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### GREETINGS, BETHANY LUTHERAN FAMILIES!

Advent has arrived here at Bethany and it is truly a time of preparation! Christmas at Bethany is taking place once more this year and I'm reminded again of all the preparation that goes in to the season. It's truly amazing how we all come together to prepare for this season!

Thank you to all of our volunteers that helped with Milestone events and Service Projects during the month of November. We're so thankful for everyone who gives of their time to help with our youth activities! I also wanted to say thank you for your prayers as Tori Cooper, Zoe Fiedler, and I traveled to Mahtomedi, MN in November for Sounds Like Love. The girls had a great time singing in the choir and celebrating John Jacobsen's final year leading the choir. They'll be sharing more information about Sounds Like Love in the future.

### Now, onto the events coming up in December:

**Sunday Christmas Program** Wednesday December 6 at 7 PM we will be having our Christmas program for our Preschool-6th Grade students! This program will use music and scripture readings to tell the Christmas Story. Rehearsals have started taking place in music during Sunday school and our "dress rehearsal" will take place on Sunday, December 3 during the Sunday school hour! Families are invited to join us for dinner starting at 6 PM. The dinner is going to be put on by Bethany Youth. Our menu for this year will be Chicken Noodle soup, Chili, and Pie. Cost is a free will donation. If you have any questions, please contact me. 😊

**Confirmation Students!** During Advent, our weekly classes change to students attending worship as a part of class. Students attend worship together as a Confirmation class with a short meeting after worship to talk over worship notes. Advent worship services start Wednesday, December 6 with the Christmas program, and continue on Wednesdays, December 13 & 20 at 7 PM. Advent dinners start at 6 PM each of those Wednesday's. We invite students & families to join us for dinner before worship.

**BYG Activities for December** Wednesdays are going to be a lot of fun! December 6 we'll meet at 7:45pm in the parking lot for a special Service project night. December 13 we'll have our monthly Bible study. This month's topic is on Mary, mother of Jesus. We'll meet at 7:45pm in the Youth Room. December 20 is our BYG Christmas Party! We'll meet at 7:45pm in the youth room for pizza, games, and lots of fun! Please bring a white elephant gift for a gift exchange. Snacks are provided for BYG and friends are always welcome!

**Hey students in grades 9-12!** Join me for Breakfast on Tuesday, December 26 as we celebrate winter break. Meet me at 10:30am at Bethany and we'll head to a local restaurant for a time of fellowship and a Bible study. No cost to attend, but please encouraged to RSVP by Wednesday, December 20 so I know how many are going. 😊

**Christmas party for grades 6-8** is Sunday, December 10 during the Sunday school hour. Plan on a special breakfast food, fun games, and surprises! Students should to bring a gift for an elephant gift exchange. Each gift should cost no more than \$10. Please RSVP by Friday, December 8 if you plan on attending.

**REMINDER: There is no Confirmation or BYG on Wednesday, December 27!** Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3 at 7pm. BYG will resume on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:45pm.

I love the preparations that come with Advent at Bethany, especially this year, as Christmas at Bethany takes place. Holiday traditions are important to all of us, especially the preparations that go into season of Advent. I think there's something quite beautiful about waiting during this season. We wait for a baby, the Son of God, who comes to earth as the greatest gift ever given. While we wait during Advent, I find myself saying, "Come Lord Jesus, Come!" May the peace of the Christ child be with you all during this season. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



In His Grip,  
*Katie*