

# THE BETHANY BROADCAST

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LongBeach



## THE TRUTH

# Unchanging

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES SUNDAY 2026

*The Lutheran Hour has resources for you, too!*

### The Lutheran Hour

- Listen on your local station
- SiriusXM Family Talk (Sundays, 10 am ET, channel 131)
- Stream it online
- Ask Google or Alexa "Play The Lutheran Hour"
- LHM Connected App

### Topical Booklets

- Grow in your spiritual walk
- Assist in your finances
- Find help for anxiety, caregiving, illness, and many other needs

### Daily Devotions

- Read or listen online
- Receive them by email
- Listen by asking Google or Alexa

### Video Bible Studies

- Personal or small group use
- Topics include Bible stories, spiritual questions, life, career, and more

### Prayer Support

- Call us toll-free at 1-855-JOHN-316

*Find it all at [lhm.org/discoverlhm...](http://lhm.org/discoverlhm...) or scan the QR!!*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

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*Worshiping Faithfully* **Hebrews 10:25**

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

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### **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



## *Ash Wednesday Worship Services* **February 18, 2026**

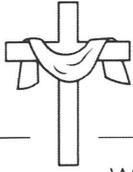
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**The Imposition of Ashes** is an ancient custom begun centuries ago when those who had fallen away from the church desired to return and be restored into relationship with the community before the celebration of Easter. To bear witness to their contrition and faith they bore an ashen mark during the Lenten Season.

That custom is the basis of the tradition we observe to this day. We receive the sign of an ashen cross as a physical expression of our penitence, trust and desire to be one with Christ and His bride the church.

† As a church we gather for Ash Wednesday worship on the **Long Beach Campus at 9:00AM** and on the **Cypress Campus at 6:30PM**.

† You can also come to the **Long Beach Campus Sanctuary between 7:30-8:30AM** or the **Cypress Campus Sanctuary between 12:00-1:00PM** for Reflection, Meditation and Individual Imposition of Ashes.



# Wednesday Lenten Gatherings

## February 18 - March 25, 2026

We've all heard the adage, "Clothes make the man." Some say you can trace the notion clear back to Homer. The concept is fleshed out more fully in a line in Shakespeare's Hamlet; and given complete familiarity by Mark Twain. At the core of the concept is the idea that appearance can influence both perception and behavior.

Long before either Shakespeare or Twain had crafted their works, St. Paul wrote that, "Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross."

The eternal Son of God, took on human nature and put on the form of a servant. This action, His incarnation, certainly directed His behavior and as Isaiah states (chapter 53) is influenced perception of THE suffering servant.

By His grace, through faith, Jesus has covered us in His righteousness, dressed us in His likeness and calls us to be "His masks" in this world. These *Garments of Grace* influence our perception of one another and our behavior as His disciples.

**Join us on Wednesdays during Lent (2/18 thru 3/25) ON OUR CYPRESS CAMPUS, 4321 Cerritos Ave. Cypress CA at 6:30PM** as we gather to rejoice in the promise that our Lord has clothed us in His *Garments of Grace*.

## Schedule and Themes:



**ASH WEDNESDAY (2/18)** "Try this on instead." *Isaiah 61*

**WEDNESDAY LENT I (2/25)** "Look what I've knitted you." *Genesis 3*

**WEDNESDAY LENT II (3/4)** "You Look Marvelous" *Genesis 37*

**WEDNESDAY LENT III (3/11)** "Swaddled" *Luke 2*

**WEDNESDAY LENT IV (3/18)** "Filthy Rags" *1 Peter 2:24*

**WEDNESDAY LENT V (3/25)** "Garments of Grace" *Revelation 3*

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# Serving Passionately: Ephesians 2:10

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## Updates FROM OUR LCMS MISSIONARIES

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We give thanks to God for you and for your faithful partnership in the Gospel as we continue to serve God's people in Latin America.

*"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)*

This promise has been a great encouragement to us in recent months. The Lord continues to open doors for service, often in unexpected ways, reminding us that He is always at work for the good of His people. In December, our congregation rejoiced together with special celebrations for the university graduation of one of our members, the engagement of one of our deaconess students and the celebration of Christmas. These moments were filled with thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and for the gifts He continues to give to His people. Christmas worship and fellowship centered on the joy of Christ's incarnation, reminding us that God is always with us.

January also brought joyful celebrations as we celebrated two weddings, giving thanks for God's gift of marriage and the opportunity to walk alongside these couples as they begin this new chapter.

Summer is always a busy time here in Panama, with many opportunities to serve our community. Eva restarted English classes, this time, before Sunday worship, which has been a blessing both to our members and to those visiting from the community.

We were also given the opportunity to begin a summer school program for youth, in partnership with the school across the street from our church. Working together with the school director, two teachers, a social worker, and volunteers from our congregation, we have been able to support students who otherwise would need to repeat a grade.

Through this program, we not only help students strengthen their math and Spanish skills, but we are also able to connect with their mothers and younger siblings. Alongside academic instruction, we share important values, encouragement, God's Word, and music lessons—offering care for the whole family. Pray for God to open the hearts of these youth and their families.

**Rickman Family Update:** We are now preparing for Vacation Bible School and will be starting a monthly family day for the community and members of the congregation. In addition to all they do to help the mission, with a later start last year, the Rickman children are still working hard to finish up their school year. Pray we can get everyone back on track to start up the new school year in March. Please also continue to pray for all the upcoming activities and that the Holy Spirit would work through us to reach others with the wonderful gift we have received in Christ Jesus. We thank God for your prayers, encouragement, and support, which make this work possible.

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



## Updates from KING OF THE NATIONS MINISTRIES

Dear Bethany Family,

We continue to be deeply humbled by the ways God chooses to work through the One King team. It is a joy and a privilege to join Him in what He is doing through the ministries of prayer, evangelism, training, and equipping—and to witness the many doors He is opening for the hope of the Gospel to spread, both locally and globally.

### **We would like to share a brief update with you from the South Asia mission field.**

God continues to bring pastors and grassroots leaders from both South and North India to participate in our *Launching Prayer and Disciple-Making Movements* training webinars. Some of these leaders are now entering their third year of training, persevering faithfully despite many challenges. Through trusted Indian partners, we are able to coach and walk alongside these leaders as they apply biblical principles, multiply disciples, and plant new faith communities among unreached and unengaged people groups—places where the name of Christ is often unknown or rarely heard.

At the same time, we are intentionally seeking to multiply trainers—local leaders who can train others in their own languages and cultural contexts—so that the work remains indigenous, sustainable, and deeply rooted in the local church.

We ask you to please pray with us that the Lord would continue to open doors for this training to expand into new regions of India, and into neighboring countries such as Nepal, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Indonesia.

The One King team is profoundly grateful for the prayerful and financial support of Bethany Lutheran Church. Your partnership is not taken for granted. We believe that now, more than ever, it is our shared calling to join Jesus in His work of reconciling the world to Himself.

Because of your prayers and generosity, together we are able to bring the Gospel to the unreached and the unchurched. Thank you for standing with us in this Kingdom work. May the Lord bless you richly.



*With gratitude in Christ.*

King of the Nations Ministries (One King)

Website: [www.one-king.org](http://www.one-king.org)



*To support One King work among the unreached people groups use this QR code.*

# *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 Maraley Shaeffer at [mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffer@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!**



## VALENTINE'S DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Plan ahead for Valentine's Day and make your purchases count! Use Scrip for Hallmark, 1-800-Flowers, See's candies, Bath and Body Works, Total Wine & More, Spa Finder and so much more! Whether you are getting gifts for your spouse, other family members or friends or going out to celebrate, use Scrip for your Valentine's Day spending. Need decorations or Valentine cards - consider Michaels, Target or Walmart gift cards to get your supplies!



### TO LEARN MORE:

Ruth Lopez  
BLS Scrip Coordinator  
[rlopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:rlopez@bethanylutheran.org)  
562-420-7783 ext. 58



## CALLING ALL TECH SUPPORTERS!

Here's something you may not be thinking about: The broadcast and live-worship-aid tech equipment breaks down, goes obsolete, and needs upgrading. Whether you are an in-person-only congregant, an online-only worshipper, a sermon podcast listener-viewer, or a mix of all of them, you can help our in-person and online worship ministry continue to thrive through the gift of technology. You can give a one-time gift, or even choose to include a regular, recurring offering into the 'tech-giving fund'! Use the QR code to get to the online-giving site, or call Maraley in the church office for assistance! Thanks for being



# Community Connections: Acts 2:44

## IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL CAMPOUT RETREAT!



**When:** February 13 - 16

**Where:** Mobiland RV Park, Ocotillo Wells

Bring your special dish for Saturday's pot luck supper, and Sunday evening hors d'oeuvres along with some firewood for the campfire. We will have a few optional outings throughout the weekend. A worship service will be held Sunday. For details or reservations, please call/text Philip Lopez at (562) 416-5960.

## 3RD-5TH GRADERS - SAVE THE DATE!



We are planning our first ever Club 35 retreat and all 3rd -5th graders are invited. Save the date for "Living Waters!"

**Dates:** Saturday, March 21 - Sunday, March 22

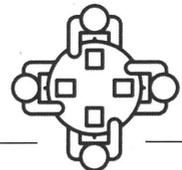
**Time:** 10:30 am - 10:30 am

**Where:** Bethany Lutheran's Long Beach Campus

**Questions:** Ask Alissa Brege - [abrege@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:abrege@bethanylutheran.org)

## AN UPDATE FROM THE

*Call Committee*



The Call Committee for the Associate Pastor of Connect Ministry (Sr. Pastor in transition) has been receiving responses from several interested pastoral candidates. At this time, the committee is narrowing down the list of candidates, and will soon be scheduling interviews. We are so thankful during this call process for your continued prayers, asking for the Holy Spirit's leading, for our committee and each pastoral candidate.

# HELD FAST



**HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT  
FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026**

**PINE SUMMIT SALVATION ARMY CAMP, BIG BEAR**

In a world that feels uncertain, loud, and overwhelming, our safety does not depend on how tightly we hold onto God, but on how tightly He holds onto us.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. His grip is sure. His promises do not fail.

**TOTAL COST: \$150  
\$75 DUE AT REGISTRATION (OPENS JANUARY 10, 2026)  
\$75 FINAL PAYMENT DUE BY FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL

# BRIANNA ESSWEIN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



FRIDAY  
**MARCH 27**



6:30 AM CHECK IN  
7:45 AM IN CARTS!  
8 AM TEE TIME  
1 PM BUFFET LUNCH



**NAVY GOLF COURSE**  
CYPRESS, CA



**\$150 PER GOLFER**  
UNTIL MARCH 2ND



PROCEEDS HELP  
SUPPORT THE VARIOUS  
MINISTRIES HERE AT  
BETHANY, INCLUDING:  
*MISSION WORK, THE 2028  
LCMS YOUTH GATHERING,  
STUDENT SUCCESS, AND  
THE STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND.*

**SCAN HERE**



**DON'T HAVE A FULL  
FOURSOME?  
NO PROBLEM!  
INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS  
AND TWOSOMES WILL  
BE PAIRED.**



## 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. Applications 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.**

## ESTATE PLANNING WITH THE LCMS FOUNDATION

We live in a “I can do it myself” culture. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the question is, “Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?” This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any others in life. But what is the value of meeting with an LCMS Gift Planning Counselor if I already plan on meeting with an attorney? The answer is, that your counselor can assist you in getting organized, thinking through your goals and becoming specific about them, and encouraging you to spend time considering who you might choose for a personal representative, trustee or the one named in your power of attorney documents. This decision should be carefully made, not rushed. Prayer should be included. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started now. Contact Andrea Hyde, Gift Planning Specialist, at 209-613-2125.

LCMS Foundation  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER



## NEW SERIES STARTING SOON - FEBRUARY 22ND!

**DATES** Starting February 22nd  
**TIME** 12:30 - 2:30 PM  
**WHERE** Conference Room off of the church parking lot  
**LED BY** Karl Fink  
 (562) 421-4711 x19  
 kfink@bethanylutheran.org

If you are experiencing grief in any way, shape, or form, or if your grief has been buried for quite some time, please make an effort to attend this series. If you have come to this before and want to attend again, that is perfectly fine! There's a nominal fee for the materials, which will be discussed at the first meeting. Griefshare is a 13 week video based series where we watch and discuss as people feel comfortable. God's comfort and peace.

## HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GRANTPARENT PROGRAM?

The Grantparent Program is a School Ministries mission project of the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The purpose of the Grantparent Program is to provide tuition assistance to students in urban communities so that they can receive an excellent Christian and academic education.

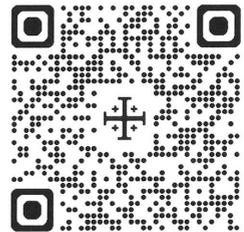
Many children living in urban communities need to hear the Good News of Jesus in a safe, nurturing environment, but they can't afford tuition to attend a Lutheran school.

### ***That's where the Grantparent comes in!***

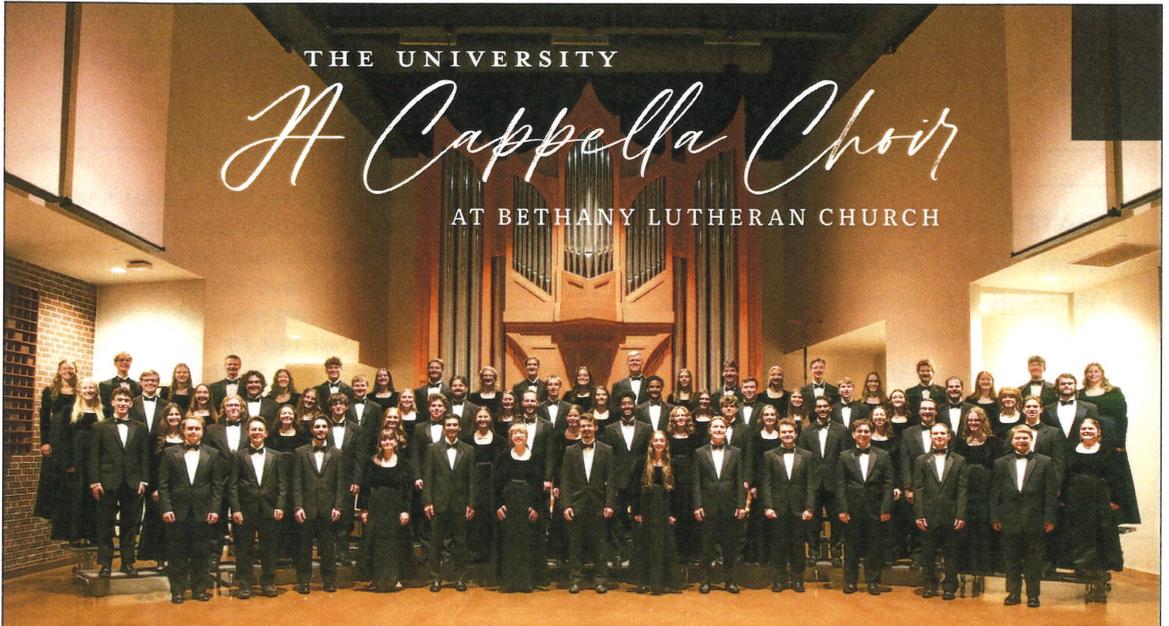
Your tax deductible charitable donations enable children to attend a Lutheran school in an urban community and receive that excellent Christian and

academic education! You can sponsor a student by making a donation of ANY amount! In the 23 years of the Grantparent Mission Project, 1,125 students have been recipients of tuition assistance in urban LCMS school in the Pacific Southwest District.

*For more information please contact [anna.preus@psdlcms.org](mailto:anna.preus@psdlcms.org)*



THE UNIVERSITY  
*A Cappella Choir*  
AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



CONDUCTOR: DR. KURT E. VON KAMPEN

MARCH 11  
2026

*Join us!*

7 PM



CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
NEBRASKA

*at*



Bethany  
Lutheran  
Church  
Long Beach, CA

**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:

