



Bethany Lutheran School

Long Beach, CA

BEAR FACTS

Issue 3: September 15, 2026

From the Principal

This fall marks my 44th year as a Lutheran educator, my 30th year at Bethany, and my 23rd year serving as your principal. What an extraordinary blessing these years have been! Bethany has become much more than the place where I serve—it is a community and ministry that I dearly love.

Perhaps that is what makes the news I am sharing with you especially bittersweet: There comes a time in every season of ministry to trust the Lord with what comes next and to make room for new leadership. To that end, I have decided that this will be my final school year as Bethany's principal. I will retire from this position at the end of the school year, effective July 1, 2027, and will prayerfully seek where the Lord may be calling me to serve in my retirement years. For the record, Mr. Fink will also be retiring as of February 2027 and we are definitely looking forward to spending more time with our four adorable grandchildren! :)

We still have an entire school year ahead of us, and I am "all in" for everything the year will hold. But for now, I do want to say thank you. Thank you for granting me the privilege of partnering with you in the education and nurture of your children and for entrusting me with the leadership of this precious school ministry.

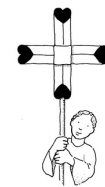
As Bethany begins the search for its next principal, please join me praying that the Lord will guide every step and begin preparing the person who will lead Bethany into its next chapter. After 80 years of God's faithfulness to this school, we know we can trust Him with what comes next. **Great is His faithfulness!**

*Blessed to be at Bethany,
Dr. Fink*

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Coming up

- **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
- **Sept. 29**-SEEDS Virtual Parent Education Night
- **Sept. 30-Oct. 2**-5th Grade to Astrocamp
- **Oct. 2**-Middle School Movie Night
- **Oct. 5-7**-6th Grade Camp



Leading Chapel this week:

Xavria Schwarz

PSD Education Executive

Chapel offerings this month:

Convoy of Hope

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

Parent Handbook

Parents, our most up-to-date handbook can always be found on our website: [Parent Handbook](#)

Some updated policies to note in this 2026 edition:

- Supervisory Volunteers
- Professional Boundaries
- Student Illness
- Parties and Treats
- Artificial Intelligence

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

Camp/Outdoor Ed Meetings

Parents, please plan to attend the mandatory information meetings:

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



Middle School Corner

Getting to know Mrs. Evans

Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois (flew on a plane at only 8 days old to move to Phoenix, AZ)

Middle School Memory: My dad and I wrote faith-based lyrics to popular songs and played them on the guitar and sang them with my friends during youth group. We wrote one to Green Day's song, "She," but titled it, "He," and it was all about the Trinity- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Education: B.A. - Concordia University Irvine, English major, Theology minor
M.Ed. - Concordia University Irvine, Curriculum and Instruction

Favorite Bible Verse: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Lives: In Long Beach near Heartwell Park

Favorite Hobby: Reading, watching baseball, and attending Broadway musicals



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Are you a Ralphs shopper? It may not be on RaiseRight, but you can still earn a rebate! If you already have a Ralphs Shoppers/Rewards card, you can link it to Bethany. Look for BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL / NPO - PM735
OR if you don't have a digital account - create one, and then link to Bethany.

Bethany receives a check a few times a year from Ralphs, but with no designations to individuals. All you need to do is screenshot your earnings page and share it with me. I will add it to your rebate.

Don't need a tuition rebate? You can still join and let your grocery shopping contribute to the Scrip program!

Use the link to connect to Ralphs Community Reward program and get started today!

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:

From the notes of Philip Pohlman, the first principal called by Bethany: "When I came, Bethany was just a few buildings sitting in a big field. Our parking lot was a dirt field as was our playground. Winter rains sometimes created interesting situations, such as getting your car stuck in the mud on the parking lot....some of you remember "Lake Bethany." A good rain would change a low spot into a mud puddle about 100 feet in diameter which sometimes remained for a week or longer. On occasion, our school children would sail boats around the edge. One day a second grade girl fell in, face down. We had to wash off the mud before we could tell who it was!

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!!

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

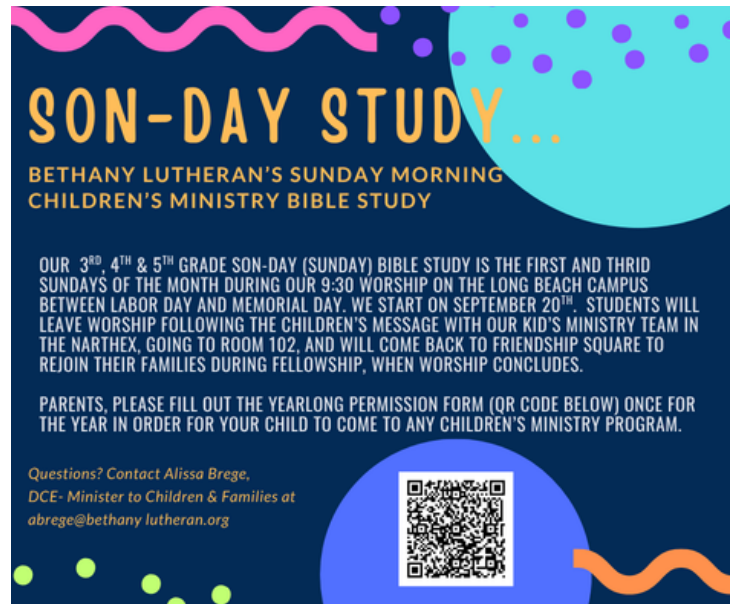


UNDER GRACE...
BETHANY LUTHERAN'S SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM

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,
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abrege@bethanylutheran.org

All Bethany Bears are welcome!!



VIRTUAL PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

FALL PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

RAISING KIDS WHO KNOW HOW TO LOVE

HOW OUR RELATIONSHIPS TEACH OUR KIDS
ABOUT LOVE, CONFLICT & CONNECTION

**THE CHILDREN IN OUR LIVES ARE LEARNING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS
FROM THE PEOPLE THEY TRUST MOST**

The relationships children experience and observe shape what they learn about love, communication, conflict, forgiveness, and connection. But in the busy seasons of raising children, it can be easy for our own relationships to get pushed to the side.

Join us for an encouraging and practical evening with Casey and Meygan Caston, founders of Marriage365, as they share practical tips and simple tools for strengthening connection, navigating conflict, and intentionally investing in your relationships. Whether you are married, parenting on your own, or raising grandchildren, this conversation will explore how the relationships we model can help the children in our lives learn what healthy love and connection look like.

Join us on
**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29TH
AT 7PM**
VIRTUAL SEMINAR

SCAN TO REGISTER OR
VISIT [BIT.LY/SEEDSPARENTS](https://bit.ly/seedsparents)



OUR SPEAKERS

CASEY & MEYGAN CASTON, FOUNDERS OF MARRIAGE365

Casey & Meygan Caston are the founders of Marriage365 and have spent more than 15 years helping individuals and couples build healthier, more connected relationships. After rebuilding their own marriage from the brink of divorce, they turned their experience into a mission to provide practical, accessible tools for couples at every stage. They are Level 2 Gottman Coaches, authors, marriage coaches, and dynamic speakers known for their honest, engaging, and actionable approach to relationships.

PRESENTED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH





MOVIE SCREENING

"The Dyslexic Advantage"

A documentary film that explores the experiences, challenges, and remarkable strengths of individuals with dyslexia

Sunday
October 11

Bethany Lutheran School
5100 Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808

6:30pm

BLS
Gymnasium

PRESENTED BY THE
STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM



Register for this
FREE event here!

