

# 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](http://www.Bethany-MP.org) • [www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com](http://www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com)

**May 2017**

## News from Pastor Jon

**"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."**



### John 20:30-31

There are so many beautiful and faith inspiring passages in the Bible that are connected to the last days of Jesus' life on earth. This one, written toward the end of the Gospel of St. John, helps us to see that the Bible is not meant to be a replay of Jesus' life, or a videotape of all that happened. However, the Bible IS God's living Word and IS a gift to bring us to saving faith in Jesus.

As human beings, who are born into a broken world filled with sin, we all anticipate the concept that we are sinning – literally "missing the mark." In other words, we expect that something is amiss in our lives and we are constantly looking for things that are wrong or missing. So, when reading the passage above, part of my brain says, "I want to know all the OTHER things Jesus did which are not written down." In fact, my sinful mind starts to be bothered by St. John who seems to be justifying why he did not write down a lot more things I want to read. Finally, in my sinfulness I begin to wonder if God is hiding something from all of us. It is easy to focus on half of the message and spiral down into a dark and negative place of life.

(continued on page 2)

### In This Issue

- **SOYL (School of Young Leaders) Update**
- **Bible Basics by Pastor Tom**
- **Doebler Scholarship**
- **Women's Ministries**
- **Youth Group**
- **Angelic News**
- **Bethany Prayer Wall**
- **Bethany's Annual Stanford Baseball Family Night**
- **Parents' Night Out (5/20)**
- **Lifetree Café Calendar**
- **Breakfast Bible Studies (5/6)**
- **Upcoming Events**
  - CNH Pastors' Conference, Atascadero, CA (5/2-5/4)
  - Knitting Group (5/4)
  - Breakfast Bible Studies (5/6)
  - Congregational Meeting (5/7)
  - Family Night @ Stanford Baseball (5/19)
  - Parents' Night Out (5/20)
  - Memorial Day (5/29)
  - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
  - Forever Young (Thursdays @ 6:30 PM)

**. . and much more!**

## News from Pastor Jon

(continued from page 1)

Yet, the second part of this passage assures us that God, who inspired all Scripture, has provided the exact stories of Jesus' life to provide faith. God loves me and God loves you in our broken state. God loves us even when we think we are missing out on part of the story. God loves us even when we are questioning God's love for us and even when we are questioning the gift of faith. This is the amazing message of Easter. God sent his Son, Jesus, to die for us and save us from our sins, even when we are struggling with the faith God provides.

Our lives are filled with moments when we want to condemn the behaviors of other people. We are confronted with moments of deep disappointment when our friends and relatives behave differently, or think differently than we would like. Not just differently, but we feel they are wrong and we are right. There are even moments when we feel condemned ourselves and feel conflicted about our own understanding of life, what to think or how to behave. It is EXACTLY at these moments when we need to read and remember the words of St. John. In the midst of all of our individual struggles, God sent just the right set of messages in the Bible to create a living and saving faith.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Pastor Jon

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## SOYL (School of Young Leaders) Update

Paul Lauaki began working for Bethany as the Director of SOYL on March 6, 2017. Since then, Paul, V, and many others have been working hard to make sure the first summer 9 week intensive is as memorable, and life-changing as possible for the 20 students who will be part of the first class. Here are some bullet points to outline our activities, accomplishments and goals:

- I am writing this prior to the Loco Moco breakfast which will raise funds for SOYL and the youth group. At this time we have a \$30,000 grant from a small group of families who challenged the Board of Directors to unanimously approve and support SOYL. This has been accomplished. We also have a \$15,000 matching funds grant and we have received \$12,735 to date. We are very close to raising \$60,000 of needed "seed money." We have commitments for over \$30,000 of the \$40,000 in scholarships needed which will come from the CNH District and from other Lutheran Churches.
- Currently we have two students who have committed with a formal applications and we are talking to about 15 additional students who are considering attending SOYL this summer.
- We have three churches locked down as host congregations and we are working with one more congregation and a host for the mission week.
- A group of mentors is being formed – these are people who are interested in a longer relationship with a small number of students.
- We have expert advisors who are helping us with expanding our Communication and group dynamics classes.
- We have an invitation to spend a day at Facebook with the students, our first guest instructors, and numerous invitations for special events in the homes of people who are supporting SOYL.

Please continue to pray for SOYL, the students who are considering attending, and our leaders who are working to prepare for a wonderful summer.

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# Bible Basics by Pastor Tom Norris

## Don't Give Up

Life can feel overwhelming. There's too much going on. There's too much expected of us. There's not enough time and energy for too much of what gives us joy.

Our jobs can be uncertain and unreasonably demanding, our culture is terribly confused, the global crises come day after day... and we pay for it by inattention to our faith, our families, and our own emotional life.

It can make you feel like you want to simply not care anymore. It can make you want to give up.

God's people, however, have lived through these times before. The Bible is a record of times both bad and good, feeling empowered and feeling overwhelmed, of God's people giving up and of his going to them to bring them back to life with him.

And in the words of the Bible today, we find not just a historical record of these, but we are encountered by the Living God whose Word these ancient texts are.

That's what God's people of every age have found:

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength they shall mount up on wings like eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)

Today, as in every age, the Word repeats himself: "Don't give in. Don't give up. I am not done... and in me you are safe."

Pax,  
Pastor Tom

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## Doebler Scholarship

Applications are now available for the Doebler Scholarships for the 2017-18 academic year. These college scholarships are intended to encourage students toward Lutheran higher education. If you are considering college this year or in the future, Lutheran colleges have core strengths in a variety of areas. See Pastor Coyne for further details.



Applications are simple (no essays required!). Get yours now in the church office or visit [www.bethany-mp.org/scholarship](http://www.bethany-mp.org/scholarship). Deadline for submission is Monday, June 19.

These awards are a result of the Doebler Trust disbursement to Bethany in 2012 and the decision by Bethany's Board of Directors to designate \$3000 annually for scholarships, sometimes awarded to one student and other times divided among several others, depending on the number of qualified applicants. Students attending Lutheran colleges have priority **but those attending other colleges are welcome to apply and may be considered.**

We give thanks for the wise stewardship and generous gift from the Doeblers that made this possible.

# Women's Ministries

## **The mission donation for May will go to Bayshore Christian Ministries.**

In 1984 a group of Stanford and Santa Clara University students began studying the book of Amos. As they read about the injustice of disparity between the wealthy and the poor in Ancient Israel, they reflected on their own experience in modern day America. Resolving to do something, they moved into East Palo Alto and held Bible clubs, including summer camps, for the youth in and around the community. Shortly afterward, they offered tutoring programs in reading and math.

In 1987 Bayshore Christian Ministries (BCM) incorporated as a holistic nonprofit. The mission of BCM has been to equip the youth of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders so they have hope and a future.

In 2003 BCM put down roots on Beech Street, building a 10,000 sq. ft. facility, where today summer camps, Bible studies and tutoring are still offered, along with opportunities for leadership development, life skills coaching, and job training. As the youth grow, BCM continues to support them by providing college scholarships, summer internships, and staff positions.

With the support of our partners – individuals, churches, and foundations – BCM continues to grow and impact the lives of people in the community, serving close to 400 youth each year. Their vision is to disciple the next generation of community leaders who will lead in their homes, workplaces and communities.

For more information, visit their website at [www.bayshore.org](http://www.bayshore.org).

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## **Youth Group News**

Happy May Everyone!

This last month we had a very successful breakfast fundraiser! It was not your ordinary breakfast as we served Loco Moco which is an island comfort food.

We also experienced a taste of our Coffee Shop & Music Lounge. "V" (William) did a fantastic job singing a variety of music genres and playing the guitar. Paul was our barista – the specialty coffees were a big hit! We are so lucky and blessed to have such a talented staff.

As always our youth helped with setup, cooking, serving and clean-up. Without them, all we do would not be possible. A big THANK YOU to all the young men in our youth group who helped!

Last but not least, a big thanks to my father, Jessie who fried all the eggs on Sunday morning. I estimated he flipped over 75 eggs. He enjoyed himself and I am grateful for his generosity. I attribute many of my cooking skills to dear ol' Dad.

Sadly, I had to cancel the Mother's Day Painting Project. Unfortunately, I had a bout of bronchitis. We will reschedule soon.

(continued on page 5)

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# Youth Group News

(continued from page 4)

## Please save the DATES:

**Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Bethany's Annual Stanford Baseball Family Night – Come & enjoy a tailgate party, baseball game and fireworks! Cost is only \$20.00 for your reserved seats and hosted tailgate party. Please visit Bethany's website to register and pay for tickets: <http://www.bethany-mp.org/familynight>.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Blessings,  
Pilar

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## Angelic News - Littlest Angels Preschool

### PROUD or ARROGANT?

Some synonyms for **PROUD**: pleased, satisfied, gratified, delighted, and fulfilled.

Synonyms for **ARROGANT**: egotistical, big-headed, superior, and conceited.

This month at Littlest Angels our virtue of the month is **PROUD**. You might be thinking... "That's not a good quality to teach children." But, yes it is! We want all children to feel satisfied, delighted, fulfilled and proud of all their accomplishments.

From the time children are tiny infants, they look to others for reactions to their accomplishments. I can still remember all the firsts of our children, first smile, the first step, patty cake, and waving bye-bye. They waited for our smiles, giggles and rounds of applause. And then they would do it again, and again and again! This is a child's first step toward developing a sense of pride, self-esteem and achievement.

They need to know that they have talents and special God-given gifts. It's important for them to realize at an early age that not everyone has the same strengths and skills. We do encourage them to do the best they can in everything, but by focusing specifically on a child's particular skills and talents they will be motivated to work harder on those activities. Kids need to learn to be proud of themselves for what **they** do, don't do and for the decisions **they** make on their own. This is one of the best gifts we can give them, the gift of self-confidence and independence!

I have shared this story before but it is worth repeating. "A little boy had a baseball bat and ball. He said to himself, "I'm the best hitter in all the world!" He threw the ball up and swung but missed. Without wasting any time, he picked that ball up and said again, "I'm the best hitter in the whole world!" He threw the ball up and swung. Strike two. He picked the ball up again, even more determined this time, he said, "I am the best hitter in the whole world!" He threw his ball up and swung away. Strike 3. He simply laid down his bat, smiled real big and said: "What do you know, I am the best pitcher in the entire world!"

This little guy saw possibilities when others might have seen roadblocks! He had no problem with his "can-do" attitude. Children grow more confident in their abilities as they become aware of their many achievements, no matter how small.

(continued on page 6)



## Angelic News - Littlest Angels Preschool

(continued from page 5)

This month we hope you join us and find ways to inspire the little children in your lives to do the best they can, nurture their God-given talents, and know that the decisions they make on their own really do matter!

In chapel last week I asked the children, "Why did Jesus die on the cross for us?" One little guy raised his hand and said, with all the confidence in the world, "**BECAUSE WE WERE TRAPPED AND NOW WE ARE SET FREE!**" ...and once again I was reminded that little guys are great teachers too...and we are free indeed!

Kathy Stinson,  
Director

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# BETHANY'S ANNUAL STANFORD BASEBALL FAMILY NIGHT

You must RSVP  
& pay online to  
reserve a ticket



FRIDAY, MAY 19TH  
TAILGATING: 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.  
GAME STARTS: 7 P.M.  
FIREWORKS AFTER THE GAME!  
**\$20 PER PERSON**

**COST COVERS A RESERVED SEAT  
AND HOSTED TAILGATE PARTY**

RSVP & Pay online at: [www.bethany-mp.org/familynight](http://www.bethany-mp.org/familynight)  
For more info, contact: Pilar at [pilar@bethany-mp.org](mailto:pilar@bethany-mp.org)

Join us for a great night with family and friends as  
Stanford takes on Washington at Diamond Stadium.  
Enjoy the hosted tailgate party in lot 95 at Galves & Nelson.

# Parents' Night Out



**Please Note...we've change the way to register and pay! It's all in one form online.**

**Go to [www.bethany-mp.org/nightout](http://www.bethany-mp.org/nightout) to register and pay online.**

**Bethany Lutheran Church  
Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 5:30 – 8:30 pm**

Need a break from the kids?  
Bethany Lutheran Church is sponsoring  
Parents' Night Out!

We offer childcare for children 1 - 10 years old  
so you can enjoy a few hours of adult time!

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

★ **pizza dinner**      ★ **craft**      ★ **play time**  
★ **entertainment: "Asheba" an engaging musical storyteller**

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

Advance registration is required. **Registration deadline: Friday, May 12.** Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. **No refunds after May 12.**

**[www.bethany-mp.org/nightout](http://www.bethany-mp.org/nightout)**





Now Showing in  
**May 2017**



(for FAQ's)



facebook.com/LTCmenlopark | LifetreeCafe.com

**May 10**

**Embracing  
CHANGE**

Taking the fear out of what comes next

**May 17**

*What's  
Wrong Right  
With You?*

The surprising truth  
about self-worth

**May 24**

Christian? Cult?  
What do they  
really believe?

**MORMONS**

**May 31**

**Curing  
Healthcare**

Practical help  
for an ailing  
nation

**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





# Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

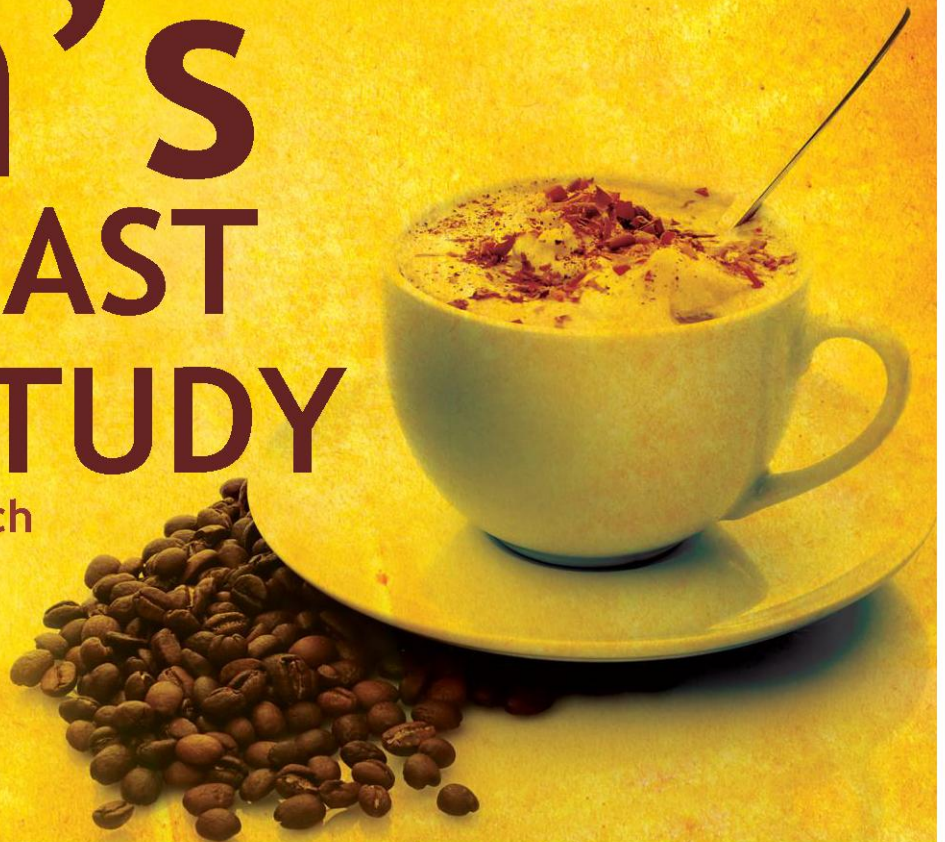
Saturday, May 6

9:00 – 10:30 AM

# Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,  
May 6



# MAY 2017

Sunday			Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
<b>30</b> 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	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	<b>2</b> CNH Pastors' Conference, Atascadero, CA (Tues.-Thurs.) 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Good Lookin': A Healthy Approach to Body Image (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> National Day of Prayer 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - CANCELLED 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study								
<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 10:30 AM Congregational Meeting (immediately following worship service) 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	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM J. Renner - Private Workshop	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Embracing Change: Taking the Fear Out of What Comes Next (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>11</b> Mother's Day Teas 9:30 AM Walking Group 10:30 AM Preschool students in Fireside Room 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	<b>12</b> Mother's Day Teas 5:00 PM Last day to RSVP for Parents' Night Out (5/20)	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance 4:00 PM Sarah Vay Kerns - Private Flute Recital & Reception								
<b>14</b> * Happy Mail Sunday * Mother's Day 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	<b>15</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	<b>16</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>17</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM What's [Wrong] Right With You? The Surprising Truth About Self-Worth (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>18</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	<b>19</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 4:30 PM Bethany's Annual Stanford Baseball Family Night Tailgate: 4:30pm; Game: 7pm	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance 5:30 PM Parents' Night Out								
<b>21</b> 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	<b>22</b> 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Mormons: Christian? Cult? What do they really believe? (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance								
<b>28</b> 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 Presents: Open Mic Night	<b>29</b> Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Memorial Day	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Curing Healthcare: Practical Help for an Ailing Nation (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>1</b> Last day of Preschool: no after care 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Preschool Graduation for Pre-K 4:30 PM M. Beckstrom - Private Concert - Rehearsal 6:00 PM M. Beckstrom - Private Concert & Reception	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance								

Bethany Lutheran Church  
1095 Cloud Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025



## **Join us for Sunday Worship**

9:30 a.m.

Worship/Communion

5:00 p.m.

Lighthouse

every Sunday