



Benicia Lutheran Church

# GRAPEVINE



SEPTEMBER 2021

The mission of Benicia Lutheran Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and serve members of the congregation and surrounding community through worship, education, witnessing, fellowship and service.



Benicia Lutheran Church  
and  
Noah's Ark Preschool  
201 Raymond Drive  
Benicia, CA 94510

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Rev. Phil Kohlmeyer  
Pastor

Preschool: 707-746-1868  
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Preschool Director  
Sara Barron



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Bible Study with Pastor  
8:30 AM

9:30 AM Worship Service

Sunday School  
Preschool – Grade 5  
Time and date TBD

## BLC POPCORN FUNDRAISER

Dear Friends and family, please support our church fundraiser by clicking the link:

<https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=IRFQBP>

Proceeds will go to our Building Repair & Maintenance Fund. Please note the Seller ID is: IRFQBP and our fundraiser will go from 9/1-9/21. Thank you and God Bless!



## MASKS TO BE WORN IN CHURCH

As per the City of Benicia on August 25 at a special City Council Meeting, masks are required to be worn inside of public buildings. The mandate will be reevaluated in 6 weeks to see if our Covid numbers have declined.

## WARREN PETERS MEMORIAL SERVICE



The Peters family will have a Memorial Service here at BLC on Saturday, September 4th, at 1:00 pm. Because of the higher rate of Covid cases, the family suggests that you protect yourself if you have not been vaccinated and consider showing your support for the family in other ways and don't attend the Service per the family's request.

## Meetings Reminder

Worship Committee: Tuesday, September 14 • 6:30 PM

Church Council: Thursday, September 16 • 6:30 PM

## Reminder

Don't forget to fill out the Call Committee Surveys by 9/5/21 and give them to Ken Pendleton, or, put them in the INBOX in the Church Office.

# Noah's Ark News



## Welcome Back School Families!

A virtual Back to School Night for families will be on Wednesday, September 1 at 6:30 pm. Parents will have the opportunity to volunteer in different capacities.

Teacher Sara will be providing the Bible time in lieu of Chapel Time with Pastor Phil due to scheduling and protecting the children from outside-preschool exposure to Covid.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Wed., Sept. 1	Virtual Back to School Night
Mon., Sept. 6	No School, Labor Day
Fri., Sept. 24	No School, Teacher In-Service Day



## GriefShare Continues

GriefShare continues at BLC on Sundays at 1:00 pm and continues until September 26. Participants can join in any week, making up sessions when the series is repeated or at another area group. Occasionally someone joins at the very last of the thirteen sessions.

Each session meets for two hours including a break. We are asking for a \$15 donation for the cost of the participant book. This is for anyone who is grieving the death of another whether it is recent or years ago. Participants watch a video each week of experienced professional counselors as well as individuals who have been through the grieving process. Participants then have the opportunity of sharing their feelings and thoughts in a small, supportive, group setting. During the week, they are encouraged to reflect on brief readings. While the material is Christian/Biblical in orientation, non-church members also find it very beneficial.

Laura Sinats, Nancy Stiltz, Jeanne Walker, Gloria Lambousy, and Pastor Phil are facilitators. We have material, including videos, on our website, [benicialutheranchurch.com](http://benicialutheranchurch.com) or you can go to [griefshare.com](http://griefshare.com).



## BIBLE BOOKMARK ADULT BIBLE STUDY LED BY PASTOR PHIL

Bible Gathering will be from 8:30 am–9:15 am each Sunday. Bible Study will focus on the Gospel of Mark. Join us in person or catch the Wednesday 7:00–8:00 pm study of the Gospel of Mark on Zoom or watch the recording. Let Belinda or Pastor know if you'd like some Zoom assistance.

## Wednesday Zoom Series

This Wednesday we'll have our regularly scheduled Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm. The topic this week for Wednesday will be "the Gospel of Mark". We are doing the same topic as Bible Study each week so people have an opportunity to go into greater depth and ask more questions, or to avoid getting up for the 8:30 am Sunday Bible study.

**W**e are now in the traditional School Year. It's a big deal for Noah's Ark Preschool and for students well beyond the preschool years. Of course, it is also a big deal to their teachers, parents, and even grandparents. We pray for all of them. We pray that they will be good stewards of the gifts that God has given them. We pray not only for head learning and socialization skills, but also for an increasing awareness of and faith in God the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

Public schools, of course, do not typically play a positive role in the spiritual life of the students. That is where the family comes in. The family is the core unit for society. It is the core place where spiritual truths are taught and strengthened. That is an overwhelming task. Benicia Lutheran Church wants to support you in this overwhelming responsibility. To some degree that is done through Noah's Ark Preschool, through our high school youth group and through other educational efforts that have offered Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Confirmation classes in the past. The small size of our congregation and small number of children has made this a particular concern to BLC.

One of the ways in which we might help families affiliated with BLC is for me as Vacancy Pastor to talk with any families to explore together how you might better make the Christian faith a part of the life of your children. There are no easy answers, no one size fits all, but we can talk over your situation and possible helps. I am available to discuss this common dilemma in Christian families in our country and steps to move forward. Many of you have grandkids that you are concerned about. We can talk and pray about those situations, too.

Given COVID concerns we have deferred special gatherings for an unknown time period. That applies also to the SoulMates workshop we have scheduled for November 5-6. We will communicate to you as soon as we have a definite "GO" on that and a number of other activities.

We, of course, are continuing our in-person worship services with masks. We are also continuing our GriefShare group which is working out quite well. We are connecting with people outside our congregation.

In our present sermon series we are going through

the Ten Commandments—in some ways probably significantly different than the way you might have thought. This Sunday, September 5, we are focusing on the Fourth Commandment dealing with "Honor Your Father and Your Mother," but really involving much more than that. The Fourth Commandment includes multiple family relationships and even the relationship with our government. I think it will be well worth your attending for a number of reasons.

Of course, if you don't attend, I strongly encourage you to watch the YouTube recording. And if you've missed our previously recorded Sunday messages, please consider going back and watching. Not only do we have videos of prior Commandments, but we have the Lord's Prayer series on YouTube as well. You could consider it part of your daily devotion.

One of the deficiencies I'm experiencing at BLC is the minimal participation in Bible Studies. I'm convinced—as centuries of history have validated—that Christians who are not reading (studying?) the Bible are weak. Some would say anemic. Now that summer is over, it would be a good time to take advantage of Bible study. There are numerous ways in which you could do that. We are continuing our Sunday 8:30 am Bible study of the Gospel of Mark. We cover pretty much the same material on Zoom on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. If a few would like to establish another group that would be fine. I realize that some of you are already participating in another group.

There are a number of additional resources available even on an individual basis. Please let me know what you're interested in, and I can probably point you to a good resource. Moreover I am glad to participate with you in the sense that we could communicate about the topics via phone, internet or in-person as is appropriate. We are really blessed with a lot of online studies, podcasts, etc that provides us with countless opportunities to deepen and strengthen our faith and enable us to better understand and share the message of Jesus Christ.

May the Holy Spirit who called you out of darkness guide and strengthen you in the Word.

*Pastor Phil*

## CORRESPONDENCE

**THANK YOU FROM LINDA MORAN** Dear WINGS and Book Club Ladies of BLC, Thank you so much for the monogrammed tote bag full of all kinds of wonderful gifts. I couldn't have been more surprised when Sally delivered it to me last Monday night. I honestly don't know how she even carried it to my door! It was so heavy and filled to the brim with the most caring items I have ever seen. The thought that each one of you put into your gift was amazing. I truly appreciate all the cards, prayers, meals, texts and phone calls I have received since having my mastectomy. My heart is overflowing with love and gratitude. As God continues to guide me through this journey, I know how blessed I am to have a church family who cares for me and supports me. I also know that God is faithful and he will be with me through every step of this illness. It helps to know that with him and BLC, I will not be alone in my battle to beat cancer! I probably will not see you for awhile as I go through radiation (hopefully not chemo) but please know I will be carrying you in my heart. Hugs, Linda

**FROM JILL & CURT THERIAULT** Please thank BLC members for all their prayers regarding the fire—we have personally heard from many.

## RESOURCES, INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**Issues, Etc. Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio** is a good Lutheran resource for current topics that are being discussed in the church and in the world. You can go to their website or use their mobile app. They do interviews five days a week and have a large archive of previous programs so you can do a search of a topic or speaker of interest to you.

**Here's what they have scheduled for the week of September 3.**

**SOLID, SERIOUS, SUBSTANTIVE...** Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's teachings include: Union with Christ; The Theology of Worship; The Movies "Old" and "Pig;" Old Testament Prophet Ezekiel and more. You can listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

### Christian Music

Another good resource for Christian music and a wide range of podcasts is the LCMS owned radio station KFUE in St. Louis. You can listen to KFUE on the Internet or through their mobile app. They have a large archive of their numerous different podcasts of various topics or Bible studies that you can check out.

**Perhaps the family is resuming more of a role in the raising of children.**

Consider this:  
**One out of Five Families Is Homeschooling**

Homeschooling has shot up dramatically over the last two years, to the point that today one out of five families with children is homeschooling.

by Gene Veith | CRANACH

**PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP is meeting via the Zoom app every second Saturday of the month!**

Look for the Zoom link each week from BLC if you or someone you know is interested in joining.

Hosted by Brad Miller, [bradfordmiller807@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordmiller807@gmail.com), 707-515-9216 (Brad's Cell).



Please email Liz Barriga and Sally Engebretson what you're interested in participating in or taking the lead on an activity that you're passionate about.

### Tithes, Offerings and Prayer Requests

Please drop off your Tithes, Offerings and Prayer Requests in the mail slot under the church office window or mail them to BLC, 201 Raymond Drive, Benicia, CA 94510



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 9/1 Scott Keller
- 9/3 Caden Curtis
- 9/4 Don Heinitz
- 9/4 Thomas Rybarczyk
- 9/5 Rob Alfeld
- 9/6 Monique Palmer
- 9/9 Bob Maineri
- 9/10 Danielle Moffett
- 9/13 Rhonda Taylor
- 9/18 Kristin Moran
- 9/19 Remy Domke
- 9/26 Janie Peterson

### ASSISTANCE NEEDED?

Call the church and leave a message on the answering machine if you need assistance  
707/746-0201



### September 5

***“Living, Mighty, Active Faith”***

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
An elephant is a living, mighty, active thing. So is the faith of Jesus.  
(Isaiah 35:4-7)

### September 12

***“Who is my Neighbor?”***

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
We can't build a more hopeful neighborhood if we don't know who our neighbors are and we go out of our way to avoid them.  
(Luke 10:25-37)

### September 19

***“Scrapped Gifts”***

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
God saves our scraps and regifts them with Easter possibility.  
(James 1)

### September 26

***“Seek the Welfare of the Neighborhood”***

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge  
We can start to make the world a better place by seeking the welfare of the neighborhoods into which God has placed us.  
(Jeremiah 29)



## Benicia Lutheran Church

### OFFICERS

- Belinda Miller . . . . . *President* . . . . . C (707) 515-8063
- Emily Maineri . . . . . *Vice President* . . . . . H (925) 228-9143
- Rodger Engebretson . . . . . *Treasurer* . . . . . C (707) 567-6814
- Tony Barriga . . . . . *Financial Secretary* . . . . . H (707) 745-4111
- Barbara Keller . . . . . *Recording Secretary* . . . . . H (707) 746-5011
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Listen to The Lutheran Hour on KCBC, AM 770, at 5:30 PM on Saturdays, 7:30 AM on Sundays, or anytime at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Also available on the web are Spanish and Armed Forces versions as well as MP3, Podcast and Sirius XM Satellite radio. **An updated mobile app is now available also.**