



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,
It's been incredibly hot over the last month or so! With temperatures soaring into the triple digits and staying for lengthy periods in the scalding 90s, we're all looking for ways to cool down and refresh ourselves. What do you do when it's this hot? Do you go to the beach? Maybe you spend more time in your pool (or find a friend who has one)? Sprinklers, splash pads, eating ice cream, drinks filled to the brim with ice cubes...these are just a few of the ways

that we can deal with the summer heat.

This summer's Vacation Bible School theme of Living Waters was the perfect topic for these warm weather days. Water is one of the things that we use to escape the heat. As you're finding yourself seeking out more water to drink or to cool yourself down, it's also the perfect opportunity to think about that living water that's essential to your life. It's an excellent time to stop and think about the refreshing and restoring waters of baptism.

When we are baptized, we begin this amazing journey of a new life as children of God. This journey lasts our entire lives and it deeply impacts who we are and how we live in the world. It changes our relationship with those around us- with our friends, our family members, our congregation, our community. We are called to live our lives as disciples, as followers of Christ, as children of God, as people who are led and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Sometime in the month of August, find a way to deeply and intentionally live out your baptismal promises. We are called to "...live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth." I don't think you need me to come up with a list of ideas or suggestions for what you could do! There are so many ways that you could actively live out this baptismal promise that I'm sure there are things that already came to your mind as you were reading that sentence. So what are you waiting for?

Go out and find some water! Refresh and renew yourself and refresh and renew your faith! Live out those baptismal promises in the world and remind others of their baptism as well!

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
pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO
MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD
vicente.ditto@gmail.com
rawmisa@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER:

RICK DEMLOW
finance@bethlehemplutheran.net

FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY
office@bethlehemplutheran.net

YOUTH DIRECTOR:

SAM MANUAL
youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN
director@bethlehemplutheran.net

ASST. PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

SANDRA VALDIVIA
preschool@bethlehemplutheran.net

CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH: 818-360-4777
PRESCHOOL: 818-368-6947
FAX: 818-360-5559

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 18, 2018

Council minutes have not been approved by council yet.

Present: Scott Fisher, Sarah Karzel, Nicole Hernandez Liva, Betsy Kalusa, Bev Compton, Sue Akin, Lisa Nakata, Pr. Megan

Pastor Megan led us in a devotion regarding the connection between mission and resources.

The minutes of the June 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee reports were presented and are attached. Questions were answered.

Fellowship report includes the following dates: Monday 12/10 – women’s Christmas party; Sunday 12/2 – Christmas party at Puchlik’s; Sunday 9/9 – Sundaes Sunday; August 12 – Single service with St. Stephens and potluck; August 25 - Dodger Day.

Social ministry - Nicole administered a survey to determine Congregation interests. She plans to prepare a schedule of events for the year. Mary Fisher volunteered to spearhead the Mexico trip for this year. Nicole will work with her.

A new phone system is being installed. It is taking several days with some disruption to operations but will hopefully be completed by the end of the week.

School issues – The Director, Mary, is on maternity leave following the birth of her daughter. The Assistant Director is serving as Interim Director in her absence. Bev has been in conversation with the Assistant Director regarding increases in pay and vacation time, after her return to the Assistant Director, and they were able to reach agreement.

St Stephens update – St. Stephens continues to discuss internally its options for the future but has not reached a final decision. Pastors Fryling and Ioan will be meeting with the Bishop August 1 to discuss pastoral roles.

Scott expressed his intention to make the process as transparent as possible and to have all important decisions regarding staffing, finance, etc. determined before a vote is called for.

2018/2019 Budget – Next year’s draft budget is based largely on current expenses plus anticipated changes. Some questions and fine tuning remain. We will have a phone conference to approve the budget the second week of August. Date to be determined after conversation with Brian.

Next meeting will be August 15, 2018

BLENDING SERVICE DATES

We will have a VBS blending worship service on August 5 at 10am followed by a BBQ. Join us!

August 12 at 10am -Bethlehem/St. Stephen’s combined worship service . A potluck will follow.

MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD

Directors of Music Ministry



2018's Living Water VBS occurred the last week of July and continued into the first week of August. We are very grateful for the volunteers who participated in the musical portion of VBS to help create a unique experience for the kids. Thank you Brian Schultz, Brian Fisher, Kim Kalusa, Todd Akin, and Dave Compton for your guitar, bass, and percussion skills. Brooke Coffin and Katie Nakata did an awesome job teaching and leading the music, of course. And thank you Garineh Avakian-Akkus for lending a hand.

There are two single services happening this month on the 5th and 12th. Both start at 10 am and will be followed by a potluck. (see Betsy Kalusa if you have any questions about what food to bring on those days) The 5th is VBS Sunday where the kids will sing the songs they learned during the week and the 12th is a collaborative service with St. Stephen's congregation. Hope to see you all at these special Sunday services in August.

-Vicente & Marisa

PRESCHOOL NEWS

SANDRA VALDIVIA

Interim Preschool Director

preschool@bethlehmlutheran.net

Greetings to students and parents! Welcome to a new exciting school year. We had a tremendous amount of fun and learning this summer and it's thanks to our amazing staff, parents and community! Thank you to every single one of you who volunteered their time, donated, participated or simply checked in to see how things were going! I'd like to share a few upcoming events which may peak your interests and we truly hope to see you all at each one!

August 13 - First Day of School!

August 19 - Teacher Installation at the 9am church service.

September 4 - School will be closed in Observance of Labor Day.

September 11 – Back to School Night, Taco Tuesday (2 tacos for \$1).

That's all for now, much more to come soon - we have an incredible year ahead! Looking forward to collaborating with all of you as well!

Sandra Valdivia

YOUTH & ED NEWS

VBS

Thank you so much to everyone who, once again, helped to make our VBS a success! To everyone who helped with supplies, food, and monetary donations, it is very much appreciated! I also want to thank all those who came out to help - music, food, crafts, science, games, skits, storytelling, group leaders, and helpers. I know your time is very valuable, and I am so grateful to everyone that comes out to make this an amazing week! A very special thank you to Jill Goddard for her fabulous artwork and amazing talent, and to Sam Manual for being our Master of Ceremonies and doing whatever was asked. It seems that saying thank you is never enough, but I am so appreciative of all the hard work! Thank you!

Sunday School

If you are interested in teaching Sunday School for the 2018-19 school year, please let me know. We are always looking for teachers for PK-5th grades. Our first Sunday of teaching will be September 16th. No experience necessary!

-Lisa Nakata

YOUTH NEWS

SAM MANUAL

Director of Youth Ministry

youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net



August Youth Updates!

Hey Everybody!

First off IT'S HOT!!!! But we are keeping things cool on the Youth Ministry side of things. Last month we had a couple of great pool events hosted by the Nakata's and the Nusbaum's. We also attended the Confirmation pool party that was put on by American Lutheran and it was a blast! And since it seems like things aren't cooling down anytime soon I'm sure we will have a few more water based activities coming up. Along with youth group and our monthly outing we are going to have a couple of opportunities this next month to partner with some of our sister churches to serve and recreate. Before you know it the Fall will be on us and back to school! (Parents rejoicing, Children in the fetal position weeping) so stay tuned cause more youth 411 is coming up!

-Sam

August Events

-August 5th Youth Group @ Emily Carlson's 2-4

(Contact me if you could help with snacks!)

-August 11th Beach Day @ Point Dume 10-2 (Meet @Bethlehem 10am. Let me know if you are willing to drive folks!)

-August 18th High School Youth Service project @ St. Matthew's Lutheran in North Hollywood from 10-12 with lunch/pool at Pastor Stephanie's afterwards.

-August 26th Youth Group @ BLC 2-4 (Contact me if you are interested in hosting or helping with snacks!)

TWIN VALLEY STRATEGIC VISIONING TEAM

In July, Pastor Marsha, TV Team Co Chair, Todd Kolberg, St. Matthew, TV member, Pastor Stephanie, St. Matthew and I met with Bishop Erwin via teleconference.

The purpose of the telecom was to gain direction to move ahead with developing the vision both effectively and in a timely manner, with a goal to have a strategic vision to present to our congregations at the fall conference meeting.

Additionally, we were looking for guidance on the application process for accessing funds for our visioning process. Additionally, we were seeking the time frame for this approval process.

Going forward we need to align our application with the Synod mission purposes. How does the proposal meet these goals?

The application will be sent to the Bishop for review and the Synod council will review and approve. The more involvement by multiple congregations the stronger the application. We plan to have the application sent to the Bishop by August 14.

-Beverly Compton

FELLOWSHIP

Mark your calendars so you don't miss the fun and food.

August 5th @ 10am-VBS Sunday, Blended Service and BBQ to follow.

August 12th @ 10am-Blended Service with St. Stephen's and a potluck to follow.

September 9th-Enjoy some ice cream after both services for "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday/Sundae"

Thanks,

Betsy K.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

This month we usually conduct our annual stewardship drive so that we are ready for the start of our fiscal year on September 1st. However, since we are still in discussion St. Stephens regarding a potential merger we have decided to postpone the stewardship effort until later this year. Obviously, a congregational merger would impact the church finances so our council leadership has concurred that this postponement is necessary.

In the meantime, please continue your current pledges and feel free to increase your offerings. Thank you all again for your continued financial support of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Ron Kraus, Stewardship Chair

TEACHER BLESSING & INSTALLATION

Our teacher blessing & installation service will be **August 19th at the 9AM** service. Please support our teachers with your presence, thanks and prayers. We will have a cake, jumper, face painting, and more!

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 on September 5.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

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

MEXICO BUILDING TRIP

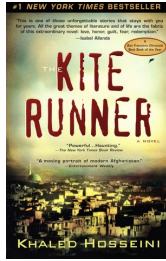
Save the date: November 2-4

Contact Mary Fisher and Nicole Hernandez-Liva for details.



BETHLEHEM BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet on August 8 at Melisa Nusbaum's home. 11940 Clonlee Ave. Granada Hills, CA 91344. They will be reading "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. The next meeting will be August 22 at Bethlehem. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Megan.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

Thanks to all of you for your continued generous donations to LSS. We appreciate all of the clothes, food and household items.

Our Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Thrift Shop, ESL classes, partnership with Head Start, Rider Relief/bus coupon program, individual and family Payee and budget services and mortgage and housing specialist programs are all up and running every day with one goal: breaking the cycle of poverty one family at a time.

We currently have a family looking for some used living room furniture – couches, chairs, coffee table, etc. so if you are getting rid of something, let us know. We can arrange for pick up.

The Annual LSS Walk-a-Thon will be Saturday, October 6th, so be sure to mark your calendar. This year we will be back at Balboa Lake, with a bbq to follow our walk around the beautiful lake.

We will be collecting new toys again this year for our toy give-a-way in December. The ages are infant through 12, boys and girls.

Thank you for all you do for LSS!
Jan Maseda
(818)288-7054

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will be start September 30 for middle schoolers. Email Pastor Megan to register.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ruth Anne Sitko
- 4 Dee Natwick
- 5 Konstanze Sessing
- 6 Rocco Rainey
- 7 Marsha Grefsrud
- 10 Danny Compton
- 10 Timmy Compton
- 13 Donna Ophus
- 14 Charlotte Cross
- 17 Kelli Yribe
- 20 Brett Irwin
- 22 Jeannette Anderson
- 22 Helen Hightower
- 24 Laura Rubinstein
- 28 Jan Maseda



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 John & Shirley Cooper (1966)
- 15 Steve & Emily Carlson (1998)
- 23 Kyle & Megan Fryling (2008)
- 25 Richard & Meredith Taylor (1956)

JUNE STATISTICS

Offering:

July offering: \$15,207.52 ; Budget: \$16,666.66
June offering: \$14,471.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
Fiscal YTD: \$174,394.35 Budget: \$183,333.34

Attendance:

July average at 9am: 30.5
July average at 11am: 48.5
July 8 –10am: 62

June average at 9am: 40
June average at 11am: 43.6
June 10 10am—106

SOJOURNERS

Sojourners will not meet in August. We will resume in September.

AUGUST 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>6-8:30PM</u> VBS	30 <u>6-8:30PM</u> VBS	31 <u>6-8:30PM</u> VBS	1 <u>7:30AM</u> Men's Breakfast @ Coco's <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study <u>6-8:30PM</u> VBS	2 <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir <u>6-8:30PM</u> VBS	3	4
5 <u>10AM</u> One Blended Worship Service <u>2-4PM</u> Youth Group @ Emily Carlson's	6 School Closed	7	8 <u>10AM</u> Adult Study <u>2PM</u> School Meet & Greet <u>6-7PM</u> Book Club	9 <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	10	11 <u>10:00AM</u> Youth Beach Day
12 <u>10AM</u> Bethlehem/St. Stephen's combined worship service	13 First day of school	14	15 <u>10AM</u> Adult Study <u>7PM</u> Council Meeting	16 <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	17	18 <u>10AM-2PM</u> Youth Service Project
19 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship/Teacher Installation <u>10AM</u> courtyard activities <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	20	21	22 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study <u>6:00PM</u> Book Club	23 <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	24	25
26 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>2-4PM</u> Youth Group	27	28	29 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study	30 <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	31	Sept. 1

AUGUST WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE	<i>10AM One Service Teacher Installation</i>				
Date	8-5-18 <i>10AM One Service</i>	8-12-18	8-19-18	8-26-18	9-2-18
Assisting Minister	Mary Fisher	X	Max Stark	Scott Fisher	Laureen Gleason
Reader	X	Laureen Gleason	Marisa Bradfield	Emily Carlson	Pam Shea
Acolyte	Rocco Rainey	Natalie Nakata	Katie Nakata	Hannah Carlson	Natalie Nakata
Ushers	Nicole Hernandez-Liva	X	Mary Fisher	Brian Grefsrud	Kathy Santiago
	X	X	Laureen Gleason	Brooke Coffin	Scott Fisher
Refresh + Juice	<i>BBQ to follow</i>	<i>Potluck</i>	Bernadette Andrews	Kathy Fisher	Lisa Chow
Altar Guild	Susan Van Deest	Sue Schmidt	Cookie Cline	Janet Puchlik	Sue Schmidt

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE					
Date	8-5-18	8-12-18	8-19-18	8-26-18	9-2-18
Assisting Minister	X	Ron Kraus	Bud Gundersen	Jan Maseda	John Cooper
Reader	Dylan Yribe	X	Kevin Rubinstein	Ruth Anne Sitko	Gene Denney
Communion Asst.	X	Kevin Rubinstein	Alison Rubinstein	Kiera Nusbaum	Ryan Yribe
Ushers	Ryan Yribe	Rick Brammer?	Ron Kraus	Jerry Sitko	Hannah Carlson
	X	X	Jan Maseda	Pete Pedersen	Janet Puchlik
Greeter			Gale Gundersen	Meredith Taylor	Susan Van Deest
Refreshments	<i>BBQ</i>	<i>Potluck</i>	Konstanze Sessing	Melisa Nusbaum	Shirley Cooper
	<i>To follow</i>	X	Laura Rubinstein	Betsy Kalusa	Linette Brammer
Offering Counters	Mary Fisher	Bonnie Tharp	Brian Grefsrud	Dwayne Schmidt	Mary Fisher
	Susan Van Deest	Dwayne Schmidt	Barbara Bond	Gene Denney	Janet Puchlik

St. Stephens Update

We held additional discussions with St. Stephens in June and July regarding the impending closure of their church and possible merger with Bethlehem Lutheran.

Up until early July discussions have been fairly high level. However, we are now starting to have meetings on key specifics that must be answered and presented to the BLC congregation members before a vote can be considered on any kind of merger. The same information also needs to be provided to the St. Stephens congregation before they can consider a vote as well.

Below are some of the key points on activity and discussions that have taken place so far:

- St. Stephens has sold their property and they will need to vacate by the end of October.
- Pastor Megan and Pastor Ioan are meeting with the Bishop's office in early August to discuss a proposed pastoral plan. Please know Pastor Megan will remain as Senior Pastor of Bethlehem should a merger with St. Stephen's take place. The general topic of discussion with the Bishop's office is around feasibility and process for adding Pastor Ioan as an Associate. Once they have a discussion with the Bishop and get feedback it will give us more information to share and discuss. Again, any actual decisions on a proposed plan will need to be based on having all the details and a vote by the congregation.
- The Worship and Music teams from both congregations have gotten together to plan for joint worship on August 12th. This has also allowed them to start discussing with each other how BLC can add some of the musical talents from St. Stephens to our own should a merger take place. Again, any specific plans for Worship and Music would be presented to the congregation as part of a merger discussion and vote.
- On August 22 we are having a meeting with Lisa Higginbotham, an ELCA Regional Gift Planner, who is an expert on Endowments and Financial Planning. A group will meet with her to discuss the details of how the disposition of assets from St. Stephens would take place should the congregations approve a merger. The details of what we find out will then be provided to the congregation as part of merger discussion and vote.

Other Key Dates

- August 5: Public information meeting after worship where Scott Fisher will provide the latest information on discussions with St. Stephens.
- August 12: Joint Worship at BLC
- August 22: Joint Financial meeting with Synod rep
- August 26: St. Stephens Public Informational meeting
- September 2: BLC Public information meeting
- September 9: BLC public meeting with Pastor Ioan
- September 16: St. Stephens holds formal vote
- September 30: Bethlehem Lutheran holds formal vote

Obviously there are key details to be determined to get to a defined proposal. The upcoming meetings in August and early September will get us to the point where we have the answers needed to be considered and discussed by all members of the congregation.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Pastor or Scott Fisher with any questions. We will look forward to having more discussion on August 5th after worship.

Note: Scott can be reached at president@bethlehemplutheran.net

Thank you,

Scott Fisher (*President, BLC Council*)



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344