



Benicia Lutheran Church

GRAPEVINE



MAY 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

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BLCOffice@sbcglobal.net
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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

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND Q&A

The Role of Religion in the Ukraine Crisis: May 21



Our next Ukraine Presentation is at BLC on Saturday, May 21, 10:00-11:45am with Russian Orthodox Priest, Dr. Edward Henderson, of Berkeley. Fr. Edward will share with us his understanding of the Ukrainian Conflict. Fr. Edward serves both Russians and Ukrainians in his parish and will be approaching the topic from a pastoral perspective. He has spent time in both Russia and Ukraine and has a Masters Degree in Russian. He can talk about the Orthodox Church in Russia and Ukraine and how Church History is intertwined with the history of these nations,

This is a great opportunity to gain insight about this international concern and the role of the church in it and how the church might help us get out of it.

Approximately half the time will be devoted to questions and answers. We have flyers available in the Narthex. The flyers are to be posted where you think is appropriate and to share with others that you think might be interested.

Contributions of refreshments, again, will be greatly appreciated. Invite your friends and neighbors—churched and unchurched. We hope you all will join us.

Installation of New Church Council

Installation of our new Church Council will be Sunday, May 15 during our Worship Service.

Thank You Teachers

Recognition of Noah's Ark and Teacher's Awards will be May 22 in church with the Preschoolers singing a Graduation song or two. We recognize our long-term Preschool leaders, particularly Teacher Alice who retires this June. Thank you Teacher Alice for your many years of faithful service. And thank you to Director Sara, Teacher Katie and Teacher Isabel.

Reminder

The Farmers Market dates for Preschool and the Church are May 19, June 16, and August 11.

Noah's Ark News



Last Month of School

The year is winding down but the learning continues! Some students will be returning next year and some will be graduating on to kindergarten. Thank you to all the parent volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you. The children have grown so much, we are proud of them and love them so much.

—*Noah's Ark Preschool Teachers*

Mother's Day Tea

Please join us on the lawn and bring a blanket or small beach chair/towels to sit on. Wear sunscreen! (Will move indoors if raining.) The Tea is hosted by Noah's Ark Preschool children for their mothers. Please only one adult per child this year. If mother is unable to make it, one person can represent mom at this even. There will be muffins, iced tea and lemonade for you, our wonderful Moms!

T/Th Class: Thursday, May 5 at 10:50 am

MWF Class: Friday, May 6 at 11:15 am

Graduation is June 1st with a Graduation Walk in the parking lot. The Graduation ceremony will be recorded May 25-27 and sent home by June 6th.

Next Year's Enrollment

We have spaces available in the T/Th 3-year old class. If you have friends looking for a preschool, please send them our direction. Also, if you would like to add your testimonial to Noah's Ark Preschool Benicia YELP or FB page, it would be appreciated very much!

IMPORTANT DATES

May 2-6	Teacher appreciation week
May 30	No School, Memorial Day
June 1-2	Last days of school
June 1	Preschool Graduation Walk, 12-12:30 pm

More News About the Preschool

The Preschool is proud to say that Masks are now optional for staff and students. They have not had any spread of Covid in the school for 2 years! BRAVO PRESCHOOL!

Help Needed at Mother's Day Tea

The Preschool will have a Mother's Day Tea May 5th and 6th on the school lawn. Sara is looking for about 3 volunteers for each day to help prepare and distribute muffins to the mothers. Fill out a form in the Narthex and put it in the Preschool's box if you can help out.

Help Needed on Playground

The Playground needs some work. If anyone is available to do handy work, please let Sara know and she will fill you in on the details.

Teacher or Aide Needed

The Preschool is still looking to hire a teacher or aide for 2 days a week.

Teacher Alice Retiring

Thank you Teacher Alice for your many years of faithful service and dedication to our little ones. She is retiring at the end of this school year.



Greetings,

Benicia Lutheran did not receive a candidate from the Seminary as there were more requests from congregations than there were graduates from the Seminaries. The District is putting together a list of potential pastors who are now serving in congregations, but who might be open to coming to Benicia.

May is a busy month at BLC. That is good as we want to grow in our Faith, our Christian life and in our numbers. A healthy congregation with a commitment to growing tends to be more appealing to a pastor considering a call to a congregation.

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 am, we host our second Informational Presentation on the Ukraine Crisis. We are looking at it from a Christian perspective since the Russian Orthodox Church and other Christian groups are involved in various ways.

I was impressed with the level of interest and understanding that a number of those attending our first Ukrainian presentation we had. We recommend that you check out the Ukraine page on our BLC website for more information and resources. Father Pablo's manuscript and even the video is now available. Email me if you would like a copy.

Father Edward has his own viewpoint on the situation and some things have changed in the time since Father Pablo spoke to us. Father Pablo has also asked us to pray for the journalist who also spoke with him. Kseniya Kirillova's husband was still in Ukraine and other family and friends of Kseniya are impacted by this crisis.

One of the big activities at BLC is the Immerse Bible Studies. Liz Barriga's women's group is in the last half of their 8 week reading through the New Testament and then talking it over each week.

Elsewhere in this Grapevine Newsletter we have some details about the two new opportunities to participate in an Immerse Bible Reading group. Please consider this. It could make a significant difference in your life.

May God bless our May,

Pastor Phil



Welcome Remington Lewis

Welcome Remington Joseph Lewis to our congregation and the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism. Remington was born 4/3/2021. He is the son of Krystyna and Travis Lewis and the brother of Elivia, Laretta and Harley. His Godparents are Liza and Sam Treichel of Milwaukee.

Eleanor Sinats Baptism June 5

Eleanor Sinats, daughter of Kevin and Susan Sinats and granddaughter of Juris and Laura Sinats will be baptised on June 5.

BLC Livestream Help

Some of you may have noticed that we recently have been Livestreaming on Youtube. Same platform as always, just a slightly different viewing experience. It has been brought to my attention that there is some difficulty at finding the Benicia Lutheran Church Livestream on Sunday Services live at 9:30am. So this is for you:

1. Be sure you are subscribed to Benicia Lutheran Church on Youtube. Use this link to get to the subscribe button.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=benicia+lutheran+church
If it is Red and says SUBSCRIBE. Then go ahead and click that button and you should be on your way. If it says SUBSCRIBED in black and white, then you are good to go.
2. THEN, it should always be the first video showing up. On some of our systems, mine included this has not been the case, and I am working on remedying that, specifically the TVs. But if this is not causing you problems then you should be all set to enjoy. If you have any further questions or concerns, do not hesitate to send me an email at nsinats@gmail.com.

Thank You, Nolan Sinats



Thursday Prayer on Zoom 12:15–12:45 pm

Take a half hour of your Thursday lunch time to spend on prayer. Email BLCpastor@sbcglobal.net to request the Zoom link from Benicia Lutheran Church or contact Pastor Phil at 925-586-2575

Wednesday Zoom Series

The Zoom Series features a Bible Study on Psalms this Wednesday and begins the Immerse Bible Discussion on Wednesday, May 11. Please contact Pastor about any questions regarding this series or how to get the special Readers' Bible. We'll read through the New Testament in 8 weeks and discuss it once each week. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87026313575?pwd=UmNsdGF4UWxJa3AwcG9SZ1BuV1V1QT09>
Meeting ID: 870 2631 3575 Passcode: 697322



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, we encourage new participants to join us anytime.

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

NEW In-person Bible Study! Beginning May 10, we will be starting an Immerse Bible Study, in-person at the church, Tuesdays at 2:00pm.

Wednesday Zoom Series begins the Immerse Bible Study on May 11 at 7:00 pm.

Immerse Bible Discussion Groups

Two new Immerse Bible Discussion Groups will start May 10 and 11. A new in-person group starts on Tuesday, May 10, at 2:00 pm at church. The Wednesday 7:00 pm Zoom session starts on May 11.

Immerse might be considered an easier way of reading the Bible. It's more like reading a novel. We'll be reading through the New Testament in 8 weeks. The discussions are more like you might have at a Book Club than a Bible Study. One of the big pluses is that you are reading more of the Bible and getting a better picture of the whole. For more information and numerous remarkable testimonies go to <https://www.immersebible.com/>

The book that we are using has the entire New Testament with some introductory material on each of the New Testament books. If you are not into reading, you have the option of an audio version. There are also some brief video overviews you can watch. The bottom line: This is a good opportunity to read the Bible and share your thoughts on a weekly basis. Don't miss out on this opportunity, you'll be glad you did.

To fully participate you'll want to get the Immerse book—MESSIAH. Order your book ASAP. You can get it from their website listed above for \$13.50 or you can get it from Amazon. Amazon also offers it for their Kindle. Please let me know if you have questions and what group you would like to participate in. If you can't work either of these in your schedules, but you would like to participate in some way. Please let Pastor know and he will work something out with you.



WINGS Knitting Group

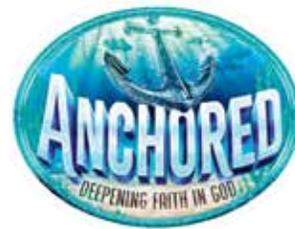
WINGS will meet May 4 and May 18 at Sally's house. Our BLC Knitting Group has been busy in recent weeks knitting hats and scarves. The premie/baby hats will be donated to a local hospital and the hats and scarves for adults and kids will be given to the Benicia Police to give out to the homeless. Please contact Sally if you are interested and she will provide you her address. Cell 415-250-6728 or email: Sally.Engbrethson@sbcglobal.net.

BLC Book Club

We have a few spots available in our current Book Club. We meet at different people's houses at 6:00pm on Tuesdays every 4-6 weeks depending on the book we read or peoples availability. The host usually provides the main course and everyone else brings something to add to the evening. We read all different kinds of books based on whatever the group wants to read. If you're interested in joining, please contact Sally Engbrethson @ 415-250-6728 or Sally.Engbrethson@sbcglobal.net .



A new GriefShare series starts on Sunday, May 15, from 1:00-3:00 pm. Laura Sinats and Jeanne Walker are the primary facilitators. New people can join the group any week. Please keep this important care giving ministry in mind as you hear about people who are grieving the death of someone. Talk to Pastor Kohlmeyer or one of the facilitators if you know of someone who might be interested or if you have any questions. There are flyers available in the Narthex to be posted where you think is appropriate and to share with others that you think might be interested.



VBS Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteers to help with Vacation Bible School, 6/20-6/22, 9-12pm. Contact Belinda Miller at 707/515-8063 or belpint.mill@gmail.com if you are interested.

Church Cleaner Needed

We are looking for someone to clean the church on a regular basis for a small stipend. If you are interested, please contact any council member.



Parkinson Support Group

Meets every second Saturday of the month, in-person at the church! If you or someone you know is interested in joining, contact Brad Miller, 707-515-9216 (Brad's Cell) or e-mail at bradfordmiller807@gmail.com.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 5/11 Nita Tyree
- 5/11 Debbie Weirich
- 5/12 Kim Weirich
- 5/14 Donna Noska
- 5/16 Marli Karrasch
- 5/25 Elfriede Adams
- 5/25 Tony Barriga
- 5/31 Nancy Stiltz

Meetings Reminder

Every Monday in May
 Ministry/Idea Team Meeting:
 6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 3
 Worship Committee: 6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 10
 Church Council: 6:00 pm
Thursday, May 12
 Elder's Meeting, 1:30 pm



May 1

"Three C's of Christian Witness"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 Competence, Conversation, and Caring—the three C's of Christian witness.
(Daniel 3:28)

May 8

"What the Bible Is Like"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
 The Bible is like an encyclopedia, a love letter, a self-help book, and a Good News article—but these comparisons all fall short.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

May 15

"What the Bible Is About"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

May 22

"What the Bible Is For"
 Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(1 Timothy 4:13)

May 29

"Imagine That!"
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy
(Revelation 22:1-7)



Benicia Lutheran Church

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