

Dear Bethlehem Students and Families,

David writing in Psalm 46 describes his world as one of crisis, destruction, and shaken to its very foundations. These same words apply in 2020 to us in the midst of a pandemic, flooding, and tragic death. Take a minute and read them for yourself.

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
3 though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.  
6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
7 The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

We can be certain that no matter how many changes or how much our world might be shaken, God is with us. Bethlehem is once again in a season of transition. Our principal Dr. Nicole Frederick has announced her intent to pursue a new direction in life. We are grateful for her leadership and pray God's blessings as she takes on new challenges. In addition to Dr. Fredrick, we say goodbye to our technology teacher Mrs. Katlyn Awad and our librarian Mrs. Sue Brandt. Mrs. Brandt is retiring after 25 years of ministry at Bethlehem, teaching primarily third and fourth grades.

The Board of Education has spent numerous hours searching and interviewing candidates for Bethlehem's next principal. On May 28<sup>th</sup> a divine call was extended to Mr. Todd Baringer to serve as principal at our school. Mr. Baringer is currently the elementary principal at Prince of Peace Lutheran School in Carrollton, Texas. Please join in praying that he accepts our call to lead Bethlehem.

As we await Mr. Baringer's response we are already preparing for next year. After the disruptions to school this spring, we value more than ever the face to face instruction between quality teachers and their students. Bethlehem is taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our students, parents, and staff. We are considering recommendations by the CDC, our State government, local school districts, fellow area Lutheran Schools, and our Michigan District State Superintendent, Mr. Travis Grulke.

- Kindergarten thru 8<sup>th</sup> Grade classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 26.
- Pre-school classes are scheduled to begin after Labor Day, Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

At this point we plan on having school five days a week with all students. As the start of school draws closer, we will inform you further as to precautions and changes that have taken place. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

There is something different about Bethlehem. As we prepare for next year, it is good to know we have certain advantages as a school –

- Our class sizes will better allow for physical distancing.
- Our current safety procedures can easily be adapted to reduce the risk of sick students attending school.
- Our faculty immediately stepped up in difficult circumstances to provide education for our students. Teachers learned much in the process and will be prepared to respond even better in the future.
- And, most importantly, we continue to teach the only Answer (Jesus Christ) to life's greatest challenges.

We are looking forward to a strong enrollment in the fall. Many have already returned the re-enrollment form. If you have not please visit the school website

<https://www.bethlehemsaginaw.org/apply-now> We look forward to having our Bethlehem family back together. If you know of someone who is interested in being part of our Bethlehem school family please have them contact the school office at 755-1146 ext. 213. An appointment can be made for a meeting and tour. Summer School and Church office hours are Monday – Thursday 8 am – 4 pm.

Please know that whatever your circumstances we want to walk along beside you. Let us know if we can lend a listening ear, or helping hand. There is something different about Bethlehem. Not only to we continue to provide a high-quality academic education but we are able to infuse Jesus in all that we do. God's blessings over the summer months.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Michael Korte  
And the teachers at Bethlehem Lutheran School