

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

February 2017

News from Pastor Jon

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1



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- Lenten Calendar
- February Episodes of Lifetree Café Menlo Park
- Upcoming Events
 - Knitting Group (2/2)
 - Monthly Breakfast Bible Studies (2/4)
 - The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge Presents: The Super Bowl LI Viewing Party – Lighthouse Halftime worship service
 - Parents' Night Out (2/11)
 - Church and Preschool offices closed (2/20, 2/21)
 - LWML Zone 8 Morning of Prayer, First Lutheran in So. SF (2/18)
 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Forever Young Menlo Park (Thursdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge (open Sundays @ 1 PM – Live shows @ 6 PM)

.. and much more!

Today I had the opportunity to go back. I went back to the first school I ever knew. I went back to West Portal Lutheran to give a chapel talk. The occasion was National Lutheran School Week in a year when the pastor had recently accepted a call and the principal is a long-time friend. I knew over 500 students and 50 teachers would gather in the gymnasium. I knew I would preach of Jesus as our rock. I knew I would have a rock for every child. What I did not know was inspiring and uplifting.

I was using the verse from Psalm 95 above to connect a number of thoughts in the message. I wanted the children to understand that Jesus was the rock of our salvation. I also wanted them to know that God gives us the free gift of faith and that is the rock upon which, God builds the church. Finally, I wanted them to know that they could carry the rock to remember Jesus and share their message of faith with others. This verse allowed me to connect a number of these thoughts. However, there was still one thing I did not expect.

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News from Pastor Jon

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The children began to enter the gymnasium with all of the excitement 500 children would normally have. At the same time, I noticed that they were incredibly well behaved as they sat on the floor in neat rows across the gym. The excitement in the gymnasium was building and the noise level was beginning to rise just a little. Then the music director, Deacon Wayne Kerr began to play a song on the little upright piano. I barely noticed that he was playing when the children began singing. I noticed that the singing was loud, animated and joyful.

I was inspired and uplifted by the singing. These children were not being directed. They were not told to sing. Yet, they were singing with gladness in bold voices as they shared the message of Jesus through song. I realized that these children were connecting the message by doing exactly what Psalm 95 says, "Come let us sing for joy to the Lord..." God had a plan and I was just delivering a message which God has already planned for me to share.

In our 9:30 worship service and in our 5:00 Lighthouse worship, there are plenty of opportunities to sing with a loud and joyful voice. You may not have realized what your singing means to others, how God has given you the gift of faith and calls you to sing and shout with a joyful and joy-filled voice. Your witness of God's love and mercy in your life is a wonderful way to share the message of Jesus with all people.

After chapel as the children left, I heard some of them still singing in line. They were hearing the message again and singing it out to anyone who could hear. May God bless you with a heart and voice that sing on Sunday and every day.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

Women's Ministries

The mission donation for February will go to Project WeHOPE in East Palo Alto.



Project WeHOPE is an acronym for **We Help Other People Excel**. Project WeHOPE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization in East Palo Alto, but serve both Palo Alto and other cities within the San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. A primary focus and mission of Project WeHOPE is to help rebuild the lives of those in our community, especially the homeless, underserved, and at-risk individuals.

Project WeHOPE, in partnership with several agencies, takes a holistic approach to ending homelessness by offering overnight/warming shelter, food, dental care, health services, transportation, job training, financial literacy training, 12-step substance abuse program, communication skills for married and single individuals, and a transitional housing program.

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Women's Ministries

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Project WeHOPE also operates "Dignity On Wheels" -- a mobile shower and laundry trailer for the homeless community.

At Christmastime, our congregation gave Project WeHOPE 70 "Reverse Advent Calendar" boxes to hand out to the homeless community at their Annual Christmas Dinner. The recipients were so thankful to receive the gift boxes! We thank our members and friends for making a difference in the lives of our homeless neighbors.

To learn more about Project WeHOPE and how you can help, go to www.projectwehope.org.

Youth Group News

Greetings!

2017 is here and it came in strong with some very wet weather... which also brought in snow!

Our Junior and High School Youths were able to enjoy a wet, frosty, and fun weekend in Jackson, CA. We enjoyed a roaring fire, played board games, and had the highly anticipated poker night. Pastor Jon does a great job explaining the rules and the do's and don'ts of poker. Monopoly was also a big game. Frankie was the winner in Monopoly, though I suspect some collusion was going on. AJ was the big winner in poker, Toa in second place, and Clara in third. Saturday, we enjoyed driving up HWY 88 to the snow line. It did not take long before chains were required and the snowflakes were upon us. A little sledding, lots of snowball fighting, and good times were had by all. The weekend was extremely successful with a lot of bonding, fellowship, and lots of laughter.

A big thank you to BJ Flynn for sharing his home in Jackson and affording us this wonderful weekend with our youth!

Some upcoming events to keep in mind:

- February – **Junior & High School Youth Groups** game day at Bethany – Date TBD
- March 24, 25, 26 – **High School District Youth Gathering** in Roseville
- May 19 – **Annual Stanford Baseball & Fireworks Tailgate Event**

Blessings - Pilar

Angelic News - Littlest Angels Preschool

The ABC'S of Friendship

A friend...

"**A**cccepts you as you are; **B**elieves in you; **C**alls you just to say "Hi"; **D**oesn't give up on you; **E**nvvisions the whole of you (even the unfinished parts); **F**orgives your mistakes; **G**ives unconditionally; **H**elps you; **I**nvites you over... **J**ust to be with you; **K**eeps you close at heart; **L**oves you for who you are; **M**akes a difference in your life; **N**ever judges; **O**ffers support; **P**icks you up; **Q**uiets your fears; **R**aises your spirits; **S**ays nice things about you; **T**ells you the truth when you need to hear it; **U**nderstands you; **V**alues you; **W**alks beside you; **eX**plains things you don't understand; **Y**ells when you won't listen; and **Z**aps you back to reality!" Author Unknown

There you have it...friendship! It's as easy as learning the ABC's, right?? Not! February is the month of **LOVE** and **FRIENDSHIP**. We all need special friends and we all need to feel loved and wanted. We rely on our friends to listen and to support us. They are vital. Friendships are very important in the developing child's life too. Yet, what do they really know about being a friend? As you can see from the ABC'S of Friendship list above, being a good friend is tough work for a self-centered preschooler.

I am often reminded that little ones learn appropriate social behaviors best by observing significant adults in their lives connecting with others. Our behaviors, words, and actions with others, communicate a great deal about what is important to us concerning our friendships. Children will follow in our footsteps. Parents and other significant adults are the child's very first models of what a true friend is.

Try this. Put your name in front of the above statements and see how the modeling is coming along. Mom **a**cccepts me as I am. Dad **m**akes a difference in my life. Teacher **eX**plains things I don't understand. Grandma **g**ives unconditionally. Grandpa **b**elieves in me. **Let's all make a huge effort to lead the little ones in our lives to great places and great friendships by being exceptional role models!**

I am a grandma and "Da" is what all the grandkids call me. A few years ago, my granddaughter Emmy looked me straight in the eyes and said: "Da, you are my best friend!" I gotta' tell you she melted my heart with her words. What a joy to know I'm her pal, buddy, cheerleader, and helper! And just maybe, she learned a little bit of how to be a good friend from one of her best friends named Da.

May Jesus, our best friend and example of what a true friend is, be ever present in our lives and reflected in all our friendships with all the big and little people we have interactions with. And, by the way, thank you for being my friend!

Have a **LOVE**ly month and do practice those **ABC's**!
Kathy Stinson, Director

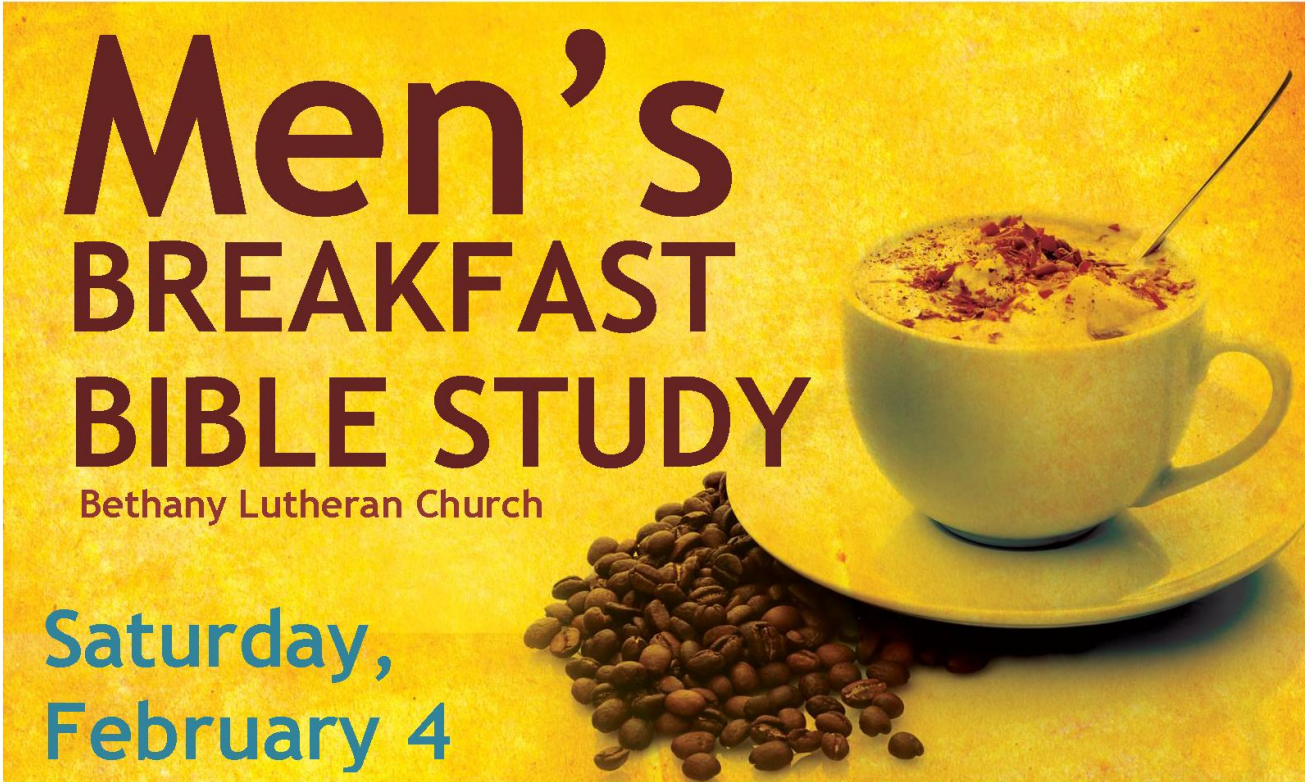
P.S. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool for their child, please send them to Littlest Angels! We would love to visit with them and give them a tour of the facilities.

Date Change for Feb. Breakfast Bible Study – Please note...**the Feb. Breakfast Bible Study will be on Feb. 4** (instead of Feb. 11). Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on Feb. 4.



Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

Saturday, February 4 **9:00 – 10:30 AM**



Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

**Saturday,
February 4**

Morning of Prayer

When: Saturday, February 18, 2017

Where: First Lutheran Church
350 Dolores Way, South San Francisco

Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Coffee and Pastries
Prayer Service

Contact Person: Shelly Alba
650-574-0485 or Shelly@cnh-lcms.org



*We are connected to the
Generations that have come
before us.*



LWML CNH Zone 8

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts" Psalm 145

COMING SOON IN MARCH!

"Luck of the Irish"

Game Night

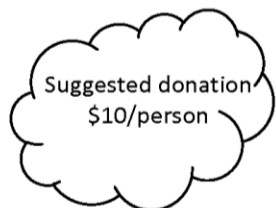
at Bethany Lutheran Church
Saturday, March 18
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.



The evening begins with light appetizers & beverages.

DINNER – 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner (with new potatoes and carrots), Irish Soda Bread, Spring Greens Salad, Dessert and Beverages



GAMES FOR ALL AGES

Poker, Bingo, Headbands, Yahtzee,
Uno, Dominoes, Battleship,
and other fun games



LENTEN CALENDAR

March 2017

Wednesday, March 1	Ash Wednesday Service	12:00 noon
	Ash Wednesday Luncheon	12:30 PM
	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 8	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 15	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 22	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 29	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM

April 2017

Wednesday, April 5	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Thursday, April 13	Seder Dinner	6:00 PM
Friday, April 14	Good Friday Service	12:00 noon
	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM



Now Showing in
February 2017



(for FAQ's)

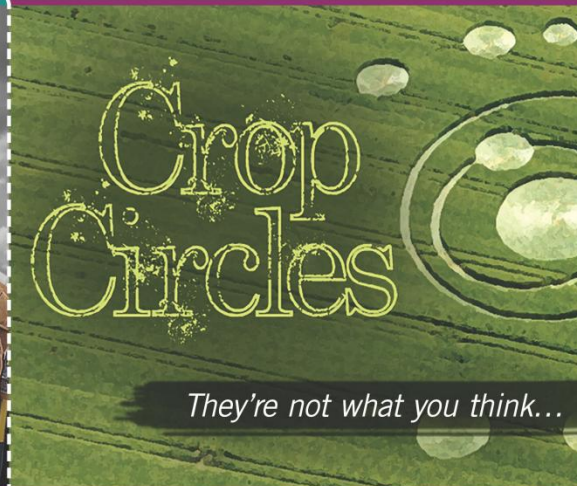


facebook.com/LTCMenloPark | LifetreeCafe.com

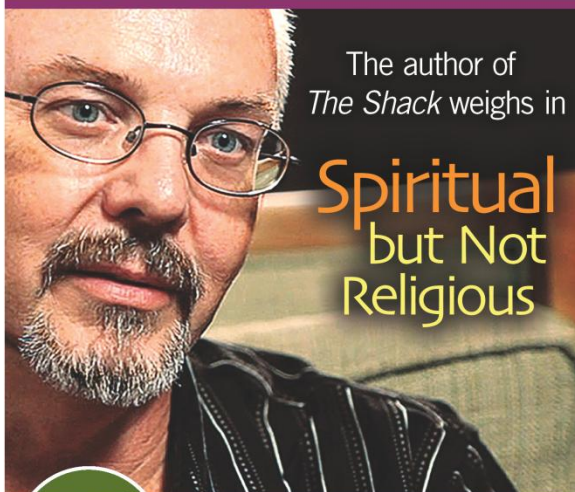
February 8



February 15



February 22



March 1

Police Brutality
**OR NECESSARY
FORCE?**

Stories from
both sides



**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

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday			Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
29 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM The Coffee Shop Set-up 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	30 9:30 AM Preschool Music	31 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	1 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 6:30 PM Confronting Evil: One Man Takes a Stand (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 11:30 AM Knitting Group 5:00 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - Set-up 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	3 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 5:00 PM Last day to RSVP for Parents' Night Out (2/11)	4 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study 4:30 PM N. Isaacs - Student Performances								
5 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM The Coffee Shop Set-up 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge Presents: Super Bowl LI Viewing Party with Halftime Show by Lighthouse 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service during Super Bowl Halftime 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	6 9:30 AM Preschool Music 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	7 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	8 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 6:30 PM Finding Meaning Every Monday: Secrets to a Satisfying Week (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 5:00 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - Set-up 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	10 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel	11 5:30 PM Parents' Night Out								
12 * Happy Mail Sunday * 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM The Coffee Shop Set-up 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	13 Preschool Valentine's Day Parties 9:30 AM Preschool Music	14 Preschool Valentine's Day Parties Valentine's Day 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	15 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 6:30 PM Crop Circles: They're Not What You Think (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 5:00 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - Set-up 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	17 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel	18 9:30 AM LWML Zone 8 - Morning of Prayer, First Lutheran Church, So. SF								
19 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM The Coffee Shop Set-up 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	20 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Presidents' Day 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	21 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	22 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 6:30 PM Spiritual but Not Religious: The author of the Shack weighs in (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 5:00 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - Set-up 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	24 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel	25								
26 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM The Coffee Shop Set-up 1:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop and Music Lounge	27 9:30 AM Preschool Music	28 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	1 Ash Wednesday 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 12:30 PM Ash Wednesday Luncheon 6:30 PM Police Brutality or Necessary Force?: Stories from both sides (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 11:30 AM Knitting Group 5:00 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - Set-up 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	3 World Day of Prayer 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel	4								

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

Join us for Sunday Worship



Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025