



# 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](mailto:pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net)

These days, as the weather gets nice and as the covid-19 numbers continue to decrease in Los Angeles, we have so much to be thankful for. We have so much to praise God for. What things are you giving thanks for lately? What has brought you joy? What has brought you peace? What is bringing you hope?

As we have continued our online worship and discussions and as we have increased our in person options, I am thankful for the way the Spirit is working through all of the people who have taken their time to volunteer to help make these things happen. I am grateful for the fact that people are making the effort to show up, to log in, to participate. It's always easier to sleep in, to forget to donate to the drive-through collections. It's easier not to tithe 10% to the church, it's easier not to give money to church at all. It's easier to overlook calls for volunteers and help. It's always easier not to do things, yet here you all are! You are connecting with each other, you are praising God and worshipping, you are showing up online and in person and you are giving of your finances and your time. You are amazing people—people who know the love of Christ and people who want to share that love.

As we gather together more and more, we will have even more to be thankful for and more to look forward to together. Another thing that I'm grateful for is the God-given science that has made this possible. I'm grateful for the way that God works through scientists and medical staff to create life-saving vaccines. Personally, I have a needle phobia and usually dread getting my annual flu shot or any other vaccinations. However, when I got both of my shots this spring, I was joyful and thankful for them! I hope and pray that all of you have either gotten your vaccinations already or that you're in the process of getting them. Once we're all vaccinated, it will begin to be much safer to gather and celebrate in large groups again and I know that's something we're all looking forward to and praying for!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Megan*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP:

### TEMPORARY COVID-19 SCHEDULE

10:00 AM – ONLINE STREAMING

11:00 AM – IN-PERSON WORSHIP

## STAFF:

### PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING  
[pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net)

### DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO  
MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD  
MATTHEW A. KESSELL  
[vicenteditto@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:vicenteditto@bethlehemplutheran.net)  
[marisabradfield@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:marisabradfield@bethlehemplutheran.net)  
[matthewkessell@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:matthewkessell@bethlehemplutheran.net)

### YOUTH DIRECTOR:

JENNIFER ADKISON  
[youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net)

### BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER  
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### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

WANDA MORENO  
[admin@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:admin@bethlehemplutheran.net)

### FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY  
[office@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:office@bethlehemplutheran.net)

### PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN  
[director@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:director@bethlehemplutheran.net)

### CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH: 818-360-4777

PRESCHOOL: 818-368-6947

FAX: 818-360-5559

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



## APRIL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

By Marilyn Fursman, Secretary

### **ACTIONS**

1. Voted to allow meetings to resume by facility users (including boy scouts, girl scouts, AA and AI Anon groups) but only in the courtyard at this time.

### **MANAGEMENT**

1. Property Issues: Flooring in three classrooms is deteriorating due to leakage. Gerry Puchlik is looking into getting equipment that sanitizes the air in the sanctuary with UV rays.
2. Facility Use: There was discussion about the shortage of meeting rooms for groups that wish to use the facility and of storage space for tables and chairs and other equipment now that the school is using all the classrooms. Permission was given for the groups to meet in the courtyard for now.

### **MINISTRY**

1. Re-opening Church: Attendance at the first 11 a.m. in person, indoor service was 23.
2. Youth: 18 youths participated in the Easter egg hunt.
3. Adult Ed: The Wednesday evening group, with 12-25 participants, finished reading "Love Without Limits." On April 14 the group studied The Lutheran magazine article called "So More People May Know the Way of Jesus." April 28 begins "The Time is Now."
4. Fellowship: Easter eggs were delivered to very-member.

## CONGREGATION VOTES TO AUTHORIZE NEEDED MAINTENANCE

On April 11 about 39 people met in person and via Zoom to hear of the need to repair or replace most areas of the roof over the facility and also the air-conditioning and heating unit in the sanctuary. The first dividends to be used from the Faithful Stewards Endowment Fund (established from the sale of the St. Stephen's church property at the time of the merger) will be used to pay for this capitol improvement project.

### ACTIONS:

1. Voted to approve the recommendation of the Council to use dividends from the Faithful Stewards Endowment Fund, not to exceed \$100,000.00, for re-roof repair of Areas A, B, C, & E, by Rey Crest Roofing Company.
2. Voted to approve the recommendation of the Council to use dividends from the Faithful Stewards Endowment Fund, not to exceed \$40,000.00, for replacement of the HVAC and Air Conditioning Unit for the Sanctuary by Mount-Aire Air Conditioning and Heating Company and installation of UVG for sanitizing and a smart thermometer for regulating at a distance.

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Rite of Confirmation will be on May 22 at 4 p.m. It's the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday (Pentecost Vigil) and will be hosted by Shepherd of the Valley at 23838 Kittridge St, West Hills, CA 91307. Bethlehem members are invited to attend and it will also be streamed online. On Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate Caden Chow's confirmation as a part of worship at Bethlehem.





## MUSIC NOTES

**VICENTE DITTO**

Senior Music Minister

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



We are experimenting with music and liturgy

content on the mobile screen in the sanctuary as we prepare for the installation of the permanent screens. We are trying out different font sizes and background colors to decipher what looks the best and is the easiest to read. I welcome any feedback about the slides if you attend the 11 a.m. service.

Music leadership will return to singing live at the 11 a.m. service. Matthew will begin singing this month and Marisa will return in June. We are looking at starting up adult choir rehearsals again in the middle of July as long as the threat of the virus continues to diminish. We are waiting to see how Los Angeles changes once the state fully "opens" after mid June. Keep praying that we are moving in the right direction!



## SCHOOL NEWS

**MARY KANDILIAN**

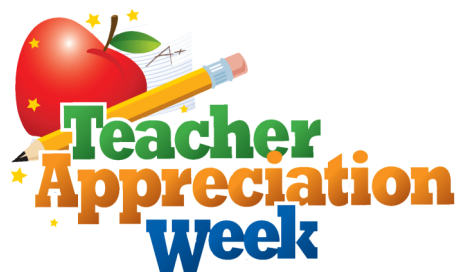
Preschool Director

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

Bethlehem Family,

The months are zooming by as we prepare for the Fall program! We are so pleased to announce that this year, alongside all our current age groups, we will be offering both a TK and Kindergarten all-day program! Our school-age program remains to be determined as we are looking to see district determinations for the Fall and what the need of the community will look like. We are currently enrolling for the Fall, if you know of anyone who would be needing child care, please have them reach out to us today!

The first week of May marks our Teacher Appreciation Week and boy do we have a lot to appreciate this year! Our amazing staff has been working very hard to maintain a safe environment for all our kids and staff - on top of all they do each day! This year, more so than others, we extend our appreciation to them all! If you'd like to participate in any Teacher Appreciation festivities, please reach out to me directly! We hope you all continue to remain healthy and safe during these times!



## VIRTUAL SPRING BOUTIQUE SPONSORED BY WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BOUTIQUE GIFT ITEMS Just in time for teacher, nurse, or friend appreciation, Mother's Day, baby showers, or birthdays, new gift items have been added to the spring boutique! Make someone's day special by shopping for small, inexpensive items or some larger ones. Whatever gift you choose, it's sure to bring a smile to their faces! Beginning on May 1, browse the virtual spring boutique before it closes for the season! The last pickup date will be on May 22nd. So don't wait! Shop now!



Questions? [welca@bethlehemplutheran.net](mailto:welca@bethlehemplutheran.net)

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

By Marilyn Fursman

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.—The co-ed study group has taken on a challenging book by Sister Joan Chittister, legendary Catholic author and social justice activist. In *The Time Is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*, the author draws on the wisdom of prophets--both ancient and modern--to help us confront the societal forces that oppress and silence the sacred voices among us. Her passionate message invites us to participate in a vision for a world greater than the one we find ourselves in today. "The fact is," she writes, "there is no one too busy, too old, too cloistered, too remote from the struggles of the world to have no way whatsoever to promote the word of God in a world such as ours...And you? What will you do?" It's not too late to join in the conversation via Zoom.

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.—The adult Bible study resumes in person in Chandler Hall on May 5 with a Pastor-led study on Genesis. The first book of the Bible is filled with familiar Sunday School stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Jacob's ladder, Joseph and his brothers, Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the Whale. Specifically, it's the story of the promises God made to humans—promises that God begins to carry out through the rest of the Bible. Everyone's welcome.

What is the purpose of our church? Why are we here? Those are some of the questions the Wednesday night study group tackled on April 14 with the article, "So More People May Know the Way of Jesus." The article was featured in *The Lutheran* magazine (March 2021, page 20) and unveiled the ELCA's Future Church goals, which include contacting a million new people and introducing them to the ELCA as this community of Jesus. The article stressed that this must be our great mission and our great purpose. What does the way of Jesus mean to you? How will you share that with new people? This makes for fascinating conversations...all are welcome.



## YOUTH NEWS

**JENNIFER ADKISON**

Director of Youth Ministry

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

Happy May Everyone!

From now through the beginning of the next school year middle school and high school youth group will be meeting separately. High school will be meeting every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the church courtyard. Middle school will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the church courtyard. If there is a fifth Sunday of the month, there will be no youth group that day. PLEASE RSVP to me by the Saturday before youth group to let me know if your teen will be attending. If only one teen can show up, then youth group will be canceled for that Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at [youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net](mailto:youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net) or call/text me at 425-281-1413.

Blessings,

Jennifer Adkison

## EVANGELISM

**PAM SHEA**

**EVANGELISM CHAIR**

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

Thanks to everyone who supported our Adopt-A-Hospital Project by donating items at our drive-through collection. I want to thank Pastor Megan, Lauren and Paige Gleason, Mary Fisher, and Greg Imlay for volunteering at the drive-in. We will soon be delivering items to Northridge Hospital and Providence St. Joseph's Hospital. This is an ongoing project and items will continually be collected, therefore they can be dropped off in the box in the narthex at church (bottled water, granola bars, chips, individually wrapped small candies, and small trinkets). These items are then donated to the staff rooms of various departments at the hospital for our Healthcare Heroes.

I am pleased to announce that on May 16 we will be dedicating our Bee Prayer Wall located at the back of the sanctuary at both our in-person and online services. Judy Cave and I are working together on our Bethlehem Prayer Warrior Team. You can contact me at my e-mail address below or via phone at (818) 378-5656 (cell) for prayer concerns and additionally Judy can be reached at (818) 894-7773 (home) if you would like to pray with her in person. I hope to soon resume the weekly Scripture-Centered Breathing and Movement Sessions and the monthly Prayer Sessions. Additionally, we are looking at the interest and feasibility of offering exercise classes at church. Surveys will be mailed out regarding this.

Please pray for our Evangelism efforts. I can be reached at [evangelism@bethlehem.net](mailto:evangelism@bethlehem.net) if you have any ideas for outreach or would like to join the Evangelism Team or Prayer Warrior Team.

## NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

This month, Mark writes about the ongoing impact in Tanzania of the aftermath of the colonial era here, which continued into the post-colonial era and has mutated into new forms, often called neocolonialism. The damage of the colonizing actions of European and North American countries continues in many places across the world. We in the church should remember that colonizers were followed by the churches, which started mission work in many places where their governments were the colonizing power. What this means is an issue that mission personnel and those they serve wrestle with in many contexts, including here in East Africa. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about this.



*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](http://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 and material resources. Many people are in need and we want to be a blessing to them.

## WELCA BIBLE STUDY

### "THE JOURNEY OF GENERATIONS: WAITING TO BE UNWRAPPED"

Recall the happiness a family holiday or a Mother's Day celebration brings! Perhaps parents, grandparents, sons or daughters, and maybe grandchildren or even a great-grandchildren were present to enjoy the festivities. What did you love about the time together? Perhaps there were gifts to unwrap, music to enjoy, or newly-found skills to share. During those special times there was often a special joy of unwrapping God's gift of intergenerational relationships.

Each of us has stories that spark our own recollections about these special times. What special "gifts" did your family members of various ages bring to your gathering? Now let's take God's "gifts" in another direction. What if you could unwrap intergenerational relationships in your church and community? What might you enjoy unwrapping? What "gifts" would you bring to the gathering?

In the May GATHER Bible study, we will explore the common ground of Mary and Elizabeth, Paul's talk about the "variety of gifts", the story of two well-known prophets, Elijah and Elisha, the language of God's Spirit, and the love of Jesus that connects us across the generations. Relationships among generations are some of God's greatest gifts. Are you willing to receive this "gift"? Are you willing to bring this "gift" to a church and community of various ages?

Join the Zoom Bible study on Tuesday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m. to explore what opportunities might arise as we share our "gifts" across all generations in the church and community. Just click on the Zoom link that will be included in the email Monday announcements on May 17 or use the meeting ID and passcode below. All are welcome!

Log into Zoom using the following ID and passcode if you don't have the link.  
Meeting ID: 839 8551 3717; Passcode: 940736





## NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

A big thank you to all of you who brought donated items to the church the last few weeks – it is always a great help to us! We especially need non-perishable food items right now (pasta, canned veggies, soups, boxed items, cereal, etc.) for our Food Pantry. Our numbers are climbing again.

This last week we received news that the church where LSS is located in North Hollywood has been sold and is in escrow. We have been given 60-90 days to move to a new location. We are actively pursuing leads from realtors, and also putting the word out to all of our partner churches. We have had a few good discussions with some churches and their councils, and we'll see where that goes.

We have also had an offer from the LA County Dept. Of Health Services to start a medical clinic to offer medical services, dental services and health screenings to the homeless and poverty-level families and individuals. Of course, we need a location first!

Needless to say, this will be a big move for us! If you've ever been to LSS/North Hollywood, you know that we take up a lot of space and have thousands of items in our clothes closet/thrift shop. We won't have to move food – we can give that away before the actual move. But everything else will have to be boxed, and some wrapped prior to that (our household items, etc.)

So if you're looking for someplace to volunteer in the coming months, we will let you know when we need help.

Please keep LSS in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days and weeks that we find a very special place to be a blessing to the surrounding neighborhood and families and individuals that we will be serving.

Blessings,

Jan Maseda/Director/LSS/San Fernando Valley

## MEN'S BREAKFAST RETURNS

Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, May 5 at 8 a.m. at Coco's on Sepulveda (10841 Sepulveda Blvd. Mission Hills, CA )  
See you there!

*Ron Kraus*

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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

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

## BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is going to finish reading Katharina and Martin Luther for this coming month. You're welcome to join us!

Meeting ID: 873 3578 8029  
Passcode: 106328

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Bryan Fougner
- 4 Melisa Nusbaum
- 6 Kathy Taylor
- 7 Pat St. Michel
- 8 Steve Maseda
- 9 Cookie Cline
- 9 Andrea Hall
- 10 Dixie McNinch
- 11 Nikki Steelman
- 12 James Hein
- 13 Scott Fisher
- 15 Eric Eylands
- 17 Helen Kelsey
- 20 Matthew Kessell
- 24 Greg Imlay
- 25 Mary Fisher
- 29 John Cooper
- 29 Susan Van Deest



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Scott & Mary Fisher (1992)
- 23 Steve & Lisa Nakata (1998)
- 28 Ron & Sarah Karzel (1983)



## APRIL STATISTICS

Offerings \$19,612.52  
Plus \$1200.00 parking lot rental  
Budget \$20,833.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11:30A Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>12:30PM Youth Group</u>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study</u>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>2PM Confirmation Class</u> <u>12:30 PM High School Youth Meeting</u>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <u>8:00AM Men's Breakfast @ Coco's</u> <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study</u>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>11:30A Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>12:30 PM Middle School Youth Meeting</u>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study</u>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>12:30 PM High School Youth Meeting</u>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>4PM WELCA Bible Study via Zoom</u>	<b>19</b> <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study</u>	<b>20</b> <u>6:00PM Book Club</u>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>11:30A Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>12:30 PM Middle School Youth Meeting</u>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study</u>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM In-Person Worship</u>	<b>31</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b> <u>8:00AM Men's Breakfast @ Coco's</u> <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study</u>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

**11 a.m. In-person service readers**

Date	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Reader	Randy Miller	Jan Maseda	Vicente Ditto	Chriselle Almeida	Ron Kraus
Ushers/greeters	Pat St. Michel	Ron Kraus	Pam Shea	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda
	Jan Maseda		Pat St. Michel	Jan Maseda	Pat St. Michel
Counters	Pat St. Michel	Dwayne Schmidt	Pat St. Michel	Dwayne Schmidt	Pat St. Michel
	Mary Fisher	Brian Grefsrud	Carla Cross	Janet Puchlik	Fred Ophus

**10:00 a.m. Online service readers**

Date	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Reader	Ron Kraus	Chriselle Almeida	Nicole Hernandez	Greg Imlay	Marilyn Fursman



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344