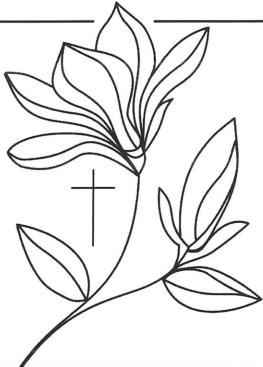


# THE BETHANY BROADCAST

4644 Clark Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
(562) 421-4711  
[bethanylutheran.org](http://bethanylutheran.org)  
[Bethany.Long.Beach](http://Bethany.Long.Beach)  
[@BethanyLutheran  
LongBeach](http://@BethanyLutheranLongBeach)

## God's Comfort and Peace to:



THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF  
LARRY NEASEL WHO WENT  
HOME TO HIS HEAVENLY  
FATHER ON DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>.

*May the love of God surround  
you, offering comfort and peace in  
the midst of sorrow.*

## Today we Celebrate the Baptism of:



ISABEL RUBY BAROJAS,  
DAUGHTER OF REYNALDO  
& ALLYSON (NÉE  
HAMILTON) BAROJAS.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
the new creation has come: the old  
has gone, the new is here.  
2 Corinthians 5:17*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Susan Ansorge  
Michelle Baker  
Jacob Bazz  
Sally Blevins  
Nora Borg-Breen  
Kevin Dart  
David Gamble  
Dale Green  
Betty Greene  
Lynda Kernohan  
Myrna Koenigsdorf  
Phyllis Lee  
Gary McDaniel  
Flory Melendez  
Keren Raquel-  
Melendez  
Christy Pierce  
Mike Pierce  
Suzanne Reed  
Elias Rodas  
Mary Rosas  
Joyce Rose  
Joel Melendez-  
Sarceno  
Kat Totten  
Eno Uti

# Worshiping Faithfully **Hebrews 10:25**



## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE**

### **SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

**8 am • 9:30 am • 11 am**

### **COMMUNION SCHEDULE:**

**1ST SUNDAY** all services

**2ND SUNDAY** 9:30 am only

**3RD SUNDAY** all services

**4TH SUNDAY** 9:30 am only

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES**

**TIME** 10:45 am - 12 pm

**ROOMS** # 215 & Library

**LED BY** Mary Kay Esswein (215)

Sheri Esswein (Library)

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**TIME** 10:45 am - 12 pm

**ROOM** Parish Lounge

**LED BY** Bob Lange & David Akins



## **UNDER GRACE...**

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S SUNDAY  
MORNING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Potty-trained 3 year-olds through 2nd graders have the opportunity to take part in Under Grace during 9:30 am worship on every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month. The kids will leave the worship area after the children's message with the kids' ministry team in the narthex (or lobby area in the back of the church) and should be picked up from the Parish Lounge (the glass double doors across the courtyard) at the conclusion of the service.

We have also added a new element for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders during the 9:30 am service. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, they will also leave following the children's message with our kids' ministry team but will come back to Friendship Square to rejoin their families during fellowship, when worship concludes.

Parents, please fill out the yearlong permission form using the QR code in order for your child to come to any children's ministry program.



Questions? Contact Alissa Brege - Minister to Children & Families: 562-421-4711, ext. 13 or [abrege@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:abrege@bethanylutheran.org)

# *Serving Passionately* Ephesians 2:10



## SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY CHILDCARE POSITION OPENING

**Do you love kids and love Jesus? We may have just the position for you!**

We are seeking a childcare provider to serve the youngest of our Bethany family during our 8 & 9:30 am Sunday morning worship services.

Our nursery team serves in groups of two on Sunday mornings, welcoming our infants and preschoolers to the nursery and engages the kids in age-appropriate play & stories, sharing Jesus, while the service is livestreamed for everyone in the nursery to worship.

The hours are 7:45-10:45 am, approximately two Sunday mornings a month. Candidates must be 18 years old and satisfactorily complete the employment processes. **Please contact Alissa Brege at [abrege@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:abrege@bethanylutheran.org) for more info or to apply.**



## YOUTH VOLUNTEER *Opportunities!*

### **ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

We are once again interested in knowing which youth wish to acolyte for Sunday worship services (8 & 9:30 am)! Training is available to first-time acolytes. Please prayerfully consider this service opportunity and sign up on the google doc.

Questions? Please contact Karl Fink at  
[kfink@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:kfink@bethanylutheran.org).

To volunteer: [bit.ly/acolyte-and-crucifer](http://bit.ly/acolyte-and-crucifer)

### **SUNDAY COFFEE & DONUT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

#### **OPEN TO YOUTH IN GRADES 8-12!**

This is a great way to interact with church members, hang out with other youth, and earn funds in your Youth Ministry Account to be used towards any Youth Ministry event.

Questions? Please contact Aimee Coleman at [acoleman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:acoleman@bethanylutheran.org).

To volunteer: [bit.ly/coffee-and-donuts](http://bit.ly/coffee-and-donuts)



*Updates*

## FROM OUR LCMS MISSIONARIES

### NEWS FROM THE RICKMAN FAMILY SERVING IN LATIN AMERICA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:5 ESV*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we enter this holy season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we give thanks to God for you and for your faithful partnership in the Gospel. Advent reminds us that God keeps His promises. In Christ, God comes near, entering our world with mercy, forgiveness, and hope. Even amid challenges and busy preparations, we rejoice that the Lord is at work among His people here in Panama.

We recently marked the beginning of the new Church Year with a joyful celebration involving the children of the congregation. Together, they helped decorate the Christmas tree in the church and set up the Advent Wreath. It is a simple but meaningful way to teach them that Advent is a season of waiting, hope, and joy in Christ as we light the Advent candles each week.

The following week, we celebrated Mother's Day (December 8th in Panama), giving thanks for the women God has placed in our families and congregation. It was a beautiful opportunity to honor their love, service, and faithfulness, and to rejoice together as the family of God.

Our congregation is now preparing for our Christmas concert and Christmas services. Rehearsals are underway and hearts are being prepared to hear once again the Good News of Christ's birth. We look forward to welcoming members and visitors to hear the Gospel proclaimed in Word and song.

We are thankful to share that the second deaconess class of the year began during the first week of December. The ladies are now studying the Catechism. Please keep these women in your prayers as they continue their formation to serve Christ's people with mercy and faithfulness.

This month also brought an unexpected challenge. There was a water-main break that resulted in a large hole in the church courtyard between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall as the city workers tried to assess the situation and make repairs. While this was certainly not planned, we are thankful for God's protection and for the patience as we wait for repairs to be completed. Even these interruptions remind us that the Church is not built on bricks and mortar, but on Christ Himself.

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! Please prayerfully consider supporting the ongoing work here with a monthly pledge or one-time, year-end gift. We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

*In Christ - Arthur and Eva, Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel,  
Mary Anna, Addy, and Hannah*

# *Giving Proportionately* Luke 21:1-4

## **WE GIVE HIM BUT HIS OWN**

At Bethany we know that “our stuff is not our stuff!” All that we have, all that we are, is a gift from Him. We also know that giving is a spirit-given compulsion. For Jesus Christ, in whose likeness we are being transformed daily, is the ultimate giver. Your gifts fund ministry that give people Jesus. His words, His promises, His presence, His gifts, His comfort, His strength are given through the gifts you are now giving Him. We thank and honor you for these gifts, because they thank and honor Him!

Questions? Contact Pauline Svolos at [psvolos@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:psvolos@bethanylutheran.org).

**THERE ARE MULTIPLE  
WAYS TO GIVE TO  
BETHANY INCLUDING:**

Online, Text  
to Give, Online  
Bill-Pay, US  
Mail, Offering  
Box, and now  
*Apple Pay,  
Google Pay,  
Venmo, and  
PayPal!*



## *Community Connections* Acts 2:44

# **WE'RE HIRING A PART-TIME OFFICE ADMIN FOR OUR CYPRESS CAMPUS!**

WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN ORGANIZED, FRIENDLY MULTITASKER WHO LOVES CHECKING THINGS OFF LISTS, KEEPS CALENDARS STRAIGHT, AND HELPS THE OFFICE HUM ALONG. YOU'LL BE THE GO-TO PERSON FOR QUESTIONS, SCHEDULES, AND DETAILS—MAKING SURE EVERYONE HAS WHAT THEY NEED AND KNOWS WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE. IF YOU ENJOY BEING HELPFUL, STAYING ORGANIZED, AND KEEPING THINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY, YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME AT BETHANY'S CYPRESS CAMPUS.

TO LEARN  
MORE AND  
APPLY,  
SCAN HERE.



# *new* WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING SOON!

KNOWING THE BIBLE

## RUTH and ESTHER

A 12-WEEK STUDY

Kathleen B. Nielson



J. I. Packer  
INTRODUCTION AUTHOR  
Dane C. Orthund  
SERIES EDITOR

## RUTH AND ESTHER: A 12-WEEK STUDY

BY: KATHLEEN B. NIELSON

**Starts** January 18, 2026

**Meets** Sundays 10:45 - Noon in the library

**Bible Study Led by** Sheri Esswein

**Questions?** Contact Sheri via the church office.

**Book available for purchase on Amazon.**

The books of Ruth and Esther recount two of the most moving stories in all of Scripture: Ruth, a displaced widow in search of a new home and loving husband, and Esther, a courageous queen intent on saving her people from imminent destruction.

This guide explains the biblical text with clarity and passion - leading us on a journey to discover the God who hears the cries of his people and remains faithful to his promises.



## Mom Co.

**Date:** second Tuesdays  
**Time:** 12:30 pm  
**Location:** LBX

A time for moms to connect with one another, have a time of devotion, learn & grow, build one another up & enjoy lunch together!

Questions? Contact Alissa Brege at [abrege@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:abrege@bethanylutheran.org).

## JOIN US FOR GAME DAY!

**DAY** Tuesday, January 6th

**TIME** 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

**PLACE** Parish Lounge



**Christian  
fellowship**

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Cheryl at [magicalviewcp@gmail.com](mailto:magicalviewcp@gmail.com).



## BEUTEL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS HAVE ARRIVED!

Beutel Scholarship Grant Applications are now being accepted for academic year 2026-27 and are available in the Church Office. These applications are for students attending a college or university of our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in preparation for a full-time career as a pastor, teacher, deaconess, youth director, social worker, lay missionary worker, medical missionary, or parish worker. The purpose of the grant is to encourage our young people to pursue a career in church work and to give them assistance in reaching this goal. All scholarships are awarded on an annual basis. If a student needs scholarship help for the school term beginning in the fall of 2026, they must apply between January 15 and March 15 of this year. Application's are available in the Church Office for completion in a folder marked **BEUTEL SCHOLARSHIPS**.

**IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE, THEY MUST RETURN APPLICATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE (SLT: SPIRITUAL LIFE BOX) ON OR BEFORE SATURDAY, MARCH 15.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JIM SWICK AT (562) 714-3196.**



*Bethany Lutheran Church presents*  
**THE BRIANNA ESSWEIN  
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026**



**EARLY REGISTRATION PRICE:** \$150 per golfer (before March 2)

**LATE REGISTRATION PRICE:** \$175 per golfer (after March 2)

**WHERE:** Navy Golf Course - Cypress, CA

**QUESTIONS:** Karl Fink - [kfink@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:kfink@bethanylutheran.org)

**DEADLINE:** March 13th (or until sold out)

**TIME LINE:** **6:30 AM** - check in begins  
**7:45 AM** - in carts!  
**8 AM** - tee time  
**1 PM** - buffet lunch

**THE GOLF  
COMMITTEE:**

Marty Callow  
Bob Newell  
Phil Lopez

Craig Dean  
Ted Spaseff  
Marty Platt

# Join Us for ROOTED.



## HERE'S WHAT BETHANY PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID:



- *"It helped me to focus my priorities."*
- *"Gracious + welcoming to a very new Christian."*
- *"Loved doing the study with my husband + getting to know other couples."*
- *"Hearing faith stories + discussion helped me grow in my own faith."*

You're invited to take a 10-week adventure discovering a deeper relationship with the Lord and His people. Whether you're a life-long believer or are new to the faith, ROOTED will enliven your relationship with God and equip you to follow Jesus differently.

## REGISTRATION OPEN!

**DAYS:** Tuesdays, Feb. 3 – April 7, 2026

**TIME:** 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Bethany CYPRESS Campus

**CLOSING CELEBRATION:** Saturday, April 11

**GROUPS FOR:** Women, Men, and Couples

**COST:** \$40 (\$20 if reusing workbook)

**DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER  
REQUEST OR DESIRE  
INFORMATION ABOUT A  
MINISTRY, MEMBERSHIP,  
OR ONLINE GIVING?**



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
HEAR TODAY'S OR A  
PREVIOUS SERMON  
AGAIN?**

You can hear them  
as podcasts at  
[bethanylutheran.org](http://bethanylutheran.org)



**WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN?**

Today's 9:30 am service will  
be live-streamed on our  
YouTube channel:

