



Light

APRIL 2011 Volume 61 Issue 3

Food Bag Distribution

**FOOD WILL BENEFIT
LSS COMMUNITY CARE
CENTER IN VAN NUYS,
TO HELP FEED HUNGRY
PEOPLE IN THE VALLEY**

DROP OFF

Thurs., April 14th

Meet at 5:30pm in the
church office

PICK UP

Sunday, April 17th

after worship

Seeking to be a relevant presence of love,
compassion & acceptance to everyone in the community.

17500 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91316-1718 • 818.788.2653 • www.bethelencino.org



In Preparation of Easter

This last Sunday we finished our journey through the New Testament. In over 14 years of preaching I have never once preached on the book of Revelation, until Sunday. It has always seemed to be a bit too much to grasp for a given Sunday morning.

In studying for last week's message I was deeply struck by John's letter to the seven churches in the first part of the text. How often do we forget our first love as the Church? How often do we choose a stance of being lukewarm instead of choosing to be hot or cold? How often do we lose our passion? Personally I believe this is the state of most of the Church in America. The Church tends to focus on so many non-essential issues that when it comes time to focus on the essentials we have no more energy or influence.

Lent seems like a perfect time to study the first few chapters of Revelation. It is in this season that we seek to reclaim our first love. It is in this time of fasting before the resurrection that we long to reconnect with our passion for God. It is in these precious moments of preparation and expectation that we ask God to re-fresh us either the healing of hot waters or the rejuvenation of the cool waters.

May we as a community use these last few weeks of Lent to prepare us for the Blessings of Easter. May we remember that "Love is not the work of the Holy Spirit, it *is* the Holy Spirit- working in us. God *is* love, he doesn't merely *have* it or *give* it; he gives himself- to all humanity, to all sorts and conditions: to believers and unbelievers, high and low, dark and pale, learned and ignorant..."* May we find for the first time or re-discover our Passion.

Peace and Hope,

Pastor Rustin

*Joseph Fletcher (Situation Ethics: The New Morality)

Dear Church Family,

As Easter approaches we have an opportunity to take our worship space to a new and exciting level. Through generous gifts by people in our community we have \$5000 set aside to make sanctuary improvements. These improvements are need based enhancements that will also make our sanctuary more beautiful and enhance our worship experience.

The improvements include extending the stage to make moving around the band on communion Sunday safer. We also need to rebuild our altar rail as it is about to break and has become unsafe for our community to use. Another issue in our sanctuary is our carpet, it is pulled up and falling apart in many spaces which becomes another trip hazard. As we replace the carpet the plan is to create an isle runner down the center isle to help in sound absorption and to warm up our space.

Alongside these improvements we are going to be replacing the cove lights on the sides of the sanctuary through a partial grant from DWP. This will provide a brighter worship space for our community.

For these improvements to occur, we need your help. If you feel called to give an extra financial gift outside of your regular offerings to help facilitate the projects being completed before Easter, there will be a design board and a basket at the fellowship area on Sunday morning where you can see the plans and contribute to making these things happen by Easter Sunday.

Thank you for considering joining us on making our space safer and more beautiful.

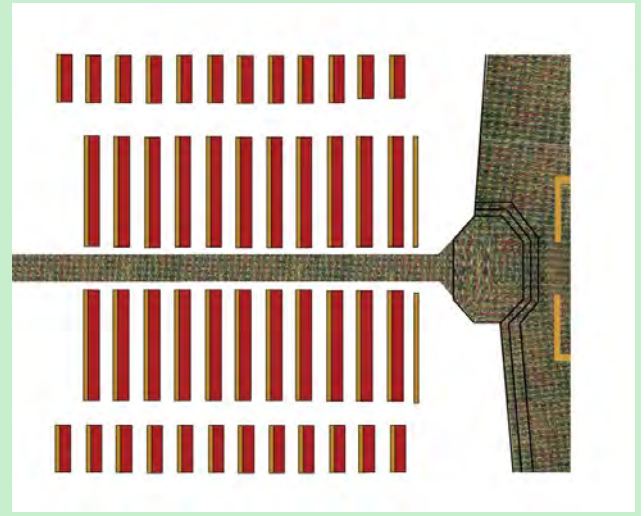
Sincerely,

Karyn Ouzounian

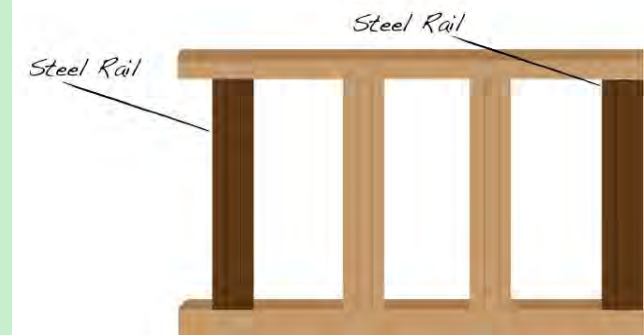
Bethel Property Committee Chairperson

Richard Newcomb

Bethel Council President



We will put steel rails in each corner of the Altar rail to create a stable rail system. The steel posts will be anchored with bolts directly into the cement



Costs For Sanctuary Updates

New Carpet -6500 (for stage and isle)

Stage extension- 650

Cove lights- 300

Overhead lighting 300 per fixture

Altar rail- 1200

Sanctuary doors -1000 (weatherize and new door pulls)

Altar tile- 400



Social Ministry

Blessings and greetings to everyone! As we begin April, I hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying 2011. The Social Committee has been hard at work brainstorming and coming up with plans for the rest of the year. Hopefully you have already noticed our first project – putting the fellowship hour refreshment sign-up online. In case you don't have the link, you can type this in and find us online - <http://www1.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=fellowshiprefresh>. We're in full swing with our Lenten Soup Suppers, and if you haven't had a chance to join us yet, we hope you will before the end of the Lenten season. We haven't finalized any other plans yet, but things in the works include hosting a Women's Tea, a Family movie night, attending the 2011 Faith and Family Dodger Game on July 24, participating in the 2011 Women of Faith Conference, Wine Tasting / Silent Auction with the and having a Christmas Party. Stay tuned for more details – and if you would like to help with any single event or a few events, having a Christmas Party. Stay tuned for more details – and if you would like to help with any of the events or have other ideas, let me know!

Yvette



Missions Update

With today's economic times, Food Pantries all across the country are more valuable than ever. 1 in every 6 American is at risk for hunger and more families are living 100% below the poverty threshold despite having at least one family member working.

In an effort to assist in ending hunger within our own community, we can make a difference with contributions of our own to the LSS Community Care Centers Food Pantry in Van Nuys. Four days a week the LSS Food bank distributes to low income families and the homeless to help make ends meet.

This month we continue our fight against hunger by engaging our community's help with collecting food bag donations throughout our neighborhood.

Come join as we distribute bags to our neighbors on Thursday afternoon, April 14th (meet at the church at 5:30 PM) and bag pick up on Sunday April 17th after church. And who knows? Perhaps there will be new friends to invite to "Bring A Friend Sunday" the following week!

Peace be with you,

Shelin



CHILDREN

We are proud to announce that we have a new discipleship program at Bethel. Our children started a great new curriculum that directly connects to our vision and values. We have added 3 new teachers as well, which enables us to start a preschool Sunday morning program. Now kids of all ages can come to Bethel and have a faith experience that is geared directly to them and their learning styles.

Candice Burgess has joined our team as the preschool coordinator. Candice is a teacher in our weekday preschool and makes the perfect addition to our team. Assisting her is Melody Mericle. Each of our teachers has gone through background checks so that we know we are providing the safest experience possible for your families. Assisting Heather and Holly is Nicole Ouzounian. Nicole is one of our youth and is doing a great job working with our team.

As the year progresses we will be working with parents to assist in the class two Sundays a year. The goal is to help equip parents on how to engage the spirituality of their children. Many of you are excellent at this already but some of you have asked how to lead your children spiritually. Our desire is that the Sunday morning experience will lead to great midweek conversations for your family. Starting Sunday each class will have a take home sheet that will give you as parents questions you can ask your children to engage them in what they are learning.

ADULTS

Adults, we haven't forgotten about you. Many of you have said you want to go deeper. For the last three months Brian Barnett has been hosting adult Bible study following worship. The goal of this group is to expand in study what was shared during the Sunday sermon. Our goal this year at Bethel is to go deeper into our faith. This class in the Upper Room is one of the ways we are meeting that goal.

Coming soon, we will be restarting our women's bible study on Thursday nights. Keep watching for new updates. Men, we will be having a quarterly men's breakfast as well starting in May.

May we grow together in our knowledge and love of God and humanity!

Bethel Encino's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday, April 24
Following Worship**

**Age 1- 4th grade
Special Hidden Prizes**



Interfaith Seder with Makom Ohr Shalom

April 19th at 6:00 PM



Makom Ohr Shalom



Synod Assembly

Burbank Airport Marriott

May 20-21

Call the church for more information



Southwest California Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Perfecting Praise
Worship & Arts Ministry

Dear Bethel Community,

Greetings from the Arts Council. We have been discussing ways to get the congregation involved with Worship on Sundays (i.e. choices of material, references to well remembered Hymns, etc.).

One of the ways the Arts Team has decided that we can involve the community is through asking our talented community to make musical contributions.

The parameters the Arts Team has made to further involve the community are as follows:

1. Any interested contributor would do an audition to showcase their talents
2. The music would need to be a helpful addition to the service
3. Finally, it would be used in a time that it supports the theme of the service

If this interests any of you, please contact me through the church. Hope to see you soon...

Blessings,

Bill Meyers

Maundy Thursday

Maundy is the Christian commemoration during Holy Week of the great command from Christ...*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another (John 13:34.)* The word "Maundy" is rooted in the Latin work that means "command".

The central focus of Maundy Thursday is the Last Supper, where Jesus on the night of his arrest, sat at the table with his disciples for a Passover meal, a meal to remember and give thanks for God's liberating love.

John 13: 12, 14-15 says...when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them "Do you know what I have done to you?" If I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done for you.

Jesus became a servant, taking on a menial task that showed no regard for his status or place. He put the needs of others above His own. His love was so great that He sacrificed himself for those He loved.

Washing their feet was a symbol, a pre-embodiment of the loving act that would end with His death on the cross, *"Greater love hath no one, than that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).*

The washing of feet is an expressive response to the Word and to Christ's call for mutual charity. As Christ has served us, we serve each other. A life in service to God is a life in service to the world. Such loving may involve feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, and visiting the sick or imprisoned. It may be in seeking justice for the oppressed, peace for those in conflict, welcoming the stranger.

This Holy Week Bethel is joining with St Paul's Methodist Church, (5619 Lindley Avenue, Tarzana), for a Maundy Thursday Seder meal and service, including a washing of the feet. The service will begin at 7:00pm. The Seder meal will be Mediterranean styled. Sign-ups sheets are located in the office. Please join us for this very special time of service, prayer and fellowship.

God's Peace be with you.

Genise

The Children's Committee
is getting ready for their

Big Easter Egg Hunt

and need your help!

They are looking for:

Plastic eggs & Items to put inside of eggs

Please bring them to church by: April 17th





Easter Series

Famous Last Days and Famous Last Words

**10-Last Wednesday: One diseased, One Grateful, One a traitor
Matthew 26:6-16**

17-Maundy Thursday: Dinner and the Gardens

Holy Week

21- Maundy Thursday Service: Shared with St. Pauls Methodist 7:00

**22- Good Friday: Famous Last Words
Service at 7:00**

**23- Easter Vigil: 9:00 pm Culminating with Champagne Communion
and light refreshments following service**

**24- Easter From Despair to Hope
Easter Egg hunt Following Worship**



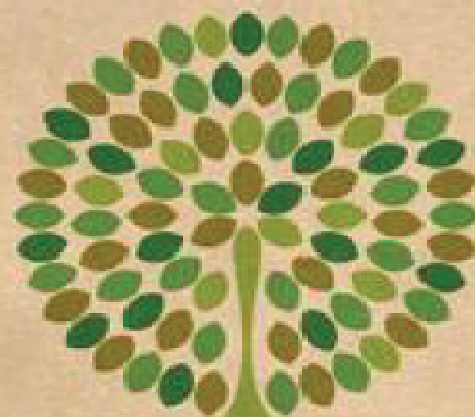


We Need Your Recipes

We are putting together a new community cookbook and would love to share your special recipes.

Send them to:

bethel_encino@sbcglobal.net
or bring a hard copy by the church office.



BRING A FRIEND
SUNDAY

Help grow Gods kingdom;
bring a friend to church.

Every third Sunday
is your opportunity to invite
that person you been thinking
about bringing for a long time.

REMEMBERING OUR VALUES

Love, Acceptance and Compassion for Everyone

Community

Transformation & creativity

Following the Way of Jesus

Relationship with God & Humanity

Grace at all Costs

Excellence and Consistency



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15am

Sunday School & Nursery Care every Sunday

Pastor: Rustin Comer

17500 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

818.788.2653

Website: www.bethelencino.org • Email: bethel_encino@sbcglobal.net



Bethel Preschool

818.788.8269

Email: blecec@sbcglobal.net

NEW WAYS TO GIVE

One of Bethel's goals is to make giving of your time, gifts, and money as accessible as possible.

So we have created a way to give online. Go to our website and click on "give & serve"

The Bethel Light is a free publication of BETHEL ENCINO ELCA