

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

September 2017

News from Pastor Jon

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40: 30-31



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 - Labor Day - Church and Preschool offices closed (9/4)
 - Breakfast Bible Studies (9/9)
 - Bethany Block Party (9/24)
 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Bible Study with Pastor Tom (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Forever Young (Thursdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge (Sundays @ 6:00 PM)

... and much more!

The prophet Isaiah is clearly looking to a time when the people of Israel will be restored to their former prominence, but also to a time when we will all have the strength that comes from living in the Lord without the pain and struggle of our broken, sin-filled world. While I am not advocating that in this life we will ever know the kind of renewal we will have in heaven, I am going to contend that this summer was a summer that renewed my strength in ways I did not expect.

When we agreed on the 9 week SOYL – School of Young Leaders – summer internship, there was no doubt in my mind that we were taking on a massive project. I knew we would be stretching our ability to find volunteers. We would be working more people from the staff in more ways than we ever considered. We would need pastors, DCEs, teachers, and church members who would give of their time and talent during the summer so that our students would have an amazing experience and a life changing opportunity to study God's Word and apply their faith in ways that serve others.

What I did not anticipate was how much I would be invigorated and energized by running with younger people who seemed to have boundless and never-ending energy. Gone are the days when I can play basketball all night and still function the next morning.

News from Pastor Jon

Yes, I miss those days and I found myself jealous of the students who could do this. However, any feelings of jealousy or loss I felt were wiped away by the sense of renewed energy I felt and saw in myself, other pastors, teachers and church members who came to serve through SOYL.

For those of you who have not seen the videos or want to see them again, the 9 one minute videos of the students and the five minute overview of SOYL are both available on the Bethany website. Just watching those videos renews my desire to make the effort of sharing Jesus with young people. Perhaps you will also find that these videos encourage you toward helping in the future...because SOYL will continue. How will it continue?

First, we will be working on improving SOYL and looking toward next summer and our plans for the next class of students. However, there is also news about something much more immediate. All nine of the students have made a commitment to improving their lives and working to begin new ministry opportunities where God has planted them. For 8 of the students that means new or existing ministries in the Bay Area! It means they will help us plan for the future, they will lead with the new skills they have acquired, and they will find jobs while pursuing educational opportunities. God is good!

Please continue to pray for the staff of Bethany and Littlest Angels. We are doing more work with fewer people on staff and God continues to renew our strength. Please pray for the nine students: Teki, Steven, T, Liban, Princess, Vanessa, Cliff, Silas, and Lakai. Finally, please pray for leaders from LINC Bay Area and the CNH District who will continue to lead SOYL in many and various ways as God provides opportunities.

As I stated in the sermon on Sunday, August 20th. I want to express my THANKS in the biggest way possible for all of your support for SOYL. Bethany raised a lot of money, contributed a huge number of hours from staff and congregation members, and welcomed the students every time they were here. Along with others in the district, you led the way by trusting in God's work and putting your faith in action. Together we made a difference for 9 young adults who individually and corporately said, SOYL was a great way to spend their summer, giving up income and leisure to study God's Word, worship together, serve people of other cultures, learn how to communicate better, work on projects as teams, and learn leadership skills. May God bless you for making all of this possible this year and in years to come.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

Wednesday Night Bible Study with Pastor Tom

Join us for another season of Pastor Tom's Bible Study. The Bible studies will be held Wednesday evenings at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. beginning on September 13th through November 15. This is a great opportunity to dive deeper into God's Word, and to do so in a group setting. Invite a friend!

Bible Basics by Pastor Tom Norris

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

--C.S. Lewis

Dear friends in Christ,

These are crazy times. Too many are choosing up sides. Too many are drawing tight boundaries around what they're willing to allow people to say... or even to think. Too many shout, post, chant, and tweet utter nonsense.

What might be worst is that when the culture goes mad it's very difficult not to get caught up in the antics or rhetoric of one group or another. Fear does strange things to human beings (a truth repeated throughout the Scriptures).

When times get strange and the foundations seem to be shaken, it's the last part of the above quote from Lewis that can be really helpful for us who are called by the name of Christ our Lord. Yes, of course, the first part is true. We believe in Christianity because we see it in Word and in Sacrament and in the guidance we receive and the grace we share in our lives. But the second half is especially helpful in these crazy times:

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen... because by it I see everything else."

Each "side" (of which there seem to be myriad at the moment) says, "See it MY way and help me fight the ones who are the enemies."

But to those who are called to see everything by the light of Christ, the Risen Lord calls, "See others in the light of My death and resurrection... in the light of My grace... and show them a more excellent way."

These are crazy times, but crazy times have come and gone throughout human history. What remains? The love of God for His world—and His desire is that all would come to the knowledge of this truth. This we are called to proclaim and to live, "because by it (we) see everything else."

Pax,
Pastor Tom

Youth Group News

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe summer! It is exciting to see many of our youth enter into the school year.

We will be finalizing our 2017 - 2018 calendar very soon. I look forward to this new and exciting school year with our youth groups.

Blessings,
Pilar

Women's Ministries

The mission donation for September will go to "Lutheran Care For The Aging."

Lutheran Care For The Aging (LCA) is a non-profit corporation made up of participating member congregations (presently 48) and individuals throughout the California Nevada Hawaii (CNH) District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It has provided supplementary financial assistance for housing to qualified needy elderly members living in the CNH District since 1960. LCA receives financial support from the Ella M. Rohlfs Foundation, congregations, individuals through gifts and bequests, and other Lutheran organizations.



Lutheran Care For The Aging welcomes all contributions and bequests from individuals and congregations. LCA has a very low operating cost. Over 84% of all contributions and bequests are used for Direct Aid to Beneficiaries, which is limited by the availability of funds.

BETHANY BLOCK PARTY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 AM - 2:00 PM. FUN & FOOD!

WELCOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS TO OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION!
CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

BOUNCE HOUSE * BINGO * CORN HOLE GAME * SNOW CONES * FRISBEE SPIN ART * KIDS' CRAFT
GIGGLES THE CLOWN * BALLOON SCULPTING * FACE PAINTING * KIDS' TATTOOS
AND BY POPULAR DEMAND . . . THE DUNK TANK!
PLEASE BRING YOUR SWIMSUIT AND A TOWEL. PARTICIPANTS MUST BE 5' OR TALLER AND MUST BE A "SWIMMER" TO GET DUNKED.

BBQ LUNCH SERVED 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

RSVP ON-LINE AT WWW.BETHANY-MP.ORG/BLOCKPARTY

A colorful, hand-drawn illustration of a row of houses and trees. The houses are in various colors (pink, yellow, blue, green) and have different roof shapes. The trees are also in various colors and styles. The background is a light blue sky.

Bethany Block Party Volunteers Needed! Help us welcome and provide a memorable day for our neighbors, preschool families, and church members on Sunday, Sept. 24. Many volunteer positions need to be filled to ensure a fun and safe time for everyone. ***Please consider how you will volunteer your time.*** **Sign-up on after church on Sundays to volunteer your time!**

Angelic News

ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE. TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.
Helen Keller

Cookies...Bite-Size Life Lessons is a sweet book written by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. The author cleverly uses cookie baking to impart wisdom, making it easy for kids to understand some pretty complex ideas. She uses the story line of cooking almost everyone's favorite cookie, the chocolate chip, as a means of illustrating some basic principles of behavior. For example, honesty. "I have to tell you something. The butterfly didn't really take the cookie – I took the cookie." So, this year we'll be teaching about virtues with cookies...we all know cookies taste good, but these cookies also have something good to say.

Another quote I like a lot is **"Getting good players is easy. Getting 'em to play together is the hard part." (Casey Stengel)** And so it is at preschool. Just think for a moment what's involved in learning how to cooperate. Cooperation requires compromise, listening, sharing, encouraging, taking turns, being patient, and doing your part. Whew! That's a big list of requirements in order to be successful!

Cooperation is a new concept for most preschoolers. We spend months teaching babies and toddlers that they can do things by themselves; they've just discovered that they are capable and they are so proud that they don't need any help. Then, along comes learning to cooperate. Building cooperation skills begins in the family where kids learn how good it feels when everyone works together. As children mature their world gets bigger and bigger and we begin to teach them that they can work with others to get the job done.

Here are some ways that can greatly boost the chances that children (and adults) will cooperate.

Don't make demands. Refrain from saying things like; "Because I said so!" or "You have to do it this way." Lay a foundation of trust and teamwork and ask nicely! The goal is to have cooperation be internally motivated. We don't want children to cooperate just because we make it a demand. The goal is that the cooperation be sincere and genuine.

Children's work is play so make cooperating fun! It isn't just a way to gain cooperation but it's a way to enjoy time spent together. Sing a silly song. Have a race. Hop like a bunny. Whistle-or at least try to! Just have FUN!

Stop repeating yourself! If you repeat, repeat, repeat you are training a child to stop listening. They will tend to just wait until you are totally frustrated and then they will cooperate. Children can be skilled manipulators don't we know!

Cooperate with them. If they come to a bump in the road offer some help...we get by with a little help from our friends!

Our Father in heaven knows how important cooperation is too! He knows that we need Him and we need each other. Can't you just see Him smiling knowing that if all His children work together, His work will get done on this earth!

God bless our growing and cooperating!
Kathy Stinson, Director



Now Showing in
September 2017



(for FAQ's)



facebook.com/LTCMenloPark | LifetreeCafe.com

September 6

Getting Past... Your Past

And making the
most of your future



September 13

A Safe PLACE

Confronting child abuse in
your corner of the world



September 20

**IS CHURCH
OBSOLETE?**

*Has God
left the building?*

AVAILABLE
585-323-4637

FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

6:30 - 7:30 PM

Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Ave, Menlo Park

September 27

Forgiving the Unforgivable


A son confronts
his mother's killer



Free Admission

Complimentary Refreshments

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



Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

Saturday, Sept 9

9:00 – 10:30 AM

“Psalm 23: Everything that We Need”

This study is a walk with the Shepherd through the beloved Psalm that has been too long relegated to funeral services when it is so full of guidance for living with confidence, compassion and courage.

Join us on the **second Saturday** of each month September 2017 – May 2018
for a delicious breakfast, an inspirational Bible study, prayer time,
and a great opportunity for friendships.

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.

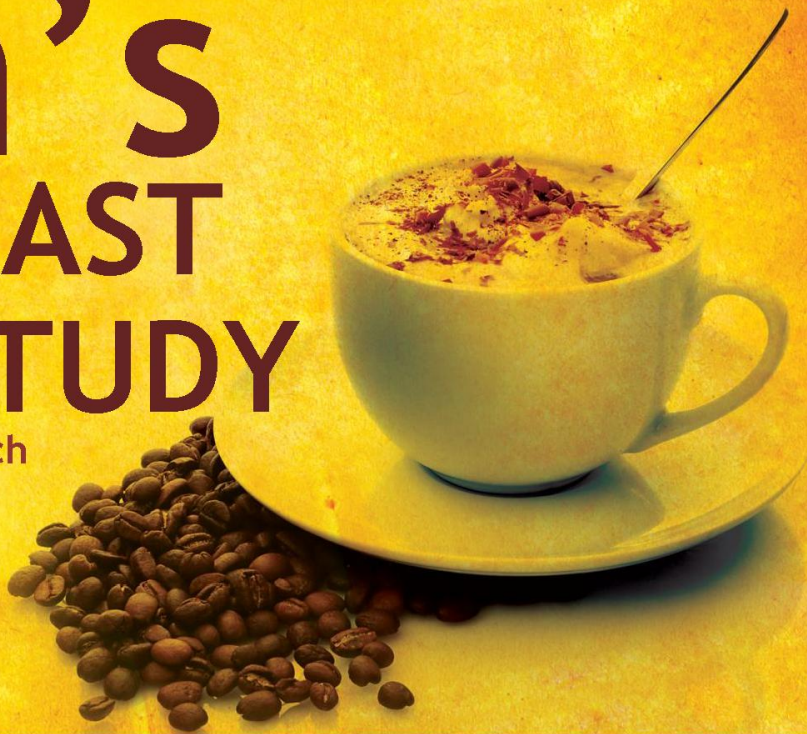
Free childcare is available. Arrangements must be made in advance.

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

Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,
Sept 9



Join us on the second Saturday of each month September 2017 - May 2018 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 will lead the men in a study entitled, "God in the Real World." The study is tied to the Holy Land and includes a video.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27 LWML CNH Summer Retreat, Silver Spur Retreat Center, Tuolumne, CA 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal Service 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge Presents: Open Mic Night		28 Littlest Angels Preschool closed		29 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		30 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 6:30 PM CANCELLED - Concussions: A former NFL player speaks out (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)		31 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group		1 Littlest Angels Preschool closed		2	
3 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal Service 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge Presents: Game Night		4 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Labor Day 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		5 9:00 AM Preschool Open House 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		6 9:00 AM Preschool Open House 6:30 PM Getting Past... Your Past: And Making the Most of Your Future (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)		7 9:30 AM First Day of Preschool 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group		8		9 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study	
10 * Happy Mail Sunday * 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal Service 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge		11		12 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		13 6:30 PM A Safe Place: Confronting Child Abuse In Your Corner of the World (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		14 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park - Take Over		15 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers		16	
17 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal Service 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge Presents: Potluck Sunday		18 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		19 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		20 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 6:30 PM Is Church Obsolete: Has God Left the Building? (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		21 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park		22 First Day of Autumn 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles		23	
24 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 10:45 AM Bethany Block Party 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 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 & Music Lounge - CANCELLED		25		26 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting		27 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 6:30 PM Forgiving the Unforgivable: A Son Confronts His Mother's Killer (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal		28 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park		29 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers		30	

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



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1095 Cloud Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025