



Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of
Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA
www.bethanylutheran.org



Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



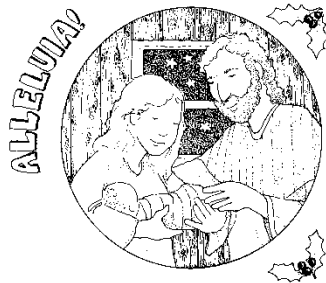
One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Mary, Did You Know?" There's a great phrase in that song: "Mary, did you know this child you delivered will soon deliver you?"

It's a life-changing idea: we are so precious to God that He sent His Son to become one of us, then suffer, die and rise again so we can be reunited with our Father in heaven.

"Thanks be to God for His gift that is too wonderful for words." II Corinthians 9:15

Blessings on your Christmas preparations as you focus on "the Reason for the season."

Mrs. Fink



Christmas Concerts

We hope you will join us for Bethany Lutheran Church and School's 39th Annual Christmas Concert, "Holy is His Name" on Sunday, Dec. 14. The concerts are at 1:30, 4:00 and 7:00. Our Trinity, Troubadour and Honor Choirs will be participating. Experience the awesome story of Christ's birth as it is shared in choral anthems and Christmas carols. A festival orchestra will accompany the choirs and handbell choirs will ring at all three concerts. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a wonderful event...invite a friend!



Bookfair Extravaganza!

Please join us in the school library this week for our Scholastic-sponsored bookfair. There are great books to give as gifts this Christmas season, or books to get for reading time over the holidays. The bookfair is open through the week! Proceeds support Bethany's youth program.



School Bulletin #15

December 9, 2008



- ☺ Dec. 8-12: Book Fair
- ☺ Dec. 14: Christmas Concerts 1:30, 4:00, 7:00 PM
- ☺ Dec. 17: 4th and 5th Grade Christmas Service.
- ☺ Dec. 19: Minimum Day-Noon Dismissal



Have you brought in your food and \$2 donation for the Big Red Bucket? We'll be assembling the buckets on Wednesday morning. If you're free, we'd love to have you lend a hand! (FISH hours!!)

If you have mall receipts from Christmas shopping, we would LOVE to log them for points! Just bring them to the office! Want them back? Just put them in an envelope with your name on it.

Parents' Night Out

Need some extra time for shopping away from the kids? Let our 8th graders help you out!

Thursday, Dec. 11

6:00-9:00

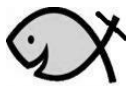
Bethany Gym

See attached flyer.

Return by Wed., 12/10

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!" (Psalm 48: 1a)

Thanks be to God for all the lives that have been touched through the Operation Christmas Child project, both those who pack the boxes and those who receive them. This year, 135 shoe-boxes were collected from Bethany church and school members, adding to the more than 61 million shoe-box gifts that have been delivered to boys and girls in some 130 nations, since 1993. Would you pray that God would meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those who receive these shoe-boxes and that many hearts will be opened to God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ? Thank you for participating in this mission opportunity.



The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

We could use help with two jobs:

- Giving our outdoor nativity scene a new coat of white paint.
- Hanging some window blinds.

Contact Mrs. Fink if you're interested.

Advent/Christmas Worship Opportunities

You are welcome to join us for any or all of these special worship services:

Dec. 10: Advent Worship with our Preschoolers, 7:00 PM

Dec. 17: Advent Worship with Grades 3-5, 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve: 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 PM

Christmas Day: 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve: 7:00 PM



Christmas Season Worship Services

Here at Bethany Lutheran School, we don't do gift exchanges at our Christmas parties. Instead we prepare individual Personal Hygiene Kits for distribution by Lutheran Social Services of Long Beach. Each kit is a gallon zip lock bag containing: a bar of soap, a washcloth, a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, a small size shampoo & a comb.

At school the children will create a Christian Christmas message, to which they add their first name only, and these will be included in the kits.

Please put these items on your grocery list and try to involve your children in the preparation task. Send the kits with your children any time in the next two weeks.

Bears' Basketball

We are looking for an individual to coach the 6th grade boys' basketball team after the Christmas break. Season will last into mid-February. If you can give a couple of hours a week to help these young men develop and have some fun, please contact Karl Fink.

Go Bears!

Bethany students have access to two wonderful online resources that are provided to them free!

One is **Typing Pal**, an online typing program and the other is **World Book Online**, which is paid for by our PTL. Information on how to access these programs is on the Bethany School website in the Student Resources/Internet Resources section. Students need a user name and password for both programs.

For Typing Pal the user name is the first name and the year of graduation from 8th grade and the password is the last name and graduation year. For example, Joe Smith, 8th grader, user name is Joe09 and password is Smith09.

The user name for World Book Online is bethanylutheran and the password is jesus.

We hope you'll make use of these wonderful programs from your home computer!

**Junior Jazzercise
Join the Music, Fun and Friends**

We move to the music of hit songs for an aerobic workout.

Learn how to keep track of your heart rate. Games, educational worksheets, **Prizes**, water and healthy snacks are all provided

\$10/class (**part of your fee is donated back to Bethany**) Come to the Youth Room, wear supportive shoes.

Join anytime, ages 7 and up

Tuesdays 3:30-4:30



Attached to this Bear Facts is a Christmas Special Order Form with some fun gift ideas for your Christmas giving. The items on this form are in addition to the regular On Hand and Special Order forms. SCRIP order forms can also be printed from the Bethany website.

Do you shop on-line? Don't forget that many of the gift cards available from Bethany SCRIP can be used for on-line purchases.

Compare your gift list to the SCRIP Order forms and purchase your gift cards from Bethany SCRIP and not from the grocery store! If you buy gift cards from a retail store you are letting them keep the profit they are willing to share with Bethany. Buying Bethany SCRIP gift cards benefits you and your school!

One more suggestion: DON'T wait until the last minute to purchase your holiday SCRIP...we don't want you to be disappointed because we run out of a certain card. If you order early, we can order extra! Thanks.

**DC Trippers
Marie Callendar's Fundraiser**

Watch the Bear Facts next week for a flyer to use at Marie Callendars on Dec. 21, 22 or 23 for either pies or dining. Proceeds support the 8th grade trip! Yum!

**7th and 8th Girls Basketball
Players:**

Join us for workouts on Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30-5:45! Go, Bears!