



# 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](mailto:pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net)

People of Bethlehem,

Each month, I've been hoping that I'll be writing a lovely letter to you all about how we're now going back to worship in the building and that things will go back to the way they were before. I'm just as

disappointed as you are that this is not the month. However, that time will come- eventually we will be back in the building together. Eventually we will be able to hug, shake hands, and enjoy worship and fellowship the way we did before.

In the meantime, it is important to remember that there are still sources of joy for us right now. There are still things both little and big that bring us moments of happiness and peace. There are still ways that God is at work in our midst. On our church Facebook page, we've been sharing questions a couple of times a week to help us share these joyful things with each other. Questions like-

What made you smile today?

Name a book that changed your life.

What in nature are you most grateful for?

Name 3 things that make our church special or unique.

It's been a joy to see the way that people have responded to the questions and then responded to each other in the comments. If you haven't been on the church Facebook page recently, I recommend that you hop online and check it out and get involved in those comments on the questions. Learn about each other and learn from each other!

We may not be able to physically be together for fellowship and conversation, but we still have these great digital opportunities to connect. We have great opportunities to connect through the phone as well. If you're missing conversation with folks from church, pick up the phone and make some calls! If you don't have a current copy of the church directory, reach out to Evelyn in the church office and she would be happy to print a copy to send to you. Have these fun conversations where you remind each other of the joy that you find in life. That's the Holy Spirit at work in each of you and in your lives. Even in hard times, there is joy to be found.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP:

### TEMPORARY COVID-19 SCHEDULE

9:00 AM – IN-PERSON WORSHIP

(POSTPONED THROUGH AUGUST)

10:00 AM – ONLINE STREAMING

## STAFF:

### SENIOR PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING

[pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO

MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD

MATTHEW A. KESSELL

[vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net)

[marisabradfield@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:marisabradfield@bethlehemlutheran.net)

[matthewkessell@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:matthewkessell@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### YOUTH DIRECTOR:

JENNIFER ADKISON

[youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER

[finance@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:finance@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

WANDA MORENO

[admin@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:admin@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY

[office@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:office@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN

[director@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:director@bethlehemlutheran.net)

### CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH: 818-360-4777

PRESCHOOL: 818-368-6947

FAX: 818-360-5559



There is joy to be found in the Christian community, even when we're physically distanced from each other. We are bound together by the amazing love of God in Christ Jesus and there is joy in remembering that. In the words of the 15 th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans: 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. 14 I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, [b] that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.

In Christ,  
Pastor Megan

## SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM JUNE COUNCIL MINUTES

### July Council Highlights Reveal Bethlehem Still has a Lot Going On

*By Marilyn Fursman, Secretary*

#### ACTIONS:

1. Agreed to send a letter to the congregation, with a copy of the preliminary budget, and explaining that the congregation will meet at a later time to approve a final budget.
2. Authorized Treasurer Ruth Irwin, V.P. Janet Puchlik, and Chairperson Janice Maseda to sign the checks for the Thrivent Mission Endowment Fund (MEFT) account.
3. Adopted the Corporate Resolution for Thrivent Financial for the Mission Endowment Fund.
4. Approved a resolution authorizing Ruth Irwin and Janet Puchlik to be signers on the transitional Mission Investment Fund (a.k.a. the parking lot fund).

#### MANAGEMENT:

1. June Income: \$61,048; June Expenses: \$75,456.
2. June Offerings: \$16,363 (vs Budget: \$22,545).
3. The Thrivent MEFT account had a balance of \$38,239 as of May 31, 2020.
4. Discussed several possible ways of holding a congregational budget meeting and agreed it would be best to wait until it can be done safely in person.
5. Property: The stained glass overlays on the front windows in the sanctuary are bubbling and cracking, so they are going to be repaired. New member Bob Heyd (Al & Bob Carpets of Granada Hills) will donate installation of carpeting for the new Youth/meeting room.
6. One staff member tested positive for Covid-19 and four others self-quarantined for two weeks.
7. After much preparation to meet all the Health Dept. protocols for worship (preparing required documents, setting up an RSVP system with contact tracing information, providing masks, gloves, signs, hand sanitizer, distancing markers, and distance seating), in-person worship was offered outdoors at 9 a.m. twice between June 28 and July 19 and twice had to be cancelled. It will be on hold through August. Meanwhile, communion kits will be available for pick-up at the church.
8. For the online service, a monthly subscription (\$40/month) was purchased for an app called Switcher Studio that allows integration of pre-recorded segments into live-streaming. It also allows streaming from multiple devices at the same time. This feature would allow some parts to be live-streamed from outside and others from inside, so the staff can spread out and minimize contact with each other.

**MINISTRY:**

1. The Worship team continues to provide worship using the streaming process in Facebook Live. In addition, since June 28, in-person worship also is provided outdoors on Sundays at 9 a.m.
2. Pr. Megan performed two non-member funerals in the past month.
3. Pr. Megan will review new ways to provide a chapel video supplement for the school teachers to use.
4. School enrollment continues to increase.
5. The Phone Ministry, coordinated by Nancy Hall, continues to be well-received.
- 6 Social Ministry—Mary Fisher will team up with Pr. Stephanie Jaeger to help NoHo Home Alliance for the "God's Work Our Hands Sunday" project in September. In August items will be collected for LSS.
7. Virtual Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 13 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.
8. Staycation Bible School (VBS) took place July 12-16 with 50 children participating via Zoom. Church members created 22 YouTube videos for the campers to watch. Canvas bags decorated by Jill Goddard and filled with supplies were passed out in a drive-through pick-up. Donations raised \$270 for the Hope Gardens Family Facility.
9. Youth Group has been meeting twice per week via Zoom. They recently watched the movies "Zootopia" and "The Hate U Give" and discussed how those movies relate to current events and what Jesus says about ministering to the marginalized.
10. An Adult Education group is discussing the Rev. Lenny Duncan's challenging book, "Dear Church—A Love-Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.," Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. It's a joint endeavor with Shepherd of the Valley in Simi Valley, facilitated by Pr Jennie Chrien. Bethlehem members of the "Dear Church" study group is working on an art project to hang in Chandler Hall.
11. Women of the church meet the third Tuesdays at 4 p.m., via Zoom, to study a summer series called "Just Love."

**WINDOW REPAIR WORK**

In the next few weeks, we will be having the beautiful stained glass windows in our sanctuary repaired and preserved. Over the last dozen years since their installation, the windows have braved the elements, particularly the sunshine that strikes the windows flanking the altar. The overlay on the glass is bubbling and showing significant signs of wear. In addition, paint on some of the side windows has faded badly. So before the damage is irreversible, we knew it was time to act.

Although the company that had done the installation has gone out of business, we were able to find another company (one of very few left) who can do the work, repair the damage and return the windows to their original condition. The bulk of the work will be done in their studio, and the windows can then be repaired in a single day. So the sanctuary will not be open in any way over night.





## MUSIC NOTES

**VICENTE DITTO**

Senior Music Minister

[vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net)

July certainly kept us on our toes. With Marisa contracting the corona virus, the rest of the music staff and Pastor Megan had to quarantine for the last two weeks of July. Matthew extracted some recordings of the choir performing anthems and the congregation singing hymns from the archives and we plugged them into our highly prerecorded services. The music staff also made a handful of videos in May that were originally intended for a midweek reflection series on the church's Facebook page, but were repurposed for the July services. Suzanne and I filled in the piano solo spots with some homemade recordings wherever they were needed. Keep Marisa and her husband in your prayers as they weather through the virus at home. Marisa says that despite having bouts of difficulty in breathing, their symptoms are otherwise mild.



## SCHOOL NEWS

**MARY KANDILIAN**

Preschool Director

[Director@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:Director@bethlehemlutheran.net)

And just like that, with a blink of an eye Summer is over!

We had a tremendous amount of fun and learning this summer and it is thanks to our amazing staff, parents, and community! This has been a summer unlike any other and I'm so very proud of everything we accomplished! Our kids got to experience a safe and fun-filled summer thanks to our dedicated staff and families who cooperated with our new regulations. Thank you to every single one of you who volunteered their time or craft, donated, participated, or simply checked in to see how things were going! This church-school relationship is essential to our children and school's development and were looking forward to ample more this year!

We kicked off the summer in May with 12 kids and now have 90 kids almost daily. Our summer camp ends next week and we are preparing for the 2020 school year. This year we had added a TK and K classroom as well as an all day school age program to support our working families and allow their kids to be able to complete their schoolwork at Bethlehem while having fun and peer interactions in a secure way! These uncertain times have allowed us to connect with our community in a positive way and provide services much in need. Were so pleased to report that we have almost 100 kids enrolled for the Fall!

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY

### JUST LOVE: GIVING BIRTH TO JUSTICE

How can we use the power God has given us to effect change? What might it look like in our time to follow God's ways of "just love" in support of those who are oppressed? In what ways do people defy oppression with acts of love? What does "just love" require when injustice occurs at the highest levels of government? These are some of the questions that Shiphrah and Puah had to answer for themselves in the story of the Egyptians and Israelites in Exodus, chapter 1. Since Shiphrah and Puah were midwives, Pharaoh orders them to kill all newborn boy babies. Imagine yourself in the shoes of Shiphrah and Puah. The midwives feared God, so what did they do?

Learn what bold risks of love Shiphrah and Puah take when you "zoom in" for the August Tuesday 18th at 4:00 GATHER Bible study. See how they confronted injustice to bring light and life to an oppressed people. Contemplate what it means to be citizens of the kingdom of heaven and of our own country. All are welcome to join the Zoom study by clicking on the link that Pastor Megan will give you in a later Bethlehem email.

If you need a GATHER magazine, contact Judy Cave at least a week before the Bible study date.



## WATCH OUR WORSHIP ONLINE!

1. Go to [www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills/](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills/)
2. This will open a Facebook page. Don't worry, you don't need a Facebook account to watch the live stream. Facebook may appear persistent with requesting that you join. Just ignore it.
3. On the new page, below the picture, there will be a list of videos.
4. Click on the video labeled with the worship video that you'd like to watch. It may take a minute to load, have patience. You might need to click on the name of the video and not the image.
5. If the live stream isn't working for you at the exact time, you are able to come back and watch the video at a later time using the same steps above.

## PICTURE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a photo for the new photo directory. We are still missing some of you though. Please send a picture with members of your household who are in the directory and email them to Evelyn ([office@bethlehmlutheran.net](mailto:office@bethlehmlutheran.net)). Landscaped orientation are preferred. Thank you!

## CONGRATULATIONS AND SAFE TRAVELS TO PASTOR IOAN!

Pastor Ioan and his girlfriend Deb got engaged. They are planning to get married in a small wedding with only 4 guests on Oct. 12th, so that his mom will be able to be at the wedding. He also accepted a call to a church in Winterset, IA near Deb's family starting on September 1st, 2020.

..Wahoo! You're engaged!..



..What brilliant news!..



## YOUTH NEWS

**JENNIFER ADKISON**

Director of Youth Ministry  
youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

Due to the pandemic, the ELCA is postponing the 2021 Youth Gathering to 2022. This is understandable and also a relief. Because of the pandemic, Bethlehem youth have not had the opportunity to fundraise for the Youth Gathering as had planned (spaghetti dinners, the "Wall of Money," and all other in-person fundraisers), and we are behind in raising enough to send all of our 15 youth to the Gathering. Over the past month, I have been brainstorming with the youth group to come up with some social distancing fundraisers that we can do. I'd like to present "Chalk Art Your Neighbor's Driveway!" This is how it works: You choose someone (your physical neighbor, your church neighbor, a friend down your street, or even yourself!) who you would like to bless with chalk art in their driveway (this person MUST have a driveway that can be chalked - no gravel, dirt, or grass! - and they must live in the local area), choose what you would like - for \$10 the youth will write a positive message, for \$20 the youth will write a positive message with a little bit of art, for \$30 the youth will draw a large art piece - e-mail myself, Jennifer Adkison, the person's/family's name and address of the driveway you would like chalked and how you would like to make payment arrangements, and I will send a small number of youth to that address to bless your neighbor with their chalk art! "Chalk Art Your Neighbor's Driveway" will take place now through August 16, 2020, so please act fast before this fundraiser is over!

**NEW DATES.  
SAME BOUNDLESS GOD.**

After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

We will be having a drive-through food drive for LSS on Saturday, August 1st. A station will be set up in the Bethlehem parking lot from 8 to 10 a.m. to accept donations.



- Bar face soap
- Boxed mac and cheese/hamburger helper/potatoes dishes
- Boxed milk
- Canned food: veggies, fruit, soup, tuna, beans, potatoes, tomatoes
- Crackers, cookies
- Dried beans/legumes
- Dried rice (boxed or bagged)
- Flour (small bags)
- Mayo, ketchup
- Pancake mix
- Paper goods: paper towels, napkins, toilet paper
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Sugar (small bags)
- Vegetable oil

## NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

GREETINGS from HOT and HUMID Columbus Ohio!

### TEACHING UPDATE

Our lives got much busier as Tanzania opened all universities on June 1. We are now teaching online—pioneering a way of teaching not attempted before at Tumaini University Makumira. We have learned a lot! And we and our students continue to learn how to make this way of teaching and learning work. We are teaching three days a week and spending other times meeting online with students, supervising student research at all three levels (bachelor's, master's, and PhD—see more about this below), and communicating with our university and mission colleagues.



*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.

## HOW TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING BETHLEHEM

### Ways to Worship

Watch our worship service on our Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

[www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills/](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills/)

### Ways to Give

- Mail in your check
- Through your bank's Bill Pay Donate
- On-Line through our church website ([www.bethlehmlutheran.net](http://www.bethlehmlutheran.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.
- Text 844-930-2811 to give a donation and follow the steps.
- Download the Giveplus+ app

### 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@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:president@bethlehemplutheran.net)

Dear Fellow Members of Bethlehem,

August, at Bethlehem, usually brings a congregational meeting at which we review and approve the budget prepared by the council. In this most unusual year, we are finding that many things must be done differently. So too with our budget for the next fiscal year.

Over the last few months, the council has been working on a budget for the fiscal year that begins in September. Ruth Irwin, the Treasurer, has been leading that effort, and I want to thank her for exceptional work during difficult circumstances. As you might imagine, there is quite a lot of uncertainty looking forward to the next few months and beyond. The school is open, and we are so happy that we can offer childcare to essential workers and others who need us and fulfill this mission to our community. But the details of how many students will attend, what ages they will be, whether the state will issue new mandates or lift others is all a bit of a guess at this point.

Adding to the difficulties of the moment, there is the logistical problem of holding a congregational meeting like we usually do. The council has considered this and has come to the conclusion that it is not safe right now to meet in person. And we do not believe that a virtual meeting is possible either. For one thing, our constitution does not permit it. But also, we are concerned that a virtual meeting may not allow equal participation by all. Some of our members do not have internet access and may not be comfortable with technology.

So we have decided to forgo a congregational meeting at this time. Ruth has prepared a best guess budget and the council has approved it. We will be sending a copy to every member both by email and hard copy. We encourage you to read it thoroughly. And to bring any questions or comments you may have to me, to Ruth, to Pastor Megan or to any member of council. Our contact information is in the directory, or you can call the church office to get it. My number is 818-261-0629.

We recognize that facts will change over the next few months and hopefully more will become clear. That may enable us to hold a meeting in person, or it may not. It may require us to revisit our working budget. Whatever happens, the council will address it with wisdom and with the best interests of Bethlehem at heart. And we will keep you informed.

I hope you all are well and coping as well as possible with the profound changes in all our lives. Please remember that your Bethlehem family is always here for you.

Blessings,  
Sarah Karzel



## NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

ONE...

One tree can start a forest; one smile can begin a friendship; one hand can lift a soul; one word can frame the goal; one candle can wipe out darkness; one laugh can conquer gloom; one hope can raise your spirits; one touch can show you care; one life can make the difference; be that one today.

LSS's world is made up of lots of ones – one person did a food drive; one company did a clothing drive; one church made a large financial contribution; one family collected shoes...and on it goes. And our clients are made up of a lot of "ones" also – lots of individuals, lots of families. Many of us feel that just being one person, what can we really do to make a difference? "I'm just one person, not wealthy, and there are so many good causes out there – so many wrongs to make right – I can't possibly make a difference."

But that's what happened to LSS these last several months – lots of "ones" made a huge difference for us. One individual, one family, one volunteer, one church, one organization –and before we knew it, we had lots of donations of food, clothing, financial resources to purchase food, volunteers and the love, Guidance and spirit of our God to help us through difficult times.

So if you were "one" of those who have been helping us at LSS, our heartfelt thanks goes to each and every one of you. We are confident that we are not alone in trying to carry out God's work to help the helpless. We are called to share the good news of Christ's love through word and deed. Thank you for all of your deeds towards LSS, even though our own flames may be flickering.

You are making a huge difference every day. Thank you.

*Jan Maseda/Director/SFV/LSS*



## PLAN FOR A BOUTIQUE!

Even though planning events in the far future may be uncertain now, the women are remaining hopeful that the pre-Christmas boutique scheduled for Saturday, November 7th and Sunday, November 8th will still happen. It's not too early to mark your calendar. And it's not too early to craft an item that can be donated to the boutique. Further details will be released as the situation and time allow.

## MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

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

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills) and like us!

Also, check out our preschool Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranschool](http://www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranschool). 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!

## BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club will resume in September. More details to come soon!

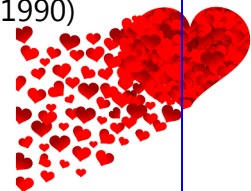
## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ruth Anne Sitko
- 4 Dee Natwick
- 5 Karl Puchlik
- 5 Konstanze Sessing
- 6 Marilyn Fursman
- 6 Rocco Rainey
- 7 Marsha Grefsrud
- 10 Danny Compton
- 10 Timmy Compton
- 13 Donna Ophus
- 14 Charlotte Cross
- 17 Kelli Yribe
- 18 Carol Heyd
- 20 Brett Irwin
- 22 Helen Hightower
- 22 Jeannette Anderson
- 24 Laura Rubinstein
- 28 Jan Maseda
- 28 Randy Miller
- 31 Dorothy Stilling



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Mike & Laureen Gleason (2008)
- 12 Benito Galindo & Suzanne Recer (1990)
- 14 John & Shirley Cooper (1966)
- 15 Steve & Emily Carlson (1998)
- 19 Thomas & Shelly Shubert (1989)
- 23 Kyle & Megan Fryling (2008)
- 25 Richard & Meredith Taylor (1956)



## STATISTICS

July were \$16,327.72  
Budget was \$22,545.00

June offerings: \$16,362.98  
June budget: \$22,545.00

May offerings \$23,284.72  
May Budget \$22,545.00

# AUGUST 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>7:00PM Dear Church</u> <u>Virtual Book Study</u>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <u>7PM Youth Group</u>
<b>2</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <u>7:00PM Dear Church</u> <u>Virtual Book Study</u>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <u>7PM Youth Group</u>
<b>9</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <u>7PM Youth Group</u>
<b>16</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>4PM WELCA Bible</u> <u>Study via Zoom</u>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <u>7PM Youth Group</u>
<b>23</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>7PM Youth Group</u>
<b>30</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	<b>31</b>	<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <u>7PM Youth Group</u>



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344