



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



Happy September! I hope that you've been able to enjoy the summer season, despite some of the incredible heat that we've experienced. It seems as though we've had more than our fair share of hot and sunny days.

However, we know that in Southern California, we've probably still got a number of hot days ahead of us. Fortunately for all of you, we've got something on our calendar that will bring great relief in this warm season- Sunday Sundaes! Once again this year, we're

having a bring a friend to church Sunday! This year it falls on September 9th.

I'm strongly encouraging you to invite someone to join us at church that Sunday. Invite someone into the joy that is Christian fellowship and worship. Invite someone so that they can make lifelong connections. Invite them so they can learn more about how God's grace is for them too. Don't be shy!

September is an incredibly full month. There's a lot going on with the final stages of the decision about St. Stephen's merging with Bethlehem. (There are many more details about the merger available in other places within the newsletter, in weekly emails, and in meetings at church. If you have any questions, please do feel free to reach out to me.) Then we have a fun blessing of the backpacks for students of all ages on Sunday the 16th. . So if you've got a kid in your life (or an adult!) who is in school, send them to church along with their backpack that morning. We'll be blessing backpacks and praying for a great school year. The 16th is also the same Sunday that our new Sunday School year begins!

September 30th is our annual Blessing of the Bears Sunday! The kids from the School and from our Sunday School program will sing a few of their favorite songs during our 9 am worship. Kids of all ages are encouraged to bring a favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal of any kind and then we'll bless them during worship that day. We'll have a bounce house and various exciting activities between the two services, so there's fun to be had for people of all ages.

There is a lot to be excited about this month. However, the biggest thing that we have to be excited about is something that's there for us all of the time- God's grace! Always remember that vitally important message.

" Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." -Matthew 28:19

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
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SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 22, 2018

Present at the meeting were Pastor Megan Fryling, Scott Fisher, Sarah Karzel, Brian Grefsrud, Sue Akin, Nicole Liva Hernandez, and Donna Ophus. St. Stephens members present were Pastor Ioan Itto, Judy Cave, Lee Underwood, and Greg Imlay; and Lisa Higginbotham, a financial planner. Vicente Ditto was present for music plan discussion.

Lisa spoke on merging finances between Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC) and St. Stephens Lutheran Church (SSLC) as presented in "St. Stephens Lutheran Church Transition Endowment Fund Bylaws". This document would be in effect until 2020 at which time it could be amended.

Discussion followed regarding the three aspects of operation of the endowment - Endowment Committee, Investment Policy and Distribution Policy. There was clarification that distribution can be used for staffing but as is stated, not to be used for utilities or mortgage payments. The endowment is to be used for ministry. At the beginning a specified amount will be set aside for transitional costs and the remaining amount will go into the endowment fund.

Pastor Ioan discussed and emphasized SSLC's wish to use the endowment for ministry. Facilities management costs will need to continue to come from congregational offerings. A list of "Additional Income and Expense to Bethlehem's Budget Post Merger" was presented and discussed. The list includes Income, Expenses, and Possible One Time Additional First Year Spending (these to come out of the amount set aside for transitional costs. The actual income and expenses will be determined by December 2019 with a year long history of tithing and actual expenses. Pastor Megan will create a job description of Administrator. The first year of the merger will focus on fellowship and getting acquainted. Pastor Megan will be the Senior Pastor and Pastor Ioan will be the Associate Pastor.

Vicente presented the "Music Division Arrangement". Vicente will be the Senior Music Minister and co-accompanist. Marisa and Matthew will be Adult Choir Directors and Marisa will be the sole Youth Ensemble Director. Suzanne will be the other Co-accompanist. There is potential for a Bell Choir Director.

Upcoming events -

- Aug. 26 - Congregational Budget Meeting
- Sept. 2 - Scott will present the merger to the congregation
- Sept. 5 - Call committee meets to call Pastor Ioan
- Sept. 9 - "Bring A Friend to Church" Sunday
- Sept. 23 - vote by BLC to call Pastor Ioan as Associate Pastor
- Sept. 30 - vote by BLC to merge with SSLCI

Donna Ophus, Secretary

MEXICO BUILDING TRIP

Save the date: November 2-4

Contact Mary Fisher and Nicole Hernandez-Liva for details.



MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD

Directors of Music Ministry



Youth Ensemble rehearsals begin on September 6th and will continue to meet every Thursday from 5:30 - 6:15. The ensemble is open to youth ages 9 and up and welcomes both singers and instrumentalists to participate. Rehearsals will focus on performing camp songs and contemporary Christian music. Youth ages 8 and below are encouraged to participate in Sunday school where they will sing as a group before moving into the day's activities. Also on September 6th, adult choir rehearsals will have a new start time of 6:30 and run until a little after 7:30.

-Vicente & Marisa

PRESCHOOL NEWS

SANDRA VALDIVIA

Interim Preschool Director

preschool@bethlehemlutheran.net

Welcome September!

The Fall program has come along beautifully! The students are responding so well to the Handwriting without Tears Curriculum, this month's theme is Fall/Autumn and our children will be learning about leaves, apples, weather and scarecrows. Our classrooms are growing and there's a sense of wonder and positivity in the air! Bethlehem is the place to be!

Coming up on the horizon is...

- Back to School Taco Tuesday! At 6pm come meet the teachers, learn more about the program, and enjoy some tacos (2 tacos for \$1)
- Blessing of the Bears on Sunday, September 30th at the 9am service.
- Annual Fall Festival on October 12th ! We're super excited to begin the planning process and could use all the support we can get! We'd love our church and its wonderful members to be involved on this special day and every day! If you would like to volunteer the day of, assist with the planning or make a donation please let the school office know.

We'd love you to join us for all these events and your support!

We value the involvement of our members in the school, as its super important for the well-rounded development of our students – and we love it! Please connect with our school office and let us know how you'd like to be involved!

Respectfully, *Sandra Valdivia*

YOUTH NEWS

SAM MANUAL

Director of Youth Ministry

youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net



"Hey Everybody!

As the Summer comes to a close and school starts back up we got some big stuff brewing in the Youth dept.! But first I want to take a second and talk about all the great stuff that happened over the past few months. We had a big task this past spring of raising somewhere in the ballpark of 15 grand to send the Twin Valleys group to the National Youth Gathering in Houston and I'm proud to say that mission was accomplished! Those of you that got an opportunity to come to the "Houston Recap" meeting heard the tales of spiritual growth and flat-out fun that the high schoolers from 4 different congregations got to enjoy! And right on the heels of that great event was our annual week of VBS. The Living Waters theme was a huge success and our students did a fantastic job of volunteering in all facets of the program. We also kicked off a new curriculum for bi-monthly youth group that talks about the who, what, why, and where of prayer. The Fall has a lot of great new opportunities that will be sure to be a hit! We have a new group of students starting the confirmation process this year.

We look forward to all the growth that group will develop as the previous years confirmands displayed over the last 2 years. All in all we are excited and looking forward to all that God is going to show and do this year!

More to come!

And again thanks for your support!

Sam

TWIN VALLEYS STRATEGIC VISIONING TEAM

The TV Team application has been approved by the Synod. As such, the TV consultant, Kate Chapek, will be contacting conference congregations in regard to the three phase process.

If you would like further information on the Twin Valleys Team, please contact Beverly Compton or Pastor Megan.

-Beverly Compton

FELLOWSHIP

A BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our Summer Blended Services' Food Fests. They were all great fun.

These events cannot happen without a tremendous number of volunteers and food.

Don't forget to bring a friend to church on our Sundaes Sunday, September 9th. There will be ice cream sundaes after both services! YUM!

Betsy K.

FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Nethercutt Museum Outing

Join us for this fellowship event on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 10am. This is free but reservations are required. RSVP to Betsy Kalusa.

VBS BANNERS AND ANIMALS

After a last minute rush for requests Sunday, our VBS banners and animals all have new homes. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did making and sharing them. If you get a chance I would love to see photos, e-mails or Facebook posts of them in their new homes or classrooms.

Thank you,

Jill Goddard

If anyone is interested I would consider making similar custom banners.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

As explained in last month's newsletter article, we have decided to postpone the annual stewardship effort until later this year. In the interim, 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

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAE/SUNDAY

September 9 after both services we will be having ice cream sundaes. Invite friends and family to Bethlehem!



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.

BACKPACK BLESSING & SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite students of all ages to join us on September 16 at our 9am service and to bring their backpacks for a special blessing and to receive a gift.

Sunday School also starts that day at 10:10am. All children ages 3-12 are invited to join us for this free program.



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Greetings! We've been VERY BUSY over the last couple months with work required to complete our first year of teaching here at Tumaini University Makumira. The year has been rich and we have learned so much. Here, a few details of what we've been up to and where we have seen God at work recently.

Cynthia was pleased to accept the invitation of the ELCT Women's Office to speak at their quadrennial **Women's Assembly** in June. The conference theme was "**Overcoming Gender-Based Violence**". Hundreds of women from across the nation gathered in Shinyanga for learning, worship, and fellowship.

Second semester ended June 29, which threw the campus into the frenzy that is **University Examinations**. Over 10 days, students gather in three sessions a day to write exams. Here's a view of the Assembly Hall during exams.

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

Your support makes a world of difference!

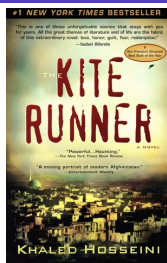
Here's how to give: By Check: make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Cynthia Holder Rich/Mark Rich GCS2047" in the memo line.

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 August 12 & 26 . We will be reading "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Megan.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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 start for middle schoolers on September 30 at 2pm at American Lutheran Church. Email Pastor Megan to register.

SOJOURNERS

Sojourners will meet on September 12 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 12th!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Linette Brammer
- 2 Brooke Irwin
- 2 Bud Gundersen
- 9 Manny Vasquez
- 10 Shaza Nassar
- 15 Lisa Chow
- 15 Mike Gleason
- 16 Andrew Akin
- 18 Corwin Traylor
- 19 Isabella Cross
- 27 Karen Fouts
- 27 Emily Carlson



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Brian & Marsha Grefsrud (2003)
- 14 Ed & Peggy Kossart (1963)
- 16 Jerry & Ruth Anne Sitko (1973)
- 30 Richard & Barbara Yeager (1967)



JULY STATISTICS

Offering:

August offering: \$12,855.51; Budget: \$16,666.66
July offering: \$15,207.52 ; Budget: \$16,666.66
Fiscal YTD: \$187,250.00 Budget: \$200,000.00

Attendance:

August average at 9am: 55.5
August average at 11am: 44
August 5 10am—76
August 12 10am— 127

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>12PM</u> Congregational Budget Mtg <u>2-4PM</u> Youth Group	27	28	29	30 <u>6:00PM</u> Faith Choir	31	1
2 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	3  LABOR DAY office closed	4	5 <u>7:30AM</u> Men's Brkfst <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Ed	6 <u>5:30PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:30PM</u> Faith Choir	7	8
9 Bring a friend! <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>1-3PM</u> Youth Group	10 	11 <u>6PM</u> Back to School Night	12 <u>10AM</u> Adult Ed <u>12:30PM</u> Sojourners Potluck Lunch <u>6:00PM</u> Book Club	13 <u>5:30PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:30PM</u> Faith Choir	14	15 Youth Service Day
16 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship	17	18	19 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Ed <u>7:00 PM</u> Council Mtg	20 <u>3:30PM</u> Gala Committee Mtg <u>5:30PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:30PM</u> Faith Choir	21	22
23 <u>9:00AM</u> Worship <u>10:10AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>2-4PM</u> Youth Group	24	25	26 <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Ed <u>6:00PM</u> Book Club	27 <u>5:30PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:30PM</u> Faith Choir	28	29
30 <u>9:00AM</u> Blessing of the Bears <u>10:10AM</u> Sunday School <u>11:00AM</u> Worship <u>2PM</u> Confirmation Class	Oct. 1	2	3 <u>7:30AM</u> Men's Brkfst <u>10:00AM</u> Adult Ed	4 <u>5:30PM</u> Youth Choir <u>6:30PM</u> Faith Choir	5	6

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE

Date	9-2-18	9-9-18	9-16-18	9-23-18	9-30-18	10-7-18
Assisting Minister	Laureen Gleason	Ryan Nakata	Mary Fisher	Christine Foster	Nicole Hernandez-Liva	Lisa Chow
Reader	Pam Shea	Sue Akin	Vicente Ditto	Kathy Fisher	Kevin Rubinstein	Max Stark
Acolyte	Natalie Nakata	Hannah Carlson	Rocco Rainey	Katie Nakata	Alison Rubinstein	Kameron Santiago
Ushers	Kathy Santiago	Nicole Hernandez-Liva	Scott Fisher	Mary Fisher	Brooke Coffin	Kathy Santiago
	Scott Fisher	Shea Clancy	Sam Manual	Laureen Gleason	Lisa Chow	Katie Nakata
Refresh + Juice	Lisa Chow	Ruth Irwin		Bernadette Andrews	Kathy Fisher	
Altar Guild	Sue Schmidt	Cookie Cline	Meredith Taylor	Susan Van Deest	Cookie Cline	Cookie Cline

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE

Assisting Minister	Jan Maseda	Jill Goddard	Sarah Karzel	Ron Kraus	Sandy Lazaros	John Cooper
Reader	Gene Denney	Meredith Taylor	Ron Kraus	Melisa Nusbaum	Betsy Kalusa	Dylan Yribe
Communion Asst.	Ryan Yribe		Hannah Carlson	Kiera Nusbaum	Sarah Karzel	Alison Rubinstein
Ushers	Hannah Carlson	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda	Kevin Rubinstein	Hannah Carlson	Ryan Yribe
	Janet Puchlik	Ryan Yribe	Kevin Rubinstein	Sam Manual	Ron Kraus	Richard Brammer
Greeter	Susan Van Deest	Jan Maseda	Susan Van Deest	Meredith Taylor		
Refreshments	Laura Rubinstein			Betsy Kalusa	Yribe family	Shirley Cooper
	Linette Brammer				X	
Offering Counters	Mary Fisher	Bonnie Tharp	Janet Puchlik	Bonnie Tharp	Dwayne Schmidt	Mary Fisher
	Janet Puchlik	Susan Van Deest	Gene Denney	Barbara Bond	Susan Van Deest	Dwayne Schmidt



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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