



*Bethel Lutheran Church & School*  
*2017 Annual Report*

*Our Core Values:*

*Hospitality to All*  
*Christ Centered Community*  
*Spiritual Growth and Discipleship*  
*Generosity*  
*Responding to Needs*

Dear Family and Friends of Bethel,

Enclosed you will discover the various reports of the ministry that took place in 2017 at Bethel Lutheran Church and School. However, this is more than a report. Within these pages you read about the love and dedication of our membership in their service to God and others. If you are an active member of Bethel, you already know how we take care of one another and the community. What a blessing it is to be your pastor.

As I reflect on this past year, I can't help but think of our theme verse from Nehemiah 8:10 "For the joy of the Lord is your strength." I spent some time last spring preaching about how we can increase the joy in our own lives. It is clear that when we engage in Bethel's Core Values of Hospitality, Christ Centered Community, Spiritual Growth, Responding to the Needs of Others and Generosity our personal joy will increase. When we focus less on ourselves and more on others (including Christ) our joy will grow. There is no doubt we are a joyful congregation!

In addition to the ministry that happens throughout the year, the generosity of many allowed us to refresh the sanctuary with new carpeting and new plants. We completed this project in time for Palm Sunday.

We continued our First Wednesday Speaker Series and we welcomed various religious and community leaders including our congressman and an attorney from the Santa Clara Justice Project.

This past year we continued to help others in the community and around the world. Specifically we continue help West Valley Community Services when there is a need as well as Help One Child and The Lord's Pantry. We also received a personal note of thanks from the director of the ELCA Disaster Response because of all we did to help the victims of the multiple hurricanes and the wildfires closer to home this past year.

It is a pleasure to work with such a talented and faithful staff. I could not do what I do without their support, hard work and friendship. Thank you Fara, Dawn, Tom, Patricia, Amanda, Leslie, Melody, Clayton, David, Chris and Kitty.

Finally, thank you for the privilege of being your pastor. I am humbled by your kindness and love that you show Rachel (Mrs. Pr. Ben) and myself. It is a joy to serve with you as we serve Christ.

In 2018, I approach another milestone! This May will mark my 20th year of ordained ministry. I can't think of a better place to celebrate that anniversary.

God bless you all,

Pr. Ben Bergren

## In Memoriam

We say goodbye to Jane Malison, Bruce Euler, Larry Buckreus and Harvey Baker. We wish to remember them in this report, acknowledge their gifts to this community and thank God for their faithful service.

## Baptisms

In 2017, we baptized the following: Felix Vieta, Thomas Heerboth, and Emma Burch

## New Members

We welcome new and returning individuals to our congregation: Laurel Euler, Peter Heerboth, Paula Delgado, Rosemarie Reichard, Landon Lee, Amanda Heerboth, Christopher Jones, Emily Lee, Estela Ohashi, Lisa Ohashi, and Makoto Ohashi

## Confirmations

The following Bethel youth affirmed their baptismal faith promises: Alden Gu, Olivia Lingscheit,

## First Communion Class

The following children celebrated their First Communion: Jacob Riedell, Ivory Miller, Jack Hermann, and Garrett Brown

## First Bible Distribution

A Holy Bible was given to Karina Lui, Megan Aarnold, Ivory Miller, Livia Miller, Claire Boniface and Adam Lingscheit.

## Servant Hearts

We honored members nominated by their peers for their dedication to the work they do here at Bethel: Greg Steinke, Molly Schrey, Frank and Mona Chan, Mariann Jones, Holly Lofgren, Debby Coleman, and Chris Ford.



## Director of Finance and Human Resources — Fara Brock

As Bethel's financial manager I oversee all church and school financial transactions including deposits, stock donations, bill paying, and payroll. I oversee the month-end and year-end close processes and submit financial reports that are reviewed monthly by Council and reviewed annually by an external CPA. 2017 was financially a great year for Bethel. I am happy to report that Bethel:

- Ended the budget year with giving 3% above budget and a net income of \$28,000 which was \$58,000 above budget.
- Gave \$81,000 as Benevolence and Outreach in the 2017 calendar year including \$14,500 for hurricane relief.

I am blessed to work with a group of volunteers who make a huge difference in smooth operations at Bethel. I am always impressed by their love for Bethel and the knowledge and wisdom they bring to any project:

- Liz Tribby on managing office IT and member records
- Kathy Arnold, Audit Committee chair, on internal procedures
- Holly Lofgren on managing capital assets and depreciation schedules
- Brad Martinson on managing school computers and Bethel's internet and telephone infrastructure
- Brian Schuette on optimizing Bethel's wireless network
- Dave Larson, Bethel's Treasurer, on budgeting and financial reporting along with other Finance Committee members: Dave Tribby, Jack Wedgwood, and Sam Sudarsanam
- Mark Evashenk on benevolence and outreach planned giving

As Bethel's Human Resource manager, I work closely with BLS principal, Dawn De Bois-Weber, and Pastor Ben on personnel issues. Bethel has about 50 employees so I am always working to help keep Bethel compliant with California and Federal labor laws and payroll laws for small businesses. I work closely with Bethel's benefits broker to offer competitive benefits to our employees including health, dental, retirement funds, and Flexible Spending Accounts.

I work closely with Bethel's program staff on their expense budgets and the funding of Bethel ministries. I look forward to another productive and inspiring year with Bethel's amazing staff and volunteers.

## Director of Children's Ministry & Nursery-Amanda Laughlin



2017 was full of many traditions and new adventures. In the winter/spring of 2017 we continued to use "Living Inside Out" curriculum for ages preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. However because this curriculum was discontinued, we chose to use "Dig In", - also from Group Publishing, in the fall of 2017. We are presently using Dig In – the Bible in One Year. This curriculum takes kids on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation. Kids experience a relationship



with God through the eyes of people from the Bible. Kids discover that they are a lot like the people that God has worked through and learn how to apply these lessons to their daily lives. We meet in Torvend Hall for Large Group Opening, music, video lesson and a brief overview of the lesson. The kids are then excused to small age - appropriate groups and learn more about the Bible story of the day through fun hands on activities. We have twelve dedicated volunteer Kid Connection Teachers... Amanda Boniface, Lauren Hadding, Patrice Sera, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Kristine Lui, Amber Myerholtz, Carol Wheaton, Greg Steinke and Minnie Sudarsanam. Our two substitute Kid Connection Teachers are Brett Deutscher and Jamie Laughlin. We also have several "All Kid Connection" activities throughout the year, one of which is the "Seder Meal" that is held on Palm Sunday and is led by Robyn Winegardner. Our program is blessed to have such amazing people who give of their time to the children of Bethel.

In Kid Connection we take offering during our Large Group Opening. The Kids are given a few options and they vote on where they would like their collections to go. In the winter and spring of 2017, they collected over \$400.00. Their efforts were matched by a generous anonymous donor. They chose to give their offering to ELCA Good Gifts, where the money was used to give supplies to a classroom in a third world country and provided hungry children here in the United States with backpacks full of food. In the fall of 2017, Nick Boniface led our offering campaign and shared his concern about those affected by the hurricanes and asked that his Kid Connection peers help with these efforts. They collected \$429.00 and we were blessed with two anonymous donors that each gifted \$400.00. We were able to give \$1,229.00 to Lutheran Disaster Relief, which will go to help those affected by the hurricanes.

Our Kid Connection Kids shared the story of Jesus and his gift to us when they performed an Easter Musical "Happy Day" in April during Lent. They also shared the story of the gift of his birth on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> when they performed a Christmas Program called "Christmas is Jesus".



Our Little Lights Choir for ages 3 years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade is directed by Amanda Boniface and Amanda Laughlin. Our Children's Choir ages 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, is directed by Barb Larsen. Both choirs sing pieces that they have practiced in front of the congregation. Both choirs also meet during the second service after the Children's Message.

We held a First Communion Class (for ages 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) the last two Sundays of March. Four children took part in this class. Pastor Ben Bergren led this class and uses the curriculum "Come to God's Table" – preparing for Holy Communion. On Maundy Thursday, Amanda led the class in baking communion bread and they and took part in their first communion during the service, with the exception of one student, who took his first communion at a convenient time for his family.

First Bible Class is now taught during Kid Connection class time in October. This allows all students to have a chance to receive their first Bible. For those who have already taken the class, this gives them a chance to take a refresher course. They also receive a monogrammed Bible case for their first Bibles. They receive their first Bibles on Reformation Sunday during the second service.



Our Third Annual “Take Out Church” was focused on Martin Luther and the 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Reformation! Everyone who wanted a box received a gable box that had pictures of windows and the door with the 90 theses on it, which was a black and white and available to be colored on. Inside the box, we provided a Luther’s Small Catechism, the study guide, “I am Lutheran, and what does that mean to me” coloring book, colored pencils, jelly belly prayer prompts (along with Jelly Belly Beans), lapel pins of Martin Luther that stated “I was Lutheran before it Was Cool” and a flat Martin and Katie (his wife). Thank you, Teague Shattuck for creating and drawing Flat Martin and Flat Katie for this project!



We asked that people take their Flat Martins and Katies with them on vacation or on their Staycation and take pictures with them. We then asked them to send the pictures to us. Pastor Ben made a movie of their adventures. Thank you to everyone who helped to put 100 of these Take Out Churches together! We couldn’t have done it without you! This is a fun summer tradition and stay tuned for this year’s “Take Out Church”.

Our Annual Vacation Bible School took place on July 10<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>. The theme was “Maker Fun Factory” — Created by God — Built for a purpose. We had 83 campers, preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 45 enthusiastic and

incredible volunteers. Our VBS service project was an Operation Kid to Kid Mission Project, Pour Out God’s Love, which helps provide clean water for remote villages in Peru. Our VBS campers brought in small bills and change which we collected and gave to this organization. For just \$5.00 a child in Peru can have clean drinking water for an entire year. Our campers along with your help, collected \$1,105.82! Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers, those who helped with sets, provided supplies, worked as a volunteer throughout the week as a crew leader, song leader or station leader and for those who prayed for us. You made this week, possible! A special thanks to Kathy Arnold, Amanda Boniface and Robyn Winegardner who helped with preparations ...months before VBS. Thank you! The kids had a great time!

Jesus said - *“let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”* Matthew 19:14.

Thank you for your continued support and genuine interest and love that you show our children of Bethel. They are amazing creations!

## Director of Adult Ministry — Patricia Myerholtz



February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was the first day of experiencing a great opportunity to serve Jesus through my job.

For 8 years and counting I have been able to witness the wonderful work that our Bethel volunteers do and make Bethel the great place it is.

Because of our volunteers we are able to worship in an always beautiful sanctuary decorated for both Easter and Christmas, members and community are able to enjoy great adult education, a chili cook off, Easter egg hunt, many Bay area outings, celebrating the arts, sharing the joy of reading, monthly speaker series, handmade quilts being shared ALL over the world, facilities being taken care of by our Men of Monday, having an opportunity to stay connected thru our Caring Ministry and more! All this work is always being done with the feeling of the presence of God and what a JOY that is.

As you go through these reports and the new ministry guide you will see on paper how blessed Bethel is to have such serving and talented hearts amongst us. I also hope you will feel called to become a part of this amazing group of volunteers that bring joy to so many and will fill your heart with the feeling of doing something wonderful for others.

2017 has been a great year working with a fun, supportive, and loving staff. 2018 is already starting off with tons of opportunity and fun.

I will never take for granted this wonderful opportunity to serve Jesus and how blessed I am to work with you all! Thank you.

## Director of Youth Ministry, A/V & Facilities — Tom Hoegel

2017 has been another great year to be at Bethel. I am continually humbled and inspired to be part of this faith community. My joy is made complete working with all of you and seeing how God works in and through you. As I begin my 34<sup>th</sup> year of ministry with you all, I'm excited about Bethel's journey to become more relevant in our community. Following is a glimpse of some of the major teams I get to lead. Thanks for this blessing.



### Youth Ministry

What an exciting year we just finished. We had great events and adventures with some



highlights being **Common Ground's** presentation of **"Begin Forever"** and our participation at the **Western States Youth Gathering**. **"Dream Big"** was the theme and 600 young people and adults were reminded of the great dreams God has for us and the unlimited possibilities of how God's love transforms the world.

This coming year brings another great **Common Ground** season. Our theme will be **"Practice not Perfect"** and we are super excited to share this relevant message with you. We will also be attending the **ELCA National Youth Gathering** in Houston this coming summer with over 30,000 peeps. The theme for the Gathering is **"This Changes Everything"** which is a direct outcome of our '16 CG Program – **"Grace Wins"**. Cool stuff! :)

**Our Youth Ministry Challenge:** This year, we are really in a bridge year with the lower number of potential youth that we have in our community (members and friends). While we have always worked hard to make our programs affordable and are taking extra measures to lower costs, it is still a challenge for many to participate. We also don't want to over fundraise the congregation so in addition to the service events we provide (like the Easter Breakfast), we will be having our first **"1 to 144" Funding Campaign** to support Common Ground and the Gathering. We will be selling shares beginning at \$1 all the way up to \$144. After selling all 144 shares, we will raise \$10,000 which will allow all members, young and old to participate in these faith forming events for our youth this year.

## Facilities Team



thanks goes out to Mike Coleman, Rob & Trish Cunningham, Bill Weberg, and Liz Barton for their vision and muscles! ☺ This year's projects will include installing the sanctuary cameras for archiving and electronically sharing our worship services, refreshing the utility shed out back, moving forward on the Wedgewood Walkway, and re-starting the Torvend discussion.

This ministry is a kick for me. I love working with people who love working! ☺ Some fun accomplishments include the official **"Green Biz"** certification by the City of Cupertino and Santa Clara County. The springtime saw us undertaking our **"Sanctuary Refresh"** campaign. Along with carpeting, we addressed our planters with new plants, candles, and lights. We also added railing on the pulpit and lectern, installed rigging for visual arts, and began our video camera infrastructure. A great





## AV and Transportation Teams



As we enter a new chapter in video production, we would love to engage more people on our AV team. If you have interest in sound, media, or video, please contact me and I'd love to tell you more. Regarding transportation, we've had our bus for over two years now and we continue to support weekly youth ministry and monthly Out & About events. This ministry tool really helps us get our ministry outside our walls. Come join us! :-)

As I write this report, we just crossed over into the official government shutdown. What a stark reminder as to where we need to put our trust, individually and as a congregation. I am moved as to the blessing it is to have a vocation that goes beyond money, that is, about working to share Jesus' love with the community called Bethel.

## Spiritual Care Coordinator — Dave Denny

Although Spiritual Care at Bethel is a wide-ranging ministry, my main focus is on extending the reach of our pastoral care and visitation program. In so doing, I try to see that each Bethel member or regular visitor feels connected with our community and engaged in Sunday worship, mission outreach, service opportunities, and education. In 2017, I was privileged to substitute for Pastor Ben Bergren when he was out of town, assist him in worship and adult education, provide mentorship to our confirmands, and participate with Patricia in Bethel's Caring Connection program (formerly Stephen Ministry), all the while acting as assistant chaplain and Bethel liaison to Sunny View Retirement Community, a sister congregation that includes many current and former Bethel members. My first year as a member of Bethel's staff has been a great blessing to my life. It is my hope and prayer to continue to serve Bethel in this capacity for years to come.



## Bethel Lutheran School

Mission Statement: Bethel Lutheran School teaches children to be **active learners** and **Christian leaders** in a hands-on, safe and supportive environment.

2017-2018 Annual Theme: "Love in Action!"

2017-18 Bible Verse: *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth.* (1 John 3:18)

**School Board Chair:** Doreen Baldwin and Patrice Sera

**School Board Members:** Jeff Barto, Sara Evashenk, Sam Sudarsanam, Robyn Winegardner and Pr. Ben Bergren

**Principal:** Dawn De Bois-Weber

**Enrollment Statistics:**

Current Total Enrollment:  
103 (last year: 152)  
Current Preschool: 59 (last year: 74)  
Current Elementary: 44 (last year: 78)

**Ethnicity**

Asian (non-Asian-Indian): 80%  
Caucasian: 5%  
Asian Indian: 5%  
Mixed-Race: 10%

**Religious Affiliation**

Christian: 70%  
None: 10%  
No Information  
Given: 20%

**Positive Enrollment Growth in Many Areas**

- Our afterschool program that serves Bethel and 12 of the Cupertino schools has increased to 48 children
- Interest in both our preschool and elementary is continuing to grow.

**Marketing Ventures** — Formed community partnerships with a three local real estate agents for a referral program

**Community Events**

- Trunk or Treat
- Hosted Thanksgiving Lunch for all Bethel School
- Scripps Spelling Bee (Cupertino Mayor Darcy Paul was a judge)
- Chili Cook Off

**Service Projects**

- Sent 9 buckets of cleaning supplies for the flood victims
- 30 pounds of candy to active military currently deployed overseas through Operation Gratitude
- Made cards and sent a case of coconut water, lip balm and aloe lotion to the firemen and women that were fighting the wildfires

**Special Thanks To**

- The Men of Monday for their many dedication and efforts to repair and improve our campus.
- Brad Martinson and Liz Tribby for their work on our technology systems
- Quilters for their donation of quilts for the school auction
- Bethel church members for their financial support throughout the year

**Participation Opportunities**

- Pray for our staff, students and families
- Worship with us on Wednesdays at 9:00am and join a service chapel
- Volunteer in the classroom or school library
- Be a guest teacher, chaperone/drive for a fieldtrip, or maintain the school garden
- Share about our school with family and friends that are seeking private school enrollment

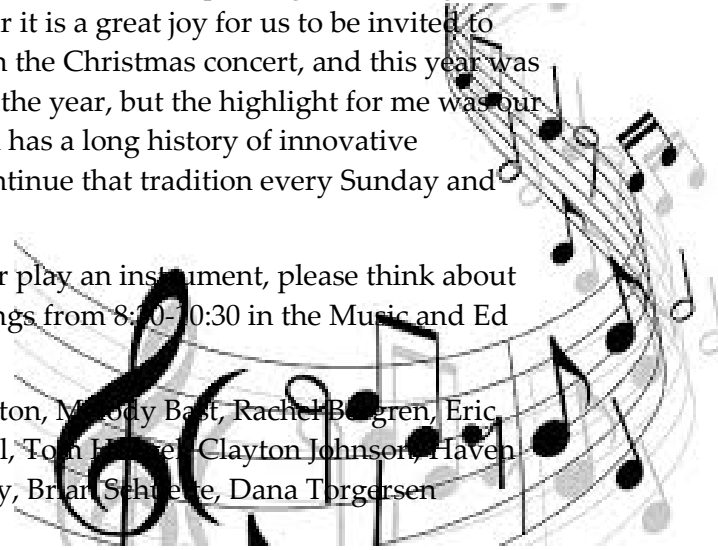
## Worship & Music — Brian Schuette

### Bethel Worship Team — Clayton Johnson, Director of Contemporary Music

This year the Bethel Worship Team had 15 members who participated on a rotating basis. In addition to leading the 10:45am contemporary service, we also have the privilege of leading all the outdoor worship services during the summer. Every year it is a great joy for us to be invited to perform with all the other talented musicians at Bethel in the Christmas concert, and this year was no exception. We have shared a lot of music throughout the year, but the highlight for me was our revival of Jesus Christ Superstar on Palm Sunday. Bethel has a long history of innovative contemporary worship. We are honored to be able to continue that tradition every Sunday and look forward to another year of worshipping together.

We are ALWAYS recruiting new members. If you sing or play an instrument, please think about joining us. We rehearse before church on Sunday mornings from 8:00-10:30 in the Music and Ed Room.

**THANK YOU** to the 2017 Bethel Worship Team: Liz Barton, Melody Bast, Rachel Bugren, Eric Brown, Mary Deutscher, Kara Hermann, Katlynn Hoegel, Tom Hoegel, Clayton Johnson, Haven Johnson, Phil Kelman, Adam Klopfenstein, Tom McAvoy, Brian Schuette, Dana Torgersen



### Altar Guild — Lois Eid

Holy Communion is the sacrament instituted by Christ himself in which he gives us his body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The altar guild serves to prepare for this holy sacrament.

Our duties are:

- Prepare for communion services using the silver service
- Prepare for baptisms
- Oversee the altar flowers donated by individuals
- Care for altar furnishings
- Care for altar linens



Lois Eid and Judy Johnson are responsible for organizing and overseeing the many things that need to be done: purchasing supplies and scheduling those who volunteer to help. There are many on our team who serve God faithfully and have done so for many years. Elva Wilson retired this year after serving 25+ years. Thank you Elva!

Our volunteers for communion are: Lorraine Mencimer, Anna Hoegel, Karen Zettler, Anita Tysseland, Hope Jow, Karin Engelbauer, Erna Trogisch, Lorene Westmore, Janice Martinson, Debby Coleman, Sharon Parady, Dianne Stauffer, Sandie Hersh, Linda Edwards and the deacons who set-up and clean-up for intinction. Thank you for your service.

The baptism duties are done by Sharon Bancroft who prepares the certificates, Sandie Hersh who makes the napkins, and the deacons.

Trish Cunningham is in charge of flower donation sign-up for each Sunday. Flowers that are left over on Sunday are arranged on Monday by Natalie Rogerson and Sharon Parady. Many of the quilters know of someone who needs beautiful flowers to brighten their day.

We thank God for all who faithfully volunteer.

## **Altar Flower Dedication Ministry — Trish Cunningham**

The purpose for this ministry is to beautify the sanctuary for Sunday service. It is an opportunity for us to express our thankfulness and appreciation of and for others, honor those close to us, and celebrate happy events and life's highlights, while giving God the glory for such significant people and occasions. After many, many years, the recommended donation has increased to \$35 per dedication. For many years I've been given the honor to organize this wonderful ministry, one that is close to my heart. However, the position will become available later this year. Please contact Trish if you are interested in taking over this ministry. It takes less than an hour a week, it is uplifting, and it is a great way to meet people.

## **Visual Arts Ministry — Liz Barton**

The purpose of Visual Arts Team is to enhance our experiences during different seasons of the church calendar. This is done through the use of fabrics, lighting and other props. Highlights from this year are Easter, Pentecost, Reformation and Christmas.

Our major projects for 2017 included:

- installing new carpeting,
- re-covering Pastor's benches,
- adding hand rails to the Pulpit and Lectern,
- updating planters with new plants and lighting effects.

The Visual Arts Team includes: Trish and Rob Cunningham, Susan Leavitt, Rick Bryson, Robin and Darrell Kettner, Paul Baldwin, Tom Hoegel and several others who pitched in when needed. We are looking forward to 2018, and we always welcome new members to the team!



## **Greeters & Ushers — Patricia Myerholtz**

Our visitors are made to feel more comfortable when they visit our Sunday Services. We thank the following for their participation in this ministry.

Greeters: Janice Martinson, Jean Teed, Mona Chan, Phyllis Gaffney, Tillie Hinely, Joanne Stensaas, Marion Abney.



Ushers: Pat Starret, Patrick Ross, Elliot Hinely, Frank Chan, Roger & Vera Edstrom, Larry Polyak, Jamie Laughlin, Paul Baldwin, Greg Abney, Mark & Merle Sandwisch, Rob Cunningham, John & Nick Boniface, Rick Bryson, Chris Freckmann, Rich & Jean Teed, Greg Myerholtz, Brad & Janice Martinson and Mark Evashenk.

## Children's Choir — Barb Larsen



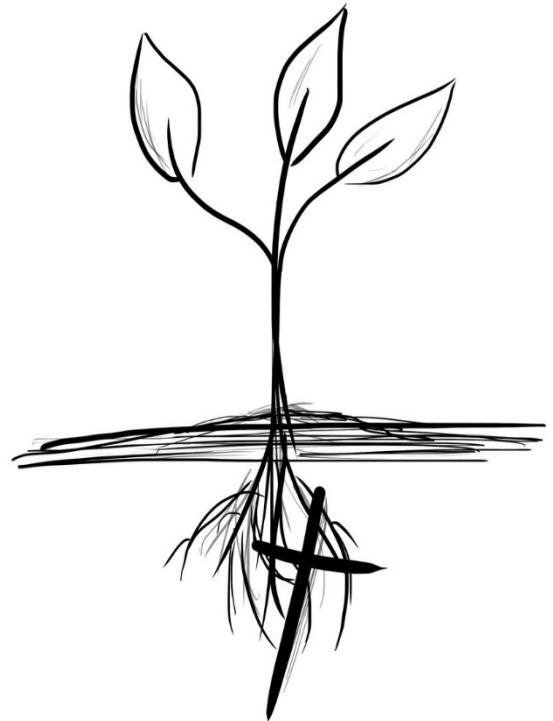
We provided a music opportunity for 2 – 6th grade children to enjoy singing and provided music for the congregation. Last year we sang during worship services once a month, and participated in a flute recital at Sunny View Retirement Community.

Thank you for Spencer Choate's faithful contribution by his piano accompaniment. This is his 5th year, and probably the last as he's planning to transfer to a 4-year college out of the area.

## Education & Discipleship — Kathy Arnold

Thank you to a very special group of leaders.

- **Library Team** — Margaret Lund
- **Martha Bible Study** — Vera Edstrom
- **Men's Night Out** — Sam Sudarsanam
- **New Member Classes** — Pastor Ben Bergren,
- **Saturday Women's Bible Study** — Natalie Rogerson
- **First Wednesday Speaker Series** — Kathy Arnold, Pastor Ben Bergren
- **Sunday Morning Adult Education** — Kathy Arnold, Pastor Ben Bergren
- **Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** — Cindy Arnett
- **Women of Wednesday** — Kathryn Montano



Education and Discipleship is not just for Sunday mornings. This year, our classes and study groups read & discussed books on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, too! In addition, our Library team worked to improve access to materials that teach us to grow in Faith. The Women of the ELCA activities allowed us to apply our insights into tangible goods for others.

The First Wednesday Speaker Series included topics and guest speakers such as Cindy Hofen from Managing Moves, ELCA Bishop Homerud, Aaron Agua-Rao from the Innocence Project, US Congressman Ro Khanna, Margaret Gainer from the Buddhist faith. There were also two documentaries: Reinhold Niebuhr and “A Time for Burning”. The average attendance was 60. The catered dinners were wonderful.

The Sunday Adult Education Classes comprise a video followed by a short discussion. Thank you very much to Randy Shattuck and Dave Denny for backfilling when Pastor Ben Bergren could not make it. This year’s topics were: *Gospel of John: The Gospel of Light* by Adam Hamilton, *Believe* by Randy Frazee, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* by Nabeel Qureshi, *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*, *Moses* by Adam Hamilton. Approximately 45 attended each week.

The Martha Bible Study Circle discussed articles from the ELCA Magazine *Gather*.

The Women of Wednesday covered many books: *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* by Nabeel Qureshi, *That the World May Know (Volume 10)* by Ray Vanderlaan, *Salvation by Surprise*.

Next year I hope to line up a mid-week (1 to 3 session) book discussion, leader’s choice, on a twice yearly basis.

## Care Ministries — Joanne Stensaas

During 2017, members provided caring support by communal and individual prayers for healing and comfort, 1-1 contacts at Bethel or mutually agreed upon sites, e-mails, cards appropriate to the need sent by the group and or by individual members, texts, meet-ups for lunch or coffee, responses to Sunday Connection cards and even support for Caring Connection members through guided exercises by Dave Denny and Pastor Ben Bergren. Thank you very much to this wonderful group of volunteers: Joanne Stensaas, Rick Bryson, Patricia Myerholtz, Tillie Hinely, Natalie Rogerson, Jean Teed, Sharon Parady, Phyllis Gaffney, Marianne Jones, Bill Westmore, Pastor Ken Bancroft, Sam Sudarsanam, Minnie Sudarsanam, Rachel Sudarsanam, Tony Stieber, Robyn Winegardner, Pastor Ben Bergren, Dave Denny. New members are always welcome!

## Congregational Life — Patricia Myerholtz and Sue Jacobus

The following lists only a few of the events held here at Bethel in which many of the congregation volunteer and attend. These events also help in bringing about community for our Bethel neighbors.

### Donuts for Dads:

We served over 200 donuts to dads on Father’s day.

### Ice Cream Social:

A Sunday in June where we enjoyed fellowship and root beer floats too.

## Egg Hunt:

This event had hundreds of people from all over the community attend in which over 3000 eggs were hunted, four craft areas were enjoyed and fish crackers and lemonade were passed out. This event takes about 10 volunteers who run set up beginning at 6am, for the 10am to noon event, and cleanup. This event gets bigger every year and now is an event Bethel is known for in the community. Many families have expressed great gratitude that Bethel has hosted such a wonderful, welcoming free event for 5 years now.



## Evergreens: 55+



This group of about 15–18 attendees enjoys getting together every third Thursday of the month to share devotion, prayer, lunch, and sometimes bingo or some other fun activity, and sometimes an outing. There are new additions to the group from time to time as well. A special thanks to Shirley Gross for her dedication to this ministry.

## Paint and Pinot:

A collaboration with the school in which an evening of painting and enjoying sipping of your own wine among friends is enjoyed.



## Summer BBQ Fun:

This event celebrates the beginning of summer and gives the congregation a time to get together before many go their own ways in the summer.



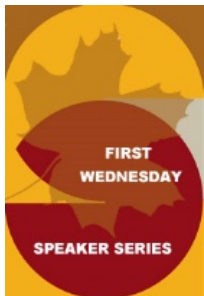
## Chili Cook Off:

This year's winner was Hilda from Bethel Lutheran School. Over 20 chili recipes were tasted and voted on. There also was a kids coloring contest, music, and dessert to share. Over a hundred attended.

## Celebration of the Arts: Drawn to the Word — A Celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of m-ART-in Luther and the Reformation:

This year we enjoyed a German themed dinner under the Luther Rose banners. We then enjoyed performances by our talented musicians, poetry readings by Dave Denny, handbell choir and more. Frank Chan painted a beautiful painting of the Luther Rose which was displayed during this year of celebration and now hangs in the Fireside Room. That Sunday, the Bethel community enjoyed the talents of many members whose artwork was just astounding. A special thanks to Sue Jacobus for her dedication to this wonderful event.

## Speaker Series:



Every first Wednesday of the month, over 60 people attend a dinner and speaker in the fireside room. All who attend enjoy the fellowship and the chance to expand their horizons. We have experienced political figures, and a rabbi, found ways to better organize our lives, and more.

## Other Events:

**Trunk or Treat** (in collaboration with the Bethel Lutheran School), **Ministry Appreciation Brunch**, **Leadership Retreats**, and **Palestine: Unlimited**. A *photographic exhibit by 10 Finalists from the 1st annual Karimeh Abboud Award Competition*. This exhibit was sponsored by "Bright Stars of Bethlehem."

## Labor Day Retreat- Molly Schrey

The purpose of the ministry is to enjoy worship and fellowship at Mt. Cross camp in Felton, CA over the Labor Day Weekend. Participants have a chance to attend speaker-led sessions and worship, participate in workshops, enjoy a variety of fun activities, socialize, or just relax amidst their beautiful surroundings.

This year, Pastors Valerie and Dan Carlson from Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in San Luis Obispo led our 3





speaker sessions and unpacked the theme “Joy in the Journey”. In addition, we had mini-workshops led by Dave Denny, Tyler Freckmann and Molly Schrey that also explored this theme. Additionally, participants enjoyed the tried and true events such as: Bethel Olympics, Variety Show, Carnival, Polar Bear Swim, Campfire, and Morning Devotions.

Many thanks to the following members: Tom Hoegel, Ben Bergren, Patrice Sera, Chris Freckmann, Susan Leavitt, Rich Hahn, Holly Lofgren, Dave Lofgren, Brian Schuette, Erik Edstrom, Chris Larsen, Kobi Fujimoto, and Molly Schrey.

We would love to have more Bethel friends and family enjoy this yearly event! In addition, the committee welcomes new members.

## Out & About — Jules Kurtz

This active and adventurous fellowship ministry is all about finding exciting activities, inviting people to join in, having fellowship together, and bringing the glory to God while we explore and enjoy this wonderful world.

In the 8 years of this ministry there have been a total of 73 events, 1598 participants, with an average of 21.9 people per event.

This year we took advantage of the beautiful Bethel bus, we explored many ways to use the new signup.com registration tool, enhanced how we advertise, how we register, how we continue to bring in both Church and non-church people, find activities for



all ages, and continue to be an active part of the welcoming Bethel community. We also held several training events to improve how many team members can also master and utilize the Signup.com tool.

## Supper Club Ministry — Janice Martinson

This ministry forms groups who get together for fellowship and food. Sign ups are taken a few times per year. In 2017 five people that did not participate in 2016 signed up in 2017. Thank you to Patricia Myerholtz for helping with the signup sheets. I hope to invite more people to join a Supper Club.

## Mission & Service — Mark Evashenk

Additional service and ministry projects not covered in this report this past year are listed below. We added two new “projects”, and said goodbye to Men’s Rotating Shelter. The Rotating Shelter

was designed to meet the short term housing needs for men but the number of men meeting the program's eligibility requirements was no longer great enough to sustain the program.

- Breakfast at San Jose Family Shelter
- Habitat for Humanity
- Turkey Drive for Lord's Pantry / Gloria Dei
- Christmas Giving Tree for Help One Child
- Advent Sunday giving for West Valley Community Services (new)
- Calabazas Creek Clean Up
- Junque Sale
- Swimsuits, Towels & Warm PJs for Help One Child summer campers (new)
- Clothing donation for low-income and homeless



Collecting turkeys for Thanksgiving

Bethel is always looking for additional ways to serve within Bethel, in our Cupertino community and outside our local community. Please contact me with ideas you have for one-time projects, ministries to consider, and an organization to support through Bethel's monthly special designated offering.

I look forward to continuing our strong service spirit, our continued partnership with West Valley Community Services, and once again having Bethel as a participant in the Walk for Water.

## Mt Cross Ministries — Holly Lofgren

This ministry's purpose is to help disciples find their way. In 2017, it stayed open to serve summer campers, retreats and our Labor Day Retreat. I was a former Ranger and now a point of contact from Bethel Lutheran to Mt. Cross.

## Finance & Stewardship — Scott Anderson & Brett Deutscher

### Nominating Committee — Hella Bluhm-Stieber

The nominating committee found and recruited a third person for our committee since Sam went on the council. And we are just starting again. There is also one opening in the audit committee for those interested.

## Technology & Administration

### Web Ministry — Dave Arnold

We maintain the web site for Bethel Lutheran Church, <http://www.bethelcupertino.org/>. This year, we deployed a new web interface to allow staff to import the Bethel calendar to their Apple, Google and Microsoft apps. We implemented a special web page for the new Welcome display in

the entry/narthex. In December, our logs recorded 3757 unique visitors to the web site, viewing a total of 21,934 pages. In 2017, we uploaded 1.3 GB of new content and users downloaded a total of 58 GB. In addition, our server emails daily Prayer Bytes to 63 subscribers.

Our top 3 hits are:

- Sermons
- Home page
- Calendar

I would like to thank Elise Holst and Liz Tribby for their help in setting up and maintaining these services.

## Human Resources Ministry — Donna Kuester

The purpose of this ministry is to act as a liaison to Church Council regarding HR issues for the church and school. It is a resource to church and school administrative staff when difficulties may arise.

Projects completed this year:

- Assisted with reviewing the employee hand book and suggested updates.
- Attended a Church HR boot camp to obtain more of a church focus on HR.
- Consulted on a staff/management issue that was successfully resolved.

## Building & Grounds — Tom Cole

### Men of Monday — Tom Cole



Our indomitable crew from Men of Monday

We hope you enjoy this puzzle!

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



www.AtoZTeacherStuff.com

## Confirmation Ministry 2017

F T A V N T L C J A O W R Q T K R Y S T A L C P U J Z A D O  
X U W C J N X O W N S J E S W N Y B L Q C A S N E S D R N I  
D E L D E Q I E W S R Q T I R R C E D F W L L K U K B H J D  
O Y D Y N L R M S C E F E V L Q R B X N X D K C U K J H I O  
O O S L E X O I Q O F C P I F B X F I Q T E H A S U R K U N  
A J R F L Y B T H Q Y D Y O S S T E P H A N B J T E E W Z U  
P R H A L Y Y Y B N U E B N B W P M N J V Z R J N T T O F T  
O D Z N Q M N L B A K L L A A Z N E E L H T A K E P T R X S  
X A V A Q V L I U S Z W K S T A E R T E R I N I M Z I S M M  
F A I D E N C M L U N Q U A G T W X R Q O Q A I D R R H S J  
W V C T D T B A P S R E K C I T S Y J S T P P Z N K C I S K  
G X L J T I T F H V R Y B R F A A I A Z C O O S A S H P O S  
Y Q R O C K N W A T E R N A N D R X C C E A S Z M M T L R S  
E S G A B Y T I V I T C A M Y N K N I C L X T L M O I D C G  
N Y R O T S E H T N P I V E S N T J R Q Z P L R O S A V T D  
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ABBY	GRANT	PETER
ACOLYTE	JACK	PHILLIP
ACTIVITYBAGS	JAMES	PIZZA
AIDEN	JENELL	ROBYN
ALDEN	JOY	ROCKNWATER
AOB	KATHLEEN	RYAN
APOSTLESCREED	KAYLA	SACRAMENTS
ASHISH	KRYSTAL	SEDER
BEN	LECTOR	STEPHAN
DANA	MADI	STICKERS
DEVYNN	MINIRETREATS	SUSAN
DONUTS	MTCROSS	TENCOMMANDMENTS
ERICA	NOAH	THESTORY
FAITHCRITTER	OLIVIA	USHER
FAMILYTIME	PASTORBEN	WORSHIP