

Worship

With us

May 2026

Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran

Sundays at 10am

The Bethlehem Star



Pastor's Message by Rev. Megan Hunt Fryling

People of Bethlehem,

There is something powerful about being together. In a world that often pulls us apart by age, by schedule, by interest, by stage of life, the church is one of the few places where we are intentionally woven back together. At Bethlehem, toddlers and retirees, youth and young adults, long-time members and brand-new visitors all find themselves sharing space, stories, laughter, and faith.

This is important because we don't just grow in faith alone. We grow in faith together. We learn from one another. We support one another. We remind each other of God's presence in ways we could never do on our own.

This month, May is full of opportunities to experience joyful, meaningful, and intergenerational community and to invite others into it. One of the simplest and most meaningful things we can do is extend an invitation. Just a simple: "Come with me."

May is filled with moments that are especially welcoming to those who may not yet feel connected to a church. We have things like movie night, outings, book club, and special services. Think about who in your life might be looking for connection, for belonging, for hope...and then invite them. Community grows one relationship at a time and the church becomes more vibrant with every new voice and face. What we share here is meant to be shared with everyone.

Looking forward to a month full of time together with you and with those you invite.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Megan

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--- and so much
more!

PLEASE COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!
The Twin Valleys Conference
**Rite of
Confirmation**

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026
TIME 1:00 P.M.
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
12227 BALBOA BLVD, GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344

We are blessed to have
Bishop Brenda Bos preaching and
leading the Rite of Confirmation

After worship we'll gather
for a time of celebration
and fellowship!



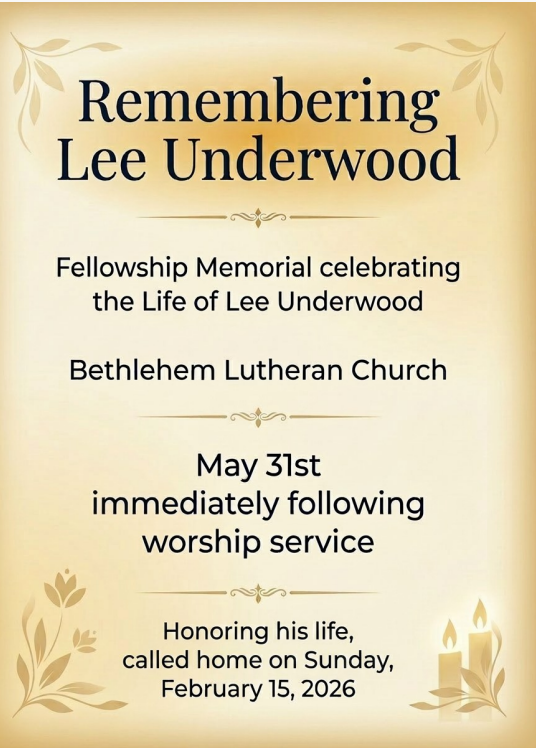
Remembering Lee Underwood

Fellowship Memorial celebrating
the Life of Lee Underwood

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 31st
immediately following
worship service

Honoring his life,
called home on Sunday,
February 15, 2026



SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

SENIOR PASTOR

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING
pastor@bethlehemplutheran.net

PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

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youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY JAN MASEDA, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy May everyone! And with it comes Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, the LA County Fair, the Strawberry Festival, the start of our elections, and of course, the Calaveras County Jumping Frog Jubilee, to name just a few happenings in May.

This last month in April, millions of Christ-followers around the world celebrated the significant historical fact: Jesus of Nazareth, God's Messiah, was crucified, died and was buried, and then rolled away the stone and walked out having conquered – death. He brought hope for our souls that life matters, walking faithfully before God matters, and finding solace in his promises brings real hope in our lives. Alleluia, Christ has risen, He has risen indeed!

So many people to thank for our beautiful Easter season, which continues for another 7 Sundays into the latter part of May. Hopefully, all of you are thankful for all of the people who helped make Easter (and Lent) a blessed, thoughtful and meaningful season here at Bethlehem. It always amazes me how many individuals are involved in everything we do here, and I am so, so grateful for each and every one of them. To begin with, a huge thank you to Pastor Megan for all of the hours and hours of time and effort it took to make the Season so beautiful, colorful, exciting and wonderful for all of us. From selecting the Henri Matisse's Colors of Lent, the sketch pads for our Into the Wild devotionals and art work, to the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Thank you, Pastor Megan, for all of it.

Speaking of the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services: Good Friday was so meaningful and informative with the Stations of the Cross and the reflections by Pastor Megan. I know that many of you attended, and I hope that you felt as fulfilled as I did on attending this Service. If you didn't get a chance to be there, perhaps you will next year. Easter Sunday was so beautiful with the music of the String Quartet, the choir and the bells processional, the decoration of the Cross, and the beautiful altar arrangements, especially the altar and lectern cloths which were stunning, the decorations on each of the sanctuary windows – well, it was all so beautiful, the music was wonderful – I just need some more adjectives to describe it all! And if I were King (or Queen), I would do it exactly the same next year. But alas, I am neither.

A huge thank you to all of you who cooked and served meals, bought flowers for the altar, acted as assistant ministers, ushers, readers, counters, fellowship, choir and bell choir members, and all of you who went the extra mile during Easter Season for all of us at Bethlehem. You are loved and greatly appreciated.

Blessings,
Jan Maseda

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FREE
PADDINGTON 2
DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT



**FRIDAY
MAY 1ST**

**6:00- DINNER
6:45- MOVIE**



**Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

**12227 BALBOA BLVD
GRANADA HILLS, CA
91344**

WWW.BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.NET

YOU'RE INVITED!



Sundays Together:
Bethlehem Field Trip to



Join us for a special behind-the-scenes and docent-led experience at the Getty Center!

Saturday May 9, 2026

Departure: 9:30 a.m. (from the church)

Transportation: Carpooling

One of our own, Michael Schilling (Senior Scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute), will host us and lead an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the conservation science labs: something most visitors never get to see!

We'll also have the opportunity to participate in docent-led tours, including:

- Designing the Getty Center (architecture & gardens walking tour - 1 hour)
- Additional tours based on availability and group interest

SCHOOL NEWS

BY MARY KANDILIAN, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



Dear Bethlehem Community,

As we enter the beautiful month of May, we find ourselves in a season filled with reflection, gratitude, and joyful celebration. This time of year always brings a special kind of energy to our campus as we prepare to close another meaningful chapter

together.

This month, we look forward to celebrating the incredible mothers and mother figures in our community. Their love, dedication, and unwavering support are a true blessing to our students and school. We are grateful for the many ways they nurture not only their own children, but our entire Bethlehem family.

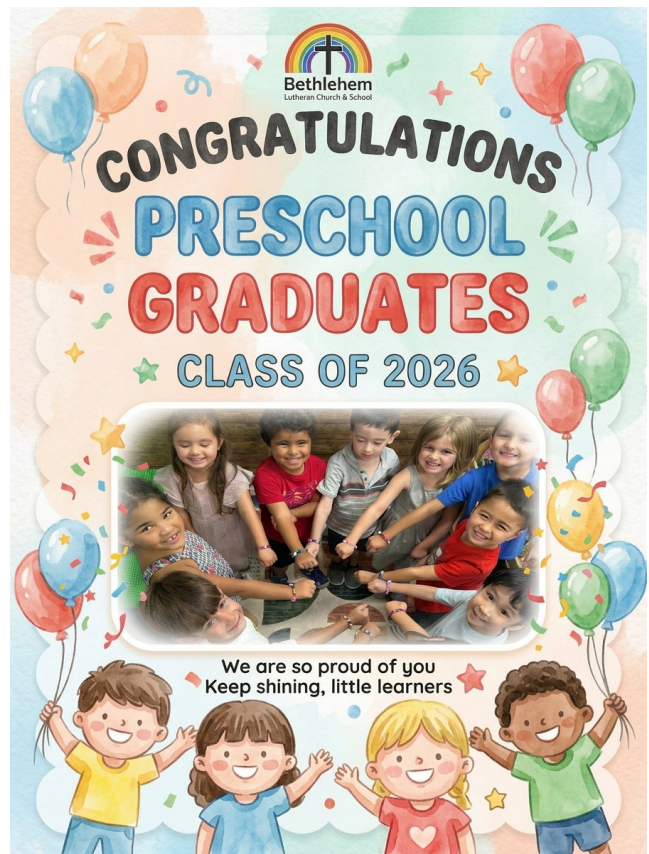
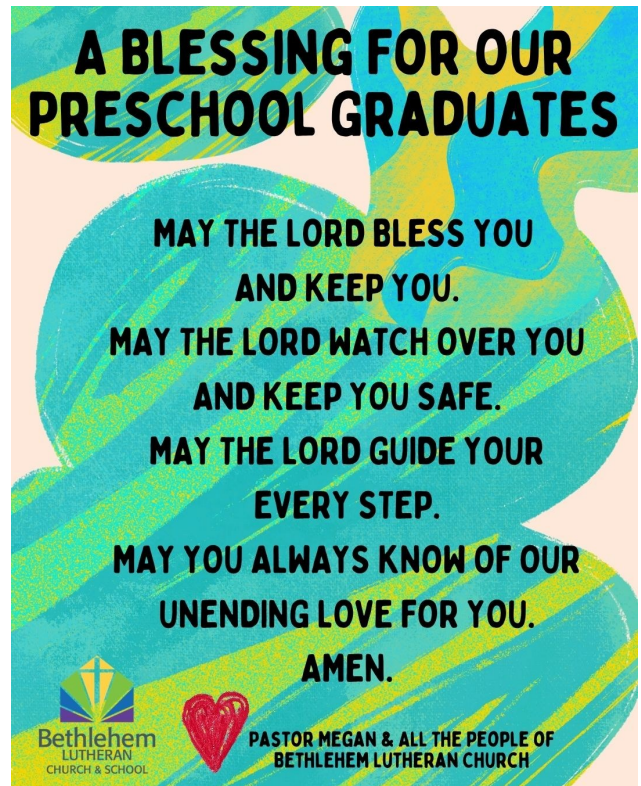
May also marks an especially significant milestone for our youngest learners. At the end of the month, our Pre-K students will graduate and take their next steps forward. It has been such an honor to walk alongside these children and their families—watching them grow, learn, and blossom in so many ways. We celebrate not only their achievements, but the relationships and memories that have been built throughout the year. As we reflect on all that God has done this school year, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve each of your families. The growth we have witnessed—academically, socially, and spiritually—has been truly inspiring.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share that our team has been working diligently over the past several months to prepare a rich and engaging summer program. We are thrilled to announce that, for the first time, we will be reaching our full capacity this summer. This is a testament to the strength of our program and the trust our families place in us, and we could not be more thankful.

As we close out the school year, we continue to pray for each of our students and families—that they feel proud of their accomplishments, confident in their growth, and excited for what lies ahead.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.” — Numbers 6:24–25

With gratitude and blessings,
Mary Kandilian



MUSIC NOTES

BY VICENTE DITTO, SENIOR MUSIC MINISTER



I've been at Bethlehem for many Holy Weeks and Easters with our most recent being my 19th. This year's was a special one. Choir sang a lovely anthem, the string quartet sounded great and chose solo pieces that the congregation really enjoyed, and Good Friday's Stations of

the Cross service received lots of positive feedback. By far my favorite service in the church year, with the Candle Light Christmas Eve service close behind it, I've always appreciated how emotional congregants get at our Good Friday services. I think going through all fourteen stations with the accompanying Matisse imagery really did put Good Friday into a different perspective. I felt like the invitation to reflect on the moments leading up to the crucifixion were very genuine and natural. I suppose that is the nature of Stations of the Cross as opposed to Seven Last Words which focuses more on what Jesus says on the cross and less what leads up to the execution. Maybe we'll do it again next year. I must thank Eileen and Derek Raycroft for providing the singing bells at Good Friday. The bells really do help to set the reflective and somber tone of the service. My thanks, also, to all our choir members who pulled double duty on Sunday morning by singing at two services and singing at Good Friday. I know they appreciate the congregation's support for the music program and enjoy performing for our community.

YOUTH NEWS

BY PASTOR MARC MOHR, YOUTH DIRECTOR



The season of Easter lasts for fifty days and ends on Pentecost Sunday, which is on May 24th. The Easter season is a time of transformation. What changes do you see that you need in your spiritual life? During the Easter season we say, "Alleluia," which means celebrate or joy. How does Jesus bring joy in

your life and how do you celebrate Him in church, or in the world? May this season inspire you to grow in faith and share Christ's joy with others each day.

Reminder to register for summer camp at ircchome.com, remember that Bethlehem has a small scholarship for children/youth attending. Please contact Bethlehem for the amount per student. Thank you for the generosity of the members at Bethlehem. If you have or know any youth who'd like to get involved, please contact Pastor Marc at youthdirector@bethlehemplutheran.net.

- Confirmation - Sunday, May 3rd, from 1:30pm-3:30pm at American Lutheran Church in Burbank.
- Getty Museum - Saturday, May 9th - Sunday's Together Field Trip
- Rite of Confirmation - Saturday, May 16th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 1pm. We will have three youth who will be confirmed from Bethlehem.
- 2027 Youth Gathering Meeting - Sunday, May 17th at 11:15am. This is for students entering or currently in high school.
- Escape Room & Frozen Yogurt - Sunday, May 17th from 12:45p.m.-4:45p.m. at The Topanga Mall. **Cost:** \$30 for the Escape Room and Frozen Yogurt and the youth funds will pay the rest.
- Youth Group End of Year Party - Sunday, May 31st from 5p.m.-6:30p.m. at Bethlehem.

APRIL RECAP

Confirmation went well this month as we talked about many different ways of praying and we made prayer boxes together.



YOUTH PRAYER REQUESTS

- Finishing off the school year strong.

MOMENTS THAT MATTER: YOUTH GROUP 2026 IN ACTION



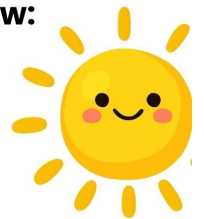
YOUTHS IN NEED: DONATION DRIVE

SUN, SAND, AND SMILES!

A DONATION DRIVE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Help give a foster youth a fun day at the beach by donating new:

- Beach Towels
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Lip Balm with SPF



Additional Items (Optional)

- Sand Buckets
- Sand Toys

DUE BY JUNE 1ST

FOSTERALL





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



**Confirmation
Class
Project**

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS

- Leashes
- Collars
- Linens – clean towels and blankets
- Peanut Butter
- Large and Extra Large Kongs
- Kitten Dry & Wet Food (Canned)
- Stainless steel bowls of all sizes
- Dog and cat treats (hard and soft)
- Dog and cat toys
- Baby wipes
- Fabric softener sheets
- Dog and cat grooming supplies
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Brushes, Clippers



**Drop off your
donations in
Chandler
Hall**



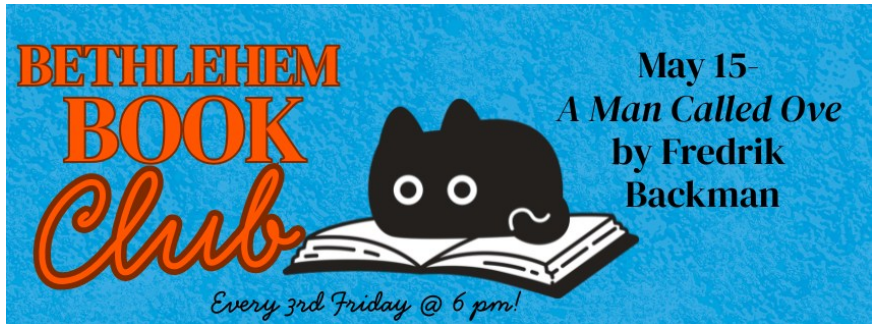
**Save God's creatures!
Help the Confirmation
students collect donations for
West Valley Animal Shelter**


**Bethlehem
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**
12227 Balboa Blvd
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Accepting Donations April 19- May 3, 2026

BETHLEHEM BOOK CLUB

Looking for a simple way to connect and unwind this May? Our Church Book Club offers a welcoming space to gather, share perspectives, and enjoy a good read together. We meet on the third Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m., and there's always room for new faces.



Mark your calendar for May 15th at 6:00 p.m. as we come together to talk about *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Whether you've read every page or are just curious about the story, you'll find friendly conversation and encouraging fellowship.

Feel free to invite a friend and join us for an evening of connection, reflection, and community. We'd be glad to have you with us.

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, May 6th**, and we'd love to see you there!

It's a relaxed and 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!

MAY GATHER BIBLE STUDY

Women of the ELCA

GOD'S NAME, GOD'S PROMISE: GOD WHO LEADS US: RESURRECTION AND LIFE

"Me! Me! Me! I will do it!" are the words one often hears from young children who volunteer to help. Each volunteer smiles as he or she is chosen for the task. Similarly, adults sing "Here I am! Send me!", often without the same enthusiasm as a child exudes. Likewise, reluctance was felt when God asked Isaiah, an important prophet, to give the people a message that they didn't want to hear. Isaiah wondered how he, just one man, could do such a task. Why had God made him a prophet? Clearly, Isaiah had his work cut out for him. But Isaiah was faithful to God's call even though the people refused to listen. Still Isaiah felt that there was hope because God keeps His promises.

In the May GATHER Bible study, God, the great I AM, promises to lead all creation into abundance. So why is there suffering, grief, and death? Come to Bethlehem's conference room at **9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, May 19th** to explore and understand Isaiah's hope in the I AM. Then notice in John 11 how I AM doesn't restore all creation to abundant life with a snap of His fingers. Discover instead how Jesus works in life's trials. Also discover in Jesus' "farewell address" to his disciples in John 14 what he reveals in his words "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower." Understand what those words and God's promises mean for us.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bible Study

Join us for weekly Bible study and fellowship

Wednesdays at 10:00 AM



12227 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344

All are welcome



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MAY

**The cost is only \$40 each week
for both beautiful arrangements!**

**Please include a memo stating "altar flowers"
on your check or online donation or on
an envelope if paying in cash.**

WHERE TO SIGN UP

**Sign-up sheet is located in Chandler Hall
or email the church office at
office@bethlehemlutheran.net**

DEDICATIONS

**You may dedicate the flowers to the Glory of God or
make a personal dedication. When altar flowers are
dedicated, the names and messages are listed in
the weekly announcements.**


TAKE THEM OR DONATE THEM

**You are invited to take the arrangements home or donate
them. Pastor Megan and the altar guild will distribute
the flowers if you choose to donate them. Oftentimes,
they are given to visitors or homebound members.**

**Thank you for your continued support of this
important and beautiful part of our ministry.**



May 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 9:30 AM Craft Friday 6 PM Dinner & Movie Night	2
3 10 AM Worship 11:20 Sundays Together 1:30 PM Confirmation Class @ American Lutheran Church in Burbank	4	5 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	6 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	7 6 PM Adult Choir	8 9:30 AM Craft Friday	9 9:30 AM Sundays Together: Getty Center Field Trip
10 10 AM Worship 11:20 AM Mother's Day: Teatime Fellowship	11	12 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	13 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	14 6 PM Adult Choir	15 9:30 AM Craft Friday 6 PM BLC Book Club	16 1 PM Rite of Confirmation Service
17 10 AM Worship & Confirmation Sunday 11:15 AM Youth Meeting 11:20 AM Sunday School & Men's Bible Study 12:45 PM Youth Fellowship: Escape Room & Frozen Yogurt	18	19 9:30 AM WELCA 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	20 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	21 6 PM Adult Choir	22 9:30 AM Craft Friday 1 PM Preschool Graduation 	23
24 10 AM Worship	25 Church & School Closed in observance of Memorial Day	26 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	27 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Women's AA	28 6 PM Adult Choir	29 9:30 AM Craft Friday Synod Assembly	30 Synod Assembly
31 10 AM Worship 11:20 Sundays Together: Extract Extravaganza 5 PM Youth Group End of Year Party!						

Worship Assistants

	Sunday, May 3	Sunday, May 10	Sunday, May 17	Sunday, May 24	Sunday, May 31
Assisting Minister	Eileen Raycroft	Eileen Raycroft	Pastor Marc Mohr	Cherrie Schilling	Laureen Gleason
Reader	Cherrie Schilling	Jan Maseda	Connie Troe	Andrew Sipes	Eileen Raycroft
Ushers	Fred Ducat Carla Cross	Carla Cross Pat St. Michel	Carla Cross Pat St. Michel	Carla Cross Is it You?	Carla Cross Is it You?
Counter	Janet Puchlik	Fred Ducat Pat St. Michel	Dwayne Schmidt	Mary Fisher	Ken Cave
Counter	Dianne Tillman	Pat St. Michel	Michael Schilling	Judy Cave	Carla Cross
Fellowship	Judy Cave	Jan Maseda	Eileen Raycroft	Connie Troe	Is it You?
Acolyte	Layla Olivares	Is it You?	Is it You?	Is it You?	Is it You?
Livestream Assistant	Derek Raycroft	Derek Raycroft	Beckett Boysen	Beckett Boysen	Beckett Boysen
Altar Guild	Gaynelle Barkley Jonelle Miller	Cherrie Schilling	Janet Puchlik	Eileen Raycroft	Cherrie Schilling

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





Teatime Fellowship

Teas and snacks on Mother's Day Sunday
All are welcome

Sunday
May 10th at 11:20 a.m.
following worship

Raffles for tea and garden related gifts
Win for yourself or to gift a mother figure



HOW TO CONTINUE

SUPPORTING BETHLEHEM

- Mail in your check
- Through your bank's Bill Pay
- Donate online through our church website (www.bethlehemplutheran.net) Enter through the church site and locate the orange DONATE NOW button at the top right. You can set up an auto pay or one-time donation.

STATISTICS

Avg. April weekly in-person attendance: 75
Avg. weekly online viewers: 17

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Bryan Fougner
- 4 Melisa Nusbaum
- 6 Kathy Taylor
- 7 Pat St. Michel
- 9 Cookie Cline
- 9 Andrea Hall
- 10 Dixie McNinch
- 11 Nikki Steelman
- 12 James Hein
- 13 Scott Fisher
- 20 Matthew Kessel
- 21 Patrick Alan Brooks
- 25 Mary Fisher
- 29 John Cooper
- 29 Susan Van Deest

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 09 Desiree Lynn & Carlos Arevalo (2014)
- 18 Scott & Mary Fisher (1992)
- 23 Steve & Lisa Nakata (1998)
- 28 Ron & Sarah Karzel (1983)

WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE!

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