



Benicia Lutheran Church

GRAPEVINE



AUGUST 2017

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
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Preschool Director
Sara Barron



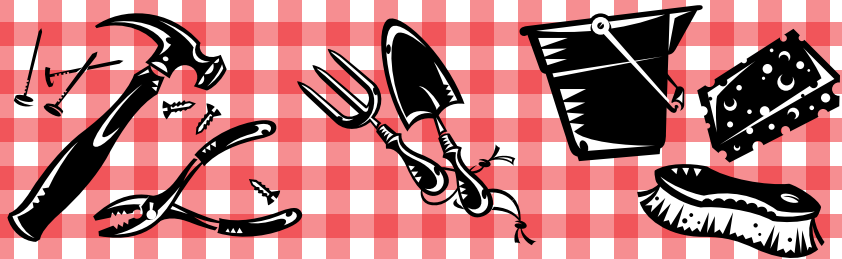
SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Bible Study with Pastor
8:30 AM

9:30 AM Worship Service

Sunday School
Will resume in the Fall
Preschool - Grade 5

WORK PARTY / BBQ ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH



On Saturday, August 5th, starting at 9:00 AM, we will have a Church Work Day and a BBQ at noon. The guys will be doing some work outside sanding the picnic tables and other wooden areas. Some yard work needs to be done as well. The WINGS Ladies will be doing a thorough kitchen cleaning. Roger Keller will BBQ lunch for all of the hard workers that day. Guys, come and bring your sanders, hammers and miscellaneous tools. For questions, please contact Roger Keller at 707/980-8862.

CONCRETE REPAIR FYI

Concrete repair work will be ongoing for the next two weeks on the patio area, in front of the church and on the corner paths.

CHURCH MORTGAGE BALANCE

At the last Voters Meeting some asked what the current balance is for our Church Mortgage. As of July 26, 2017, our balance is \$188,839.95. The loan will be paid off midyear 2028. That is less than eleven years!

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MEMBERS' MEETING SEPT. 24, 10:45 AM

Our 3rd Quarter Members' Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 24, following the 9:30 AM Worship Service.

The Power of Giving

As summer begins to wind down, I feel inspired to share an article I read in one of the subscriptions I receive. In just a few short weeks school will start up again, routines and schedules will be getting set up, and our lives will again get back to “normal”...

So before they do, read this article and give it your prayerful consideration.

I didn't set out to be one of the leading givers in the congregation. I just consistently tithe. Actually, I do more than just tithe. God talks to us in scripture about tithes and offerings, and 10% is only a start, but that's another topic.

I began tithing after a sermon preached by my internship pastor in 1976. At the time I was receiving an educational stipend of \$400. Getting \$40 out of that small stipend after all our expenses was a challenge. Of course, the problem was we tried to get it out after rather before. One of the first principles in scripture is that we give the first fruits. We give from the top, not what's left over. We should have started by thinking we had \$360 to spend for rent and food and gas. But we were now trying to backtrack from decisions made when we thought we had \$400.

My wife and I went over and over our budget, and decided that in order to be able to tithe, she needed to get a job – which meant a little more income and therefore a corresponding increase in our giving.

I don't boast about tithing. It is no credit to me. It has been a gift to me. Through tithing I learned to be generous. Through tithing I held my money and possessions more loosely – and they didn't hold me. Wealth is a powerful thing, and we can easily end up serving money rather than money serving us...and serving God...and serving our neighbor.

We preach about giving not because we need your money; we preach about giving because it is a critical element of our spiritual life. Jesus wasn't kidding when he said, “It is not possible to serve God and possessions.”

From tithing I learned the joy of giving. Though I was just a poor student on internship, **God had given me \$40 to give away!** “Here's \$40; go make the world a kinder, better place! Go surprise the world with grace!”

And when I received my first call I think I got a salary of \$16,000. Now God had given me \$1,600 to give away! Amazing. And what fun!

The most telling truth about tithing is that no one who has begun to tithe ever stops. People join and quit gyms and jobs and, yes, even church. But those who learn to tithe don't stop. Giving doesn't come after I think I have enough. Giving comes when I realize that everything I have is gift. I need to return to God the first fruits of the harvest. I can't give God the first tomato off the vine, but I can give that tomato to someone else, and when I do it becomes a holy act.

It was hard to start tithing. But it has been easy to continue. Now, even the thought of keeping for myself this first, holy portion that belongs to God and is meant for the healing of the world makes me uncomfortable.

I have chosen over the years to give most of my tithe to the ordinary ministry of the congregation. I believe that congregations matter. I don't mind paying for heat and lights and toilet paper and other unglamorous realities of maintaining a building because, by their very existence, these buildings bear witness to the presence of God in our world. And if, in fact, these places speak the word of Grace into our lives, if they add prayer and beauty and holiness, if they encourage generosity and kindness and forgiveness, if they weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, if they feed the hungry and care for children, they are bringing some small portion of God's kingdom into our wounded and desecrated world. They are bringing grace and life into the world. They are keeping hope alive.

Let someone else donate a college library or hospital wing. I don't need my name on something. I need Christ's name on everything. I need grace to be proclaimed.

Grace is proclaimed when we give... pray... share our faith... and much more. It's the purpose for which God has given to us. It's our responsibility AND our privilege!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and have a Great Day in the Lord!

Pastor Dave

by Liz Barriga

**LWML 37th Biennial Convention in
Albuquerque, New Mexico
JESUS CHRIST above all (Philippians 2:9)**

On Thursday morning, June 22nd, Sherry Bell and I boarded a plane to the LWML 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After a visit to the convention center to register and get “the lay of the land,” we returned to our hotel for an early dinner and glass of wine. Then it was off to the convention center again for the opening, with a beautiful communion service, preparing us for the activity-filled three days to come.

The next three days’ activities began at 8:00 or 9:00 am and ended around 9:00 pm, with additional time needed for transportation to and from the convention center. You can imagine we were ready for a good night’s sleep at the end of the day. There were the typical convention requirements of meetings for voting on by-laws, election of officers and the selection and adoption of the proposed mission grants. Although those things are very important, they are not always the most interesting. Interspersed throughout the convention were great Bible studies, Keynote speakers, and various Mission speakers (from the areas that our grants have touched). The Mission

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Liz Barriga and Sherry Bell at LWML Convention

**Noah's
Ark
News**



Preschool Starts This Month!

Open House Schedule:

T-TH Thursday August 24th
MWF Friday August 25th

First Day of School:

MWF Monday August 28th
T-TH Tuesday August 29th

The Preschool is looking for a pink shag rug that was missing after VBS. We still have openings in our Tue-Thurs class for 3 year-olds and we are looking for a Preschool Teacher. Please contact Director Sara Barron at 707-746-1868 if you have seen the rug or know of anyone interested in the Teaching position or enrollment in the Tue-Thurs class for 3 year-olds.



Bible Bookmark

ADULT BIBLE STUDY LED BY PASTOR DAVE

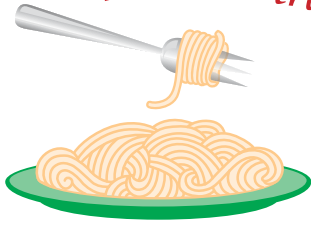
On Sundays we meet at 8:30 AM before the 9:30 AM Worship Service. We are studying the Miracles of Jesus.

“Tuesday In The Word” Bible Study will take a break for the summer and resume in the Fall.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come at any time!

**Benicia Lutheran Church
YOUTH GROUP**

*All You Can Eat
Pasta Dinner*



and Live Christian Music

Benefits the Benicia Lutheran Church Youth Group. Please make checks payable to Benicia Lutheran Church and put Youth Group Dinner Fundraiser on the notation line. For more information or to help, contact Brad Miller at 707/515-9216

Bistro Lutheranini is BACK!
(aka Benicia Lutheran Church)
Saturday, September 16
5:00 –9:00 PM

Spaghetti with Homemade Meat Sauce OR Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo
Includes a green salad, dinner roll and dessert

\$30 Family (up to 5 people) or \$33 at the door
\$20 Couple or \$23 at the door
\$10 Single or \$13 at the door

Pre-sale tickets available at Benicia Lutheran Church Office
201 Raymond Dr., Benicia

LWML News, Continued from page 3

speakers were my favorite, as they bring the whole purpose of the LWML full circle and give us an insight as to where and how our “mighty mites” are being used. On Friday and Saturday we divided up into groups to enjoy our lunch while listening to one of the Mission speakers. Did I mention that there were just shy of 3500 Lutheran women at the convention? That’s a lot of purple!

Since it was the 75th Anniversary of the LWML, there was a lot of celebrating going on. A new logo was introduced and there were a lot of music and history presentations. One of the most popular was the Mariachi San Pablo of Adelante Ministries in El Paso, TX. They are a group of nine young people, including the Pastor, who use Mariachi music to spread the Gospel in English and Spanish. Check them out at www.ylm.org or www.facebook.com/mariachisanpabloelpaso.

Well, I’d like to tell you about the overwhelming generosity of the LWMLers that attended this convention but I will wait until next month’s newsletter. It was awesome and will boggle your mind! Also, I’ll let you know about the next mission grants that were chosen for 2017 – 2019.

In His service,
Liz Barriga



Benicia/Vallejo Relay For Life

Sat, Aug 5, 10 AM – Sun, Aug 6, 10 AM at St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School

Join in the fun or donate in the fight against cancer! Go to: www.RelayForLife.org/VallejoCA for information and to sign up or donate.



**A Note On
Stewardship**

Curt Theriault & Rodger Engebretson

Please remember to continue your weekly contributions to BLC even when you are on vacation or out of town. Expenses do not stop during the summer. Thanks and May God Bless Our Church.



Events planned for the rest of the year:

August — Cleaning kitchen and creating a wish list for new items. It was proposed that we have a “Kitchen Shower”!

September — Linus Project: make blankets and teddy bears!

October — Book Club (of course food will be involved)

November — Make Advent Wreaths/Advent Tea

December — Cookie Swap.

Ideas for things to do outside our monthly get togethers are: Bring a friend, your spouse, a dog, for a walk at the State Park. And meet Thursday night, possibly at the Farmers Market and walk downtown instead of at the park.

For WINGS questions, please contact Jill Theriault at (989) 430-6112 or at jmtheriault8@outlook.com.



Happy Birthday

- 8/6 Ramone Noska
- 8/6 Sierra Rybarczyk
- 8/7 Doyle Tyree
- 8/7 Russell Werner
- 8/8 Laura Sinats
- 8/10 Kimberly Collins
- 8/11 Jessica Baumberger
- 8/12 Shane Irwin
- 8/12 Heather Graves
- 8/17 Lawrence Collins
- 8/20 Mike Biro
- 8/24 Lou Alfeld
- 8/29 John Tyree

Meetings Reminder

- Wednesday, August 9**
Board of Worship: 6:30 PM
- Sunday, August 13**
Board of Elders: 11:00 AM
- Tuesday, August 22**
Church Council: 6:30 PM



August 6

“On Thee the High and Lowly”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dale A. Meyer

It’s “Archives August” and we present a classic message from former Speaker, Dr. Dale Meyer.

(Exodus 20:10)

August 13

“Looking for a Good Speaker”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dale A. Meyer

“Archives August”-What do the words “Our Father” teach us about our relationship with God and with each other?

(Matthew 6:9)

August 20

“God’s Dog”

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran

Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Was Jesus being politically incorrect—or worse—when He compared a Canaanite woman to a canine?

(Matthew 15:21-28)

August 27

“Absolutely Nothing”

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran

Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Pastor Ken Klaus explains how something that is “absolutely nothing” can be a very good thing.

(1 Corinthians 15:14-19)



Benicia Lutheran Church

OFFICERS

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