

April 2026

The Bethlehem Star

Worship

With us

Sundays at 10am

Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran



Pastor's Message by Rev. Megan Hunt Fryling

People of Bethlehem,

Where have you noticed color and light lately? Where have you perceived Jesus' presence right alongside you?

Over the season of Lent, we stretched our artistic and theological imaginations. We enter into the Great Three Days at the end of Holy Week hopefully with eyes freshly opened to the miracles and grace of Jesus. I encourage you to worship with us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The combination of these services will bring a depth and focus to your Easter celebrations. To mark these days and these moments in Jesus' ministry as community is to participate in an experience that is deeply meaningful.

Once we begin the season of Easter, I pray that we enter into this time together with joy and renewed appreciation for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. I hope that the lessons from this season remain with you- that you live out your faith with bold strokes of color, that you notice patterns of beauty and grace all around you, and that you look to what is most important and central to life and faith. May the lessons and ideas you have taken from Henri Matisse and the Colors of Lent carry you with color and joy into the 50 days of Easter ahead of us!

Blessings,
Pastor Megan

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Breakfast /
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... and so much
more!

HOLY WEEK 2026


Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL
12227 BALBOA BLVD
GRANADA HILLS, CA
WWW.BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.NET



HENRI MATISSE
AND THE
COLORS OF LENT

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH - 10 A.M.
MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND - 7 P.M.
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD - 7 P.M.
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH
WORSHIP - 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.
BRUNCH & EGG HUNT - 10 A.M.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 A.M. SERVICE
(IN-PERSON & ONLINE)

SENIOR PASTOR

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING
pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net

PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

PASTOR MARC MOHR
youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

SENIOR MUSIC MINISTER

VICENTE DITTO
vicenteditto@bethlehemplutheran.net

MUSIC DIRECTORS

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

PIANIST

SUZANNE RECER
suzannerecer@bethlehemplutheran.net

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

EILEEN RAYCROFT
eileenraycroft@bethlehemplutheran.net

BOOKKEEPER

KAREN MEIER
finance@bethlehemplutheran.net

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

WANDA MORENO
admin@bethlehemplutheran.net

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

JOYCE WADE
office@bethlehemplutheran.net

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

MARY KANDILIAN
director@bethlehemplutheran.net

CONTACT BY PHONE:

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY JAN MASEDA, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A blessed upcoming Easter to each of you! I pray that your Lenten journey was fulfilling and powerful in your lives.

We were able to complete several projects this last month. One was the installation of a sun film on the right - hand side of the sanctuary in the upper windows to eliminate the sun shining in on the left - hand side of the sanctuary during certain times of the year. We have talked about this seems like forever, but its finally installed and hopefully, we can return to sitting on the left - hand side of the sanctuary during those powerful sun months. The second project was the installation of a new plexiglass on the Balboa sign to replace the sun-damaged and scratched one that was there before. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it has been installed and presents a much-needed update to the sign. And the third project was done by members of our church and preschool who spent a whole day (seemed like more) digging a BIG hole in the preschool playground area and filling it with gravel to try to prevent large amounts of dirt from blocking the drains. A huge thank you to all of you who were there to help out, and to Ben Cross for his leadership. Thank you, thank you!!

We are in the process of having several conversations with the Church Council and the Faithful Stewards Committee regarding the funds available for distribution in this fiscal year. We will be discussing possible permanent distributions with eligibility and other requirements, together with any other suggestions during the year that may come in. Once again, as members of the congregation, please help us in making these decisions by submitting whatever recommendations or suggestions you may have for these funds. We want to be very deliberate, thoughtful and prayerful when we make these decisions, and we hope that you will do the same with your suggestions.

We had a lovely outside lunch on March 15th with some individuals who have expressed an interest in joining our church. It was a great opportunity to listen to their stories about how they got to Bethlehem, and also a great way for them to meet some of our Council members and other members who joined us. Thank you to Emily for putting the lunch goodies together – great job as always!! Jesus is alive!! Please don't let that thought just pass by – we should really think about it. He paid the penalty of sin and brought us everlasting life. I pray that no matter how difficult or impossible our trials seem, we have hope as long as we have Jesus, and that we rejoice and be assured that He will faithfully help you regardless of what you face.

HE LIVES!!
Jan Maseda

CHURCH COUNCIL

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING

PRESIDENT

JAN MASEDA

president@bethlehehemlutheran.net

VICE PRESIDENT

KEN CAVE

vicepresident@bethlehehemlutheran.net

SECRETARY

LORRIE DECOURSEY-THOMAS

secretary@bethlehehemlutheran.net

TREASURER

SCOTT FISHER

treasurer@bethlehehemlutheran.net

SOCIAL MINISTRY

LISA CHOW

socialministry@bethlehehemlutheran.net

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

DESIREE AREVALO

youth@bethlehehemlutheran.net

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

DIANNE TILLMAN

worshipandmusic@bethlehehemlutheran.net

PRESCHOOL

RUTH IRWIN

preschoolchair@bethlehehemlutheran.net

FELLOWSHIP

EMILY CARLSON

fellowship@bethlehehemlutheran.net

NON-COUNCIL TEAM LEADERS

STEWARDSHIP TEAM LEADER

JUDY CAVE

stewardship@bethlehehemlutheran.net

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS

BEN CROSS

property@bethlehehemlutheran.net

EVANGELISM

EILEEN RAYCROFT

evangelism@bethlehehemlutheran.net

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP DAY!

Join us for a fun day of serving our neighbors
by cleaning up our community!
Let's take care of God's creation together.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Part of our "Sundays
Together" series—
alternating weeks of kids'
Sunday School and all-
ages activities that
connect faith & fellowship.



We'll Provide

- Trash bags
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Gloves

What to Bring

- Comfortable clothes
- Water bottle
- Friends and family!

When: Sunday, April 19th
11:30 am



Vacation Bible School 2026

July 22-25

Times - Wednesday-Friday 5:30-8:00 pm

Saturday 9:30-12:00

Ages Preschool thru entering 5th grade

Volunteers: Entering 6th grade and above

Contact Brooke Coffin for more information
818-212-7402 • email VBS@bethlehemlutheran.net

We're excited to invite you to be part of this year's Vacation Bible School! Whether you're registering a child to attend or signing up to serve as a volunteer, getting involved is quick and easy.

Simply click on the barcodes below to access the registration pages. One will take you to the child registration form, and the other two barcodes will guide you through the adult or student volunteer sign-up process.

We can't wait to see how God will move through VBS this year, and we'd love for you to be part of it!

VBS Registration Form



Student Volunteer Form



Adult Volunteer Form



SCHOOL NEWS

BY MARY KANDILIAN, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



Spring has arrived on campus, bringing a season full of joy, celebration, and meaningful learning for our students. April is always a special month for our school community as we prepare to celebrate Easter, a beautiful reminder of hope,

renewal, and new life. Our classrooms are already filled with spring-themed projects and conversations that reflect the spirit of the season.

We are also looking forward to Teacher Appreciation Week, April 20–24, when we take time to recognize and thank our incredible teachers for the dedication, patience, and love they bring to their classrooms each day. Their commitment to our students truly makes Bethlehem School a special place for children to grow and learn.

On April 23rd, we will be celebrating World Book Day in our courtyard. This will be a joyful gathering where students come together to share stories and celebrate the magic of reading. Literacy and imagination are such an important part of childhood, and we are excited to highlight the joy that books bring to our school community.

Behind the scenes, we are also hard at work preparing for our summer program, and I am happy to report that we have already received over 135 applications. We are planning many fun and creative activities and look forward to a vibrant summer filled with exploration, play, and learning.

Spring is such a beautiful time on our campus, and we are grateful for the continued support of our church community. Thank you for being a part of the life of Bethlehem School.

Warmly,
Mary Kandilian



THANK YOU TO OUR PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to help shovel gravel for the back playground. We are so grateful for the strong turnout of church members, preschool parents, and Boy Scout Troop 104 who gave their time and energy to improve this space for our children.

Because of your willingness to serve, the playground is now safer, more welcoming, and ready to be enjoyed by the many children who learn and play here each week. Your hard work: Lifting, spreading, and working side by side, made a lasting impact that will bless families in our church and preschool community for years to come.

This was a wonderful example of our community coming together in service. It was inspiring to see so many hands working with joy and purpose, reflecting the love and care we share for one another and for our youngest members. Moments like these remind us that even simple acts of service can have a meaningful and lasting effect.

We are truly thankful for each and every one of you who helped make it happen. Your generosity, time, and effort are deeply appreciated. Thank you for being such a vital part of our church family!

MUSIC NOTES

BY VICENTE DITTO, SENIOR MUSIC MINISTER



Holy Week brings us to the end of our Lenten journey. Our Maundy Thursday service will conclude with the stripping of the altar and for the first time in my nineteen years at Bethlehem, we will conduct a stations of the cross service for Good Friday. Each station will

conclude with a brief musical reflection, drawing on the full variety of music we utilize at Bethlehem: traditional hymns, contemporary songs, selections from chant based material from the Solemn Reproaches, and a choral anthem arrangement of "Via Dolorosa." Then on Easter Sunday we will sweep away the darkness with a string quartet to help us celebrate the glory of Easter. The string quartet will accompany both the hymns and the choir on our special music piece "The Risen Christ." With so much happening at the beginning of the month, what will we do for the rest of April?!

YOUTH NEWS

BY PASTOR MARC MOHR, YOUTH DIRECTOR



This month, we start off with Holy Week. This is one of the busiest seasons of the church year. We'll have many opportunities for youth involvement, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Please look out for

ways to sign up and be involved this week. If you have or know any youth who'd like to get involved, please contact Pastor Marc at youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net.

- Confirmation - Sunday, April 12th, from 1:30pm-3:30pm at Bethlehem in Granada Hills.

- Youth Group - Sunday, April 19th, from

5pm-6:30pm at Bethlehem. This will be a spring themed youth group.

- Ice Skating - Sunday, April 26th, from 1:45pm-4:15pm. Cost is \$20 and includes skate rental. We will be joining a few other youth groups for this activity as well. Please drop off at Iceoplex in Simi Valley and pick up at Iceoplex. Carpooling is encouraged. The address is 131 W Easy Street, Simi Valley, CA. 93065.

MARCH RECAP

Middle School & High School Boba & Retro Arcade in Pasadena. We had fun playing video games and enjoying yummy pastries and Boba together.



YOUTH PRAYER REQUESTS

- Completing school assignments
- Safe and fun Spring break
- Church involvement

FREE! **DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT**



Disney
MOANA

FRIDAY APRIL 10

6:00- DINNER
6:45- MOVIE


Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL
12227 BALBOA BLVD
GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344
WWW.BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.NET



VAAS THEATER PRESENTS
BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

Scan the QR and get your tickets!

SHOWTIMES : APRIL 16-17 @ 7:00 PM
APRIL 18 @ 2:00 PM, 7:00 PM

REGULAR PRICE :

\$ 5

AT THE DOOR:

\$ 10



MAMMA MIA!

Music and Lyrics by: Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus

Book by: Catherine Johnson

Original Concept by: Judy Craymer

Based on the Songs of ABBA

Performed by: VAAS Theater Company

Poster by: LEIGHLA REYES



Registration
150

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL

SUMMER CAMP

Exciting Activities for AGES 0 - 10

Learning and fun through nature and play

- June 1st - August 7th
- Full day and part day options available - open 7am - 6pm
- Healthy and delicious snacks and meals
- Weekly on campus adventure days and additional weekly off site field trips for elementary students
- Science, Music, Arts, Sports - well balanced and engaging curricula



www.bethlehemplutheran.net

BETHLEHEM BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is a wonderful way to connect, share ideas, and enjoy great stories together! We meet every 3rd Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m., and you're invited to be part of it.

Join us on Friday, April 17th at 6:00 p.m. as we gather to discuss *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. It's a relaxed and welcoming space to share thoughts, hear different perspectives, and enjoy meaningful conversation, whether you've finished the book or are just getting started.

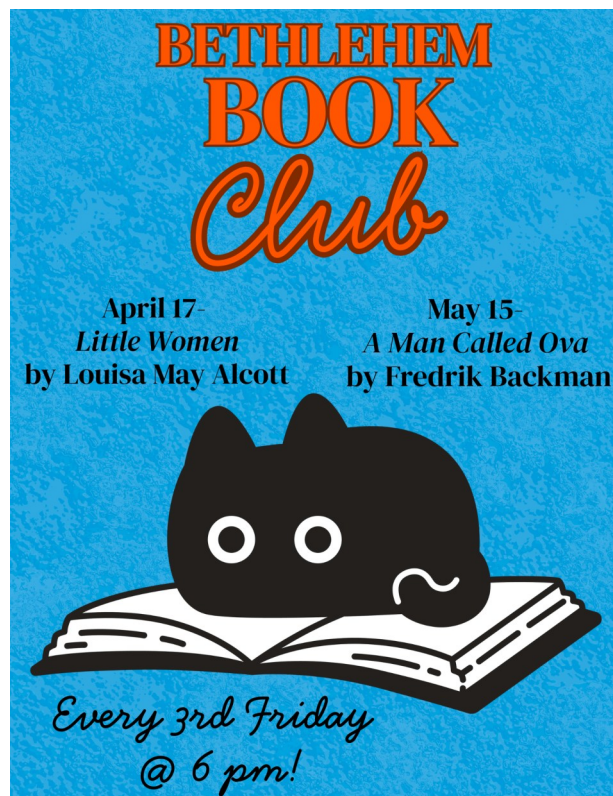
Come as you are, bring a friend, and be part of this growing community. We'd love to have you join our book club!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is a great way to start your day with good food, great company, and meaningful conversation.

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at Coco's Restaurant (10841 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills), where we gather around God's Word and enjoy time together. Our next breakfast is Wednesday, April 1st, and we'd love to see you there!

It's a relaxed, welcoming time to connect, share a few laughs, and grow in faith alongside other men from church. Come as you are, bring a friend, and bring your appetite. We're saving you a seat!



APRIL GATHER BIBLE STUDY Women of the ELCA

"GOD'S NAME; GOD'S PROMISE: GOD THE PROTECTOR: GATE AND SHEPHERD "

"I AM the good shepherd," Jesus proclaims in John 10:14. He goes on to say, "I know my sheep and my sheep know me." What does that mean for believers? What did these statements mean for Ezekiel and the people in exile?

Later in John 10: 7, Jesus describes Himself as "the gate for his sheep." What relationship does Jesus have with his sheep? What relationship do his sheep have with Him?

As we explore the conversations Ezekiel has with God and the conversations Ezekiel has with the people in exile, we will discover answers to these questions. In addition, when Jesus compares himself to a gate, he reveals that a gate has two purposes. How do those purposes affect his followers?

Come to Bethlehem's conference room at 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, April 21st to see how even in times of war, genocide, hatred, violence, apathy, death, destruction, corruption, injustice, illness, and pain, Jesus keeps his promise. Through it all, we can still find comfort in Psalm 23 and keep singing "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead me . . ." Learn more about the great "I AM."

You're invited!

Sundays Together:
Bethlehem Field Trip
to



**THE
GETTY
MUSEUM**

Join us in May for an incredible outing!
Details to be announced soon!

Worship Assistants - Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

Assisting Minister: Pastor Marc Mohr

Reader: Pam Shea

Ushers: Pat St. Michel, James Stevenson

Acolyte: Bella Arevalo

Livestream: Derek Raycroft

Altar Guild: Cookie Cline

Good Friday

Assisting Minister: Jan Maseda

Readers: Marilyn Fursman

Ushers: Pat St. Michel, Kyle Fryling

Crucifer: Adan Olivares

Livestream: Derek Raycroft

Altar Guild: Eileen Raycroft, All

Easter Sunday at 9 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Mary Fisher

Reader: Lisa Chow

Ushers: Fred Ducat, Pat St. Michel

Counters: Fred Ducat, Carla Cross

Fellowship: Potluck Easter Brunch

Acolyte: Charlotte Cross

Livestream: Beckett Boysen

Altar Guild: Cookie Cline, All

Crucifer: Andrea Hall

Easter Sunday at 11 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Ron Kraus

Reader: Jill Goddard

Ushers: Nicole Hernandez Liva, Richard & Hawks Liva, Brian Grefsrud

Counters: Fred Ducat, Carla Cross

Fellowship: Potluck Easter Brunch

Acolyte: Layla Olivares

Livestream: Beckett Boysen

Altar Guild: Cookie Cline, All

Crucifer: Andrea Hall



April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	2 6 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Maundy Thursday	3 7 PM Good Friday Worship Service	4
5 9 AM Easter Sunday Worship 10 AM Potluck Brunch 11 AM Easter Sunday Worship	6	7 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	8 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	9 6 PM Adult Choir	10 6 PM Dinner & Movie Night	11
12 10 AM Worship 11:20 AM Sunday School & Men's Bible Study 1:30 PM Confirmation	13	14 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	15 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	16 6 PM Adult Choir	17 9:30 AM Craft Friday 6PM BLC Book Club	18
19 10 AM Worship 11:20 Sunday Together: Neighborhood Cleanup & Cola Fellowship 5 PM Youth Group	20	21 9:30 AM WELCA 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	22 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	23 6 PM Adult Choir	24 9:30 AM Craft Friday	25
26 10 AM Worship 11:20 AM Sunday School & Men's Bible Study 1:45 PM Youth Ice Skating	27	28 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	29	30		

Worship Assistants

	Sunday, Apr 5 (9am)	Sunday, Apr 5 (11am)	Sunday, Apr 12	Sunday, Apr 19	Sunday, Apr 26
Assisting Minister	Mary Fisher	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda	Is it You?	Is it You?
Reader	Lisa Chow	Jill Goddard	Is it You?	Jan Maseda	Is it You?
Ushers	Fred Ducat Pat St. Michel	Nicole Hernandez Liva, Richard & Hawks Liva, Brian Grefsrud	Brian Grefsrud	Is it You?	Is it You?
Crucifer	Andrea Hall	Andrea Hall			
Counter	Carla Cross	Fred Ducat	Brian Grefsrud	Judy Cave	Mary Fisher
Counter	Fred Ducat	Carla Cross	Pat St. Michel	Dianne Tillman	Janet Puchlik
Fellowship	Easter Brunch Potluck	Easter Brunch Potluck	Is it You?	Is it You?	Is it You?
Acolyte	Charlotte Cross	Layla Olivares	Is it You?	Is it You?	Is it You?
Livestream Assistant	Beckett Boysen	Beckett Boysen	Beckett Boysen	Beckett Boysen	Derek Raycroft
Altar Guild	Cookie Cline, All	Cookie Cline, All	Sue Schmidt	Janet Puchlik	Gaynelle Barkley & Jonelle Miller

Worship Assistants Needed

- Assisting Minister
- Reader
- Usher
- Counter
- Fellowship
- Acolyte
- Altar Guild

**Volunteer with a friend
or sign up as a family!**

Please contact the church office for more information.
No experience needed!
818.360.4777 | office@bethlehemlutheran.net





Bethlehem LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Love is kind
- 1 Cor. 13

HOW TO CONTINUE

SUPPORTING BETHLEHEM

- Mail in your check
- Through your bank's Bill Pay
- Donate online 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.

STATISTICS

Avg. March weekly in-person attendance: 77

Avg. weekly online viewers: 17

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Kathy Santiago
- 8 Israel Fryling
- 12 Desiree Lynn Arevalo
- 17 Liva Liva
- 21 Gaynelle Barkley
- 22 Hawks Liva
- 25 Betty Rainey

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ben & Carla Cross (1994)
- 12 Barry & Sunni Sears (1977)
- 14 Brian & Brooke Coffin (2018)
- 23 Todd & Sue Akin (1988)

WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE!

Livestream worship will be posted to [facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills) (you don't need a Facebook account to view) and YouTube (search "Bethlehem Granada Hills" then click on our logo).