



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@bethlehemplutheran.net

Blessed June, everyone!

This is a big month for us here in Los Angeles and at Bethlehem. We've spent over a year doing everything we can to keep each other and our community safe during this covid-19 pandemic. We've heard the phrases "social distancing", "in these unprecedented times", and "when we can all gather again safely" so many times that we never want to hear them again.

We give thanks to God for the scientists, researchers, and leaders who have brought us vaccines and who have spent countless hours studying covid-19 to figure out how it's transmitted so that we could do our best to avoid getting sick or passing on the virus to someone else. We give thanks to the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who cared for us and for our loved ones during this challenging time. We mourn the loss of so many here and around the world. It has been a time of deep grief—grief at the loss of loved ones and grief at the inability to gather together with one another in the ways that we have wanted to.

We grieve and mourn, but we now also look forward with hope. As I write this, it's the last week of May and this pandemic has made me fully aware that I can write or think something and then within a week (or less sometimes!), current events or updated science can make my statements obsolete. However, as I've been watching the decrease in covid-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations and the increase in the fully vaccinated population, I finally feel very optimistic about the direction we're headed. In mid-June, both the state and the county are planning to lift restrictions and to change the mask mandate to allow those who are vaccinated to no longer wear masks in most situations.

There will be updates coming soon as your Bethlehem leadership works to figure out how to combine our livestream and in person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. starting June 20th. We will have changes to the rules here as well, but we're also working to make sure that everyone feels comfortable in this space. We have been careful and thoughtful in all of our planning and precautions in the last 14-or so months, so please trust and know that we continue to be careful and thoughtful, especially now. In Christ, *Pastor Megan*

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

TEMPORARY COVID-19 SCHEDULE

10:00 AM – ONLINE STREAMING

11:00 AM – IN-PERSON WORSHIP

STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING
pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO
MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD
MATTHEW A. KESSELL
vicenteditto@bethlehemplutheran.net
marisabradfield@bethlehemplutheran.net
matthewkessell@bethlehemplutheran.net

YOUTH DIRECTOR:

JENNIFER ADKISON
youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER
finance@bethlehemplutheran.net

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

WANDA MORENO
admin@bethlehemplutheran.net

FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY
office@bethlehemplutheran.net

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN
director@bethlehemplutheran.net

CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH: 818-360-4777

PRESCHOOL: 818-368-6947

FAX: 818-360-5559

MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

By Marilyn Fursman, Secretary

ACTIONS:

1. Voted to approve Change Order #1 to the roof project, which calls for the removal of dry rot, adds wood slats and gutters for an additional \$8,175 (making a total of \$85,675).
2. Voted to authorize the Puchliks to obtain bids for the mechanical unit.
3. Received documentation that the first Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$197,000 was forgiven.

MANAGEMENT:

1. Reviewed factors related to re-starting worship services indoors and online at 10 a.m.
The choir is being surveyed to gauge their readiness to return to rehearsals.
2. The closing of Rey Crest HVAC necessitates finding a new company to install the air conditioning unit.
3. It will cost \$9,000 more for electrical work to be able to use the projection screens, which also cost more than anticipated. A tech person is needed to operate the new technologies.
4. Offerings are down \$8,600 for the year. The two Paycheck Protection Program loans (\$197,000 and \$220,000) have made it possible to meet our payroll obligations for church staff and school and to pay the utilities. When the second one is used up, it will be a challenge. The school is now operating in the black, but is not able to contribute to maintaining the classroom buildings or its full share of utilities as it did in previous years.
5. At present, there are insufficient funds in the budget to maintain the choir section leaders.
6. Before the next budget is prepared, a stewardship program will be implemented to focus on some of the ways Bethlehem serves its members and the larger community and to encourage more members to consider supporting their church and its ministries.

MINISTRY:

1. The Fellowship team gave flowers and cards of appreciation to the Sunday School teachers and preschool teachers. Banner kits were prepared for all the confirmands.
2. May 22 is Confirmation Day for one Bethlehem student, Caden Chow, along with students from other Conference churches.
3. Youth reports about 10 children meeting for Sunday School, including three from another church. Middle School and High School students meet on alternate Sundays. VBS will be held July 25-30.
4. Adult Education, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, is reading "The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage" by Joan Chittister. For the summer, the group likely will switch to movies. Some members registered for Lutheran Lobby Day to learn how to act on a different way to be courageous in representing their faith (besides reading about it).
The Wednesday morning study is meeting in person again with 4-7 participants in the sanctuary.
5. Chriselle Almeida has started a drama group for all ages.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANET PUCHLIK

president@bethlehemlutheran.net

Members and Friends of Bethlehem Lutheran:

The last two months have been very busy for Bethlehem.

The start of the indoor service on April 11th has been a welcome change for many of us. Worshiping in the Sanctuary has helped us feel like we are getting back to a more normal time. As we move into June, and as the restrictions are eased, we are changing the indoor service to one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and live streaming the service for those members and friends that our not ready to return to the Sanctuary. This will give the Congregation an opportunity to be together as one family, as we reunite in worship. The choice about worshipping in person or by the live stream will be up to each individual person and family.

As the indoor service continues, we will be at a limited capacity, due to the Los Angeles County Health Department Restrictions. We anticipate that masks will still be required to start, together with social distancing. Our capacity will be approximately 18 persons or households, due to the 6 ft. restrictions. As we receive updates from Los Angeles County Health Department, we will be reviewing and adjusting the restriction accordingly. As summer moves on, we will be easing our restrictions and adding childcare and social hour outside. We will also look at experimenting with Sunday School for all.

As we get closer to the date for the change to a 10:00 a.m. service, we will be updating the Congregation regarding the lifting of restrictions by the Los Angeles County Health Department. Again, I would like to thank the Reopening and Worship and Music Committees for their leadership throughout the last year.

We have also been working on the roof replacement and the HVAC Unit repair. We hope to have roof and HVAC system completed by the end of summer.

Please stay safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Blessings, *Janet Puchlik*

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

Beginning on Sunday, June 20, we will resume offering childcare during worship. There will be some temporary changes to the way that it will work over the summer.

Just as before, childcare will be staffed by background-checked and First Aid certified staff (Ms. Marcia will be back with us and we are finalizing the additional employee who will alternate Sundays with her).

Childcare will be completely outside on the playground and it will be available for kids ages 12 and under. In normal circumstances, we offer childcare for 6 and under, but because kids under 12 cannot be vaccinated at this time, we want to offer them a safe place to be outside during worship if parents aren't yet comfortable with their unvaccinated kids being in the sanctuary.

We're also looking for donations of some new or gently used outdoor kids toys that we can keep in a box for use during outdoor childcare. If you have anything you'd like to donate, let Pastor Megan know! (pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net)



MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO

Senior Music Minister

vicenteditto@bethlehmlutheran.net

Bethlehem will start offering one blended in person worship service on June 20. The single service will start at 10 a.m. and will also be streamed onto Facebook live. Here's an idea of what to expect musically from the blended service: we will include the Hymn of Praise, Gospel Acclamation, and one ELW hymn from the 11 a.m. service as well as two contemporary songs, one from before the year 2000 (like "You Are the Rock of My Salvation, Go Make Disciples) and one from after the year 2000 (like Oceans and Reckless Love). Special Music will vary and consist of solos by Matthew and Marisa and eventually choral anthems once choir is up and running again.



SCHOOL NEWS

MARY KANDILIAN

Preschool Director

Director@bethlehmlutheran.net

Happy Summer Bethlehem Family!

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, the kids are laughing - Summertime is a beautiful time at Bethlehem!

We're so blessed and excited to welcome our Summer program on June 2. Going until August 13 we have eleven jam-packed weeks of fun and excitement for our kids and staff! This Summer we'll be exploring real-life sea animals, reptiles, an awesome petting zoo, a bubble party, planting and gardening, a ton of science experiments, even some basic emergency training for our older kids!

We look forward to seeing you all around soon!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

This year, the annual Southwest California Synod Assembly will be June 4 and 5. It's a big year because along with the usual elections and budget decisions for the synod, we'll also be electing a new bishop! This is an unusual year to elect a bishop, but as you may remember, our previous bishop, Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, is now the President of United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania and we currently have an interim bishop until the election.

The Bethlehem voting members this year are Pastor Megan, Greg Imlay, Brooke Coffin, and Katie Nakata. Since the assembly will be available via livestream, even those who are not voting members are welcome to watch online. On June 4, the link for the livestream will be available at this page:

<https://www.socalsynod.org/2021-synod-assembly-agenda/>

NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Dear Friends of LSS,

These last few months, with COVID restrictions easing and people being able and willing to go out more, we have seen an increase in the number of people we pass out groceries and clothes to. On average, we've been serving 500 families a month, translating into over 2,000 individuals every month. We have continued our wrap-around services of helping pay utility bills, assisting people with senior discounts, resources and referrals to other agencies and non-profits, housing counseling, reduced and free bus coupons, our Thrift Shop for the neighborhood, the Payee Services program through Social Security, and our partnerships with other local churches, both Lutheran and other denominations.

The church where we are located in North Hollywood has been sold, and our last day at that location was Friday, May 21st. We are actively looking for another place to relocate, and have moved everything into PODS until that time. We hope to be relocated by the end of June, and of course, we will be relocating within the San Fernando Valley.

Obviously cannot take in-kind donations at this time, so please hold onto them for a month or so, or feel free to donate to another organization at this time.

In the meantime, we thank God for everything, most especially for the people within our churches who have always, and continue to, support LSS for over 40 years in the San Fernando Valley. We praise him for gently reminding us every day to think of others and their needs. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

All mail for LSS will be forwarded to me at the address below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on my cell at (818) 288-7054.

Blessings Always,

Jan Maseda, Director/LSS-San Fernando Valley
27132 Manor Circle, Valencia, CA 91354





YOUTH NEWS

JENNIFER ADKISON

Director of Youth Ministry

youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

Welcome to June, Everyone! Time for the end of the school year, summer, BBQs, and - hopefully! - get togethers!

With low attendance for youth group lately, I will be sending out a survey to middle and high school youth and their parents to fill out. Please be on the lookout in your inbox for this survey!

Synod Assembly meets June 5-6, and our very own Katie Nakata will be one of our representative voting members this year! We look forward to this time of new beginnings in voting in a new bishop!

Please contact me with any questions/concerns regarding Bethlehem's youth group at 425-281-1413 and youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net.

Blessings,

Jennifer Adkison

EVANGELISM

PAM SHEA

EVANGELISM CHAIR

evangelism@bethlehemplutheran.net

I am thrilled that the first two Evangelism projects have gotten off to a great start. Our drive-through collection for the Adopt-A-Hospital Project yielded many donations which were delivered to both Providence Holy Cross Medical Center-Mission Hills and Dignity Health-Northridge Hospital Medical Center. This is an ongoing outreach to our healthcare heroes and the plan is to have a drive-through followed by deliveries to the two facilities every few months. Items can also be left at church and if anyone would like me to pick up items from them directly, please feel free to contact me.

Our second project of the Prayer Wall has come to fruition and I thank everyone for their support. Remember that prayer cards can be filled out in person or one of our Prayer Team members can fill one out for you. The Prayer Team is currently "meeting" via email communication but eventually we hope to meet in person. Again, you can contact me if you would like to join us.

I hope to again lead Scripture-Centered Breathing and Movement Sessions as well as possibly leading some exercise classes, so fill out the questionnaire regarding interest in this if you have not already done so. I am aiming to start these in the fall. Community trash pick-up is another project we are considering and if you have any ideas for other Evangelism projects, we would love to hear from you. Please keep our Evangelism efforts in your prayers. I can be reached via email at evangelism@bethlehemplutheran.net or at (818) 378-5656 (cell phone). If you would like to pray directly with Prayer Team member Judy Cave, her home phone number is (818) 894-7773.

In Service,

Pamela Shea

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you all!

We are happy to send our May 2021 Mission Newsletter. Please share with anyone who has interest.

Our news this month focuses on two projects--a joint course on Race and Christian Theology involving Tumaini University Makumira Theology students and students from a US college in New Hampshire, and the book launch celebration for Christian Zionism in Africa, a multi-author volume edited by Cynthia which was (finally!) published late last year. These have both been important parts of our work over the recent past, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and responses.



Blessings to you all in this Pentecost season! May the wind and fire of the Spirit warm your hearts and strengthen you for God's service.

Cynthia and Mark

To finish reading their article please visit 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.
- Download the GivePlus+ app on your smartphone. Find Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Granada Hills, CA and donate.

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.

BUILDING & GROUNDS MESSAGE

An update on the Constructions Projects.

Gerald Puchlik
Property@bethlehmlutheran.net
gpuchlik@puchlikla.com

Members and Friends,

Rey-Crest Construction started removing the existing roof on Saturday, May 9. During the removal of the existing roof, it was found that the roof was more deteriorated than expected and dry rot was found in the eaves on both side of Roof B, the Multipurpose classrooms. Construction is often challenging and this project is no exception.

On Monday morning the Preschool Teachers discovered that the soot from the removal of the roof had covered the multipurpose classrooms. The students were moved to Chandler Hall during the cleaning up process. On Tuesday, a small amount of soot was still coming into the classroom. It was again cleaned and the students were able to move back into the classroom. Tuesday night the ceiling was lined with plastic to keep the soot from coming into the classroom.

On Wednesday, May 12, Rey-Crest starting installing the new roof. Due to the deterioration of the roof, the roofing material needed to be glued in certain sections of the roof. The glue they used, although nontoxic and safe, had a strong odor and caused some eyes to water and irritations. It was decided by Mary, the Preschool Director, Emily Carlson, Preschool Representative, Pastor Megan and Janet Puchlik, Council President to close the Preschool on Thursday, May 13 and Friday, May 14, as a precaution. The School was reopened on Monday, May 17.

The second issue we have encountered during the repairs, is regarding the HVAC Contractor. We were informed at the end of April, when we were trying to schedule the removal of the old Mechanical Unit, that Mount-Aire had gone out of business.

The Council, at the May 16 meeting, authorized Gerald Puchlik to obtain new bids for the replacement of the HVAC System. We have requested the bids and have received two (2). We will be reviewing them in the next few weeks and hope to select a new HVAC system Contractor soon. The HVAC repairs need to be done, as soon as possible as we can't complete the roof until the removal of the unit.

As summer is coming, we hope to have the Unit replaced soon.

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please let me know.

Blessings,

Gerry Puchlik

WELCA BIBLE STUDY

"JUST WISDOM"

What is wisdom? What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? Whom have you looked to for wisdom throughout your life? Who has sought wisdom from you? Wisdom can mean different things depending on the context. It can mean using common sense, or it can refer to scholarly knowledge or education. It can also mean valuable lessons learned from lifelong experiences. And then there is Biblical wisdom found in Scripture. Holy wisdom guides us when we do not know the way.

According to Proverbs 9: 1-12, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". The "fear of the Lord" means holding a deep respect, reverence, love, and willingness to follow God's guidance. In the June GATHER Bible study, "Just Wisdom", we will explore how God can open our hearts and minds to a spiritual understanding that is not based on our human comprehension. We will be looking closely at wisdom in Proverbs 8 and 9, Mary's prophetic song in Luke, Naaman's servant girl in 2 Kings, and Pilate's wife in Matthew 27. Holy wisdom is necessary if we are to fulfill our baptismal calling to work for justice.

Wisdom is a priceless treasure, a gift from God for all. All are welcome to join in the Zoom Bible study of God-inspired wisdom on Tuesday, June 15, at 4:00 p.m. Just click on the link that's sent in the Monday announcements prior to June 15 or use the following if you don't have the link.

Log into Zoom using the following ID and passcode if you don't have the link.

Meeting ID: 839 8551 3717; Passcode: 940736

CALLING ALL BOUTIQUE CRAFTERS!

Bethlehem boutique crafting will resume on Friday, June 4, at 9:30 A.M. If you would like to join others who are cutting, and gluing items for the November boutique, please come, chat, and laugh as we create new boutique items. If you are already working on a boutique craft, bring it and join the chat. Please bring new ideas, a fabric scissors, a paper scissors, and a small paintbrush (about 1/2" wide) for mod podging, a small jar for water, and a rag to wet. Please R.S.V.P. to CONNIE TROE so she knows the amount of supplies to bring. Mark your calendars! Invite others!



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, June 2 at 8 a.m. at Coco's on Sepulveda (10841 Sepulveda Blvd. Mission Hills, CA)
See you there!

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is meeting on June 24 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. This month we will be reading and discussing "What happened to You" by Oprah. If you're interested in the companion show Oprah has on Apple TV it's called "The Me You Can't See" with Prince Harry.

Meeting ID: 873 3578 8029
Passcode: 106328

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Natalie Nakata
- 3 Ben Cross
- 6 Sue Schmidt
- 7 Ruth Irwin
- 8 Desmond Fryling
- 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)



MAY STATISTICS

Not available at time of printing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u>	31 Memorial Day Church office closed	1	2 8:00AM <u>Men's Breakfast @ Coco's</u> <u>No Adult Ed or Wednesday night Study</u>	3	4 9:30AM <u>Boutique Crafting</u> <u>Synod Assembly</u>	5
6 <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u>	7	8	9 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Adult Ed Study</u>	10	11	12
13 <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u>	14	15 <u>4PM WELCA Bible Study via Zoom</u>	16 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Adult Ed Study</u>	17	18	19
20 <u>10AM One Blended In-person & Online Service</u>	21	22	23 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Adult Ed Study</u>	24 <u>6:00PM Book Club</u>	25	26
27 <u>10AM One Blended In-person & Online Service</u>	28	29	30 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Adult Ed Study</u>	July 1	2	3

JUNE WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

11 a.m. In-person service readers

Date	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27	July 4
Reader	Randy Miller	Jan Maseda	Vicente Ditto	Chriselle Almeida	Ron Kraus
Ushers/greeters	Ron Kraus	Pat St. Michel	Randy Miller	Pat St. Michel	Jan Maseda
	Jan Maseda		Andrea Hall	Ron Kraus	
Counters	Pat St. Michel	Pat St. Michel	Dwayne Schmidt	Dwayne Schmidt	
	Janet Puchlik	Ken Cave	Carla Cross	Mary Fisher	

10:00 a.m. Online service readers

Date	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27	July 4
Reader	Pam Shea	Brian Grefsrud	Lauren Gleason	Mary Fisher	Sarah Karzel

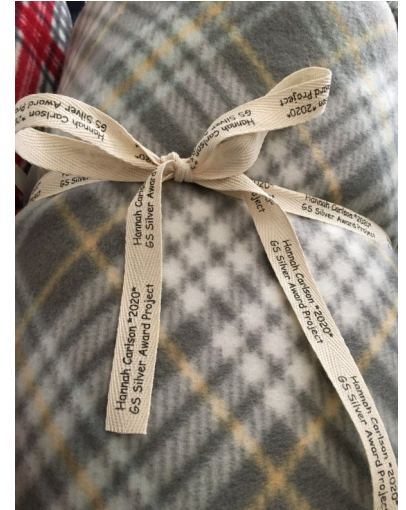
THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all the congregation members, neighbors, and friends that helped me achieve my Girl Scout Silver Award Project. My Project will help others in a time of sorrow and when a connection is needed to help with the grief of a passing loved one or friend. My Silver project consisted of completing multiple no sew fleece blankets and I have donated them to the Northridge Hospital Blanket Ministry. The blanket Ministry is part of the Spiritual department at Northridge Hospital and it gives a family member or loved one the opportunity to receive a prayer blanket from the Spiritual Department. This blanket can be placed on the recipient to help the family grieve and be lifted in daily prayer.

Thank You!

Hannah Carlson

Troop 7266



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344