

General Information

COFFEE, PUNCH & COOKIES are served in the Friendship Center following morning worship. You are invited to join us. We would like to meet you.



HAS GOD BEEN SPEAKING TO YOU THIS MORNING THROUGH WORSHIP?

Have you been carrying some burdens that you would like to give to the Lord? Do you want to spend some time in prayer this morning? If so, we would encourage you to linger after worship right where you sit. Spend a few moments in silent prayer. There will also be some members of Bethany's prayer team that are available to pray with you at the front of the sanctuary.

BETHANY PRAYER CONCERNS – Please call Pastor Lon at (562) 866-1812 ex. 224 no later than Thursday afternoon to place your praises and needs on the prayer sheet.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS — are listed each week in the bulletin. To give to the listed cause, please use a blue envelope available in the pew OR use your regular giving envelope and indicate the amount you are giving toward the special offering. All cash placed in the offering plate goes to the general budget.

YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE by logging in at bethanycrc.ccbchurch.com. If you need assistance call Deanne in the office.

 **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK...AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**  If you would like to use social media to keep up with things happening here at Bethany, then "like" us on Facebook at (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethany-CRC/468329003279601>) and follow us on Twitter (@Bethany_CRC).

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP — will not meet this morning. We will begin meeting again next Sunday, December 3rd.

Announcements

THE GEMS WILL BE SELLING BANKET - (a favorite Dutch almond pastry) TODAY in the Friendship Center after the worship service. The cost will be \$12.50/stick. All checks can be made out to Bethany Church. Thank You!

MEMOIRISTS meet tomorrow, Monday 11/27, at 4:30 in the Hospitality Room. Call Fred Wind for further information.

THE JUST CURIOUS BOOK CLUB will be discussing *Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain at 7:00 p.m. on November 16 at Anaheim CRC. Call Stan Cole if you have questions.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - The Deacons have designated our December 24th Special Offering to go to the Becksvoots and their work at the Zuni Christian School. If you would like to join the Deacons in blessing them, please mark your Special Offering for the "Becksvoots." All offerings not marked will go to the "General Fund." All offerings at the Christmas Eve PM Service will go to the Becksvoots as well.

LOOKING AHEAD -

- Advent Series "What Child Is This?", December 3,10,17&24 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Live Nativity Christmas Program, December 10 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Service, December 24 @ 5:00 p.m.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Tuesday Nights, 7-8:30 p.m. Since God's Word is true, it will guide us through whatever unique questions and dilemmas we are facing now. Our job is to understand the Bible as well as we can and then to listen with honesty and compassion to the questions that people are asking. Jesus did that. And the Men's Bible Study is looking at some of the questions He was asked and how He responded. Come! And bring your own questions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS ~ "YOUR STORY, GOD'S STORY"

We human beings are wired for stories. If you want to get someone's attention, tell them a story. Each person's life is also a story. Yet how do we understand our stories as a unified whole, with a plot and a purpose? And how do we understand our stories in light of God's broader story of redemption and transformation? This is a practical 4 session class that will help you understand the themes of your own story, as well as the ways in which God has been and is at work in the writing of your story. Our class resumes this Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Choir Room.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS FOR THE BETHANY FAMILY — We serve dinner for everyone involved in our Wednesday night ministries. These are simple meals intended to simplify life for your family on Wednesday nights. We will be requesting a \$1 donation for each person eating ("buck-a-plate") to help defray the cost of the meal. Looking forward to sharing a meal with you!

FLOWERS — If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary please contact Lois Prins.

OUR FOOD PANTRY — is in need of ongoing donations, which can be placed in the cart in the foyer on Sundays or brought to the church office during the week. Thank you for your continuing support!

TALK TIME — Are you confused, hurting or grieving? Do you just need to talk? Pastor Jim Kok is available on Friday mornings here at the church. (Other times possible as well). Please call the church office at (562) 866-1812 Ext. 221 to make an appointment.

CHURCH HISTORY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS — St. Boniface is killed by the Frisians in 754, but they listen to St. Willibrord to embrace the faith. Frankish King Pepin embraces the faith, and then Frankish leader Charles Martel turns back Islam from Europe at the Battle of Poitiers in 732 A.D. Pope Stephen digs up former Pope Formosus and puts the corpse on trial as people begin to tire of church shenanigans and demand reform. Where we have been explains a lot of who we are and where we are going. Let's walk together through the years 500-1000 A.D. in the footsteps of the Church. We will not meet this Sunday. Our final class session will be on December 3.

NOISY COLLECTION - to support our partnership with Lianna Tanis and her work next year with World Renew and the PAG Church in Uganda will be taken this morning.

A LIVING NATIVITY — December 10th at 6:00 p.m. Join us as the Christmas story comes to life with a musical performance by the Bethany CRC Children along with live animals. There will be an opportunity to bring forward unwrapped toys to be placed under the Christmas Tree. Toys will be donated to the Bellflower Christmas Store, which provides families who find Christmas to be a time of financial strain the opportunity to buy gifts for their children at 80-90% off retail value.

LLLL BOOK CLUB — will be reading *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan. We will meet Monday, December 4 at 7:15 p.m. at Beth Kuiper's home to discuss the book.

UPCOMING VALLEY CHRISTIAN CONCERTS TO BE HELD @ BETHANY-

- Kindergarten & 3rd Grade Christmas Concert on Tuesday, 12/5 at 7:00 PM
- 5th & 6th Grade Band, Orchestra and Choir Christmas Concert 12/13 at 10:00 AM

AFFORDABLE TREASURES THRIFT STORE is in need of volunteers in our store located at 17829 Bellflower Blvd. Please call 562-866-0060 to volunteer or to get more information.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION TO HELP A FAMILY IN NEED - Between now and Giving Tuesday (November 28, 2017), you can double your gift to help a family caught in the crossfire of conflict in Syria through World Renew's matching grant from One Day's Wages (ODW). Give a \$30 gift and see it doubled to \$60, enough to feed a family of six for a month. Go to www.onedayswages.org/worldrenew to learn more, donate, or start a fundraising campaign.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES - Looking for more meaning in the midst of a busy Christmas season? This Advent, ReFrame Media offers a special email devotional series just for you. With daily devotions and encouragements from Today, Family Fire, Groundwork, and the fun of Kids Corner, we designed it to help your whole family experience the true wonder of Christmas, the coming Christ. Subscribe at reframemedia.com/advent.

YOU ARE INVITED — First CRC of Artesia has a weekly celebration of Christ's presence on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Begin your new week with the infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit by joining with the family of God and the body of Christ for worship.

"SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" SEMINAR — First CRC of Artesia is hosting its second annual "Surviving the Holidays" seminar on Saturday, December 2, from 8:00-12:00. A breakfast will be provided, courtesy of our Grief & Beyond group. There is no cost for this seminar. If you struggle with grief, depression and loss during this time of the year, join us for an informative and inspirational time with others who have and are going through this difficult time.

Children's Ministry

TODAY

- **Little Lambs** (2 ½ to 4) in Room 9a at 9:30 a.m.
- **Children's Worship** will NOT meet this morning.
- **Sunday School** — We **will** be rehearsing for our Live Nativity Christmas Program in Room 12/13 from 11 a.m. to noon. (Please pick your children up there).

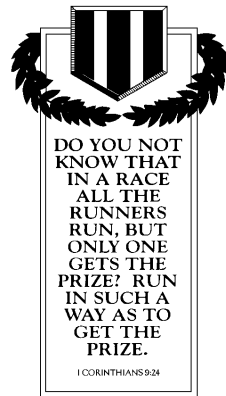
WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Family Dinner from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Activities for kids from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

- Nursery (0-3 year olds)
- Kingdom Kids (Pre-k to 1st Grade)
- Cadets (2nd – 6th grade boys)
- GEMS (2nd- 6th grade girls)

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!



On the Edge, Step Out! & Y.a.
(7th & 8th Grades) (9th-12th Grades) (Age 18-28ish)

Sunday, November 26 — *Weekend Edition* and *AWAKE* will NOT be meeting this morning. We will see you next Sunday.

Sunday, November 26 — *Step Out* (HS) will not be meeting tonight. See you next week!

Wednesday, November 29 — *On-the-Edge* (MS) will meet at 6:30 p.m. in The 2nd Story for small group. Hope you will join us!

All details can be found at bethanycrcyouth.org.

CONTACT INFO: cmiller@bethanycrc.org • Office: (562) 866-1812 ext. 228

Join us this week or pray for...

Today	Morning Celebration Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary Sunday School, 11:00 a.m., Room 12/13 NO Weekend Edition NO Awake NO Church History Class NO Step Out
Monday	Memoirists, 4:30 p.m., Hospitality Room BSF, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Tuesday	Men's Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., Deacon's Room
Wednesday	Coffee Break, 9:30 a.m., Friendship Center Community Outreach Dinner, 4:00, North Friendship Center Family Dinner, 5:45 p.m., Friendship Center Family Night @ 6:30 p.m. — Nursery • Kingdom Kids (Pre-K to 1st Grade, Room 9a) • GEMS (Girls Grades 2-6, Room 12/13) • Cadets (Boys Grades 2-6, Cadet Room) • On-the-Edge (Grades 7 & 8, The 2nd Story) • Coffee Break (Hospitality Room) • Your Story, God's Story (Choir Room)
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
Friday	

Opportunities for Service

~ Serving This Week ~

Pre-Service Prayer: Cok, Cole
Coffee After Worship: CAMP Unity—Ligtenberg/Martinez
Post-Service Prayer: Stan Cole and Ron Anema
Foyer greeters: Bonnie Van Horsen, Ron and Alice Van Meeteren
Patio greeters: Iris Wybenga and Betty De Koek
Ushers: Ron Anema (cap.), Todd Huckins, Gene Van Essen, Gene Reitsma
Parking Lot: Jon Slager, Bob Slager
Parking Lot Assistant: Todd Huckins
Nursery: Mary Beth Flietstra (greeter), Hilda Bouma, Greta De Young, Maranda Prins
2 ½ - 4 Yr Olds: Breanna Kuyper, Mary Murray, Meg Pheifer
Library: CLOSED

~ Serving Next Week ~

Pre-Service Prayer: Dyer, Kamstra
Coffee After Worship: CAMP Unity—Ligtenberg/Martinez
Post-Service Prayer: Lil Hogan and Greta De Young
Foyer greeters: Henry and Ruth Van Zee, Ron and Julie Vande Vegte
Patio greeters: Harry and Lois Prins
Ushers: Merf Tanis (cap.), Bob Dykstra, John Van Essen
Parking Lot: Dennis Sybesma, Jim Tanis
Parking Lot Assistant: Jake Hoogeveen
Nursery: Onnie Bomgaars (greeter), Ginger Bouma, Elizabeth De Groot, Carissa Kamstra
2 ½ - 4 Yr Olds: Leann Bakker, Claire Westra, Anneka Bakker
Library: Susie Ruditis, Nancy Curley

Church Staff and Council

Jim Kuiper ~ Minister of the Word ext. 223	Janis Westra ~ Worship Leader ext. 225
Lon Wagner ~ Minister of Discipleship ext. 224	Sue Leck ~ Financial Administrator ext. 229
Jim Kok ~ Pastoral Care (leave message) ext. 221	Deanne Grachen ~ Office Administrator ext. 221
Kendall Abud ~ Children's Ministry Director ext. 230	Caleb Miller ~ Director of HS and MS ext. 228
Faith Rietveld ~ Choir Director (leave message) ext. 221	Angel Chun ~ Facilities Coord. (leave message) ext. 221

Deacons: Karla Anema, Ed Bakker, Sandy Binns, Chad Bomgaars (Deacon President), Rick Dykstra, Pam Eaker, Gerard Martinez, Art Pena, Todd Pheifer (Vice President), Jon Slager, Cindy Tanis (Secretary), Derek Zondervan
Elders: Ron Anema (Council President), Charlie Boerigter, Stan Cole, Keith Cok, Dave Dyer (Vicar/Clerk), Rob Kamstra (Elder President), Ron Kruid, Dave Ligtenberg, Henry Mariotti

Bethany Christian Reformed Church • 17054 Bixby Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706

Phone: 562-866-1812 • Fax: (562) 866-1823 • www.bethanycrc.org • e-mail: office@bethanycrc.org

Morning Celebration Worship
November 26, 2017 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening song

Greetings

Songs of Praise

Confession & Assurance

Songs of Response

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

Message

"THE MYSTERIOUS KINGDOM OF GOD"

Matthew 13: 24-30,36-43

Offering

Special Offering: VC Tuition Assistance

Blessing

Closing Song

Postlude

Preaching: Pastor Lon Wagner

We provide loving care for your little ones during worship. The nursery is located close to the main entrance of the sanctuary in the southwest corner of the Friendship Center. 2 ½-4 Year-Olds are invited to "Little Lambs" in Room 9A which is located in the Education Building at the north end of the campus.

Next Sunday at Bethany...

Please join us as Pastor Jim Kuiper kicks off our Advent Series: "What Child is This".

Special Offering: Outreach Fund