

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

June – July 2017

News from Pastor Jon

“Well, I think I am funny.”

These are words I have spoken to my family on many occasions. I usually hear something like, “You are not as funny as you think you are” or “Not that funny” or some similar statement making it clear that what I found humorous may be perceived as hurtful to someone else.



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- **2017 CNH LWML Retreat**
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Knitting Group (6/1)
 - Board of Directors Meeting (6/8)
 - High School Youth Group Takes Over Santa Cruz Beach Board Walk (6/11)
 - Father’s Day (6/18)
 - SOYL Summer Program Begins (6/19)
 - First Day of Summer (6/21)
 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.)
 - Forever Young (Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.)
 - Lighthouse (Sundays @ 5:00 p.m.)
 - The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge (Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.)

.. and much more!

Similarly, Bob Newhart used to have a comedy sketch where he said that if you had an infinite number of monkeys typing at an infinite number of typewriters, sooner or later they would write all the great works of the literary world. While mathematicians have proven this false. I can say as a pastor that if I am up in front of people speaking as much as I am, sooner or later I will annoy, bother, irritate or hurt just about everyone without even trying!

Many years ago at the seminary, a wise professor encouraged all of the future pastors in the room to remember that there will be times when we say the right things and still cause hurts. He went on to point out that there will also be times when we say the wrong things, even hurtful things. His point was that every so often, we should find a way to publicly apologize for those moments.

I am sure you can see where I am going when you put these three things together.

(continued on page 2)

News from Pastor Jon

(continued from page 1)

Whether I was trying to be funny or not; whether I realized I said something hurtful or not; whether I meant to be hurtful or not; there are times when I am sure I have caused harm by the things I have said. Similarly, when you are upfront and talk as much as I do, sooner or later, you are going to say something that bothers, annoys or hurts someone in ways you never planned. Therefore,

For the times when I have said anything which might have hurt you, caused you to question the love of Christ I am to bring to you, or when I just seemed uncaring or unthoughtful, I am truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Now I am sure there are a few people who have a couple of questions about this brief reasoning and apology.

- 1) Some will say, "If you do not know what you are apologizing for, or if you do not think you really understand what you said and why it was hurtful, you cannot really apologize." Actually if you look at any situation between two people, there are moments when one person says something, innocently and not meaning harm, but the other person takes offense at the words. The apology is sincere. The person who hears the apology needs to offer forgiveness. Unfortunately there are times when we prefer not to forgive. We prefer to remain hurt. It is in these moments, we come up with the excuse, "you are not really sorry unless you acknowledge that you were trying to be hurtful"...and two people are not reconciled because forgiveness is not given. Jesus provides us the way out of these situations. Forgiveness is always given when we are sorry, even if we do not understand what we have done. Thanks be to God.
- 2) Some of you will, by now, be asking, "Who was upset with Pastor Jon?" The answer is NO ONE. Every few years I will remember the words of my professor, even if I can no longer remember which professor shared these pearls of wisdom. I try to follow the words by making this blanket apology when I CANNOT think of a recent conflict. In this way, the words are more accurate, "If I ever...I am sorry."

I hope and pray you can also take this discipline into your life and find times and places when you apologize to others for the things that may have happened and probably have happened without your knowing. I have found it makes life much better and helps me feel a lot less guilty. I also find it brings to life the reality that God forgives us for both the sins we recognize and the sins we do not remember. For this I am truly grateful and understand just how amazing God's grace is in my life.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

SOYL Update



As I write this update, I am awed by the amazing things God is planning for this group of students and the incredible events of the past few weeks. I am sure that by the time you read this, many more newsworthy items will be known. However, I am sharing most of what we know right now in this article.

We might be full. While we are still confirming a number of the student applications, we are at a point where we have more than 20 verbal commitments and we will be accepting applications as they arrive. It is incredibly affirming to see the joy of these applicants and their parents as they hear about SOYL. I will have a much better profile of the applicants in time, but what I understand right now is that we have a great diversity of cultural backgrounds and young adults that span the age range of 18-24.

Last week Paul met with the church liaison for three of the host congregations.

In San Francisco, we are working on a number of exciting plans and events for the SOYL students. These include: A walking tour of Chinatown with a tour guide who will explain the impact of Christianity on this area of S.F.; A chance to help with the rehabilitation of a home in S.F.; A night with a Christian group serving young adults ages 23-40 who have developmental disabilities. Additionally, we were able to tour the church and we received a warm welcome from Pastor Chris Ng who is working with SOYL on behalf of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

In Dublin, Paul met with Pastor Brady Blasdel, who is rolling out the red carpet to help SOYL. Pastor Brady already has guest speakers lined up for the two weeks. He also has the opportunity for the students to participate in a Habitat for Humanity building project. One of the church members in Livermore is spearheading the long-term mentor program for SOYL and his wife is a teacher at the school in Dublin. So, we are receiving lots of help.

In Fremont, Pastor Ben Riley is speaking with two potential students from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Pastor Ben is working to integrate SOYL students into the many, and varied mission emphases in the East Bay. Pastor Dawit Bokre of Good Shepherd in Hayward is working with two potential students also, and the support from this circuit has been wonderful.

For those who did not hear my announcement in church, we received a \$75,000 grant from Church Extension Fund. I am certain that without the amazing generosity of the people at Bethany, who raised \$60,000 we would not have received this grant. These funds will allow us to cover the first 15-18 months of SOYL and set in motion a summer program which will fund each successive year. At the same time, these additional funds will help us plan for a 9 month SOYL program which will have a different business model, but the same goal of mentoring young leaders.

While Heart Matters is a June/July issue, we will continue to update SOYL information in the bulletin and in worship announcements. One date to set aside is Saturday, August 19th. On that date, Bethany will host a celebration to mark the end of the first summer SOYL program. We will gather for a time of worship, presentations by the students, and a shared meal. A more formal invitation with a list of times and events will be coming out later in the summer.

Women's Ministries

The mission donation for June will go Random Acts of Flowers in Menlo Park

In July 2007, Random Acts of Flowers' founder, Larsen Jay, was in a near-fatal accident. While confined to his hospital room, the outpouring of support that Larsen received in the form of daily visitors and dozens of floral arrangements immediately aided in his long recovery. When Larsen was capable of leaving his room he noticed how many of his fellow patients did not have visitors or flowers – the very thing that helped him so much in those early and difficult days. Within moments the first "random act of flowers" delivery was made, repurposing his flowers and delivering them to patients in nearby hospital rooms. The memories of how a simple gesture touched his fellow patients compelled Larsen to form Random Acts of Flowers in 2008.



Random Acts of Flowers recycles and repurposes flowers by engaging dedicated volunteer teams to deliver beautiful bouquets and moments of kindness to individuals in local healthcare facilities. As a recycling "green" nonprofit organization, Random Acts of Flowers is committed to nourishing the health of the environment, individuals, and the community.

Do you have too many vases just collecting dust? If you'd like to donate vases or if you have an event with leftover flowers, contact the local office of Random Acts of Flowers at (650) 852-1450, or take them to 3501 Edison Way in Menlo Park.

For more information, go to www.RAFSiliconValley.org.

The mission donation for July will go Holt International Children's Services.

Holt International is a Christian organization committed to expressing God's compassion for children. Originally, the focus of Holt International Adoption Agency was on rescuing the children orphaned during the Korean War. The work has expanded to other countries, continuing to focus on rescuing children. While always upholding the highest ethical standards, Holt's mission is:

- Find and support permanent loving families for children who are orphaned, abandoned or at serious risk of separation from their family;
- Provide services to ensure that children will grow and develop to their fullest potential;
- Lead the global community in advocating on behalf of the world's most vulnerable children.

Holt's child-center approach includes family strengthening, domestic adoption, international adoption, temporary foster care, family-like care, programs for children with special needs, advocacy, and post adoption services.

For more information, please go to www.holtinternational.org.

Angelic News

Take Care!

Wow! It's June...the month of graduations! On June 2nd, thirty-one very special girls and boys will be graduating from Littlest Angels Preschool. We will miss them and we want them to "take care". These are words we often say to one another when we are saying "See you later." Below are some wishes especially for them and for all graduates everywhere.

Take care of **yourself graduate**,
Listen to the needs of your body and soul.
Take care of **your friends**...
They join in your joys and lighten your loads.
Take care of **your family**...
They are your start, and the home of your heart.
Take care of **your dreams**...
They are the key to a life filled with happy memories.
Take care of **your faith**...
And remember that God is always, always with you.
Author Unknown

Come to think of it, these are words of wisdom for all of us to remember. It is so very important to **take care of the things that really matter in life!**

One of the highlights of my week at Littlest Angels is chapel time. I have the precious opportunity to encourage and nurture the children in their friendships with one another and with their most important friend in life...JESUS! Last week in chapel I reminded the children that our best friend Jesus gave us a special job...He want us to be people helpers and share His love with everyone. I asked them what they would tell others about their friend Jesus. This is what they shared:

"He loves me and likes me. Jesus is always here. He wants us to be kind. He made every animal. Jesus' name is in the Bible. He loves us when we're lost. He made the whole world. He's with you when you're scared. He loves you even when you make mistakes and bad choices...He forgives. He makes us happy. I love Jesus. He wants us to remember Him. Jesus knows my name! He hugs me every day! He helps rocket ships. He takes care of the whole planet. Jesus died for us. He knows how many hairs I have on my head. He made the trees, roses and flowers. He takes care of homeless people. He is in your heart."

Sounds like a priceless growing relationship to me! Won't you take some time each day to "give Jesus" to a little (or big) friend who is eager to learn and grow in their relationship with Him? God promises to bless your efforts.

Several weeks ago we finished our Trike-A-Thon for St. Jude Children's Hospital. The boys and girls raised \$3,022. for the children at St. Jude! During the past years Littlest Angels children/families have donated over \$13,000. for this very worthy cause. Loving and caring hearts and hands can do great things!

Enjoy your happy summer days! Don't forget to take your best friend Jesus with you wherever you go!

Take care.

Kathy Stinson
Preschool Director



SUMMER BLASTs ARE COMING BACK!

Would You Like to Host a Summer BLAST? (Bethany's Leisure And Social Time)

A Summer BLAST is an informal time of fun, food and fellowship for Bethany members and friends. It's also an opportunity to **invite unchurched friends** to an informal event in a relaxed setting.

Here's what's involved in hosting a Summer BLAST...

- ☀ An individual or family selects a date & time to host a BLAST. Invite a friend to co-host the event with you!
- ☀ The host is welcome to plan a BLAST at a home, park, beach, or any site that is appropriate.
- ☀ Plan what you'd like! The gathering can be for brunch, lunch, dinner, or just dessert – it can be a fully hosted event or you may ask your guests to bring something specific (i.e. their own meat to BBQ, side dish, dessert, beverages, etc.).
- ☀ You may limit the number of people at your BLAST, depending on the size of the venue.
- ☀ Linda Bradley will work with the host to publicize the event and handle the sign-ups. Sign-ups are first-come, first-served until the maximum number is reached.

Contact Linda Bradley if you'd like more information or to schedule a BLAST. Call 650-854-5897, ext. 210, or email lindab@bethany-mp.org.





Infant Diaper Donation Box



Bethany's Women's Ministries has a partnership with New Creation Home Ministries (NCHM) located in East Palo Alto.

Their ministry is **a comprehensive, Christian ministry serving young mothers (ages 13-22) offering:**

- > **Two residential programs for mothers and their children**
- > **Weekly parenting classes**
- > **Weekly Bible studies**
- > **Educational, vocational, emotional, & spiritual support services**

We have an on-going collection of disposable infant diapers to benefit NCHM. The Infant Diaper Donation Box is in the Family Center. All diaper sizes are needed – from newborn to toddler pull-ups.

Thank you for your donations and support of this wonderful, local Christian ministry!



2017 LWML CNH RETREAT
Silver Spur Christian Retreat Center, Tuolumne, CA
August 25-27, 2017

THEME

**TASTE & SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD
AND SO IS CHOCOLATE!!**



SCRIPTURE: PSALM 34:8 (NIV)
*Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.*



COST (2 nights, 5 meals, bed/bath linens)
\$175 by 8/16/17
\$200 8/17/17 & after
\$50 – day only (lunch/dinner only)
No refunds after 8/21/17

MUSIC
Joyful Noise



SPEAKER
Sam Kaufmann



Breakout Groups
Crafts / Games

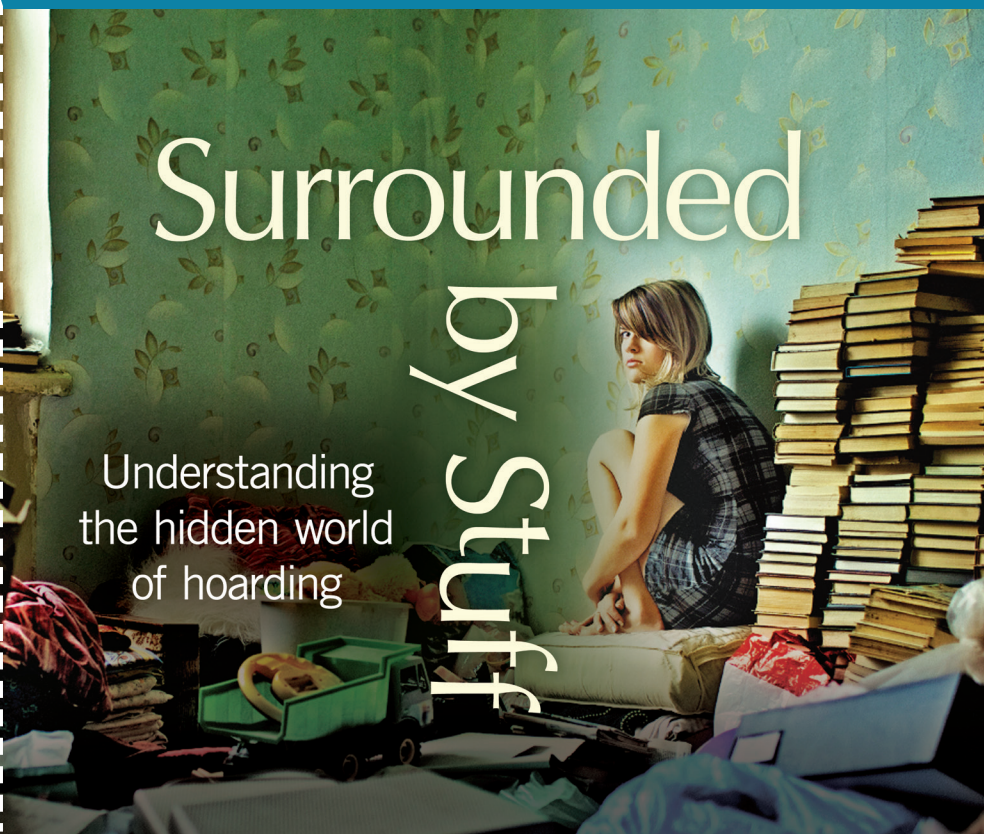
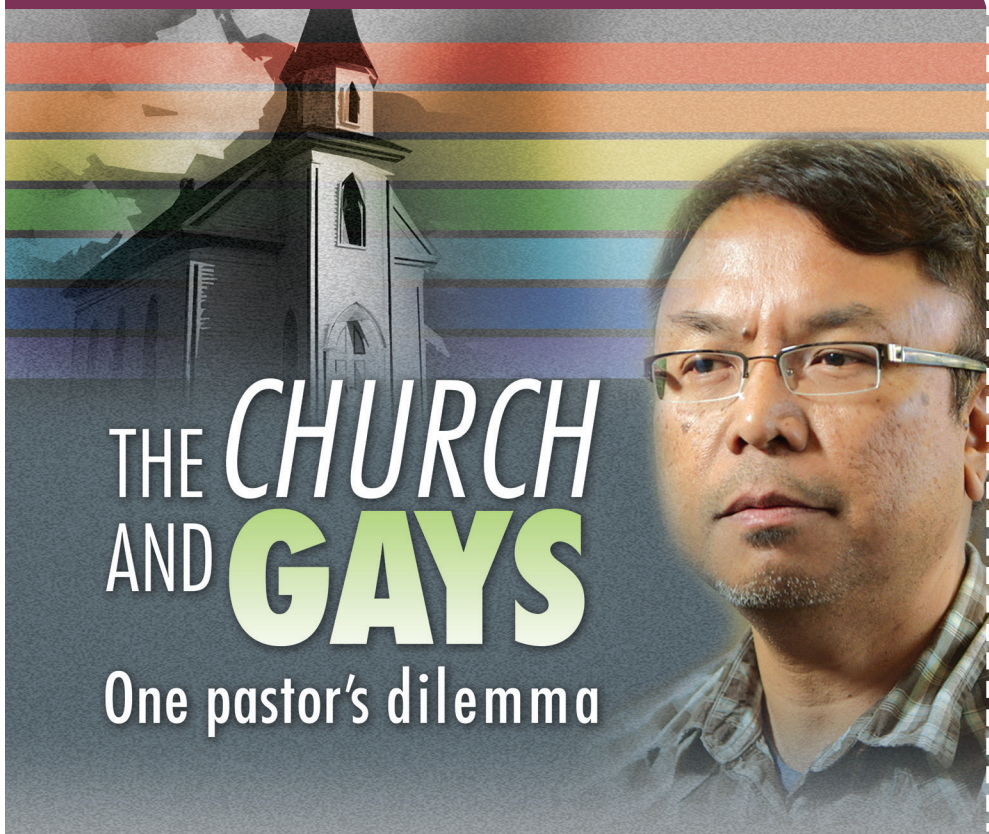


FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Come early and play!

Archery, giant swing, waterslide flume, zipline,
swimming, hiking trails, basketball, softball,
volleyball, tennis, horseshoes, frisbee,
board/card games, conversation areas

For more information or to register, contact Linda Bradley,
lindab@bethany-mp.org or call 650-704-6472.



FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC!

JUNE 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 28 9:30 AM Worship 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 Presents: Hannah May Allison | 29 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Memorial Day | 30 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 31 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Curing Healthcare: Practical Help for an Ailing Nation (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) | 1 Last day of Preschool: no after care 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group Luncheon 1:30 PM Staff End-of-Year 6:30 PM Forever Young Takes Over Golf Land USA | 2 10:00 AM Preschool Graduation for Pre-K 4:30 PM M. Beckstrom - Private Concert - Rehearsal 6:00 PM M. Beckstrom - Private Concert & Reception | 3 9:00 AM Menlo Park Academy of Dance 5:00 PM N. Isaacs Private Recital - Set-up 6:00 PM N. Isaacs Private Piano Recital & Reception |
| 4 Pentecost 9:30 AM Worship 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Jordan Hurwitz Live | 5 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting | 6 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 7 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM The Church and Gays: One Pastor's Dilemma (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) | 8 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting | 9 Littlest Angels Preschool closed | 10 |
| 11 * Happy Mail Sunday * Trinity Sunday 9:30 AM Worship 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Game Night 8:00 PM High School Youth Group to Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk | 12 * High School Youth Group - Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk * Preschool Summer Session I Begins 7:00 PM J. Renner - Private Workshop | 13 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 14 Flag Day 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Surrounded by Stuff: Understanding the Hidden World of Hoarding (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) | 15 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Father's Day 9:30 AM Worship 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Pot Luck Sunday | 19 SOYL begins at St. Paul, Mountain View 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting | 20 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 21 First Day of Summer 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Imperfect Parents: Making Peace and Moving On (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) | 22 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30 AM Worship 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Open Mic Night | 26 | 27 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 28 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM What's Your Pet Trying to Tell You? Secrets from an Animal Communicator (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) | 29 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 30 Preschool Summer Session I Ends | 1 |

JULY 2017

| Sunday | | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|--|----------|--|--------|--|----------|--|
| 25 9:30 AM 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Open Mic Night | 26 | 27 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 28 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM What's Your Pet Trying to Tell You? Secrets from an Animal Communicator (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) | 29 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 30 Preschool Summer Session I Ends | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 9:30 AM 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Game Night | 3 Littlest Angels Preschool closed SOYL moves to St. Philip, Dublin 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting | 4 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Independence Day 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 5 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 6:30 PM Lifetree Café Menlo Park | 6 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 7 Littlest Angels Preschool closed | 8 | | | | | | | | |
| 9 * Happy Mail Sunday * 9:30 AM 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Hannah Judson Live | 10 Preschool Summer Session II Begins 7:00 PM J. Renner - Private Workshop | 11 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 12 6:30 PM Lifetree Café Menlo Park | 13 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 16 9:30 AM 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Pot Luck Sunday | 17 SOYL moves to Holy Spirit, San Francisco 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting | 18 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 19 6:30 PM Lifetree Café Menlo Park | 20 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 21 | 22 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles | | | | | | | | |
| 23 9:30 AM 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 & Music Lounge Presents: The One-Off (Whatever we decide this is going to be) | 24 | 25 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 26 6:30 PM Lifetree Café Menlo Park | 27 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 28 Preschool Summer Session II Ends | 29 | | | | | | | | |
| 30 9:30 AM 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 & Music Lounge Presents: Open Mic Night | 31 Preschool Summer Session III Begins SOYL moves to Prince of Peace, Fremont | 1 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting | 2 6:30 PM Lifetree Café Menlo Park | 3 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | |

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