE YEARLONG PERMISSION FORM (QR CODE BELOW) ONCE FOR THE YEAR IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD TO COME TO ANY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM.

Questions? Contact Alissa Brege,
DCE: Minister to Children & Families at
abrege@bethanylutheran.org

All Bethany Bears are welcome!!



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