

Heart Matters

Your Connection to Bethany Lutheran Church and Littlest Angels Preschool

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www.bethany-mp.org • www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com

June – July 2018

News from Pastor Jon

"A friend loves at all time, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Proverbs 17:17

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 - **First Day of Summer (6/21)**
 - **Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.)**
 - **Lighthouse (Sundays @ 5:00 p.m.)**
 - **... and much more!**



In the Gospel of St. John, Jesus states, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." It is a clear reference to the sacrifice Jesus will make when he goes to the cross and dies for our sins. However, Jesus also states this, in the Gospel of St. John, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

For me this raises a bunch of questions about how I live my life and how I treat the people who are friends in Christ. Jesus has given us the greatest gift by laying down His life for all of us when we were rebellious sinners against God's plan for creation. We are often tempted to feel like we were "pretty good people" when in fact, there is no difference between people because all of us have sinned and all of us were separated from God. Jesus made all the difference through His perfect death for us, bringing us salvation. Jesus then calls us to follow Him.

The problem is that as we follow Jesus we have a tendency to notice the sins of others, and a greater tendency to want to tell people about their sins. We judge, we talk about our judgements, and we change how we treat other people. Jesus calls us back, by reminding us of our forgiveness and pointing out that we are called to love others as Jesus first loved us. We are not called to judge. We are called to love people with the love Jesus gave to us. The Law is perfectly capable of showing people their sins and does not need our judgment as help. The Gospel is perfectly capable of showing Jesus' forgiveness of sin, but God invites us to be part of that process. Amazing Grace is that God loves us so much that we get to share the Good News with others.

What seems like a job, or a burden, becomes an opportunity when we revisit the words of Solomon. A friend loves at all times...ALL TIMES. We are thankful that Jesus loves us at ALL TIMES. In fact, we can be sure that if Jesus were choosing, Jesus would choose to avoid loving us when we are sinful. That is the point of amazing Grace – that Jesus loves us at ALL TIMES and regardless of what we are doing or thinking or saying. Similarly Jesus calls us to love our neighbor in the same way – with the amazing Grace Jesus provides.

It is not easy to love all people all the time. It is not easy to share the message of Jesus when we feel rejected. However, when we dwell in the love that Jesus provides, when we notice how Jesus loves us all the time, it becomes easier...even exciting to share with others how much Jesus loves them.

God's Peace,
Pastor Jon

Tongan Relief Effort

On Sunday, June 10th, we will have a breakfast to raise funds for people in Tonga impacted by Cyclone Gita. There are a couple of things to know about this effort. First, here is some information about the cyclone: "Throughout its path in the South Pacific, Cyclone Gita affected multiple island nations and territories. Tonga was the hardest-hit, with severe damage occurring on the islands of Tongatapu and 'Eua; two fatalities and forty-one injuries occurred in the kingdom. At least 171 homes were destroyed and more than 1,100 suffered damage." Tongatapu is the main island of Tonga.

Second, this is the second time a cyclone has hit Tonga and caused major damage. Third, even in the best of times, Tongan people have limited ways to support their families and most live without the basic things we take for granted in our lives.

However, there is good news and God has been working in ways we could not have expected. Orphan Grain Train came to Bethany a few weeks ago and we noticed the solar ovens they send to people in need. They will help us get solar ovens to Tonga, but they offered to work on much more than that. We have not confirmed the full amount they will do to help us, but they were clear in their desire to help us help the people of Tonga. More will be announced at the breakfast, but I hope you will be able to attend to support this relief effort and to hear about the partnership God is creating.

Women's Ministries

The mission donation for June will go to Inde Creative

Inde Creative is the new recipient of our annual June donation. I learned about Inde Creative from Pastor Jon Coyne. His friend from Mt. Shasta, Bryson Adams, founder of Inde Creative, sent him a book on the Nicaraguan Black Pottery Cooperative that tells the history of black pottery and illustrates the beautiful artistry. This is one of the projects in which Inde Creative worked with local residents, who had a passion for preserving black pottery, to establish a successful business in a poverty-stricken community. Inde Creative will forward our donation to the Black Pottery Cooperative in Nicaragua. Please go to www.nicablackpottery.com/home for more information.



Inde Creative is a nonprofit organization that uses creativity to empower and equip passionate entrepreneurs in developing nations. As part of a global community focused on alleviating poverty, Inde Creative works toward the goal of helping people get their foot on the path of development. They start by identifying potential economic opportunities in a community and work together with passionate local entrepreneurs to support the development and promotion of their unique and viable ideas. Through their creative services they supply the tools, resources and training that empower and equip people to drive the growth of their businesses and create opportunities to thrive.

Inde Creative services include:

- professional photography for business marketing and promotion, product presentation, and storytelling;
- professional video for powerful visual storytelling, branding and market, and product promotion;
- graphic design for professional branding and related marketing and promotional materials;
- professional web design for business details, product presentation, and contact information;
- full-service book writing, design, and publishing for topics related to culture, history and people;
- specialized training and consulting to empower entrepreneurs and ensure project success.

For more information, go to www.indecreative.org.

The mission donation for July will go to Holt International Children's Services

Moved by Christian faith, Holt International seeks a world where every child has the support and resources to reach their full potential — a world where every child has a loving and secure home.

Since Holt International's founding in 1956, they have worked toward their vision through [programs that strengthen and preserve families](#) that are at risk of separation; by providing critical care and support to orphaned and vulnerable children; and by leading the global community in finding families for children who need them and providing the pre- and post-adoption support and resources they need to thrive.

The focus is always on each child's unique needs — keeping the child's best interest and God-given potential at the forefront of every decision.

For more information, please go to www.holtinternational.org.



Infant Diaper Donation Box



Bethany's Women's Ministries has a partnership with New Creation Home Ministries (NCHM) located in East Palo Alto.

Their ministry is a comprehensive, Christian ministry serving young mothers (ages 13-22) offering:

- > Two residential programs for mothers and their children
- > Weekly parenting classes
- > Weekly Bible studies
- > Educational, vocational, emotional, & spiritual support services

We have an on-going collection of disposable infant diapers to benefit NCHM. The Infant Diaper Donation Box is in the Family Center. All diaper sizes are needed – from newborn to toddler pull-ups.

Thank you for your donations and support of this wonderful, local Christian ministry!



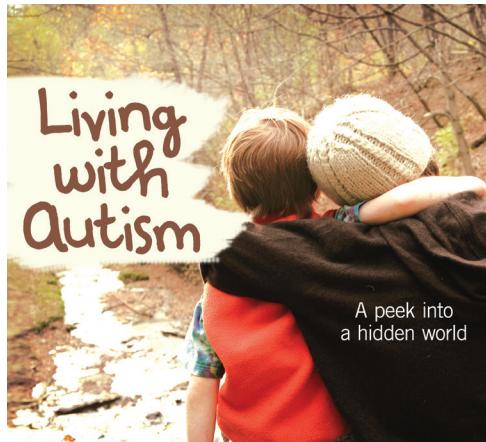
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JUNE 2018

lifetreecafe.com



FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC



FatherLess

Getting past the pain of an
absent or abusive dad



Money, Money, Money

Stories
from a
lottery
winner



Parents' Night Out



Bethany Lutheran Church
Saturday, August 4, 2018 • 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: The Bubble Show

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

Advance registration is required. Registration deadline: Friday, July 27.
Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
No refunds after July 27.

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

JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Trinity Sunday 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	28 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Memorial Day 4:00 PM N. Isaacs & P. Chen - Private Recital & Reception	29 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	30 6:30 PM Exploring Teen Suicide - A Necessary Conversation (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	31 Last day of Preschool: no after care 9:30 AM Walking Group	1 10:00 AM Preschool Graduation for Pre-K 1:00 PM Retirement Party Set-up	2 6:00 PM Kathy Stinson's Retirement Party
3 9:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	4 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	5 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	6 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 6:30 PM Living with Autism - A Peak into a Hidden World (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	7 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group	8 Littlest Angels Preschool closed 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	9 4:00 PM M. Beckstrom - Private Pre-concert Event 6:00 PM M. Beckstrom - Private Concert
10 * Happy Mail Sunday * 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Tongan Relief Fundraising Breakfast 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	11 Preschool Summer Session I Begins	12 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	13 6:30 PM In the News (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	14 Flag Day 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:00 AM Piano Tuning 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group	15 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	16
17 Father's Day 9:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	18 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	19 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	20 6:30 PM Fatherless - Getting Past the Pain of an Absent or Abusive Dad (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	21 First Day of Summer 9:30 AM Walking Group	22 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	23
24 9:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	25	26 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	27 6:30 PM Money, Money, Money - Stories from a Lottery Winner (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	28 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group	29 Preschool Summer Session I Ends 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	30

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

Join us for Sunday Worship



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