



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,
We're now well into the season of Lent, which started on February 14th with Ash Wednesday. Several of you have joined us for our midweek Lenten Faith Adventures. So far we've had the experience of Post-It Prayers, where we shared our own prayer needs- burdens we bear, anxiety we're facing, needs for guidance, and joys that we have- and we prayed for ourselves and for each other. We've also gathered together one Wednesday for a service of Holden

Evening Prayer, which is a brief service with beautiful music.

In the month of March we continue on our Lenten path as we will have a Wednesday evening of artistic meditation, a Wednesday with a Bible study and wine & juice tasting, and then an evening of conversations about the path and adventure of faith that we walk in our lives during Lent and during our entire lives.

The end of this month will then bring us to one of the biggest weeks in the liturgical (church) calendar. It's one of the most important weeks in our year because it leads us through an essential part of the scriptures and an essential part of our Christian faith.

On March 25th it's Palm Sunday. We'll gather together to wave palm branches, shout hosanna and also recall that when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem he knew that he was heading toward his own death. Later in the week, on Maundy Thursday, we're invited to gather for a meal at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Granada Hills, then to come back to Bethlehem for worship. This is an evening that recalls Jesus' last meal with his disciples and his betrayal by Judas. Worship ends with a stark and moving reminder of that betrayal as all of the clothes, candles, and decorations are stripped from the altar and the front of the sanctuary. On Good Friday, we come together in solemn worship to remember the crucifixion. This is an important service to attend. This remembrance of the death and suffering of Christ juxtaposed with the joyous celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday really helps to get the full picture of the power of the Easter story.

So please remember to get more than just Easter Sunday on your calendar this year. The Wednesday evenings are a wonderful way to deepen your faith and then all of the services during Holy Week bring us together as a community to truly comprehend the power of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Lenten Blessings,
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 – FEBRUARY 27, 2018

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

After opening devotions Scott welcomed our new council members, Lisa and Sue. We then watched a 10 minute video "Focus on God's Mission". The January council minutes were then approved.

There were two requests which the council approved – one was approval of HR consulting support for the coming year at a cost of \$500 for the year. The other request was for a new computer for the bookkeeper office at a cost of \$730. * The \$10,000 cell tower bonus has been received. * Mount-Aire has ordered parts and will proceed with the A/C and heating repairs once the parts are received.

UPDATES - St. Stephen's - There have been two meetings between members of St. Stephen's and Bethlehem which were facilitated by Synod representation. These meetings followed discussion regarding St. Stephen's at our Congregational meeting on February 4.

MEFT - The Mission Endowment Fund Team met last week. They approved a contribution of \$500 toward the cost of the Houston Youth Meeting. Other funds to be distributed this year will be designated at a future date.

Pr. Megan reported that the communion class was well attended and will continue to be held annually or bi-annually with other churches in the area. * The confirmation retreat was successful and was attended by all of the Bethlehem students. They then gave a beautiful sermon on our Youth-led Sunday. * Our new Youth Director started this week and his installation will be held on March 11 (unconfirmed date.) * Our first Lenten dinner and faith adventure was attended by 30 people including children and there is room for more!! * We still need a female representative for the Synod Assembly on June 1 and 2. * Upcoming Dates - 2/23-2/25 (Women's Retreat in Palm Desert); 5/7-5/17 (Pastor in China); 6/26-7/2 (Youth Gathering in Houston, Pastor Megan will be chaperoning); 7/7-7/14 (Pastor in Michigan for Family Reunion); 7/16-7/20 (Pastor at Continuing Education at CLU)

Bev reported the preschool net income of \$1700. * Still looking into a new phone system with an estimated cost of \$2500. * Registration for fall begins in March and for summer begins in April. * Grandparents/Friends day potluck will be held March 2 at 10:00. * Total number of students is 126. * March 24 is the Waffle Breakfast.

Lisa reported that a youth led yard sale will be held April 21. * On June 26 a group of youth will leave for the Youth Gathering in Houston. * Sue is looking into new possibilities and additional ideas for worship and music. * Betsy reported that the Buddy Holly event will be attended on February 25. Easter brunch is being planned.

Nicole and her husband delivered several boxes of donations to L.S.S. * Helen Hightower has been the recipient of Meal Train following her surgery. * \$500 has been raised and 15 people have signed up for meal packing led by Dream Dinners for distribution to those in need. * Pat St. Michel will be organizing a breakfast service at the San Fernando Rescue Mission on April 7.

The next council meeting will be held either March 20 or 22.

Donna Ophus, Secretary

MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD

Directors of Music Ministry



With Lent well underway it's time to look to Holy Week. The Adult Choir will participate in all Holy Week services this year. They will perform one song on Maundy Thursday, two selections from Dale Woods' "Service of Darkness" on Good Friday, and potentially two anthems on Easter Sunday at the 11 am service. Please joins us at all these lovely services; it will be a beautiful week.

- Vicente & Marisa

EASTER BRUNCH POTLUCK

Easter Sunday is April 1st. We will celebrate the blessed day with our traditional brunch and Easter egg hunt between services. A sign-up sheet for food and clean up is available in Chandler Hall. We are asking second service attendees to come a little early to help set-up and first service attendees to stay a little later to help clean-up. We hope to see everyone there. We look forward to celebrating our risen Lord through worship and service!

Betsy Kalusa

MEET SAM, OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

I was born in India but raised in St. Louis, MO, when my parents relocated there in 1976. Growing up in a Christian home I felt the pull to serve in ministry at a young age. I started volunteering at camp and youth group which lead me to attend a Bible college after high school. I eventually received a Master's Degree in Education from Columbia International University. I served my first church in Greensboro, NC. I served a few churches for the following 10 years and made the move to California to pursue my passion for comedy. I worked for a few years in some of our local group homes for foster children and felt called to return to the church to serve. When not working with youth I enjoy doing improv and comedy, board gaming, playing guitar, and sports.- *Sam Manual*

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you for all the wonderful LSS donations and for all the support with the Meal packing event on Saturday, March 3rd. We had over 25 volunteers and it was an extremely rewarding event for everyone.



Donations needed: L.S.S has a food pantry every Tuesday. They receive food from the LA food bank and our churches. 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.

YOUTH NEWS

There is so much going on with our youth group over the next few months as we gear up for the ELCA Youth Gathering! First, I would like to welcome Sam as our new Youth Director! I know some fun and exciting events are being planned for our youth!

Friday, March 9th 7:00 p.m. - American Lutheran in Burbank - Version of Luther: the Rock Opera! Tickets are \$10 which will go to help the youth attending the Youth Gathering in Houston.

Saturday, March 11th - After 11:00 a.m. service - Walking Tacos fundraiser

Ongoing through March - Envelopes in Chandler Hall. Please feel free to take an envelope with the amount you would like to donate to the youth attending the Youth Gathering.

Looking ahead, our Youth Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st.

Lisa Nakata

PRESCHOOL NEWS

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN

Preschool Director

director@bethlehemlutheran.net



Awesomeness Ahead!

Grandparents & Grandfriends Day is on Friday, March 2nd! Were looking forward to celebrating Dr Seuss' Birthday with all of you! Please be sure to RSVP with the school office at [818-368-6947](tel:818-368-6947).

It's time for our Spring fundraiser! Be sure to mark your calendar for March 24th from 8:30am to 11:30am for our annual Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, silent auction, all you can eat waffles, bacon and sausages, raffles, music and a bounce house. Join us for the festivities! Pre-sale tickets are \$10 and \$12 at the door. If you are available to help, it is *always* appreciated.

We also have the Red Cross coming out to present a preparedness presentation called Prepare with Pedro! This will be taking place on Friday, March 23rd!

Our Gala Planning Committee is coming up with GREAT ideas for the 2018 Gala! Our next meeting is scheduled for March 20th at 4:30pm.

Fall Registration is NOW in full swing! Do you know anyone looking for an awesome preschool? Spread the word!

Respectfully,
Mary Kandilian

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

The date and time for the next meeting is yet to be determined. The committee that meets monthly will be notified via email. Thank you.

LENTEN FAITH ADVENTURE

We continue with the Lenten Services on Wednesdays now through-March 21, 6-7:30pm. We start with a light dinner and follow with the following:

March 7– Artistic Meditation

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

March 21– Faith Conversations & Labyrinth Prayers

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 25-Palm Sunday Worship 9 & 11am. We will gather outside.

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.

Date	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday
Assisting Minister	John Cooper	Scott Fisher
Reader	Meredith Taylor	Emily Carlson
Acolyte		crucifer: Hannah Carlson
Ushers	Pat St. Michel	Jerry Sitko

EASTER FLOWERS

Sign up to order your Easter flowers now. We have a sign up sheet in Chandler Hall. You may choose Tulips, Hyacinths and/or Daffodils at \$11 each. Your purchase will help make our sanctuary beautiful for our Easter services. Flower are yours to take home following Easter worship services. Orders must be in by March 23.

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!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

March begins the second half of our church fiscal year and as common for this time of year our offerings are slightly below budgeted projections. This seems to be a slow period in terms of giving to the church, so I encourage everyone to make a special effort to review your pledges and, if behind, bring them up to date. The church's expenses continue and your offerings are essential for the financial health of the congregation.

We have a lot of great programs and activities coming up, so let's make sure we provide the resources to continue the progress we have been making in expanding our ministries. Thanks again for your financial support of Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Ron Kraus, Stewardship Chair

LUTHERAN ROCK OPERA CONCERT

Friday, March 9 from 7-9PM. Join us at American Lutheran Church in Burbank for the Concert Version of Luther: the Rock Opera!

Michael and George will perform the songs they wrote for this Rock Opera about the tumultuous monk who kicked off the Reformation and reshaped the world as we know it. Accompanied by projections of the lush graphics drawn by Jonathan Koelsch. (You can probably expect a few favorites from the Lost And Found catalog as well, because, well just because.) \$10 tickets to help raise funds for Youth Group to go to Houston National Youth Gathering.

YOUTH LUNCH FUNDRAISER

The high school youth will have a fundraiser on March 11th after our 11 am service to help them go to the Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. The kids will be selling Walking Tacos and drinks to raise money.



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

The end of our first semester here at Tumaini University Makumira

Greetings from Tanzania! As we write you, the final day of our first semester here is drawing to a close. We have been on an



amazing journey of teaching and learning. We have known bumps and unexpected twists and turns on the road, and God's grace has permeated our days and colored each experience. This month, Cynthia shares teaching stories; Mark will share next month.

Students in Intro to Christian Education gathered in small groups to plan and teach a class session (pics of some of these on the left). Each group chose a Bible text, an age group and a context for which the educational session was planned. Games, songs, art, and nature featured in the lessons, along with lecture, discussion, questions and answers.

In teaching I Corinthians 11:23-26, one group talked of the sacrament, naming reconciliation, forgiveness, community and healing as gifts received at table – and then asked students to reflect on rituals used to reconcile people in their home communities. One student's story in particular has stayed with me.

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 March 14 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 toothpaste. 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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will meet on March 18 from 2-5pm at Bethel.

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

Save the Date: 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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Fred Ophus
- 2 Kim Kalusa
- 4 Robert Yribe
- 5 Zoey Andrews
- 7 Dylan Yribe
- 8 Travis Kalusa
- 8 Dorothy Paulson
- 9 Bettina Rainey
- 9 Ryan Andrews
- 11 Beverly Compton
- 11 Georgia Fisher
- 14 Paige Gleason
- 16 Cordelia Cross
- 22 Jerry Sitko
- 22 Kyler Nusbaum
- 23 Steve Nakata
- 24 Laura Watson
- 27 Arlene Brooks
- 27 Gavin Carlson



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Richard & Lisa Chow (2008)
- 6 Ron & Susan Van Deest (1965)
- 11 Pete & Edelgard Pedersen (1961)
- 15 Berwin & Doris Schindel (1969)
- 19 Bud & Gale Gundersen (1983)
- 20 Dwayne & Sue Schmidt (1975)
- 24 Gerry & Janet Puchlik (1973)
- 27 Richard & Linette Brammer (1965)



FEBRUARY STATISTICS

Offering:

February offering: \$12,296.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
January offering: \$17,080.00; Budget: \$16,666.66
Fiscal YTD: \$90,774.00 Budget: \$100,000.00

Attendance:

February average at 9am: 36.5
February average at 11am: 49.5
2/4- 10am one service: 96
January average at 9am: 39
January average at 11am: 53.25

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	26	27	28 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study	1 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	2 <u>10AM</u> Grand- parents & Grandfriends Day Potluck	3
4 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	5	6	7 <u>7:30AM</u> Men's Breakfast @ Coco's <u>10AM</u> Adult Study <u>6:00PM</u> Lenten Service	8 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	9 <u>7-9PM</u> Lutheran Rock Opera Concert @ American Lutheran Church in Burbank	10
11 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>12:00PM</u> Youth Lunch Fundraiser	12	13	14 <u>10AM</u> Adult Study <u>12:30PM</u> Sojourners Potluck Lunch <u>6PM</u> Lenten Service	15 <u>5:15PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	16 <u>7:00PM</u> Council Meeting	17
18 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>2:00PM</u> Confirmation Class @ Bethel	19	20 <u>4:30PM</u> Gala Planning 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 <u>8:30-</u> <u>11:30AM</u> School Waffle Breakfast Fundraiser
25 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10 AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	26	27	28 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Study <u>6PM</u> Lenten Service	29 <u>6:00PM</u> Dinner @ St. Stephen's <u>7:00PM</u> Maundy Thursday Service	30 <u>7:00PM</u> Good Friday Service School Closed	31

MARCH WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE	<i>Easter</i>				
Date	3-4-18	3-11-18	3-18-18	3-25-18	4-1-18
Assisting Minister	Mary Fisher	Ryan Nakata	Christine Foster	Max Stark	Scott Fisher
Reader	Emily Carlson	Kevin Rubinstein	Emily Carlson	Max Stark	Marisa Bradfield
Acolyte	Katie Nakata	Alison Rubinstein	Hannah Carlson	Rocco Rainey	Ryan Nakata
Ushers	Christine Foster	Shea Clancy	Kathy Fisher	Kevin Rubinstein	Brian Grefsrud
	Katie Nakata	Brooke Irwin	Scott Fisher	Katie Nakata	Mary Fisher
Refresh + Juice	Kathy Fisher	<i>Sunday School kids</i>	Barbara Yeager	Pat. St. Michel	<i>Easter Potluck</i>
Altar Guild	Janet Puchlik	Pat St. Michel	Betsy Kalusa	Cookie Cline	All

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE					
Date	3-4-18	3-11-18	3-18-18	3-25-18	Easter 4-1-18
Assisting Minister	Jan Maseda	John Cooper	Jill Goddard	Sandy Lazaros	Ron Kraus
Reader	Sandy Lazaros	Dylan Yribe	Jan Maseda	Linette Brammer	Melisa Nusbaum
Communion Asst.	Ryan Yribe	Ryan Yribe		Hannah Carlson	Kiera Nusbaum
Ushers	Janet Puchlik	Jerry Sitko	Fred Ophus	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda
	Fred Ophus	Pete Pedersen	Richard Brammer		Ryan Yribe
Greeter	Donna Ophus	Meredith Taylor	Susan Van Deest	Jan Maseda	Richard Brammer
Refreshments	Donna Ophus	<i>Youth Taco</i>	Betsy Kalusa	Jill Goddard	<i>Easter</i>
	Ruth Anne Sitko	<i>Fundraiser</i>	Donna Ophus	Peggy Kossart	<i>Potluck</i>
Offering Counters	Janet Puchlik	Mary Fisher	Bonnie Tharp	Dwayne Schmidt	Brian Grefsrud
	Susan Van Deest	Gene Denney	Fred Ophus	Barbara Bond	Susan Van Deest

FREE!!!

This is a training program that LAFD initiated. It makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors.



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>



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344