

SUBURBAN BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

BITS AND BARK

January 9, 2025

Our Mission: Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School disciples each generation to grow deeply, serves humbly, and goes boldly in Christ to advance God's Kingdom.

Principal's Message

As we begin 2025 and enter the second half of our school year, we find ourselves in the season of Epiphany, a time when we celebrate the revealing of Jesus Christ as the Savior not just for a select few, but for all people. Epiphany invites us to remember the light that came into the world—God's gift of Jesus—who calls us to be light-bearers in a world that desperately needs hope.

We live in a world deeply affected by sin—where mistrust, poor choices, and a lack of care for one another often seem to dominate the headlines and influence our daily lives. But in the midst of this brokenness, Epiphany reminds us that we are called to reflect the love of Christ in the way we interact with one another and to shine His light into the darkness.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" In Christ, we are made new. Our past mistakes, our failures, and our sins do not define us—Christ does. He equips us with His Holy Spirit to live out this new identity, not in our own strength but in His. We are called to be agents of transformation in a world that needs it, not because we are perfect, but because we are loved by a perfect Savior.

As we continue on in this New Year and navigate the highs and lows of the school year, may we strive to create a community that reflects God's love—through our kindness, our patience, our grace. Let us not grow weary of doing good, but keep striving to create communities that mirror the love, care, and compassion of Jesus—one small act of light at a time.

Special Invitation to Join Our "40 Days of Prayer"

We invite you to join us for "40 Days of Prayer" beginning Sunday, January 19. We are seeking God's wisdom and guidance as we navigate the pressing need for expanded space to continue offering strong Christian education in a facility that meets the growing needs of all who attend.

Throughout these 40 days, we will reflect on God's Word and His faithfulness through all generations, trusting Him to make the path forward clear. While we face obstacles and a challenging timeline, we believe in the power of prayer and are asking for His will to be revealed—whether that means expanding now or waiting for His perfect timing. We are not seeking an easy solution but unity and clarity as we move forward in faith, hope, and community.

Daily devotionals will be provided in print, email, and podcast form to guide us as we seek God's direction. **At the conclusion of the 40 days, we invite you to join us for "Prayer Conversations" to share experiences and insights: Wednesday, March 5 at 12:00 Noon (lunch provided), Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 Noon (lunch provided), Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm**

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and partnership as we continue to build a community rooted in faith and committed to providing an education that honors God. More details will follow, and we look forward to joining together in this important journey of prayer.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Mrs. Greener, Principal

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Week of January 13 to January 17

Salad Choice: Taco Salad

MONDAY: Chicken Parmesan or Meatballs
Hot Side Options: Green Beans and Buttered Noodles

TUESDAY: Cheese Toastie or Fish Sticks
Hot Side Options: Broccoli and Cauliflower

WEDNESDAY: Waffles or Scrambled Eggs
Hot Side Options: Sausage Patty and Hashbrown Potatoes

THURSDAY: Macaroni and Cheese or Mini Corn Dogs
Hot Side Options: Sweet Potato Puffs and Carrots

FRIDAY: Nachos w/ Meat and Cheese or Tacos
Hot Side Options: Refried Beans and Fajita Veggies

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches and Yogurt & Cheese can be substituted for main dish.

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

NURSERY: Lyanna Auer
PRESCHOOL: Jaylon Robinson & Leighton Treager
KINDERGARTEN A: Kinslee Beard
KINDERGARTEN B: Guy Beard
1ST GRADE: Vincent Russell
2ND GRADE: Bentley Sims
3RD GRADE: Isaac Wood
4TH GRADE: Gemma Schmenk
5TH GRADE: Blake Shelton
6TH GRADE: Anna Merritt
7TH GRADE A: LinkloIn Boatwright
7TH GRADE B: Aspen Benz
8TH GRADE: Sophia Bell
SUPPORT STAFF: Mrs. Kathy Reid
TEACHERS: All Teachers

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invoices

All invoices have been sent this week through Remind. It is **imperative** we receive your payments especially for the month of December as we are seeing a lot of past due invoice not being paid. Payments are to be paid as soon as possible. We accept all forms of payment: cash, check, credit/debit card or Push Pay. Checks are to be made payable to SBLs. If you are using Push Pay, please use the link below.

Push Pay: <https://pushpay.com/g/sblschool?src=hpp>

If you prefer a paper copy of your invoice to be sent home, please contact the School Office.

Learn Not to Burn

On Friday, Jan. 17- Students in PK, K, 1, 2, and 4 will be participating in the Learn not to Burn program with our Fort Wayne Fire Dept.

National Lutheran Schools Sunday and Week/ Open House

The last week of January will bring the opportunity to thank God and celebrate our Lutheran School. We will begin the celebration on **Sunday, Jan. 26** with kids singing in both services. **Families whose last name begins with A-L will be asked to come to the Early Service at 8:00 a.m. and those with last names beginning with M-Z to come to Late Service at 10:30 a.m.** Please watch for more details.

We will also recognize the following for special ministry anniversaries:

Lindsey Noll- 10 years, Terri Hobbs- 25 years, Deb Honn- 30 years, Dan Gottschalk- 35 years and Amy Greener- 35 years. After the service we are opening our school to invite all, especially new interested families to come in, tour and meet our teachers from 12-2. If you know anyone who is interested, please invite them to come.

The week will have dress up days, service projects, and fun activities. Watch for more details to come.

Calendar Update

Please remember to note the change to the upcoming calendar. Please see attached. We **WILL NOT** have school on Friday, Feb. 14 and **WILL** have school on Friday, Feb. 21.

I-Mac Computers

We have 10-15 IMac All in one Computers with monitor and power cord. They do not come with keyboard or mouse. Must be out by Jan. 21.

Available for free will donation. *First come, first serve.*

Protect Young Eyes Presentation

The Lutheran Schools Partnership invites you to join us as we welcome Chris McKenna of Protect Young Eyes (PYE) on **Thursday, February 13, from 7:00-8:30 pm at Concordia Lutheran High School.** Chris is the founder of PYE and Executive Director of the PYE Foundation. Please see the attached flier and Registration Information.

Mrs. Johnston

We are excited to celebrate with Mrs. Johnston in our school office the upcoming birth of her baby girl. After her arrival, Mrs. Johnston will be out of the office as she takes her maternity leave. We will have additional help coming in during that time of her absence here, but please be patient with all of us as we work without such an important member of our team. Please keep her and the baby in your prayers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We would like to wish a very special birthday to our SBL students and staff who celebrate their birthday in the month of **JANUARY!**

Connor Green
Penelope Gwaltney
Margaret Merritt
Lyanna Auer
Beatrice Burrigge-Waymoth
Hadyn Riley
Aung Paing
Addalynn Thomas
Blake Shelton
Holland Ewell
Everett Thomas
Brook Bowen
Sadie Vancelette
Serenity Gehring
Kedon Spurling
Sullivan Oren
Korbin Snyder
Colin Masters
Ava Dunne
Oakley Noll
Presley Sorgen
Maddox Wiedenhoeft
Betty Wadley

GO BULLDOGS!

Good luck to our Boys and Girls Basketball!

JV GIRLS

Friday, January 10

-Sunday, January 12

SBLs at St. John Emmanuel
Lutheran Tournament

Monday, January 13

SBLs vs. Concordia at SBLs at
4:30PM

JV BOYS

Monday, January 13

SBLs vs. Concordia at SBLs at
5:45PM

VARSITY BOYS

Saturday, January 11

SBLs vs. Zion Decatur at SBLs at
10:15AM

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Michelle Schultz

POSITION: Deaconess

HOMETOWN: Springfield, IL

FAVORITE COLOR: Light Purple

BIBLE VERSE: John 10, 27-28