

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 (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 BANKET 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 Deacons 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.

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

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Morning Worship Service 12/24 @ 9:30 a.m.

Pre-Service Christmas Music 12/24 @ 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service 12/24 @ 5 p.m.



ETHNOS CHURCH — will be providing Mexican Hot Chocolate during our coffee time this morning after worship in the Friendship Center. They will also be displaying artwork made by those attending their Friday morning class. Come on over and join us!

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!

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.

OUR HOMELESS FRIENDS — are in need of jackets, blankets and sleeping bags now that it is getting cold at night. If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them to the church office.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED — We are finalizing the directory section of our new picture directory (which will be distributed around the end of February 2018) and would like it to be as updated and accurate as possible. You will find your page from the current directory in your mailbox. Please check it to verify your address, phone number and e-mail address are correct. If they are, write ok on your page by your name. If they are not, please put the corrections on the paper. All pages should be returned to the "Grachen" mailbox or to the church office. Thanks!

WEEKLY OFFERING UPDATE

General Fund Offering for 12/10/17	\$13,197.00
(Budgeted weekly offering ~ \$14,473.00)	
Faith Promise.....	\$260.00
Valley Christian Tuition Assistance	\$100.00
World Renew	\$555.00

THANK YOU — We would like to thank the Bethany family for all the encouragement, support and prayers we received during Ron's treatment and recovery. We are so blessed to be part of a very caring Bethany family. *✞ Ron and Geraldine Kruid and Family*

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.

THE JUST CURIOUS BOOK CLUB will be discussing "Sarah Phillips" by Andrea Lee on January 18 at the Anaheim CRC. Call Stan Cole if you have questions.

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. Don't miss out on this chance to hear fabulous lectures.

BETH MOORE EVENT — Over the years, many Bethany women have been blessed to be part of Bible studies using teaching by Beth Moore. There is a 2-day event coming to San Diego on April 27-28 that you may want to consider. It is "LIVING PROOF Live" with Beth Moore and worship with Travis Cottrell. It is happening at The Rock Church. The early bird rate is \$69 if you register by Jan. 30. Go to www.LifeWay.com/LivingProof to register or to learn more.

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.

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. Please note: we will not meet on December 24 or December 31.
- **Sunday School** — Today is our Kids Christmas Party! Join us in the Sunday School Room (Rm. 12/13) from 11 a.m. - noon for a Christmas movie, snacks, and a Gingerbread House Making Competition! See you 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)

On the Edge, Step Out! & Y.a.

(7th & 8th Grades)

(9th-12th Grades)

(Age 18-28ish)

Sunday, December 17 — Weekend Edition (MS) will meet in The 2nd Story at 11:00 a.m. **AWAKE** (HS) will NOT be meeting today.

Sunday, December 17 — Step Out (HS) AND College/Young Adults will meet at Jim and Cindy Tanis' home for a Christmas Party from 5:00-7:00 p.m. It is going to be super fun, so do not miss it!

Wednesday, December 20 — On-the-Edge (MS) will meet at Matt and Dawn De Young's house at from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for our Christmas Party. Bring a white elephant gift.

January 26-28 — Our **Middle School Retreat** will be held at Camp Pondo. Cost is \$200. Go to bethanycrcyouth.org for more information or to register.

February 9-11— Our **High School Retreat** will be held in Running Springs. Cost is \$175 with skiing or \$135.00 without. Go to bethanycrcyouth.org for more information or to register.

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 Christmas Party, 11:00 a.m., Room 12/13 Weekend Edition (MS Sunday School), 11:00 a.m., 2nd Story NO Awake Step Out & Young Adult Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m., Tanis' House
Monday	NO BSF Elders & Deacons, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	NO Tutoring NO Men's Bible Study
Wednesday	NO Coffee Break NO Community Outreach Dinner 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 Christmas Party, 6:30 p.m., De Young's House NO Evening Coffee Break
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room

Opportunities for Service

~ Serving This 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

~ Serving Next Sunday Morning ~

Pre-Service Prayer: Dyer, Kamstra
Coffee After Worship: CAMP Unity—Ligtenberg/Martinez
Post-Service Prayer: Ron Anema and Lil Hogan
Foyer greeters: Jeff and Janis Westra, Mike and Jan Whitten
Patio greeters: Darrin Mesman
Ushers: Merf Tanis (cap.), Bob Dykstra, John Van Essen
Parking Lot: Lloyd Van Duyn, Randy Van Duyn
Parking Lot Assistant: Ron Vande Vegte
Nursery: Anna Willoughby (greeter), Julie Ulstrup, Emily Ulstrup, Meg Pheifer
2 ½ - 4 Yr Olds: Lori Rhodes, Megan Huckins, Maranda Prins
Library: CLOSED

~ Serving Christmas Eve ~

Foyer greeters: Joe and Nydia Wiersma
Ushers: Merf Tanis (cap.), Bob Dykstra, John Van Essen
Parking Lot: Gene Van Essen, John Van Essen • **Parking Lot Assistant:** Mike Boer
Nursery: Pam Hoekstra (greeter), Mary Beth Flietstra, Donovan Hoekstra

Bethany Church Staff

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

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Morning Celebration Worship December 17, 2017 ~ 9:30 a.m. *The Third Sunday of Advent*

Prelude

Choir

Call to Worship

Opening Song

Greetings

Song of Praise

Confession & Assurance

Song of Response

Children's Message

Congregational Prayer

Message

"A RIGHTEOUS MAN"

Matthew 1:19-25

Offering

Special Offering: Building Fund

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 concludes our Advent Series "What Child is This?" with a message about Mary.

Special Offering: Zuni Christian School