

# Heart Matters

Your Connection to Bethany Lutheran Church and Littlest Angels Preschool

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[www.Bethany-MP.org](http://www.Bethany-MP.org) • [www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com](http://www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com)

**February 2018**

## News from Pastor Jon

**"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others."**

**Philippians 2:3-4**



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- February Episodes of Lifetree Café Menlo Park
- Upcoming Events
  - Knitting Group (2/1)
  - The Super Bowl Viewing Party – Lighthouse Halftime worship service (2/4)
  - Monthly Breakfast Bible Studies (2/10)
  - LWML Zone 8 Morning of Prayer, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain View (2/17)
  - Church and Preschool offices closed (2/19, 2/20)
  - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)

.. and much more!

What would the world be like if all people were to follow these words of truth from St. Paul which reflect the message of Jesus to, "Love your neighbor as yourself."? The struggle we have in this life is that all of us also have the internal drive for self-preservation. Often, we allow that drive to take over other aspects of our lives. I can hear myself saying things like, "I did not deserve to have someone treat me like that?" or similarly, "I should be respected more than that!" While we can argue about the validity of the reality behind these thoughts, our lives change dramatically when we adopt the message of Jesus which calls us to truly care for our neighbor.

Luther was a proponent of the idea that all people are called to vocations. A vocation is a "life work" or something you do during your life. He named many of these wife/husband, son/daughter, brother/sister, mother/father. However, he also included the jobs we may have, the positions of authority we may hold, and the things we do as volunteers. Luther wanted us to understand what St. Paul was stating. When we follow Christ our vocations become more important because they provide us an opportunity to care for the interests of other people!

This is not an easy concept to internalize in our minds and it is an even more difficult concept to put into action. For each of us, we need to consider the things we do in our lives and then consider how we can put the interests of our peers, friends, acquaintances, and customers ahead of our own interests. We need to consider how Jesus did all of this for us, not only when he died on the cross, but during his time of ministry as well. When we “pick up our cross and follow Jesus” we are following his call to care for all of creation in the places where God has planted us to live our lives.

Sadly, Valentine’s Day has become an opportunity to sell flowers, jewelry and chocolates. I encourage you to consider the concept of Valentine’s Day in the spirit of the Christian, St. Valentine, who wrote to people from prison expressing his love for people. It was this vocation, or life work, which led to a holiday we still celebrate and traditions which are all about the words of St. Paul.

God’s Peace,  
Pastor Jon

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## **Bible Basics with Pastor Tom**

“He was transfigured before them.”

I don’t have visions. At least I haven’t so far. So, passages like these tend to leave me wondering.

I wonder why God did what he did here. Why bring the three disciples (and only three) to the top of the mountain? Why is Jesus transfigured before them... why this vision of Jesus? Why does the Father reiterate his pleasure with his Son that he first voiced at Jesus’ baptism?

I’m probably in good company here since the disciples seem unsure of what to make of this as well. They were briefly terrified, then befuddled. Peter’s pronouncement that it was good to be there and that maybe they should build three shelters has always seemed to me to indicate that he didn’t really know what to make of what he had just witnessed.

It’s all quite... glorious... but why this event?

I’ve come to believe that it’s one of those events the disciples were to remember and then to reflect upon in hindsight. After Jesus road to Jerusalem, cross, tomb, and resurrection they would remember this event. They would remember and it would give them confirmation of the truth of Jesus’ resurrection (“We’d already seen him glorified... remember; this resurrection isn’t just an hallucination!”).

It would also serve as a way to bookend their difficult lives of faith through the trying days that were sure to come. In the middle of their struggles they would look back to Jesus’ transfiguration and ahead to their own resurrection with him on the last day. It would give them hope.

There are probably other meanings in this astounding event. But this one is true for us as well. We always live bearing the cross. In many ways, life is lived in Lent with only brief reminders of glory and resurrection.

So, again, we go with our doubts up the mountain with the disciples. Again we stand with them not fully comprehending who Jesus is. And again we head onward under the cross trusting that this one, Jesus, is the One in whom we can and should put all of our hope for light in dark days and for life in the midst of death.

Pax,  
Pastor Tom

## Women's Ministries

**The mission donation for February will go to Project WeHOPE in East Palo Alto.**



Project WeHOPE is an acronym for **We Help Other People Excel**. Project WeHOPE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization in East Palo Alto, but serve both Palo Alto and other cities within the San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. A primary focus and mission of Project WeHOPE is to help rebuild the lives of those in our community, especially the homeless, underserved, and at-risk individuals.

**Project WeHOPE**, in partnership with several agencies, takes a holistic approach to ending homelessness by offering overnight/warming shelter, food, dental care, health services, transportation, job training, financial literacy training, 12-step substance abuse program, communication skills for married and single individuals, and a transitional housing program.

Project WeHOPE also operates "Dignity On Wheels" -- a mobile shower and laundry trailer for the homeless community.

At Christmastime, our congregation gave Project WeHOPE 72 "Reverse Advent Calendar" boxes to hand out to the homeless community at their Annual Christmas Dinner. The recipients were so thankful to receive the gift boxes! We thank our members and friends for making a difference in the lives of our homeless neighbors.

To learn more about Project WeHOPE and how you can help, go to [www.projectwehope.org](http://www.projectwehope.org).

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## Announcement

**News about Charlie Rodondi:** I want to protect Charlie's privacy while at the same time providing some basic information to his friends at Bethany who have been asking about Charlie. In late November, Charlie experienced a fall at home which caused a trauma to his brain. His physical recovery has been good, but his memory is still disoriented at this time. Charlie is receiving compassionate help from his cousin. She has found a place for Charlie's rehabilitation, although there are some concerns that he may never have full intellectual and memory abilities he once possessed. Please keep Charlie in your prayers.

# Angelic News - Littlest Angels Preschool

## LOVE ADDS A LITTLE CHOCOLATE

"A house is a house - until **love** comes through the door, that is. And **love** intuitively goes around sprinkling that special brand of angel dust that transforms a house into a very special home for very special people. MONEY, of course, can build a charming house, but only **love** can furnish it with a feeling of home. DUTY can pack an adequate sack lunch, but **love** may decide to enclose a little **love** note inside. RESPONSIBILITY sends the children to bed on time, but **love** tucks the covers in around their necks and passes out kisses and hugs and takes time to listen to goodnight prayers. OBLIGATION can cook a meal, but **love** embellishes the table with flowers and candles, just because! DUTY writes many letters, but **love** adds a joke or a picture or a fresh stick of gum inside. COMPULSION keeps a sparkling house. But **love** and prayer stand a better chance of producing a happy family. DUTY gets offended quickly if it isn't appreciated but **love** learns to laugh a lot and to work for the sheer joy of doing it. OBLIGATION can pour a glass of milk, but quite often, **LOVE ADDS A LITTLE CHOCOLATE.**" (...and a cookie!) - Linda Anderson

It's February and we all know LOVE is certainly being sprinkled around in massive amounts. You can see the valentine paper hearts, candy hearts and the L-O-V-E word everywhere you look! I once read about being God's perpetual Valentine. "As God's Valentine, we never question to whom we are sent. You see our Father – who art in heaven, home and heart - moves us to reach out to everyone. No exceptions...as God's Valentine, you have a big heart - big enough for all to share."

What a responsibility. It is comforting for me to know that Jesus is daily walking right beside me - holding my hand and helping me do His will. In each of our daily lives we come into contact with many needing our love and concern. It is God's will that we reach out and share a bit of our heart with them and truly be his "living Valentine" every day-- not just on February 14th. We LOVE because HE first LOVED us. It's that simple. God is love. When God lives in our hearts His love will come "bubbling" through.


A story is told about a little girl who was going to have open-heart surgery. She was apprehensive but she showed remarkable courage because she believed in Jesus and His love. Just before she went to the operating room she looked up at her doctor and said, "I know you are going to open up my heart." "That's right sweetheart." said the doctor. "Well when you open my heart, Jesus is in there. Don't take Him out." The Dr. reassured the little girl and then turned toward the window to wipe away a tear and whisper a prayer.

Oh the sweet, confident faith of a child. Every day we can learn from them. It is a joy to be God's Valentine here at Littlest Angels Preschool. The little ones have such moldable hearts and minds. They look at the world with wide-eyed wonder as they seek to figure out what it all means. It is our job as adults to show them by our LOVE actions. And of course, by adding a little bit of chocolate!

Keep Jesus in your Heart!

Kathy Stinson  
Director





# Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

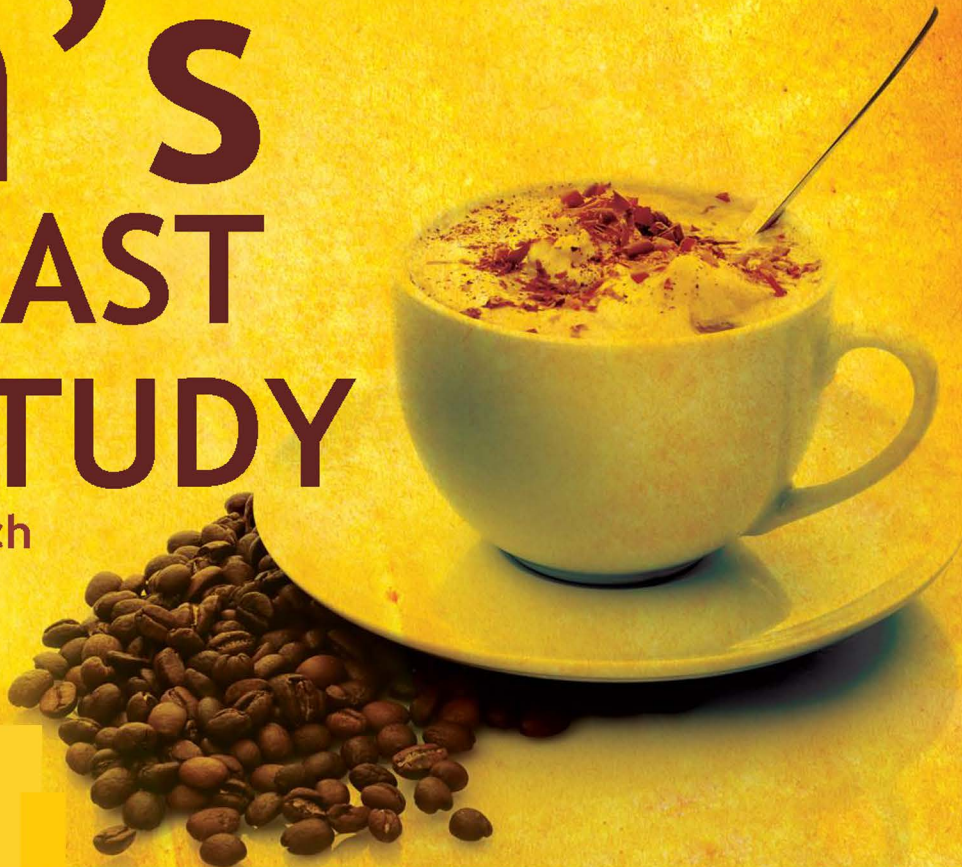
Saturday, February 10

9:00 – 10:30 AM

# Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,  
February 10



## *Morning of Prayer*



*Who am I? What is my identity?*

*When:* Saturday, February 17, 2018

*Where:* St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1075 El Monte Ave., Mountain View  
Rev. Aaron Smith— Prayer Leader

*Time:* 9:30 am Coffee and Pastries  
10:00 am Prayer Service

*Contact Person:* Shelly Alba  
650-574-0485 or [Shelly@cnh-lcms.org](mailto:Shelly@cnh-lcms.org)

*Many factors come to mind when we think of who we are — our identity. In his first letter, Peter continually reminds his readers of their identity. Rather than focus on inane worldly details, he zeroes in on what's most important: our standing in the eyes of God or our place in His kingdom.*

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, . . ."*  
*1 Peter 2:9-12*



LWML CNH Zone 8





# LENTEN CALENDAR

## February 2018

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Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday Service	12:00 noon
	Ash Wednesday Luncheon	12:30 PM
	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Wednesday, February 21	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Wednesday, February 28	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM

## March 2018

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Wednesday, March 7	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 14	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Wednesday, March 21	Lenten Service	12:00 noon
	Lenten Luncheon	12:30 PM
Thursday, March 29	Seder Dinner	6:00 PM
Friday, March 30	Good Friday Service	12:00 noon
	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM



Now Showing in  
**February 2018**



(for FAQ's)



## **Whistleblower**

The true story of  
an **FBI** informant

## **IN THE NEWS**

## **Does God Have a Plan for You?**

One woman's quest  
to save 300 babies

## **Finding the Family I Never Knew**

A story of separation,  
adoption, and reunion

**FREE**  
TO THE  
PUBLIC!