

Bethany Christian Schools BULLETIN

Summer 2022, vol. 67, no. 2



The Class of 2022 celebrates their commencement by throwing their caps.

Inquiries about joining the Bethany community can be directed to admissions@bethanycs.net.

Bethany Christian Schools
BULLETIN

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What does it mean to be *Prepared?*

What does it mean to be prepared to participate in God's work in the world? At Bethany we focus on educating students in academics, community, and faith, demonstrated throughout this issue.

Academics—More than providing students with the skill and aptitude to be successful in their college and careers, Bethany encourages inquisitiveness and seeks to foster a love of learning.

Our middle and high school programs prepare students by offering many opportunities to discover their gifts as they grow into young adults. This spring, high school students presented *Godspell* (p.6), and the middle school presented *A Simpler Time* (p.12).

Senior awards showcase ways students are uniquely prepared in areas of art, athletics, and community-building—for example, our Art Purchase award, Beck Willem's record-setting athletic career, and the Cup of Kindness award (p.11).

Community—In an age of political and religious division, it is more important than ever to learn how to build community rather than tear it down. To do this, one must learn to listen, seek understanding, and recognize that humility is the foundation of wisdom. We are preparing our students to be team members who listen and seek understanding. Niles and Corine Graber Alvarez, from the

class of 2010, give alumni insights into preparing for the decisions of adulthood in their commencement address about living "*Life by design*" (p.3).

James Helmuth's ('11) work in Guatemala and Mexico (p.8) provides healing for those affected by wars and armed conflict. Marshall V. King's reflection on MJ Sharp's life during a high school chapel reminds us how core values guide us in our work to help others (p.9).

Faith—Though life is often unpredictable and mysterious, we have a foundational guide in Jesus. Our emphasis is on helping students recognize that faithful living is an ongoing journey.

As a capstone assignment in senior Bible class, senior faith statements give me hope for the future (p.4). After nearly three decades preparing students to do God's work in the world, Dale Shenk retires from our Bible faculty (p.10).

We are grateful for our alumni, friends, and community as we look forward to the work we do at Bethany Christian Schools to prepare our students for what the future holds.



Tim Lehman, Ed. D.
Head of School

DEATHS

Marilyn Voran (F'56-59)
Goshen, IN, Apr. 17, 2022
Rosemary Wyse Reimer (F'58-62,65-66)
Goshen, IN, Mar. 3, 2022
Howard C. Birky ('59)
Newton, KS, Feb. 6, 2022
Gregory Beck ('66)
Nappanee, IN, Feb. 25, 2022
Charles "Chuck" Culp ('73)
Des Moines, IA, Nov. 10, 2021
Steve Stutzman ('78)
Topeka, KS, Jun. 1, 2022
Carl Miller ('79)
Goshen, IN, Feb. 21, 2022
J. Harold Yoder (F'93-96)
Oskaloosa, KS, Apr. 14, 2022

Richard Rios ('23)
Goshen, IN, May 21, 2022

BIRTHS

Monica Cender Kearby ('05)
and Kyler Kearby,
Warsaw, IN, twin daughters
Olivia Rae and Claire Marie, Feb.
23, 2021

Corine and Niles Graber Alvarez ('10),
Goshen, IN, daughter Liliana
Diann, March 2, 2022

Juana Gonzalez ('22) and
Christyan Torres
Goshen, IN, daughter Janelle
Antonella Torres, May 26, 2022

MARRIAGES

Ming Woo ('13) and Matthew Smucker ('16)
Goshen, IN, May 28, 2022

NOTES

Loren Hostetter ('79) founded the Amazonia Vanilla Company in Ecuador, supporting small scale farmers in the Amazon to attain a sustainable livelihood, preserve the rainforest canopy. The new company produces organic vanilla extracts, powder, whole beans and powder. He was also named director of the American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation, a non-profit to restore pure American chestnut species.



Commencement 2022

Bethany Christian High School celebrated its 68th commencement on Sunday, May 29, 2022, with a mixture of heartfelt emotions. The school community is still grieving the loss of junior Richard Rios, who died on May 21. Speakers at the commencement offered sympathy to the Rios family, the junior class, and others close to the family, and began with a moment of silence.

Senior Matthew Dyck provided this year's invocation, thanking God for relationships that were built at Bethany. He prayed, "Grace us with love and compassion and move us to spread joy and kindness to others we meet. Help us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly in your name."

Senior speakers Norah Schloneger and Reesha Bhagat reflected on the unity their class developed over the course of their years together, especially during their senior year as they bonded through activities and events. Reesha said, "Earlier this year, many of us discussed that we wanted to be a class that left a positive impact on the classes below us. We wanted to be an exemplary class in our interactions with each other and other classes. A class that is inclusive, warm, and a community."

Norah said, "As we all start the next chapters of our lives, we look forward to meeting again and catching up where we left off." Norah finished with a blessing, "may the Lord bless

you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

The commencement speech was given by Niles and Corine Graber Alvarez, both Bethany alumni from the class of 2010. Corine works in international finance for Eli Lilly, while Niles is the co-founder of Menno Tea and



co-founder and CFO at Aluminum Insights.

They spoke of their developing relationship while at Bethany, college choices, and career development as they live a "life by design." Two principles that guide them are staying curious and remembering their legacy.

Niles said that to be curious means to "be comfortable being uncomfortable and learn from failure."

Corine said, "There is a line from the musical, *Hamilton*, that I used to have written on a Post-it note on my desk. It read, 'Legacy, what is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.' This image of cultivating the soil and seeds for the benefit of others stuck with me. Legacy is less about what you accomplish on a resume, but rather how you do it."

Niles said that remembering legacy means, "to live consistently with your values even if that means making sacrifices." Corine added, "plant your seeds in others to help them grow." Finally, Corine said, "Plant your seeds generously to improve your communities, put simply—do good."

A total of 29 students graduated from Bethany with 27 heading to college in the fall, one taking a gap year and one planning to work.

A class gift of trays to be used for the fish fry and funds for playground equipment for Bethany's new elementary grades were given by the class. (Bethany will add grades one and two for the first time this fall.) To end the ceremony, class sponsors Benji Hurst and Cheryl Mast presented white carnations to the class and the class officers distributed ceramic mugs to the graduates.

SENIOR FAITH STATEMENTS

The final assignment for the senior Bible class, *Christian Faith Journey*, is for each senior to share his or her faith journey, present beliefs, and future dreams and/or plans with their community. Students share their presentations in class, during chapel, or in a small group setting usually outside of school. The following excerpts are from presentations given during chapels.

Josiah Schlabach

When I was in 1st grade, my parents talked to me about joining a Wednesday night group at First Baptist Church. This was my first exposure to Christianity.



One night I accepted Jesus into my life. Since everyone in my family was new in their faith, I grew up with a lot of questions. I love science, but there are times when science and Christianity disagree. So I've grown up asking a lot of questions about my faith.

A key verse that is always with me throughout my faith journey is Colossians 2:8: "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." This verse has helped guide me through rocky periods of my faith journey.

I believe that God is the one, true, living God. In his omnipresence he is working all things to his sovereignty. He is just and merciful, with all things falling according to his perfect will and all of God's awesome power cannot be fully comprehended by the human mind. The verse mentioned above relates to nature and scripture. I have observed the complexity of life, so perfect in design, which is not a coincidence. It was created by God.

I use the Bible to test different teachings and theological doctrines. Paul tells us 'there is no God but one,' and that 'Everything comes

from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory.' God makes all things work out even if we can't see it now. God is just and God is merciful. God punishes sin. God has also shown us his mercy through his son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of everyone. Even though God doesn't change, I will continue to ask questions to better understand God.

Josiah will be attending Rose Hulman Institute of Technology where he plans to study chemical engineering. After college he hopes to work as an engineer and serve in public office to improve his country.

Ivonne Ortiz

My family occasionally attended Saint John's Catholic Church when



I was little, but I don't remember that. I think we got caught up with life and attending church wasn't

a priority. When I was in third grade, my mom heard about 8th Street Mennonite Church from a stranger who lended her a hand. We started attending there regularly, despite it being a congregation with a high percentage of older folks, and literally everyone else being white, which I honestly found strange as a child, but we felt welcomed.

For me a key verse is Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." For me it is a sense of calm during troubles that everything is going to be okay.

As someone who looks to reason and facts, I struggle with having faith in what I can't see. However, I do think people and the earth are wonderfully made. I'm also sure that the Mennonite Church is a community in which I want to belong. It is a community that will stay with me during the high and low points in life and should be valued.

Ivonne plans to attend Goshen College and major in marketing. She would like to use her skills to help others and bring them joy. She hopes to remain connected to the Mennonite community.

Mackenzie Mast

Growing up in a Mennonite congregation has shaped my faith in



significant ways. One significant experience is my grandparents' 13 years in prison. Most

don't know the effect this had on my family. I remember traveling 20+ hours to visit my grandma in prison. When she was diagnosed with an aggressive pancreatic cancer, my mom traveled back and forth to Texas for months. During that time, I prayed constantly. I was always afraid that something would happen to my mom or to my grandma. I was anxious all the time, but praying for my mom's safe travels and talking with God helped me feel more at peace.

My beliefs about God and who God is, comes from Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you in my righteous hand."

This verse speaks to me in my struggle with anxiety. While it's still something I struggle with, I feel it has gotten better over the years, especially when I can talk to God about things that worry me.

I believe that God is a friend or companion and can guide us in our lives. I believe that God brings comfort and clarity to us in times of struggle. A statement from the Mennonite Confession of Faith says, "We humbly recognize that God far surpasses human comprehension and understanding." It gives me peace of mind when thinking about God, because it allows me to be okay with not having all the answers.

While I still have many questions about my faith and what I believe, suffering has been a theme. I know everyone has their own unique experiences with suffering; my family has gone through a lot of suffering the past couple years: from my grandparents dying in prison to my other grandpa having multiple terminal illnesses. I will never fully understand why these things happen. I am uncomfortable with the idea that God directly causes suffering. So, if God doesn't cause suffering, how are God and suffering connected? The best way for me to think about it is that God uses all suffering to shape and grow us into more compassionate people. Suffering is horrible. No one wants to suffer, and it's really hard for me to believe that God would be behind it.

I've chosen to accept that life happens, is imperfect, and feels random. I hope for me and others that through random suffering we are able to grow into better humans and communicate with each other and God.

Mackenzie plans to attend Goshen College and study psychology and exercise science. She was awarded soccer and academic scholarships. She is grateful that she will be

allowed to explore and deepen her faith in meaningful ways and hopes to find strong communities that support and challenge her to be a better person.

Matthew Dyck

I grew up attending Belmont Mennonite Church. I've always



enjoyed attending this congregation and being involved in a large youth group.

My favorite Sundays were the ones with potlucks. If Mennonites know one thing, it's how to cook a mean potluck. As I look back at my years at Belmont, I'm glad that I've made lifelong friendships. Belmont has strengthened my relationships with others and introduced me to a love of music and singing. I am grateful for being a member of the Inclusion Task Force last year. The team was formed to write and adopt an inclusion statement for the congregation.

The New Testament call to love your enemies is a real challenge, but one that I try my best to remember and embody in my interactions with others. I believe that Jesus is a great example of how to live. His teachings of love and compassion have helped inform me and have contributed to the development of my social justice lens.

Although we live in a very different time, the core values that Jesus taught are very applicable for today. Who would Jesus advocate for? Who would he extend a hand to and stand up for? Those who are impoverished are people that come to my mind. I think Jesus' lessons about helping the poor have gained relevance since Bible times. I believe that wealth, inequality, and homelessness are problems that require swift and direct action to fix.

The theory of low Christology contributes to my understanding of Jesus. I believe Jesus was more human than divine and his purpose was to show others how best to live in community.

I plan to study peace and justice in college. Transforming conflict is a valuable skill that can be practically applied to many situations and occupations. The Mennonite Confession of Faith article 22 says, "we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing nonresistance even in the face of violence and warfare." This makes sense to me. I believe war deviates from the foundation of Jesus' teachings. My Mennonite upbringing has had a strong influence on how I understand violence and has certainly contributed to my interests in politics and human rights.

Another foundational Anabaptist document that I really love is the Schleithem Confession, which I first learned about in Josh Weaver's Church History class. I like the part that says "The worldlings are armed with steel and iron, but the Christians are armed with the armor of God, with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God." I think peacemaking is crucial not only in large-scale conflict resolution matters, but also can be transformative in your personal life. Practicing peacebuilding and transforming conflict is central to creating healthy relationships; this is something that I try to incorporate in my own life.

Matthew plans to attend Goshen College in the fall and major in Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies and in History. He would like to do faith-based work, whether teaching, advocating for social justice, or trying to improve the lives of marginalized people.



GODSPELL

Bethany Christian High School performed *Godspell* for its spring musical. The production is a playful exploration of Jesus, his teachings, and the disciples who follow him. Director Talashia Keim Yoder said, “Jesus’ stories and teachings in *Godspell* tend to **focus on our relationships with God, others, and material things**; we see the members of the new community become a fuller version of who they’re created to be.”

Senior cast members shared transformational experiences from the production.



Jordana Farran (played Jane): *Godspell* has shown me what it means to be a part of something bigger than myself. **I’ve learned the importance of community and empowering others through the show’s themes of selflessness, humility, and compassion.** *Godspell* is unique because it relies heavily on improv and all characters are on stage the whole time. This experience has shown me that each individual plays an essential role in forming a strong community. Because of this show, I have gained a new sense of freedom by learning to let go and embrace imperfections, rather than trying to hide them.





Caleb Mast (played the role of Jesus): The focus of this show has been building community and recognizing the potential we have when we come together. As Jesus, I had to seek out all members of the community and **acknowledge their individual gifts that contribute to the bigger group.** This made me realize that you have to let go of your judgments if you want to acknowledge people for who they are.

Reesha Bhagat (played Mattie): Theater has always been something that has provided comfort while simultaneously challenging me. One of the things that **I have really enjoyed is pushing myself while being surrounded by a supportive close group of friends.** Seeing the whole show come together through the hard work of every person involved is something truly special. Getting to know people who I would not normally have classes with or spend time with is one of my favorite parts of theater at Bethany.



Norah Schloneger (played Jem): I've learned so much over the course of this show, not only thinking about Jesus' teachings in more depth, but, more personally, learning more about others in our show community. Godspell is so different from any other show I've been a part of, and **it has helped me see the value of my peers to the fullest extent.** I never once doubted that each member of our cast has talent, but this show gave each and every person a moment to shine, and I'm extremely grateful for that. Though this show was a challenge at times, Jesus' teaching about 'the lilies of the field' portrayed in this show works perfectly in this context; it is much easier to trust the process if we take a step back and remember to keep in mind the value and beauty of our community.



James Helmuth ('11)

Searches for the Disappeared

The atrocities of war leave mysteries that must be investigated even decades after they have happened. Bethany grad James Helmuth ('11) is among those investigators who are searching for victims of forced disappearances in Latin America and around the globe. James lives in Guatemala, working as program director for work in Mexico with the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG).

“Forced disappearances are really hard to conceptualize,” said James. “I still struggle with it. All of a sudden one day not knowing where your brother is or where your dad is, and never having any idea if you will hear from them again.”

As a student at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), James did an internship at the Washington Office of Latin America in Washington D.C. where he became interested in immigration and Latin American policy issues. He continued work in D.C. for the Catholic Charities Immigration Services Clinic. After a year working at the clinic, he wanted to become fluent in Spanish and to understand the context of the Latin American immigration population that he was working with.

Looking for a way to serve in Latin America, James began a position with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Guatemala, and worked as an evaluation coordinator there for five years. While in this role he completed his masters at a university in Guatemala on Methods of Project Evaluation, Monitoring and Development.

“My personal sense of justice, and being a pacifist, and wanting to be a peace builder is rooted in my Anabaptist faith,” said James. “They were developed early on at Bethany, EMU, and working for MCC. So in my current work, my desire is to try



and contribute to a better world and society. A more peaceful society.” A highlight of his job is the sense of closure that it provides families.

In 2021 James began work with the FAFG. Though the FAFG initially worked with family members searching for their loved ones who disappeared during the conflict in Guatemala in the 1980s, they now also apply forensic sciences to investigate, search, exhume, and identify victims of atrocities in other parts of the world. James coordinates with local and international agencies to fund and

investigate disappearances of people in Mexico.

“In Mexico, most of the disappearances we're investigating are a product of the conflict between organized crime groups, such as drug cartels and militarized government security forces which have happened in the last 10-15 years,” said James.

Some of the challenges and differences between working for MCC and FAFG is the scale of the projects. With MCC, James was running smaller projects and they were funded internally, but now he facilitates large projects and asks for grants from the U.S. State Department and the European Union. This involves developing relations with large international aid organizations.

In summarizing the work of FAFG, James said, “It is not a religious organization like MCC but through forensic science, transitional justice, and education of the society on what happened during the [Guatemalan] war, there is an effort to not forget it and make sure it doesn't happen again.”

More information about Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) can be found at www.fafg.org

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bethanycs.net/alumni/ or email
alumni@bethanycs.net.



Bethany Students Honor Grad's Legacy during local author visit

On Friday, February 11, Bethany Christian Schools hosted local writer Marshall V. King for a chapel presentation to high school students and alumni guests. Author of the recently published book, *Disarmed: The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp*, King reflected on his journey to honor the legacy of 2001 Bethany graduate Michael "MJ" Sharp through his research and writing of the book.

MJ Sharp and colleagues Zaida Catalan and Betu Tshintel were working for the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of Congo when they were abducted and killed in 2017. They were investigating alleged mass graves after fighting broke out between government forces and a militia group.

After the chapel presentation, Bethany held a reception for seniors and former Bethany classmates of Sharp. King answered questions and read a statement provided by John Sharp, parent of MJ:

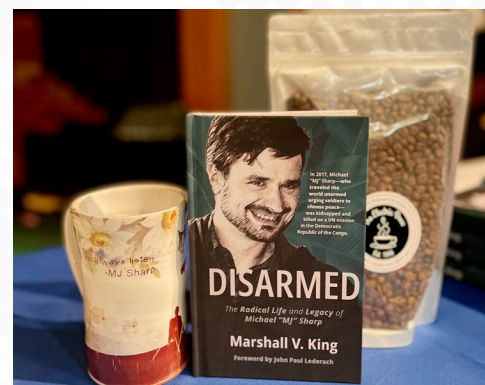
"In the week after we learned of MJ's death, I asked my Peacemaking and Justice class [at Hesston College] to

grapple with the question of justice. What would justice look like in this case? Student Elizabeth Miller wrote, 'justice will be done when we step into MJ's place to continue his work of reconciliation wherever we are.' MJ has said when dealing with difficult people—in his case, rebels and warlord—**'You can always listen.' So can we.**"

Thanks to the generous donations of several of Sharp's classmates, each Bethany senior received a copy of the book.

In memory of Sharp, Tara Swartzendruber-Landis, director of food services, prepared a special Congolese meal for Bethany students and guests. The menu included chicken Muamba rice, and beans, and cooked greens with spiced pili-pili pepper sauce. The recipes and menu were provided by Collete Miniger, a Congolese friend living in Kansas who was born and raised in the area where MJ worked and died.

To find out more about MJ and Marshall, or get a copy of his book, visit www.hungrymarshall.com



Big Changes: Smaller Students!

Additional Elementary grades begin this fall

Bethany is adding both new programs and new staff this summer in the next phase of growth towards becoming a complete K-12 school. The newly created elementary principal position will be filled by Bethany's longtime sixth grade teacher, Juanita Hershberger. Newly hired teachers will teach elementary classes: Ashton Cluts, first grade, Jen Bontrager, second grade, and Eliza Stoltzfus, fifth grade (returning to Bethany after some years away from her prior Bethany middle school roles.) Returning teachers will continue as follows: Karin Fast in third grade, Adam Friesen in fourth grade, and Linda Hochstetler, now in sixth.

"What's happening at Bethany is wonderful, and we just want to be able to share that with more families and their young children," says Head of School Tim Lehman. "We are so excited to expand the opportunities young children have here—to be known and loved, to grow at their own pace, and learn the skills that prepare them for life. These are valuable experiences we can offer our community's children, and it's our privilege to do this work."



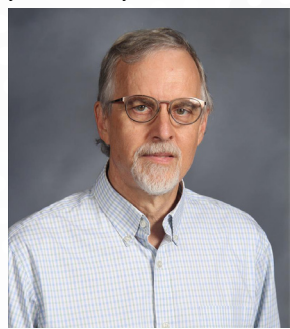
It was an active and amazing year for third grade students. In the photo, third grade students construct a playhouse.

Faculty/Staff Leaving Bethany

"It has been a very, very good 29 years," says **veteran Bible Teacher**

Dale Shenk.

Dale taught Bible, coached soccer, organized chapels, and mentored students during his tenure at Beth-



any, recently reducing his workload to senior Bible classes alone for several years.

Former English Teacher Eileen Becker Hoover enjoyed the many years they shared advice, stories, and encouragement as colleagues. She especially recalls collaborating as co-sponsors for the class of 2000 and working together to organize Spiritual Life week. She said, "You will be remembered for honoring the person, aside from their struggles or achievements."

Josh Weaver will carry on in Dale's footsteps, moving from a focus on economics and math, towards a role that will utilize his seminary degree. Josh spent many years working with Dale and said, "Dale has always

pushed students to think deeply, ask questions, and be curious. He is serious, but kind; he has high expectations, but is pastoral to everyone. As a bonus, he's an amazing guitarist!"

During a farewell chapel, Dale recounted several stories, including a Bethany soccer team that sang the Mennonite anthem "606" after a difficult loss in a sectional final. As students left chapel Dale played the 'blues' on his guitar—a fitting way for Dale to say goodbye to Bethany. In a short statement at the staff luncheon in May, Dale said, "I am so grateful that I had this opportunity to teach; it has been one of the greatest gifts of my life."

Advancement Assistant Karen

Shenk (no relation) is retiring after 22 years in Bethany's Advancement



office. Karen is grateful for the wonderful work environment she felt throughout those years,

and the impact Bethany has had on her and her family. Karen assisted admissions and development, organizing multiple events over the years including Fun Fest, Bright Time summer camps, alumni reunions, and the campaign to build the middle school.

Sarah Kraybill Lind, Advancement Director said, "Her kindness, generosity, patience, perseverance and flat out hard work put all of us to shame." Karen worked throughout her three children's Bethany years, and continued afterwards. She oriented Sarah and provided excellent advice over the years. Sarah said, "you made each day of work more enjoyable and more effective."

We are excited to have additional new staff joining the Bethany community!

Read more about our new staff online at bethanycs.net/bcsnews/

Beck Willems

Bethany's Scoring Champion

Beck Willems is Bethany Christian High School's new boys basketball career scoring leader. During a Feb. 18, 2022, fourth-quarter come-from-behind win at home versus conference rival Trinity, he made the second of two free throws to pass the 1146 points of Elliott Friesen, a 1997 graduate. Beck ends his career with 1,185 points.

"I had no idea where I was at," said

Beck in relation to his point total in the game. "Once I started hearing cheering, I thought, 'Oh, I must be close.' And then I missed the first free throw and kind of made it suspenseful. It was fun; it was great."

When he reached the 1,000 point mark on a jumper versus Hamilton on Jan. 22, Coach Daniel Mast said, "A thousand points for Beck Willems is a number that signifies



the countless hours he has put into becoming a better basketball player."



In addition, Beck was recognized as the team's offensive MVP and received All-Conference, Academic All-Conference, and Academic All-State honors. Beck was also named the 2022 Outstanding Senior Male Athlete and was a Dan Bodiker Loyalty Award recipient for participating in three sports (soccer, basketball, baseball) for all four years of high school at Bethany.

Beck will be attending Albion College in the fall where he will continue playing basketball.

Additional Senior Awards



Austin Shenk is the recipient of Bethany's 2022 Art Purchase Award. His winning entry is a two-part ceramic vase.

Josh Cartwright is the recipient of Bethany's 2022 Cup of Kindness award. Bethany Christian High School faculty annually recognize a student who has demonstrated exceptional kindness by helping and showing compassion to others.



DATES TO KNOW

AUGUST

Aug. 5 - First day of school
Aug. 12 - BCS PTO Kickoff
Aug. 20 - Soccer Alumni Night

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 16 - Music on the Lawn
Sept. 24 - Homecoming and Class Reunions

OCTOBER

Oct. 28 - Senior Class Fish Fry

NOVEMBER

Nov. 18-20 - HS Play: *The Laramie Project*
Nov. 29 - Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER

Dec. 9 - Christmas Gala

JANUARY

Jan. 7 - Basketball Alumni Night

HOMECOMING
2022

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Bethany's Middle School Performs **A SIMPLER TIME**

Middle school students returned to in-person stage performances after a two-year break due to Covid. In the production, *A Simpler Time*, three middle schoolers invent a time machine and travel to different eras in search of an easier time in which to live. On their journey they encounter the unexpected from the past.

The play included 24 cast members and 14 crew members. High school students Leah Hochstetler, Ian McHugh, Norah Schloneger, and Helen Stoy assisted the crew. Co-director Evie Nafziger was joined once again by co-director Gabriella Klopfenstein ('18) who has assisted with middle school theater ever since she was a junior in at Bethany. The directors aim to provide plenty of stage experience and involve as many students as possible.



Evie said, “**They really learn teamwork, the importance of practice, and commitment.**”

All that hard work ends up with a great result! Evie noted that some parents said they came just to see their own kids, but were surprised at how good it was.