



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

Pastor

pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net

People of Bethlehem,
It's been a tough six months, hasn't it? It's been challenging figuring out what has become our new way of living- both as a church and as individual people. We've slowly started opening things up at the church for small groups to meet and for outdoor worship, all while being very careful about following the required guidelines for safety. We've been continuing our online options- worship, Bible study, youth group, book club, meetings, and social time, because we know that it's still not safe for us to all be together at once the way we were before and we know that you all have a range of comfort levels with navigating online platforms and the risks of being together in person.

When the Church Council met last month, we talked a lot about the different ways that we want to try to keep everyone connected. So you'll be hearing about more donation collection days, you have already gotten the invitation to our brief Zoom Fellowship time on Sunday mornings, we're looking into more options, and the council members are always glad to hear your suggestions too!

One of the things that we have coming up is a Drive-Thru Blessing. On Sunday, October 11 from 12-1 p.m., we'll have stations set up in the parking lot so that you can drive your car in and get communion, devotional materials, and a special little stress-reliever ball gift from Bethlehem (Because who isn't in need of a way to relieve stress these days??). We're looking for volunteers to help with set up, distribution, and clean-up that day, so let me know if you're interested. The drive-thru is welcome to everyone- church members, community members, friends, and family! You'll have to stay in your car, but you'll get to see all of the volunteers helping out that day as you drive. It's the opportunity for a blessing, but also a chance to get to see some of the Bethlehem friends you haven't seen in a long time.

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

TEMPORARY COVID-19 SCHEDULE

9:00 AM – IN-PERSON WORSHIP
(POSTPONED THROUGH AUGUST)
10:00 AM – ONLINE STREAMING

STAFF:

PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING
pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO
MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD
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YOUTH DIRECTOR:

JENNIFER ADKISON
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BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER
finance@bethlehemplutheran.net

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FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY
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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



On Sunday, November 8th we'll be having a drive-thru blessing of the animals, so that's another great thing to look forward to. It's the Sunday that we normally have our Blessing of the Bears, which is for stuffed animals of all kinds. This year, with the drive-thru, we decided to extend it to all animals- the cute little stuffed kind and the live kind as well. Keep an eye out for a confirmation of the time for that Sunday.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Drive-Thru Blessing on the 11th.

Until then, keep safe and may God continue to bless and keep you!

Blessings,

Pastor Megan

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

By Marilyn Fursman, Council Secretary

ACTIONS:

1. The Council brainstormed about new ways to keep members connected during this shutdown.

MANAGEMENT:

1. We are in a position to begin the forgiveness process of the Payroll Protection Plan loan.
2. There were no questions from the congregation about the Proposed Budget for 2021.
3. August offerings were under budget by nearly \$2,000.
4. Bids are being sought for plumbing and roof repairs.
5. Mary is looking for furniture for the back hall project.

MINISTRY:

1. The Youth Chalk Art fundraiser was well-received.
2. The Sunday School Bible fundraiser also was successful.
3. In-person worship began again Sundays at 9 a.m. with a faithful group of six to ten persons.
4. The Sunday on-line service continues at 10 a.m. [*is viewed by 200-400 persons each week*] and all agree it should continue to be offered after the quarantine is over.
5. Communion is always available to be picked up in the church office.
6. The Wednesday evening Bible study is serving the needs of about a dozen people at 6:30 p.m.
7. Mary Fisher is scheduling monthly drop-offs for community service projects.
8. Pr. Megan will conduct a "blessing of the animals."
9. There were 20 children at the first virtual Sunday School class. Materials were picked up earlier.
10. The women's annual holiday boutique is going virtual.

PLAN FOR A BOUTIQUE






Bethlehem Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are excited to announce the annual Holiday Crafts Boutique is GOING VIRTUAL! Thank you for everyone's help making items and for your enthusiastic support of this event! We are aiming to launch mid-October, so watch for notices!! Since the Bethlehem WELCA boutique is going virtual, anyone curious or interested in WELCA and **particularly helping the WELCA "Social Media Team" update the Square Sales site or help with social media (Instagram, Facebook & Nextdoor) we need you!** Please email: WELCA@BethlehemLutheran.net!






Bethlehem WELCA Annual HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE IS GOING VIRTUAL!






(Women of the ELCA)






WATCH FOR WEB LINK LAUNCH SOON!

Blankets	Pet Blankets	Dolls & Toys	Wreaths
Ornaments	Embroidered Towels	Oven Towels	Decorations
Stockings	Aprons	Burden Bears	Baby Items
Christmas!	Thanksgiving!	Easter!	More!!








SAMPLES!

Proceeds Supported in Past Years:

- Homeless (through Lutheran Social Services)
- Hope Gardens Family Center for Women & Children
- Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences
- Solheim Senior Community
- Bethlehem Preschool
- Tanzania Emergency Fund (Africa)
- San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission
- Epilepsy Foundation Los Angeles





MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

Senior Music Minister

vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net

Our 9 a.m. in person worship has expanded to include both a hymn of the day and a sending song. Singing is allowed as long as a mask is worn. Music is led either by Matthew from inside the sanctuary via the sound system or by recordings and videos made by Marisa. Now is a great time to come and enjoy the outdoor service, especially as the Autumn weather keeps the courtyard shady and pleasant.



SCHOOL NEWS

MARY KANDLIAN

Preschool Director

Director@bethlehemlutheran.net

Dear Bethlehem Family,
How is it October already?! Time sure flies these days and we are learning to slow down and smell the roses, hope you are too!

Our school year is off to a great start! We're so excited to have opened all of our classrooms, mostly at capacity, and are facilitating the school aged kiddos while they remain out of school at this time. We continue to remain extra careful, maintain a strict cleaning schedule, and a twice daily health check in system - all with the amazing support and hard work of our staff.

We're working on creating a safe and fun agenda for the upcoming holiday season, please stay tuned as we work hard to bring back variations of some of our events!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Drive-Through Trunk-or-Treat: October 31

It may be a school year like no other, but we are still finding creative ways to celebrate . . . in place of our annual Fall Festival, BLESS will host a drive-through Trunk-or-Treat this year! We will use social distancing measures to help our little ones have some festive fun while staying safe and cozy in the car. More details will be coming soon on the treats we'll have in store and how to sign up--for now, please save the date to join us on Halloween morning: Saturday, October 31, between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., in the church/school parking lot. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering to decorate your trunk and hand out candy, please reach out to Laureen at BLESS@BethlehemLutheran.net.



YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Our Adult Education and Youth Programs have been meeting via Zoom and recently in small groups and are trying their best to do our part to keep everyone connected and supported.

Our Youth Director; Jennifer Adkison, Adult Education Chair; Marilyn Fursman and Youth and Education Ministry lead; Nicole Hernandez-Liva wanted to thank you all for your continued support especially with our Youth Gathering 2022 fundraisers. We invite you to join any of our programs and are committed to leading with love and finding book studies and materials that connect all of us and strengthen our relationship with God.

Our next book study will be "Love Without Limits" by Jacqueline A. Bussie. Please watch for updates in our Bethlehem emails.

Contact Nicole, youth@bethlehmlutheran.net if you have any questions or need help connecting to any of our programs.

Sunday School

Sunday School is in full effect!

Our Virtual Sunday School started on Sunday, September 13 and is meeting every other Sunday. We have partnered with American Lutheran Church in Burbank and together we have 28 children enrolled. Our Zoom calls are from 11:30 – 12:00. We watch a Sparkhouse animated video, read the bible story, connect the bible story to our lives, lead a brief connection to Confirmation and do a fun activity together. We also are planning fun Monthly Saturday zoom calls, to help support the need for more social interaction due to the pandemic.

Our next Saturday, Zoom call is tentatively scheduled on Halloween @ 4:00 pm. More information to follow.

Also, as everyone is aware Halloween activities will be different this year and are still being discussed. Please continue to check our Bethlehem weekly emails for announcements.

If you would like your child be part of our Sunday School program, please send an email to Nicole (youth@bethlehmlutheran.net) and I will notify you when you can pick up your child's packet. We would love to have them.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is coming up on November 1st! For All Saints Sunday we collect names of people who have passed away in the past year. We will read the names and have candles lit during both the in-person and online service. The names should be emailed to Evelyn in the church office by October 25. (office@bethlehmlutheran.net).





YOUTH NEWS

JENNIFER ADKISON

Director of Youth Ministry

youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

Fall is here! It doesn't seem possible that we are in October already! With the new month and season brings new things to the youth group! All youth, in grades 6th-12th, are welcome to begin meeting in person every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12 noon in the Bethlehem courtyard! State, county, and city COVID-19 safety guidelines will be strictly followed. All youth group meetings via Zoom have been discontinued, and our first in person meeting will be Sunday, October 11th at 12 noon. For more information and/or questions concerning this, please contact myself, Jennifer Adkison, at youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net or call/text at 425-281-1413. While LA County has limited what we can do for Halloween, we will still be celebrating, albeit with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Details are still being worked out, so keep an eye out in your email inbox if you are a parent of youth for how we will be celebrating Halloween.

The youth group is continuing to fundraise for the 2022 youth gathering. Our current fundraiser are high quality face masks being sold for \$10. If you, or someone you know, would like to purchase any, you can contact Wanda at the church office for coordinating payment and pickup. The colors to choose from are pink, purple, maroon, gray blue, and gray. All masks are reversible to black, and all have Bethlehem's logo and "Love is kind" on the front. Please contact Wanda Moreno to schedule pick up and payment.

818-360-4777 or

admin@bethlehemplutheran.net

Happy fall everyone!!!



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Sunday is Sunday, October 25th this year. It's an especially important date in our congregation because it both celebrates the Reformation movement of Martin Luther in 1515 and Reformation Sunday is the first Sunday that we worshipped as a merged congregation two years ago. This year we won't be having a shared meal in the church courtyard, but we invite you to join us for worship at either 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. where we will celebrate our newest confirmed youth. Even if you're watching from home, wear your traditional Reformation red to be reminded of the movement of the Holy Spirit back in 1515 and today! Join us at 11 a.m. on Zoom that morning for Reformation Fellowship over Zoom.



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Read 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 Financially Support Bethlehem

- 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.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation that was postponed from May for our students who finished the Confirmation program has been moved to Saturday, October 24th. The service will be outdoors at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Hills. It will be livestreamed with limited in-person attendance. We will also be celebrating our confirmands during worship the following Sunday, October 25th (Reformation Sunday) with videos from each student.

GENESIS PROVIDES GLIMPSES OF GOD'S INTENTIONS AND MORE...

Co-ed adult Bible study resumes in person

Marilyn Fursman, Adult Education Chair

The book of Genesis traces our origins from cosmic beginnings through stories preserved from pre-history. Each story provides us with a glimpse of God's intentions, how God acts, and who we are in relationship to God and the rest of creation. In this study, participants will explore early stories of faith and God's promise in the book of Genesis through each session's big question.

This course explores selected passages from Genesis.

1. Origins: Where do we come from? (Genesis 1:1-2:25)
2. Mystery and Boundary: Can we live with God's terms? (Genesis 3:1-24)
3. Troubled in Paradise: How does God deal with evil? (Genesis 6:11-14; 7:1-5; 7:17-8:4; 9:8-17)
4. Hanging on a Promise: How long, O Lord? (Genesis 11:31-12:4; 17:1-8; 18:1-15)
5. How could God ask such a thing? (Genesis 21:1-8; 22:1-19; 25:19-26)
6. Does God love just anyone? (Genesis 27:1-10,15-17,22-35; 32:22-32)
7. The Future: Yours, Mine, or Ours? (Genesis 37:1-11,23-36; 41:14-16,25-36)
8. Are We Promise Bearers? (Genesis 42:1-8; 45:1-10,25-28; 46:28-30; 49:29-33; 50:15-26)

Ready to dive in? Pr. Megan Fryling facilitates this course in Chandler Hall beginning Wed., Oct. 7 at 10 a.m. Current restrictions allow only a small number of people to attend in person, so please let her know at pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net or text 610-680-7220 if you will be present (masked and maintaining proper distancing); workbooks are provided.

TELEPHONE MINISTRY & NEW MEMBER CARE MINISTRY

A big thank-you to everyone who is part of Bethlehem's Ministry because everyone participated in some way. Special thanks to all our dedicated callers who persisted for so many weeks making calls to 5-10 people each time.

But, thanks also to those who had such wonderful chats with the callers, often returning calls or emails. An unexpected sidebar of the calls was an updated Membership Directory.

October 5 is the final week in the present series and the next step is still under consideration. Your comments are encouraged.

Bethlehem is starting a Member Care Ministry- a group of volunteers who will make phone calls and bring communion to people. We're looking for volunteers to be a part of this ministry and we also want to reach out to anyone who would like to be blessed by the care of this ministry and who would like calls or communion delivery. If you're interested in being a volunteer or if you'd like to be added to the list of people receiving care, please contact me directly at (818) 368-4209 or chhnfh@earthlink.net

Nancy Hall



NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

THANKSGIVING FOOD GIVE A WAY

LSS is collecting Thanksgiving food items to give away to our low-income families. The Give-a-Way will be: Monday, November 16, 2020.

We can pick up items from your congregation the week of November 9 – 13, or churches can deliver their items during that week between 9 A.M. AND 12:00 P.M.

Suggested food items: canned veggies, boxes potatoes, bagged rice, boxed dressing, pasta/sauce, canned mix fruit, cake/muffin mix, coffee, pumpkin filling, sugar, chicken broth.

2020 LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES CHRISTMAS TOY GIVE A WAY

LSS/ San Fernando Valley is collecting new toys for our low-income families again this year for ages infant to 12, boys and girls. The Toy Give-a –Way will be December, 14, 15 AND 18, 2020.

We will need all toys by the week of December 7-11th.

WE CAN PICK UP FROM YOUR CHURCH DURING THAT WEEK, OR YOU CAN DELIVER TO LSS BY DECEMBER 11TH.

For more information or to schedule a pick up, please call Jan Maseda at (818)288-7054 or email at Jani Janicemaseda@gmail.com

Thank you.

Lutheran Social Services/San Fernando Valley
7400 TUJUNGA AVE., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605

Jan Maseda/Director/SFV/LSS

A SCOUT IS REVERENT:

Bethlehem Lutheran has been the chartered organization for Boy Scout Troop 104 and Cub Scout Pack 104 for over a year now.

I have served as the charter representative for almost a year. The Charter renewal begins October 1 and must be completed by December 4.

I have decided to step down as charter representative. As such we are looking for a volunteer to be the Scout Charter Representative for Troop/Pack 104.

This past year virtually everything involving the scouts has been virtually due to the pandemic. At which time guidance is issued such that in person meetings for the scouts can resume, the charter representative acts as a liaison between the scout leaders and the church leaders.

It is preferred that the volunteer have experience with scouts. The volunteer must be at least 21 years old, complete a background check, application and youth protection training. If you are interested, please contact Beverly at scouts@bethlehmlutheran.net, no later than October 25.

God Bless, Beverly Compton

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!

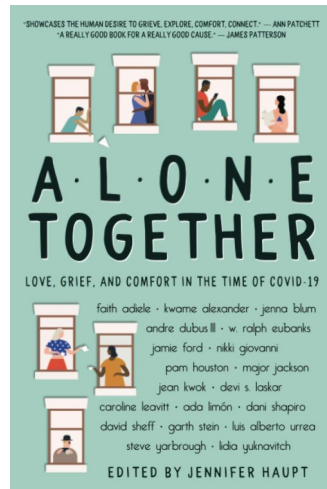
If you would like to stay in touch and get updates of events happening at Bethlehem, please visit www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills and like us!

Also, check out our preschool Facebook page at 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 is still meeting virtually on Oct. 1, 15 & 29 at 6:00 p.m. Our book this month is "Alone Together" by Jennifer Haupt.

ALONE TOGETHER: Love, Grief, and Comfort During the Time of COVID-19 is a collection of essays, poems, and interviews to serve as a lifeline for negotiating how to connect and thrive during this stressful time of isolation as well as a historical perspective that will remain relevant for years to come.



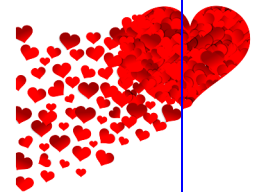
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Shea Gleason
- 4 Ron Kraus
- 4 Bernadette Andrews
- 8 Katharine Glycer
- 9 Hannah Carlson
- 10 Andrew Sipes
- 12 Paul St. Michel
- 14 Kyle Fryling
- 17 Carla Cross
- 17 Nate Traylor
- 19 Kandice Santiago
- 19 Kathy Fisher
- 19 Theresa Maseda
- 20 Tyndale Traylor
- 21 Barbara Denney
- 21 Sarah Karzel
- 22 Jenny Compton
- 25 Shelly Shubert
- 28 Margo Westland
- 31 Benito Galindo



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Robert & Kelli Yribe (2002)
- 23 Fred & Donna Ophus (1965)



SEPTEMBER STATISTICS

New monthly budget: \$20,833.00
Offerings: \$16,578.87

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	28	29	30 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> <u>Night Bible Study</u>	1 <u>6PM Book Club</u>	2	3
4 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	5	6	7 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> <u>Night Bible Study</u>	8	9	10
11 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11:30A Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>12PM Drive thru Blessing</u> <u>12PM Youth Group</u>	12	13	14 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> <u>Night Bible Study</u>	15 <u>6PM Book Club</u>	16	17
18 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u>	19	20 <u>4PM WELCA</u> <u>Bible Study via</u> <u>Zoom</u>	21 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> <u>Night Bible Study</u>	22	23	24 <u>Rite of</u> <u>Confirmation</u>
25 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11:30A Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>12PM Youth Group</u>	26	27	28 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> <u>Night Bible Study</u>	29 <u>6PM Book Club</u>	30	31 <u>10:30AM</u> <u>Trunk or Treat</u> 

WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY

Women’s October Bible Study Focus: Holy Time

The women’s three-session fall Bible study series, “Holy Time,” explores scriptures to see how God is present with us in the past, present and future, and the role of time in the daily living out of faith.

Who should attend? All women of the church are automatically members of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and welcome to participate in local, regional and churchwide events (currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic); however, under President Dianne Tillman’s leadership, Bethlehem Women of the ELCA continue to engage in fellowship and monthly Bible studies via Zoom online conference meetings on the third Tuesdays at 4 p.m.

Last month, they explored what it means to remember the past faithfully.

This month (session two) the focus is on God’s presence in the present—the holy now. Reflecting on the present is harder than it sounds. “Now” is always changing from one moment to the next. We are so close to it that it can be hard to see the big picture. In a fast-paced world, it’s often easier to focus on “what’s next” or “what used to be” than to be fully present.

Marilyn Fursman is leading the October discussion, which focuses on these questions:

- How do we grasp the times we are living in?
- How did Jesus, the woman who anointed him, and Paul all recognize “kairos” time—and what is it?
- What does it mean to recognize our calling to “be present”?

The Bible study is found in the award-winning Gather magazine; extra copies are available in the church office. The next Zoom meeting is on Tuesday, October 20 at 4 p.m. Check the weekly church emails for the link and join the discussion!



**OCTOBER 11TH
NOON - 1 P.M.**

DRIVE-THRU BLESSING

After Sunday worship, join us in the Bethlehem parking lot as you drive through stations to receive communion, a stress-relieving gift from Bethlehem, and a pastoral blessing.
We look forward to seeing you!

Along with our Drive-Thru Blessing on October 11th, we will be blessing others by collecting food that will be brought to Central Lutheran in Van Nuys for distribution there. Please bring food to donate on the 11th and we'll have a collection table set up for it. Contact Mary Fisher at socialministry@bethlehemplutheran.net if you have any questions.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344