



# 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,  
On the eve of the new year, everyone in worship received a Star Word to contemplate and pray about this year. (If you weren't able to make it to worship that Sunday and you'd like to receive a word, just catch me on another Sunday or during the week and I can give you a word.)

Hopefully you took your Star Word home with you and you put it somewhere you'll see it every day- on your bathroom mirror, set it up next to your computer screen, on your refrigerator, taped to your bed or to the steering wheel of your car.  
You can even share it on social media so we can help each other remember our Star Words throughout the year.

These Star Words are a gift.  
It's a gift that you need to receive intentionally.  
It's something that hopefully will help you focus in this coming year.  
It's a wonderful opportunity. It's the opportunity to reflect regularly on God and how God speaks to people today.

Let this word speak to you.  
Maybe make a moment to look the word up in the dictionary and see the multiple meanings that it can have.  
Some of the words are things that we commonly use or hear- grace, peace, humility, but we don't spend much time contemplating exactly what the words mean. Look to find your word, or a variation of it, in the scriptures.

And maybe you get a word that seems unclear right now or that doesn't seem to suit you in this moment.  
But this is your word for the year.  
Over the year, as life changes and as you face new things and meet unexpected moments of difficulty or happiness, this word may suddenly become more clear to you.

Now this isn't some kind of spiritual fortune cookie.  
This word isn't going to tell you what the next year will look like for you. Instead, as you pray and meditate on this word, over the year, this word may help you evolve new ideas about your faith and your life and how they intersect. Blessings in 2018, *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:

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### PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

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For Youth & Education  
information contact:

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## SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 20, 2017

Present at the meeting were Pastor Megan Fryling, Scott Fisher, Sarah Karzel, Brian Grefsrud, Beverly Compton, Sunni Sears, Melisa Nusbaum, Betsy Kalusa, Nicole Hernandez-Liva and Donna Ophus.

Scott opened the meeting with a few remarks on the council's past year – the cell tower lease completed, litigation finished, and changes necessitated by Sue Akin's retirement. The use of the MPR room needs more thought in the next months and the closing of St. Stephens will be dealt with in the coming year.

During prayer and devotions Nicole spoke of the pleasures of Christmas Caroling and the connections made with others through this event.

St. Stephens has put their church up for sale. They are now deciding what to do as a congregation. They are exploring all possibilities and are in communication with Bethlehem and Prince of Peace. There is thought to have recurring sessions with 8-12 members of Bethlehem meeting with members of St. Stephens over the next 6 to 8 months so they can learn more about Bethlehem. One key item we would wish to come from these meetings would be a view of what needed new ministries can be created from the resources of the two churches should there be a merger or consolidation. The next scheduled meeting with St. Stephens leadership is January 23, 2018.

Pastor reported –

Advent has gone well

Evelyn will be out of the office the week after Christmas.

There is thought being given to changing the book club into a women's group.

Worship Attendance; Nov. 19 (91), Nov. 26 (73), Dec. 3 (97), Dec. 12 (87), Dec. 17 (91)

Brian reported that the new B of A account is near completion and needs signatures. He is also working on setting up specific categories and amounts for music, youth, flowers, etc. on the balance sheets so a balance rolls over to the next fiscal year in each of these categories without reverting to a zero balance.

Beverly reported that the preschool is under budget \$2900 and there will be a meeting with Rick to check this out. \*The preschool Fundraiser Gala on November 17 brought in \$6000. \*The director review is completed. \*There are 119 children currently enrolled in the preschool. \*There is a need for a new phone system with an estimated cost of \$2500. \*The tables in the MPR room need to be secured to the wall and the partition in the infant room needs to be removed. \*The next board meeting is January 10 at 4:00pm.

Melisa reported there is continuing work on finding a Youth Director.

Sunni reported that there will be three services on Sunday, December 24 -

10am one worship service

5pm Christmas Eve Nativity Play

11pm Candlelight service

There are plans for next Christmas to have a "hanging of the greens" event.

Nicole reported there were over 60 toys received for the Christmas toy collection \*The announcement board is now available to keep the preschool informed of church activities. \*There were over 24 Christmas carolers that went to four homes. \*There will be a "meal train" set up for those in our congregation with a

need for meals to be provided. \*Nicole would like to do a survey of congregation members to determine needs/wants.

Sarah spoke regarding the confidentiality of the litigation settlement. Our attorney suggests that terms of the settlement should be given only on a need to know basis. The lawsuit has been settled and the church incurred no expense as a result of the lawsuit.

Betsy reported the Choir Concert and the women's Christmas party were both well attended. There was no adult congregational Christmas party this year because there was an inability to come up with a date.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, February 4, at which time there will be one worship service. The next council meeting will be January 17.

*Respectfully submitted by Donna Ophus, Secretary*

## MUSIC NOTES

**VICENTE DITTO**

**MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD**

Directors of Music Ministry



Thank you everyone for supporting all of our musical endeavors in December. We are especially grateful for the talents and generous time given during the Christmas Concert by Pat St. Michel, Ron Kraus, Betsy Kalusa, and Peggy Kossart. Adult choir returns to regular rehearsals on January 4th, 6:00 - 7:00-ish and Youth Choir starts regular rehearsals on January 11th, 5:15 - 5:45.

*Vicente & Marisa*

## 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.

## 2018 FLOWER CHART

The 2018 flower chart is here. It's behind the current one. Please sign up for your special day. Flowers are \$35 for two bouquets and are yours to take home after worship.

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

For the last weekend in January (the 26th through 28th), our Confirmation students will be with Pastor Megan for a Twin Valleys Confirmation weekend retreat at camp. It will be an amazing experience for the kids full of learning, faith formation, and fun. We were able to reduce the cost for the kids through a Synod grant that the confirmation program received last year.

When you see the Confirmation kids after the retreat, make sure to ask them about it. They'll definitely have great things to share (and hopefully there will be snow so they'll have snow stories to share as well as stories about what they learned about the Small Catechism)!

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

Nicole from our Social Ministry visited Lutheran Social Services at their new location in North Hollywood (7400 Tujunga Avenue) and met with Jennifer Jerbi.

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, can corn (not creamed), can 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.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped get the church ready for Advent and Christmas this year and to those who helped clean up afterwards.

Everything was beautiful and well organized. The new costumes were great and the kids did an excellent job. It takes a whole community to make this kind of thing happen, so the Thank You's are too many to fit in the newsletter. However, we would like to especially recognize Pat & Paul St. Michel, Melisa Nusbaum and Sunday School teachers, Jill Goddard, Cookie Cline and altar guild, Marisa and Vicente, Choirs, musicians, Mary Fisher, and so many others who gave of their time and talents.

## CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2018

We have a partial slate of officers for our next Church Council term. If anyone is interested in filling some of the remaining positions, please let Jan Maseda know. Serving on our Church Council is a great way to get to know Bethlehem better, and to help formulate policies and procedures for coming years, especially if you have some great ideas!

The current roster from the Nominating Committee:

Worship and Music: Sue Akin

Youth & Education: Lisa Nakata

Preschool: Bev Compton

Treasurer: Brian Grefsrud

Secretary: Donna Ophus

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Yribe

Evangelism: Kathy Santiago

The other positions remain the same for 2018.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias. If you haven't yet paid for your order please leave your designated payment in the offering plate or the black mailbox. Thank you!

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA RETREAT

Pastor Megan will be the featured speaker of a WELCA Retreat on February 23-25, 2018 at Miracle Springs Resort & Spa in Desert Hot Springs, CA.

The cost is \$235 (due by Jan. 28) or \$255 (Jan. 29-Feb. 11). This includes: Hotel style guest room for both Friday & Saturday night, Meals: Light meal on Friday evening, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday, Inspirational Program & Entertainment, Full use of 8 Natural Hot Mineral Water Pools.

## FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to everyone who helped with Bethlehem's Christmas festivities this year.

The Ladies' Christmas Party was held at Linda Boyd's home. We had lots of fun, wonderful food and an entertaining gift exchange.

It takes so many people to make these annual traditions a success, and we are truly grateful to everyone.

*Betsy K.*

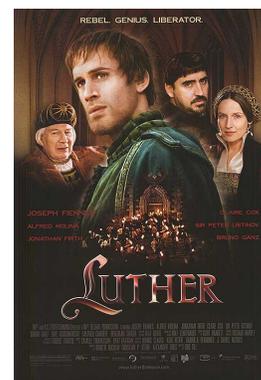
## ALL ARE INVITED TO SOJOURNERS LUNCHEON & MOVIE

Sojourners will meet January 10 for their monthly potluck lunch at 12:30pm and will feature the movie "Luther" at 1pm.

The movie is about Martin Luther, a man of God whose defiant actions changed the world and it traces his extraordinary and exhilarating quest for the people's liberation. Everyone is invited!

Please join the fellowship!

The LSS item this month is non-perishable foods. If you are able to bring one or more of this item, it will be appreciated. See you on the 10th!



## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas. I'd like to thank all of you for your continued support of the ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran Church during the past year and continuing into 2018.



Happy New Year!

*Ron Kraus*

## ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

As you are likely aware, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, the other ELCA congregation in Granada Hills, has come to the conclusion that, due to costs, they need to sell their building and explore other ministry options.

Beginning in January, a small group of people from BLC will be entering into conversation and fellowship with a small group from St. Stephens as they discern their future path for ministry in the Granada Hills area. This will be a six month process during which St. Stephens will be having conversations with both Bethlehem and Prince of Peace in order to help them find the best way to continue in ministry in this area. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact Scott Fisher (The Church Council President) or Pastor Megan.

## 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!

## YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The Youth Director Search Committee has completed their process of looking at several applicants and recently finished the interview process for the final candidates. The committee plans to offer the position to a candidate in the next week. Look for an update about our new Youth Director soon!

## NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Greetings friends! We share two experiences in this newsletter –

- **UNIVERSITY GRADUATION** happens, just like in the US, in the
- **SPRING IN TANZANIA** – which is right now!



The short rains (November) have come to an end. We hear thunder on the mountain often, and we know it's raining up there – but these days, rain rarely falls at our elevation. Now it is in the 80s and low 90s during the day, and blessedly cool breezes blow every evening. Many more flowers are making their entrances, and many can be found right in our yard – a few of these are pictured here. We've included a picture of our orange tree – which we share with the monkeys, who get to most fruit before it's ripe.

On Saturday December 2, over 800 people received diplomas, certificates, and degrees from Tumaini University Makumira. Students in law, education, music, languages, computer and information technology, business, math and science, and theology robed, walked, and were celebrated by faculty, administration, and ELCT Presiding Bishop Frederick Shoo (Rev. Dr.), who also serves as University Chancellor. The speeches emphasized the impact graduates will have on Tanzania, where only 45% of students enroll in secondary education (middle/high school) and university enrollment is in the single digits. The ELCT is committed to education for church and society, and we are grateful to join them in this work.

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

### Your support makes a world of difference!

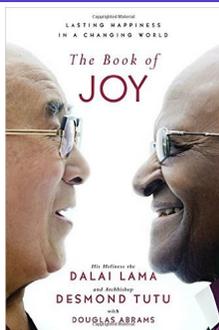
Here's how to give: By Check: make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Cynthia Holder Rich/Mark Rich GCS2047 in the memo line.

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



## MARTIN LUTHER KING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Synod Planning Committee for the January 14, 2018 Martin Luther King Worship Service is proud to extend its invitation to our Rostered Ministers and their congregations and choirs to be part of this wonderful event in the Lord.

This year's theme is "What Would Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Do?" With all that we are experiencing in these days and times, what would he have done? Bishop R. Guy Erwin will be heading our processional and will be our "preacher of the hour." White Albs and Red Stoles will be worn in celebration and thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of Unity, Faithful Service, and Justice for all.

The Worship Service will be held at the following place and time:

**Westchester Lutheran Church**  
**7831 S. Sepulveda Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045**  
**Rev. Fred G. Masted, Host Pastor**  
**Time – 3:00 p.m. – Refreshments to follow**

Choirs and Choir Leaders: You are invited to join our MLK Unity Mass Choir or our MLK Unity Men's Chorus! Rehearsals will be held on January 6 and 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Westchester Lutheran Church. Contact [adla.losangeles@gmail.com](mailto:adla.losangeles@gmail.com)



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Kathy Vasquez
- 10 Dorothy Anderson
- 12 Pastor Megan Fryling
- 17 Ron Van Deest
- 19 Christine Foster
- 22 Richard Taylor
- 23 Max Stark
- 27 Marisa Bradfield
- 29 Dwayne Schmidt
- 31 Betsy Kalusa



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Nate & Tiffini Traylor (2012)

## DECEMBER STATISTICS

### Offering:

December offering: \$17,995.00; Budget: \$16,666.66  
 November offering: \$14,649.00; Budget: \$16,666.66  
 Fiscal YTD: \$63,118.00 Budget: \$66,666.72

### Attendance:

December average at 9am:  
 December average at 11am:  
 December 24: 10am One Service:

November average at 9am: 35.75  
 November average at 11am: 43.5  
 Thanksgiving Service: 96

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE-HELP OUT

If you see an open spot on the worship leader schedule and you're able to fill in, please contact the church office. We need your help so our worship services run smoothly.

## REFRESHMENT CALENDAR

The new chart is up on the kiosk. Sign up for a day that works for you. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>9:00AM</b> Worship <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>11:00AM</b> Worship	<b>1</b> Office Closed 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>7:30AM</b> Men's Breakfast @ Coco's <b>10:00AM</b> Adult Study	<b>4</b> <b>6:00PM</b> Faith Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>9:00AM</b> Worship <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>11:00AM</b> Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>10AM</b> Adult Study <b>12:30PM</b> Sojourners Potluck Lunch <b>6:00PM</b> Book Club	<b>11</b> <b>5:15PM</b> Youth Choir <b>6:00PM</b> Faith Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:00AM</b> Worship <b>10:10 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00AM</b> Worship	<b>15</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:00AM</b> Adult Study <b>7:00PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>5:15PM</b> Youth Choir <b>6:00PM</b> Faith Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:00AM</b> Worship <b>10:10 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00AM</b> Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>10:00AM</b> Adult Study <b>6:00PM</b> Book Club	<b>25</b> <b>5:15PM</b> Youth Choir <b>6:00PM</b> Faith Choir	<b>26</b> <b>6PM</b> Confirmation Retreat	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:00AM</b> Worship <b>10:10 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00AM</b> Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>10:00AM</b> Adult Study	<b>Feb.1</b> <b>5:15PM</b> Youth Choir <b>6:00PM</b> Faith Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

## JANUARY WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE	<i>10AM One Service</i>				
Date	1-7-18	1-14-18	1-21-18	1-28-18	2-4-18
Assisting Minister	Lisa Chow	Mary Fisher	Christine Foster	Ryan Nakata	Max Stark
Reader	Mary Fisher	Marisa Bradfield	Scott Fisher	Kathy Fisher	X
Acolyte		Kameron Santiago	Hannah Carlson	Katie Nakata	Rocco Rainey
Ushers	Pat St. Michel	Scott Fisher	Mary Fisher	Christine Foster	X
	Brooke Irwin	Brian Grefsrud	Lisa Chow	Pat St. Michel	Katie Nakata
Refresh + Juice	Bernadette Andrews	Barbara Yeager	Kathy Fisher	Pat St. Michel	Barbara Yeager
Altar Guild	Sue Schmidt	Meredith Taylor	Susan Van Deest	Janet Puchlik	

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE					
Date	1-7-18	1-14-18	1-21-18	1-28-18	2-4-18
Assisting Minister	Jill Goddard	Jan Maseda	Bud Gundersen	Sandy Lazaros	X
Reader	Ron Kraus	Linette Brammer	Kevin Rubinstein	Meredith Taylor	Ruth Anne Sitko
Communion Asst.	Kiera Nusbaum	Hannah Carlson	Kevin Rubinstein		Kiera Nusbaum
Ushers	Jerry Sitko	Ron Kraus	Pete Pedersen	Jan Maseda	X
	Ryan Yribe	Kevin Rubinstein	Richard Brammer	Janet Puchlik	Fred Ophus
Greeter	Richard Brammer	Meredith Taylor	Gale Gundersen	Donna Ophus	Susan Van Deest
Refreshments	Melisa Nusbaum	Shirley Cooper	Konstanze Sessing	Ruth Anne Sitko	Jan Maseda
	Linette Brammer	Donna Ophus	Laura Rubinstein	Betsy Kalusa	X
Offering Counters	Bonnie Tharp	Jan Maseda	Brian Grefsrud	Janet Puchlik	Fred Ophus
	Barbara Bond	Susan Van Deest	Pat St. Michel	Dwayne Schmidt	Mary Fisher



Greetings Bethlehem Lutheran Church, December 20, 2017

It is with great joy that I write to share what your generosity has done. Thank you for your donation of new Christmas Toys for our event.



It started with an over flow of food donations to allow us to be generous with our Thanksgiving Food Bag giveaway. We were not sure how many we'd be able to serve and started our list with only 50 households. But were quickly able to expand and expand our list thanks to congregations and schools like yours. It was a beautiful way to welcome participants to our new location as we opened our doors mid-November in North Hollywood. The individuals and families we serve were so grateful!

Then Christmas time came. We signed up 100 children for the Annual Toy Giveaway. Far less than previous years, but again unsure how many donations we would receive with such a late start we wanted to be sure we could keep our promise. God's love is abundant and 100 was quickly moved to 200 and then even more were able to be added. Thank you for the donations of toys for the families. More than one mother told me that we have made their Christmas. Without LSS and your partnership their children would not have gifts this Christmas.

The Family Advocate at our next door Head Start describes our arrival in North Hollywood, like angels arriving. We have been able to share so much with the families and staff of Head Start. It is beautiful to see the joy on a child's face.



Thank you again so very much for your donations and support of LSS! We look forward to many more chances to partner together in God's work in 2018.

  
Peace,  
Jennifer L. Jerbi, MSW ~ Area Director  
Tax ID # 95-2225798, For tax purposes, LSS acknowledges that no goods or services were provided in exchange for your donations.



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344