



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,
Greetings from Houston, Texas! That's where I am as I write to you for this newsletter article. I'm here along with over 30,000 of my Lutheran friends. It's the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Every three years, our denomination, the ELCA, has this huge event for all youth who are in the high school range (going into 9th grade through graduating from 12th). The youth, their pastors, youth directors, and chaperones, fundraise for a couple of years in order to spend a week together. It's a week that is life changing for many participants. We're worshipping together with over 30,000 people in a giant stadium, we're eating meals with people from all over the United States, we're working together to do projects to help the city of Houston, we're meeting with other youth from around Southern California during our synod day. We are also doing a lot of bonding as a group. This year we fundraised, traveled, and planned with two other churches in our area- American Lutheran in Burbank and Bethel in Encino. It's been wonderful to watch the kids get to know each other and have fun together. Kevin Rubinstein, Isabella Cross, and Katie Nakata are all here this year. Be sure to ask them all about their experience when you see them. I'm sure they'll have many stories to tell!

We are able to participate in events like this because of the way that you all supported these youth both in their faith through love and prayers and because you supported them in their fundraising and through our church budget. Both of these kinds of things are essential for our congregation- your support of people through your presence and your prayers and your support through your financial gifts. Please continue to give to the church in both of these ways. I also encourage you to find more ways that you can give- whether that's by increasing your offerings or if it's by increasing the amount of time you spend in worship and Bible study and the other activities going on at Bethlehem. There is so much that we can do together, but it all requires your participation. You are an active part of this congregation and God is calling you to jump in and get more involved. You won't regret it!

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
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SAM MANUAL
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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

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ASST. PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

SANDRA VALDIVIA
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CONTACT BY PHONE:

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SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES –

Council minutes will be forthcoming.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The following is a statement written on June 22nd by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton..

“I am troubled by what the executive order does and does not guarantee. There is no provision for reuniting children already separated from their families, nor for children whose parents have already been deported. The executive order also allows for the possibility of future family separations. The forced separation of children from their parents is unnecessarily cruel, further traumatizing families who have already suffered in their countries of origin and on the dangerous journey to the U.S. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church bodies have a long history of caring for children, families and refugees. It’s who we are.”

Please join Members of Social Ministry in the **“Families Belong Together March”**

Date: **Saturday, July 21st**

Time: 10-2pm @ Mac Arthur Park, 2230 W. 6th street, Los Angeles

* Please see Nicole for more information, and if you are interested in carpooling and/or caravanning)

YOUTH NEWS

SAM MANUAL

Director of Youth Ministry

youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

Hey Guys!

The summer is in full swing and it’s been a blast so far! If you are watching your Facebook feed you have been seeing all the amazing update pics and videos from the National Youth Gathering down in Houston. From all the correspondence, it looks like they had a life altering time of fellowship, service and fun. The announcement was made this past Sunday that the next Gathering will be in Minneapolis, so we are going to start strategizing fundraising opportunities right away to help cover cost for the 9 plus student who will be eligible to attend in 2021! As the heat has turned up we tried to keep cool. Big thanks you to the Nakata’s who hosted our summer kick off pool party at their place. Turn out was great and we had a good parent meeting at the top of the evening to inform and welcome new parents and students. I have been working on and will be handing out a physical calendar and annual permission slip at our next youth group which is this Sunday the 8th from 2-4pm at the Nusbaum's. Kelli Yribe is also hosting a Tupperware fundraiser for camper-ships at her place on July 14th (so if you have any questions contact either of us).

More to come!

And again thanks for your support!

-Sam

Bethlehem Youth:

JULY 8TH : Youth Group/study 2-4pm @The Nusbaum’s

JULY 21ST : Confirmation pool party hosted by Bethel Lutheran (details TBD)

JULY 22ND : Youth Group/study 2-4pm @Bethlehem

MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD

Directors of Music Ministry



Youth choir parents should expect to receive a survey sometime this month. The feedback will be very important to our decision making as we alter the group to accommodate older youth. Expect the new youth music ensemble to start rehearsing in August. Adult choir will continue to meet at the usual time (6:00 - 7:15 ish). We will not have a summer concert in August, however we will perform a contemporary Christmas piece in December. There is one single service this month on July 8th. It looks like we may have two single services in August: the 5th in honor of VBS and the 12th which will be jointly planned and attended by members of St. Stephen's.

- *Vicente & Marisa*

BLENDED SERVICE DATES

We will have blended worship services on July 8 and August 5 at 10am followed by a BBQ.

On August 5 we will be celebrating VBS Sunday. Join us!

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

Pastor Megan is in Houston June 26-July 2 with our youth for the 2018 Youth Gathering and will then be away visiting family through July 14. For pastoral care emergencies please contact Rev. Ryan Chaddick (661-547-9778) or Rev. Stephanie Jaeger (310-968-7038). Thank you.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

SANDRA VALDIVIA

Interim Preschool Director

preschool@bethlehemlutheran.net

With a blink of an eye the first month of our summer program has ended, and it's been quite the fun ride! Water play, Disney dress up, Magic Show and Bubble show are just a few things our kids were able to experience this month.

- We had a wonderful Father's Day play date where over 50 dads, grandpas and family members joined. We were excited to see that many parents climbed the rock wall, played t-ball, catch, bowling, golf, had donuts and iced coffee together and had great time!
- School will be closed for the 4th of July in honor of Independence Day

- Upcoming events for the month on July: Dance party, Olympic Obstacle Course, Exploring the Ocean, Luau Party, Reptile show, Petting Zoo, and Exploring Outer Space.

Sandra Valdivia

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School starts at the end of July!

July 29-August 2.

All kids ages 3 through kids entering 6th grade are invited to our free event. If you're interested in volunteering for VBS please contact Lisa Nakata.

Please pick up a registration form from the church or school office.

Thank you!



YOUTH & ED NEWS

VBS is Coming!

VBS will take place on Sunday, July 29th - Thursday, August 2 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. We need volunteers to make this week a success! We are looking for youth and adults to help with food, registration, leading groups, and to lead games and assist in individual stations. Please consider helping out during the week. If you would like to volunteer, please let Lisa Nakata know what area you would like to help.

Background Checks

If you are 18 or older, you will need to have a background check done before volunteering for VBS. Virtually every organization that has volunteers working with kids requires background checks today, including churches, schools, youth sports and service organizations. This has nothing to do with individual volunteers, but rather with the need for every organization to make their best effort to minimize potential risks and provide a safe environment for children. Volunteers should fill out the application form, place in a sealed envelope, and deposit in the black mailbox outside the church office door. We are requesting a donation of \$25 to help offset the costs of the background checks. Each background check costs BLC \$18 + fees that bring it to about \$25. If you can make this donation, please attach a check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and note "background check" along with the application form. If there is more than one member of your household volunteering, we are requesting the first 2 applications pay the \$25 fee - total of \$50/max. All other applications will not require additional payment. Applications need to be received in the mailbox by 7/22/18. All volunteers will need to be background checked, including music, food, registration, and t-shirt sales.

Donations Needed

Donations are needed for VBS, mostly money or gift cards to Smart and Final. We could also use

paper plates, napkins, and plastic ware. I will continue to add to our wish list as we get closer to VBS.

VBS PAINTING DAY

We will have our VBS Painting Day on Sunday, July 8th. We have a single service and a BBQ that day, so we will be painting after lunch. Come and join us!

FELLOWSHIP

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

July 8th @ 10am-Single Service and BBQ

August 5th @ 10am-VBS Sunday, Single Service and BBQ

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

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

Thanks.

Betsy K.

TWIN VALLEY CONFERENCE STRATEGIC VISIONING TEAM

As previously mentioned the Twin Valleys Team has been established in an effort to strengthen collaboration in regard to investment of time, treasure and talents in our regional ministry.

Beverly is the co-chair. The Twin Valleys team met on June 20 at Central Lutheran Church. At present we are considering a proposal from a consultant regarding a 3 phase program and proceeding with drafting a letter to the Synod on how to process funding. The Twin Valleys team members include Pastor and Laity from Faith in Canoga Park, American in Burbank, St. Luke's in Woodland Hills, Central in Van Nuys, St.

Stephens and Bethlehem in Granada Hills, Bethel in Encino, The Church of Hope in Santa Clarita and St. Matthew in North Hollywood. If you would like further information, please feel free to contact either Pastor Megan or Beverly Compton.

-Beverly Compton

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Next month we will be conducting our annual Stewardship drive and asking every family ("family" includes individuals) to complete a pledge card, indicating your financial offering to support the church in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.) The majority of the church's funding comes from offerings and without your continued generosity the ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran Church would not be possible.

To allow the church council to monitor the finances of the church, we are requesting that you fill out the pledge card that will be mailed to you and return it to church, either by putting it in the offering plate at a Sunday service or by returning it in the mail to Bethlehem. The due date for the pledges will be Sunday, August 26th.

Thanks in advance for a productive Stewardship effort which will enable Bethlehem to continue its ministries and expand evangelism in the community!

Ron Kraus, Stewardship Chair

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

If you see an empty spot on the leader schedule and you're able to fill in, please call the church office. You can serve one time or be put on a monthly rotation. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES



It's the rainy season in Tanzania. We live in the northern part of the country where Mount Meru forces rain much of the year (and at about 20' shy of 15,000', the amount of rain forced is significant). We have some rain in most months of the year, so we didn't know what to expect when the "real" longer rainy season (March-May) began.

Now, as we have learned, there's a reason they call this the "rainy" season. At this point, the rain has been coming steadily for hours every day (and often, every night) for months. At our house, this means that our clothes, which dry on a line on the back porch, are generally damp when we put them on. There is always some mud on the floor, no matter how much cleaning happens. Mold might be found on cloths left too long on tables. And salt, no matter what tricks we play to keep it flowing, has to be dispensed with spoons or fingers. It simply will not come through the tiny holes. The air has been much too wet for much too long.

We're grateful for the rain, despite the inconveniences. This heavy rainy season—which locals call "normal" – is the first "normal" rainy season the area has experienced in a decade. This is because the climate is changing – indeed, it has already changed and the changes keep coming.

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 resume later this summer. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Megan.

LSS HAPPENINGS

We are in need of food for the homeless, which would include any type of cans with a pop-top, pudding/ applesauce cups, peanut butter crackers, small snacks, trail mix, dried fruit, etc.

Thank you.

Jan Maseda

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

SOJOURNERS

The theme this month is "Little Things Mean a Lot!" Sojourners will meet on July 11, 2018 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.

If you have an item that has special meaning for you, please bring it to show us.

We all like to hear stories and memories, and tangible things can trigger some great ones!. See you on the 11th!

Linette Brammer

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will be on break for the summer. We will resume in the Fall.

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Since the 4th of July falls on the first Wednesday of the month, we will not meet. See you August 1 at 7:30am at Coco's in Mission Hills. Men of all ages are invited!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Andy Karzel
- 1 Doris Schindel
- 4 Emily Hofmann
- 5 Chris Lazaros
- 6 Barbara Yeager
- 8 Linda Zurich
- 9 Richard Hofmann
- 11 Meredith Taylor
- 11 Kameron Santiago
- 14 Andrea Tabanelli
- 16 Beckett Boysen
- 17 Linda Boyd
- 17 Ron Karzel
- 22 Caden Chow
- 22 Janet Puchlik
- 22 Tiffini Traylor
- 22 Ryan Yribe
- 27 Marilyn Olson
- 27 Phil Natwick
- 31 Kevin Rubinstein



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Kurt & Melisa Nusbaum (2004)
- 17 Jason & Laura Rubinstein (1999)
- 27 Chris & Sandy Lazaros (1968)
- 31 Kim & Betsy Kalusa (1976)



JUNE STATISTICS

Offering:

May offering: \$14,403.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
 June offering: \$14,471.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
 Fiscal YTD: \$159, 187.00 Budget: \$166, 667.00

Attendance:

June average at 9am: 40
 June average at 11am: 43.6
 June 10 10am—106
 May average at 9am: 41.25
 May average at 11am: 43.75

JULY 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00AM Worship 11:00AM Worship	2	3	4 office closed 	5 6:00PM Faith Choir	6	7
8 10:00AM One Blended Worship Service 11:00AM BBQ/VBS Painting Day 2:00PM Youth Group @ Nusbaum's	9	10	11 10:00AM Adult Ed 12:30PM Sojourners Potluck Lunch	12 6:00PM Faith Choir	13	14
15 9:00AM Worship 11:00AM Worship	16	17	18 10AM Adult Ed	19 6:00PM Faith Choir	20	21 Confirmation Pool Party
22 9:00AM Worship 11:00AM Worship 2:00PM Youth Group @ BLC	23	24	25 10:00AM Adult Ed 7:00 PM Council Mtg	26 6:00PM Faith Choir	27	28
29 9:00AM Worship 11:00AM Worship 6-8:30PM VBS	30 6-8:30PM VBS	31 6-8:30PM VBS	Aug. 1 7:30AM Men's Brkfst 10:00AM Adult Ed 6-8:30PM VBS	2 6-8:30PM VBS	3	4
5 10:00AM One Blended Worship Service 11:00AM BBQ	6	7	8 10:00AM Adult Ed 12:30PM Sojourners	9 6:00PM Faith Choir	10	11

JULY WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE

10AM One Service

10AM One Service

Date	7-1-18	7-8-18	7-15-18	7-22-18	7-29-18	8-5-18
Assisting Minister	Scott Fisher	Laureen Gleason	Christine Foster	Ryan Nakata	Nicole Hernandez-Liva	Mary Fisher
Reader	Laureen Gleason	X	Sue Akin	Mary Fisher	Kathy Fisher	X
Acolyte	Hannah Carlson	Hannah Carlson	Katie Nakata	Alison Rubinstein	Natalie Nakata	Rocco Rainey
Ushers	Mary Fisher	Kathy Santiago	Scott Fisher	Kevin Rubinstein	Shea Clancy	Nicole Hernandez-Liva
	Nicole Hernandez-Liva	X	Brooke Coffin	Brian Grefsrud	Lisa Chow	X
Refresh + Juice	Christine Foster	<i>BBQ to follow</i>	Barbara Yeager	Kathy Fisher	Lisa Chow	<i>BBQ to follow</i>
Altar Guild	Susan Van Deest	Sue Schmidt	Meredith Taylor	Betsy Kalusa	Janet Puchlik	Susan Van Deest

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE

Assisting Minister	Sandy Lazaros	X	Jan Maseda	Jill Goddard	John Cooper	X
Reader	Meredith Taylor	Betsy Kalusa	Melisa Nusbaum	Linette Brammer	Sarah Karzel	Dylan Yribe
Communion Asst.	Ryan Yribe	Kameron Santiago	Kiera Nusbaum		Sarah Karzel	X
Ushers	Jan Maseda	Richard Brammer	Kevin Rubinstein	Pete Pedersen	Jerry Sitko	Ryan Yribe
		X			Ron Kraus	X
Greeter			Susan Van Deest	Richard Brammer	Jan Maseda	Meredith Taylor
Refreshments	Jan Maseda	<i>BBQ</i>	Melisa Nusbaum	Jan Maseda	Shirley Cooper	<i>BBQ</i>
		<i>To follow</i>	Linette Brammer			<i>To follow</i>
Offering Counters	Brian Grefsrud	Dwayne Schmidt	Bonnie Tharp	Brian Grefsrud	Dwayne Schmidt	Mary Fisher
	Barbara Bond	Mary Fisher	Susan Van Deest	Gene Denney	Susan Van Deest	Barbara Bond



Pastor Megan, Rick and Linette Brammer represented Bethlehem Lutheran at the Synod Assembly. It was great to meet so many other ELCA people and hear about their ministries. One of the key speakers was Native American Prairie Rose Seminole and there was also Native American dancing at the close of worship. Ryan Chadwick, whom many of us know and love, was elected as a Member-at-Large:



Three resolutions and one memorial were passed (click on the title to download PDF):



18-01: No Way to Treat a Child: Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation

18-02: The Revocation of Temporary Protective Status for El Salvadorans



18-03: Memorial on the ELCA's 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

18-05: Southwest California Synod Native Protocols



We attended workshops on Worship and Youth Education,

which will be happy to share with any who would like more information. We also learned of several interesting opportunities for ministry. We felt honored to be there. Thank you all for allowing us to go.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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