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As we honor and remember our Mom's on May 12th may the following story warm your heart.

E. V. (Ed) Hill, who pastored Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, tells the story of how "Mama's" love and prayers changed his life. During the height of the Depression, Hill's real mother, who had five children of her own, didn't have enough food to go around, so she sent four-year-old Ed to live with a friend in a small country town called Sweet Home. Ed just called her Mama. As he was growing up in Sweet Home, Mama displayed remarkable faith which led her to have big plans for young Ed. Against nearly insurmountable obstacles, Mama helped Ed graduate from high school (the only student to graduate that year from the country school) and even insisted that he go to college.

She took Ed to the bus station, handed him the ticket and five dollars and said, "Now, go off to Prairie View College, and Mama is going to be praying for you." Hill claims that he didn't know much about prayer, but he knew Mama did. When he arrived at the college with a dollar and ninety cents in his pocket, they told him he needed eighty dollars in cash in order to register. Here's how Hill describes what happened next:

I got in line ..., but I felt I should get out of line ..., but I heard my Mama saying in my ear, "I'll be praying for you." I stood in line on Mama's prayer. Soon there was another new student ahead of me, and I began to get nervous, but I stayed in line .... Just about the time the other student got all of her stuff and turned away, Dr. Drew touched me on the shoulder, and he said, "Are you Ed Hill?" I said, "Yes." "Are you Ed Hill from Sweet Home?" "Yes." "Have you paid yet?" "Not quite." "We've been looking for you all this morning," he said. I said, "Well, what do you want with me?"

"We have a four-year scholarship that will pay your room and board, your tuition, and give you thirty dollars a month to spend." And I remembered what Mama said, "I will be praying for you!"

Thanks, Moms, for always praying for us! Many of us are where we are due to the constant love and prayers of our moms!

Thanks from the bottom of our hearts!

Pastor Russ
Greetings from Bethany Council

"I have set before you an open door." Revelation 3:8. Let God’s presence settle into our bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. God is there for each and every one of us every day.

Bethany Senior Pastor: Bethany Pastor call committee, led by Jerry Miller, is gathering information about the candidates on the list sent from President Lange. The information will help facilitate a congregation call meeting. Thanks to Pastor Russ Hess for his efforts as intentional interim minister. Please fill out & turn in your interim ministry congregant questionnaire handed out on Sundays. See Pastor’s office door for his office hours.

Congregation Meeting June 2 @11:15am: Bethany voting members please put the annual congregation meeting on your calendars. Please present your nominations for council election to Shawn Sanborn.

Outreach: Children are taught about Jesus daily at Bethany schools: K-8 – 98 enrolled. Preschool – 102 enrolled. Hew Hesterman & Diane Irby work with congregants & staff to plan Bethany congregation proactive outreach to young families for Christ. Look for ways you can participate in the Bethany Ministries annual Sunday worship & picnic at Pena Adobe Park May 5. Thanks to the leaders who plan & host interesting Bible studies. Your personal invitation can help friends & school families learn about Jesus love for them. Kevin Shaw leads efforts for 7-12 grade youth program (check bulletins & Breeze for schedule). Thanks to LWML for their outreach programs. Thanks to Regina Brown for teaching Bethany Sunday School. Please contact Hew or Diane to offer help with outreach efforts.

Property maintenance: Volunteers donate materials, work hard & are appreciated. Thanks to Jim Witt & Doug Connor for mounting a new video monitor on the church balcony facing the front & for testing cameras for improved website & service presentations. Thanks to Dr. Smith & Ron Shively for repair of Ulatis garden drip system. Kids are farming! Contact Mike McCall to help with maintenance & projects.

Preschool building fire restoration progress: Church Mutual fire insurance sent checks for insurance coverage: 1) Demolition of the destroyed part of the preschool building. (Bethany has a contractor bid). 2) Repair of the north classroom, restrooms, closets, & electrical room sufficient for preschool to return. (Bethany hired a structural engineer to determine what is needed to reuse the building.) Demolition & repair work will begin once the total effort is understood. 3) Rebuilding cost of the destroyed part of the building is estimated at ~$696K (funds can be applied toward a new preschool building at Ulatis). The money received for items 1-3 is in a building fund restricted US Bank account. 4) Replace contents: Bethany received $41K less $2.5K deductible for replacement items purchased to continue preschool operation. $ are available for the rest of destroyed contents (receipt confirmation required). 5) Code upgrade provision $ are available for the destroyed portion of the preschool building. These funds are available upon approved receipts of actual costs & can be applied to up to the square footage of the destroyed portion of the building. (These funds could be applied to a new preschool building at Ulatis.) 6) Church mutual is still reviewing lost income and other items. Thanks to Cathy Mathews for facilitating the loss valuation process with the insurance adjustors on Bethany’s behalf.

Property Planning: Terra Realty Advisors, in consultation with Bethany property planning team, is guiding the process of developing cost estimates for a new preschool building at Ulatis. MADI architects, Swank Construction, IC Engineering Geotech, Phillipi Structural Engineers, & Clabaugh Landscape Design are working on the cost estimates. Target date is June 2 congregation meeting.

Stewardship: God works in amazing ways to bless Bethany congregation & keep His work going forward. ~$12,950 is matched of the $15,000 fund set aside in November 2018 by 3 member families! You may still participate for a match by designating your gift above tithe to be matched. Read GoBethany.com, Sunday bulletins, Breeze, & Eagle to learn what’s happening in Bethany Ministries & to plan your participation. Thanks for putting the work of Christ first in your plans. Talk to congregation treasurer Curt Johnston with your ideas to help Bethany finances.

Reporting for your church council,
Ron Shively – Congregation President, Shawn Sanborn – Congregation Vice President
The season of Lent gives way to Holy Week and then Easter, the high point of the church year. So, the question is what’s next?

Jesus gave the answer before his ascension when he told his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, to forgive sins, be my witnesses, among other things. Basically, He wants us to spread the good news. He also told them to wait for the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit did come on Pentecost, it changed Jesus’ followers in very dramatic ways. (check out the book of Acts)

The Holy Spirit is still at work today, working in the hearts of believers who continue the work of the faithful who have gone before them.

As workers in God’s kingdom, He has prepared good works for us to do in this life. He has also given each of us different gifts and talents (read 1st Corinthians chapter 12) so that we are able to do works of service in order to build up the kingdom.

Every member in our congregation is important. We are all part of the team known as Bethany Lutheran Church. We have the greatest message known to man. The promise of eternal life thru faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Pray if you would please, that all of us would ask God that thru His Spirit we would be open to using our Gifts and be ready to answer the call for service as He places works of service before us.

To God be the glory,
Your Bethany Elders

Thank you so much for the warm Easter greetings and cards!

Pastor Russ & Krista

Let’s join together in celebration of the Ascension of Jesus! Trinity will once again host the Circuits 4 & 19 joint Ascension Service on Thursday May 30th at 7pm. As in years past we will gather for a potluck at 6pm. This year the preacher will be the Rev. Charles Froh. All offerings collected will be given directly to mission work for the sake of the gospel of Jesus. Please contact Trinity Lutheran Church with any questions 916-456-8701.
Give Thanks & Praise to the Lord

MAY 5, 2019
OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & CHURCH PICNIC
Pena Adobe Park
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This is a joint event involving all Bethany Lutheran Ministries including Preschool & School staff and families. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to ‘Give Thanks & Praise to the Lord’ in fellowship and fun with one another.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Hew Hesterman (hjhesterman@aol.com) or Pat Green (jmkzmom@sbcglobal.net) or Dr. Smith (chris.smith@gobethany.com)

Outdoor Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

Live entertainment by Church, school children and families

BBQ provided
Bring a side dish, dessert or salad

Games, Bucket Dunk, Hayride, Guided Trail Hikes

Bring a lawn chair or blanket for sitting

BETHANY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES
621 S. Orchard Ave
707-451-6675
Gobethany.com
Why Every Mom Needs a Bouquet of Dead Flowers This Mother’s Day

One Mother will never forget the Mother’s Day her firstborn gave her a bouquet of dead daisies. The evening before, she had watched from the kitchen window as her son roamed the overgrown field and proudly picked a handful of golden blooms. He had sniffed the silky petals with an appreciative nod, then he marched inside and asked for a shoebox, some tape and a roll of aluminum foil.

When Mother’s Day arrived he raced to her bedside with that foil-wrapped box tucked under one arm and jumped up and down on the edge of her bed until she flashed him a sleepy smile. The 6-year-old watched with wiggly excitement as she oohed and ahhed over the shiny globs of wrapping paper. Little by little, she peeled back those lumpy layers of foil and plucked at the wads of tape until, finally, she lifted a bouquet of brown blooms from that shoebox tomb. The boy’s wide blue eyes landed on his gift, and a bewildered grimace replaced his proud grin. Before his disappointment could morph into tears, she pulled him close and thanked him for his thoughtfulness.

Then she hopped out of bed and stuffed those dung-colored daisies into my fanciest crystal vase. With a wink, she placed that Mother’s Day surprise right in the middle of the kitchen table as if it were the perfect centerpiece for our day of celebration.

Five kids and a dozen years later, she has learned something about motherhood that greeting cards don’t acknowledge and brightly colored daisies can’t capture.

While motherhood is a beautiful and priceless gift, it is also a surprising summons to die. Motherhood (even spiritual motherhood) is more than a mandate to raise the next generation. It is an unending invitation to lay down our lives.

Motherhood is:

- Saying no to the clanking cadence of selfishness and yes to the quiet rhythms of love.
- Relinquishing pride and persisting in prayer, surrendering greed and growing in grace.
- Pacing the floor with a crying baby in the dark of night.
- Holding a tearful teen in the depths of disappointment.
- Wiping bottoms, noses and floors countless times a day.
- Listening to the same knock-knock joke over and over again.
- Chasing toddlers when we’d rather be chasing our own dreams.
- Folding superhero underwear when we’d rather be rescued from the monotony for a relaxing spa day.

Quite simply, motherhood is a daily decision to paint the ordinary moments of our days with the extraordinary love of Christ. This kind of love may not resemble a bouquet of golden giggles or blossoms of bright pink hugs. It may look more like a batch of brown blooms tucked in a shoebox. Or like our Savior hanging from a rugged cross.

Whether we are moms or wives, daughters or friends, this kind of love doesn’t feel easy or natural. Just know something surprising happens when we fix our eyes on Jesus and follow His example. Little by little, our lives begin to bloom with a beauty that doesn’t wilt or wane, falter or fade. Somehow, as we pour our lives out in love, our faithful Savior uses the gift of daily death to grow us into women radiant with His glory and fully alive in His grace (Psalm 34:5).

Ask Jesus to help you imitate His love each day! (Adapted from a 2017 article by Alicia Bruxvoort.)

PICNIC IN THE PARK – May 5th

Bethany will again hold Sunday services at Pena Adobe park. Ladies, we will be at the gates again this year. We will have a sign-in and issue name tags. Be sure to wear comfy shoes and bring a chair!

CRAFTER’S GROUP

The Crafter’s Group will begin on May 9th in room B-5. You may feel you are not “crafty,” but there is plenty to do! Come join!

PARKING LOT SALE – August 10th

LWML will again hold a Parking Lot sale. If you are interested in buying a space, contact Pat Green at imktzmom@sbcglobal.net. This is a great time to clean out your old unused items and make some money too!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **May 5th** – Fellowship in the Park – Ladies are working the gates.
- **May 9th** – Crafter’s group – 10 am in Room B-5
- **May 12th** (Mother’s Day) – Return all Alpha Baby Bottles
- **May 15-18** – Trinity Lutheran LWML in Fairfield is holding a rummage sale. (9-5 on the 15-17, 18th is 9-noon. The last hour will be a bag sale.
- **May 19th** – LWML meeting 12:00 pm in Room B-8
- **June 2nd** - Trinity Lutheran, Fairfield is holding their annual salad luncheon. Let Marian Durban know how many will be attending by May 30th. The theme is Hawaiian (Muumuus, okay!) Guest speaker will be from Opportunity House. Contact info: Church office – 707-425-2944 or Marian Durban – 707-454-6396.

**MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Our Monday night Bible Study is currently studying, “Jesus Dies and Rises to Save Us.” Terri Denton hosts it in her home at 521 Walnut Avenue, Vacaville. We value each other in Christ, and we accept and encourage each woman to grow in her relationship with others. This is a great time for getting to know other ladies while learning God’s word. Please join us!

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

As of March, your MITES total $1911.35! We are half way through the two-year challenge and Bethany is on target to meet our goal! The progress board is posted in the Narthex and the grants are on the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The first 8 have been paid and the 9th grant is already funded! Please fill those Mite Boxes and continue God’s wondrous work! Keep up the great work!!

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

If you have an idea for a mission project, please come to one of the LWML meetings, held the 2ND SUNDAY of each month. 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
Bethany Youth Group Update – Building and Serving

The month of April was about building and serving our congregations as we get ready for the National Youth Gathering in July. Besides selling a lot of pasta we also had some fun. For our youth group event we completed a “build day” where we built our “new” Puppet stage and our Dank Tank for the Church Picnic. We learned how to use PVC and use a table saw. We worked hard to put together the new stage and the dunk tank. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Hesterman and Leland worked until nightfall to finish the dunk tank. During the day we had some good hamburgers and hot dogs and had a bible study where we learned about Noah and the Ark and how it related to what we were doing. A big thank you goes to David and Kay Grundmann who donated the funds so we could build the stage and the dunk tank. Thank You....

On Easter morning, we completed our annual Easter Breakfast where we served Pancakes and other breakfast treats. It was very hard to get up so early but we did it. A shout out goes to Nigel and Janine who did a lot of hard work to put on a wonderful breakfast!

Church Picnic: The Bethany puppets will be performing on May 5th for a special Church Picnic performance. Don’t miss it. We will also be running a Dunk Tank during the church picnic. You will be able to Dunk the school Principal, Coach Nichols, Pastor and other Church members. We will be selling tickets to dunk them all. It will cost $1 per ball and $2 for 3 balls. So bring some dollars to Dunk them!

Youth Group Bible Study: We will be starting our Bible Study of Psalm 46 for the National Youth Gathering on a Real, and Present God. All youth are invited to attend on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am. Some Sundays we even have Donuts!!!

Bethany Youth Group Event Calendar

May 5th – Church Picnic – Puppet Show and Youth Group Fundraiser
10 am – 3 pm

May 19th – Youth Group Event – Bike Ride 1 – 5 pm
**2019 Statistical Report**  
**March 31, 2019 to April 21, 2019**

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<th>Weekly Totals—Adult Bible Class</th>
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Average *Weekly* Worship Attendance for Current Calendar Year: 165

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE MAY 2019**

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<th>Sunday Services</th>
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<th>5/12/2019</th>
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<td>Don Henrich Rich Dabbert-assist</td>
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<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Doug Conner, Mary Braa, Devon Duncan and Katie Jans</td>
<td>Allen Owens, Carol Ruiz, Karl Hesterman and Barbara Herman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Reader</td>
<td>Cassie Browne</td>
<td>Libby Skinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greeters</td>
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<td>Teri Denton</td>
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<td>Acolyte</td>
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<td>A/V team</td>
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<td>Duncan's</td>
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<td>Kaye Grundmann</td>
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<td>Acolyte</td>
<td>Tyler Simmons and Veronica Shaw</td>
<td>Rick Martinez</td>
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<td>Prayer Team (Trudi Stringer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/V TEAM</td>
<td>Martinez's</td>
<td>Browne's</td>
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Bethany Lutheran Ministries Worship/Message Themes for Easter 3-Easter 7

May 5, 2019
Easter 3
Acts 9:1-22
Revelation 5:8-14
John 21:1-14

“What’s Cookin?”

Our resurrected Lord really knows how to cook! The disciples were overjoyed that Jesus cooked breakfast for them on the shore. His cooking expertise goes far beyond anything we can imagine as His power and grace feeds us just what we need each day.

May 12, 2019
Easter 4
Acts 20:17-25
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

“Who’s Your Leader?”

No matter what the terrain, we are incredibly blessed to have the Master Shepherd, Jesus, leading us. When we’re lost, discouraged, hopeless, He’s there with His rod and staff to protect and guide. How blessed we are to be able to hear His voice through His Word. We thank God for those moms who have been extensions of the Good Shepherd through their love and care.

May 19, 2019
Easter 5
Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-7
John 16:12-22

“Write This Down”

Revelation 21 gives us a powerful view of new creation and eternal life. Jesus defeated sin and death so that we would share in His resurrected life—FOREVER! Everything will be changed—beyond our imagining. It will be reality some day—that’s why in Revelation 21:5 God says “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He writes it down in our hearts and lives to encourage us now.
May 26, 2019
Easter 6
Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27
John 16:23-33

“Thanks for Speaking Clearly”

Jesus used word-pictures, called parables, to help people understand who God is and what his kingdom or reign is like. Jesus used images and characters taken from everyday life to create a miniature play or drama to illustrate his messages. At times those parables were hard to understand. Even his disciples admitted that. Perhaps you’ve had times in which Jesus’ speech and illustrations, or even seeming riddles, had you ask of Him, “what do you mean, Lord?” Our Lord in our Gospel for today gives us straight and understandable talk to enrich and strengthen our faith in Him—especially His words, “I have overcome the world.”

June 2, 2019
Easter 7
Acts 1:12-26
Revelation 22:1-6, 12-20
John 17:20-26

“He’s Praying for You”

What a blessing it is to know someone close to us is praying for us. We can often forget that Jesus is praying for us individually and as a body of believers called to do His ministry. How strengthening that is! In John 17 he’s praying for his disciples to be one in faith and ministry as we share His Gospel to our world

POPPIN’ PROVERBS DRAMA CAMP

FIRST MEETING:
APRIL 28TH IN ROOM B-8 @ 12:00 noon
CONTACT:
CAROLE WILSON (thewilsons1976@gmail.com)

POPPIN’ PROVERBS DRAMA CAMP

MEET: “the Wise Guys,” “the Fool Dudes,” “Professor Proverbs” and “the Poppers!”

JOIN THE FUN!!!
DATE: JULY 15-18
TIME: 9:00 – 12:00
PLACE: ULATIS CAMPUS – 1011 ULATIS DRIVE
WHO: Kindergarten–8th grade
COST: $20
CONTACT: CAROLE WILSON (THEWILSONS1976@GMAIL.COM)
Preschool Praises

Wow! This school year is almost over but we are looking forward to a busy summer school program starting June 3rd-August 9th. Summer school will be held on our Ulatis campus.

What’s coming up?

Mud/Sprinkler days are May 2nd & 3rd.

The Mud is very nice to feel
All squishy-squash between the toes!
I’d rather wade in wiggly mud
Than smell a yellow rose.

Nobody else but the rosebush knows
How nice mud feels
Between the toes.

May 5th our preschoolers will be singing at our service in the park.

Parent/teacher conferences will be May 17th.

We will have our annual end of the school year program May 23rd & 24th at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Thank you Church Council for hosting the ice cream social afterwards for our families.

Now for a few highlights!

Driving Miss Bunny
In between visiting the kids in their classrooms at both campuses the bunny made sure to get her work done!
Bethany Lutheran Preschool Newsletter

-May-

Mud/Sprinkler Days
May 2nd (at the Orchard Campus) & May 3rd (Orchard and Ulatis Campuses) is Sprinkler day!

Worship & Picnic in the Park
Join us Sunday May 5th from 10am-3pm at Pena Adobe Park in Vacaville for an all ministry (Preschool, K-8, and church) outdoor worship service and picnic! Bring your entire family to come join us in this wonderful and super fun day! Your child has been working so hard on their songs to sing that day! Bring a side dish or dessert to share!

School Closed-Parent/Teacher Conferences
May 17th we will be having Parent & Teacher conferences. Bethany Preschool will be closed that day. Please make sure to sign up for a conference for that day with your teacher!

End of the Year Programs
May 23rd will be the Ulatis Preschool Giraffes, Early Kindergarten Owls, and Preschool Extended Care Frogs’ end of the year program at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary of Bethany Church (621 S. Orchard Ave)

May 24th will be the Toddlers, Koalas, & Horses’ end of the year program at 6:30pm in the Church Sanctuary

One In Christ & ABC Bible Verses:
Our Bible Stories and ABC Bible verses this month are:
5/6: Jesus’ Ascension
5/13: Paul is Changed
5/20: Pentecost
God’s Blessings On You!

Birthday Bunch Lunch at BJ’s Restaurant 5/14 at 11:30am

Please RSVP to Shirley Helmich by Monday 5/13

Raymond Fields
Adam Dickson
Gary Turk
Raymond “Ray” Wenger
Cassidy Lamphear
Michele Langhorst
William Quinn
Kay Locatelli
Earl Burton
Karen Intemann
Michael Provencher
Ava Ruiz
Sheila Braa
Kenneth Hilt
Donald Dickson
Alison Fortin
Sandra Sutphin
Amberly Cole
Georgia DeBarr
Scott Ledford
Marie Adams
Michelle Johnson
Debe Westcott
John Weiss
William Young
Sue Henrich
Curtis Skarshaug
Roger Begley
Robert Stough
Mary Dabbert
Karl Hesterman
Sarah Anderson
Annette Langhorst
John Weldon
Mateja Kibler
Bethany Lutheran Church

BLS Spring Concert & Talent Show...........................................May 2nd 6pm-8pm
Preschool’s Mud & Sprinkler Days.................................May 2nd & 3rd
Church Council.................................................................May 5th
Worship Committee.....................................................May 9th @ 7pm
Birthday Bunch @ BJ’s..........................................................May 14th @ 11:30am
Preschool Closed for Parent/Teacher Conferences...........May 17th
LWML meeting.................................................................May 19th @ 12:30pm
Church Office Closed for Memorial Day.........................May 27th

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: “Dust of the A Rabbi” Starts 5/12/19 – Facilitated by Pastor Hess
Monday 7:00 pm Bible Study “But Now I See” - Denton Home
Wednesday 9:30 am Bible Study “Psalms” - Narthex
        5:00 pm “Ephesians” by Pastor Rittenbach