



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



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

MEGAN FRYLING

Senior Pastor

pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

Well, March was an unusual month and it looks like April isn't going to go the way we had planned either. We had expected to be celebrating Holy Week and Easter together in the sanctuary and that we'd have our traditional brunch and egg

hunt together between services. Instead, we'll each be home, watching worship from our computers and mobile devices. It won't feel exactly the same and that's hard.

We emailed and sent out a Holy Week home-based devotional and I love the hopeful and helpful message that this devotional has for Easter. It's a bit of a spoiler if you're reading this before Easter Sunday, but I really think we could all use some of that early Easter hope right now anyway.

"What's the good news of the Gospel on Easter Sunday? For those who despair that death-dealing powers have the upper hand- fear not. Easter means God ultimately is and will be victorious over the powers of death. For those who are feeling isolated and lonely- fear not. Easter means we are all together in the risen Body of Christ, even if we're physically unable to gather together. For those who despair that our guilt is too great for God to forgive- fear not."

While the world around us seems to be pointing us toward fear, we know that because of God, we need not live in fear. This doesn't mean that we ignore the reality of COVID-19 and the very real dangers of spreading the virus, especially to those who are more at risk. It means that we follow the advice of experts and that we find ways to support and care for each other within these limitations.

I'm grateful for the ways that you're all caring for each other in the midst of all of this uncertainty and change. You've been calling and checking up on each other. You've been sending more emails and even writing letters to your loved ones that you can't see face-to-face. You've used social media, like our church Facebook page, to connect with one another. In all of this, you have remembered the importance of community- the importance of love and care between each of us, even if we can't see each other face-to-face. Thank you for loving and caring for each other despite the challenges- you have helped one another know the love of Christ in this unprecedented time.

In Christ,
Pastor Megan

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

9:00 AM – CONTEMPORARY STYLE

10:10 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL
(SEPT-MAY)

11:00 AM – TRADITIONAL STYLE

STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING
pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO
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YOUTH DIRECTOR:

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BOOKKEEPER:

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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN
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CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH: 818-360-4777

PRESCHOOL: 818-368-6947

FAX: 818-360-5559

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – FEBRUARY, 2020

MANAGEMENT:

1. Heard status of the preschool closing, staff changes, financial challenges, and plans for reopening.
2. Reviewed recommendations of the Audit committee and heard plans to establish a small finance committee.
3. Treasurer reports offerings were under budget for the year by \$15,000.
4. Permit problems have delayed work on the back hall project.

MINISTRY:

1. Pr. Megan has begun live-streaming worship services and preschool chapel on Facebook.
2. A Volunteer Phone Ministry is set to call each member family once a week to stay in touch.
3. The church's Zoom account is available for use by our groups (Youth, Book Club, WELCA, school, council, etc.).

By Marilyn Fursman, Secretary

Ways to Worship

- Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent.
- Maundy Thursday & Good Friday at 7 p.m. during Holy Week.

Ways to Give

- Mail in your check
- Through your bank's Bill Pay Donate
- On-Line through our church website (www.bethlehemplutheran.net) Enter through the Church site and locate the orange DONATE NOW button at the top right. You can set up an auto pay or one-time donation.

Ways to Care

- Pray for our world, our leaders, our doctors and nurses.
- Follow the guidelines of the CDC.
- Check on family, friends, and those most vulnerable in our community during this time.
- Be generous in your giving of financial & material resources. Many people are in need and we want to be a blessing to them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SARAH KARZEL

president@bethlehemlutheran.net

Dear Fellow Members of Bethlehem,

These are such difficult times. Difficult for those of us who have to stay at home; difficult for those of us who have to go out and perform essential services. Then there are those who are facing lay offs and those who are ill. There are so many of our friends and family to pray for every day.

Please keep Bethlehem in your prayers too. The school is closed, so the children are missing their teachers and classmates. Their parents are scrambling to work from home while taking care of small children. Teachers are facing a dramatic decline in family income. Pastor Megan is doing three people's jobs while taking care of her own small children.

These days I am reminded of Easter Sunday in St. Maarten in April 2018. The Caribbean island had been blasted by hurricane Irma in September 2017. The damage was devastating. Six months later, most buildings were still badly damaged, most businesses were still shuttered. We had been there a couple of years before, and the harbor had been full of cruise ships and sailboats, music was playing from the boardwalk, and businesses and restaurants were doing a brisk business. When we sailed into the harbor in 2018, there was not one other boat there, and the town was silent.

The next morning, we went to look for a church with Easter services going on. It wasn't hard to find because of the joyful noise coming out of the building. When I logged on to the livestream of Bethlehem's service last Sunday, I felt the same way! Virtual joyful noise, but joyful noise nonetheless! And I loved the way we are all able to share our thoughts and wishes for one another during the service. In this time of worry and isolation, there was such comfort and connection.

I hope that you continue to stay connected to Bethlehem. Come to virtual services on Sunday. Reach out to each other by phone. Remember that we will all be back together soon (and what a joyful noise that will be!) And please continue to give. We need you now more than ever.

Blessings to you all!

Sarah Karzel



MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

Senior Music Minister

vicenteditto@bethlehmlutheran.net

Streamed services have been well received and I am delighted with all the positive comments people have left on the Facebook page. Constructive comments have also been very helpful and I welcome more feedback as we continue to refine our streaming skills. The music staff will continue to work with Pastor Megan to bring the congregation quality music for streamed worship for as long as we can. Hopefully, we will all be able to return to worshipping in person very soon. Until then, see you all on the Facebook page.

FELLOWSHIP

CONNIE TROE

FELLOWSHIP CHAIR

fellowship@bethlehmlutheran.net

LOOKING AHEAD TO FELLOWSHIP

Once it is safe to gather for events again, the fellowship committee looks forward to having the congregation enjoy a potluck brunch and a Bunco fun night. Friendship dinners and lunches will resume. We also look forward to celebrating the baptism of Brenan Martinez.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

God's call is to love our neighbors and to serve one another. In light of God's call and in realization of the needs of the less fortunate, Bethlehem women will gather at a rescheduled date to make no-sew blankets for Lutheran Social Services and Hope Gardens. So don't lose sight of your scissors! You will enjoy a short devotion, morning snacks, and fellowship as we answer God's call to meet the needs of others. When it is once again safe for social events, we will inform you of the date to join us.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us for our live stream services during Holy Week on our Facebook page. Palm Sunday at 10 a.m., Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7 p.m.

www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills/



CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONALS

Pastor has put out devotionals for you to pick up at the front entrance of the church along with palms for Palm Sunday or you can get the daily Christ in Our Home devotion through email!

With the outbreaks of coronavirus disease 2019 in North America and around the world many people may be without a physical copy of Christ in Our Home. To assist with devotional life during this time, Augsburg Fortress is offering a limited-time complementary email subscription. Sign up and we will deliver the daily devotional to your email at 4am Central Time for the remainder of March and April 2020. Please visit the following link to subscribe.

<https://tinyurl.com/qm4m3po>

YOUTH NEWS

JENNIFER ADKISON
Director of Youth Ministry
youthdirec-
tor@bethlehemplutheran.net



With the uncertain times we are living in right now, the youth group has moved to meeting virtually through Zoom. A passage that I have shared with them during this time is Psalm 46. I hope that this Psalm comforts you as much as it does me.

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸ Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

We will remember March 2020. March 2020 has become memorable where we live. We began the month, seeing new parts of the country and continuing to marvel at the beauty that is Tanzania. We will end the month, having journeyed to the US, not sure when we will be able to return home. Early this month, we traveled to Mwanza, Tanzania, to visit friends and see what is happening in theological education at ***Nyakato Theological College***, one of three zonal colleges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Nyakato provides education for aspiring pastors, parish workers, and evangelists. The ELCT has a significant clergy shortage, so schools like Nyakato are providing essential leadership development. We have been invited by leaders at the college to consider returning to teach intensive courses sometime in 2021. We are grateful for the invitation and will be working with our supervisors and the calendar to see what might become possible. We discussed the upcoming Easter vacation with our friends, putting some tentative plans in place for them to come our way.



We returned to campus, took part in faculty meetings, and began planning seriously for the second semester (which would begin on 23 March). We talked with colleagues, looked up resources, and began reviewing syllabi.

On Sunday, March 15, we enjoyed dinner at our home with missionary colleagues. We talked about what was happening, but there was no particular sense of urgency about the conversation.

Read more about what they're up to in Tanzania on their blog at <https://mcintz.wordpress.com/>

Your support makes a world of difference!

To help your congregation fulfill its covenant sponsorship, give directly through your church. You can include your missionary support donation in your weekly offering just indicate on your offering envelope how much is being contributed to the missionaries.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

If you would like to stay in touch and get updates of events happening at Bethlehem, please visit www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills and like us!

Also, check out our preschool Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutherschool. Bethlehem's teachers and staff have been sharing videos of readings on the school Facebook page. If you have children in your lives or you would like to share with friends and family who have children, please do so!

YOU CAN STILL ORDER TAKEOUT AND DELIVERY. TIPS TO HELP WITH FOOD SAFETY WORRIES

By [Genevieve Ko](#) Cooking Editor

www.latimes.com/food/story/2020-03-20/coronavirus-food-safety-tips-for-take-out-and-delivery

You can't eat out at restaurants right now but you can — and should, according to Mayor Garcetti — support them (and eat well!) with takeout and delivery orders.

I've always been, let's call it fastidious, about food safety in the kitchen, like many chefs and cooks.

Restaurants and delivery services are enacting even more food safety measures than those they already had in place. And while nothing in life is guaranteed and little is certain at this time, the guidelines at the city and state level recognize delivery and takeout food as safe for you and your family.



"There is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food," according to the CDC. "It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads." And if you wash your hands between touching the surface and your face, you're good.

By applying social-distancing guidelines and kitchen vigilance to takeout and delivery food, you can quell whatever fears you have. Here are some steps you can take to quiet your mind and order with confidence:

Choose contactless delivery and opt out of utensils. After your delivery carrier has walked away, leave the outermost delivery bag on the doorstep (to throw away) if applicable, and carry just the containers inside to put on your counter. Wash your hands and transfer the food from the containers to your own dishware. Wash your hands well again and eat with your own utensils. When you're done, recycle or discard packaging, wash your dishes and wipe down your table and counters.

To practice social distancing while getting takeout or curbside pickup, pay by credit card online or by phone beforehand if that's an option. If not, use contactless phone payments or have the right wad of cash ready. Our science reporter Amina Khan recommended, "To maintain a six-foot distance from other people, let the server put the item down and take three big steps away before you go in and grab it. Avoid direct handoffs." Do the same with payment if needed. Once your food is home, follow the steps above.

Most importantly: Tip generously. The people feeding and serving you right now deserve whatever extra you can afford above the standard 20%.

HOW TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING BETHLEHEM

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray this finds you and your families healthy and "Safer at Home". During these unprecedented times it is comforting to know that our church continues to do important work for our congregation, friends, and neighbors.

Despite the challenges we are all facing our Pastor and Church Staff are still available to us and are working to maintain our daily operations as best as possible. Our preschool director and assistant director are working and preparing for when we can again open our preschool ministry, and our worship and music staffs are providing us opportunities to continue worshipping together on Sundays and during this Lenten season. It is comforting to see the incredible number of families and individuals logging in to continue worshipping together during these on-line services. We want to see this continue and grow! We recognize that many individuals are facing financial uncertainty, but we would like to encourage those who are able to continue to share their offerings so we can continue to support our staff!

As a reminder, there are three easy ways to continue to send your offering:

- 1) Mail checks directly to Bethlehem Lutheran Church
12227 Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills, CA 91344
- 2) Bill Pay automated payments through your bank or financial institution
- 3) Donate On-Line through our Church Website www.bethlehemplutheran.net
Enter through the Church site and locate the orange DONATE NOW button at the top right You can set up an autopay or one-time donation.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving and prayers for our Pastor, Church and School Staff.

Blessings,

Your Church Council

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRANADA HILLS, CA**

You can continue supporting Bethlehem Worship and Ministries. Thank you for your generosity!

Ways to Give

- Through your bank's Bill Pay
- Donate On-Line through our church website (www.bethlehemplutheran.net) Enter through the Church site and locate the orange DONATE NOW button at the top right. You can set up an auto pay or one-time donation.
- Mail in your check

12227 BALBOA BLVD. GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344
REV. MEGAN FRYLING



APRIL NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

This has been quite a month. I don't think any of us has ever been through something like this before – self-isolation, not being able to see loved ones, empty grocery stores, long lines everywhere, the closing of restaurants, movie theatres and countless other places, postponements of weddings and events...

At LSS, we have kept our Food Pantry open and operating, but under a whole new, safe set of procedures. The Clothes Closet is closed until further notice. We do not allow anyone into our facility and we are conducting business outside, not allowing any lines to form, or people to be closer than the 6ft. rule. Boxes of gloves, gallons of cleaning supplies and "sparkling isolation" are the norm. Instead of letting our clients shop freely as we normally do, we have pre-packed bags and boxes for our guests that they are allowed to pick up and take home. Of course, we have seen an uptick in the number of families/individuals served, and we expected that. As of Friday, we still had some food left, mostly non-perishables. Our normal daily pickups from Target, Costco and Trader Joe's has dwindled to one day and then only a box or two of food and not perishables such as fruit, veggies, milk, cheese, etc. Understandable in that these stores are also experiencing low supplies. But thanks to the continued support of our churches all the months leading up to this, we probably had more food on hand than most pantries.

We are able to still order from the LA Regional Foodbank, but we don't know what this will look like next week as far as what we will receive. We are sure it will be a greatly decreased order. We will place our order on Monday for delivery on Thursday, so we may run short of food before then and have to close, possibly Tuesday or Wednesday. We have not had a run on our Pantry, and our guests are calm and take what we can give them at this time. They bless us each and every day.

Our guests are so thankful that we are still operating, thanks to our staff on the front lines who are now doing double duty restocking, cleaning, answering phones, paperwork and even making home food deliveries to some of our elderly guests.

Thanks be to God for looking out for us and hungry people. Be prepared for a food drive when we get back to normal! And we will get back there. God's blessings on all of you.

Jan Maseda



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

We're taking a break for now because restaurants are closed. Please continue to fellowship with one another through a phone call or through an email. We will keep you updated.

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like pastoral care visit from the pastor, please contact the church office and let us know. (office@bethlehemplutheran.net)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

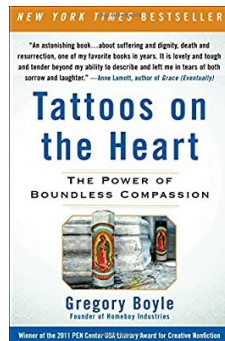
Get each week's sermon and a musical selection delivered to your phone. You can find our podcast on any smartphone or computer through either the Spotify app or Spotify.com by searching for "Bethlehem Granada Hills".

You will see our logo with a set of headphones on it. To have the podcast automatically sent to you when a new one comes out, just click "subscribe" on iTunes.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club is reading "Tattoos on the Heart" by Gregory Boyle. Contact Pastor Megan to be added to the Zoom call or the WhatsApp group. 610-680-7220.



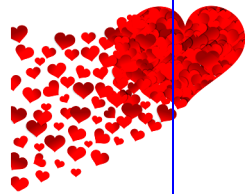
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Brian Fisher
- 4 Marisa Boyd
- 5 Kathy Santiago
- 7 Peggy Kossart
- 8 Pete Pedersen
- 17 Liva Liva
- 21 Gaynelle Barkley
- 22 Hawks Liva
- 25 Betty Rainey



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ben & Carla Cross (1994)
- 12 Barry & Sunni Sears (1977)
- 14 Brian & Brooke Coffin (2018)
- 23 Todd & Sue Akin (1988)



STATISTICS

March offering: \$ 16,335; Budget: \$22,545
February offering: \$18,827; Budget: \$22,545
Actual YTD: \$119,807.59; Budget YTD: \$135,270.00

Attendance:

February average at 9 a.m.: 47
February average at 11 a.m.: 70
One service Feb. 16: 156
Ash Wednesday: 53

APRIL 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>On our Facebook Page</u>	6	7	8	9 <u>7PM Maundy</u> <u>Thursday Online Ser-</u> <u>vice on our Facebook</u> <u>Page</u>	10 <u>7PM Good</u> <u>Friday Online</u> <u>Service</u>	11
5 Easter Sunday <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>On our Facebook Page</u>	13	14	15 <u>10:15AM Adult Study</u> <u>4:30PM Fellowship</u> <u>Team Mtg</u> <u>7PM Council Meeting</u>	16	17	18
19 <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>On our Facebook Page</u>	20 <u>5PM Bell Choir</u>	21 <u>12:30 PM Adult Ed</u> <u>Team Mtg</u> <u>4PM WELCA Bible</u> <u>Study @ Judy's</u>	22 <u>10:15AM Adult Study</u>	23 <u>5:45PM Children's</u> <u>Choir</u> <u>6:15PM Ensemble</u> <u>7PM Faith Choir</u>	24	25
26 9 & 11AM Worship <u>10:10AM Sunday School</u> <u>12:30PM Sunday Forum</u>	27 <u>5PM Bell Choir</u>	28	29 <u>10:15AM Adult Study</u>	30 <u>5:45PM Children's</u> <u>Choir</u> <u>6:15PM Ensemble</u> <u>7PM Faith Choir</u>	May 1	2

APRIL WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP LEADERS - 9:00 SERVICE	<i>Easter Sunday</i>				
Date	4-5-2020	4-12-20	4-19-2020	4-26-20	5-3-20
Assisting Minister				Scott Fisher	Nicole Hernandez-Liva
Reader				Emily Carlson	Carla Cross
Acolyte				Hannah Carlson	Richard Liva
Ushers				Katie Nakata	Brian Grefsrud
				Mary Fisher	Shea Clancy
Refresh + Juice					
Altar Guild				Betty Pust	Sue Schmidt

WORSHIP LEADERS - 11:00 SERVICE	4-5-2020	4-12-20	4-19-20	4-26-20	5-3-20
Assisting Minister				Ron Kraus	Nancy Hall
Reader				Sarah Karzel	Bud Gundersen
Communion Asst.				Kiera Nusbaum	Sarah Karzel
Ushers				Ken Cave	Janet Puchlik
				Janet Puchlik	Fred Ophus
Greeter				Susan Van Deest	Jan Maseda
Refreshments					
Offering Counters				Janet Puchlik	Fred Ophus
				Dwayne Schmidt	Pat St. Michel

THANK YOU!

Thank you Jill Goddard for the beautiful lent banners that are in the sanctuary.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344