

SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Bethany Lutheran School
December 7, 2009

www.bethanylcs.org

MISSION: "By the power of God's spirit, the mission of Bethany Lutheran School is to train, equip, and support witnesses for His kingdom."

Holiday Worship: Wednesday, December 9th, is the second Advent service at Bethany. If you do not have a home church, please plan on joining us for worship. The Advent vespers begin at 7:15 p.m.

Christmas Worship Services:

Thursday, December 24--Christmas Eve Family Nativity Service—5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons & Carols—7:15 p.m.
Christmas Eve Divine Service (w/communion)—11:00 p.m.
Friday, December 25—Christmas Day Divine Service (w/communion)—9:00 a.m.

Chapel: Wednesday, December 9th, beginning at 8:48 a.m. led by Pastor Rossow. All are invited to attend.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

How's your Christmas shopping coming? Have you decided what to get for all those friends, neighbors and relatives on your list? What about all the things your children are asking for? Finances may be a big concern for many of us this Christmas season. As children watch the many TV commercials for special toys and we see the exciting things in shopping malls, over-spending becomes a great temptation. Each year many of us say, "Next year I'm not going to spend so much on Christmas gifts." But then it happens again.

What can we do to avoid the temptation to spend more than we can afford? One way is to change our focus from gift-giving to Gift receiving. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Greatest Gift, Jesus Christ. Focus on thanking and praising God that He sent His only Son as a little baby to our sinful world. That Greatest Gift lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross, and rose again so that through faith in Him we have the gift of eternal life.

The gifts we give one another are a reminder of the Greatest Gift. Remind your children of that as you exchange gifts. Then evaluate the cost of the gifts you choose. Must they be expensive in order to help your family members focus on the Greatest gift?

When I was growing up, we first enjoyed the beautiful worship services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Then with hearts full of joy over the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, we would show our love for Him and one another by giving gifts to one another. May your family experience the joy of Jesus as you prepare to celebrate His birth.

SCHOOL OFFICE NEWS

“O Come, The Symbols of Advent”—Tuesday, December 15th

On Tuesday, December 15th, at 7:00 p.m., Bethany Lutheran School will be presenting the Christmas program “O Come, The Symbols of Advent”. This program will include grades Preschool through 8th grade. This is a wonderful celebration of the Christmas season. Mark your calendars for this event.

Parents—For the safety of all the children, if you arrive early, please keep your children with you until 6:45 p.m.(unless otherwise instructed) when the classrooms will be open and teachers will be there to supervise the children.

Bring on the cookies! All families are asked to bring two dozen Christmas cookies to the kitchen on either Monday, December 14th or Tuesday, December 15th. These will be the treats provided at the reception after Bethany’s Christmas Program. Please email Aimee Walsh at awalsh@bethanylcs.org with questions.

Festival of Lights at Cosley Zoo

Be sure to take your family over to Cosley to see the Bethany Christmas Tree during the month of December. Students from all grades made wildlife friendly ornaments to decorate a 5 foot lighted tree. Our third graders took a special field trip to decorate the tree, share some cookies and hot chocolate and stroll around the zoo for a bit. Entrance is free and lights and music begin at 3:00 p.m. every day. Cosley Zoo is located at 1356 N. Gary Avenue in Wheaton. Their phone number is 630-665-5534 and their website is www.cosleyzoo.org. We are tree #12! (While you are there, snap your picture with our tree and we’ll hang it in Bethany’s hallway! Email pictures to awalsh@bethanylcs.org.)

National Geography Bee

Students in grades four through eight took class qualifying tests to determine two class champions and a runner-up in the days before or right after Thanksgiving Break. Questions on U.S. geography and cities, continents and world geography, and historical and cultural geography made up the test. These contestants will meet before the school body on Wednesday, December 16, after chapel to determine the school champion. You are welcome to attend.

Our class representatives are:

- 4th Grade – Michael James and Thomas Buwick – Lisa Curfs runner-up
- 5th Grade – Jack Dietz and Daniel Mackey – Collin Wilder runner-up
- 6th Grade – Katelynn Kuehl and Ryan Dierking – Sarah Balla runner-up
- 7th Grade – Martin Carroll and David Mackey – Cody Esposito runner-up
- 8th Grade – Melissa Patterson and Clayton Bailey – Kevin Bick runner-up

We congratulate not only our class representatives, but all those students who did well on the qualifying tests. We look forward to seeing you on December 16th.

Parents Wall of Fame

Check out our new Parents Wall of Fame above the gym doors. Many families have already completed their PIP hours. As soon as you turn your sheet in, you will get your very own sports ball on the wall and we'll add to the Parents Wall of Fame our Total Number of Volunteer Hours. Thank you so much for all you do. Bethany has the best parents!

Bethany's Parent Teacher League to host "Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction"

Saturday, March 13th at 4:00 p.m. mark your calendars for this fun and exciting evening! Along with a fabulous dinner, you'll be able to bid on silent auction items. Each class will be contributing some special baskets that you won't want to miss. We are now taking silent auction item donations. You can turn them in to the School Office with a silent auction label. This event needs many hands to make it's work light, so please check the bulletin board outside the office to sign up to help. Email Aimee Walsh at awalsh@bethanylcs.org with questions.

School Connections Assemblers

December 7 th	Tracie Downs
December 14 th	Cheryl Buwick
January 4 th	Polly White
January 11 th	Elise Calhoon

If you can't come on your scheduled day, please call and switch with someone from the list.

MANNA/PTL/MARKET DAY UPDATES

Manna

Please Note - Manna will be sold all mornings for the month of December (including Mondays). Stock up now for Christmas gifts and avoid backorders later in December. Teacher and Staff wish lists are available at the manna desk.

Beginning the Week of November 30th, manna orders will still be due on Tuesdays at 9:00, but for the month of December (only) all orders will be filled on THURSDAYS not Wednesdays. This is part of the Manna Group's holiday schedule.

SPORTS

Basketball schedule: (home games)

12-10-2009--7/8 Home against Aurora—girls at 4:30, boys at 5:30

12-17-2009--7/8 Home against Wheaton—girls at 4:30, boys at 5:30

Volunteer Sign Ups—

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Score Book</u>	<u>Score Clock</u>	<u>Concessions</u>	<u>Concessions</u>
12-10	4:30	Stover, L	Brondyke	Stoehr	Liebmann
	5:30	Miller, M.	Sharkey	Jurek	Carroll
12-17	4:30	Schreader	Slater	Rufo	Heggeland
	5:30	Schreader	McCullum	Rufo	Dietz

Parents, please be aware that no players or student fans are allowed in the gym unsupervised. If players or students are going to remain after school until game time, they will need to be in "after school care" or supervised by an adult.

FOOD COURT

Hot Lunch

December 9th—Lasagna, bread stick, salad, ice cream cup

Early Helpers: None needed

Serving Helpers: Laurie Velasquez, Lisa Hetherman, Kim Paquette

December 16th—baked potato bar (Wendy's), peaches, bakery cookie

Early Helpers: Kiko Holcomb, Lisa Martin

Serving Helpers: Caroline Martyn, Brandi Paul, Colin Paul, Koko Holcomb

January 6th—chicken wrap, assorted chips, apple sauce cup, cookies

Early Helpers: None

Serving Helpers: Denise Collins, Polly Patterson, Nancy Pavlopoulos

January 13th—chicken sandwich, BBQ potato chips, green beans, pudding cup

Early Helpers: None

Serving Helpers: Laurie Velasquez/Zimmerman, Polly Patterson,
Kim Paquette

NOTE: Hot Lunch Helpers---if you can't work on your assigned day, please call Gina Stoehr as soon as possible so a replacement can be found.

Pizza Day—Friday, December 11th

Pasta Lunch—Tuesday, December 15th