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**Pastor Appreciation Day**

**Sunday, October 14**

**Hosted by the Vacaville Fire Department!**

In the early morning hours of August 22, 2018, a fire broke out at Bethany Lutheran Preschool on South Orchard Avenue in Vacaville California. The fire damaged an entire wing, the playground and other areas of the school. Students arrived to find their beloved school burned beyond recognition. Having served the community for 43 years, there were tears from parents, neighbors, friends, and first responders alike.

Let’s gather as a community to show our support for this beloved school at a fundraiser BBQ. All proceeds will go towards school supplies, books, toys, etc. to replace those lost.

We appreciate your support!

You can also contribute to: www.gofundme.com/bethany-lutheran-preschool-fire-vv
It is an honor to be serving you as the Interim Sr. Pastor at Bethany. God is good and has so arranged for us to be together at this time. I wanted to share a little about me through this newsletter. I was born in Long Beach, California but moved frequently growing up. I sometimes say I grew up on Interstate 5. I graduated from High School in Steveston, British Columbia. This is a Japanese fishing village on an island at the mouth of the Fraser River. The reason it is Japanese is because this was an internment camp for Canadian Japanese during WWII. Many Japanese stayed and developed a fish cannery and fishing village.

I went to Fresno City College for two years and then graduated from California Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks, where I met my wife, Barbara. We have been married for just over 38 years. I went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and was called to Zion Lutheran in Rapid City, South Dakota. I also have served at Holy Cross, Atwater; Faith, Pasadena, CA; and Mt. Calvary, Phoenix, AZ. I served as a Reserve Chaplain in the Army and was called up in 2002 and 2005 at which time I asked for a peaceful release from Mt. Calvary and stayed Active Duty. On Active Duty I served as Garrison Chaplain at Ft. Hunter Liggett, CA; Deputy Division West (First Army) Chaplain at Ft. Carson, CO and then Ft. Hood, TX and finished my military career at Moffett Field, CA as the Deputy Division Chaplain for the 63rd.

I retired from the military in Feb 2017 and served as interim pastor at First Lutheran, Concord for one year before coming to you. I have two daughters, Rebecca is married and lives in Fremont as a kindergarten teacher and has three children and Mary, who lives in Phoenix, AZ and works for USAA. By the way, some of you met Mary a few years ago when she spoke to this congregation as a missionary serving in Hanoi Vietnam. She served there for two years.

Barbara and I moved to Brentwood, CA at the end of July in order to enjoy less expensive housing, a 55+ community called Trilogy, and to not be too far from our grandchildren.

Even though I am part time and live an hour away, I want to serve you in any way that I can. Please call if you need pastoral support.

Pastor Dann J. Ettner
THE TIMELESS JOY OF BETHANY

Nostalgia and reflection are sweet fruits of a well-lived life. Like precious timeworn pictures or the smell of baked bread in Grandmother’s kitchen, we cherish them. These evoke wonderful memories in all of us. Maybe you would enjoy expressing what Bethany means to you as we look not only to the past, but now, to the future of our church.

As a member of Bethany and its family, I’ve enjoyed our church and its rich varied programs for years. Bethany has been a mainstay for these families’ daily lives. The buildings themselves become envelopes containing our memories, its wooden cross, the spire and pews and the candles, balcony, stained glass and alter are the sign posts of the physical feeling of what I know as the “Blessed Assurance-Jesus is mine. Oh what a foretaste of Glory divine.”

To my eyes, the towering redwood trees (triune) planted 50 years ago and the portico, fellowship hall & kitchen; Garden room and the preschool buildings on South Orchard remind me of past Americana when someone like Frank Lloyd Wright might have laid out our campus. For me, it is the thousands of visits and opportunity to come, be at peace, and return to our home.

When I first came here, our children were toddlers at Bethany. Their days and years in the pre-school, K-8 were a huge part of our family. The December nativity pageants and the Wednesday chapel singing are cherished moments and I came and took part in most of them. Over the post-retirement years I became a costumed actor: first as Santa, then the Easter Bunny, later Lincoln; I played the parts of history’s great men: FDR, JFK, RFK, John Adams and others in the 3rd grade elementary classes. Yes, it is always in support of Bethany’s children that bring me this joy—the children are our future.

So many programs for children included model car workshops all in the Fellowship Hall. Interspersed were twelve fabulous years of every Sunday, holding classes for the study of the Bible for 6th graders and on. My hi-light was the baptism for my children.

Today as I walk the sidewalk beneath the redwood trees and look at the church and the playground there comes that familiar feeling of those events in our lives—today I saw the architecture, the furnishing and sensed the attitude of long time friends, some departed, some remaining with us.

Even the parking lot reminds me of the two years I volunteered for cross walk duty on Azalea Street. It was then that I discovered joy of making friends with parents dropping off their children for morning classes. How many friends did I make?

Bethany has been fountain of training if your heart is willing to serve. Many of the little jobs the church provides are hidden jewels of happiness. I found that once you are on campus, there is always the welcome of chapel and sometimes being asked to help with yard rec or teacher’s aid. Once Mrs. Holbrook invited me into my son’s First Grade class; she showed me to a rocking chair and placed the Good Shepherd’s Bible Stories book in my hands. That moment set out my journey to read a story each week to students. God allows me to continue doing this for the last twelve years. What a marvelous fun time reading aloud of those fantastic Bible heroes from Esther, Ruth, Abraham, David, Moses and Noah. I even began to feel like I was Mister Rogers! Today it continues with 2nd Graders who love to draw pictures of rainbows, Jesus, the cross and Noah’s ark. They make me smile as I receive their crafted gift of pictures.

With church renewal and expansion plans, this modernization will bring change as we progress to one location on Ulatis campus. We must embrace this change. As I set aside this inner scrapbook of memories, I recall Jesus commanded us to “Go into all the world and make disciples of the Nations (for Jesus)”. As these plans unfold for our growth and the new Bethany church happens, let us follow Joshua’s lead as it was he who said: “Who among you is on the Lord’s side?”

Let us march uniformly forward remembering Whom our victorious Leader will be.

Originally written and published by D.H. Fortin, Bethany Breezes Newsletter, 2015
Greetings from your Church Council,

"For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand."  
Isaiah 41:13


Hew Hesterman & Diane Irby lead efforts to work with staff to plan Bethany congregation proactive outreach to young families for Christ.  Preschool students plan to sing at October 14 service, an excellent outreach opportunity for members to connect with preschoolers & parents.  Thanks to Jim Witt for planning & hosting the very interesting Sunday morning (9am) Bible studies.  All members and School families are invited.  Kevin Shaw is leading youth program efforts for 7-12 grade youth (check Breezes for schedule).  Please contact Hew or Diane to offer your help with outreach efforts.

Thanks to all who visit shut-ins, serve with the fellowship team & help with Sunday morning worship.

God works in amazing ways to bless Bethany congregation & keep His work going forward.  3 Bethany member families anonymously set aside a fund of $15,000 in November to match other member’s donations above tithe to help support Bethany ministries.  Total matched so far is $10,955!  You may still participate for a match by designating your gift above tithe to be matched.  Thanks to Vacaville Fire & Police Departments who held a “pass the boot” fund raiser BBQ to help Bethany raise funds to cover extra costs that insurance does not cover such as deductibles on the insurance policy.

Green Stock Solar completed the Solar Power installation for Ulatis.  Vacaville fire department & City approved the completed project.  Green Stock submitted application to PG&E for approval to operate.  Hopefully, PG&E will respond quickly.  Expected savings is $20,000 per year for electricity bill (return is 10% on investment the first year).  Green Stock will monitor & maintain the solar system for Bethany.  Talk to Curt Johnston if you have any questions or ideas how to help with Bethany finances.

Property maintenance continues.  Volunteers donate materials, work hard & are appreciated.  Special thanks to Mike McCall, Jim Witt, & Ron Shively for backpack hooks mounted in Warren House for preschool use & redirecting roof water out to the street rather than under the building.  Church office roof vent covers still need repair from vandal damage.  Thanks to Mike McCall & Ron Shively for changing light ballasts at Ulatis school & changed light timers as sunlight hours shorten.  Talk to Mike McCall to learn how you can help.

The tragic preschool building fire resulted in no injuries, but affected preschool space, power, data service, natural gas, & landscape water.  Thanks to Preschool & church staff & volunteers who worked long hours of triage to prepare rooms to accommodate preschool students in Warren House, Ulatis, & EC house.  Thanks to the quilters quick move to the Fellowship hall to allow preschool to use the Warren House space.  Toddlers moved to EC house.  (The play yard needs some better ground cover than gravel).  EK moved to Ulatis, utilizing 2nd kindergarten classroom.  Church Mutual Fire Insurance adjuster & structural engineer are assessing damage & investigator is working with fire & police departments to determine cause of fire.  Wulff Electric quickly returned electrical service by replacing faulty breaker.  Data service is available daytime with temporary power.  The data fiber optic cable needs to be rerouted to a more permanent location where power is available for internet/phone transceiver.  Aweau landscape quickly repaired sprinkler valves to return landscape water to service with temporary daytime power.  PG&E capped off gas at Azalea Street to prevent leaks.  Gas line must be rerouted to enable building heat before winter.

Bethany council approved the go ahead for MADI Architects to draw up new preschool building plans based on preliminary floor plans & obtain construction cost estimates in collaboration with Terra Real Estate Advisors, Bethany property planning team, & staff.  Before proceeding far with the plans, MADI met with the City of Vacaville Planning Department during the last week of September to review and confirm that Ulatis site plan meet city requirements.  The city is expected to respond soon.  Council will present plans & cost estimates to the congregation for approval as soon as available, likely at the January congregation meeting.

Stewardship:
Thanks for putting the work of Christ first in your finances.  Read GoBethany.com, Sunday bulletins, Breezes, & Eagle to learn what’s happening in Bethany Ministries & to plan your participation.

Reporting for your Church Council,  
Ron Shively – Congregation President
Are You a Risk Taker?

A risk-taker is willing to kick fear aside and take on challenges, regardless of the outcome. They say yes without hesitation. When a situation seems hopeless, they trust God’s guidance even more. Have you wanted to be a risk-taker and longed to be brave for God? Does fear hold you back every time you get an opportunity to take a risk? Do you feel compelled to move forward, but fear surfaces and persuades you to stay put? Fear presents the same old argument. It’s not safe. As if that weren’t enough, it convinces you it wouldn’t make a difference anyway and you give in.

Thankfully, the Bible teaches us about ordinary women who took big risks for God. At that critical moment when a decision had to be made, they chose to take the risk and the results made history. Here are three women in the Bible who can teach us a thing or two about taking risks. Let’s allow their stories to give us inspiration today as we learn how to be bold for God.

1. Abigail - Desperate situations call for extreme measures. Abigail knew this well. When her husband Nabal hurled an insult at David, the future king, “Abigail acted quickly.” (1 Sam. 25:18). Despite her husband’s bad choice, Abigail jumped into action. David was so moved by Abigail’s eloquent speech, he thanked God for sending her. God honored her courage by bringing justice upon Nabal while keeping David free from the burden of “needless bloodshed.” (1 Sam. 25:31). Abigail risked her relationship with her husband to defuse a deadly situation.

2. Joanna - Joanna’s name is only mentioned briefly in Scripture. But the words used to describe her show her willingness to go where her Savior led and help in whatever way she could. Joanna was among the devoted women who traveled with Jesus during his time on earth. She either had a terrible disease or was overcome by evil spirits. Jesus healed her, restored her, and accepted her. Her husband Chuza held an important job at the palace as Herod’s household manager - his right-hand man. She also supported Jesus’ ministry with her family’s finances. Joanna’s role in Jesus’ ministry was a risk, but her connections to the palace didn’t deter her from her calling. She gladly risked it all for her Lord. God rewarded Joanna for her dedication. She was among the first to see the empty tomb and learn that Jesus Christ - her Healer and Deliverer - had risen, just as he promised.

3. Rahab - Scripture describes Rahab as “a harlot” in Joshua 2:1. But her past sins fade away when we see how she risked her own life to help Joshua’s men spy out the land. She would help them in exchange for her family’s protection. As a result, Joshua spared Rahab. She and her family lived among the Israelites from the day the walls fell. (Joshua 6:25) Rahab took a big risk, setting her life on a course to be used by God in an even bigger way.

Rahab, Joanna, and Abigail acted when they could’ve lost everything. Their love for God gave them the courage they needed to make daring decisions. Their lives serve as inspiration for us today as we strive to become risk-takers. Like these brave ladies, we too can release fear and face life’s challenges with risk-taking faith. (Adapted from an article by Kristine Brown, a writer, dramatist, and former English teacher.)

Continue to Next Page
**MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Our Monday night Bible Study is in full swing. We are currently studying, “Blessings in Disguise.” Terri Denton hosts it in her home at 521 Walnut Avenue, Vacaville. This is a great time for getting to know other ladies while learning God’s word.

**NEW MEETING DAY AND TIME**

We are holding our regular monthly meeting, **Sunday** at 12:30 pm (after fellowship hour) in room B-8. This was suggested as a way to allow more women to be involved in Bethany LWML. Please join us!

**MITE CHALLENGE – April 2018-March 2020**

Our new district list of mission grants for 2018-2020 totals $100,000. **Bethany’s new mite challenge will be $3,100.** A new progress board is posted in the Narthex and the grants are on the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Let’s fill those Mite Boxes and continue God’s wondrous work!

**CRAFT FAIR – November 2nd – 4th**

The LWML Fall Craft Fair is scheduled for the first weekend in November. If you would like to rent a space or would like to help, contact Kaye Grundmann, email is kawill43@gmail.com or phone 707365-4975.

**LWML TEA**

Thank you to all the ladies who sponsored a table, to the Duncan family for the GREAT food and service, to Alyssa Wilson (Mad Hatter) for making sure the ladies had tea to drink, to Georgia DeBarr, Barbara Herman and Babette Roberts for the fun skit! A special thank you to the ladies who attended! We hope you enjoyed it and we thank you for supporting Bethany LWML.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- **October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th** – Crafter’s group meets in room B-5 at 10:30 am.
- **October 14th** – **Regular meeting, Sunday at 12:30 pm (after fellowship hour) in room B-8.**
- **November 2, 3, 4** – LWML Fall Craft Fair. Sign-up for baked goods is in the Narthex.
- **November 11th** - **Regular meeting, Sunday** at 12:30 pm (after fellowship hour) in room B-8.
- **November 27th** – Merriment on Main.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

If you have an idea for a mission project, please come to one of the LWML meetings. Many joyful hands are an asset and doing the Lord’s work is rewarding. Praise God daily and encourage a fellow sister in Christ through the spoken word, cards, emails and prayers!

Carole Wilson – LWML President

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**Ladies Birthday Luncheon**

**When:** The 2nd Tuesday of each Month.

**Where:** BJ’s in Vacaville

**Time:** 11:30 A.M.

**Reservations:** By 2:00 pm on Monday

**Shirley Helmich – 707-454-0413**
Bethany Lutheran Church—LCMS

Bethany Youth Group Update – “We Cleaned our Room”

Yes, Mom and Dad we cleaned our room! The Bethany Youth Group spent some time and cleaned the Youth Group Room. We did some much needed organization, dusting, put up some shelves, and vacuumed. We also created a new youth group sign to let people know that the room is for the youth group.

The room is now clean and organized and the Air Hockey table can be used during the fellowship hour and during our events.

We also spent some time in picking our children’s sermon skit. On September 30th, we will be doing a skit called “Passion”. This is a skit about a young man and woman who wonder what has happened to passion and to caring about other people. It should be a lot of fun.

During November and December we will be doing our Christmas Wreath fundraiser again. All funds raised will go towards sending our youth group to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota from July 11 – 15, 2019. So please get your Christmas Wreath from the Youth Group this year and support Bethany.

Youth Group Bible Study: We will be doing a new bible study during the month of October. All youth are invited to attend on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am. Some Sundays we even have Donuts!!!

Bethany Youth Group Event Calendar

October 14th – Fellowship Event – Dixon Corn Maze 5 pm – 9 pm
November 27th – Help the Body - Merriment on Main - 4:30 – 8:30 pm, Youth Group will help out hand out cookies, set-up and breakdown.
December 9th – Honor God Event – Fellowship Hall (Puppet Ministry & Scavenger Hunt) 1 pm – 5 pm
# 2018 Statistical Report
## August 16, 2018 to September 15, 2018

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Average *Weekly* Worship Attendance for Current **Calendar** Year: 136

**Not all Bible Study Classes take attendance**

**Total Membership**
- 295 Confirmed
- 343 Baptized
- 193 Households

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Numbers indicate totals for the year. Names refer to recent additions during the past month.

- 0 Children Baptisms
- 0 Received from Other Lutheran Churches
- 0 Released to Other Lutheran Church

- 0 Adult Baptisms
- 0 Jr Confirmation of Members
- 0 Moved without Transfer

- 0 Adult Confirmations
- 0 Jr Confirmation of Non-Members
- 0 Joined Non-Lutheran Church

- 0 Profession of Faith (Reaffirmation)
- 0 Funeral of Members
- 0 Removed from Roster at Own Request

- 0 Transfers In
- 0 Funeral of Family or Friends of Members
- 0 Marriages

- 0 Transfers Out
- 0 Deceased; Svc not Conducted by Bethany
- 0 Funeral for non-member
Striving for Excellence

In the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Colossians Chapter 3:23 he says “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving”.

How often do we think about excellence? How many times have we heard “That’s good enough for government work”? We all know we are not perfect, but is that an acceptable excuse to strive for anything less than that which is excellent? Fathers and mothers, how about your children? Do you want them to accept anything less than their best? What about our other roles such as spiritual leader, husband, wife, supervisor, employee, student, teacher, and any other title that labels you? Do you lead the way to excellence in all that you do “with all your heart”? Self-examination time!

As lovers of Jesus Christ, and in demonstrating our appreciation for what He has done for us in saving us from our sins, we should reflect excellence in all that we do. But you may ask, how can I do that? Paul addressed the same question in his life and he answered it this way in 1 Corinthians 9:26 - “I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize”. Paul did not expect to ask anything of others that he was not willing and able to do himself. We must force ourselves to go above and beyond our norm, in essence, “beating our bodies to make it our slave”.

It is interesting that Paul identifies himself as someone separate from his body when he says “I beat my body and make it my slave”. Paul is forcing his body to do his bidding as his slave.

FROM THE MAT

Excellence does not come naturally. We must practice it and apply it to our lives. We seldom think in this way, but athletes do and that is why Paul used the analogy of the athlete in 1 Corinthians 9. In God’s kingdom here on earth, we are, for all practical purposes, athletes in training for excellence in all that we do, to God’s glory!

Paul in writing to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:11 says “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness”. You may have heard it said, in this context, that righteousness is not being “holy”. Who among us is “holy”? Righteousness means “doing that which is right in God’s eyes” on an ongoing basis and adding to (pursue) the right-ness from Christ that already exists in us. Anything good in us comes from Christ who lives in us (2 Corinthians 13:5) and we know His power is limitless! Pursuing righteousness (doing that which is right) and striving for excellence are synonymous. As Christians, we can choose to accept a basic truth that God would not give us anything above what we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

In His letter to the Philippians, Paul writes in Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable---if anything is excellent or praiseworthy---think about such things”. Isn’t it interesting that Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, says that those things which are excellent and praiseworthy are also “noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable”? 
The Apostle Paul was not alone in this concept. Simon Peter addressed it in a different way in 2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Knowing excellence in these matters is knowing “our Lord Jesus Christ”.

As we strive to be “noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable”, and as we “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, endurance and gentleness”, and as we “make every effort to add to (our) faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love”, let us, with God’s help, be “Striving For Excellence!

Submitted by the Bethany Elders
Ministry Advisory Team (MAT)

Preschool—God is good all the time!

What a challenging month we’ve had! We haven’t missed a beat and we’re looking forward to Fall activities. With the constant reminder of the fire, we are thankful that God has seen us through it all. Our staff continues to be a blessing to our little ones.

So what’s new?

Our early kindergarten class has settled in to their room at Ulatis. The class is full!

The house on the south side of the church has been transformed into our new toddler center. Thanks to our toddler teacher, Miss Zephra and a crew of hard workers, it was freshly painted and decorated ready to welcome some of the cutest kiddos ever!

The boys and girls have had the opportunity to meet Pastor Dann for chapel talks. It’s always fun to sing for Pastor.

Speaking of singing, Oct 14th our preschoolers will be singing at the 10am service. Please join us in welcoming their families.

Last but not least, we will join the Ulatis campus for Trunk or Treat on October 26th.

In His service,
Cindy Miller, Director
Church Services at Bethany Lutheran Church

Sunday Services: 10 am Variety of Traditional and Contemporary (Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

Bible Studies at Bethany

Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School—Classes for Everyone
  Adult Bible Studies: “Psalms”- Bethany Women; Men’s Bible Study - “Visit Israel” - facilitated by: the MAT

Monday 7:00 pm “Worship” by Carole Wilson

Wednesday 9:30 am Bible Study “Psalms” - Narthex
  5:00 pm “Ephesians” by Pastor Rittenbach

All Sunday Services—10am
Bible Studies and Sunday School—9am
Bethany Breezes

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Bethany Lutheran Church—LCMS

The image contains a word search puzzle with the following words:

FAITH
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
GOODNESS
JOY
KINDNESS
LONGSUFFERING
LOVE
MEEKNESS
PATIENCE
PEACE
SELF-CONTROL
TEMPERANCE

The letters are arranged in a grid, and the words are to be found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in any direction.
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Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany All School Pie Fundraiser.... **In October**
The Crafter’s Group ............ October 4, 11, 18, 25
The Birthday Bunch @ BJ's .............. October 9
Pastor Appreciation Day .............. October 14
LWML monthly meeting.............. October 14
Bethany All School Scholastic Book Fair ..............
................................................................. October 15—19
Bethany All School Harvest Festival/Trunk or Treat ........................................ October 26

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