



THE BETHLEHEM STAR

T O K N O W C H R I S T . . . T O M A K E C H R I S T K N O W N



People of Bethlehem,
Throughout the season of Lent, we were all reading through "You are the Way", a daily Lenten devotional booklet. Each day we were given a passage from John's Gospel, a quote to ponder, a devotion based on the scripture passage, and a brief prayer. Hopefully that devotional booklet was a meaningful way for you to dedicate time to God during the season of Lent. By now it's probably become a part of your daily routine! Maybe you were reading it as a

family over breakfast? Or perhaps it was part of your nighttime schedule and you would read it in bed before falling asleep every night.

So you may be wondering- what now? Now that Lent is over and we're into the Easter season, where do I find devotions so that I can continue this new practice?

Well, there are many scripture devotion books out there and I'd be happy to help you find one that fits your specific needs, so feel free to come talk to me about finding something that's a good fit for you. Also, if you're looking for something that's short, but powerful and that's also free, you're in luck! Our congregation has a subscription to a devotion booklet called "Christ in Our Home". It's a quarterly devotional booklet that we keep stocked right on the kiosk in Chandler Hall at the church. In the booklet there's a reading for each day followed by a brief devotion and a prayer. It's similar to the Lenten devotional booklet so it will fit into your daily schedule in the same way. (If you can't find them in the kiosk, just contact the church office and ask about them.)

Now maybe you didn't really get into the habit of reading the devotional booklet during Lent. No worries! Now you can grab a copy of "Christ in Our Home" and try again. The Bible is an important part of our faith as Christians so it's also important that we do what we can to make the scriptures a part of our daily lives. Sometimes days seem to fly by so quickly that it's easy to neglect reading the Bible. That's where these books can be helpful. They provide you with a little passage of important scripture as well as a brief paragraph or two to help connect that passage with your own life experiences today.

So stop by the church and pick up your copy of "Christ in Our Home". It's another way to enrich your walk in faith on a daily basis!

In Christ,
Pastor Megan

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

9:00AM – CONTEMPORARY STYLE
10:10AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL
(SEPT-MAY)
11:00AM – TRADITIONAL STYLE

STAFF:

PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING
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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

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ASST. PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

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SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2018

Present at the meeting were Scott Fisher, Brian Grefsrud, Pastor Megan Fryling, Beverly Compton, Sue Akin, Betsy Kalusa, Nicole Hernandez-Liva, and Donna Ophus.

After opening with devotions the minutes of the February 22, 2018, meeting were approved.

NEW ITEMS – The 12 churches of the Twin Valleys Conference of the Southwest California Synod will meet on May 6. The conference assembly will be hosted by St. Stephen's with help from St. Matthew's and Bethlehem. A worksheet concerning the organizational values was presented and discussed. A new president of the Twin Valleys Conference will be voted in at the assembly. * The Bethlehem Council installation is planned for April 15. A Council retreat will be planned in the next couple of months with a focus on goals.

ST. STEPHEN'S UPDATE – St. Stephen's is negotiating offers for the sale of their property. Bethlehem had a third meeting with members of St. Stephen's and the next two sessions will focus more on specifics of what impacts could possibly happen should a merger actually occur. Scott will give an update on discussions on April 8 after the second service.

Pr. Megan reported Holy Week begins on Sunday with Palm Sunday. * Students who have completed 2 years of the confirmation program will be confirmed in June – likely June 10. * At the recommendation of the HR consultant, Pastor would like to have Evelyn work fulltime to update HR files. * Sam Manual, the Youth Director, is now attending staff meetings twice a month to have better communication concerning shared spaces and events. * A big thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered for the Wednesday night Lenten faith adventure services. * We are still in need of a female representative for the Synod Assembly to be held June 1 and 2. * Gavin and Hannah Carlson will be baptized in April. * Dorothy Anderson's memorial service will be on May 5th at 2pm at Bethlehem. * Pr. Megan has regularly been visiting and praying with Phil Natwick and family. * Upcoming Dates – 5/7-5/17 (Pastor in China); 6/26-7/2 (Youth gathering in Houston with Pr. Megan chaperoning); 7/7-7/14 (Pr. Megan in Michigan for family reunion); 7/16-7/20 (Pr. Megan at Continuing Education at CLU).

Brian reported that the offerings are below budget for the fiscal year to date and the school's income is above budget.

Bev reported that Security Key cards for the preschool entrance will be reprogrammed. * The Waffle Breakfast will be held March 24 from 8:30 to 11:30. * The school will be closed March 30 (Good Friday). * Graduation will be June 8. * A fundraising Gala will be held on November 9 at Knollwood. * Preschool Sunday will be April 15. * Fall registration begins in March and summer registration in April. * There are now 131 students enrolled – maximum capacity is 142 – with 17 teachers and 2 staff.

Sue met with Pr. Megan, Vicente and Marisa on March 4. Sue is getting quotes for some of the updates that are being considered for the worship space – such as a new sound system and the need to repaint the sanctuary. Sue will also be distributing a survey to the congregation in order to obtain feedback to help us to better know how to fill the needs of our members.

Betsy reported that the Easter brunch is being worked on. * A shower for Mary is being planned for May 20th with both church and school being invited.

Nicole reported there is the ongoing donation collection for Lutheran Social Services. * Pr. Megan and Sam Manual (Youth Director) will be meeting on Tuesday, March 27th, at 10:00am with Hal Williams from Children's Hunger Fund. * Pat St. Michel has organized a group to serve brunch at the San Fernando Rescue Mission on April 7th.

Donna Ophus, Secretary

MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD

Directors of Music Ministry



On Sunday April 15th, we will hold a meeting between services regarding the development of a middle/high school youth music group. Parents and youth are welcome to attend this brainstorming meeting to help us put an ensemble together and voice your opinions.

Important upcoming events: Youth choir is scheduled to perform on Sunday, May 13th, Mother's Day, at the 9 am service. Also, a Spring concert is being planned for early June. More info to come.

-Vicente & Marisa

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone for their continued support in donating to Lutheran Social Services.

On **April 7th, @ 11am**, we will be serving brunch at the San Fernando Mission. We still have some open volunteer spots so if interested please go on the San Fernando Mission Website and fill out their online volunteer registration form. Please see Pat for more information.

Bethlehem will be partnering with the *Children's Hunger Fund* and participating in a *Food Pak* drive. Boxes will be passed out on **Sunday, April 15** and need to be returned filled with a specific food list on **Sunday, May 6th**. We are hoping to fill 200 boxes! More details and info to follow.



YOUTH NEWS

SAM MANUAL

Director of Youth Ministry

youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

Houston Fundraisers:

Hey Y'all!

First off I'm so excited to be on board here at Bethlehem! I'm honored to be able to work with the youth of our community. In that vein I wanted to bring up a couple of events that are coming up in April that we would love everyone's participation.

On **April 8th** at Bethel Encino we will be having another Walking Taco lunch fundraiser. The one we had here last month was a great success and we are moving closer and closer to our money goals!

On **April 28th**, also at Bethel Encino we are hosting a Murder Mystery Party! This is going to be run by the Twin Valleys Youth Collective, but if you fancy yourself a bit of an actor you could be part of the main group of characters, if however, you are more a viewer and don't love the spot light, never fear- there are tons of room for just fun attendance. The details of the event will be forthcoming.

Bethlehem Youth:

I'm super excited to announce that we are going to start having Youth Group (study, games, and hangout) starting up on April 22nd! This is going to be happening on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. The first 2 events will be at the Nakata's house. We will be meeting from 2-4pm. If you have a student interested in joining us, all are welcome. Also, if you are interested in hosting youth on a Sunday or two PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Thanks for the warm welcome and keep tuned in for Youth Updates!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN

Preschool Director

director@bethlehemlutheran.net



Welcome Spring and all the wonder it brings!

We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Grandparents and Grandfriends who attended our event! It was an amazing turnout and so much fun! All of our students and staff really enjoyed the time we spent together and are looking forward to future events! We also wanted to extend our appreciation to all those who participated in the Annual Waffle Breakfast! We sincerely appreciate all the donations, support and participation for our fundraiser event! As always it was a wonderful turnout!

Preschool Appreciation will be taking place on April 15th during the 9am service – we hope to see everyone there!

We have our Staff Appreciation Week from April 16-20 and will be gifting our devoted staff with small gestures and tokens of appreciation. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome to visit the school office!

Wishing everyone a BLESSED Easter!

Respectfully,
Mary Kandilian

COUNCIL MEMBER INSTALLATION

We will be installing our new council members on Sunday, April 15.

EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 1 is Easter Sunday! We will celebrate with our regular services at 9 & 11am and our Easter Brunch potluck and egg hunt between services. A sign up sheet for food and clean up is available in Chandler Hall. Invite friends and family to worship with us!

YOUTH & ED NEWS

Thank you for your generous donations for our 120 Envelope Fundraiser! Our National Gathering Youth are very appreciative of your support! Thanks also for attending our Walking Tacos fundraiser! Our NYG youth raised about \$171.00!

Our yearly Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 21 from 7:00 a.m. - noon. Donations will be accepted starting on Monday, April 16th. Please bring all donations to Chandler Hall.

Looking ahead to a busy month of April:

4/8 - Work day at Jeannette Anderson's home
1:30-5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

4/21 - Yard Sale 7:00 a.m. - noon. Donuts and juice will be provided.

4/22 - Youth group meeting at the Nakata home

4/28 - NYG Fundraiser: Murder Mystery @ Bethel Lutheran, Encino - Details to follow!

Lisa Nakata

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

We will be supporting African Team Ministries once again by showing and selling the beautiful hand-made art carvings and gemstone and beaded jewelry, along with hand-made instruments and beautiful scarves. They will be here offering their ware on Sunday, April 15 & 22 after both services. With your purchase you're supporting education and water supply and filtration in Africa.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The committee will be meeting April 9 at 7pm at Bethlehem.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Reverend Phil Natwick's Memorial date has been scheduled for Sunday, April 15 at 3:00pm here at Bethlehem.

Dorothy Anderson's Memorial Service will be Saturday, May 5 at 1:30pm at Bethlehem.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Spring is here and I hope you all have been enjoying its arrival. We finally got some rain in March which freshened things up in our local hills.

Rain in the Southern California mountains soaks into the soil and is gradually released to the streams and rivers, providing life to a myriad of flowers, shrubs and trees. In a way, the rain is like our giving to support the church. Our giving to the church enables the ministry that sustains us in our daily lives, and, on occasion, provides for those extraordinary moments where we feel God's presence very near. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and memorial services are a few of life's special events that come to mind.

So, go out and experience the wonderful wildflower displays this spring! Also, remember the wonderful experiences your financial support to Bethlehem Lutheran Church makes possible.

Ron Kraus, Stewardship Chair

MARY'S BABY SHOWER

Mary is registered at Amazon and Buy Buy Baby.



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

February at Tumaini University Makumira means finals for the first semester, and Wow! Do they do finals here in Tanzania!! Over two weeks there were 20 three-hour exam sessions held in the Assembly Hall on campus, holding around 1200 students. There were also two other exam locations, much smaller. All the undergraduate students as well as all the Masters students were taking exams for all their courses. At around 3500 students with around six courses each, that's A LOT of students taking A LOT of exams!! We then had the initial oral presentations of the Masters thesis topics of the second-year Masters students. Naturally, these students are markedly better in their English and their intellectual abilities generally than the undergrads. They are also pursuing a fascinating range of research topics. I'll give you synopsis of a couple of these.



One student is a Lutheran pastor from the Warimi people, also known as the Wanyaturu or Turu (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turu_people). Evangelization has had some success among his people but with a lot of syncretism, and his thesis deals with the host of barriers to that evangelization. The Warimi were monotheists before the missionaries came, yet the missionaries told the Warimi that their god wasn't the real God.

To read more please visit their website: <https://mcintz.wordpress.com/>

Your support makes a world of difference!

Here's how to give: By Check: make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Cynthia Holder Rich/Mark Rich GCS2047" in the memo line.

Give through your synod office or mail your check to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

By credit or debit: see <https://community.elca.org/Tanzania> or call 800-638-3522 and specify "Cynthia Holder Rich/Mark Rich GCS2047"

BETHLEHEM BOOK CLUB

Book Club is on a break until after Easter. Contact Pastor Megan for more information.

SOJOURNERS

Sojourners will meet on April 11 for their monthly potluck lunch at 12:30pm. If you're 55 years or older please join us for a time of fellowship! Bring a friend and a dish to share.

The LSS item this month is toothbrushes. If you are able to bring one or more of this item, it will be appreciated. See you on the 11th!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Hello Bethlehem Family,
If you are a member of Thrivent please check to see if you have Thrivent "Choice Dollars" dollars available and if so, it is easy to direct those dollars to a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit or congregation that meets program eligibility rules.

Just go to www.thrivent.com to find out more information and to direct your "Choice Dollars" to Bethlehem or the nonprofit of your choice.

God Bless.
Pat St. Michel

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will meet on April 29 from 2-5pm at St. Lukes.

BETHLEHEM IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

Tag us in your Easter photos and follow us @ [BLCGranadaHills](https://www.instagram.com/BLCGranadaHills)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Brian Fisher
- 4 Marisa Boyd
- 5 Kathy Santiago
- 7 Peggy Kossart
- 8 Pete Pedersen
- 25 Betty Rainey



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ben & Carla Cross
- 12 Barry & Sunni Sears
- 23 Todd & Sue Akin



MARCH STATISTICS

Offering:

March offering: \$16,813.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
February offering: \$12,296.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
Fiscal YTD: \$107,587.00 Budget: \$116,666.70

Attendance:

March average at 9am: 34.5
March average at 11am: 48.75

February average at 9am: 36.5
February average at 11am: 49.5
2/4- 10am one service: 96

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

We invite men of all ages to join us for fellowship the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30am at Coco's Restaurant in Mission Hills. See you April 4!

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a pastoral care visit from Pastor Megan, please contact the church office and let us know. (818) 360-4777.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00AM Worship 10:10 AM Easter Potluck/ Egg Hunt 11:00AM Worship	2 Church Office Closed	3	4 7:30AM Men's Breakfast @ Coco's 10:00AM Adult Study	5 5:15PM Youth Choir 6:00PM Faith Choir	6	7
8 9:00AM Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship	9	10	11 10AM Adult Study 12:30PM Sojourners Potluck Lunch	12 5:15PM Youth Choir 6:00PM Faith Choir	13	14
15 9AM Worship/ Preschool Appreciation Day 10:10 AM Fun Activities 11:00AM Worship 3PM Rev. Phil Natwick's Memorial Service	16	17	18 10AM Adult Study	19 5:15PM Youth Choir 6:00PM Faith Choir	20	21 7A-12P Youth Yard Sale
22 9:00AM Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship	23	24 4:30PM Gala Planning Meeting	25 10:00AM Adult Study	26 5:15PM Youth Choir 6:00PM Faith Choir	27	28
29 9:00AM Worship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 2:00PM Confirmation Class @ St. Lukes	30	May 1	2 7:30AM Men's Breakfast @ Coco's 10:00AM Adult Study	3 5:15PM Youth Choir 6:00PM Faith Choir	4	5

APRIL WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

	<i>9am Preschool</i>	<i>Appreciation Day</i>				
WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE						
Date	4-1-18	4-8-18	4-15-18	4-22-18	4-29-18	5-6-18
Assisting Minister	Scott Fisher	Mary Fisher	Ryan Nakata	Christine Foster	Max Stark	Scott Fisher
Reader	Marisa Bradfield	Beverly Compton	Vicente Ditto	Mary Fisher	Kathy Fisher	Kevin Rubinstein
Acolyte	Ryan Nakata	Katie Nakata	Hannah Carlson	Rocco Rainey	Kameron Santiago	Alison Rubinstein
Ushers	Brian Grefsrud	Christine Foster	Mary Fisher	Kathy Fisher	Scott Fisher	Brooke Irwin
	Mary Fisher		Shea Clancy	Pat St. Michel	Brian Grefsrud	Katie Nakata
Refresh + Juice	<i>Easter Potluck</i>	Kathy Fisher	Pat St. Michel	Bernadette Andrews	Shaza Nassar	Ruth Irwin/Brooke Coffin
Altar Guild	All	Sue Schmidt	Susan Van Deest	Janet Puchlik	Cookie Cline	Sue Schmidt
WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE						
Assisting Minister	Ron Kraus	Bud Gundersen	John Cooper	Jan Maseda	Sandy Lazaros	Jill Goddard
Reader	Melisa Nusbaum	Gene Denney	Meredith Taylor	Ruth Anne Sitko	Jan Maseda	Sarah Karzel
Communion Asst.	Kiera Nusbaum	Sarah Karzel	Ryan Yribe	Dylan Yribe	Hannah Carlson	Kiera Nusbaum
Ushers	Jan Maseda	Janet Puchlik	Jerry Sitko	Richard Brammer	Pete Pedersen	Ron Kraus
	Ryan Yribe	Fred Ophus	Ryan Yribe	Dylan Yribe	Fred Ophus	
Greeter	Richard Brammer	Donna Ophus	Susan Van Deest	Gale Gundersen	Meredith Taylor	Jan Maseda
Refreshments	<i>Easter</i>	Donna Ophus	Betsy Kalusa	Shirley Cooper	Jan Maseda	Sarah Karzel
	<i>Potluck</i>	Ruth Anne Sitko	Shirley Cooper	Linette Brammer	Melisa Nusbaum	
Offering Counters	Dwayne Schmidt	Brian Grefsrud	Janet Puchlik	Mary Fisher	Bonnie Tharp	Fred Ophus
	Susan Van Deest	Gene Denney	Pat St. Michel	Barbara Bond	Dwayne Schmidt	Pat St. Michel

LSS HAPPENINGS

The LSS 34th Annual Golf Classic will be on Monday, May 14th at the Moorpark Country Club. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, a banquet and silent auction are all part of the wonderful, fun day. If you would like to play - and perhaps do not have a 4some, please see, call or email Jan Maseda and she will make sure you have a spot. We are trying to get a 4some together from Bethlehem, so if you know of people that would like to play, let Jan know.

Thank you to everyone who has been contributing clothes, shoes, toys and household items to LSS/ North Hollywood. They are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Sojourners for continuing to keep our hygiene kits full!! Starting in mid-April, we are adding a free ESL class for the surrounding community of North Hollywood. We have many neighbors who do not speak any English, so this will be a good addition to our programs.

Jan Maseda

(818)288-7054; janicemaseda@gmail.com



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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