

THE BETHLEHEM STAR

TO KNOW CHRIST...TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN



PASTOR'S MESSAGE
MEGAN FRYLING
Senior Pastor
pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

People of Bethlehem, "Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy." -Psalm 98:8

"Together." We used to think we knew just what that word meant, didn't we? We never used to wonder, most of us, how the definition might be stretched, how important togetherness might become or how clever we'd need to become in order to make it happen.

It's incredible and a bit overwhelming to think about how 2020 has changed and challenged things. Amid a sea of confusion, fear, and discord, we suddenly became desperate for some kind of joy, precisely when it became impossible to get together for joy in most of the ways we knew (coffee shops, dinner parties, choir rehearsal, Sunday morning worship, fellowship, Bible study, WELCA, youth group, and so much more). So we stretched, hard. Flexed more than we thought we could. Groaned and reached and complained and expanded and swore (only a little!) and wept (sometimes a lot!).

- All of our music & worship staff quickly took things online in a way we've never tried before
- Sarah figured out the Paycheck Protection Program loan
- Nancy coordinated the Phone Ministry to keep people in touch by phone
- Mary took on the incredible task of modifying the school practices and reopening safely
- Jennifer has been coming up with youth games, movies, and fun- all online!
- Nicole led Sunday School on Zoom & has put together an awesome Staycation Bible School program for this month
- WELCA members faithfully continued their monthly Bible study on Zoom
- Evelyn has helped us put together bulletins for both online and inperson
- Marilyn and Wanda researched and ordered things to help us safely start an in-person outdoor service

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

TEMPORARY COVID-19 SCHEDULE 9:00 AM — IN-PERSON WORSHIP 10:00 AM — ONLINE STREAMING

STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD MATTHEW A. KESSELL

vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net marisabradfield@bethlehemlutheran.net matthewkessell@bethlehemlutheran.net

YOUTH DIRECTOR:

JENNIFER ADKISON youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER finance@bethlehemlutheran.net

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

WANDA MORENO admin@bethlehemlutheran.net

FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY office@bethlehemlutheran.net

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

Mary Ashdjian-Kandilian director@bethlehemlutheran.net

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And in the end, we were together, weren't we? When we logged on for Zoom meetings, streamed worship services, organized phone ministry to ward off loneliness, gathered our youth together for games and fun online, we were together in joy, weren't we?

Our togetherness may not have happened in the sanctuary or in Chandler Hall, but it happened! Through it all, we were together with God, whose love covers every distance and heals every heart.

This month, you will be receiving a pledge card from our Stewardship Team. I hope you will join me and my family in praying together regularly as we discern our giving for 2021. So much is different; so many circumstances have changed. But here's what I know: with God's help, the music we create, in person or in spirit, will be well worth the rejoicing.

Blessings, Pastor Megan

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM JUNE COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Prepares Budget by Marilyn Fursman, Secretary

Besides discussing the protocols for re-opening the church for small-group worship on June 28, most of the June Council meeting was devoted to working on the proposed budget for fiscal 2021. Due to the double whammy of (1) the church on quarantine and (2) the school closed for several months, and a markedly lower enrollment at the re-opening, it looks like there will be a deficit, at least through the end of this year. The Small Business Association Payroll Protection Program will help in the immediate future, but it was agreed that the budget would need to be reviewed in six months. More tweaking will be done before it is presented to the congregation for approval.

Dividends from the new Faithful Stewards Endowment Fund -- intended for innovative outreach and charitable activities -- were not to be accessed for two years, in hopes that a sizable amount would accrue. Unfortunately, until Bethlehem can become self-sustaining, those funds are unlikely to be used for what they were intended.

As we are coming up to the second anniversary of the merger, the transitional funds have just about been used up and it's clear that more time will be needed to grow the church. That extra \$440,000 helped pay for additional talented music staff, a new administrator, a gifted associate pastor (for 16 months), also several storage sheds and some "wish list" items such as the grand piano, new sound system, and for remaking a back hallway into a small meeting and break room with a restroom and an outside entrance (still a work-in-progress). These additions were not luxuries, but tools to help the church operate more effectively so it can grow.

But you are critically important in this challenge of growing the church, too! The hard, but gratifying, work of making new friends and introducing neighbors to our awesome God is a task that belongs to each of us, and there's no time like the present to step out of our comfort zones and step up to the challenge before us. Will you invite someone to worship, or a concert, or a class, or a dinner, or a fun event, or the book club, or men's breakfast, or a craft group, or youth group, or women's study, or service activity? Yes, we will get back to doing these things in person again. Our renewed commitment to the Lord's command to "Go and make disciples" could be the next best thing to happen in the life of our church! (Much more fun than trying to figure out how to cut another dollar from the budget or steal it from our charitable giving fund.)

Meanwhile, thanks to all who contribute faithfully to sustaining Bethlehem through your financial support, volunteering your time, offering your encouragement and prayers.

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Happy Summer Bethlehem!

Summer is upon us and though we have restrictions and safety precautions nothing is going to stop us from making and celebrating the best of God's blessings and our beautiful California weather!

Our Youth group, lead by Jennifer has been meeting weekly via Zoom to play games and address some very important racial issues our communities need to improve on. I appreciate Jennifer's love for our youth group, her time and energy in creating a safe space for our youth and making sure they stay connected during this social distancing time.

Summer blessings, Nicole Hernandez-Liva

STAYCATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's VBS time! But wait...because we are still social distancing, this year our VBS is going VIRTUAL and we are asking your child to participate from home! This year we are doing a "STAYCATION" Bible School for 5 days. We are going to have your children participate via ZOOM and/or recorded lessons. We will supply summer snacks, toys and even a musical instrument to help bring the VBS topics to life and keep your child engaged. All we ask is that you support your child virtually when it is time to log on.



Staycation Bible School

Dates: July 12th - July 16th

This year our theme is: Sing! Play! Summer!

Ages: 3-12 is the recommended age range based on the supplies in the bag. But if you have a younger child and would like a bag, that's fine. Just be aware that there are items inside that need extra supervision.

Supply Pick up:

We have assembled a cute canvas Supply bag (1 bag per child) that we are asking you to pick up on: <u>Saturday</u>, <u>July 11 th from 11-1 p.m.</u>

We will be set up in the parking lot for you to do a drive thru pick up. We will have masks on and will be following social distancing safety protocols. Please RSVP in the link below and let us know how many children will be attending. We want to make sure we have a "Staycation" Bible School bag for your child. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4AAAA72BA5FD0-supply

This year we are asking for a donation for Hope Gardens Family Center, a transitional home facility for single ladies with children that are experiencing homelessness. We will have buckets for parents to drop money or checks in while driving thru to pick up their bags. Checks should be made out to: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and once our program ends on Thursday, we will add up the total and announce it on our closing Zoom call.

Special acknowledgments to Jill Goddard for her amazing artwork and banners, Chriselle Almeida for her time and creative ideas and Herman Lopez (Oralewear) for help in designing and supplying the bags.



Streaming services will continue to feature accompanists and choir directors through the summer while all the section leaders will go on hiatus after July 5th. Marisa has been

experimenting with sound editing and has created a recording of our choir members singing a hymn. We would like to continue creating recordings of the choir to be presented every other Sunday during worship so that the group still has a creative outlet and a presence in the church.



SCHOOL NEWS MARY KANDILIAN Preschool Director Director@bethlehemlutheran.net

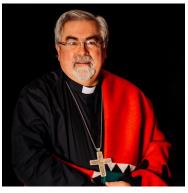
We've been open for about 2 months now and are so pleased to announce we are growing each week! New faces from our community and old faces from Bethlehem

have brought joy into our building and it wouldn't have happened if not for hard work and determination of our amazing staff. Thank you to all those who are extra washing, extra sanitizing and doing everything needed to make Bethlehem a safe space for our kids. Also a huge thank you and virtual hugs to all those who have been calling in, donating, offering advice and making referrals to our school! We appreciate you so much and can't wait to start the new school year in August together!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Mary Fisher will be organizing a drive-by food donation collection this month and the food will be brought to NoHo Home Alliance at St. Matthews in North Hollywood. Contact the church office for details. Look for more donation and volunteer opportunities coming soon!





News from the Synod Office

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin will be leaving the bishopric as of July 31, 2020 and, beginning August 1, will serve United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, PA as its next president.

For more information please visit: https://tinyurl.com/y78y8rdw

WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY

JUST LOVE

When in your life have you longed to experience the presence of Jesus? Have obstacles in your life ever prevented you from seeing Jesus? For Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, there were several obstacles that kept him from being in the presence of Jesus. The familiar song tells that he was a "wee little man" who climbed a sycamore tree "for the Lord he wanted to see." But there's much more to this experience than the song tells us.

In the July GATHER lesson, we look at Zacchaeus not only seeing Jesus in an unusual way but also learn about more obstacles that kept Zacchaeus from really being in Jesus' presence. Additionally, we learn about Jesus' recognition of Zacchaeus as an example of just love.

"Zoom in" to this GATHER BIBLE on Tuesday, July 21st at 4:00 P. M. to discover how Jesus' just love and restorative justice make Zacchaeus a new man in his community. But does his own community receive this restored man? "Zoom in" to find out. Just click on the link that Pastor Megan will give us in the Bethlehem email. All are welcome to join us. If you need a GATHER magazine for this lesson, contact Judy Cave.



PICTURE CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are working on making a church picture directory. Please send a picture with members of your household who are in the directory and email them to Evelyn (office@bethlehemlutheran.net). Thank you!

IN PERSON WORSHIP

We have returned to in-person worship! However, in order to keep everyone safe, there are several requirements that must be followed. We will not be able to sing together during our in-person worship, but we will have music for you to listen to and enjoy. There also will be no fellowship time following service at this point. Please keep in mind that these requirements are temporary, although we don't know for how long.

- 1. Masks are required for everyone over age 2. If you don't have one, one will be provided.
- 2. Use hand sanitizer (provided).
- 3. Maintain physical distance of 6 ft. (beginning in the parking lot) and during worship. Families may sit together.
- 4. Reservations accepted for limited seating. https://reopen.church/r/1tL7oRNZ

Our service will be at 9:00 a.m. but please plan to arrive at least 10-15 minutes before. Make sure to reserve a seat, even if you're staff or volunteering. If you would rather call, please contact Jan Maseda (818) 288-7054 or the church office (818) 360-4777 and we will reserve a spot for you. You also need to bring a filled out Waiver of Liability Form.

WATCH OUR WORSHIP ONLINE!

- 1. Go to 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.



YOUTH NEWS

JENNIFER ADKISON

Director of Youth Ministry
youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

The youth group continues to meet every Wednesday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. We have been doing games over Zoom and have started playing Minecraft together. For more information, please contact Jennifer Adkison at:

youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net.

News from our Sponsored Missionaries

Greetings from COLUMBUS OHIO, where we have been since mid-March! We are grateful to have been in touch with so many of you all—through preaching, presentations, and conversations online.

Now, we are entering a new phase of this season of evacuation from the field. Tanzania reopened all universities on June 1. We begin teaching online this week. We will be the first lecturers to have ever taught online at Tumaini University Makumira in the institution's history! We have A LOT to try to master, and we are working rather feverishly to climb a steep learning curve. We have many friends and family members who had to



figure all of this out in a span of two weeks or less in March, so we know it is doable. We look forward to seeing, hearing, and teaching our students!

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.

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.

ATTEND A CLASS; LEARN SOMETHING NEW; MEET A NEW PERSON!

By Marilyn Fursman, Adult Education chairperson

This is a challenging time to plan for adult education and budget for next year while everything is still so uncertain. Good news: Though adult education has slowed, it has not come to a complete stop.

- 1. Women of the church have an opportunity to join a Zoom Bible study/discussion each month on the third Tuesday, July 21, at 4 p.m. "Just Love" is the timely theme for June, July and August; it's found in the Gather magazine. Throughout history we can see that love alone does not resolve society's problems; but, action must be taken for justice to happen. You are challenged to step out of your comfort zone for the sake of the world.
- 2. An intergenerational Zoom Bible discussion in June focused on "Jonah." If you skipped it because you thought it was a child's fairytale, you missed some fascinating art work, cartoons, movies and new insights. Never mind arguing about whether the story is a metaphor, or if a man could live inside a whale (or some kind of big fish) for three days. God called Jonah to go out of his comfort zone in a big way to take God's message to people Jonah really didn't like and tried very hard to avoid. He obeyed. Another timely message. And getting to know some people you might not have known before is so worthwhile.
- 3. The Wednesday 10:15 a.m. Bible study class is on hold for now, but participants are anxious to start up again soon. Discussions tend to be very lively and newcomers are welcome to join at any time.
- 4. "Remembering Your Story—Creating Your Own Spiritual Autobiography" has one class to go to finish this 10-session life review course. Members have come to know and appreciate each other on a deeper level. For two churches that have merged, this is an extremely worthy goal and I praise the participants for stepping out of their comfort zones. To grow the church, we must be willing to make new friends.

If there is any speaker you'd like to hear, series or topic you'd like to explore, please do let me know. Synod Bishop Guy Erwin recently reflected on the mood of our country and how the church might engage in healing the wounds of racism. He said, "I ask you to reflect...on how our church can help us...live more fully as neighbors to each other — as people who know each other's stories and feel each other's pain....I invite you into the holy discomfort of listening...." Would Bethlehem members like an opportunity to explore this issue?

One thing this enforced break has done for us, it got us off the merry-go-round of busy-ness (unless you have kids at home!) and gave us time to reflect on what we really missed and what we did not. When you get back to "normal" life, I pray you will choose carefully between activities that are life-draining or life-giving, and may learning more about what your faith has to teach about daily living be closer to the top of your priorities!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SARAH KARZEL

president@bethlehemlutheran.net

Dear Fellow Members of Bethlehem,

I hope that you all are staying well and still staying connected to Bethlehem.

In July, we will be having our annual Stewardship campaign. Like most things this year, it will be a little different, a little more virtual. The one thing it won't be is any less important. We need you and your prayerful commitment to Bethlehem now more than ever. The costs of ministry are not diminished by the virus. In fact, we have to be even more dedicated and more creative now. And from a practical perspective, having a pledge from as many of you as possible will be tremendously important. The council is working now to prepare a budget for the coming year. The number of unknowns is making the process unbelievably challenging. Strong pledge numbers from the congregation will eliminate one of those unknowns, and for that the council will be extremely grateful.

Please continue to pray for your friends at Bethlehem!

Blessings,

Sarah Karzel

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/

Ways to Give

- Mail in your check
- Through your bank's Bill Pay Donate
- On-Line through our church website (www.bethlehemlutheran.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.

News From Lutheran Social Services

Hello from my kitchen table...again!! Another very unique month, right?

This month (June) LSS was able to distribute food every day that we were open (Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays). Even though the distribution from the LA Regional FoodBank is still very sparse, our other food sources, such as Target, Jon's, Trader Joe's and Costco, have ramped up again and we are getting our normal supply of food pre-COVID, which is really a good sign. We still cannot purchase a great deal of food from the LA Regional FoodBank, and everyone is hoping that that will change very soon. Our client base is still growing each week and we expect that it will continue for many months to come, as so many families have lost major sources of their income.

We were blessed this month with several more partnerships. One was particularly exciting – the Sikh Gurdwara temple on Lankershim in North Hollywood supplied us with 200 food containers of prepared food for our clients. It was a container of vegetable curry, rice and veggies and our clients said it was delicious. This will be an on-going partnership for what we hope will be years to come. On the lid of each meal's plastic tray it read: "Sikh Community Lending a Helping Hand." That is their motto. Also, a realtor from Keller Williams in the SFV did a food and clothing drive for us which resulted in 5 truckloads of clothing and food that we are still sorting through. It was just a neighborhood project, and sorta went viral. It was also wonderful.

We are just beginning to bring back our developmentally disabled adult volunteers from Tierra Del Sol, who have been gone during the whole COVID crisis. We have our policies and procedures in place to protect everyone, and they will be coming back slowly with smaller groups than before. We have so missed them since they do most of the work at LSS!!

Thanks to all our churches and individuals who are always sending us money and clothing and food each and every week. You are so appreciated. We also received a \$5,000 anonymous donation this week – yay! Except we would like to thank someone. We also received a grant from the North Hollywood Neighborhood Council to buy more food. God is Good.

Jan Maseda, Director



CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONALS

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 they will deliver the daily devotional to your email at 4am Central Time through June 30, 2020 Please visit the following link to subscribe.

https://tinyurl.com/qm4m3po

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.

BOOK CLUB

"Dear Church" by Rev. Lenny Duncan

Since our Book Club is taking a break, we're inviting you all to join in a Zoom study with our friends at Shepherd of the Valley in Simi Valley. Wednesdays beginning July 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m. "Dear Church" is available in print or on e-reader. SVLC has ordered 25 copies from the publisher, which will be available for \$10 on a first come, first serve basis. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Here's the link for the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85020775632...

Meeting ID: 850 2077 5632 Password: 286587



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Norma Finch
- 1 Andy Karzel
- 1 Doris Schindel
- 4 Emily Hofmann
- 4 Kirsten Smirnoff
- 5 Chris Lazaros
- 6 Barbara Yeager
- 7 Jennifer Adkison
- 8 Linda Zurich
- 9 Richard Hofmann
- 11 Meredith Taylor
- 11 Kameron Santiago
- 16 Beckett Boysen
- 17 Linda Boyd
- 17 Ron Karzel
- 22 Caden Chow
- 22 Joseph Kloiber
- 22 Tiffini Traylor
- 22 Janet Puchlik
- 22 Ryan Yribe
- 27 Marilyn Olson
- 27 Jaxon Adkison
- 31 Kevin Rubinstein

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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

STATISTICS

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

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



JULY 2020 CALENDAR

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9AM In-Person Worship 10AM Online Worship	29	30	1	2	3	4 Att
5 9AM In-Person Worship 10AM Online Worship	6	7	8 7PM Youth Group	9	10	11 7PM Youth Group
12 9AM In-Person Worship 10AM Online Worship Virtual Staycation Bible School Starts	13 SELVENTION	14 STAVEATION	15 7PM Youth Group	16 STATISTICAL STATES	17	18 7PM Youth Group
9AM In-Person Worship 10AM Online Worship	20	21 4PM WELCA Bible Study via Zoom	22 7PM Youth Group	23	24	25 7PM Youth Group
26 9AM In-Person Worship 10AM Online Worship	27	28	29 7PM Youth Group	30	31	Aug.1 7PM Youth Group

JULY WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Date	7-5-2020	7-12-2020	7-19-2020	7-26-2020
Assisting Minister & Reader				
ushers				
Greeter				
Counters	Mary Fisher	Dwayne Schmidt	Mary Fisher	Brian Grefsrud
	Dwayne Schmidt	Brian Grefsrud	Judy Cave	Ken Cave

If you are attending an in-person worship service and would like to serve as an assisting minister and reader, an usher or greeter, please contact Evelyn (office@bethlehemlutheran.net). Thank you.

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/bethlehemlutheranschool. 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!



12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344