

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

October 2017

News from Pastor Jon

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." Proverbs 19:21



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 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Bible Study with Pastor Tom (Wednesdays at 6:45 PM)
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Wednesdays at 7:45 PM)

... and much more!

In the next few paragraphs I am going to share a number of things which may seem very different from one another, but which reflect on the verse above.

Lighthouse – I am writing this on the evening of the Block Party. One of the more difficult questions we entertained this year was whether to have Lighthouse after the Block Party or whether to invite everyone to attend the early service and the Block Party, knowing this might be difficult for the schedules of many participants. Tonight I was thinking about how happy I was that so many of the people who worship at Lighthouse were able to come to the Block Party. While I was thinking about this and the growth of Lighthouse, I thought about the fact that we have not yet been worshipping in the Family Center for a year. "When did we move from the sanctuary and what helped us make that decision?" was the question that ran through my mind. The answer:

THE SUPER BOWL – On Super Bowl Sunday we decided to have an abbreviated service during the half time show. That was also a decision which took some thought, discussion and prayer. We thought this was a better idea than cancelling the service, or doing the service while most people really wanted to see the football game. What happened was definitely God working in a way we did not expect. The Family Center provides MUCH better acoustics for small groups. We realized by moving we did not have to set up two venues for Lighthouse and Coffee House. Most of

all people seemed to like worshipping in the Family Center. Since then...

GROWTH – God has provided growth for Lighthouse which we had not yet experienced while in the sanctuary. While the growth might have happened with us in the sanctuary, God sent us a message that our efforts to reach new people was not impaired, and possibly was enhanced by a move precipitated by the Super Bowl, but blessed by God. God has an amazing way of blessing our feeble efforts and turning them into God's plan we could not see. I give thanks that God blesses our efforts – often in ways we do not expect.

SOYL – One of the biggest surprises about SOYL was that so many of the students wanted to stay together and work on ministry together. We are close to securing a rental house for the students which will allow us to help them find jobs, continue their education, and start hands-on ministry work. Still, there was another surprise...

We now have a long list of potential students for next year, most of whom made their decision based on the reports of this first group. We are working diligently to wrap up enrollment before the end of the year so that we can help students initiate a personal fundraising plan to pay for their tuition. Additionally, we believe that many of these potential students will also want to have a long relationship with SOYL and in ministry. Which leads us to LINC Bay Area.

LINC Bay Area is a ministry which is focused on encouraging and empowering people to lead in new mission and ministry. The students who come through SOYL, which is a LINC Bay Area program, are creating a population of church workers who can help LINC Bay Area fulfill its mission. God has blessed us in ways we did not anticipate.

Block Party – Getting back to the events of today. The Block Party has become an annual institution at Bethany, but it was not always this way. A few years back, Linda brought me a book about Lay Ministry. I am not even sure how she received the book, or where she got the idea, but from that book we created the job of Director of Lay Ministry and ultimately became a church without the traditional job of "Church Secretary." Linda spent years trying to work on spiritual gifts inventories, but in the end, her best work led to the formation of the Lay Ministry committee.

As I noted in the sermon and at the end of the worship service, Linda, along with her committee of Joan Hilse, Laurie Muenchow and Kandace Reeves, are the latest group of God's servants who encourage, empower and lead events which have been created by the people of Bethany. The Block Party was one of those ideas and it has grown each year. Today was a blessing, not only because so many people came to the Block Party, but because they came from our community, our other ministries, and from people who worship with us.

God has plans for all of us. We cannot see those plans until God reveals how we are blessed. However, we can trust that God will transform our efforts and bless our endeavors – often with things we never anticipated.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

Bible Basics by Pastor Tom Norris

Thesis #1: When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. --Martin Luther

Dear friends in Christ,

Were rapidly approaching the 500th anniversary of the day that a Roman Catholic monk in a relatively obscure Saxon town nailed *95 Theses* for academic debate onto the door of a church. And the rest, as they say, is history.

That monk, Martin Luther, served as the match God struck to the dry timber of a troubled church. Those troubles included immoral clergy, monks, and nuns; terrible greed; often severe confusion of the role of the church in the world; even the selling of indulgences, which were "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven."

Today, if someone were to object to such problems, that person would label the problems "institutional" and the argument would be engaged using the language of "power." For us everything is political.

But even though the institution was oppressive and its leadership corrupt, Luther started in a different place. The very first of his *95 Theses* isn't about what we'd call power or politics at all. It's about faith: "*When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.*"

500 years later, Luther's still on the right track. The problems that we face personally, ecclesially, culturally, and even politically are theological at heart. They're about the primary need for all human beings to heed Jesus' call to repent... and to live a life of repentance.

This is still the role of the Lutheran movement today, to keep this central truth, this first of Luther's theses, at the forefront of how we live and how we engage the world.

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the posting of those theologically reforming words which will need to be our first thesis until Jesus returns,

Pastor Tom

Women's Ministries

The mission donation for October will go to "Lutheran Bible Translators."

Lutherans started Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) in 1964 to make God's Word accessible to everyone—literate or not, educated or not—in the language of their hearts. In addition to written translations, LBT communicates Scripture audio-visually and are involved in Scripture Engagement and literacy programs.



LBT is committed to distributing Bibles and New Testaments throughout the world in many languages. By God's grace, LBT has helped publish the entire New Testament in 36 languages. In 5 of those languages, they have helped to publish the whole Bible (Old Testament as well as New Testament).

As of 2016, there are 43 LBT missionaries and 23 associate missionaries. They are working over 20 Bible translation projects, 60 Scripture Engagement programs, and four Language Development programs. This work is being done in over 50 different languages in 16 countries.

An estimated 7 million people have been able to have access to the Good News in their own language. With our continued prayer and help, LBT expects to add to that translation total in the years ahead.

To learn more about LBT, go to www.lbt.org.

Youth Group News

Greetings Everyone,

We are excited to host a game night for our Junior & High School Youth Groups on Sunday, October 22nd here at Bethany Church in the Family Center. We would love for you to attend our 5:00 PM, Light House Worship Service. Immediately following the service, we will have games, snacks, and discussion. There is a lot to discuss as we have our annual Gingerbread House Decorating Fundraiser coming up on the first Saturday in December. I would like to get your ideas on scheduling dates and planning events that you are interested in participating. As always friends are welcome to attend and participate.

I am also looking forward to discussing our National Youth Gathering (NYG) in Minneapolis, MN from July 11th to the 15th, 2019. We have lots to plan as this event is like no other – It is life changing! Check out the official website at <http://www.lcmsgathering.com/about/>

SAVE THE DATE: Gingerbread House Decoration - December 2, 2017, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Bethany in the Family Center

Please contact me if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Blessings, Pilar

We congratulate Aspen Schuman who is the 2017 Little Mo West Regional's 10 Year Old Tennis Championships Winner. Bethany Lutheran Church is always happy to share the achievements of our students as they grow in many areas of their lives. Congratulations to Aspen as we hope to receive and share the achievements of others in future Bethany Heart Matters.



PATIENCE ...IS A VIRTUE! **PATIENT MEANS...waiting and waiting for the cookies to be done.**


This month our cookie virtue is **PATIENT**. Lots and lots of learning happens at Littlest Angels each day and having patience is a necessity when one is learning or teaching. Babies crawl before they walk. They walk before they run. They babble before they talk. They eat applesauce before they bite into a nice juicy apple. They learn colors and shapes before they can read a book. It's natural and it takes a mixing bowl full of **patience**! We cannot do the difficult tasks before we learn to do the easy ones. Learning to be **patient** means having the ability to put up with pain, troubles, delays, difficulties and hardships without complaint or bad attitudes. It takes time for the yummy cookies to bake and it takes time for **patience** to grow too!

Little ones are **impatient** by nature so how can we help them to be more **patient**? Here are some ideas that might help:

- Children are great imitators! We've got to model **patience** over and over and over again to them! And sometimes, they need to see us when we are **impatient**. They need to know it happens- we are human! It's what we do with our **impatience** that matters. They can learn positive coping skills from us. Lack of **patience** and self-control can be contagious! Children's **impatience** makes adults **impatient**, which then makes the children more **impatient** until yikes! ...it's out of control!
- Don't reward and feed those temper tantrums, meltdowns and outbursts that are a result of a child's **impatience**! Be firm and calm (that's not always easy!) and let the child know that they cannot always have instant gratification.
- SLOW DOWN! Children and adults need quiet calming down time to remain **patient** and kind in our fast paced world. **Patience** is easy to lose when we s-t-r-e-t-c-h ourselves or our children to thin.
- Play games and do projects together that take a good amount of **patience**. Explain to them that not everything happens at the push of a button. Try puzzles, games, art projects, and quiet activities that don't plug in, have flashing lights, or loud noises.
- Take time to reward **patience**. For instance, when children are waiting quietly in line, let them know that you noticed. Reinforced "good behavior" empowers a child to know that they are capable of being **patient**. Your words of praise are powerful and long-lasting.
- Remember what a friend we have in Jesus! He can help us with our **patience**...follow His example; be an imitator of the One who knows best!

"Be always humble, gentle, and **PATIENT**. Show your love by being tolerant with one another.
Eph. 4:2

Kathy Stinson,
Director



Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

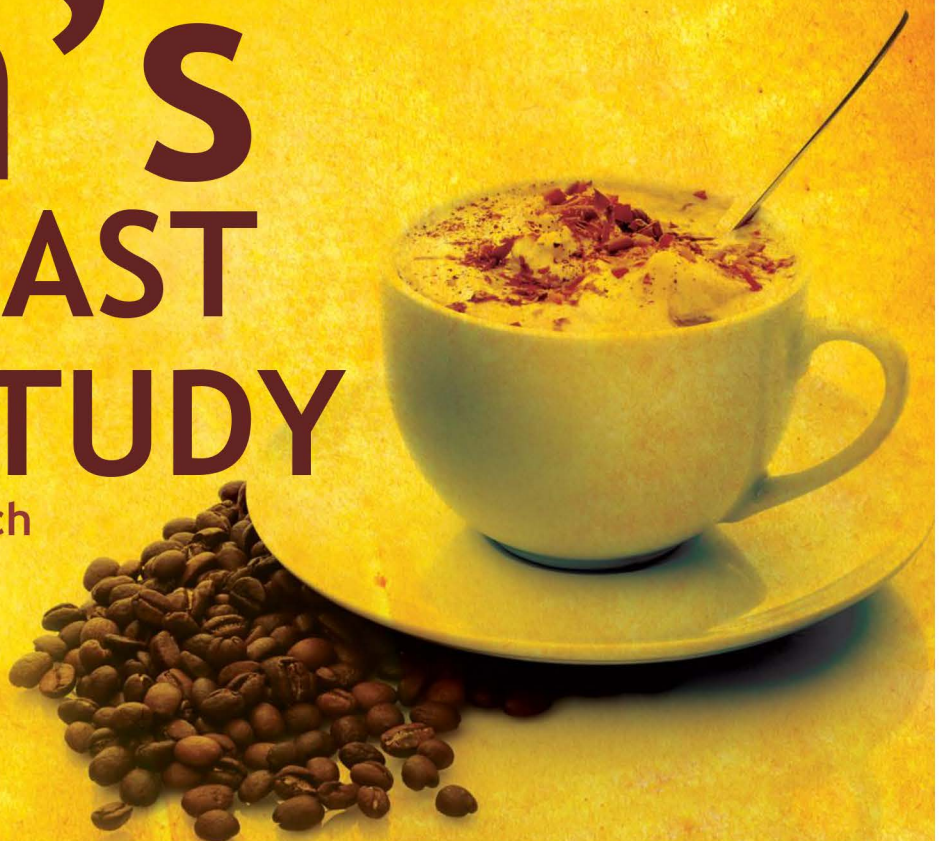
Saturday, October 14

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

**Saturday,
October 14**



Parents' Night Out



Bethany Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 21, 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: Puppet Art Theater Co. presents
"Little Red Riding Hood"

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

Advance registration is required. Registration deadline: Friday, October 13.
Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
No refunds after Oct. 13.

Go to www.bethany-mp.org/nightout
to register and pay online.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE CALIFORNIA~NEVADA~HAWAII ZONE 8 FALL 2017 GATHERING

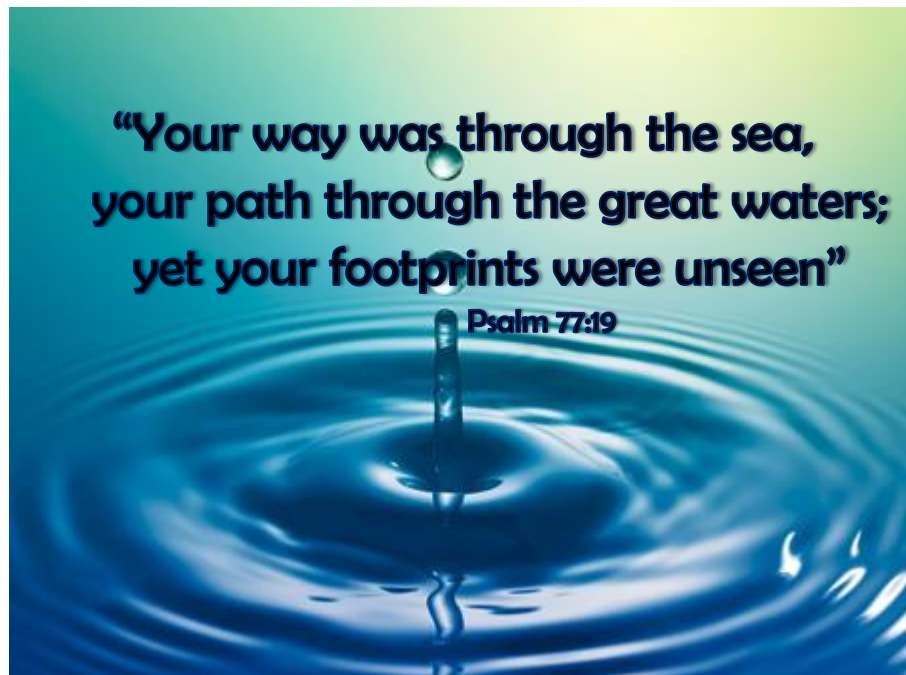
October 21, 2017 ~ 9:30am-2:30pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

4400 Highway 1, Pacifica, CA

The Flowing Waters of the Word

The Steinbeck Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1970 following the death of Mrs. Karl Steinbeck. Verna was Mission Hospice Chairman for the LWML CNH for many years, serving as host to missionaries and their families as they passed through San Francisco. This fund is designated to assist in the higher education of children of overseas missionaries who attend a college or university in the United States.



Guest Speaker: Noah Hoech

From Stanford University - Palo Alto, CA

Bible Study Leader: Pastor Dan Kistler

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Pacifica, CA

Registration: \$10.00

All women are invited!BYOB Lunch***Dessert provided***

**Love Gift Offering for The Steinbeck Memorial
Scholarship Fund**

(checks payable to LWML CNH Zone 8, memo: Steinbeck Fund)

Gathering Info:

**We will be collecting canned and boxed non-perishable
goods for the Pacifica Resource Center**

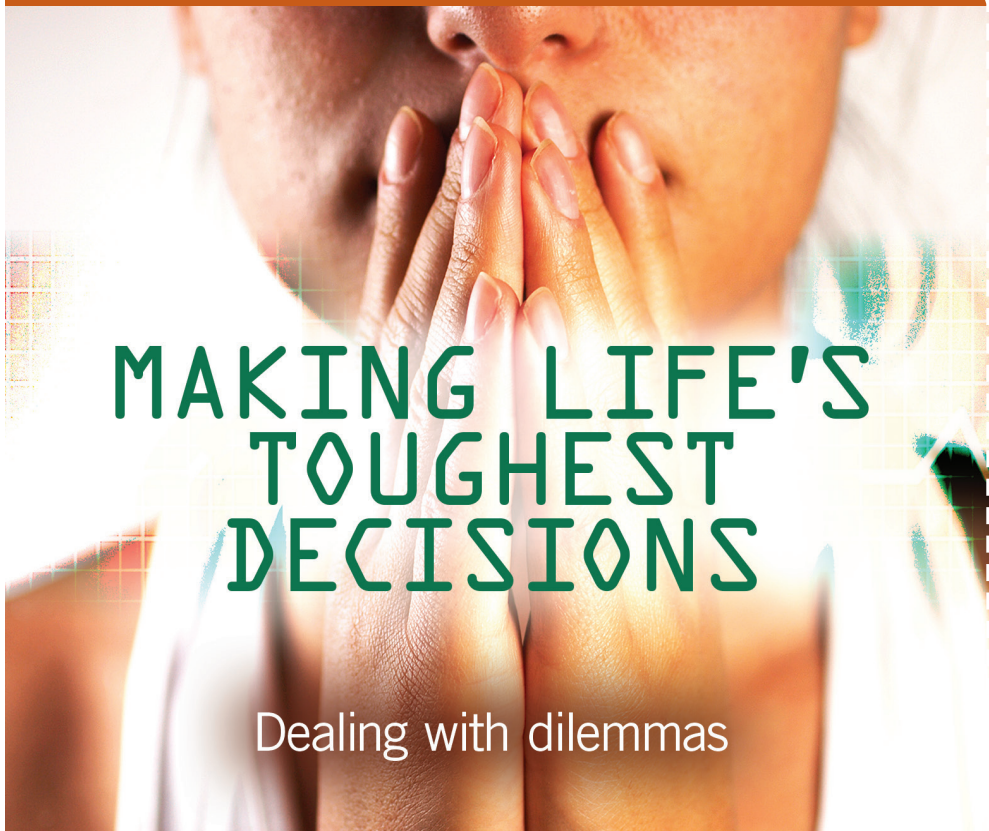
Questions? Please email President Barbara Guevara at tisbarb@sbcglobal.net



Now Showing in
October 2017



(for FAQ's)



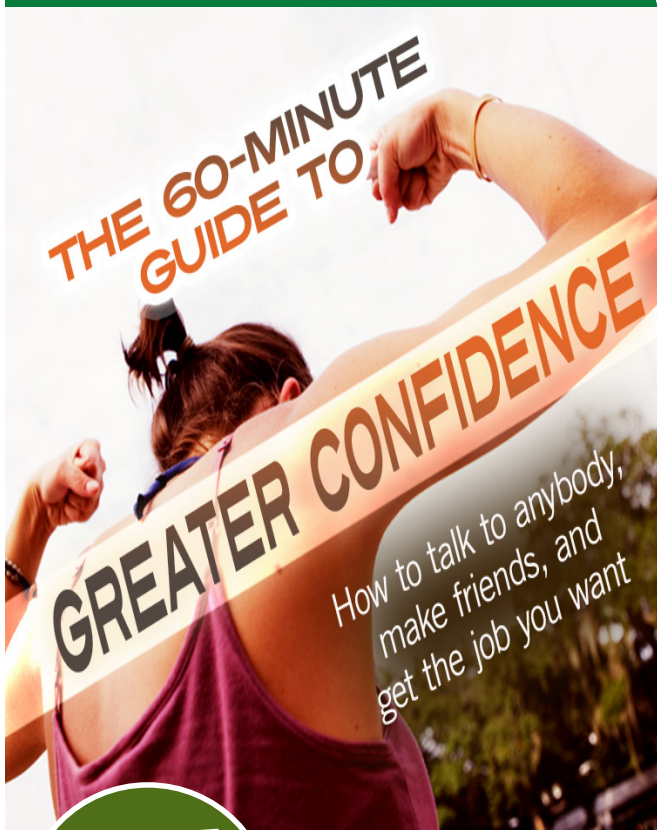
MAKING LIFE'S TOUGHEST DECISIONS

Dealing with dilemmas



When religion hurts

Toxic Faith



THE 60-MINUTE
GUIDE TO

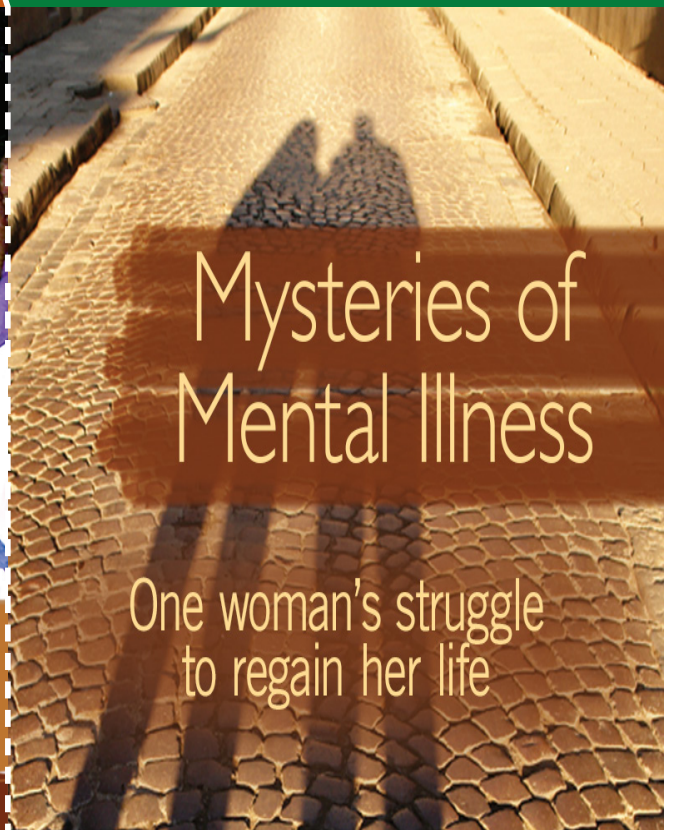
GREATER CONFIDENCE

How to talk to anybody,
make friends, and
get the job you want



Will we
ever live in
a colorblind
world?

THE BLACK AND WHITE TRUTH ABOUT RACISM



Mysteries of Mental Illness

One woman's struggle
to regain her life

FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC!

OCTOBER 2017

Sunday			Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mokh Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 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	2 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		3 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM CANCELLED - Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting 7:00 PM Preschool Back to School Night	4 6:30 PM Making Life's Toughest Decisions: Dealing with Dilemmas (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	6 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	7							
8 * Happy Mail Sunday * 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mokh Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 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	9 Columbus Day		10 CNH Pastors Conference, Fairfield 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	11 CNH Pastors Conference, Fairfield 6:30 PM Toxic Faith: When Religion Hurts (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	13 5:00 PM Last Day to Sign-up for Parents' Night Out (10/21)	14 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study							
15 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mokh Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 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	16 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting		17 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	18 6:30 PM The 60-Minute Guide to Greater Confidence (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30 AM Walking Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting	20 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	21 5:30 PM Parents' Night Out							
22 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mokh Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 5:00 PM Submission deadline for newsletter articles 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge	23		24 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	25 6:30 PM The Black and White Truth About Racism (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group	27 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers (live music)	28 5:00 PM Stanford Singles Group Halloween Party							
29 Reformation Sunday 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mokh Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 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	30		31 Reformation Day 9:20 AM Preschool Halloween Parade 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	1 3:00 PM Concordia Irvine - Set-up 3:30 PM Concordia Irvine Meeting 6:30 PM Mysteries of Mental Illness: One Woman's Struggle to Regain Her Life (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 6:45 PM Bible Study with Pastor Tom 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group 6:30 PM Forever Young Menlo Park	3 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	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