



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SARAH KARZEL

president@bethlehemplutheran.net

Hello Fellow Members of Bethlehem, This is an exciting time as we begin to plan for the reopening of on site worship at Bethlehem. For many of you, being at the church is so important to the worship experience. And it just doesn't feel right any other way. But for many others, the online experience has been wonderful and fulfilling. And still others may prefer the in person experience but feel more comfortable and safe participating instead in virtual worship. So I want you to know that even after Bethlehem begins on site worship, we will keep live streaming as well. And it is important that you know that you should make your own choice about what feels right to you. Jesus is with you when you worship at Bethlehem; He is also with you when you worship at home.

To say that making the decision about when to reopen is difficult is a huge understatement. It involves the weighing of such enormously important competing interests. As I said above, for many, the in person worship experience is critical; but there is no shortage of examples of outbreaks of Covid that have come from churches. A single case at Bethlehem would be heart breaking for us all and create a cascade of necessary quarantines and potential infections for everyone there. And while you and I can decide for ourselves if we are comfortable with the risk inherent in on site worship, our pastor, our music staff and a number of ushers and others will have to be there to make worship happen. So we will be meticulous in following all of the conditions outlined in the Governor's order permitting opening. And we will be cautious in watching what happens around us as others open.

Last week, the Bishop sent out a letter to the congregations of the synod regarding the process of reopening. In it, he urges caution and reflects on the ways in which worship will be different going forward. It is well worth reading if you have not already. It can be found on the Bethlehem Facebook page and in last Thursday's email.

We believe at this point that we will be ready to reopen by the end of June. We will keep you up to date as we move through June. The Reopening Task Force headed up by Marilyn Fursman will be working on implementing the required modifications to on site worship, and they will share with us what we can expect when we return.



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@bethlehemplutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO
 MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD
 MATTHEW A. KESSELL
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YOUTH DIRECTOR:

JENNIFER ADKISON
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BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER
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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

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FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN
director@bethlehemplutheran.net

CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH: 818-360-4777
 PRESCHOOL: 818-368-6947
 FAX: 818-360-5559

I hope you are all staying healthy at home for now. And that you are keeping your friends at Bethlehem in your thoughts and prayers. Never has it been more important that we care for each other.

Blessings,
Sarah Karzel

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2020

By Marilyn Fursman, Council Secretary

ACTIONS

1. Received the minutes of the Executive committee meetings:
 - a. April 16—regarding scheduling and reduction of expenses in light of the closure of church & school
 - b. May 5—recommendation of a bonus for Pr. Fryling for outstanding performance during difficult times.
2. Voted to approve minutes of three Council meetings:
 - a. April 19—authorized application for free loan through Payroll Protection Plan (PPP).
 - b. April 29—authorized resolution to open an account with ELCA Credit union to hold the loan.
 - c. May 8—authorized bonus for Pr. Fryling for outstanding performance during difficult times.
3. Agreed to notify the congregation that Bethlehem will not be open for Pentecost and to explain how Bethlehem is preparing to re-open.
4. Heard recommendations of the Audit committee regarding school discounts.
5. Agreed to begin acknowledging special gifts with thank you letters.
6. Council members to prepare budget requests for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

MANAGEMENT

1. Bethlehem's application for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was approved through the ELCA Credit Union; covers two months of payroll and utilities.
2. The preschool re-opened May 4 with 10 students (down from 100), grew to 16, and 45 are expected by June.
In light of reduced needs, some staff was let go and others were furloughed. Discounts are being reviewed.
3. The Task Force on Reopening the Church will comply with local government guidelines and will focus on the safety and health of members as recommended by synod and churchwide authorities.
4. The music staff is recording services during the week and a small crew is on hand for Sunday live-streaming.
5. March offerings took a dive; April offerings were better. Fiscal Year-to-Date (August 2019 to August 2020) income is far below budget. Online donations through the church's web site are up (there is a charge to process each donation), and those received during a service on Facebook take two months to get to the church. Diminishing funds in the two-year merger transition account are supplementing income.
6. Special donations gratefully acknowledged:
 - a. for preschool teachers' masks made by Connie Troe
 - b. in memory of Pete Pedersen.

MINISTRY

1. Mission Endowment Fund Team (MEFT) distributions totaled \$1,867 for fiscal 2019-20. Grants:
 - a. \$380 to cover the transportation for Shea Tuttle, author of "Exactly As You Are."
 - b. \$300 to NOHO Home Alliance – St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Homeless Outreach Program.
 - c. \$300 to Central Lutheran Church Homeless Outreach Program.
 - d. \$625 to Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles.
 - e. Remainder for VBS 2020.
2. Worship and Music—Sunday Service is pre-recorded or live-streamed online each week, but better lighting is needed. They are struggling with how to keep the choir together when they can't meet.
3. Youth and Education— Youth Director Jennifer Adkison is holding two Zoom meetings per week. Members invited to celebrate graduating seniors with a caravan to their houses on May 30, 2 p.m. Pr. Fryling is conducting online Sunday School classes (in addition to weekly chapel for the preschool).
May 24—Confirmation is postponed for seven youngsters who completed the program.
May 9—A 4-week Zoom Bible study on Jonah began Sat., 7 p.m. for youth and adults.
4. Social Ministry—Mary Fisher is coordinating volunteers and clothing needed for the NoHo Home Alliance.
May 14—There was a Zoom presentation by the Revs. Cynthia and Mark Rich, missionaries to Tanzania.
5. Fellowship— No Covid-19 cases to date among members.
A team of 17 faithful callers are maintaining contact with members through weekly phone calls.

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>



MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

Senior Music Minister

vicenteditto@bethlehemplutheran.net

Travis, our bass section leader, will be stepping down from his position at some point this year. The music publishing company at which he works has closed its Los Angeles office and offered Travis a position at their Boulder, CO location. He is not sure when he will be leaving for Colorado so enjoy his wonderful singing while he is still with us.

While the state of in person worship is uncertain at Bethlehem, know that the music department will continue to provide music for whatever kinds of services Bethlehem will have during the summer. I am very glad to have such wonderful colleagues who have stepped up to the challenge of our situation with dependability and creativity.



SCHOOL NEWS

MARY KANDILIAN

Preschool Director

Director@bethlehemplutheran.net

What a strange and unprecedented time to be alive! We hope you are reading these words in good health and safely from home. While very slow to start, we are so pleased to have had such a positive return to Bethlehem! We have created and continue to implement strict safety measures to ensure the safety of all our kids and staff. Some of these include smaller classroom sizes, more cleaning and sanitation, temperature, and health checks twice a day and much more! And while Summer is upon us, things are quite different, great, but different! Everyone is just so excited to be back and we have an amazing summer curriculum planned for our new and returning students and are so eager to share all of it with you!

While our spaces are limited, we still do have availability and as you know, word of mouth is the best referral we can get! If you or someone you know is in need of childcare for kids up to 5th grade, in a safe space where they can learn and play during this summer and beyond, please have them connect with me right away! As always, please be sure to follow Bethlehem Lutheran School on Facebook and Instagram for the day to day updates and our website for resources and news as well!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY

ZOOM IN TO DISCOVER "JUST LOVE"

Theologian Dr. Cornel West once said, "Justice is what love looks like in public." Even though there seems to be a lot of Christian love in our world, there is still a mountain of world problems and injustice. Our world is not what God wants it to be. So what does love have to do with justice? In Scripture we are reminded about God's vision for a world in which we welcome strangers, feed the hungry, and keep people from suffering from poverty, war, and violence. In the Bible, Micah tells us "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (6:8). So how do love and justice shape each other?

We look to Jesus who shows us examples of "just love". We see that just love is relational and begins with family and close friends. The June GATHER Bible study focuses on the familiar events prior to Jesus' raising of Lazarus. The story includes expectations, disappointment, conflict, confrontation, righteous anger, and empathy. Discover how Jesus helps us to find a way forward and to seek outcomes that are both just and loving. Learn what justice and love look like in public.

All women are welcome to join the Bible study on Tuesday, June 16th via Zoom. Tune in at 4:00 P.M. by clicking on the link that Pastor Megan will email to us. If you need the GATHER Bible lesson, contact Judy Cave after June 8th.

YOUTH NEWS

JENNIFER ADKISON

Director of Youth Ministry
youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net



Youth group has been meeting regularly via Zoom every Wednesday and Saturday at 7 p.m. Some of the activities we've done have been "Would You Rather," fun facts about ourselves, and "20 Question" type games. We are just finishing up an intergenerational Bible study on Jonah. School is wrapping up for the year, and I'd like to congratulate our 2020 high school graduates: Cordelia Cross, Ryan Nakata, and Max Stark! Many blessings on this joyous milestone!

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.



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Greetings from Columbus Ohio!

We have been busy over the past month, NOT with the things we had planned (like teaching second semester courses at Tumaini University Makumira), but busy, nonetheless. As many people are spending a lot of time at home, engaging as they can with others, we wanted to reach out and greet you all.

First, we say with joy: Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! We hope each and every one of you and your congregations had a blessed and joy-filled celebration of the truth of Christ's resurrection. We know that your celebrations were different this year than other years—as were the last weeks of your Lenten observance, and as your life together is now.



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/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!

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.

READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP? TIPS FOR YOUR ZOOM VIDEO CHAT

By Marilyn Fursman,

As more and more meetings are taking place via new technologies, such as Zoom video conferencing, here are some tips collected from various online sources to help us look our best and make it a better experience for all participants. Remember, “video” refers to the broadcasting of moving visual images, so take advantage of the fact that it’s not audio only (like a phone call) or a flat photograph. So put on a nice shirt and engage!

1. Use the best device.

- Not smartphones, but laptops or tablets with stands, are best.
- They are easy to move to ideal filming locations and will stand up on their own.

2. Get the right angle.

- Use a laptop stand, stack of books, or yoga blocks to align your device with the top of your head.
- Note the round dot above the screen that indicates the camera “eye” and point the camera down slightly or at eye level. No one wants to look up a person’s nose.
- Your eyes should not be looking downward towards the camera. It’s an unflattering neck view.
- Sit straight. Whatever is aimed closest to the camera will appear enlarged; i.e., elbows, hands, etc.

3. Check your background.

- Avoid backlit glare from windows and harsh lights, which will cast you as a shadowy silhouette.
- To avoid ghoulish lighting, try facing a window or putting a lamp behind your laptop to illuminate your face.
- A plain background works best; so, no plants, trees, or wall hangings growing out of the top of your head.
- Also, avoid walking around with your device. It can be disorienting to the viewer.

4. Improve your sound.

- Use earbuds with a built-in mic to help your voice carry more clearly. It minimizes background noises.

5. Plan your call.

- Before a group call, designate someone to lead and consider using hand-raising to control the conversation.
- Avoid the urge to jump in; it muddles the sound.
- To reduce noise, participants should put themselves on mute when they’re not speaking.

6. Arrive early.

- It helps to arrive a few minutes early so you can check your audio and video image and be prepared.
- Everyone will be grateful for starting on time.

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/

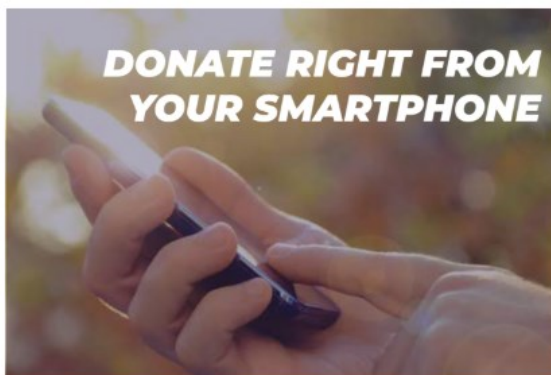
Ways to Give

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

You can now also donate by downloading the GivePlus+ app on your phone.



Giving through our GivePlus Mobile app is an easy and convenient way to donate to our church. It only takes a moment to set up an account:

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by ZIP code ##### or by searching for our Church name.
3. Donate!

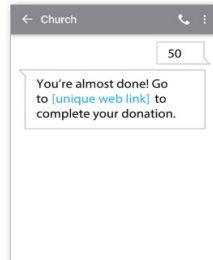
Thank you for your generosity!

You can also text 844-930-2811 and enter the amount you wish to donate and hit send. Follow the steps to register and in the future, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give.

Church Name Bethlehem Lutheran Church
10-Digit GivePlus Text # 844-930-2811 **Quick Guide**

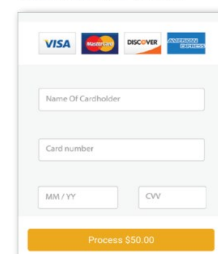
1. Get Started

Enter your 10-digit GivePlus Text number and the amount you wish donate, then press send.



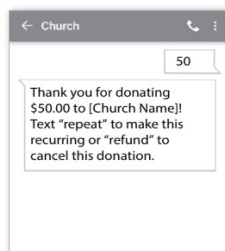
2. Register

You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process."



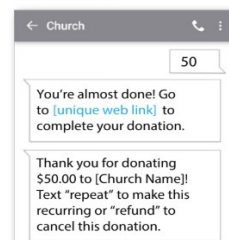
3. Give

After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.



4. Repeat

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.



THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to everyone for the prayers, love, gifts, and support for our family as we unexpectedly welcomed another foster child to our home in May.

We're blessed and grateful to have Bethlehem as a part of the village that cares for us & all of the kids!

-Pastor Megan & Kyle Fryling



NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

On May 9 we held a drive thru food drive here at our Lutheran Social Services - San Fernando Valley office. As donors drive up to our facility, we would collect the food from the trunk and unload it into our kitchen. Two men in an SUV drove up, got up and unloaded their groceries for us, then asked to see our facility. They each had on logo polo shirts so I thought they were from our amazing partners at the NoHo Neighborhood Council. As I walked them around our facility, they were very impressed with our pantry, clothes closet and the other services we provide. They then walked away, came back and said they would like to make a financial donation. I explained that we just received a much needed grant from the NoHo Neighborhood Council and wouldn't want to ask for more. One of the men said, "I have my own funds, and would like to donate \$5,000 to you to buy more food." I was stunned and started to cry – we had no idea how we were going to continue to meet the need created by the crisis. I said "Thank you so very much, I don't think we have been formally introduced. My name is Jan Maseda and I'm the director here," and he said, "Hi, my name is Paul Krekorian and I'm your City Councilman".

Thank you Councilman Krekorian. We are so humbled by your donation and grateful for your leadership. To learn more about our COVID Relief Efforts watch the video below or visit lsssc.org.

Blessings, *Jan Maseda*



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.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!

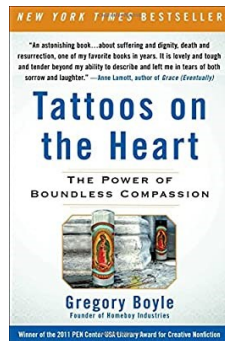
Due to technical difficulties our podcasts have not been updated but there are plenty of old sermons you can still listen to.

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.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. and will then take a break for summer. We're slowly making our way through "Tattoos on the Heart" by Gregory Boyle. Feel free to join us even if you haven't read the book.



Topic: Book Club

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83932725110?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83932725110?pwd=ZjNqbnZpKzF0N2NHSTBLdTIHWUpSQTO9)

[pwd=ZjNqbnZpKzF0N2NHSTBLdTIHWUpSQTO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83932725110?pwd=ZjNqbnZpKzF0N2NHSTBLdTIHWUpSQTO9)

Meeting ID: 839 3272 5110

Password: 234054

One tap mobile

+14086380968,,83932725110#,,1#,234054# US (San Jose)

+16699006833,,83932725110#,,1#,234054# US (San Jose)

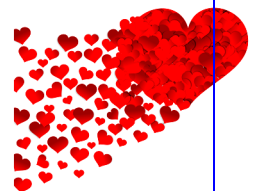
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Natalie Nakata
- 3 Ben Cross
- 6 Ed Kossart
- 6 Sue Schmidt
- 7 Ruth Irwin
- 8 Desmond Fryling
- 8 Vivian Scott
- 14 Taylor Boyd
- 16 Richard Bartus
- 17 Edelgard Pedersen
- 19 Violet Andrews
- 20 Jill Goddard
- 21 Bob Poladian
- 23 Barry Sears
- 26 Katie Nakata
- 26 Melissa Hofmann
- 26 Brian Grefsrud
- 26 Pamela Shea
- 27 Betty Weitkamp



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Paul & Pat St. Michel (2005)
- 5 Don & Dianne Tillman (1965)
- 6 Jack & Linda Boyd (1987)
- 11 Mike & Jane Pascoe (1988)
- 11 Richard & Melisa Hofmann (1988)
- 17 Ken & Judy Cave (1972)
- 23 Bryan & Lori Fougner (1991)
- 27 Brett & Cierra Irwin (2015)
- 30 Ron Kraus & Jill Goddard (1974)



STATISTICS

May offerings \$23,284.72

May Budget \$22,545.00

April (as of 4/23)

Actual: \$14,096

Budget: \$22,545

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

JUNE WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

Date	6-7-2020	6-21-20
1 Reading	Chriselle Almeida	Ron Kraus
Psalm	Sarah Karzel	Ken Cave
2 Reading	Jill Goddard	Marilyn Fursman

JILL'S KNIT SALE FOR WORLD VISION

Dear friends,

It has been another wonderful year, even with our warm weather! Thank you for your continued support of my annual knit sale. I am pleased to announce that from our last sale totaling \$1621 we were able to purchase:

Beehive
Alpaca
16 Farm Animals
Fishing Kit
4 Bibles
4 Soccer Balls
Fish Pond
3 Fruit Trees
2 Solar Lanterns
Art And Music Instruction

In case you are interested I knit year round for the sale (baby, birthday, wedding gifts, team colors, etc.) and take special orders. I already have a good selection for this years sale.

Jill Goddard

To read more about World Vision check out the website worldvisiongifts.org



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344