

# 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)

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**May 2018**

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## News from Pastor Jon

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6**



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  - **CNH District Convention - Sacramento, CA (5/11-5/12)**
  - **Knitting Group (5/3)**
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  - **Congregational Meeting (5/6)**
  - **Family Night @ Stanford Baseball (5/18)**
  - **Memorial Day (5/28)**
  - **Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)**

**.. and much more!**

Sooner or later we all face trials in our lives where we will want to understand as much as possible. We will want this understanding in order to make a decision, or in order to feel comfortable when we do not get to make a decision, or when we feel lost in a flurry of events which leave us confused. The problem with information is that depending upon the source, our information may change.

As we prepared for my recent valve replacement, there were numerous times when I was provided information. At times, I would question the information because I knew of other people who had a different experience. I found out that some people have been trained to provide the most conservative estimate possible, so that the patient is not disappointed by hopes for the best possible result. While I understand the value of this strategy, it tends to make the patient less optimistic. Other people will share a more hopeful scenario, which certainly sounds good, but does little to prepare a person for the things that may not work well. Why do we end up in these situations?

Perhaps the Oracle – from the movie series The Matrix – sums it up best when she is asked about the future and states, "No one can see past a decision which has

not been made." We human beings are not able to see the future because it is changing. Similarly Yoda, in Star Wars says, "Future – hard to see, always in motion." We struggle with this reality, which is why it shows up in our movies as a reflection of life.

Heading into surgery and knowing myself, I knew that once I had enough information, I would be calm. Perhaps more calm than most, or perhaps calm only because I had no choice. Yet, at the last moment, when I was alone and prepped for the procedure a couple of things changed. (More would change while I was asleep.) The doctors were discussing the level of my anesthesia and whether or not I would need a certain procedure during the surgery. Change is frightening and that moment of discomfort came forward. This is when the words above bring great comfort. We can place our hope and our trust in God who knows ALL things.

Just before I was put to sleep, I found out that nothing had changed because the discussion went back to the original plan. When I woke up I found out there were a number of things the doctors did not have to do – and I was very happy to realize this. As much as I wanted to "know everything" I could not, and it was not necessary. God was there to provide the comfort I needed.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the people who receive this newsletter who have prayed, called, emailed, written, or in some other ways brought comfort to me and my family during this recent time of healing. It is clear that prayers were answered and I am enjoying the healing process. May God bless us all with the wisdom and compassion to bring the message of God's presence to other people in the midst of their times of trial.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Jon

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## Announcements

**Date Change for the May Men's & Women's Breakfast Bible Study** – The Breakfast Bible Study groups will meet will meet on Saturday, May 5, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar and join us for our last Bible study. We'll meet again beginning in September.

**Congregational Meeting – May 6** – The Congregational Meeting will be held on May 6, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. There will be a financial update. Also, Bethany Lutheran Church Bylaws have been recently reviewed and revised. Approval is by congregational vote which will take place during this congregational meeting. Copies of the bylaws are available in the church office.

**Stained Glass Windows Dedication** – On Sunday May 6, there will be a dedication of the stained glass windows during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

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# Bible Basics by Pastor Tom Norris

## The Next Five Books I'm Reading

As the “teaching pastor” at Bethany, most of my teaching here has been focused on the books of the Bible. It is foundationally important to know God’s Word and to be able to think through how they inform our faith in order to apply that faith to our lives. However, it’s also good to read the books of those who have reflected deeply on the faith in order better to understand how this ancient “faith once delivered to the saints” is also the fresh breeze of life for the world today.

This month, I thought I’d share with you the next five books I’m reading to help me think through some contemporary issues in light of Christian faith. This is also the order I’ll be reading them.

### **Sexy: The Quest for Erotic Virtue in Perplexing Times**

*Jeff Mallinson*

Jeff is a professor at Concordia University Irvine (my alma mater) and co-host of the podcast “Virtue in the Wasteland.” In this book he explores a subject the church has had great difficulty addressing in a gospel-centered way our current hyper-sexualized culture.

### **Monsters: Addiction, Hope, Ex-girlfriends, and Other Dangerous Things**

*Daniel van Voorhis*

Until recently, Dan was also a professor at Concordia University Irvine. Now, along with co-hosting “Virtue in the Wasteland,” he serves as Director of the League of Faithful Masks and is Scholar-in-Residence of the 1517 Legacy project. In *Monsters* he shares his own very personal story of dealing with darkness and brokenness and yet finding hope.

### **How to Think: A Survival Guide for a World at Odds**

*Alan Jacobs*

Alan is Distinguished Professor of the Humanities in the Honors Program at Baylor University. Thinking is hard; especially so in a culture with a 24-hour news cycle fueled by the Outrage of the Day. Jacob wants us to remember how to think, and to think as Christians.

### **Fear and Trembling** (re-reading this one)

*Soren Kierkegaard*

I read this one in seminary and have been frequently thought about re-reading it. Now’s my chance. *Fear and Trembling* is an examination of questions about the source of good and evil through the lens of the story of Abraham being told to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

### **The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate**

*John H. Walton*

Walton is professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College. Here he explores the creation story in light of other creation stories from the ancient near east to explore what the Biblical creation story has to say about the nature of the creation, creation’s God, and how we understand the world in which we live.

I'm also going to be doing an online book study of one of these, which one I haven't yet decided. When I make up my mind I'll let you know which one and how to join in on the online study.

Pax,  
Pastor Tom

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## Women's Ministries

### **The mission donation for May will go to St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room**

This mission is close to home, located on Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, and close to our hearts. St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room first opened its doors in 1974 to serve the low-income elderly with a weekend meal supplement in a social and friendly atmosphere. However, the need quickly grew into a daily operation.

**Hot Meal Program** – The Dining Room helps to answer the needs of its local community by providing, hot, nourishing meals Monday to Saturday year-round to all who come seeking a meal and a safe place to eat. On holidays – Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, their patronage nearly doubles, rising to as much as 1,200. Daily between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., patrons are provided with a buffet-style well-rounded lunch that is served by volunteers.

**Groceries** – The Dining Room provides surplus basic foodstuffs, fresh fruits and vegetables as well as bread products to patrons in paper and plastic grocery bags. This service allows their guests to transport and prepare fresh meals at home. Items vary daily but typically include a mix of bread, pastries, canned and packaged goods, as well as varieties of fresh produce.

For more information, go to [www.paduadiningroom.com](http://www.paduadiningroom.com).

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## Doebler Scholarship

Applications are now available for the Doebler Scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year. These college scholarships are intended to encourage students toward Lutheran higher education. If you are considering college this year or in the future, Lutheran colleges have core strengths in a variety of areas. See Pastor Coyne for further details.

Applications are simple (no essays required!). Get yours now in the church office or visit [www.bethany-mp.org/scholarship](http://www.bethany-mp.org/scholarship). Deadline for submission is Monday, May 21.

These awards are a result of the Doebler Trust disbursement to Bethany in 2012 and the decision by Bethany's Board of Directors to designate \$3000 annually for scholarships, sometimes awarded to one student and other times divided among several others, depending on the number of qualified applicants. Students attending Lutheran colleges have priority **but those attending other colleges are welcome to apply and may be considered.**

We give thanks for the wise stewardship and generous gift from the Doeblers that made this possible.

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# Angelic News - Littlest Angels Preschool

## What's in Your Heart?

Although outward beauty may be seen  
All painted on with a brush so fair  
Its shallowness can be revealed  
In our actions unaware.

Like an oyster in the ocean  
It's outer shell so plain and dull,  
But when you look inside of it,  
There's a pearl so beautiful.

But inner beauty is much more rare  
And it comes from God above.  
It is shown in how we act  
And how we show His love.

I hope to be like the oyster,  
When you look inside you'll see,  
A heart so warm and beautiful,  
And see God's love inside of me.

Ruth Johnson

Our chapel lessons the past few weeks have been about Jesus appearing to His friends to show them that He was truly alive! Even though we can't see Jesus He wants us to know that He is real and that He's with us all the time.

I asked the children if they had ever seen or touched Jesus. None had. Then I asked them, "How can we know and believe in Jesus if we have never seen Him?"

The children know about the Bible. It's God's Word and everything in it is true! We can believe in Jesus because "the Bible tells us so!" When we believe in Jesus He lives in our hearts and minds. I asked the children if Jesus was in their hearts. Of course, they all said "Yes! Jesus is in our hearts!" Then I said. "I don't know if I can believe you. I can't see Him. How do I know He's in your little heart?" Now I really got their minds spinning. One little guy raised his hand and declared, "You can't see Him because I have skin on!" Out of the mouths of babes! I told him he was right and then we continued talking about ways that people can tell we believe in Jesus—our actions will show people! Our listening ears, helping hands, I-care language, caring about each other's feelings and being responsible for what we say and do will show others that Jesus is in our hearts!

Later in the day one group of boys and girls were pretending they had on x-ray glasses and they said, "I can see Jesus in your heart!" Goodness hearing that melted my heart! Have you seen Jesus? He truly is here—right in plain view.

I would like to close with a quote from Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." On June 15<sup>th</sup>, I will be retiring from Littlest Angels. I can say, without a doubt, that all the dear children who have attended this special place for "growing" children have indeed stolen my heart. I will carry so many fond memories made in the last 18 years with me where-ever I go and as long as I live. And I won't cry because it's over, but I will continue to smile and thank the good Lord, because it happened. Thank you all for your warm and beautiful hearts! God bless us all!

Teacher Kathy

# BETHANY'S ANNUAL STANFORD BASEBALL FAMILY NIGHT

You must RSVP  
& pay online to  
reserve a ticket



**FRIDAY, MAY 18TH**  
**TAILGATING: 4:30 - 6:00 P.M.**  
**GAME STARTS: 6:05 P.M.**  
**FIREWORKS AFTER THE GAME!**  
**\$20 PER PERSON**

**COST COVERS A RESERVED SEAT  
AND HOSTED TAILGATE PARTY**

**RSVP & Pay online at: [www.bethany-mp.org/familynight](http://www.bethany-mp.org/familynight)**  
**For more info, contact: Pilar at [pilar@bethany-mp.org](mailto:pilar@bethany-mp.org)**

Join us for a great night with family and friends as  
Stanford takes on Washington State at Diamond Stadium.  
Enjoy the hosted tailgate party in lot 95 at Galvez & Nelson.



NOW SHOWING

MAY 2018

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FREE  
TO THE  
PUBLIC

Where Is God  
When Life  
Turns Tough?

Moving from doubt to hope



IN THE  
NEWS

An hour of  
civil conversation

God and Gays

Exploring  
Teen Suicide  
A necessary  
conversation





# Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

Saturday, May 5

9:00 – 10:30 AM



# Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,  
May 5

# MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> * LWML CNH Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Newark 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship Service 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>2</b> 1:30 PM Church Office Admin. Meeting 2:00 PM Lifetree Café Set-up 6:30 PM Bible Study: Proverbs 6:30 PM Emergency! Make Room for God (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> National Day of Prayer 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 11:30 AM Knitting Group	<b>4</b> 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 4:00 PM Breakfast Bible Study Set-up	<b>5</b> 5:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study 5:30 PM Parents' Night Out
<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship Service 10:45 AM Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Music 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>9</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting Set-up 6:30 PM Bible Study: Proverbs 6:30 PM Where Is God When Life Turns Tough? (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>10</b> Mother's Day Teas 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group	<b>11</b> CNH District Convention - Sacramento, CA Mother's Day Teas 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 5:00 PM Youth Groups - "Avenger" Movie Night 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers - Live Music	<b>12</b> CNH District Convention - Sacramento, CA 9:00 AM J. & K. Kupetino - Private Event Set-up 2:00 PM J. & K. Kupetino - Private Event
<b>13</b> * Happy Mail Sunday * Mother's Day 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship Service 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	<b>14</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>15</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>16</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 2:00 PM Lifetree Café Set-up 6:30 PM Bible Study: Proverbs 6:30 PM In the News (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>17</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel	<b>18</b> Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 4:30 PM Bethany's Annual Stanford Baseball Family Night Tailgate: 4:30pm; Game: 6:05 pm - Stanford Vs. Washington 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers 10:00 PM L. Cornell Baptism set-up	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Private Event - Leo Cornell's Baptism & Brunch
<b>20</b> Pentecost 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship Service 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Music 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Preschool Music 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>23</b> 1:30 PM Church Office Admin. Meeting 2:00 PM Lifetree Café Set-up 6:30 PM Bible Study: Proverbs 6:30 PM God and Gays (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Walking Group 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group	<b>25</b> 9:40 AM Preschool Chapel 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	<b>26</b> 9:30 PM Sarah Vay Kerns - Private Flute Recital Rehearsals 4:00 PM Sarah Vay Kerns - Private Flute Recital & Reception
<b>27</b> Trinity Sunday 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship Service 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 3:00 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Bible Study 4:00 PM "Avy & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service	<b>28</b> Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Memorial Day 4:00 PM N. Isaacs & P. Chen - Private Recital & Reception	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	<b>30</b> 2:00 PM Lifetree Café Set-up 6:30 PM Bible Study: Proverbs 6:30 PM Exploring Teen Suicide - A Necessity Conversation (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	<b>31</b> Last day of Preschool: no after care 9:30 AM Walking Group Set-up	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Preschool Graduation for Pre-K 1:00 PM Retirement Party Set-up	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Kathy Stinson's Retirement Party

Bethany Lutheran Church  
1095 Cloud Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025



## **Join us for Sunday Worship**

9:30 a.m.  
Worship/Communion

5:00 p.m.  
Lighthouse

every Sunday