Bethany Breezes
March 2021

Join us at 7 PM for our Lenten service!
3/3, 3/10, 3/17, & 3/24
GREETINGS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL!

The season of Lent reminds us to focus on Jesus work of salvation in our lives & in the lives of our families, friends & neighbors.

Congregation: Lent services began on ash Wednesday meeting in the Ulatis fellowship room & on line at GoBethany.com. Sunday worship now meets in the fellowship room with zoom to 2 other classrooms with COVID 19 precautions, 90.7FM for cars, & streamed recordings on line at GoBethany.com. Thanks to AV team!

Strategic Planning: Pastor Pledger, working with Bethany leaders is developing strategic plans for Bethany ministry. Look for Pastor Phil’s email message to find the sign up for congregation participation.

Outreach: Bethany school is reaching families with Jesus love. 136 TK-8, 33 PS children enrolled. 112 students have registered for the 2021-2022 school year so far. Outreach Bible based classes: parenting, personal finance, exercise class, Saturday food & craft events need sponsors to organize. LWML is meeting to come up with their outreach plans under the guidance of Carol Wilson. Bethany’s Faith Five Youth Group, for our 3rd-8th Graders at Ulatis is held on Wednesday afternoons under leadership of Devon Duncan. Your personal invitation can help friends & school families learn about Jesus love for them. Talk to Pastor Pledger to help with outreach.

Stewardship: God is truly blessing Bethany! Praise the Lord! Bethany applied for & received a forgivable second round federal COVID 19 relief loan of $213K meant to help pay for payroll. Once documented payroll is spent, Bethany will apply for forgiveness of the loan under the federal guidelines.
**Property maintenance:** Ulatis: Preparations started for new counters & cabinets in the fellowship room & a new patio cover: new power cables are pulled to the locations ready to add receptacles thanks to Mike McCall, Shawn Sanborn, Pastor Phil, & Ron Shively. Preparations started for placement of storage units thanks to Hew Hesterman. Some trees were trimmed thanks to Korey Johnson. Repairs needed: Fence, trim trees, parking lot light bulbs (2). Contact Mike McCall to help with maintenance & projects.

**Business Management:** Pastor Pledger in cooperation with Council manages Bethany business work flow & records retention: special thanks to Natalie Hart, Diane Irby, Bob Johnston, Shawn Sanborn, Carole Wilson, Mike McCall, & Ron Shively. Pastor Pledger meets regularly with the finance committee to monitor Bethany financials. Council elected Mike McCall treasurer to replace Bob Johnston who resigned his position on council. Thanks to Bob for his hours of effort to bring Bethany financials up to date. Bob is still volunteering as bookkeeper until a replacement can be hired.

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

You stiffed neck people. That phrase is used in the Bible to describe God’s people the Israelite’s. It is mentioned 5 times in scripture. It seems like no matter what God did for His people, they always found something to complain about. He had freed them from slavery, promised to lead them to the promised land and had provided for them through many miracles. Still many times they turned away, but by God’s grace they were led back to Him.

In the new testament God sent his Son into the world. You would think that the religious leaders would be overjoyed. Yet they were always trying to undermine His ministry. They did not like the way He was doing things. He was undermining their authority. He was upsetting the apple cart. The law and tradition had become more important than justice, mercy, and faithfulness. They had become self-righteous.

Today are we any different? Do we lament on what we do not have, while forgetting the countless ways God has blessed us as a congregation?

As God’s people we are called to serve not to be served. We God’s people are the church not the property or the buildings. The church is God’s not ours. We are stewards and we are to reach out and share the message of God’s love for us in the gospel. It is extremely easy to become self-centered.
In reading the portals of prayer for February, there were stories of how the church grew in the deep south. They shared about the growth happening by the sharing of the Gospel message through preaching and teaching of the word. They speak of starting schools and meeting in log cabins for worship, of starting a Sunday school in an old barn with seats made from a broken wagon and riding in an ox cart to church. A mission was started which grew into a church and school. It produced 15 pastors, 20 parochial school teachers, and several church starts. A church start was also mentioned in west Africa that in 2018 was built by men of the community. It had dirt floors, hand made benches and desks, outside toilets, well water and no electricity. The power of God’s love is amazing and life changing.

While there is nothing wrong with planning and building a new sanctuary, we need to remember that sharing the good news of the gospel and changing hearts is what builds the church. People are what make the difference. Many congregations would be thrilled and thankful to have our temporary place of worship as their own. To get our new Sanctuary it will take sacrifice and growth. Growth will come by touching other peoples lives and sharing God’s love with them. Without that sharing the church will slowly die.

So, let us give thanks to God for all His blessings and all He has done to sustain us as a congregation and continue the work he has set before us. You can help share your vision for our future by signing up for one of the cottage meetings that are being planned.

As is written in the Psalms: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and his steadfast love endures forever.

Your Bethany Elders
Thanking God for Spring

Spring may be the most awaited season of the year. It is a heavenly respite from the harsh, dark winter. It is when nature enters its festival mode. Spring is the time of renewal, rebirth, greenery, and life sprouting all around. Gardeners love spring, for it gives them more light and the pleasant warmth to go out and sow the seeds. As temperatures increase, both flora and fauna get a long-awaited relief from the cold winter.

The heavens declare the glory of God and all creation is shouting for joy. We pause and look at the new life around us this Spring and we are reminded of the presence of God our Creator in our midst.

Here is a challenge for you...Can you find one thing at Bethany to renew? Be creative, take an old tradition and make it new, or a dirty window and make it sparkle. You choose when and how to make it happen...Then ask God to bless your work and see the results! Happy Spring!

SPECIAL INVITATION: Every Bethany lady is invited to attend and participate in LWML.
Thanks be to God! We are His!

We are: Held by God’s Word.
Inspired to share His gospel.
Surrounded by His grace.
MEETING DATE – SUNDAY, March 14th
Put Sunday, March 14th on your calendar. The meeting time will be 12:00 pm. We will hold our meeting in the Fellowship Hall at the Ulatis campus, right after our Church service. Be sure to bring your mask.

THURSDAY NIGHT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – Restarting March 11th.
Bible study at Terri Denton’s home, 521 Walnut Ave. THURSDAY evenings at 7:00pm. Please join us!

MITE CHALLENGE – Bethany’s goal for 2020-2022 is $3800. Please do not forget to fill your mite boxes and bring them to our next meeting. COVID has not stop our mission outreach. Praise God for each Mite. 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. Praise God daily and encourage a fellow sister in Christ through the spoken word, cards, emails, and prayers!

Carole Wilson – LWML President
FROM THE YOUTH

The youth group could not get together this past month in February. Youth group attendance is down and kids are not attending. We are encouraging parents to try to get their kids involved in Youth Group and attend our events. Any ideas to increase attendance and participation or if your youth wants to join us please let Kevin Shaw, Youth Group Coordinator know at nafl@nafl-usa.com or 707-628-8347.

Bible Study is still occurring every Sunday Morning at 9:45 –10:45 am on ZOOM.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84605256808?pwd=eXZieUoxWHJqa1JBOGJsL0JzaHQ2dz09

Meeting ID: 846 0525 6808
Passcode: Youth

Below is the planned events for the coming month.

March 14th –Fellowship Event - Bike Ride meet at Bethany 1 – 4 pm
April 5th - Easter
April 11th – Honor God Event – Easter Egg / Scavenger Hunt 1 – 4 pm

Month of March and April - Fundraiser– Fun Pasta
Happy Birthday to you.

God’s Blessings on you!

Statistical Report-General Offering

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Our theme for March is “Spring fling”. Our bible stories we will read this month are; “Jesus feeds 5,000” and “Jesus blesses the little children”.

We have been having so much fun learning our letters, U,V,W & X. In science, we learned how to make objects float and sink. We also did a volcano experiment that was out of this world FUN!

In art we painted symmetry hearts, decorated valentine bags and made cards for our families. In math we learned about 1-1 number correspondence and sequencing. Pastor Phil came to do chapel with us and the students taught him our prayer and a few songs. We all danced and sang together too, what a treat!
We added 2 new play structures to our outdoor playground. Meet “Harry” our Caterpillar!

Our student of the month for February was Ellie Gordon. Congratulations Ellie!!

On Thursday 2/25 we had our annual Pet Parade! The students bring their favorite stuff pet and we parade around. Each pet earns an award! It is so much fun!

Preschool is hard work!
Worship at the Ulatis Campus!
Join us on Sundays at 11AM
Inside, Parking lot, or Virtual!

1011 Ulatis Dr.
Vacaville, CA 95687
707-451-6675
Gobethany.com