

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

January 2017

News from Pastor Jon

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6



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- Parents' Night Out Registration (2/11)
- Upcoming Events
 - Knitting Group (1/5)
 - Monthly Breakfast Bible Studies (1/14)
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1/16 - offices closed)
 - Board of Directors Meeting (1/19)
 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Winter Bible Study (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Wednesdays @ 7:45 PM)
 - Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sundays @ 11:00 AM)
 - Avy & Cloud Rehearsal (Sundays @ 4:00 PM)

... and much more!

I have heard a number of comments and seen a few statements and videos which all contend that 2016 was a horrible year and how 2017 will be so much better. I could easily spend my brief time here on this page, and in my life complaining about the things I do not appreciate about the past year. For that matter, I could probably do the same about ANY year. Instead, I challenged myself to consider what I loved about 2016, and I quickly thought about these verses. Here is why they came to mind.

Christmas is always a busy season. In fact, I have stated that everything from Halloween to Christmas is a blur for me. This year was no different. The time flew by incredibly fast, and looking back—just a couple of days before Christmas—I can once again say it was frenetic, but I would not trade these times for anything else. Perhaps I have been too conservative in my statements. The entire year was filled with moments of wonder as God provided brothers and sisters in Christ who challenged me to look past the struggles of the entire year.

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News from Pastor Jon

(continued from page 1)

Lighthouse came to life: When we started rehearsing as a praise team more than a year ago, I had to question my own sanity. In the middle of chemotherapy, side-effects of pain and being cold, to go along with general fatigue, I wondered if this was really the time to start a praise team. This year, the praise team grew and stabilized, Lighthouse started worship services, and now we have lots of people who regularly worship with us. God is good!

Coffee House and Music Lounge was born: When V said to me, "We should start a coffee house." I had no idea what that meant or how to accomplish this. Four months into the project, we are covering costs, welcoming new artists to sing, and enjoying 30-50 people per week who want to have a cup of coffee, some pastries, and enjoy the music. Many of these people are joining us for worship. Many more are seeing that our church is different than they expected.

Littlest Angels shared with other children: I heard from more than one family how children were using their allowances, savings, and piggy banks to donate funds toward our Helping St. Nicholas campaign. Today we gave away 100 backpacks with books, fruit, snacks, candy and a Christmas Story Cube. These backpacks will soon be in the hands of children and middle school students who do not expect or receive much for Christmas.

Reverse Advent Calendars helped the homeless: Today was also delivered 70 silver boxes to a homeless shelter. Each box had approximately 21 items to help a homeless person with personal needs. Another 9 boxes were given to Pastor Pesa who will distribute these to people who never make it to the homeless shelter. I watched as people came to the office or to church just to pick up a box so they could participate. We helped people we would never meet, but we also followed the path of Jesus, trusting that God will do more than we can imagine with our gifts.

Forte taught children music, the choir sang, preschoolers graduated, the bell choir rang, shut-ins received Happy Mail, and Life Tree encouraged conversations. Recyclables, pocket change and baked goods were turned into mission funds, dinners were hosted and lunches were served, our youth group invited another group and travelled to New Orleans to worship with 25,000 Christians. Buildings were repaired and instruments were tuned. Hospitality for foreign students and people being treated at Stanford were offered for free. Groups of people came together to walk, knit, pray, and enjoy friendship. What have I missed? Please fill in the gaps. I am sure you can think of something I have missed. Was it flowers donated or meals delivered? Was it preparing coffee hour or birthday cards, or Monday letters or books to people grieving? Did you count the offering or pray for those in need? So many things happened in 2016 and though I cannot remember all of them, one word comes to mind...THANKFUL.

I give thanks for all of you and your witness of Jesus, a loving savior who gave us eternal life. I give thanks for your energy, ideas and time. Most of all, I give thanks for the love and forgiveness you offer to others because Jesus has loved and forgiven you first.

Happy New Year. May 2017 be just as filled and fulfilling.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

Bible Basics by Pastor Tom Norris

8 Important Prayers from the Bible

Prayer is a subject that is, well... fraught.

Some people find it easy. Some don't. Some pray very frequently. Some don't.

Is there a "right" way to pray? Some say so. Is it "wrong" to pray prayers that are written down? Again, some say so.

Does God "change his mind" because we pray? And how would that work, given all the interactions of all the people in the world? Does that mean that prayers change the future in many ways? And what if it would change the future in a way harmful to someone else? Is that the reason some prayers are "answered" and others aren't? Would it even be possible for a prayer to be answered positively for one person without other negative future consequences for someone else?

This winter's Wednesday Bible study will examine "**8 Important Prayers from the Bible.**" We'll look at each of the prayers listed below in turn, and ask a number of questions including:

- What does the person offering the prayer think about God?
- What does that person want God to do?
- What might God want us to understand about Himself by having this prayer recorded in Scripture?
- How might God want to shape the faith of people who pray like this?
- How might it be possible for us to pray this way today?

Here are the prayers we'll be studying and the dates for each:

- January 4: Psalm 51
- January 11: Psalm 139
- January 18: Matthew 6:5-13
- January 25: John 17:11
- February 1: Acts 7:55-59
- February 8: Ephesians 1:15-23
- February 15: Ephesians 3:14-20
- February 22: Philippians 4:6-7

The class meets **on Wednesday evenings at 6:30** in a **classroom** off of the **Family Center**. I hope you'll consider joining us.

Pax,
Pastor Tom

Women's Ministries



The mission donation for January will go to Carol Lee Halter's mission in Hong Kong.

Deaconess Carol Lee Halter has served as an evangelistic missionary among the Chinese people in Hong Kong since 1981. From 1969 to 1981, Carol served as a missionary with the Chinese Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in San Francisco, CA. For three years before that, she was a volunteer missionary in Hong Kong.

Carol does humanitarian, evangelistic and educational work among the young, the elderly and the poor Chinese people who live in Hong Kong. Her prayer is that all Chinese people will hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ - especially from each other. Fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese, Carol nurtures and trains Chinese people to grow in Christ and to share the Gospel by holding educational and evangelism seminars and Bible classes, and by counseling individuals.

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Christmas Food Baskets

Safeway Partners with Us to Fight Hunger!

This past Christmas, our church prepared bags of food and essential household items for 48 local families. We were grateful that Safeway's corporate office donated 12 of the 48 - \$25 Safeway gift cards, for a total donation amount of \$300. Several volunteers from our church and the Tongan church took time out of their busy holiday schedule to help fill 192 bags. It was a blessing to have their help! We also extend a warm "Thank you!" to our Bethany family for donating to our "Food Baskets" ministry. Many local families were blessed by your generosity!

Youth Group News


Happy New Year everyone! Our youth group ended the year with an exciting and fun movie night. There were 10 in attendance to see Rogue One (I recommend taking a trip to the theatre to see it if you haven't already!). Not only did the movie live up to the Star Wars legacy, but it also incorporated love, loyalty, and sacrifices for the greater good... we had lots to talk about and reflect on after the movie.

Save the date for the weekend of **January 15th**. We are hoping to take our youth on a getaway snow weekend. More details to follow.

The past year has been filled with many experiences such as fundraisers, the National Youth Gathering, playing tourists in San Francisco, Minute-to-Win-It game night, laser tag, etc. It has been a privilege to be a part of the friendships that have developed this past year, and the continued fellowship of our youth.

May 2017 bless you with good health, happiness, peace, and the joy of Jesus.

Blessings,
Pilar



Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

Saturday, January 14

9:00 – 10:30 AM

“The Essentials of Effective Prayer”

Find the keys to an effective prayer life in this compelling study that explores both God's expectations of you and His promises to you when it comes to prayer. Through a detailed examination of the Lord's Prayer and other examples of prayer throughout the Bible, you'll discover a model for talking with God, the key principles of prayer, and gain a deeper understanding of how prayer can draw you closer to His heart.

Join us on the **second Saturday** of each month September 2016 – May 2017 for a delicious breakfast, an inspirational Bible study, prayer time, and a great opportunity for friendships.

Dates: 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13.

A freewill donation of \$5 is encouraged to help offset the cost of the program and to support a child sponsored through World Vision International.

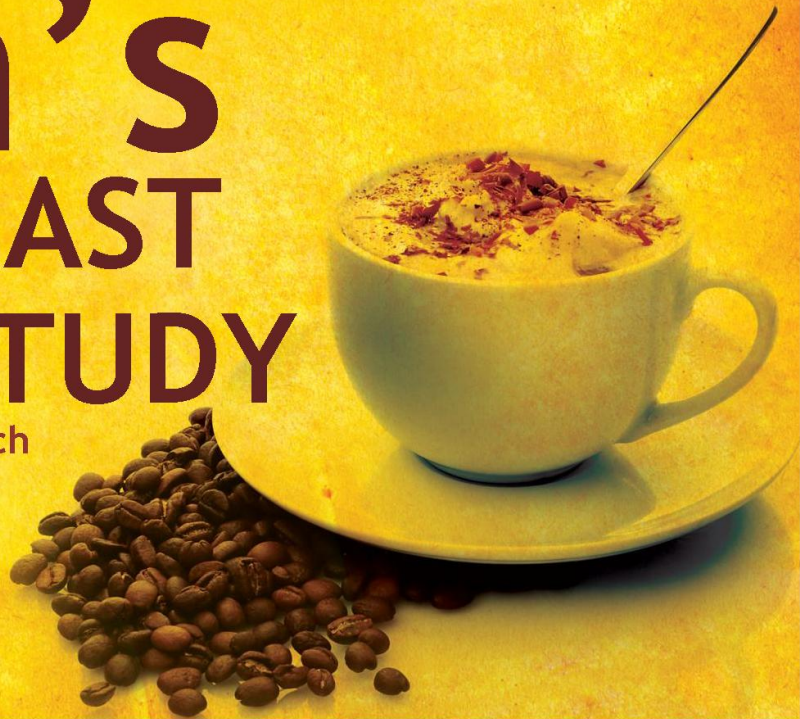
Free childcare is available. Arrangements must be made in advance.

Please contact Linda in the Church Office at 650-854-5897 ~ lindab@bethany-mp.org

Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,
January 14



Join us on the second Saturday of each month September 2016 - May 2017 from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in the family center for a delicious breakfast, an inspirational Bible study, prayer time, and a great opportunity for friendship.

Pastor Jon Coyne leads the group for a study of "My Favorite Sunday School Stories."

Each meeting we will spend time covering a favorite story from our earliest days of hearing God's Word. Participants will have the opportunity to choose the Bible story for the next month. We will begin with Noah and the flood, which happens to be Pastor Jon's favorite Bible story from his youth.

A freewill donation of \$5 is encouraged to help offset the cost of the program and to support a child sponsored through World Vision International.

Free childcare is available. Arrangements must be made in advance. Please contact Linda in the Church Office at 650-854-5897 ~ lindab@bethany-mp.org



Now Showing in
January 2017



(for FAQ's)



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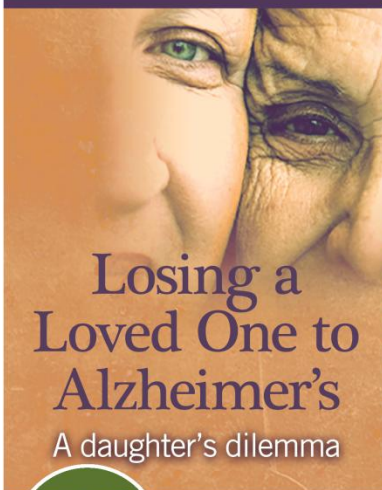
January 4



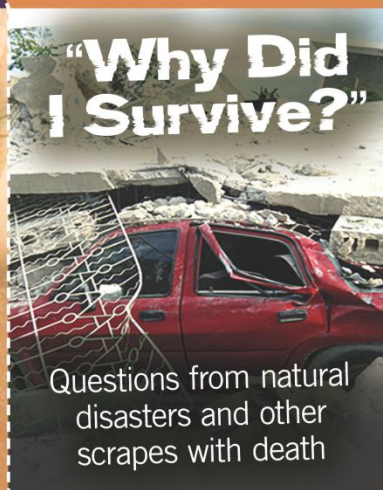
January 11



January 18



January 25



February 1



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

Parents' Night Out



Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 11, 2017 • 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Need a break from the kids? Bethany Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Parents' Night Out! We offer childcare for children 1 - 10 years old so you can enjoy a few hours without the kids!

The kids love this event...and the parents do too!

★ pizza dinner ★ craft ★ play time

★ **entertainment: Storyteller, John Weaver – Sharing Legends & Laughter**

Cost is only \$20 per child. Family discount available: first child \$20 and siblings \$15 each.

Advance registration is required. Registration deadline: Friday, February 3. Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. **No refunds after Feb. 3.**

For your convenience...a fillable registration form and online payment is available on our website. Just go to www.bethany-mp.org/nightout, complete the form, after completing the form "save as" to your computer, attach the saved form to an email and send it to lindab@bethany-mp.org or bring a copy to the church office. If you pay by cash or check, make your check payable to "**Bethany Lutheran Church**" with the annotation "Parents' Night Out" and bring the payment to the church office.

Call Linda Bradley if you have questions: 650-854-5897, ext. 210.

----- CUT & RETURN BOTTOM PORTION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE -----

Parents' Night Out Registration & Emergency Information Form

PLEASE PRINT

Child's Name: _____	Age: _____	\$20
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____	\$15
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____	\$15

NOTE: Children are in classes by age group.
Check here and your children will be together, in the younger child's class.



Total Enclosed \$

Address: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

ATTN: Parents' Night Out is a church-sponsored event. Church staff does NOT have access to preschool files.
The following section MUST be completed in order for your child to attend.

In the event of an emergency, I can be reached at: Phone number: (____) _____

If I cannot be reached in an emergency, please call:

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Please list any allergies, medications or other medical information needed in case of emergency:

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Health Insurance: _____ Medical #: _____

In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I give my permission to Bethany Lutheran Church to contact the family doctor listed above and/or to take my child to an emergency hospital for care by a licensed physician.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

JANUARY 2017

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1 New Year's Day 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship		2 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		3 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		4 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 6:30 PM Be Yourself... Everyone Else Is Taken (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)		5 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 11:30 AM Knitting Group		6 Epiphany Littlest Angels Preschool Closed		7 2:00 PM V. Finau - Private Party	
8 * 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 and Music Lounge 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service		9 Littlest Angels Preschool Resumes 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 3:30 PM Forte - Harmonics Class		10 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		11 6:30 PM Playing God: Is Science Going Too Far? (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		12 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel		13 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel		14 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study 12:00 PM L. Bradley - Private Party	
15 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 and Music Lounge 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service		16 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Martin L. King, Jr. Day 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		17 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		18 6:30 PM Losing a Loved One to Alzheimer's: A Daughters Dilemma (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		19 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting		20 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 6:00 PM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups Event - TBA		21 7:00 PM N. Isaacs - Student Performances	
22 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 and Music Lounge 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles		23 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 3:30 PM Forte - Harmonics Class		24 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		25 6:30 PM Why Did I Survive? Questions From Natural Disasters and Other Scrapes with Death (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		26 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel		27 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel		28 7:00 PM N. Isaacs - Student Performances	
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 and Music Lounge 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service		30 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 3:30 PM Forte - Harmonics Class		31 9:30 AM Preschool Music Class 3:15 PM Forte - Dynamics Class 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		1 6:30 PM Confronting Evil: One Man Takes a Stand (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom - "8 Important Prayers from the Bible" 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		2 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 11:30 AM Knitting Group		3 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 5:00 PM Last day to RSVP for Parents' Night Out (2/11)		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