

Heart Matters

Your Connection to Bethany Lutheran Church and Littlest Angels Preschool

1095 Cloud Avenue • Menlo Park • CA • 94025 • Church: 650.854.5897 • Preschool: 650.854.4973
www.Bethany-MP.org • www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com

January 2018

News from Pastor Jon

**"But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
Micah 5:2**



"...And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

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- Youth Group News
- Men's & Women's Breakfast Bible Studies (1/13)
- January Episodes of Lifetree Café Menlo Park
- Parents' Night Out (1/27)
- Upcoming Events
 - Knitting Group (1/4)
 - Monthly Breakfast Bible Studies (1/13)
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1/15 - offices closed)
 - Board of Directors Meeting (1/25)
 - Lifetree Café (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Winter Bible Study (Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM)
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Wednesdays @ 7:45 PM)
 - Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sundays @ 11:00 AM)

... and much more!

You have just read two passages from a short book in the Old Testament written by the prophet Micah. The first is read every Christmas Eve in our 10:00 candlelight service and it is one of the verses which provides context about the town of Bethlehem and therefore the hymn, O Little Town of Bethlehem. The second verse follows after an interesting group of passages describe how God will bring Israel back to her former glory. There is an interesting irony found in these two passages which surround the grand statements of how God will restore the people of Israel.

The Israelites struggled with prophetic passages about the coming Messiah. Bethlehem continued to be a small, unimportant town long after Micah had left this earth and entered eternal life. No one was expecting that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem to a woman who was not married when she became pregnant. All of these prophecies are in the Bible, but they were not seen as clearly as they would be seen once they were fulfilled. In all parts

of these prophecies, the small, forgotten, unimportant towns and people are the places where God sends mercy in the form of Jesus.

Then after the promise of greatness for Israel, after the promise of a return to prosperity which Israel had once known, the people are told to “act justly” and “to love mercy” and to “walk humbly with God.” In the midst of your greatest accomplishments are these the ideas that come to mind? When you are feeling “on top of the world” are these the thoughts that permeate your decisions on how to act? When we win in America, we boast about it! When we win in Silicon Valley, we show it! When Israel becomes great again... they are told to be humble. That seems ironic indeed. The “little guys” (Bethlehem and the Israelites) finally wins and they are told to “stay humble”?

I have to admit that I find it difficult for myself and I assume it is difficult for others to live in our communities and stay focused on this passage of Micah. Remember it is prophetic and therefore talks about what people should do on an ongoing basis after the coming of Jesus. We are surrounded by commercials telling us what to purchase in order to have a wonderful Christmas. We even get caught up in our own needs to “do everything” we feel should be done in order to have a fantastic Christmas. When Christmas is over can we look back and see that we “acted justly”, “loved mercy” and “walked humbly with our God”?

This year, I have been blessed to watch more than usual. Even as I began chemotherapy on September 13th, I tried to prepare for the impact on Christmas and the weeks leading up to Christmas. Back then the plan was for two cycles of chemotherapy, and most likely being moved to a clinical trial which is very promising. However, when the first two rounds worked well, I was suddenly looking at four more rounds which would lead right up to the final infusion on December 27th. The past 4-6 weeks I have been struggling with some physical side effects, which slowed down many of my “normal” preparations for Christmas. As much as I wanted to speed up on the days I felt well, I could not get to everything. Yet, the irony is that I saw more. I saw more of Micah 6:8 in the people of Bethany and Littlest Angels. I saw more of Micah 6:8 in many people outside of our community.

I have thanked a few people along the way, but I want to finish this year and begin the new year with a few words of thanks. First, I have to thank my family as they have done things I am usually able to accomplish and have celebrated Christmas “walking humbly with God” this year when we could not do all of the “normal” things. Similarly, the staff at Bethany and Littlest Angels have pulled together to remind me of things that were on a deadline, finish things I usually would cover, and look for ways to continue all of our mercy work together. Finally, the people of Bethany and Littlest Angels have amazed me as I have watched and witnessed that we can “act justly,” “love mercy” and “walk humbly with our God.” From food baskets to St. Nicholas backpacks, we have given to those in need. Through cards, calls, visits, prayers and sacrifices of our time, we have cared for those who are sick, injured, or hurting. Through all of the various worship services utilizing many styles of worship, we have honored God and celebrated the birth of Jesus.

We have lived in the irony of a journey which includes joy and accomplishment but leads us to following God’s will of a humble life. May God bless us all in 2018 with eyes to see and ears to hear, the glorious work of God to be Emmanuel – God With Us – as God walks with us every day.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Jon

Women's Ministries



The mission donation for January will go to Carol Lee Halter's mission in Hong Kong.

Deaconess Carol Lee Halter has served as an evangelistic missionary among the Chinese people in Hong Kong since 1981. From 1969 to 1981, Carol served as a missionary with the Chinese Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in San Francisco, CA. For three years before that, she was a volunteer missionary in Hong Kong.

Carol does humanitarian, evangelistic and educational work among the young, the elderly and the poor Chinese people who live in Hong Kong. Her prayer is that all Chinese people will hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ - especially from each other. Fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese, Carol nurtures and trains Chinese people to grow in Christ and to share the Gospel by holding educational and evangelism seminars and Bible classes, and by counseling

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Christmas Food Baskets

Safeway Partners with Us to Fight Hunger!

This past Christmas, our church prepared bags of food and essential household items for 48 local families. We were grateful that Safeway's corporate office donated 12 of the 48 - \$25 Safeway gift cards, for a total donation amount of \$300. Several volunteers from our church and the Tongan church took time out of their busy holiday schedule to help fill 192 bags. It was a blessing to have their help! We also extend a warm "Thank you!" to our Bethany family for donating to our "Food Baskets" ministry. Many local families were blessed by your generosity!

Youth Group News

Happy 2018! Can you believe another year is upon us? I hope everyone had a joyful and safe New Year!

Once again, we are preparing for our LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis for July 11-15, 2019. We will be announcing a few breakfast fundraisers soon!

We're excited to be hosting "Game Night" at 6:15 PM on the first Sunday of every month. We also invite all of our youth and their families to attend the Lighthouse services at 5:00 p.m. every Sunday. Everyone is always welcomed!

May the New Year bring you all blessings of love, joy, health, and peace!

"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." Psalm 65:11

Look forward to seeing you all in this new year.

Blessings,
Pilar



Women's Breakfast *Bible Study*

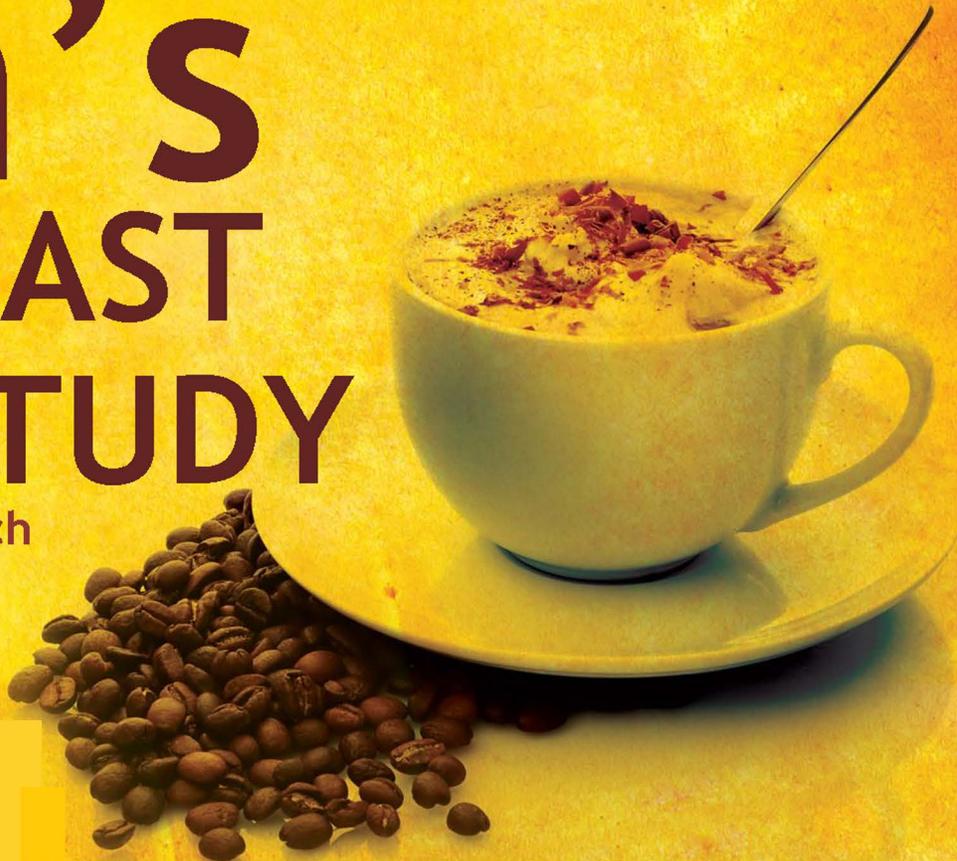
Saturday, January 13

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Men's BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

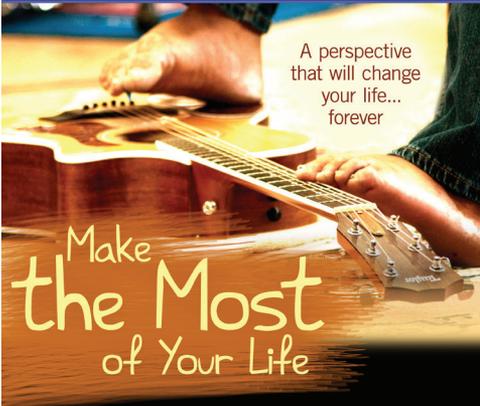
Bethany Lutheran Church

Saturday,
January 13





(for FAQ's)



A perspective
that will change
your life...
forever

Make
the Most
of Your Life



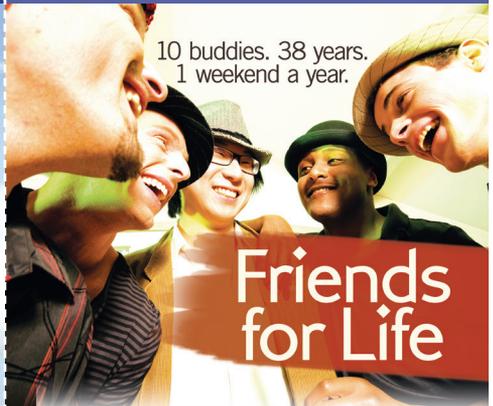
**CARE FOR
CAREGIVERS**

Meeting the unique
needs of those
who sacrifice for others



**NEWS
FROM
THE
FUTURE**

A futurist gives
a sneak peek



10 buddies. 38 years.
1 weekend a year.

**Friends
for Life**

FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC!

Parents' Night Out



Bethany Lutheran Church
Saturday, January 27, 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: **Corny & Foster Puppet Show**
by Steve Chaney

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

Advance registration is required. Registration deadline: Friday, Jan.19.
Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
No refunds after Jan. 19.

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

JANUARY 2018

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
31 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge	1 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed New Year's Day 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	2 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting - CANCELLED	3 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Inside the Gun Debate: To Hunt? To Defend? To Assault? (Lifetree Café Menlo Park)	4 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group	5 Littlest Angels Preschool Closed 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	6 Epiphany	7 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge	8 Littlest Angels Preschool Resumes	9 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	10 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Make the Most of Your Life (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group	12	13 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast Bible Study
14 9:30 AM Worship & Children's Worship 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge	15 Church offices, Preschool office & Preschool closed Martin L. King, Jr. Day 7:00 PM First Responder Meeting	16 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	17 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Care for Caregivers (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 9:30 AM Walking Group	19 5:00 PM Last Day to Sign-up for Parents' Night Out (1/27)	20	21 9:30 AM Worship, Children's Worship & Board of Directors Installation 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge	22 6:30 PM Littlest Angels Preschool - Community Open House	23 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	24 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM News from the Future (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 9:30 AM Walking Group 12:15 PM Women's All Church Prayer Group 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting	26 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	27 5:30 PM Parents' Night Out
28 11:00 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Mohk Yang Korean Church Service 3:00 PM The Coffee Shop 4:00 PM "Ave & Cloud" Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lighthouse - A Contemporary Praise Service 6:00 PM The Coffee Shop & Music Lounge	29	30 9:30 AM Walking Group 7:00 PM Menlo Park Toastmasters Meeting	31 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Friends for Life (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	1 9:30 AM Walking Group 11:30 AM Knitting Group Rehearsal	2 7:30 PM Stanford Int'l Folk Dancers	3 5:45 PM N. Isaacs - Private Recital							

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

Join us for Sunday Worship



Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025