

Heart Matters

Your Connection to Bethany Lutheran Church and Littlest Angels Preschool

1095 Cloud Avenue • Menlo Park • CA • 94025 • Church: 650.854.5897 • Preschool: 650.854.4973
www.Bethany-MP.org • www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com

April 2017

News from Pastor Jon

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



In This Issue

- Women's Ministries
- The Lutheran Witness Subscription Renewal
- Youth Group News
- Angelic News
- Announcements
- Breakfast Bible Studies (4/8)
- The Loco Moco Breakfast Fundraiser (4/23)
- Lifetree Café Calendar
- Upcoming Events
 - Forte Performance & Reception (4/4)
 - Knitting Group (4/6)
 - Herm Grothmann's Memorial Service & Reception (4/7)
 - Mary Arkebauer's Memorial Service & Reception (4/8)
 - Breakfast Bible Studies (4/8)
 - Seder Dinner (4/13)
 - Good Friday (4/14)
 - Easter (4/16)
 - Youth Group's Mother Day Project (4/17)
 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Forever Young (Thursdays @ 6:30 PM)
- .. and much more!

There are two things I know about this verse: 1) This statement of hope – written by Jeremiah the prophet – was made when the Israelites were in exile. The Israelites wondered if they would ever return to their homeland, the Promised Land, the land they received from God. The Israelites wondered if they would have children and grandchildren who would worship God, who would live without war, who would be safe and prosperous. In other words, this statement came at a time of great distress for the Israelites. 2) This statement has been used frequently in the past few years. In fact, there have been times when I felt this statement was being used too often and was being applied to situations which might not be accurate uses of the passage.

However, lately I have been thinking more about this verse in the context of our current national culture. There are plenty of surveys indicating that fewer people are attending church, but there are also surveys showing that 89% of people in the United States believe in God. As Lutherans we confess that the Bible teaches we have a natural knowledge of God, which is part of our creation. All of this provides us with a clear tension between the beliefs most people hold and their connection to the church **as it functions today**.

During the history of Christianity, the church has worshipped in different places, built different types of buildings, created different types of music with different instruments, and has inspired different forms of governance.

News from Pastor Jon

Yet, in all of these differences, a number of truths have always been present. Here are a couple of those truths: 1) The proclamation of the Gospel, that Jesus came to die for our sins and be raised again to eternal life, is the work of God's people. 2) The institution of the church will struggle, and sometimes even seem to die, but God is alive and well, constantly bringing people to faith in Jesus through new and innovative ways.

During my lifetime – which is brief in comparison to the history of the world – I have seen countries change from places where God is rejected to places where faith in Jesus is growing faster than anywhere else. This is resurrection! This is the Easter message! The truth is that without death there cannot be a resurrection. Satan would love to destroy the church. More importantly Satan would love to destroy the faith of all people. However the power of Christ, the power of the Gospel, IS the power to bring all people to the knowledge of God and to bring all people to faith in Jesus Christ. It is this power which saves. It is this power which comforts. It is this power which encourages us to live our lives as sacrifices to God through service to others.

God's power is not the same as the power of this world. It is not something to be grasped. It is not something that comes from fame, or wealth, or intellect, or any other human achievement. God's power is made evident at the cross. God's power is made evident in humility and service and love. God's power is the eternal power to bring "hope and a future" into the most desperate of times.

Easter is a time to celebrate the hope we have in Christ, which comes in the darkest moment in all of human history. As God's Son, Jesus, hangs on a cross, which human beings constructed and caused to be his painful suffering and death, all of creation receives the greatest gift of hope and the future glory of heaven, through Jesus. May God bless you with a vision for "hope and a future" during Easter and every day.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

Women's Ministries

The mission donation for May will go to St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

This mission is close to home, located on Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, and close to our hearts. St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room first opened its doors in 1974 to serve the low-income elderly with a weekend meal supplement in a social and friendly atmosphere. However, the need quickly grew into a daily operation. It is the largest "soup-kitchen" between San Francisco and San Jose and the only organization that provides food daily throughout the year. The Dining Room provides warm, nutritious meals in a social and friendly atmosphere to alleviate hunger and malnutrition without regard to age, sex, race, religious beliefs, national origin, or disabilities.

An average of 500 meals are served each day. Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest days of the year for the Padua Dining Room when their patronage typically doubles to about 1,000 meals on each holiday. In addition, they provide hot meals daily to two local organizations...Maple Street Shelter and the Sequoia Children's Center – organizations which rely on the Padua Dining Room to supply their clients with much-needed healthy meals. On Sundays, bag lunches are provided through for SOS (Sandwiches on Sunday) at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. Lunches are also provided to the preschool program at Garfield School and St. Vincent de Paul Society of East Palo Alto.

For more information, go to www.paduadiningroom.com.



It's time to renew your subscription to *The Lutheran Witness* magazine or begin a new subscription!

The price is \$15.96 for 11 issues for the subscription year beginning with the June/July combined issue. To renew your subscription or begin a new subscription, please make your check payable to "Bethany Lutheran Church" with an annotation "Lutheran Witness" and send it to the Church Office or put it in the Sunday offering plate.

The order deadline date is April 23.

Youth Group News

Last weekend we took our high school students to the District Youth Gathering and had a blast. We started off the first night with games, snacks, and our very own Lighthouse band lead the gathering in songs and praise. It was such a great atmosphere for our high school students to interact with other youth. The theme was "Rooted" and we learned throughout the weekend how God uses plants to show us how He nurtures and loves us regardless of our circumstances or situation.

We joined up the next morning with other youth groups to perform a service project where we moved tons of mulch in wheel barrels to fill up a park. You would have been proud of our youth as they lead the charge by transporting over a combined total of 180 wheel barrels full of mulch—while displaying joy and having fun as they worked hard.

Many thanks to those who made this trip possible!

Paul

Thanks Paul for writing up the article for the High School DYG :)

Save the DATES:

Monday, April 17th - Mother's Day Gift Project - 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM - Come join us to create a personalize piece of art on canvas for Mom.

Please RSVP Pilar by Thursday, April 13th. We will serve snacks & refreshments.

Friday, May 19th - Bethany's Annual Stanford Baseball Family Night - Come and enjoy a tailgate party, baseball game, and fireworks! Cost is only \$20.00 for your reserved seats and hosted tailgate party.

Looking forward to Spring!
Blessings - Pilar

Angelic News - Littlest Angels Preschool

LIFE REQUIRES COURAGE

This month at Littlest Angels we'll be talking about being COURAGEOUS! This is a virtue young children get to practice daily! I'd like to share a little story. "5 year old Johnny was in the kitchen as his mother made supper. She asked him to go to the pantry and get her a can of tomato soup, but he didn't want to go alone. "It's dark in there and I'm scared." She asked him again, and he persisted. Finally she said, "It's OK...Jesus will be there with you." Johnny hesitantly walked to the door and opened it. He peeked inside, saw it was dark, and started to leave when all at once an idea came, and he said: "Jesus if you are in there, would you please hand me that can of tomato soup?"

Everybody is afraid of something! It's programmed into all of us. That's a good thing because fear is there to protect us. We are born with a sense of fear so that we can react to something that could be dangerous. Most fearful tendencies are about things we can't control or understand. We know that as a child becomes more conscious of the world around him/her they outgrow most fears. Each fear that is overcome builds more courage. I still remember when I was young I was afraid there were bears outside my window and there were monsters in the closet. The window had to be shut and locked and the closet door shut tight before I would settle down and close my eyes. Yes, I have outgrown those two fears but I must confess, I still cannot go to sleep unless the closet door is shut!!

I was curious to find out what the greatest fears of children were so I did some investigating. Some researchers from John Hopkins University reported that 30 years ago, the greatest fears of grade school children were: animals, being in a dark room, high places, strangers, and loud noises. Today, kids are afraid of the following: divorce, nuclear war, cancer, pollution, and personal danger. It seems to me that the fears of today's children seem to be far more noteworthy than they were 30 years ago.

We adults need to take time to sincerely listen to the children God places in our lives. Often the fears children experience are hard for them to verbalize so it may take some "cultivating conversation" to get to the root of the problem. Their private thoughts are serious business to them so we need to take them seriously. It's important to remember that little things to us are big things to them! Laughing at them or telling them that their fears are silly will have a negative impact. You will lose their trust and they will feel humiliated.

Jesus was a great encourager for those who were fearful and we can learn from Him! He did not tell His disciples that they would not be afraid when He sent them out to all the nations. What He did say was, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the world." We can go forward with strength and with courage (even if we are anxious) because we know that God is with us; He is our refuge and strength, and He is always there in times of trouble. Courage grows as we trust God. A child's bravery will grow as we teach them, and remind them over and over and over again, that there is no need to fear because we can lean on our all-powerful and awesome God who is always with us and... "Yes, Little Johnny...He's even in the pantry!"

Kathy Stinson,
Director

Announcements

Festivities

Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 9)

Sunday, March 29 is Palm Sunday.

Confirmation and First Communion

We will rejoice with the Confirmation and First Communion of several of our youth on Palm Sunday, April 9. On Thursday night, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Jon will host a dinner for all children who are participating in the First Communion class. The class will happen that night with parents. Please mark your calendar.

Seder Dinner (Thursday, April 13)

Join us for the Seder Dinner on Maundy Thurs., April 13, 6:00 p.m. Every year Bethany has a Seder, which is a recreation of the Passover meal complete with Holy Communion. The menu includes matzoh ball soup, barbecued lamb, roasted potatoes, asparagus, carrots, dessert, and beverages. The suggested donation is \$10 per person. Free babysitting will be provided, if arranged in advance. Sign-up during coffee hour or contact Linda in the Church Office 854-5897, ext. 210 ~ lindab@bethany-mp.org). ***The RSVP deadline is April 9! Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, clean-up, cooking, and serving. Please let Linda know if you're able to help.*** Thanks!

Good Friday (Friday, April 14)

Good Friday is a very special day of reflection and reverence for the work of Jesus in our lives. We have services at Noon and 7:00 p.m. Please join us.

Easter Sunday (Sunday, April 16)

Trumpets, balloons, Easter clothes, baskets, and eggs are all part of a celebration that focuses on the rebirth we have in Jesus. The coffee hour after church on Easter morning is a brunch and we need your help to bring food. Linda Bradley coordinates the food. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Volunteer Opportunities

Easter Food Baskets

Please help us continue this fine tradition of caring for our neighbors. The Easter food baskets include wholesome food items. Donations are being accepted toward the purchase of the food. Donate at the kiosk or online at www.bethany-mp.org and select "Feed the Hungry/Food Baskets" or make your check payable to "Bethany Lutheran Church" with an annotation "Food Baskets." Your generosity will bless 25 families in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park. Thank you for your support!

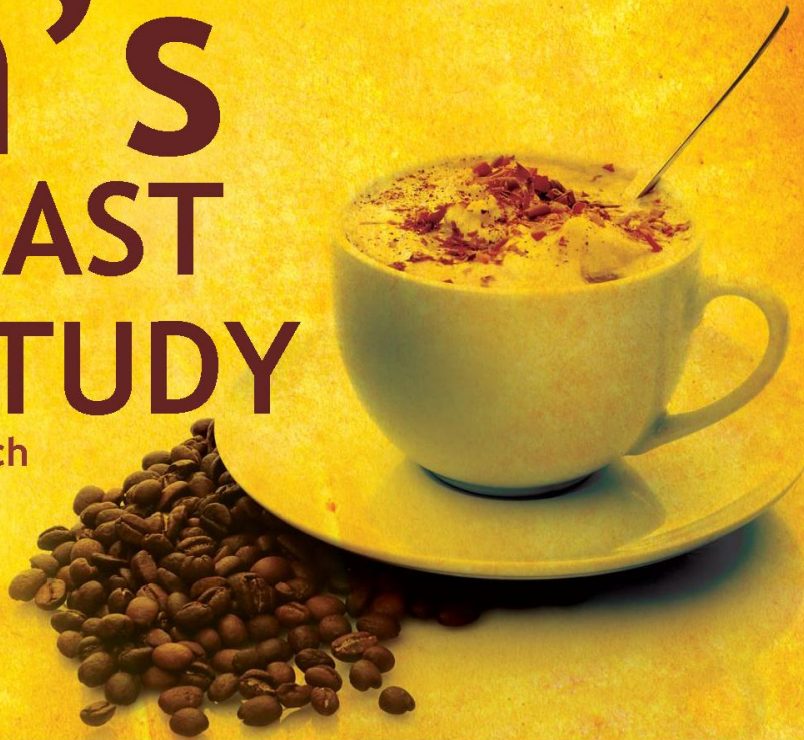
Plan now to help assemble the Easter Food Baskets

Help assemble Easter Food Baskets on Saturday, April 8 at 11 a.m. This is a very rewarding service project that only takes about 30 minutes! Plus, we are blessed to work alongside of our friends from the Tongan Christian AOG Church from East Palo Alto, who will deliver the food to 25 local families. Yes, you can help deliver the food too, if you'd like! We'll meet in the church parking lot at 11:00 a.m. In case of rain, meet in the Family Center. Please contact Linda Bradley to let her know you will be helping (650-854-5897 ext. 210 or lindab@bethany-mp.org).

Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,
April 8



Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

Saturday, April 8

9:00 – 10:30 AM





SCHOOL OF YOUNG LEADERS



BETHANY YOUTH GROUP

THE
LOCO MOCO
BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER
Sunday - April 23

10:45 AM

1095 CLOUD AVE
MENLO PARK





Now Showing in
April 2017

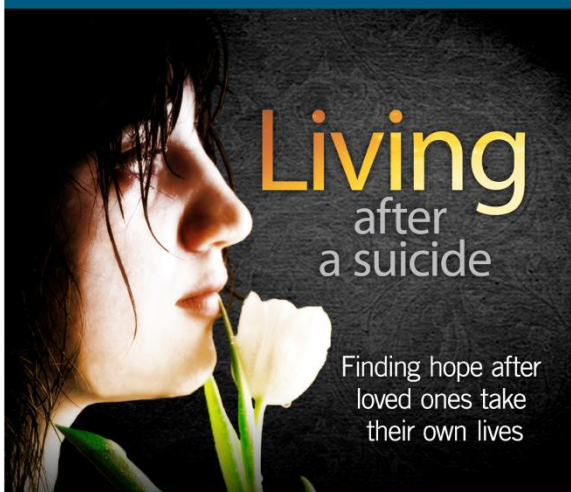


(for FAQ's)



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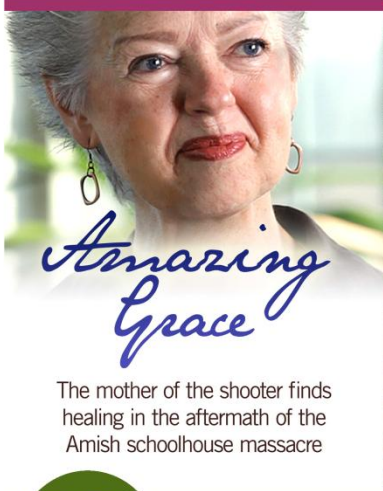
April 5



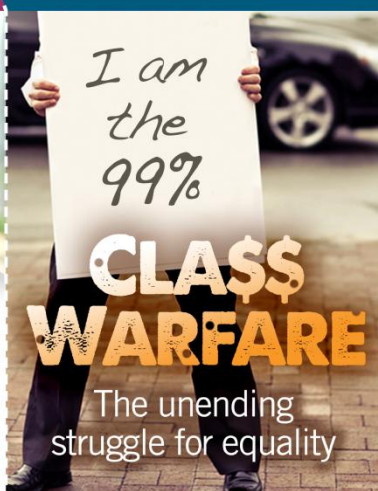
April 12



April 19



April 26



May 3



FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

6:30 - 7:30 PM

Free Admission

Complimentary Refreshments

Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Ave, Menlo Park

650-854-5897
at the corner of Avy & Cloud

APRIL 2017

Sunday			Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26 * Easter Candy Donations Due * District Youth Gathering in Rocklin, CA 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	27		28 9:30 AM Walking Group 2:00 PM Hazel Langhofer's Memorial Service & Reception Class 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	29 12:00 PM Lenten Service 12:30 PM Lenten Luncheon 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "Old Testament Survey" 6:30 PM Unlocking the Mystery of Music: New Findings on How Music Heals and Relieves (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	31		1 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance 5:30 PM Parents' Night Out						
2 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	3 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		4 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 3:30 PM N. Isaacs - Private Rehearsals 5:00 PM Forte Performance & Reception 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	5 12:00 PM Lenten Service 12:30 PM Lenten Luncheon 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "Old Testament Survey" 6:30 PM Living After a Suicide: Finding Hope After Loved Ones Take Their Own Lives (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group Dinner 6:00 PM First Communion 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	7 2:00 PM Herm Grothmann's Memorial Service & Reception		8 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study 11:00 AM Easter Food Baskets Assembly 2:00 PM Mary Arkebauer's Memorial Service & Reception						
9 * Happy Mail Sunday * * Last day to sign up for the Seder Dinner (4/13) Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship / First Communion & Confirmation 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	10		11 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:30 PM N. Isaacs - Private Rehearsals 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	12 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "Old Testament Survey" 6:30 PM Smile Awhile: An Hour of Happy (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 Last day before Preschool holiday: no after care Maundy Thursday 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:00 PM Seder Dinner	14 Good Friday Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 12:00 PM Good Friday Service 7:00 PM Good Friday Service		15 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance						
16 Easter Sunday 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 10:45 AM Easter Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop - CANCELLED 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal - CANCELLED 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service - CANCELLED 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge - CANCELLED	17 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 6:00 PM Youth Groups - Mother's Day Project 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		18 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:30 PM N. Isaacs - Private Rehearsals 6:30 PM Menlo Chorus Rehearsal 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	19 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 6:30 PM Amazing Grace (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "Old Testament Survey" 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	21 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed		22 Earth Day 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance 5:00 PM Menlo Chorus Concert Set-up 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles 5:30 PM Menlo Chorus Concert & Reception						
23 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 10:45 AM Youth & SOYL Fundraiser Breakfast 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	24 * Littlest Angels Preschool Resumes * * St. Jude Trike-A-Thon *		25 * St. Jude Trike-A-Thon * 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:30 PM N. Isaacs - Private Rehearsals 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	26 Administrative Professionals Day 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "Old Testament Survey" 6:30 PM Class Warfare: The Unending Struggle for Equality (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	28		29 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance						
30 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	1 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		2 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	3 6:30 PM Good Lookin': A Healthy Approach to Body Image (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 National Day of Prayer 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	5		6 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study						

Join us for Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.
Worship/Communion
5:00 p.m.
Lighthouse
every Sunday



Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025