



Benicia Lutheran Church

GRAPEVINE

NOVEMBER 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
BLCNoahsArk@sbcglobal.net
Preschool Director
Sara Barron

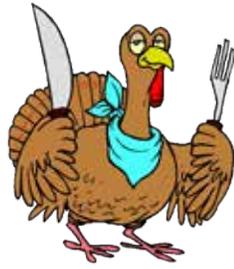


SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Bible Study with Pastor
8:30 AM

9:30 AM Worship Service

Sunday School
Preschool – Grade 5
Time and date TBD



TURKEY FUNDRAISER

It's that time of year again for our Annual "Turkey Fundraiser" for Thanksgiving.

Benicia Lutheran Church will be smoking the turkeys on Thanksgiving day here at the Church. They will be available for pick up by noon on Thanksgiving day. **Paid orders need to be placed and purchased in advance.**

WE WILL ACCEPT THE FIRST 24 ORDERS DUE TO A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACE ON THE BBQ. The cost is \$45/turkey. They weigh around 12-15 lbs.

Please place your orders and a check in an envelope and drop it in the mail slot at church or mail it. Make your checks payable to Benicia Lutheran Church and put "Turkey Fundraiser" in the memo area. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 746-0201, or Donna's Cell phone 707/334-3931, or email Donna, at blcoffice@sbcglobal.net.

Veterans' Brunch Sat. Nov. 20

The Veterans' Complimentary Brunch on Saturday, November 20, at 11:00 am is a Thank You for those who have served our Country. All of our members who are Veterans are encouraged to attend. Le Roy Miller is also inviting numerous other Veterans in the area. Veteran Dave Weirich is coordinating the meal.



**Veterans Day is Thursday,
November 11**

Cleanup Day Sat. Nov. 13

Looking for volunteers to spruce up our church before all the holidays! Many hands do lighter work!

Date: Saturday November 13th
Time: 9:30 am
Place: Inside and outside of Benicia Lutheran Church

BBQ lunch will be provided, along with a cold beverage!

Here's a few things that need to be done inside and outside: Clean kitchen, clean bathrooms, wipe down chairs, dust, vacuum, clean floors, and remove spider webs. Pull weeds, check outside drains, and do minor repairs.

For more information, contact Sally Engebretson.

Noah's Ark News



Have a safe and fun Thanksgiving with family and friends!

This year's Christmas performance for the MWF class will be recorded and sent home, due to Covid protocol and keeping all who would attend safe for family visits over break. We will record the performance on Wednesday, December 15 during class.

Thank you to all that helped fundraise for Noah's Ark Preschool this year! This event was a success and raised \$2550 for Noah's Ark Preschool.

There are a few spots available starting November. If you know of anyone, please have them contact Sara as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov. 11 School closed for Veteran's Day
- Nov. 12 School closed for Deep Cleaning
- Nov. 22–26 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 20–Jan. 3 Christmas Break

Donate to Preschool Bible and Christmas Book Purchase

This year the Preschool ordered children's Bibles for the students that did not get one last year, and Christmas books for the children that returned this year. The total for all the books was \$263. Church Council mentioned that instead of the congregation ordering books, they can donate to the Preschool book purchase any amount that they desire by writing a check to the church, and then the church will write a check to the Preschool for that amount. The books were on sale early October (half off!) and the sale was too great to pass up purchasing ahead of time.

The Chosen Bible Study

Our new Ladies Wednesday morning Bible study (10 am at the church) started off very well attended, filling the conference room table. We may have room for one or two more if you're interested. My hope is to have other sessions on different days and times to accommodate men/women groups and working folks. I really feel that everyone can benefit from this series and grow in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus in an entertaining, non-threatening way. Please let me know if you'd like to be a part of a future group in the new year.



BIBLE BOOKMARK

ADULT BIBLE STUDY LED BY PASTOR PHIL

Bible Gathering will be from 8:30 am–9:15 am each Sunday. 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. We expect to finish the Gospel of Mark in the next few weeks. We'll pick up a new Bible series as soon as we finish Mark. We encourage new participants to join us anytime either on Sundays in person or Wednesdays by Zoom.

Wednesday Zoom Series

This Wednesday we'll have our regularly scheduled Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm. 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.

*Have a
Happy
& Safe
Thanksgiving*



Greetings Members and Friends of BLC,

We are already anticipating Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are a number of items in this Grapevine Newsletter that tell about multiple activities that are planned. We hope you'll be able to participate in a number of them. Some of them are ones you've done in previous years. Others like the Basketball & Ping Pong Youth Event are new.

The Veterans' Complimentary Brunch on Saturday, November 20, at 11:00 is a Thank You for those who have served our Country in that way. All of our members who are Veterans are encouraged to attend. Le Roy Miller is also inviting numerous other Veterans in the area. Veteran Dave Weirich is coordinating the meal.

Dave Weirich has also successfully secured close to \$30,000 in grant money from the Trinity Lutheran Church (Walnut Creek) Legacy Fund so that we can do a major video and audio upgrade in our church building.

On October 26th ten of us from the congregation participated in a two hour Zoom Consultation with two consultants from Unite Leadership Collective from AZ. They are an LCMS group that works with a number of LCMS Districts and congregations for the purpose of revitalizing congregations. The response of those who were on the call was very positive, very encouraging. Their summary recommendations for our next step are the following.

Recommendations:

1. Identity Ministry Execution/Action Team (4-6 people) that meets with the pastor weekly to execute the vision, lead "attract" initiatives, etc.
 - Make sure Nolan is included in the weekly meeting!
 - Pastor Phil and Ken to identify the team.
2. List top 5 characteristics and top 5 competencies of your future pastor.
 - Dave and the call committee
3. Start using Church Community Builder (CCB) as your online member database.
 - Helpful for moving people from visitor to member (attract, get, retain)...and into discipleship and multiplication.
 - Diane
 - Use NPS (Net Promoter Score) Nolan and Tricia.

So the bottom line is that they are recommending that we have a Ministry Execution/Action Team that meets weekly to pursue planning and implementation of specific things to help us reach our goals.

One of the big positive developments BLC has had since last month's Grapevine Newsletter is the strong start that Liz Barriga has had with her women's Bible Study using "The Chosen" Video Bible Series. It's an example of seizing on a timely current aid in making Bible Study interesting and enjoyable. We look forward to doing more of that sort of activity when we get our video upgrades installed.

Please keep in mind that there are a lot of study aids or resources in our technological age for individuals who would like to focus on a particular theme, issue or Book of the Bible. Let me know of an interest you have so I can assist you and support you in your interest.

We encourage those of you who miss a worship service to watch it on YouTube. God has so richly blessed us and one of the ways He continues to communicate, guide, strengthen and bless us is through His Word and the Sacraments. Receive the help He graciously gives us.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Phil

Thank You Brad Miller

A big Thank You to Brad Miller who has so faithfully served the BLC Youth. He's focusing on the November 27th Youth Activity at BLC and then he is stepping down after many years of committed and caring service. You may not be aware that Brad at one time played Professional Basketball. He used his love of the sport in his work with youth. He continues to use his leadership skills as he leads the Parkinson's Group that meets monthly at church. He also serves as an elder at BLC.

Thank you, Brad.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Outreach

Dear BLC congregation,

Believe it or not it is time to think about the holidays, specifically one of our yearly mission projects. The Family Resource Center is again reaching out to the community to support the Adopt A Family program..



This year it is to be a GIFT CARD DRIVE. We will not be purchasing individual gifts for an adopted family. We will however be buying gift cards that the coordinator, Kendall Lara, will distribute to the families that apply.

I am hoping we can buy gift cards that will amount to \$250.00-300.00 dollar value in total from our congregation. The Christmas tree will be in the narthex as usual with ornaments for \$10.00 each to give everyone who wishes a chance to contribute. Of course you can always go above that amount if you wish. There will be 30 tags total on the tree to equal \$300.00. **Please return the cards to the church by November 14th**, this gives us five weeks to accomplish our goal. This also allows the families time to shop for their gifts.

The gift cards will be for: Safeway, Raley's, Visa/Mastercard, Target, Walmart, or gasoline.

I have been so blessed to be a part of this program and to see how generous our members are each year. Some of you go out of your way to find the perfect gift that a child or mother would like to see under the tree on Christmas morning. This year may not have the personal touch but regardless the need is still great and we can be a part of helping these families.

Thank you in advance and I pray for you all to have a wonderful holiday season and a Christmas filled with the love of Jesus in your heart.

Laura Sinats

Operation Christmas Child



Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have delighted over 135 million children and opened doors for the Gospel in some of the most remote places on earth. It is a terrific way to get involved in evangelism and discipleship of children around the world!

The Due dates to accept the shoeboxes are Sunday, Nov. 14th. This will give the delivery trucks time to deliver the boxes to the shipping locations.

How to Pack a Shoebox

1. Grab a box by the front door of the church, wrap the box and lid separately with gift wrap if you like.
2. Decide on boy or girl gift and age 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14
3. Fill with quality toys, hygiene item or school supplies. **NO TOOTHPASTE OR CANDY THIS YEAR.**
4. Pray for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note if you like.
5. Donate \$9 online and receive a tracking label to follow your box (/operation-Christmas-child/follow-your-box/#step 5) and discover the destination of your shoebox gift.
6. Deliver it to church on or before **November 14** so we can bless the boxes.

Both Giving Opportunities Due to the Church by November 14th

One Session GriefShare Nov. 14: Surviving the Holidays

Benicia Lutheran Church will hold a one session GriefShare gathering called Surviving the Holidays. Sunday, November 14, 1:00-3:00 pm at BLC. We invite all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one to join us for this two-hour gathering as we receive help in making it through the coming holidays with reduced stress. Hear how others have coped with their grief during previous holidays. Receive the comfort and encouragement of others who have dealt with these concerns. Experience community and support from those who are making this grief journey through the holidays now. There is no cost to this event. A survival guide booklet will be provided.

Sabina Showing Nov. 8-10

Would you like to see a movie based on the true story of Romanian Lutheran Pastor Richard Wurmbrand who spent 14 years of his life incarcerated and tortured during the time of Communist and Nazi conflict because of his commitment to Jesus Christ. His wife was not less committed but only spent 3 years under arrest and in hard labor. The movie is obviously not one of those light entertaining ones. The 1 hour 55 minute movie will be at the Vallejo 14, Regal Fairfield Stadium 16, and Pleasant Hill Downtown 16. It will only be November 8-10 (Monday-Wednesday) at 7:00 pm.

Sabina and Richard Wurmbrand sacrificed their own comfort and safety to serve those persecuted by enemies of the gospel and to boldly advance God's kingdom—at great cost. They founded The Voice of the Martyrs. Be inspired by their witness for Christ, and discover this powerful truth: **Forgiveness is the heart of the gospel.**

For more information go to sabinamovie.com



COMMUNITY EVENT Free Basketball & Ping Pong Games

Benicia Lutheran Church will open its parking lot for free pick-up basketball and ping pong games.

**Open to all ages
Free pizza and drinks**

**November 27
12-3:00 pm**



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 7

Don't forget to set you clock back 1 hour!

Meetings Reminder

Monday, November 1

Call Committee: 6:30 pm

Tuesday, November 9

Church Council: 6:30 PM

Tuesday, November 30

Worship Committee: 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 7

Church Council: 6:30 pm

**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,
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.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED?

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

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

- 11/5 Sara Barron
- 11/5 Scott Walker
- 11/8 Jennifer Church
- 11/9 Scott Irwin
- 11/10 Ethan Collins
- 11/10 Brooke Noska
- 11/10 Michael Saunders
- 11/12 Phil Grant
- 11/12 Michael Moffett
- 11/12 Dawn Curtis
- 11/15 Joyce Chalmers
- 11/16 Alan Klopatek
- 11/17 Elyse Padua
- 11/18 Justine Haarberg
- 11/24 Warren Peters
(In Loving Memory)
- 11/27 Katie (Weirich) White
- 11/29 Sally Alfeld



November 7

"The Father of Solomon, by Uriah's Wife"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The story of David and Bathsheba is a scandalous tale of adultery, treachery, and murder—but it also shows God's undeserved mercy for David and for us.
(2 Samuel 12:13)

November 14

"Jesus Keeps Filling"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
In one way or another, we are all broken, cracked vessels. Life leaks out, but Jesus keeps filling.
(2 Samuel 14:14)

November 21

"Between Now and Eternity There Is Much to Do!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Hector Hoppe
In Christ, God forgives our past and secures our future. Dr. Hector Hoppe says, here in the present, there is much we can do.
(Jude 1:20-25)

November 28

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler



Benicia Lutheran Church

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