



Calendar Reminders

- ~ Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services @ BLC 4:30, 8:30 & 10pm
- ~ Jan. 1: New Year's Day Service @ BLC 10am
- ~ Jan. 3: School Resumes
- ~ Jan. 6: Classroom Spelling Bees
- ~ Jan. 13: BLS Spelling Bee Championship

From the Principal

Greetings Bethel Family,

I wish you blessings as you enjoy this Christmas vacation. Thank you for the wonderful gifts of candy, cookies, gift cards and other thoughtful items. Your generosity is much appreciated. We will offer up prayers of safety for those of you that will be traveling. My family and I will stay local and spend the holiday with our church family. My boys are also looking forward to staying in their pajamas and watching movies. Below is a staff devotion we discussed last week, I thought it was worth sharing with you. Please contact me with any questions; I'll be in the office this week until December 28th.

SANTA SAYS, "TEACH THE CHILDREN" Author Unknown

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened...I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree.

He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone.

Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement. "TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled; what did he mean?

He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then pulled from his bag and ornament of HIMSELF. "Teach the children that I, Santa Claus symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."

He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him."

Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave..." "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the holy babe and presented him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return."

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship Him, our Lord, our God."

Community Corner

We ask for prayers of comfort, healing, and overall health for all teachers, staff, students, and their families. Especially for our:

- ♥ For a 5th Grade Teacher
- ♥ For a PE/Health Teacher
- ♥

"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

~Mark 10:43-45

We are all leaders whether we know it or not. Do you recognize your leadership among others and lead according to Jesus's standard. Not even Jesus abused His power to advance His efforts. So why should we?

Students at BLS have many opportunities to leaders like Christ. Whether hanging out with their friends or classroom buddies, leading chapel, or participating in a competition, they have the ability to be lead like Jesus.

Lord, may we continue to lead like You in everything we do. Amen.

If you have a special prayer request you would like the Bethel community to pray for, contact Mrs. Steen to be added to future editions of the Scream.

In Other News

Christmas Eve Services with Bethel Lutheran Church

Bethel Lutheran Church invites you and your families to the any and all of the services they offer for Christmas Eve. Join them on Saturday, December 24th at:

- 4:30 pm Family Worship Service
- 8:30 pm Traditional Worship Service
- 10:00 pm Meditative Worship Service with Holy Communion

Bethel will also have a service at 10 am on Sunday, January 1, 2017.

School Resumes Tuesday, January 3rd!

2017 Spelling Bee

Jan. 3rd our elementary students will start off two weeks of Spelling Bee fun and competition. Jan. 3rd at 1 pm all elementary students will participate in the "Drop Everything and Spell" event. Jr Kindergarten through 4th grade will spend the hour playing various games to help prepare for the spelling bee.

Friday, January 6th all elementary classrooms will have a special classroom spelling bee. The top 3 will receive ribbons.

Friday, January 13th the top four students from both the 2nd/3rd grade and 4th grade classrooms will compete for the BLS Spelling Bee Championship. The champion will go on to the next level of the Scripps Spelling Bee competition.

2017 Chili Cook Off

Sign up for the 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off! We need your award winning chili to compete in this year's contest on Friday, January 27th. Visit signup.com with the QR Code below, the link in the email, or on the Campus Events page.

