



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



Greetings, Bethlehem!

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, February 14th and Easter falls on April Fools Day, April 1st. It's an interesting combination of dates, wouldn't you say? This year, during the season of Lent- the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, I'd like to invite you to join me on a Lenten Faith Adventure!

What does that mean? Well, for one, I invite you to come to church every Sunday during the season of Lent.

Here at church on Sunday mornings, you'll have the opportunity to hear God's word, to share in communion, and to benefit from the company and conversation of your fellow Christians. During Lent you also have numerous other opportunities to experience different adventures in your own faith.

On Ash Wednesday, I encourage you to join me in the sanctuary for worship and the imposition of ashes when you are reminded that "You are dust and to dust you shall return". It's a solemn and thoughtful way to begin the season. We'll have Ash Wednesday services on February 14th at 1:15 pm and 7:00 pm.

Then, for the following 5 Wednesdays in Lent, we will have a midweek service. The midweek services will start with a meal (if you're interested in providing the dinner for one of those weeks, please contact Sunni Sears) and once we finish eating, we'll move into discussing some faith practices. We're calling it a Lenten Faith Adventure because it's an opportunity to try something a little adventurous and perhaps something new and different for you. They're open to people of all ages. I think everyone could get something out of each of these weeks.

February 21st: Post-it Prayers: We'll be doing some sharing of prayer requests and praying for each other via anonymous post-it notes. You have to check it out to see how this works!

February 28th: Holden Evening Prayer: This is a beautiful short musical and contemplative worship experience.

March 7th: Artistic Meditation: Crayons, paint, colored pencils, playdough, and a variety of other ways of being creative while also focusing on God. Even if you don't consider yourself an artist (I know I'm not!), this is worth trying.

March 14th: Wine (& Juice) Tasting and Scripture Study: We will have a scripture study interspersed with a wine tasting (led by our own wine enthusiast, Vicente Ditto) or a juice tasting (led by me!), depending on your beverage preference.

March 21st: Faith Conversations & Labyrinth Prayers: A conversation on faith journeys and what you've taken from these past weeks.

So mark your calendars and prepare yourselves for these adventures! I look forward to exploring the Adventure of Lent together with you this year.

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

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

For Youth & Education
 information contact:

MELISA NUSBAUM
Sundayschool@bethlehemplutheran.net

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 17, 2018

Present at the meeting were Scott Fisher, Sarah Karzel, Brian Grefsrud, Pastor Megan Fryling, Beverly Compton, Betsy Kalusa, Nicole Hernandez-Liva, and Donna Ophus. After devotions the minutes from the 12/20/17 council meeting were approved as presented.

St. Stephen's Update – A group of BLC members have agreed to meet once a month (the first meeting being 1/23) with St. Stephen's members to get to know each other and share ideas as St. Stephen's is determining what direction to take.

Congregational Meeting – The annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 4 following a single service led by our youth at 10:00am. A nominating committee will be elected at this meeting as well as Synod Assembly delegates and council members –

Completing Scheduled Nominees

Brian Grefsrud, Treasurer. Brian extending for another term

Bev Compton, Preschool. Bev extending for another term

Melisa Nusbaum, Youth & Education- Lisa Nakata

Sunni Sears, Worship & Music- Sue Akin

(We will also confirm Nicole Liva Hernandez as she was a mid-term replacement in 2017.)

Facilities – There are two **A/C and Heating** units for the sanctuary, Chandler Hall, and offices that are no longer functioning. Based on several estimates the cost of replacing these two units could run anywhere from \$30-\$40K. At least two more bids will be obtained and there was discussion of various ways to finance this expense. The final decision will need a congregational vote.

There was discussion that the **phone system** for the preschool and church may need replacing. This will be further researched as to cost and how to finance.

Pastor's Report –

- Pastor Megan gave a big thank you to all who participated in making Advent and Christmas go so smoothly.
- There will be a Children and Family Communion Class at BLC on January 19 from 6-8pm.
- There will be a Confirmation Retreat at camp January 26-28 at which Pastor Megan will be present.
- The Adult Education group continues to be studying "By Heart: Conversations with the Small Catechism".
- Pastor Megan has selected a Human Resources contractor for an operations audit. It was approved to spend up to \$1000 to hire this group.
- The council approved to accept the following new members to be welcomed and installed at the February 4 service-
 - ◊ Pamela Shea, Patrick Shea
 - ◊ Laureen Gleason, Mike Gleason, Paige Gleason(Their toddler, Shea, will be baptized here this year and he will then be a member.)

-Additional Upcoming Dates –

- ◊ 6/26-7/2 Youth Gathering in Houston (Pastor Megan will be chaperoning)
- ◊ 7/7-7/14 Pastor Family Reunion in Michigan
- ◊ 7/16-7/20 Pastor Continuing Education at CLU

Worship and Music – In the future Worship and Music Committee meetings will be held on Sundays to make it easier for members to attend.

- ◇ Services during Lent will be on Wednesday from 6-7:30 with 40 minutes for dinner and 40 minutes for events, except for Ash Wednesday which will be at 7pm (no food) on February 14.
- ◇ Week 1 – starting the Lenten Journey Prayer Activity
- ◇ Week 2 – Holden Evening Prayer
- ◇ Week 3 – coloring
- ◇ Week 4 – Scripture study and wine tasting (kid’s activity and juice tasting)
- ◇ Week 5 – Ending the Lenten Journey (What did your path look like? What tools did you gain to help your spiritual life grow?)

A **Youth Director**, Sam Manuel, has been hired. He knows our kids and also is at Bethel part-time working with young adults.

Treasurer’s Report – Year to date offerings are a little low at present. * Quick Books Online and B of A accounts have been set up. * Brian will look into setting balance sheets for designated funds. He is also checking into the Pastor Housing Equity Fund.

Preschool Report – The tables in the MPR room have been secured and the partition removed from the infant room. * Fall 2018 registration will begin in March and summer 2018 registration will begin in April. * The preschool has 120 students enrolled, 16 teachers, and 2 staff. * March 24 is the Waffle Breakfast. * There is a need to improve lighting in the back playground and this is being looked into. * Bev will look into acquiring a storage shed for the preschool.

Social Ministry – LSS in North Hollywood (7400 Tujunga Ave.) will have a Lutheran Breakfast/Open House inviting everyone to see their new facility and new location on February 10. LSS has a need for donations for their every Tuesday food pantry – boxes of cereal, canned corn (not creamed), canned fruit and grocery bags. They also need men’s clothing for their Thrift Store. * May 14 is the date for the LSS Golf Tournament. * Dream Dinners will be hosting a meal packing event on March 3 from 11am-1pm to assemble meals for at-risk children and adults in Haiti, Tanzania, and our own community. There are sponsor levels to support this effort that might be considered by BLC. For example \$500 would be a silver sponsor and feed 2,000 people. Can look into using MEFT funds for this purpose.

Another AA group has been approved to meet at BLC on Monday evenings
The next council meeting will be February 20 (Tuesday) at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Ophus, Secretary

MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD
Directors of Music Ministry



Youth and Adult choir rehearsals will remain on Thursdays at their usual times since the midweek Lenten services are taking place on Wednesdays this year. We are preparing our repertoire for Holy Week this month and would welcome more members to both groups. All you have to do is come to rehearsal and be willing to sing on Sundays. - *Vicente & Marisa*

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Donations needed: L.S.S. has a food pantry every Tuesday which they receive food from the LA food bank. They could still use boxes of cereal, canned corn (not creamed), canned fruit and grocery bags. They also have a Thrift Store on site and are in need of clothing donations for men.

Upcoming: February 10th, L.S.S will have a Lutheran Breakfast/Open House inviting everyone to see their facility and new location.
See Nicole for more info.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN

Preschool Director

director@bethlehemlutheran.net



Happy February Everyone!

It's amazing how quickly 2018 is flying by already! The school would like to share a few upcoming events we'd love for you to put on your calendars and join with. Our first Grandparents and Grandfriends Day Potluck of the year is being brought to you at 10am on March 2nd in collaboration with Dr. Seuss' Birthday! Join us with your favorite plate to share for the reading of our favorite Dr. Seuss book (volunteer readers very welcome!!!) , and a performance from our kiddos! Looking forward to seeing everyone at this fun filled event!

Also quickly coming up is our Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser!!! Slated for Saturday, March 24th, ticket sales will start soon and you can't miss one of the best events of the year, can you?! We'll be needing extra hands to help with the entrance ticket sales, selling goodies, assisting in food prep and distribution – we'd love for you all to participate! Please see the school office for more information.

As always, please come by the school office should you have any questions, would like to volunteer in the rooms or at an event or have any new ideas!

Respectfully,
Mary Kandilian

MID WEEK LENTEN FAITH

ADVENTURE

Wednesdays, February 21-March 21, 6-7:30pm. We will start with a light dinner.

February 21– Post– it Prayers

February 28– Holden Evening Prayer

March 7– Artistic Meditation

March 14– Wine (& Juice) tasting and Scripture Study

March 21– Faith Conversations & Labyrinth Prayers

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 25-Palm Sunday Worship 9 & 11am

Thursday, March 29- Maundy Thursday: Dinner @ St. Stephen's (15950 Chatsworth St. Granada Hills, CA 91344 at 6pm, Worship at Bethlehem at 7pm

Friday, March 30- Good Friday Worship, 7pm

Sunday, April 1- Easter Sunday Worship: 9 & 11am, Easter Potluck & Egg Hunt at 10am.

FELLOWSHIP-THEATRE OUTING

We are planning another trip to the Canyon Theatre Guild to see "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" on Sunday February 25, 2018 at 2pm.

It tells the true story of Buddy's meteoric rise to fame, from the moment in 1957 when 'THAT'LL BE THE DAY' hit the airwaves until his tragic death less than two years later on "THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED". The show features over 20 of Buddy Holly's greatest hits, including 'THAT'LL BE THE DAY', 'PEGGY SUE', 'EVERYDAY', 'OH BOY', 'NOT FADE AWAY', 'RAVE ON' and 'RAINING IN MY HEART', plus Ritchie Valens' 'LA BAMBA' and the Big Bopper's 'CHANTILLY LACE'.

If you would like to join us, call CTG at 661-799-2702 to purchase tickets. Tell them you are part of Barbara Yeager's group for that Sunday. Tickets are \$17-\$19 (depending on seats) and can be picked up at "Will Call" on the day of the show.

It promises to be a memorable show.

Betsy K.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS STILL NEEDED

We are always looking for someone who is interested in being part of our Sunday School team. We co-teach, which means we have 2-3 teachers per grade level who alternate teaching weeks based on their availability. If you would like to learn more about our program and being involved in teaching or sharing your special talents, we would love to have you. Experience is not necessary. If you are interested, please email Melisa Nusbaum at sundayschool@bethlehemlutheran.net

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

February marks the end of the first half of our church's fiscal year, which is the period from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. The financial reports available when this article was written indicate that our actual offerings were short of the budget. We are now in the time after the Christmas season when our offering income tends to drop off. So, this is a reminder that our expenses continue and that your offerings are vital for the financial health of the congregation.

Thank you all for your financial support of Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Ron Kraus

WE HAVE A DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY!!!

We are so excited to welcome Sam Manual as the new Director of Youth Ministry. Sam will be working with the Youth (middle school and high schoolers) in their walk-in faith and just having some fun together to build strong bonds within the youth community. Sam is already familiar with several of our youth and their families, as he has been one of the leaders working with our youth who are currently in the Confirmation program, as well as working with the youth who will be going to Houston this summer.

Sam has a Bachelor of Science in Biblical studies, as well as a Masters of Education. He has over 15 years of experience in Youth Ministry and mentorship and has worked with children and families from all backgrounds. He comes to us from Bethel Lutheran church in Encino and has a good knowledge of Lutheran theology. Welcome to Bethlehem Sam!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Peggy and Ed Kossart for donating Lenten devotional booklets that will be mailed out to the congregation. They're a wonderful resource and are much appreciated.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany in Tanzania

HAPPY 2018! We are grateful to be in touch with you and to share news of the end of 2017 and the beginning of this new year.



Both of us were busy teaching right up to Christmas, which falls in the middle of a semester. We have been giving and grading midterms and preparing our graduate students for field research and thesis completion, which takes place in the second semester. Cynthia's Research Methodologies students have all submitted titles and are drafting their first chapters, and students in the Introduction to Christian Education class, who've been studying models of education all semester, will teach in class in small groups, the big project for this class, beginning this week. Cynthia's supervisees are making progress as well. Mark is enjoying his Theology of Religions class, taking students to visit mosques, temples, and have conversations with faith community leaders in Arusha's diverse religious scene. He is also busy with his third-year Systematic Theology class, building their understanding of the Trinity out of a deep reading of Jesus' mission. His second-year Synoptic Gospels and Acts class just completed their midterm exam, which they insisted they should take their first day back from Christmas break. Time will tell how that works out!

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 will meet on February 7 and then taking a break until after Easter.

Our new book is "The Book of Joy" by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu. Childcare is provided. Contact Pastor Megan for more information.

SOJOURNERS

Sojourners will meet February 14 for their monthly potluck lunch at 12:30pm and a traditional mid-day Ash Wednesday service will follow at 1:15pm. Please join us.

The LSS item this month is cereal. If you are able to bring one or more of this item, it will be appreciated. See you on the 14th!

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

ONE BLENDED SERVICE & ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, February 4 we will have one Blended Service at 10am followed by a Congregational Meeting at 11am. Please plan to come hear the plans for the church year and to vote on our new Church Council Members. All members should plan to attend.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Laureen Gleason
- 8 Erin Sears
- 11 Barbara Bond
- 11 Betty Griffith
- 11 Hannelore O'Neill
- 13 Sandy Lazaros
- 16 Julia Fisher
- 23 Sunni Sears
- 24 Todd Akin
- 26 Matt Akin

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Manny & Kathy Vasquez (1986)

DECEMBER STATISTICS

Offering:

January offering: \$17, 080.00; Budget: \$16, 666.66
December offering: \$17,995.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
Fiscal YTD: \$78,478.00 Budget: \$83,333.38

Attendance:

January average at 9am: 39
January average at 11am: 53.25

December average at 9am: 35.25
12/24 10am one service: 67
December average at 11am: 48.5

Christmas Eve 5pm: 162
Christmas Eve 11pm: 36

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 February 7!

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A group from Bethlehem and a group from St. Stephen's are meeting monthly as they work together to discern some potential options for ministry in Granada Hills.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	29	30	31 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study	1 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	2	3
4 <u>10:00AM</u> One Service <u>11:00AM</u> Congregational Meeting	5	6 <u>4PM</u> Gala Planning Meeting	7 <u>7:30AM</u> Men's Breakfast @ Coco's <u>10AM</u> Adult Study <u>6:00PM</u> Book Club	8 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	9	10 <u>9-11AM</u> Lutherans Looking Forward Breakfast
11 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	12 <u>6:30PM</u> Bethlehem & St. Stephen's committee meeting	13	14 <u>10AM</u> Adult Study <u>12:30PM</u> Sojourners Potluck Lunch <u>1:15PM</u> -Mid Day Ash Wednesday Service <u>7PM</u> Ash Wednesday	15 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	16	17
18 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	19 Presidents' Day Office Closed	20 <u>7:00PM</u> Council Meeting	21 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study <u>6PM</u> Lenten Service	22 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	23	24
25 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>2:00PM</u> Theatre Outing <u>2:00PM</u> Confirmation Class @ Bethel	26	27	28 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study <u>6PM</u> Lenten Service	March. 1 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	2 <u>10AM</u> Grandparents & Grandfriends Day Potluck	3

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE						
Date	2-4-18 <i>10AM service</i>	2-11-18	2-18-18	2-25-18	3-4-18	
Assisting Minister	Ryan Nakata	Max Stark	Scott Fisher	Lisa Chow	Mary Fisher	
Reader	X	Lisa Chow	Kevin Rubinstein	Vicente Ditto	Beverly Compton	
Acolyte	Rocco Rainey	Hannah Carlson	Kevin Rubinstein	Kameron Santiago	Katie Nakata	
Ushers	Paige Gleason	Kathy Fisher	Mary Fisher	Scott Fisher	Christine Foster	
	X	Brian Grefsrud	Pat St. Michel	Brooke Irwin	Katie Nakata	
Refresh + Juice	Katie Nakata	Pat St. Michel	Lisa Chow	Shaza Nassar	Kathy Fisher	
Altar Guild	Betsy Kalusa	Cookie Cline	Meredith Taylor	Pat St. Michel	Janet Puchlik	

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE						
Date	2-4-18 <i>10AM service</i>	2-11-18	2-18-18	2-25-18	3-4-18	
Assisting Minister	X	John Cooper	Jill Goddard	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda	
Reader	Kevin Rubinstein	Gene Denney	Bud Gundersen	Betsy Kalusa	Sandy Lazaros	
Communion Asst.	X	Kiera Nusbaum	Hannah Carlson	Dylan Yribe	Ryan Yribe	
Ushers	Hannah Carlson	Jerry Sitko	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda	Janet Puchlik	
	X	Pete Pedersen	Ryan Yribe	Richard Brammer	Fred Ophus	
Greeter	Charlotte Cross/Shea Clancy	Richard Brammer	Meredith Taylor	Gale Gundersen	Donna Ophus	
Refreshments	Barbara Yeager	Shirley Cooper	Yribe family	Betsy Kalusa	Donna Ophus	
	X	Linette Brammer	Melisa Nusbaum	Jan Maseda	Ruth Anne Sitko	
Offering Counters	Fred Ophus		Bonnie Tharp	Brian Grefsrud	Janet Puchlik	
	Mary Fisher	Gene Denney	Pat St. Michel	Dwayne Schmidt	Susan Van Deest	

FREE!!!

Wednesday, March 7, 2018– Wednesday, April 18, 6-8:30PM

Knollwood Country Club

12024 Balboa Blvd. Granada Hills, CA 91344

INSTRUCTOR: FIREFIGHTER RANDALL OPPERMAN

(213) 202-3129

Class 1 - Mar 7 (Introduction, Disaster Awareness)

Class 2 - Mar 14 (Disaster Fire Suppression Techniques)

Class 3 - Mar 21 (Disaster Medical Operations 1)

Class 4 - Mar 28 (Disaster Medical Operations 2)

Class 5 - Apr 4 (Light Search & Rescue Operations)

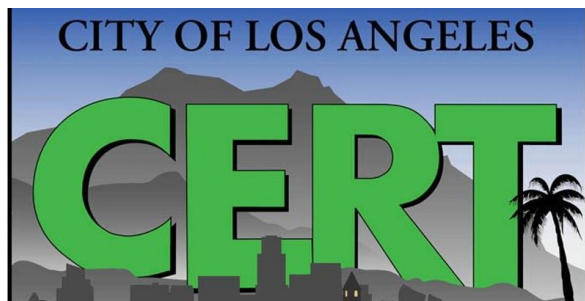
Class 6 - Apr 11 (Team Organization & Disaster Psychology)

Class 7 - Apr 18 (Terrorism & Homeland Defense)

**YOU MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES TO RECEIVE A "CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION".*

To register/More details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lafd-cert-granada-hills-tickets-40107117468>



LUTHERANS LOOKING FORWARD BREAKFAST

February 10 from 9am-11am. Join us for breakfast, speaker, celebration of volunteers and a tour.

7400 Tujunga Ave. North Hollywood in Valley Lutheran Church (Iglesia San Pablo). Parking lot is limited.

Please consider carpooling.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344