

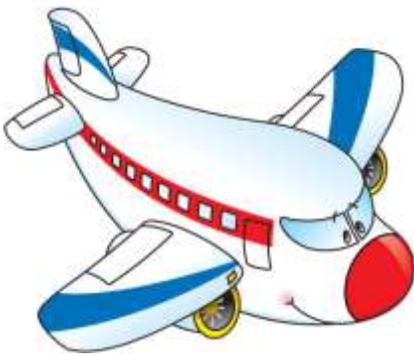


BETHEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER  
6441 LINCOLN AVENUE  
BUENA PARK, CA 90620

JANUARY  
2021



## GOOD BYE 2020!!!!



"...Hello and welcome to flight 2021!

We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position.

All self-destruction devices; pity, anger, selfishness and resentment should be turned off at this time.

All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith. There will BE NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our Captain, has cleared us for take-off, Destination – GREATNESS!"

*[Source unknown; no rights claimed by Bethel Lutheran Church.]*

Wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY and new BEGINNINGS. Stay Blessed and Welcome in 2021!!!

2020 was a very difficult year for all of us. We have been doing the Lord's work as best as we can and pray that 2021 is better. We have missed our weekly services and time to visit with each other. Soon we will be able to come together again. Until that time arrives, here is an update on what Bethel has been up to...

**WOLFF HALL:** After forty-two years of renting Wolff Hall, Steve and Wendy decided to close the *Children's Learning Center* last March. At that time we did many needed repairs throughout the building to prepare for new tenants. Around this same time, Quash Marin (Rev. Marin's wife) was looking for a building to start a new pre-school, *Our Tribe, Our Village*. She has now decided to lease the building for OTOV. Once the pre-school opens and grows, this will be a great opportunity for Pastor Sipes to do outreach, possibly even bring them into Bethel. God does work in mysterious ways...

**SOCKTOBER:** A huge "Thank You" to all that donated. Once again, as always, *Bethel* comes through for its community.

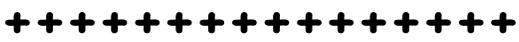
**THANKSGIVING DONATION DRIVE:** This past November, *Bethel* partnered with *Our Tribe, Our Village* and delivered 75 boxes of food to families in need and handed out thirty five hot meals. This is one of many events we will continue with OTOV. Thank you to all who contributed to this much needed cause.

**CHRISTMAS TOY AND FOOD DRIVE:** Another huge "Thank You" to all that contributed to the Christmas Toy and Food Drive. We helped 3 individual families with toys and food, with the rest going to *Good Samaritan* (a shelter for battered women and children).



**LENT & EASTER SEASON 2021**

During Lent, Pastor Phil is planning to hold only an *Ash Wednesday Service*  
and a combined *Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service*.  
For Easter, we will have a single, outside *Sunday Morning Service*.  
Details for these three services will be forthcoming.



**PASTOR PHIL'S WORDS OF WISDOM (...and boy do we need them!)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



This past year has been a very difficult one and has tempted us to worry and become fearful. The first week of this year has also been very difficult and many are wondering what our country and this world is coming to. As parents and grandparents, we are concerned about this world that our children and grandchildren are going to grow up in. How can they possibly deal with all the hate, division, lawlessness, anti-Christian activities and words that we see all around us? If we think about all this according to the world's standard of thinking, we can easily become very worried and depressed about our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren in the future. But, as Christians, we have been called to a higher way of thinking, a Godly and Biblical way of thinking. When we read the Scriptures, we are reminded that God is in charge of this world and the universe, that He guides the hearts and minds of kings and leaders, and that He tells us to **not** worry or be afraid because He is in charge and all His promises are true and faithful! I read an article, posted on January 6th of this year, written by Alex Cravens, the Youth Pastor at Butterfield Church in Russellville, Arkansas, and have included it below (*italicized text*). Please take the time to read it slowly and carefully and let it lift up your heart unto our Lord:

*"Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident. Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of His Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know they can change the world. Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan. He knew Daniel could handle the lions den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution. He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life if they trust in Him. He created them specifically for it! Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose you to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime. Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters! God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and made Him known all over the earth. Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.*

*\*\*\*Just some thoughts from a dad who is rocking his sleeping baby and thinking about what a crazy day it has been in our country." [© Alex Cravens]*

We were **all** prepared for such a time as this! Lift up your hearts and do not be afraid. Our God is Alive and Well and **Knows** exactly what He is doing by allowing all this craziness and these difficult times.

It's a Wonderful Time to be a Christian! Our Lord Jesus gives us so much strength, support and comfort!

By His Grace and With His Power,

Pastor Phil