

The *Chimes* is published  
monthly by

## **Bethany Lutheran Church**

**A Great Commission  
Congregation**

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## **THE BETHANY BLUEPRINT**

Our world, our nation, our community, our families, us ourselves have been “going through it” here in 2020 have we not? It is one thing to get through something; it is another to grow through something! St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians promises that our Lord, through His Spirit, is a God who will enable His people to grow through, what they go through.

It was a welcome letter to be sure for the Church in Philippi was enduring persecution when Paul wrote them; the apostle for his part was under house arrest. Both the author and recipients in this case were going through it! Of course, we too are intended recipients of this Word of God. Though we are not enduring persecution, we are enduring divisions, restrictions, separations (some from loved ones in hospitals or nursing homes, some from classmates if we are not experiencing in person instruction, some from employment if they lost jobs in these days, etc.) not to mention enduring a contagion. We are going through it in 2020.

Our Lord would not have us just get through this year, so close to 2,000 years ago His Spirit moved the apostle to write the church in Philippi a Word that is as applicable today as it was then. Through this Word our God intends that we will find ourselves growing through what we are going through.

That is the theme of our fall worship series: “**Growing Through What We Are Going Through**” based on Paul’s letter to the Philippians. In this epistle we will be called to “think about noble, pure and admirable things” to “have an attitude like that of Jesus” to “have a mature view of things” to “consider as rubbish” those things that puff up, and to “abound in knowledge and depth of insight.” However, the apostle pulls no punches and tells us directly that the faith is not merely a pursuit of thoughts; it flows into actions. “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion” for “to live is Christ” which means “being humble and doing nothing out of selfish ambition” and thus we shall “press on and take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us” and “put into practice what we hear” from God’s Word to the Philippians (a word for Californians too). Thus the apostle compels us to trust that our God is a God who would always have us grow through what we go through.

For your personal spiritual formation and worship preparation consider reading these texts prior to worship. These themes will be the focus of on campus, in person, Sunday morning worship at Bethany Lutheran Church at 8:00AM and 9:30AM, Holy Cross Lutheran at 9:00AM and The Gathering Lutheran Church 10:00AM. These themes will also be the focus of our off-campus, on-line worship. You can worship on-line by going to [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org), click on the church site, and then the “Sunday Worship Resources” tab. You can also attend worship via Zoom with the service held at The Gathering on Sunday mornings at 10:00AM. For more information contact Pastor Kyle Blake ([rev.kblake@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kblake@gmail.com)), BLC Associate Pastor of Community Connections and lead Pastor at The Gathering Lutheran Church.

9/6	Phil. 4:4-9
9/13	Phil. 1:3-6 & 9-14
9/20	Phil. 1:21-30
9/27	Phil. 2:1-11
10/4	Phil. 2:13-18
10/11	Phil. 3:4b-12
10/18	Phil. 3:12-21
10/25	Phil. 4:4-9

Certainty in Uncertain Times
Praying for Others
Standing Firm
Unity, Humility, Emissary
In and Through
Keeping the Primary Thing the Primary Thing
An eternal perspective and an earthly purpose
Certainty in Uncertain Times

## Blessed Be Your Name

*"Blessed Be Your Name In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name.*

*Blessed Be Your name When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed Be Your name.*

*Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be' Blessed be Your name.*

*Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name.*

*You give and take away, You give and take away  
My heart shall choose to say, Lord, Blessed be Your Name"*

I can literally get swept away singing in worship. The above song is one of those songs, which does it to me every time. I love this song! One of the things I love about this song is how it goes from object truth that is simply undeniable and which one has no option but to admit..."streams of abundance" "wilderness travels and travails" "warmth of shining sun upon the way" "suffering and pain on life's journey"... to the subject decision to respond. The sun, the storm, the pleasure and the pain are facts...choosing to bless His name is an act.

I love this song. I must admit however, that I love it more when the Lord gives! Thus, I must admit that I'm not as fond of Him taking away!

We've experienced our share of "take aways" in 2020 thus far haven't we? The normal routine for instance has been taken away this year. The chance to visit, pray over and bless people in nursing homes and hospitals who have been discharged into eternity has been taken away this year. The chance to give a hug goodbye to friends moving to the other side of the country or world, sometimes just the chance to say goodbye face to face...There has been no shortage of "take aways" thus far this year and you could add your list in here..... The front bedroom of our home is now officially an office for good, as its resident has relocated to her new home with her husband. A partner in ministry at Bethany, one who has faithfully served and shared the task of worship planning, development and execution for a few decades is moving with her husband to her new home in Nebraska; we've had plenty "taken aways" this year; Oh for the strength, courage and grace to choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your Name!"

Yet, we've had plenty given us this year. The Lord has given us an entire new community of off-campus, online members and active ministry partners and participants. He has given us a pair of congregations (The Gathering and Holy Cross Lutheran Churches) with whom we are engaged in Kingdom expansion and community engagement this year. Through you, He has given us, stories and testimonials of how God has been seen working in the midst all that is going on in these unique times. There have been no shortages of "gives" this year. For me, a son-in-law and a co-worker in our new associate pastor whose wedding I officiated almost 20 years ago. Yes the Lord gives! Oh for humility, gratitude and knowledge of the deep goodness of God that moves us to choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your Name!"

He gives and takes away, He gives and takes away, let our hearts choose to say, **"Blessed be His Name!"**

-Pastor Kevin

## Farewell Letter from Dr. Carol McDaniel

To my dear beloved Bethany family and friends:

The time to say farewell has come upon us much sooner than I ever anticipated. After 30 years of partnering in ministry with you and this Great + Congregation, God is graciously leading Gary and I back to our alma mater, Concordia—Nebraska, where Gary has accepted a call to serve on their administrative cabinet. While I wait to see what God has planned for me to do, I will work at making our new house a home. I will also take some time for God to help heal my heart and soul from the tough work of saying goodbye. God's plans are always good, and His timing is always perfect—even if it is hard to completely understand it now.

As I have begun preparing for our final services together, I have discovered a deep well of love and thankfulness. This well has been mixed with another equally deep well of sadness, because I will dearly miss you and the ministry we have been so blessed to share. God has allowed us the profound privilege of partnering, loving and caring for each other and I will always treasure your invitation (God's invitation) to be a part of God's mission and God's story at Bethany.

Three decades of ministry for me here has meant 3 different area codes, (213/310/562), 3 different phone systems, more than 3 computers, and 3 joy-filled seasons of leadership. Throughout my years here, we have been overwhelmingly blessed with an awesome staff, (pastors, DCE's, principals, teachers and support staff) all of whom graciously helped to nurture and train this church-worker, wife and mother of four, to use her gifts as God intended.

In that first season we launched a capital campaign "Building the Body of Christ" which helped to renovate the school facilities and totally remodel the Church Sanctuary. This meant a huge paradigm shift...moving the choir and the organ from upstairs to downstairs. What a big change for us...but what a blessing too.

In our second season together, we experienced the retirement of our two beloved long-term pastors (Loesch and Bunnett) and the departure of our DCE, Jim, to Concordia—Texas. Two intentional interim pastors took over the reins, helping us grieve and helping us to create space for the next season which has been so beautifully led by our current senior pastor and friend, Kevin Kritzer.

In this most recent season together, we saw Seth become vicar and then pastor; we saw Doug Hensley retire to Bend and Dr. Mary Fink expertly step into that role. We saw Karl Fink move from teacher to DCE, and we helped to train a myriad of wonderfully talented DCE Interns and Music/Worship Interns from several of our Concordia system schools. We've added DCE Kayleigh and Artist in Residence Blake to our midst and we have seen God's continued blessings in His provision of finding just the right teachers, preschool directors, and support staff to help us continue to do His work. The Renaissance campaign---(of both *Heart* and Facilities) did much to prepare our church for a new era— (and yet another new season) —and I can hardly wait to see what God will do next in your midst. With the calling of our third pastor, Kyle Blake and with new/expanded ministry opportunities at The Gathering and at Holy Cross Cypress, Bethany is destined for exciting days—even with our current pandemic situation.

As I think back over the music and worship events of our time together, I will fondly remember our Christmas Concerts (what a blessing to get to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary---just last year), School Musicals, Mass Choir Festivals, Guest Composer Events (we have had over 20 of those), special outdoor tent worship services, and even more recent opportunities to celebrate Oktoberfest with a German Oompah Band. I will remember the joy of the update to the organ, (and now an organ fund ready to finally complete its design), the donation of multiple octaves of handbells, the donation of a grand piano for the sanctuary and several other pianos as well. I will remember special services which featured multiple choirs doing what Old Testament song leaders did...processing and surrounding the worship area from all sides. I will remember the joy of children singing, the joy of hearing a little one in the back pew say "Wow!" after hearing an anthem, and I will remember the incredible festival worship services...Easter (with "Lord of the Dance"), Reformation (with "A Mighty Fortress") and All Saints Day (with pictures of our beloved departed saints and renditions of "For All the Saints.")

*Letter continued on page 4*

*Letter continued from page 3*

What I shall remember most, however, is the “normal” (pre-Covid) services, especially when we celebrated the Lord’s Supper. Gathering around the “half of the table” here at Bethany, while the saints above are gathering round “the other end of the table” has always touched my heart. Singing, smiling and encouraging one another from the choir loft has been a highlight of weekly worship for me.

To the village members of Bethany who helped to raise Gary’s and my children: Jonathan, Jennifer, Anna and Amy, we salute you! They all remember you fondly and they truly love you. They are who they are today, in large part to God’s work through you in them. Thank you for loving them, encouraging them and praying for them each and every day.

To all the dear members of our Bethany Levitical Tribe (singers, ringers, instrumentalists, elders, accompanists, directors, soloists, worship-band members, admin. support staff, prayer warriors and music ministry cheerleaders): As the tears pour out of my heart and stream down my face, I thank God for each and every one of you. **YOU are SO LOVED.** I will always remember you!

What Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians I echo to you today:

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart...God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” (Ph. 1:3-11)

While I will no longer be your Minister of Music as of October 4, I will remain your sister in Christ, forever.

*Grace, mercy and peace be yours, now and always.*

*Carol McDaniel*

## Cards for Dr. Carol McDaniel



It was with joy that we learned Dr. Gary McDaniel had received and accepted a call to serve as Executive Vice President at Concordia University Seward, NE. Of course it is with heavy hearts that we realized this meant Carol and Gary would be moving back to NE. Dr. Carol McDaniel has of course served Bethany faithfully and excellently as our Minister of Music for 30 years. Carol’s last Sunday at Bethany will be October 4<sup>th</sup>. Whereas at present we are living through Covid restriction days on worship and whereas choirs themselves have not gathered during this period, the McDaniels have been invited to return to Bethany at a date (TBD hopefully spring of 2021) to celebrate her ministry at Bethany in a way that includes organ and choirs and bells! For now the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> will include our recognition of Carol’s ministry at Bethany, through which God has indeed been blessed. Part of that recognition includes cards, notes and letters from congregation members to be presented to Carol and Gary on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We are starting to collect these cards and letters. Any cards and letters can be mailed to the church office or dropped off at the office. They can also be placed in the blue offering box on Sunday mornings. Please continue to keep the McDaniels in your prayers during this time of change in their lives and Bethany in your prayers during this time of change in our life.

## DCE Care Ministry News

Karl Fink - DCE, (562) 421-4711, ext. 19  
[kfink@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:kfink@bethanylutheran.org)

### Men's Bible Study

We meet on Thursday from 8:30-9:45AM in the Gym during these times that we are in. Feel free to bring a beverage, something to eat, and your mask to wear as we study God's Good Word, fellowship, & pray together. We are currently studying the book of 2 Peter. If you have any questions or concerns, kindly contact Karl Fink.

### GriefShare Update:

We will be starting up another session of our GriefShare support group on **Sunday, October 25** in the **Parish Lounge from 11:00AM – 12:30PM**. Please be reminded that GriefShare is a 13 week DVD/discussion based class for those who are experiencing the grief of losing a loved one, or some other major loss in one's life. Should you know of any individuals who might benefit from a support group of this nature, please pass the word to them, or let me know as I send out postcards of invitation. Thanks in advance for keeping this ministry in your prayers! I am blessed to be able to serve this group as a leader. We will sit at tables, socially distanced, with plenty of ventilation. Please contact me with any questions

**God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in times of trouble.**  
-Psalm 46:1



"PRAY LONG BEACH" CITY WIDE PRAYER IN FOUR LOCATIONS "NORTH, EAST, WEST & SOUTH"

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 FROM 9:30AM - 10:30AM**

South side location is at The Gathering Lutheran Church

*Pr. Kyle Blake - Associate Pastor, Cell (562) 810-3558*  
[rev.kblake@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kblake@gmail.com)

Dear Bethany Family,

Have you ever heard the saying, "God works in mysterious ways"?

I was talking with a friend one time and he used the statement in our conversation. I do not remember what exactly we were talking about, but I do remember feeling uncomfortable with the statement when it was made. I think my uncomfortably stemmed from what I had learned while growing up in the Lutheran church.

Growing up in the Lutheran church, I participated in a program called Confirmation when I was in 8th grade. As a part of this program, we learned the meaning of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed. (For those unfamiliar with the Apostles' Creed, it is a statement of our beliefs as Christians. You will not find it in the Bible, but it does summarize, very well, what we believe about God.)

In the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." As Martin Luther explored what this meant, exactly, part of the realization that he came to, and which I believe is true also, was that:

"God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil."

I believe that I was uncomfortable with my friend's statement because, at my core, I do not believe that God works in mysterious ways. I believe that God is constantly at work around us, in very obvious ways, and we often miss seeing how He is working. He is at work in our everyday life, whether we see it or not!

Over the last several years, I have been blown away at how I have seen, and experienced, God at work in the partnership that has developed, and continues to blossom, between Bethany Lutheran and The Gathering Lutheran. One of the ways that God has worked in this partnership is to bring me here to be a part of the Bethany family and continue to have me serve and walk alongside the folks at The Gathering and the community downtown. I am excited to see how God is going to continue to work in and through our partnership, and I am excited to see how He is going to continue to expand His kingdom through it.

I am excited to walk with you as we continue to seek to faithfully follow Jesus and as we get a front row seat to how He is going to work here in Long Beach and beyond.

*Blessings,*  
*Pastor Kyle Blake*



## S'more Stories Continue on Wednesday Nights at 7:00PM in September!

Join us on Facebook Live to sing some songs, hear a story, spend time in prayer and get s'more Jesus at the end of the day. This event is for all ages but kids are going to love it.

Follow the Bethany Lutheran Page at –

<https://www.facebook.com/Bethany.Long.Beach/>



## It's time for...

### The Rubber to Meet the Road

Join us after our Sunday Outdoor Worship for 10-15 minutes to dig a little deeper into the message of the day. We will sing a song, and give you some time to talk about our theme and ask some questions.

This time is geared for families but everyone is welcome to attend. A video version of this will also be available as part of our Online Worship service. Just stick around after the blessing for **The Rubber to Meet the Road**.

**We can't wait to see you there.**

## Theology On Tap

Break out your Bible and your steins and join us for a time of conversation, questions, and raising a glass of your favorite beverage as we look at the Solas of the Reformation.

**Theology on Tap** is a live study hosted by the Bethany Ministry staff. Live interaction will be done **via Zoom** but the conversation will be captured and recorded as part of a new podcast. The fun begins **Thursday, October 1st at 8:00PM**.

More information and how to access the Zoom link will be available on the Bethany website and Facebook page soon.



## Encouraging Prayer Prior to the 2020 Elections on November 3rd

**Let us pray for our nation.**

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and *all those in authority*, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

-I Timothy 2:1,2

Lord God, we pray for Your name to be lifted high over this nation today. You are the only one who can usher in the winds of change and revival. We pray that we, Your Church, would remain established on You, Your Word, Your grace and Your mission. Grant us hearts that are loving and humble, eyes of discernment and minds with clear understanding of the way in which we should walk.

Let us be a people centered on You and Your mission. Let us be a people marked by love and charity, holiness and righteousness – that we might reflect Your Glory! YOURS is the NAME above all other names – let us live in light of that Truth today. Bless the leaders of our nation and bless our nation with leaders of honesty and integrity who seek to fulfill the vocation of public servants. Raise up Your Church to stand on the platform of the great "I AM" – for there is NO other foundation that will do. In Jesus' holy and precious name, Amen.

—Community Impact Committee

## Bethany's Preschool: Tricycle Tidings

*Tammy Simpson - Preschool Director, (562) 429-7335 ext. 22*  
[tsimpson@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:tsimpson@bethanylutheran.org)



INSPIRING LIFE-LONG LEARNING  
**THE SCHOOLS OF  
 BETHANY  
 LUTHERAN**  
 CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

*Bethany Lutheran Preschool exists:*

*"To provide quality Christian early childhood education in a safe, loving and caring atmosphere; daily teaching God's forgiveness and love through our Savior, Jesus Christ."*

There was such uncertainty at the end of the school year for the teachers and the children, but we are excited about returning in-person for the school year. About mid-July when every store starts their "Back to School" displays, we start thinking of the new school year, welcoming returning and new families and getting ready.

Children are wondering who will be in their classes and will they get to pick out a new lunch box? Will they like their new teachers as much as the ones from last year? Will they find new items and new adventures on the playground? These are the thoughts of the children. Parents are wondering how the first days will go and will they have all the paperwork done correctly.

By the time this newsletter is read, all that will be behind us. We will be settling into the new year and all will be just fine. To those returning, it will feel like coming home.

### To welcome all those families is our amazing team of teachers:

Angela Bardeleben - Transitional Kindergarten  
 Vannessa Contreras - Pre-K  
 Jennifer Garcia - Pre-K  
 Mandy Gunsolus - Pre-K  
 Kara Bowman - 3 year olds

Erica Limos - 3 year olds  
 Debbie Burns & Alicia Lagana - 2 year olds  
 Kathy Slater - 2 year olds  
 Lauren Joanes - 2 & 3's co-teacher  
 Leticia Perez - Spanish & Art teacher

### Calendar of Events:

August 26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher Open House
August 31	First Day of School
September 7	Preschool Closed in Observance of Labor Day
October 12	Preschool Closed in Observance of Columbus Day & NLSA work

*In His Service,*

***Tammy Simpson - Preschool Director***



Matthew 19:14 -

**Jesus said,**

**"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."**





*\*Christ-centered   \*Academically Strong*  
*\*Respectfully Operated   \*Fully Accredited*

## Bethany Lutheran School News...

*Dr. Mary Fink - School Principal, (562) 420-7783 ext. 17*  
[mfink@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mfink@bethanylutheran.org)

In a world that has been turned upside down in the last several months, we are comforted by our God, who reminds us: ***"So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*** Isaiah 41:10.

As we prepare to begin our 74<sup>th</sup> year at Bethany Lutheran School, we are navigating through the various requirements for returning to school. We will begin the school year on September 1<sup>st</sup> with 'learning from home.' We also are pleased to be able to offer on campus school-aged child care for families of essential workers who need childcare during the school day. Students participating in this program will be assisted by a staff member who will help them access their online classes during the day and provide direction while the students are on campus.

We are awaiting the opportunity to apply for a waiver to allow us to return to on-campus instruction for students in grades K-6. The County of Los Angeles will advise when we are able to do so. Our summer months were spent in preparing our campus for a return of our students. Upon return to campus they will find new HEPA air purifiers in every classroom, bladeless fans in our preschool rooms, additional water bottle filling stations, dividers between student desks in the classrooms, new signage and sidewalk stickers to remind us to distance, and hands free paper towel, soap and hand sanitizer dispensers, and more. In addition we have developed our Return to Campus Plan and protocols which include daily health checks, and established procedures for conducting school.

Once we are able to return to on campus instruction, we will still offer 'remote learning' for those families who want or need to have their students learn from home. We were proud to provide a comprehensive distance learning experience for students in the spring, but our teachers have spent their time this summer in learning additional methods for delivering an enhanced educational program whether face to face or remotely. And they are looking forward to the challenge!



Each year we choose a campus theme, and our theme for 2020-2021 is ***"So Loved"***. Our scripture is [John 3:16](#). As we enter this uncharted territory of a new school year impacted by COVID-19, we look to this verse and to the assurance that we are ***"So Loved"***.

We ask that you continue to pray for our students, our families, our teachers and staff, and our schools, and we thank you for your on-going support.

***Blessed to be at Bethany and serving Him with you!***

***Kathy Tucker - Admissions Director***  
[ktucker@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:ktucker@bethanylutheran.org), ext. 54

## Family Ministry Moment

*Pr. Seth Moorman-Associate Pastor, (562) 421-4711 ext. 13  
[smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org)*

The past few months have been different to say the least. What was once normal seems a distant memory. The day-to-day grind has changed but is still a grind. School work is and will be done at home and household projects bring respite from the monotony of being cooped up for days on end. But many people have been getting out. I have been riding my bike a few days a week for exercise and I have noticed so many people out walking their dogs, or riding bikes with their family.

For some, the stay at home orders have been drudgery at best and a life sentence at worse. The stress of being with the same people, day after day can be overwhelming. Not knowing what the future holds can bring debilitating fear and there seems to be no stable ground to stand on as orders, expectations and requirements change on a daily basis. For some this has become a time of disconnection and isolation, and that is not a good thing.

Just when we thought things were coming to an end and our world began to open up, we saw the dreaded spike in numbers and things got locked down again. It was crushing. As we slowly begin to climb out again I pray for an end to the stress or at least a reduction of the struggle and grind of daily life in the middle of a pandemic.

As this pandemic began I went into self-preservation mode. I was not only quarantined in my home, but I was quarantined in my mind and it was not good. I played the worst-case scenario game in my head and was teetering on the edge of paranoia. I poured my energy into work and forgot about myself. My daily devotions stopped, my prayer life became stagnant and I was starting to spiral out of control. I know I'm not alone.

As society has made a huge pivot in daily routine, I have noticed that Satan has changed his tactics. Fear of the unknown, disconnection and isolation are the new fertile ground for spiritual warfare. The subtle whispers of Satan have been spoken in new ways and he has capitalized on our current situation to attempt to separate us from the Savior. While I have spent time inside the sanctuary at Bethany it has not been the same. The pews are empty. I have been speaking to a phone and in the beginning I was feeling more isolated than ever.

As I began to see what was taking place, I soon realized that I had given in to the father of lies. I know that God works through means and that I had insulated myself from Him. But God is not content with just letting us be. He pursues us ([Psalm 23:6](#)), He will always be with us ([Matthew 28:20](#)), He loves us unconditionally ([John 3:16](#)), and He is for us ([Romans 8:31](#)).

So, God in His wisdom pursued me. He came to me in encouraging emails and texts, uplifting Facebook posts, co-workers coming into my office and sharing life with me, Zoom calls with friends and family and the reminder that I am not alone. He has come to me in conversation with others that has flowed into conversation with Him as my prayer life gained momentum and my time in Scripture increased. He came to me during Holy Week as I stood outside the church office with my wife in bread and wine to remind me that I am not alone.

If you are feeling alone, may the Lord use these words to encourage you, uplift you and remind you of His presence today and always. As Moses encouraged Joshua during trying times may the Word speak to you today, ***“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified...for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you.”*** (Deuteronomy 31:6)

-Pastor Seth

## Bethany Youth Ministry News

Kayleigh Lopez - DCE, (562) 421-4711, ext. 18  
 \*Preferred method of contact - \*Text messages or call this  
 Number: (309) 397-6583 [klopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:klopez@bethanylutheran.org)

### **Important Form to have on File:**

**Youth Ministry Year Long Permission Form** - Families with Youth in Grades 3-12 **MUST have this form on file to participate in ANY & ALL YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS. New this year...** The Youth Ministry Year Long Permission Form is an **ONLINE FORM!** This form is good for September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021.

Click [HERE](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/youth-ministry-yearlong-permission-form/) to fill out this online form. If unable to open the link, copy/paste this into your browser for the form:  
<http://www.bethanylutheran.org/youth-ministry-yearlong-permission-form/>

### **CLUB 35 (gr.3-5):**

ALL Club 35 events and activities are currently on hold due to COVID-19 mandates.

### **MSG Middle School Group (gr.6-8):**

**What is it?** MSG is the Middle School Youth Group offered by Bethany Lutheran Church. Youth Group is a time for youth (gr.6-8) to come and hang out with one another, play games and spend time in God's Word. MSG normally gathers every Sunday morning (9:15-10:30AM) for MSG Bible Discovery and has MSG events on a weekly & monthly basis. **UNFORTUNATLEY...ALL MSG Bible Discovery & MSG EVENTS are currently on hold due to COVID-19 mandates. Future dates/events are TBD.** —Kayleigh Lopez

### **High School Youth Group (gr. 9-12):**

We're meeting in Hensley Square on **Sundays from 4:00-6:00PM** at a distance of 6 feet to make social distancing possible. All youth in attendance are required to wear a face mask since we'll be sitting in the same location for an extended period of time. Temperatures are taken when the youth arrive & cannot exceed 100.4. We ask that you self regulate. We ask that those who are in attendance follow the guidelines laid out by the CDC, State of California, the County of Los Angeles Public Health and the City of Long Beach Public Health If you haven't been feeling well, show any of the symptoms, been exposed to COVID-19 or have taken fever reducing medication in the last 24 hours; we ask that you remain home and take care of yourself.

- Bibles are provided & sanitized after use. You're more than welcome & encouraged to bring your own Bible.
- Hand sanitizer is provided.
- All chairs, tables & restrooms are sanitized before and after the evening.

### **Anchor (College Age/Young Adult):**

Anchor will be meeting every other week, moving back and forth between Mondays and Tuesdays evenings. Here is the Bible study schedule printed through December (the rest of the 2021 schedule is on Bethany's website on the Anchor page).

**\*Dates & times may be subject to change.**

September - Monday, 9/7 @ 7:30PM; Tuesday, 9/22 @ 7:30PM

October - Monday, 10/5 @ 7:30PM; Tuesday, 10/20 @ 7:30PM

November - Monday, 11/2 @ 7:30PM; Tuesday, 11/17 @ 7:30PM

December - Monday, 12/7 @ 7:30PM; Tuesday, 12/22 @ 7:30PM

*As of right now, Anchor will meet on Bethany's campus; understanding Covid-19 guidelines with social distancing and masks. I will be sending out a zoom link every week via the WhatsApp chat. If you would like to join the WhatsApp chat, please contact Kayleigh Lopez.*

—Kayleigh Lopez, Youth Minister ([klopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:klopez@bethanylutheran.org))

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**\*\*FOR AN UPDATE FOR THOSE YOUTH INTERESTED IN OR CONTINUING WITH  
 CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION...PLEASE SEE PAGE 12 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.\*\***

Kayleigh Lopez - DCE, (562) 421-4711, ext. 18  
\*Preferred method of contact - \*Text messages or call this  
Number: (309) 397-6583 [klopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:klopez@bethanylutheran.org)

## Confirmation News



We will be having a ***Student/Parent Informational Meeting*** for new & returning students (gr.6-8) regarding Confirmation. You only need to attend **ONE** of these dates; there are five time frames of your choice. Due to Covid-19 mandates we are asking you to register for ONE of these time frames so that we may maintain social distancing and number of attendees. There will be a maximum of 10 Confirmation families per time frame on the 26th & 27th. **Information on how to RSVP for one of the *Student/Parent Informational Meeting* times will be emailed to families by Wednesday, September 16th. Each meeting will run an hour to an hour & a half.**

### The *Student/Parent Informational Meeting* dates offered will be:

- **Saturday, September 26 at 4:00PM and 6:00PM**...both times are in person & at Bethany.
- **Sunday, September 27 at 11:00AM and 1:00PM**...both times are in person & at Bethany.
- **Monday, September 28 at 5:00PM**...this time is a ZOOM meeting and no limit to number of participants.

Once we have received the RSVP for the ***Student/Parent Information Meeting***, those who have signed up for the Zoom meeting on the 28th will receive a separate email with the Zoom meeting invitation links. Reminder for those attending the in-person at Bethany meetings to conduct a health check before coming, including taking temperatures. Do not attend if you or your child has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone in the last 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19. Parents and children must wear masks and we will be maintaining physical distance while on campus.

If you have any questions regarding these meetings, please contact Kayleigh Lopez.

## Communion Instruction Update



**For the families of youth that began Communion instruction this past Spring, we have an update for you to complete this instruction. An email was sent to these families.**

Bethany will be holding a Communion Camp on **Saturday, October 3rd** from 8:30-11:00AM.

As before, we ask that at least one parent/guardian attends this camp with their child(ren). You and your child(ren) will complete the entirety of the instruction during this time regardless of classes completed prior to COVID-19. We are blessed to utilize this time together as we Form Spiritually, Connect Deeply and Worship Faithfully; just as the disciples did with Christ and with one another.

More information is in the email sent to these families. If you did not receive this email or have any questions regarding this, please contact Kayleigh Lopez, [klopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:klopez@bethanylutheran.org).



# *lcms* INTERNATIONAL **MISSION**

SPREAD THE GOSPEL. PLANT LUTHERAN CHURCHES. SHOW MERCY.

## Mission of the Heart



### Dear Supporters,

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya! We pray that you are all well in the Lord. Please see our recent newsletter, telling you of the recent ministry going on here in Kenya. May God continue to bless and keep you all!

[Click this Button for Our Latest Newsletter](#)



A Project 24 student receives food.



Rev. Karino shares the Word of God with families of Project 24.

[Click this Button to Support Our Ministry](#)

\*If unable to open links with the buttons. Copy/paste these two links into your browser:

[https://mcusercontent.com/7632c42424c67f7addaf5fed2/files/073aade4-674b-404d-a994-4bc099800416/August\\_2020\\_newsletter.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/7632c42424c67f7addaf5fed2/files/073aade4-674b-404d-a994-4bc099800416/August_2020_newsletter.pdf)  
<https://www.lcms.org/odemba>

## Are You Receiving The Bethany Bullet?

The **Bethany Bullet** is a weekly capsule of worship highlights and big information that your brain may or may not have 'downloaded' from the prior Sunday. The purpose is to bolster you in faith, build you up in the key Biblical themes shared the previous Sunday in worship, to bring to mind the important issues on Bethany's plate and to broaden your awareness of opportunities of service to your Lord, your church, and your community.

Tell a friend about the **Bethany Bullet!** If you would like to receive the **Bethany Bullet** please email Aimee Coleman ([acoleman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:acoleman@bethanylutheran.org)) with your name and email address.

### 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. Click [HERE](#) to go to the GIVING webpage.

If you need further assistance contact Maralee Shaeffer, Financial Administrator at [mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org).



### Operation Christmas Child

Although the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted lives around the globe, Operation Christmas Child would like boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during these uncertain times.

**Bethany will again partner with Operation Christmas Child in collecting shoebox gifts in 2020.**

We will also serve as a collection site for the community during **National Collection Week, November 16-23**. Shoeboxes to fill will be available after church services in mid-October. A member at Holy Cross Lutheran in Cypress has been hand crafting wooden toy cars for shoeboxes and has generously donated hundreds of these for our 2020 collection. A selection of these free cars will be available on the Sundays shoeboxes are distributed.

If packing a traditional shoebox just isn't an option for you this year, you can pack a box online by visiting this link:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

Stay-tuned for other updates, including ways to serve at Bethany during National Collection week or at the Processing Center in Fullerton in December.

**Kahana Smith,**

562.377-3673 (home) or 310.387-0728 (cell)  
Operation Christmas Child Committee



## Get the Scoop on Scrip!



Happy Fall! Have you heard about the latest Scrip technology!? Shop With Scrip has gotten into the app game! You can now access Scrip from your smartphone with the Raise Right app. Now you never have to miss a bonus event or be without Scrip when you need it! Everything in one place including all the top brands you love to shop - anytime you want, anywhere you go! Give it a try and watch your rebate soar to new heights!

*The Raise Right app is replacing MyScripWallet - you will need to make the change to the app in order to use this awesome on-the-go feature of the Scrip program.*

As we head into the fall season, don't forget to buy Scrip for all your decorating and grocery needs. Grocery : Stater Bros, Vons, Albertsons, Sprouts and Smart & Final. Decorating : Target, Home Goods, Walmart and World Market. Again - so many opportunities to grow your rebate! Thanks in advance for supporting the Scrip program!



Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator

[rlopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:rlopez@bethanylutheran.org) or 562-420-7783 ext. 58

## “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10

Stop talking  
Switch off your phone  
Stop commenting  
Listen  
Stop arguing  
Stop questioning  
Stop moaning

Stop doubting  
Be sure  
Have faith  
No second opinion

God is Almighty  
God is in control  
God is Love  
God is King  
God is my hope, rock,  
fortress  
God is ever-present, a  
help in times of  
trouble.  
God is my Father  
God is my shepherd -  
He will lead me  
nourish me,  
protect me  
& restore me.



**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4644 Clark Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90808

Phone: 562-421-4711

FAX: 562-429-1693

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*[www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)*

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### Church Office Hours:

**Our office hours will be Monday-Thursday from 7:30AM-Noon. Closed on Fridays.**

**\*Offices are closed **Wednesday, November 11** in observance of Veterans' Day.**

**\*NO Printable Calendar for this Chimes: Fall 2020 Edition.**



**CHIMES: FALL 2020 Edition**