

## 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](http://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** (for children who are in Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade) will exit with the banner to join us for our worship time. Children may be picked up at 10:50 in Room 26/Following Jesus Room (which is the room above the kitchen).

## Announcements

**THE GEMS STILL HAVE BASKET AVAILABLE!** You can stop by the church office during the week to buy yours. You may also pick some up from the freezer in the Friendship Center AND put a check (payable to Bethany Church) in Anna Willoughby's mailbox. The cost is \$12.50 per stick.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** - The Deacon's have designated our December 24th Special Offering to go to the Zuni Christian School in support of the Becksvoorts. If you would like to join the Deacons in blessing them, please mark your Special Offering for the "Zuni Christian School." All offerings not marked will go to the "General Fund." All offerings at our Christmas Eve PM Service will go to this cause.

**IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING....**Bethany's 75th Anniversary Edition Picture Directory will be distributed around the end of February 2018.

### UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS -

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

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** — will not meet this Tuesday. We will gather again on Tuesday, January 16 as we study *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel as part of Bethany's All Church Study.

**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 request 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!

**A LIVING NATIVITY — TONIGHT 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.

**ALL CHURCH STUDY** — We are making plans for our 2018 All Church Study which begins in January. Our study this year will be based on Lee Strobel's book "The Case for Faith". This study will run 6 weeks beginning the week of January 14 and will include a sermon series on Sunday mornings, small groups which will form to take the study a little deeper, and an optional (but highly recommended) book to read along with the study. We continue sign-ups for our small groups today following worship in the Friendship Center. You may also pre-order a copy of the book at the same time.

**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.

**OUR FOOD PANTRY** — is in need of bottled water, Progresso soup and pasta sauce. Donations can be placed in the cart in the foyer on Sundays or brought to the church office during the week.

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

### WEEKLY OFFERING UPDATE

General Fund Offering for 12/3/17 .....	\$16,621.30
(Budgeted weekly offering ~ \$14,473.00)	
Faith Promise.....	\$495.00
Valley Christian Tuition Assistance .....	\$110.00
Outreach Fund.....	\$215.00

**END OF THE YEAR GIVING** — We are thankful for the generosity demonstrated by the Bethany family in giving to the Lord's work at Bethany and various needs this past year. As we approach the end of the year, we have a budget shortfall of \$35,000. Please prayerfully consider a donation to Bethany as you reflect on your year end giving. All gifts must be received in the office or postmarked by Dec. 31 for them to be considered a donation for 2017. Thank you in advance.

**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 the last Sunday of each month.

**LLLL BOOK CLUB** — will be reading *Winter's Solstice* by Elin Hilderbrand. We will meet on Monday, January 15 at 7:15 p.m. at Jan Whitten's home. New members always welcome.

**THE CALVIN COLLEGE JANUARY SERIES** — will begin on January 3, 2018 and continue weekdays through January 23. Each lecture will be shown here at Bethany through live feed from Calvin College from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and will cover topics ranging from millennials and faith, restorative justice, confident pluralism, radical generosity and so much more by top experts in their fields. We are just one of 50 remote webcast sites across the continent, joining a daily audience of about 3,000 people a day. For information on the speakers and topics, pick up a brochure in the foyer or visit the January Series website at [www.calvin.edu.january](http://www.calvin.edu.january). Don't miss out on this chance to hear fabulous lectures and experience a piece of Calvin College right here in Bellflower.

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CONCERT** - The 5th & 6th Grade Band, Orchestra and Choir Christmas Concert will be held this Wednesday, December 13 at 10:00 AM here at Bethany. You are invited to attend.

**PARENTING THE LOVE AND LOGIC WAY:** Valley Christian Schools is offering a five week class on *Parenting the Love and Logic Way*, which will be presented by Dawn De Young, Sarah Hefner and Kathy Taylor. It will be held at the elementary campus on Thursday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on , January 18, 25, and February 1, 8, and 15. The cost is \$35 per person or \$65 per couple, which includes a workbook. Childcare is available at no charge. Registration and payment is due by 12/20. To register or get further information, please contact Karen Garcia at 562-920-9902 x 111.

**STAND IN THE GAP** - World Renew invites you to stand in the gap with people who live with poverty and hunger this Christmas. You can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, help a child get the food they need to grow well with a nutrition kit, or help a disaster survivor find shelter and restoration. What will you give to help fill the gap? Get your copy of the all new World Renew gift catalog online at [worldrenewgifts.net](http://worldrenewgifts.net), or call 800-333-8300 to order your printed copy!

## Children's Ministry

### Today

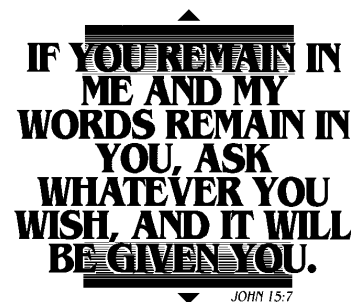
- **Little Lambs** (2 ½ to 4) in Room 9a at 9:30 a.m.
- **Children's Worship** (Pre K—1st Grade) will meet this morning. Follow the banner after the worship time.
- **Sunday School** — Kids Christmas Musical Rehearsal will take place in the Sanctuary today. Please drop your kids off in the Sanctuary after worship and pick them up from there at noon. Don't forget: Kids will need to be here this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. for the 6:00 p.m. performance.

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys)
- GEMS (2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls)

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!**


**IF YOU REMAIN IN  
ME AND MY  
WORDS REMAIN IN  
YOU, ASK  
WHATEVER YOU  
WISH, AND IT WILL  
BE GIVEN YOU.**

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

**Sunday, December 10 — Weekend Edition** (MS) and **AWAKE** (HS) will meet in The 2nd Story at 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 10 — Step Out** (HS) will meet for Large Group at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd Story. We will see you there!

**Wednesday, December 13 — 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](http://bethanycrcyouth.org).

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

### Join us this week or pray for...

<b>Today</b>	Morning Celebration Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary Sunday School, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary Weekend Edition (MS Sunday School), 11:00 a.m., 2nd Story Awake (HS Sunday School), 11:00 a.m., 2nd Story "A Living Nativity" Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary Step Out, 7:00 p.m., 2nd Story
<b>Monday</b>	BSF, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tutoring, 3:30 p.m., Friendship Center <b>NO</b> Men's Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	Coffee Break, 9:30 a.m., Friendship Center Community Outreach Dinner, 4:00, North Friendship Center Family Dinner, 5:45 p.m., Friendship Center <b>Family Night @ 6:30 p.m.</b> — 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)
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
<b>Friday</b>	

### Opportunities for Service

#### ~ Serving This Week ~

**Pre-Service Prayer:** Dyer, Kamstra  
**Coffee After Worship:** CAMP Unity—Ligtenberg/Martinez  
**Post-Service Prayer:** Terry and Sandy Binns  
**Foyer greeters:** Pete and Conny Vande Witte, Kent and Lynette Vander Meulen  
**Patio greeters:** Gene and Donna Reitsma  
**Ushers:** Merf Tanis (cap.), Bob Dykstra, John Van Essen  
**Parking Lot:** Merf Tanis, Alan Tolen  
**Parking Lot Assistant:** Ron Van Meeteren  
**Nursery:** 9:30 a.m. Karen Bomgaars (greeter), Barb Zondervan, Shannon Slager, Madison Slenk  
6:00 p.m. Kim Bouma (greeter), Ashley Bouma, Megan Bouma  
**2 ½ - 4 Yr Olds:** Sheryl Dielens, Olivia Vande Vegte, Jesse Rhodes  
**Library:** Meg Pheifer, Jan Whitten

#### ~ Serving Next Week ~

**Pre-Service Prayer:** Dyer, Kamstra  
**Coffee After Worship:** CAMP Unity—Ligtenberg/Martinez  
**Post-Service Prayer:** Mary Jo Van Duyn and Stan Cole  
**Foyer greeters:** Larry and Eileen Walraven  
**Patio greeters:** Todd and Laura Pheifer  
**Ushers:** Merf Tanis (cap.), Bob Dykstra, John Van Essen  
**Parking Lot:** Erik Ulstrup, Hank Van Den Berg  
**Parking Lot Assistant:** Joe Wiersma  
**Nursery:** Mary Jane Zondervan (greeter), Ardelle Kredit, Makenna Prins, Gracelyn Murray  
**2 ½ - 4 Yr Olds:** Susie Ruditis, Rosalinda Lopez, Chloe Westra  
**Library:** Eileen Walraven, Rachel Walraven

### 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  
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## Morning Celebration Worship

December 10, 2017 ~ 9:30 a.m.  
*The Second Sunday of Advent*

**Prelude**  
**Call to Worship**  
**Opening Song**  
**Greetings**  
**Song of Praise**  
**Confession & Assurance**  
**Song of Response**  
**Children's Message**  
**Congregational Prayer**  
**Ministry of Music**  
**Message**  
**"SEEKERS FIND"**  
*Matthew 2:1-12*  
**Offering**  
*Special Offering: World Renew*  
**Blessing**  
**Closing Song**  
**Postlude**  
*Preaching: Pastor Jim Kuiper*

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 continues our Advent Series "What Child is This?" with a message about Joseph.

*Special Offering: World Renew*