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**Living God's Word through Caring, Sharing, and Teaching**

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# ***Bethany Breezes***

## ***May 2020***

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## ***From Pastor Phil***

Completely Unique  
Pastor Phillip Pledger

Yesterday (April 29th) President Michael Lange (President of California, Nevada, Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod) formally installed me as Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church. When you watch the installation service [www.gobethany.com](http://www.gobethany.com) you will see that it's quite formal and detailed. The installation rite includes many Bible passages that focus on the duties of the Pastoral Office, statements of confession, and a number of promises the Pastor makes to God and the congregation regarding the exercise of his duties.

My promises voiced on Wednesday to you as the newly minted Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church is now a matter of public record. I fully intend to fulfill those promises and honor God and His people with my heart and soul!

As you no doubt know, this particular installation service was completely unique; I have never been installed in front of cameras. . . to a near-empty sanctuary. . . to be uploaded to YouTube. . . where, during the service, we were able to "cut" the scene then "stage" the next scene. . . where the service was completed on Wednesday to be observed by individuals and families over the following weekend. . . completely unique.

Everyone reading this article and everyone participating in You Tube worship is experiencing a completely unique moment in history. And everyone has had enough quarantine to last us for quite a while (except for our dogs and cats who LOVE the fact that we're now always home)!

My question for your consideration is this: Are there any *Divine Opportunities* in this completely unique situation? Although the door to large social gatherings (and Communion Services!!) is temporarily closed, what is God's Spirit leading us into; what doors does this completely unique situation open?

Over the next number of months I will get to know the people of Bethany. Together we will discover new opportunities to share the message of Jesus to our communities, and become more and more engaged with the people our Lord Jesus died to redeem. As we do this I ask you to pray: please pray that God will allow us to see the doors He has opened during this completely unique time. During this time of world-wide pandemic our



message is as clear as ever: ***“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*** (Romans 5:8).

As I write this, the State of California is still under quarantine. But soon. . . very soon, Bethany Lutheran Church will have a phenomenal celebration. Our pinned-up holy desire to celebrate Christ and His family will be known as the ***“St. Patrick’s-Palm Sunday-Maundy Thursday-Good Friday-Easter-Cinco De Mayo-Mother’s Day-Memorial Day celebration of the year!*** And we will not only celebrate with joy the freedom to congregate as God’s people, but to also commune at the same altar, greet in person those we long to embrace, and in person, encourage one another in hope only God’s people can know. Until that day (and it’s coming soon!), from the point of view of many of our neighbors and friends, ***we already have a completely unique message*** from the lips of Jesus Himself: ***“And behold, I am with you always”*** (Matthew 28:20).

May God continue to fill your hearts with hope and peace, in Christ!



## *President's Report*

### **Greetings from Bethany Council**

"For God alone my soul waits in silence." Psalms 62:1 God is always moving on our behalf, even when we can't see it with our eyes and conditions seem to be at a standstill. Our activity may have stopped but, **Praise God that His activity has not stopped.**

**Bethany Senior Pastor:** Pastor Phillip Pledger will be installed as senior pastor on May 3, which can be seen on line at GoBethany.com. Pray for God's guidance as he joins Bethany to further God's work in Vacaville. Thanks to Pastor Russ Hess for 14+ months of intentional interim ministry!!!

**Outreach:** Bethany TK-8 school continues to reach families with Jesus love through on line classes. The corona virus forced preschool to close temporarily. Bethany worship services are on line at GoBethany.com thanks to efforts of Pastor Hess, Jim Witt, & Katy Green, Libby Stringer, & other Bethany members. Outreach Bible based classes: parenting, personal finance, exercise class, Saturday food & craft events need sponsors to organize. Your personal invitation can help friends & school families learn about Jesus love for them. Bethany youth group is on line during pandemic. Janine Browne is waiting for Life Touch Bethany directory. Talk to Hew Hesterman to help with outreach.

**Stewardship:** God works in amazing ways to bless Bethany congregation & keep His work going forward. Bethany members donated \$107K matching fund toward new preschool! \$8,632 has been matched! \$300K is still needed to build preschool buildings C & D. [GoBethany.com](http://GoBethany.com) has link to mobile cause options for donations. Thanks for putting the work of Christ first in your plans. Banks are busy fulfilling the US Payroll Protection Program (PPP), which delays Bethany ability to refinance. Council realized that Bethany needs help during this shelter in place time because tuition is down & offerings are down. Bethany applied for a forgivable PPP loan through First Northern Bank, \$213K funding expected shortly. The 1% interest loan is for 8 weeks of payroll, utilities, & mortgage interest & then will be forgiven by the federal government. Talk to Curt Johnston, treasurer, to help with Bethany stewardship efforts.

**Property Planning:** Bethany property team, Terra Realty Advisors (TRA), MADI architects, Swank Construction, IC Engineering Geotech, Phillipi Structural, & Clabaugh Landscape Design work to complete permit drawings (80%). Bethany congregation gave go ahead to construct building C&D when \$2.7MM dedicated cash is in the bank. Timing depends on city permits & fund raising efforts. 661 S.



Orchard & 500 Azalea closed escrow. Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) confirmed a letter of intent (LOI) to purchase 621 S. Orchard. The LOI includes \$2.4MM cash as is + 1 year free lease back after escrow closes (6 month process). Council is working with VSD to develop a purchase agreement. God continues to bless Bethany: consider \$700K net insurance proceeds + \$600K for 2 houses + \$2.4MM = \$3.7MM for Orchard property. A2R Architects is hired to help Bethany design a sanctuary for Ulatis.

**Orchard Preschool building fire restoration progress:** Ray Clemes of Top Notch Construction presented a proposal to move data connection weather head to the roof of a new water proof utility building mounted on the slab over the existing electrical room for Orchard property data, electrical, & sprinkler controller & demolish the burned building for ~\$100K. A permit is needed to demolish the burned building. Bethany will proceed once VSD purchase agreement is confirmed.

**Property maintenance:** Thanks to help of Mike McCall, Doug Connor, Hew & Lee Hesterman, Darrol Wilson, & Ron Shively moved Orchard shed off the 500 Azalea property line. Hew & Ron boarded up the burned bldg after fence removed. Thanks again to Sharone Webb for beautiful flower plantings at sanctuary entry. Ulatis: Mike repaired drinking fountain leak in hallway. Doug, Shawn, Mike, Ron, Amy, Julie & Korey Johnston helped clean school landscape, & repaired northwest rolling parking lot gate receiver & repaired playground equipment. Contact Mike McCall to help with maintenance & projects.

**Business Management:** Council manages Bethany business work flow & records retention: special thanks to Natalie Hart, Michelle Aas, Diane Irby, Curt Johnston, Shawn Sanborn, Carole Wilson, & Ron Shively. Meeting weekly with US Bank helps ensure tax exempt bond finance covenants are met.

Church council reporting: Ron Shively – President, Shawn Sanborn –VP, Carole Wilson - Secretary



## *From the Elder's*

Having come off the joy of Easter, the question could be asked, now what?

Salvation has been won for us by Jesus. Paul writes in Ephesians 2 verse 8 “For it is by Grace you have been saved through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God not by works, so that no man can boast.”

So again, the question what now? Do we just sit back enjoying our salvation, waiting to be called to our home in heaven? Sounds nice but no that is not God's plan.

After Jesus rose from the dead He appeared to his disciples on several occasions with instructions. They included sending them as Jesus was sent, to preach the good news to all creation, they would be His witnesses, the great commission to go and make disciples and to baptize them, among other commands. He also promised the Holy Spirit which would empower them for ministry and did it ever. The apostles shared the Good News of salvation and selected leaders, that we call pastors today, who led the new believers. The leaders taught and prepared the new believers for what Paul writes in Ephesians 2 verse 10 “We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do” .

So, what do those instructions mean for us today? Those same commands apply to us today. But what is my role in the church, how do I prepare for the good works I am to do? When you were baptized, the Holy Spirit blessed you with unique gifts. The gifts of the Spirit are many and the ones given you are to assist in the good works God has planned for you. The pastors of our congregations are there to do the same as those in the past. They lead us, teach us, help us discover our gifts, they coach and equip us to do those good works planned for us. Everyone of us has a part in the ministry of Bethany. Large or small, everyone's good works are needed to grow our ministry.

Jesus tells us there are two great commandments on which the others stand. Love God and love your neighbor. If we truly care for our neighbor as Christ did, wouldn't we want to be sure they knew about the Good News of salvation that we have?



So, now what? As God presents opportunities, be prepared to use the God given gifts you have been given to do the good works God has prepared for you. Pastor pledger and the Elders are here to prepare, equip, and support you for the good works God has prepared for you.

Your Bethany Elders





**MAY 2020**  
**WELCOME AND GOOD-BYE!**

**WELCOME Pastor and Cindy Pledger!** We are delighted you have accepted a Call to Bethany! We are thankful you are here, and we are praying for our combined success in doing God's work.

**Good-bye Pastor Hess!** We are so thankful for your service as interim Pastor. You have helped Bethany grow and you always showed God's love. We will miss you!

**CHANGE** - We often struggle with the passages in the Bible that talk about change; verses that tell us God is doing a NEW thing. We have seen new change in the way we live, the way we meet each other, the way we shop and the way we worship. Our God is a God of all things new.

God gently reminds us to trust Him, to take Him at His Word. God's timing may not be our timing. Things may not happen as quickly as we would like. God is not a magic genie who snaps his fingers and makes things happen in 24 hours (although He could.) We must be patient as God is patient. Timing is everything! We are changing in many ways. Just open your heart and listen to what God is saying.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT- SAVE THE DATE!!! "SOUL" FOOD TO BE RESCHEDULED**

We are still planning our Women's retreat. The date has change because of COVID19 restrictions. Stay tuned for updates.

**YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION: Every Bethany lady is invited to attend and participate in LWML**

The purpose/goal of our ministry: To provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth, a richer prayer life, and retreating into the Word of God. We value, accept and encourage each other in Christ. We help each woman to grow in her relationship with others and to use her God-given talents and gifts.

**MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Our Bible study is temporarily on hold because of COVID19. I will notify you as soon as we can safely meet again.





**MEETING DATE – SUNDAY, May 17<sup>th</sup> (Tentative)**

Please put Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We will (hopefully) hold our meeting in room B-8 at 12:00 noon.

**CNH District Convention** was to be held in June, but it has been cancelled. HOWEVER, there is still business to take care of. I have sent via email the new grant proposals. If you have not sent your TOP 5 list to me, please do so as soon as you can. These are the grants we save our MITES for during the next 2 years.

**MITE CHALLENGE** – The new list will be determined, and I will put up a new goal chart as soon as the voting has been completed. Praise God for each Mite and please continue to fill those Mite Boxes. Let us show God's wondrous work to others!

**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



## Bethany Youth Ministry Update – COVID-19 Edition II

The youth group is hanging in there. We did not think we would still be doing this in May but here we are. The Youth group is still meeting every week via Zoom and doing a bible study. Thank you all that are doing it. We have a good time and we study the word of god. Kudos goes to Pastor Pledger for spending some time with the youth. We really enjoy his participation.



Speaking of participation, we did have a virtual Youth Group Event on April 5th. We all played an online trivia game called Kahoot. It was very fun to play and it was fun making up different names. It was great to see each other as we played too. We

actually played longer than what was scheduled. Some was very good at it. But everyone had a great time. We will be doing another virtual event on May 17th at 1:00 pm. Hopefully, everything will be settled down in June and we can see each other once again.

Another Kudos goes to James... James helped out the Scullies with some weeding and gardening. It is nice to see that our youth are helping each other out. We have been talking about doing some church projects and learning how we can use our gifts and talents to help out the church.

We would like to see all the youth at an upcoming ZOOM meeting or our May 17th Virtual Event. Parents and Family members are welcome to join us.

SAVE THE DATE – We rescheduled our Mt. Cross Event where we will be doing ziplining and the ropes course. We will be going on Sunday, September 20th. This is an all-day event.

Be safe, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and pray to God and Jesus. We will see you soon!



## Bethany Youth Ministry Event Calendar

Bible Study - Every Sunday Morning at 10:00 am on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/810373457?pwd=UzI3cWcrNzMrM01TWmMyWkY0WTg2dz09>

Meeting ID: 810 373 457

Password: youth

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Youth Group Event – 1:00 pm

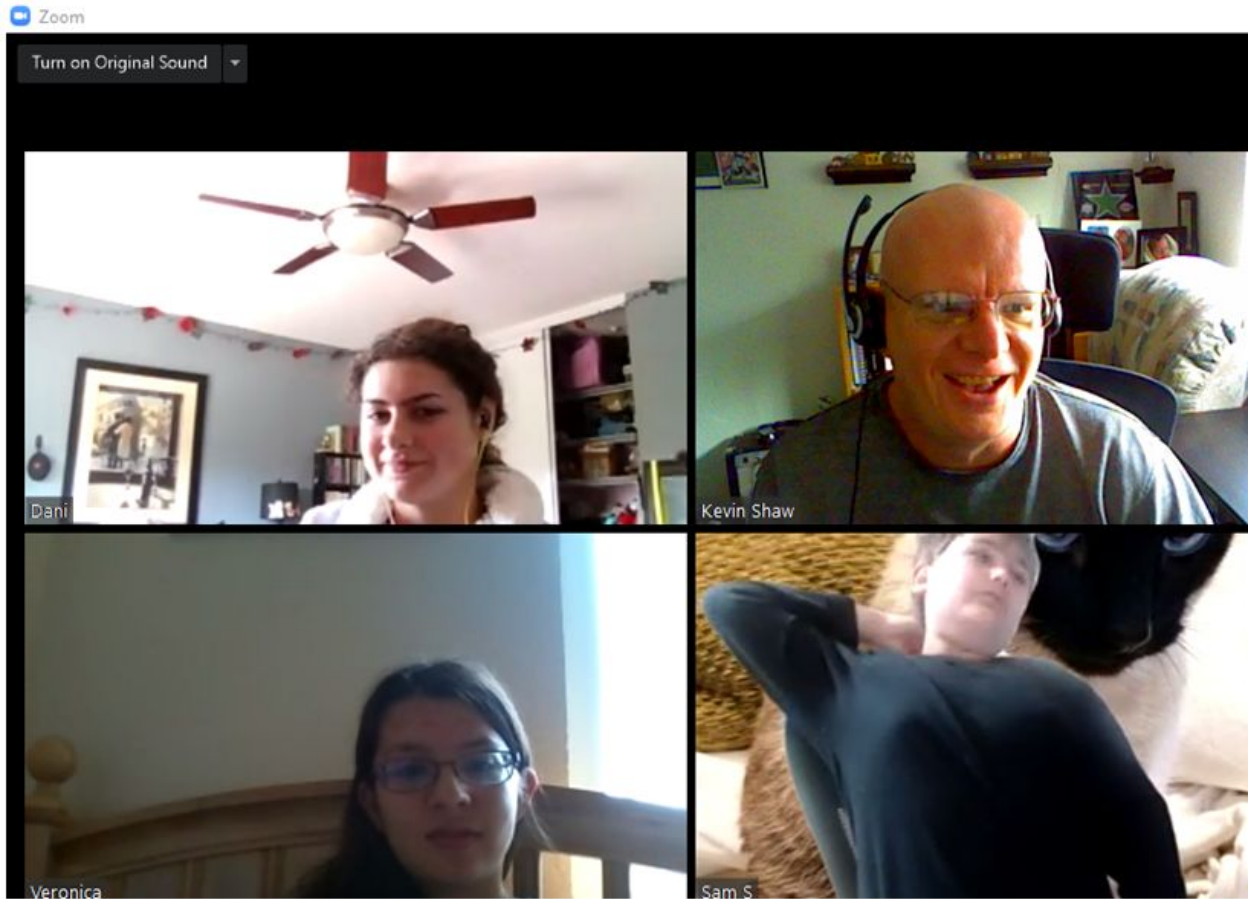
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81360415811?pwd=b0ZiN3JpRm5nckJVdTY4V1dMUIZyZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 6041 5811

Password: Bethany



# Youth Group Pictures





## *May Birthdays*

Raymond Fields	May 01
Adam Dickson	May 02
Gary Turk	May 02
Raymond "Ray" Wenger	May 03
Cassidy Lamphear	May 04
Michele Langhorst	May 05
William Quinn	May 05
William Cox	May 06
Kay Locatelli	May 06
Earl Burton	May 07
Karen Intemann	May 07
Michael Provencher	May 08
Ava Ruiz	May 08
Sheila Braa	May 09
Kenneth Hilt	May 10
Donald Dickson	May 12
Alison Fortin	May 12
Sandra Sutphin	May 15
Amberly Cole	May 17
Georgia DeBarr	May 17
Scott Ledford	May 17
Marie Adams	May 18
Michelle Johnson	May 18
Debe Westcott	May 19
John Weiss	May 20
William Young	May 20
Sue Henrich	May 21
Curtis Skarshaug	May 21
Roger Begley	May 24
Robert Stough	May 24
Mary Dabbert	May 25
Karl Hesterman	May 25
Sarah Anderson	May 28
Annette Langhorst	May 28
Gordon Theilen	May 29
John Weldon	May 29
Mateja Kibler	May 30



*God's blessings on May Babies!*



## ***Statistical Report- April 5-26, 2020***

<i>Week #</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Worship Attendance</i>	<i>General Offering Weekly Giving</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>4/5/20 Palm Sunday</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>\$1,232.13</i>
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>*Combined with 4/19</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>4/12/20 Easter</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>*Combined with 4/19</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>4/19/20</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>\$8,950.00</i>
<i>17</i>	<i>4/26/20</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>\$1,205.00</i>

*Average weekly attendance for current calendar year: 134*

### ***Meet Our Staff***

***Senior Pastor- Pastor Phillip Pledger***

***Church Administrative Assistant- Natalie Hart***

***School Principal- Dr. Chris Smith***

***Preschool Director- Cindy Miller***

***Bethany Church Council- Janine Browne, Hew Hesterman, Diane Irby, Curt Johnston, Karen Loewe, Mike McCall, Shawn Sanborn, Ron Shively, Carole Wilson***

***Bethany Elder Board- Don Fortin, Don Henrich, Rick Martinez, Jerry Miller, Jim Witt***

***Fellowship Ministry- Cathy Hesterman***

***LWM- Carole Wilson***

***Properties- Mike McCall***

***Youth- Kevin Shaw***



## ***Church Services at Bethany Lutheran Church***

*During COVID-19 our weekly service can be found on our website at [www.gobethany.com](http://www.gobethany.com) under the church tab, then under Sunday Services.*

*You can also find them via YouTube by searching Bethany Lutheran Vacaville. Weekly bulletins are also available on our website at [www.gobethany.com](http://www.gobethany.com)*

*Please email your prayer requests to: [natalie.hart@gobethany.com](mailto:natalie.hart@gobethany.com)*

