



Benicia Lutheran Church

# GRAPEVINE



JANUARY 2022

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

Church: 707-746-0201  
Fax: 707-751-0873  
BLCOffice@sbcglobal.net  
www.benicialutheranchurch.com

**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



### *Gratitude for the past and hope for the New Year.*

Our Scriptures repeatedly encourage us to give thanks for all things. After all we learn from our mistakes; we are strengthened in our suffering. We have the assurance of a loving God. How do we know that? We know it by the gift of a babe in the manger who suffered all things for us and for our salvation. Who died that we might be set free. Who was raised on the third day that we might have new life as well—even victory over sin and death. Who guides and directs us—even empowers us—by the Holy Spirit. Who lives and reigns throughout all eternity—no matter what seems to be happening in our world and in our life. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## GriefShare Begins January 9

GriefShare begins at BLC on Sunday, January 9th, at 1:00 pm. and continues for 11 weeks. We won't meet Super Bowl Sunday; we conclude March 27th. Sessions can be made up and repeated. Each session meets for two hours including a break. We are asking for a \$20 donation which is 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 professionals and individuals who have been through the grieving process. Participants then have the opportunity of sharing their feelings and thoughts in a small group setting. During the week, they are encouraged to reflect on certain very brief readings to maximize the benefit of GriefShare. Laura Sinats, Jeanne Walker, Nancy Stiltz, Gloria Lambousy, and Pastor Phil are facilitators. Mini-posters are available for you to post as well as brochures to distribute. Please pick up whatever you can use or let us know if you would like us to send out a brochure. Thanks for helping to make this a meaningful ministry.

For questions feel free to contact Pastor Phil at 925-586-2575 or email [blcpastor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blcpastor@sbcglobal.net).

For a lot of helpful information go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

To register go to <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/136005>



### **VOTER'S MEETING** **Sunday, January 9**

Our next in-person Voter's Meeting will follow the 9:30 AM Worship Service. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

# Noah's Ark News



## Happy Winter!

There are still 4 spots to fill in the T,Th class and 1 MWF opening coming up on Feb. 1.

### PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2022-23

Feb. 28, 2022 Currently Enrolled  
March 8, 2022 Alumni at 9:30 am  
March 8, 2022 New Students at 10:30–11:10 am

### IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 4, 2022 School Resumes  
Feb. 14, 2022 No school for Lincoln's Birthday  
Feb. 21, 2022 No school for Presidents' Day

### *Landscaper, Bookkeeper Needed*

The Preschool is looking for a new landscaper for the church/school and a new bookkeeper for the school. If anyone has any recommendations, email the Preschool at: [BLCNoahsArk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BLCNoahsArk@sbcglobal.net)



## Bible Bookmark

ADULT BIBLE STUDY LED BY  
PASTOR PHIL

**B**ible 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 **Acts of the Apostles** on Zoom or watch the recording. Let Belinda or Pastor know if you'd like some Zoom assistance. We encourage new participants to join us anytime either on Sundays in person or Wednesdays by Zoom.

**Our new Ladies Bible study, The Chosen**, meets at 9:30 am at the church on Monday mornings starting January 10. Please contact Liz Barriga for more information.

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## Wednesday Zoom Series

New Bible Study on the Book of Acts starts Wednesday, January 5, at 7:00 pm on Zoom, and Sunday, January 9, at 8:30 am in person at church. We urge you to give this a try. The Book of Acts is sometimes called the history of the early Christian Church. It tells the story of how a small group of disciples developed into a thriving multinational church even in the midst of a lot of opposition. This study might even give Benicia Lutheran some important insights in how we can grow in the midst of significant challenges.

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## Irene Peters Passing and Update

We are sad to announce that Irene Peters passed away the evening of December 15 on her 89th birthday. The family gathered for a birthday celebration that evening. She is in Heaven now with Warren. The family would like to thank everyone for all of the birthday cards, love and support that BLC showed for Irene.

Irene Peters had expressed a preference of not having a Church Memorial Service for her. Her family are following her wishes. Irene and Warren had both requested that those wanting to make Memorial donations make them to World Vision ([www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)) and Canine Companions for Independence ([www.canine.org](http://www.canine.org)) in their honor. The family will also be making a donation to Benicia Lutheran Church in their honor. If you would also like to send Sympathy cards to the family, send them to her address at 647 Brown Ct., Benicia, CA 94510, and the family will get the card.

## Thoughts (Resolutions?) for the New Year

A significant number of us have seen a significant number of New Year's Eves followed by New Years. Some of us have begun such New Years with New Year's Resolutions. That, of course, doesn't mean that we have kept the resolutions. In fact, we may have so quickly broken and discarded our resolutions that in subsequent years we didn't even bother making them anymore.

I tend to be an optimist. One of my "gifts" perhaps is that of persistence. Sometimes when we see that quality in a child—or an adult—we simply describe the person as being "stubborn." At any rate, I have decided to put down some things that I would like to change or do better in during the New Year.

**Resolution # 1:** I would like to improve my prayer life. My prayer life has improved significantly in the past year and a half when I started walking extensively on a regular basis while not listening to anything on some audio device. I decided I would use that time for prayer and thought. I acknowledge that the reality is that it includes a lot of "mind wondering" thinking as well.

**Resolution # 2:** I would like to faithfully continue reading a lot of Scripture and good Christian material to strengthen my faith, increase my understanding, deepen my convictions and increase my love and compassion for others. I want to be more Christ-like. I believe that "feeding" on God's word and fellowshiping with His people is the way we become more like the "Word made Flesh"—Jesus Christ. We are strengthened through the Word of Scripture and also the Word in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**Resolution # 3:** I would like to faithfully follow through on worthwhile ideas. Some of those would pertain to Benicia Lutheran Church, its worship, its ministry, its fellowship.

I hope such thinking is not just an "I'm going to try harder" sort of thing. Even though I do want to "try harder." I also want to "work smarter." The challenge is balancing the various aspects or priorities in our life. We all have some "work" commitments—some things, even chores, that we have to do. We all have some relationships that need ongoing attention. Those relationships include relationships with family members, but they do include more than that. God doesn't ask us simply to love our family members, or our neighbors or even our enemies. He requires us to love all of the above and that's where the challenge comes in. Our responsibilities present different challenges and it is hard to balance them out. So we pray for wisdom and discernment in that area. We want to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us. We want to make the most of our life here on earth. We want to honor the giver of our life and our salvation. We want to be blessed and we want to be a blessing to others. May God grant us success in fulfilling those wants in the New Year through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Pastor Phil*

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*Thank you as a congregation and as individuals for your cards, gifts—monetary and other—this Christmas Season. It marks the end of our first year together as a family. May God help us to grow individually and as a fellowship in such a way that He is honored and His work is done in us and through us. Thank you and thank the Lord.*

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## Thank You

*Thank you from Laura Sinats for your generous contributions to the Christmas Adopt-A-Family gift card drive. BLC's commitment was \$300 but we raised \$650! Below is a note from Kendall Lara at the Benici Family Resource Center.*

I wanted to take the time to thank each of you for helping with the 2021 Christmas assistance program at the Benicia Family Resource Center. Due to the changes that had to be made this year and the fact that gift cards are not as fun, nor as personal, the FRC lost over 60% of it's usual holiday sponsors. I am extremely grateful to those of you who recognized that the need was still there, no matter how the assistance was provided. The generosity of this small group allowed the FRC to provide holiday assistance to over 50 families! I look forward to the adopt-a-family program returning to it's original form in 2022, but please know that you have all been a huge part in making the holidays bright for so many in our community. Thank you and best wishes in the New Year.

Kendall Lara, Coordinator  
Benicia FRC  
klara@ci.benicia.ca.us  
(707) 746-4352

### THANK YOU FROM RODGER ENGBRETHSON

Just finished opening a slew of cards wishing me my 70th Birthday. Thanks to all who sent their wishes and cards. So wonderful to open them all. Thanks and God Bless!

## VOLUNTEERING FOR CASA IS LIFE CHANGING

### Next Orientation January 5

Are you looking for a way of being a life-changing blessing to someone? Whether you are young or old, single or married, male or female, consider CASA of Solano County. CASA of Solano County advocates for abused, neglected, and other identified children within the court system, with the belief that every child is entitled to a safe and stable home. In support of this mission, CASA of Solano County is committed to the following:

- Advocate for the best interests of children.
- Provide comprehensive training programs to educate volunteer advocates.
- Provide ongoing support to CASA staff and volunteers.
- Create and maintain public awareness and educate the community regarding child abuse and neglect

Check out their website at <https://casasolano.org/>. The volunteer page has Q & A section.

#### From their website:

Orientations are conducted the first Wednesday of every month; one from 12:00 – 1:00 pm is conducted in person & the other from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. is conducted via Zoom.

Please call or e-mail if you are interested in attending an orientation, as our space is limited, and on occasion, times and dates may change. You may contact our office at 707-421-2272 or e-mail us at [coordinator@casasolano.org](mailto:coordinator@casasolano.org). When we hear from you, we will e-mail you an informational packet.

There is no obligation to become a volunteer after the orientation.



### New WINGS Knitting Group

Next meetings: Wednesday, January 12, and 26, Time: 7:00 pm, Place: Benicia Lutheran Church conference room. It's fun learning new tips and tricks and even a new skill if you haven't knitted before. We have plenty of yarn and knitting needles for the beginners. Beginners will learn how to cast onto the knitting needles, learn the knit and pearl stitches, and learn to make a hat for the homeless or for NICU. Experienced knitters help beginners learn how to knit or start making hats. Have a blessed holiday season. Sally Engebretson and Danylle Miller

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** Tony Barriga has distributed the 2022 Offering Envelopes for those that have requested them. If you would like some Offering Envelopes, please talk to Tony and he will be happy to get you a set for 2022.

**2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** If you have questions about your 2021 Contribution Statements, please contact Tony at [tonyb99@pacbell.net](mailto:tonyb99@pacbell.net) or at (707) 745-4111.

**January 2**

**"Gospel Power for Personal Patience"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

No one likes to wait! Hear God's promises for impatient people. (Luke 2:40-52)

**January 9**

**"Facing Rejection"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

How does one deal with rejection? Push through it? Rise above it? Or start over?

(Luke 3:1-22)

**January 16**

**"Hazed and Confused"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God is against our pride because He wants to give Himself to us.

(Luke 4:1-37)

**January 23**

**"Caught"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Luke 4:38 - 5:16)

**January 30**

**"TBD"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

## Meetings Reminder

**Monday, January 3**

Ministry Idea/Action Team:  
6:30 pm

**Tuesday, January 4**

Church Council: 6:30 pm

**Sunday, January 9**

Voter's Meeting; 10:30 am

**Tuesday, January 11**

Worship Committee: 6:30 pm



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/6 Sally Engebretson

1/21 Jeane Gannett

1/24 Christine Sprinkle

1/26 Cheryl Thomas

1/28 Gail Bennigson

1/29 Mike Padua

1/30 Elly Harkins

## 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

### ASSISTANCE NEEDED?

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

## Parkinson Support Group

Meets 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, 707-515-9216 (Brad's Cell) or e-mail at bradfordmiller807@gmail.com.



## 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  
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