

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 BASKET AVAILABLE! 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. Cost is \$12.50 per stick.

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 Becksvoorts 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 "Becksvoorts." All offerings not marked will go to the "General Fund." All offerings at the Christmas Eve PM Service will go to the Becksvoorts as well.

LOOKING AHEAD -

- Advent Series "What Child Is This?", December 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 — 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!

CHURCH HISTORY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS — Where we have been explains a lot of who we are and where we are going. So let's walk together through the years 500-1000 A.D. in the footsteps of the Church. We will have our final class session today at 11:00 a.m. in the Hospitality Room. Don't miss it!

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. (Toy donations can also be brought to the church office before December 10th.)

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. Watch for coming details about this journey we will take together.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING UPDATE

General Fund Offering for 11/26/17	\$12,413.00
<i>(Budgeted weekly offering ~\$14,473.00)</i>	
Faith Promise (Thanksgiving and 11/26).....	\$6,945.00
Valley Christian Tuition Assistance	\$211.00

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 meet TOMORROW, December 4 at 7:15 p.m. at Beth Kuiper's home to discuss the book *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan. You are invited to join us!

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

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.

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, visit the January Series website at 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.

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

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.

THE ARTESIA CHRISTIAN HOME AUXILIARY is a group of women who support projects for the benefit of the Residents of the Artesia Christian Home. If you have a willingness to be of service to the elderly and would like to participate, please join us at our Regular Monthly Meeting in the Front Parlor at 11614 E. 183rd Street, Artesia, CA 90701 at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, December 5th. New Volunteers are welcome!!

ADVENT STARTS TODAY. IS YOUR HEART READY? - Celebrating Christmas isn't a day, it's a season. Welcome Immanuel, Incarnate in 2017 with Advent devotions from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting tomorrow, Dec. 4. Join an exploration of the Incarnation of Christ and his presence in our lives as we prepare to celebrate his birth. To sign up, go to crcna.org/advent.

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 and next Sunday. Please drop your kids off in the Sanctuary after worship and pick them up from there at noon. Thank you!

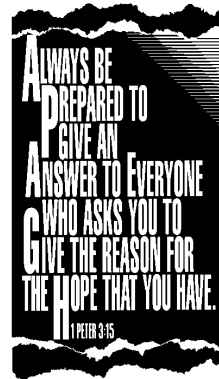
Wednesday Night

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, December 3 — *Weekend Edition* (MS) and *AWAKE* (HS) will meet in The 2nd Story at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 3 — *Step Out* (HS) will meet for Open House.

Wednesday, December 6 — *On-the-Edge* (MS) will meet at 6:30 p.m. in The 2nd Story for large 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., Sanctuary Weekend Edition (MS Sunday School), 11:00 a.m., 2nd Story Awake (HS Sunday School), 11:00 a.m., 2nd Story Church History Class, 11:00 a.m., Hospitality Room Step Out, Open House
Monday	BSF, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Tuesday	Tutoring, 3:30 p.m., Friendship Center NO Men's Bible Study
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)
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
Friday	

Opportunities for Service

~ Serving This 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

~ Serving Next 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: Karen Bomgaars (greeter), Barb Zondervan, Shannon Slager, Madison Slenk
2 ½ - 4 Yr Olds: Sheryl Dielens, Olivia Vande Vegte, Jesse Rhodes
Library: Meg Pheifer, Jan Whitten

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 3, 2017 ~ 9:30 a.m. *The First Sunday of Advent*

Prelude
 Call to Worship
 Opening song
 Greetings
 Song of Praise
 Confession & Assurance
 Song of Response
 Congregational Prayer
 Children's Message

Offering
Special Offering: Outreach Fund

Choir
 Message
"ONE OF US"
Luke 2:8-20

The Lord's Supper
 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 The Magi.

Special Offering: World Renew