## Bethany Lutheran Church

#### **4644 Clark Avenue**

Long Beach, CA 90808

# www.bethanylutheran.org (562) 421-4711

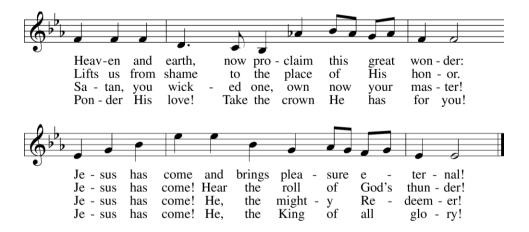
2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS + + + JANUARY 2, 2022 9:30 AM

## + God Gathers Us In His Presence +

#### **WELCOME**



Song continued on next page.



#### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Gracious Father,

by the shining of a star and the stirring of Your Spirit

the Magi were led to Your Son

through whom You have revealed Yourself to the nations.

**People:** Heavenly Father,

continue to lead us now by faith to know Your presence in our lives,

and bring us at last to the full vision of Your glory through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Leader: Lord of Life,

You invite us to come to You

and You call us to follow in Your way.

People: Yet, we confess that we have often turned from Your way

and ignored Your revelation to pursue our own paths

or choose our own truth.

Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly. Forgive us for the times we have not spoken or acted at all. Forgive us for the hurt we have caused those closest to us.

Forgive us for the hurt we have caused those we have yet to know.

Forgive us for thinking more about ourselves than others. Forgive us for having thought less of ourselves than You do.

Forgive us for having thought little of Your gifts,

Your declarations and Your commands. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

the Lord of life who suffered and died for us,

forgive us anew that we might live again for You. Amen.

Leader: God never tires of revealing His mercy.

God's love never runs out.

God has made His glory clear to see in His Son, heaven's gift, the Light to the nations and friend of sinners Jesus Christ. Through Him and for His sake your sins are forgiven.

Go follow Him.

Go make Him known.

People: Amen.

## + God Gives Us the Gift of His Word +

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has dawned.

Darkness now covers the earth, and thick darkness covers the nations.

But the LORD dawns, and His glory appears over you.

Nations will come to your light, and kings will come to the brightness of your dawn.

"Look up, look around, and watch. All of your people assemble and come to you.

Your sons come from far away. Your daughters are carried in their arms.

Then you will see this and rejoice, and your heart will be thrilled with joy,

because the riches of the sea will be brought to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.

"Many camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah.

Everyone from Sheba will come. They will bring gold and incense.

They will sing the praises of the LORD. - GW®

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

**T**his is the reason I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus for those of you who are not Jewish.

Certainly, you have heard how God gave me the responsibility of bringing His kindness to you. You have heard that He let me know this mystery through a revelation. I've already written to you about this briefly. When you read this, you'll see that I understand the mystery about Christ. In the past, this mystery was not known by people as it is now. The Spirit has now revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is the Good News that people who are not Jewish have the same inheritance as Jewish people do. They belong to the same body and share the same promise that God made in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this Good News through God's kindness freely given to me when His power worked in me.

I am the least of all God's people. Yet, God showed me His kindness by allowing me to spread the Good News of the immeasurable wealth of Christ to people who are not Jewish. He allowed me to explain the way this mystery works. God, who created all things, kept it hidden in the past. He did this so that now, through the church, He could let the rulers and authorities in heaven know His infinite wisdom. This was God's plan for all of history which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. We can go to God with bold confidence through faith in Christ. — GW®

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-20

**J**esus was born in Bethlehem in Judea when Herod was king. After Jesus' birth wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the One who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw His star rising and have come to worship Him."

When King Herod and all Jerusalem heard about this, they became disturbed. He called together all the chief priests and the experts in the Scriptures and tried to find out from them where the Messiah was supposed to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this:

Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah. A leader will come from you. He will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called the wise men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. As he sent them to Bethlehem, he said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you have found Him, report to me so that I may go and worship Him too."

After they had heard the king, they started out. The star they had seen rising led them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were overwhelmed with joy to see the star. When they entered the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary. So they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they left for their country by another road.

After they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said to him, "Get up, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and kill Him."

Joseph got up, took the child and His mother, and left for Egypt that night. He stayed there until Herod died. What the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: "I have called my son out of Egypt."

When Herod saw that the wise men had tricked him, he became furious. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys two years old and younger in or near Bethlehem. This matched the exact time he had learned from the wise men. Then the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah came true:

"A sound was heard in Ramah, the sound of crying in bitter grief. Rachel was crying for her children. She refused to be comforted because they were dead."

After Herod was dead, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said to him, "Get up, take the child and His mother, and go to Israel. Those who tried to kill the child are dead." – GW®

#### **SERMON HYMN:**

#### "Light of the World"



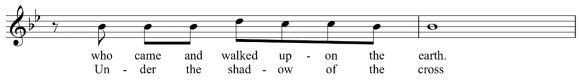




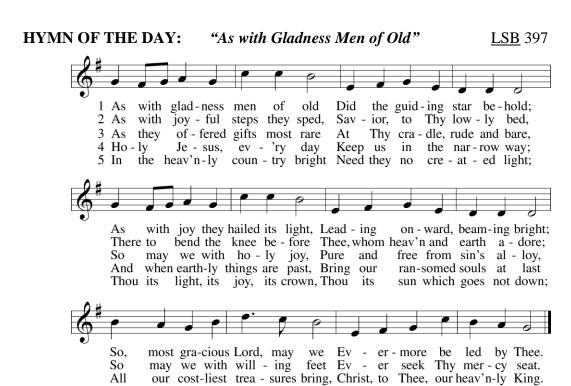












#### **APOSTLE'S CREED:** (\* catholic means the universal Christian Church)

Where they need no star There for - ev - er may

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy \*catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## + We Give Thanks for God's Word +

**OFFERING:** The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Leader: The Magi brought to You their treasures,

People: receive O Lord, the gifts we bring, ourselves,

our time and our possessions;

signs of Your gracious love given through Him

who gave Himself for us.

Leader: Through these gifts fund and support ministry here at Bethany (TG, HCC)

that leads many to behold Your glory in Christ in whose name we pray.

People: Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

## + The Service of Holy Communion +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood an You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.





#### **PREFACE:**

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

+ God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and Service +

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THE BLESSING:

Leader: The God of all glory dwell in you richly,

name you beloved, shine brightly on your path;

and the blessing of almighty God,

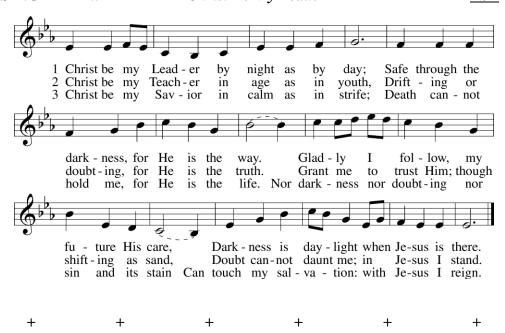
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN:**

#### "Christ Be My Leader"

LSB 861



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Text: Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf, 1693-1773; tr. Oliver C. Rupprecht, 1903-2000, alt.

Tune: Cöthen, c. 1733; setting: Paul G. Bunjes, 1914-98, alt. Tune: Public domain.

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#### "Light of the World"

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"As with Gladness Men of Old" LSB 397

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958. Text and music: Public domain.

"Christ Be My Leader" LSB 861

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926. Tune: Irish; setting: Lutheran Service Book, 2006.

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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#### **SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:**

Children's Sermon... Karl Fink Acolyte 9:30... Jamie Long Lector 9:30... John Holmquist Artist in Residence... Blake Flattley Preacher... Pastor Nadar Hanna

Crucifer 9:30... Robby Hernandez Camera...Jonathan Goebel Liturgist... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer

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When you enter a Bethany Lutheran Church worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur.

Bethany Lutheran Church takes photographs and/or makes audio and/or video recordings of members involved in church related activities. Staff and/or participants may use such photographs or video records to recall activities or participants. In addition, such photographs and audio/visual recordings may be used in Bethany Lutheran Church's publications, advertising materials to let others know of our ministry, and/or streaming and website hosting of worship services.

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By entering the service/event premises, you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties in connection with any exhibition, streaming, webcasting, or other publication of these materials, regardless of the purpose. You also waive any right to inspect or approve any photo, video, or audio recording taken by Bethany Lutheran Church or the person or entity designated to do so by Bethany Lutheran Church.

#### THE BETHANY BLUEPRINT

Having been called to Faith in Christ, moved by the love of God the Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the members of Bethany Lutheran Church are committed to:

Worshiping Faithfully - (Acts 2:42, 46)
Forming Spiritually - (Colossians 1:10-14)
Serving Passionately - (Ephesians 2:10)
Giving Proportionately - (Luke 21:1-4)
Sharing Intentionally - (Matthew 28:19-20)

## WEEKLY CHIMES

THE PARISH LIFE OF BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 4644 CLARK AVENUE, LONG BEACH, CA 90808 562-421-4711

www.bethanylutheran.org

**WEEK OF JANUARY 2 – 9, 2022** 

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Jon Rose	Merlyn Wagner	Sue Swick	Judy Richell
Charlene Mitchell	Phyllis Lee	Heidi Moyer-Miser	Grace Hennings
Kathy Jones	John Fredrickson	Bill Hutchinson	Ron Miner
Mary Mendez	Levi Rose	Jean Barton	Evelyn Rucks

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH ANGEL TREE:** What a joy it was to see the Lord work through the Angel Tree ministry. We are extremely thankful for everyone who donated, wrapped, and delivered gifts to the families of incarcerated persons. Amid the busy Christmas season, you paused to see others' needs and tirelessly worked to share the love of Jesus. Thank you! ~ Blessings, Pastor Kyle Blake

<u>THE THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY</u> will be on hiatus until Thursday, January 13, 2022. We hope to see you after the New Year and may you and your family have a very blessed Christmas!

**WELCOME VISITORS AND GUESTS:** We are glad you are here and would love to connect with you. If you would like more information about our congregation or any of our ministries, including our preschool or day school, please scan the QR code, and we will get back to you ASAP. We promise we won't sell your info or bug you too much via email.



#### WORSHIPING FAITHFULLY: Hebrews 10:25

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY'S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website www.bethanylutheran.org.

#### THE SAME TEXT WILL BE EXPLORED AT ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP SITES:

Bethany Lutheran in Long Beach, The Gathering in Long Beach and Holy Cross in Cypress; and of course on the Live Streamed via our YouTube channel: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/BethanyLutheranLongBeach">https://www.youtube.com/c/BethanyLutheranLongBeach</a> at Bethany's 9:30AM Worship Service.

#### FORMING SPIRITUALLY: Colossians 1:10-14

**LOOKING FOR A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR 2022:** You are invited to join Pastor Seth and others in reading through *The Mockingbird Devotional—Good News for Today (and Every Day)* next year. Pastor Seth and others will post some of their thoughts about the readings every day in a special Facebook Group. If you want to be added to Facebook group, please email Pastor Seth (<a href="mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org">smoorman@bethanylutheran.org</a>). You can pick up your copy of the book on Amazon or at <a href="mailto:www.mbird.com">www.mbird.com</a>.

#### **COUCH CONVERSATIONS:** Take some time this week with your family, or on your own to have



some conversations about our text and theme for worship. Perhaps you can do this on the couch right after the last song or later around the dinner table. You could even use them to have conversations in the car. We hope that these conversations will help you as you continue to be formed spiritually.

Epiphany ~ Matthew 2:1-12 The word epiphany means manifestation or revelation, or to put it simply, to be made known. The story of the Magi from the East reminds us that the message of Jesus is for all people, regardless of national origin, economic status, or biological connection. The gifts that were brought to the Christ Child are a reminder of the gift that Jesus brings to us and we give away to others as we serve them.

- What is the best gift you have ever received?
- If you could choose a gift of gold, frankincense or myrrh, which would you choose and why?
- How can you make Jesus known in your words and actions this week?



**THEOLOGY ON TAP:** Season 4 of the Theology On Tap Podcast with Pastor Seth, Pastor Kevin, Pastor Kyle, Pastor Mark and Kayleigh is out now! Get it wherever you get your podcasts including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Anchor.fm. This season the team tackles the idea of how to interpret the Bible and why many people struggle when doing it. So, grab yourself a cold beer, warm glass of milk. hot cup of tea, bottle of water, and pull up a chair and join us for Theology On Tap, and get ready for a lively discussion of

theology, spirituality and sharing life together.



#### WOMEN'S RETREAT--SAVE THE DATE!

You are invited to join us **January 14th and 15th** at Bethany Lutheran Church. Come and enjoy the joy of our Lord in fellowship, food and fun with other women in Christ. **Friday evening** (1/14/22) check-in begins at 6:00 PM and the Program starts at 7:00 PM. **Saturday** (1/15/22) begins at 8:30 AM with a continental breakfast, lunch at noon, and concludes with a Communion Service at 3:30 PM.

#### WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration is \$50.00 (Now through January 3).

Questions about the Women's Retreat may be directed to: Lucy Smith at lucysmith99@verizon.net or Kahana Smith at <a href="mailto:faithksmith911@gmail.com">faithksmith911@gmail.com</a>



#### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday – Thursday from 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM noon. Closed Fridays.

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 3, in celebration of the New Year!

#### WELCOME TO THE BIBLE QUIZ

The answers to these questions will be found in next week's Sunday Chimes, along with three new questions. See how many questions you and your family can answer.

- 1. What gift did King Solomon ask from GOD?
- 2. Paul praises GOD for having chosen us before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world
- 3. When Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, where did his parents find him?



1. David descended from what son of Jacob?

Answer: Judah.

2. Jesus descended from what son of Jacob?

Answer: Judah.

3. What animal was associated with Judah?

Answer: The lion.

#### SERVING PASSIONATELY: Ephesians 2:10

#### ACOLYTES & CRUCIFER OPPORTUNITIES - JANUARY DATES:



I am interested in knowing which youth wish to acolyte for Sunday Worship services. Possible for 4<sup>th</sup> graders on up. Boys and girls welcome. Service times are 8:00 & 9:30AM. Training is available if you will be a first time acolyte. If you have any questions concerning this ministry opportunity, please contact me at the email or phone number listed below.

Crucifer & Acolyte Sign Ups for January are Now Open. Please prayerfully consider this service opportunity and sign up.

I am looking forward to working with you in this service to our church!

~ Karl Fink – DCE kfink@bethanylutheran.org 562.421.4711, ext. 19

#### GIVING PROPORTIONATELY: Luke 21:1-4

#### **GIFTS FOR THE KING:**



Bethany will be accepting donations in person, by mail, by text giving or with the giving form. To give using the form use the QR Code.



**PLEASE NOTE:** We will NOT be using the Gifts for the King boxes this year. Listed below are the three organizations that your Gifts for the King donation will be benefiting this year.

Donations will be accepted today through January 9, 2022 (Epiphany Sunday).

**OPERATION BARNABAS** - https://www.lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces/operation-barnabas

PROJECT 24 - https://engage.lcms.org/caring-for-children-in-kenya-fall-2016/

<u>LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY</u> - <a href="https://lcrlfreedom.org/">https://lcrlfreedom.org/</a>

\*For more information on each of these organizations, please look on their websites.



#### WE GIVE HIM BUT HIS OWN

At Bethany, we know that "our stuff is not our stuff!" All that we have, all that we are, is a gift from Him. We also know that giving is a spirit-given compulsion. For Jesus Christ, in whose likeness we are being transformed daily is the ultimate giver. Your gifts fund ministry that give people Jesus. His words, His promises, His presence, His gifts, His comfort, His strength are given through the gifts you are now giving Him. We thank and honor you for these gifts, because they thank and honor Him!

#### There are multiple ways to give to Bethany Lutheran Church including:

Giving Online Text to Give Online Bill-Pay, US Mail, Offering Basket

Please see the GIVING link on Bethany's website for more information on how to make your offering. If you need further assistance, contact our Financial Administrator at <a href="mailto:mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org">mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org</a>

# THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK UP. PICK YOURS UP TODAY IN THE PARISH LOUNGE.



#### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Act 2:44**



**ANNUAL CAMPOUT RETREAT:** Bethany's Annual Family Campout Retreat is **February 19, 20 and 21** at Mobiland RV Park in Ocotillo Wells. Bring your special dish for Saturday's pot luck supper, and Sunday evening hors d'oeuvres along with some firewood for the campfire. A worship service will be held Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. For questions or reservation please call or text Philip Lopez, at (562) 416-5960.

<u>**TEACHER NEEDED:**</u> Zion Lutheran School in Anaheim is in search of a long-term sub for a Grade 5/6 combination class. Please contact Principal Elizabeth Lyles if you are interested: <u>elyles@zionanaheim.org</u>





**COOK'S NIGHT OUT!** The Bethany Lutheran School 8<sup>th</sup> grade class invites *ALL* Bethany members and their families and friends to Cook's Night Out on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022** at the Chick-fil-A in Lakewood from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM. Must bring flyer. Flyers are available at the SCRIP table or school office.

#### **LEADERSHIP READ #2**

### Getting to Know Jesus- by Paul Schult

How can I get to know Jesus better?

How can I possibly understand all that the Bible teachers and reveals?

What is the most important teaching in the Bible for me to know?

Getting to Know Jesus connects the dots between knowing the right Bible answers and having a real relationship with Jesus Christ. The six core teachings in Martin's Luther's Small Catechism summarize the most critical truths of the Bible. However, the heart of the Bible is not just to know the right answers; it's to know Jesus.

Drawing on his personal experience as a pastor, the author unpacks six-core teaching of the Bible in easy-to-understand relationship language. You will discover a deeper meaning in worship, prayer, Bible study, and personal devotions and be more deeply connected to Jesus. Plus, you'll be better prepared to talk to family and friends about your relationship with Jesus in a clear and personal way.

At the end of each chapter, there are some personal reflection questions that you can use to dig a little deeper into the topic. There are even more questions and some scriptures in the back of the book for you to work through if you want. You can purchase the book on Amazon or at your bookseller of choice. We have a limited supply of books on hand.

Please contact Pastor Kevin ASAP to get your hands on a copy (<u>kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org</u>). It is our hope that everyone who holds a leadership position in our combined ministry will read this book.

Each week we will post a short video on our YouTube page with some insights from one of our staff members to help you process the material and to stay on track with the reading. There will also be opportunities for conversation via zoom half way through and in person at the end.

#### GETTING TO KNOW JESUS READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: 2/6	Introduction & Chapter 1: p.p. 15-36
Week 2: 2/13	Chapter 2: p.p. 37-57
Week 3: 2/20	Chapter 3: p.p. 59-66
Week 4: 2/27	Chapter 4: p.p. 67-78
Week 5: 3/6	Chapter 5: p.p. 79-88

# **ZOOM DISCUSSION EVENT:** There will be an AM and PM option on 3/15 Zoom link forthcoming.

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Week 6: 3/13 Chapter 6: p.p. 89-98
Week 7: 3/20 Chapter 7: p.p. 99-108
Week 8- 3/27 Chapter 8: p.p. 109-125
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BIG GROUP GATHERING EVENT: Saturday, April 23: Time & Location TBD