

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:1-4 – <i>Love’s Assurance</i> ) 11am Faith Formation (all ages) 12pm BBYOL	28	29 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting  7pm Council Meeting	30 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Prayer 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	31	1 7pm Bethesda Fun Night 7pm Youth	2 1-4pm Baking Club 9:30am-12:30pm OMF: Heart for Asia
3 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:5-7 – <i>Love’s Mortal Enemy</i> ) 11am Faith Formation (all ages) 12pm BBYOL	4	5 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	6 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Geopolitics & World Mission 7:15pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm Youth	7	8	9
10 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:8-25 – <i>Love’s Vanguard</i> ) 11am Faith Formation (all ages) 12pm BBYOL	11	12 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting 8am Elders meeting	13 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Geopolitics & World Mission 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	14	15 7pm Bethesda Fun Night 7pm Youth	16 11am-1:30pm Cameron’s Baby Shower (Women’s event)
17 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:26-38 – <i>Love’s Hope</i> ) Communion 11am Faith Formation (all ages) 12pm BBYOL	18	19 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	20 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Geopolitics & World Mission 7:15pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm Youth	21	22	23
24 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 1:39-56 – <i>Love’s Exultation</i> ) 11am Faith Formation (all ages) 12pm BBYOL	25	26 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting  7pm Council Meeting	27 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Geopolitics & World Mission 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	28	29 7pm Bethesda Fun Night 7pm Youth	30 8:30am Men’s Breakfast



BETHESDA CHURCH

Bethesda Church Office Information  
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Bethesda Church Newsletter

Congregational letter November 2024

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. [...] All these are the beginning of birth pains.

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And *this gospel of the kingdom will be preached* in the whole world as a testimony *to all nations, and then the end will come.*” – Matthew 24:6,8-14 (*emphasis added*)

As I introduced our new sermon series of the Gospel of Luke I tried to explain the word “fulfillment” to the kids using a series of objects: a bag, a glove, a book, a deflated football, a nesting doll, a church building, a cookie jar. These are all objects that are designed to be **filled**. Some, like the glove, have a distinctive **shape**. The peculiar shape of a glove, for instance, suggests that there is one – and only one – appropriate “filler”. There is only one way to fill a glove for it to truly fulfill its purpose. But of course, a glove can be worn in many contexts. A football, which is like a glove in that it can only be used and enjoyed after it has been filled properly, is designed for a more specific purpose. It is the essential object in a specific game with specific rules. In that game, its odd shape allows it to be more effectively propelled

– kicked, thrown, caught, **carried**, thrust – towards a goal, known as The Endzone. While it’s possible to just toss a football around for kicks, it is made to be driven towards a goal. One of the things that Christians recognize is that God has given shape to the universe that he has made to be filled with all kinds of stuff. We look expectantly in the direction of the goal towards which he is carrying it all, to the “end zone” of time and space: Jesus’ return! Luke specifically says that his purpose is not just to relate events that *happened*, but to give “an account of the things that have been *fulfilled* among us” (verse 1). More than that, he wants us to “know the certainty of the things we have been taught” (verse 4). In other words, his “account” sets forth the *meaning* of the events that Jesus “began to do” (Acts 1:1). Luke, in his



Gospel and its sequel (Acts) gathers up the relevant revelation of earlier times, and sets it along the trajectory that Jesus explained thoroughly to his disciples after his death and resurrection, just before he ascended: “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:46-47) After Jesus ascends, the angels assure the wide-eyed disciples that “this same Jesus [...] will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

From that moment, Jesus’ disciples have looked and longed, watched and waited, for his return. At times, however, we have gotten too caught up in trying to interpret “the signs of the times”, forgetting **Jesus’ own words** that **tell us**

**precisely when he will come back: “when the gospel of the kingdom [is] preached** as a testimony **to all nations”** (see above)! Clearly, that has not happened yet. According to the website [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net), **less than half** of the people groups around the world **have been** either “significantly” or “partially” **reached**.

So it should not surprise anyone that Jesus has not yet returned!

**November is Missions Month at Bethesda**, and – as we always do – we are going to spend much of our time focused on the ongoing work to preach the gospel to all nations. As well as incorporating a missions focus into my sermons, on Sunday, Nov. 3, we invite you to pray and fast as part of the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**. To close out Missions month, on Dec. 1 guest preacher Doug

Koop of Square One Media will share about the work that they are doing around the world. Our **Wednesday night Bible study** (6:30pm) will look at Matthew 24-25 (from which I quoted above) to explore **“Geopolitics and World Mission”**. This will be a broad-minded, non-partisan discussion about how Jesus is at work to build his kingdom in the midst of the crises we see around the world today. **We will look to the Bible:** not to *speculate* but **to take comfort in God’s plan**, thinking through how we may:

- 1) better **intercede** in prayer
- 2) more effectively **“preach** the gospel to all nations” and
- 3) **“long** for his appearing” (2 Tim 4:8)!

Here at home on Sunday mornings, beginning in November a new Faith Formation class for seekers will be offered: **“Faith Made Simple”**

will use a resource called *Simple Truths* which is in simple English. It has also been translated into Mandarin, Pashto, Hindi as well as many other languages. Visit [asimpleword.org](http://asimpleword.org) to access resources!

*Pater Noster*

<b>November 2024</b> Bible Reading Plan <i>will be done by: 11/10</i> ○ Luke 2:1-7 ○ Is 31:1-3 ○ Zech 1:7-11 ○ Pr 28:1-3 ○ Num 6:1-21 ○ Heb 3:7-4:13 ○ Psalm 95 ○ Luke 2:8-20 ○ Is 31:4-32:8 ○ Zech 1:12-17 ○ Pr 28:4-6 ○ Heb 4:14-5:3 ○ Num 6:22-27 ○ Luke 2:21-24 ○ Is 32:9-20 ○ Zech 1:18-2:13 ○ Pr 28:7-9 ○ Heb 5:4-10 ○ Num 7:1-17 ○ Psalm 122 ○ Luke 2:25-40 ○ Zech 3 ○ Is 33:1-6 ○ Pr 28:10-12	○ Num 7:18-23 ○ Num 7:24-29 ○ Pr 28:13-15 ○ Is 33:7-19 ○ Zech 4 ○ Luke 2:41-52 ○ Heb 6:13-20 ○ Luke 3:1-22 ○ Is 33:20-24 ○ Zech 5:1-4 ○ Num 7:30-35 ○ Pr 28:16-18 ○ Heb 7:1-22 ○ Luke 3:23-27 ○ Num 7:36-41 ○ Pr 28:19-21 ○ Is 34 ○ Zech 5:5-11 ○ Heb 7:23-8:6 ○ Heb 8:7-9:15 ○ Luke 3:28-31 ○ Num 7:42-47 ○ Pr 28:22-25 ○ Zech 6:1-8 ○ Is 35	○ Num 7:48-53 ○ Psalm 78:1-37 ○ Pr 28:26-28 ○ Luke 3:32-37 ○ Zech 6:9-15 ○ Heb 9:16-28 ○ Ps 78:38-72 ○ Num 7:54-59 ○ Pr 29:1-3 ○ Zech 7 ○ Luke 4:1-13  This month all the children will start memorizing some of Luke chapter 2 in their Faith Formation classes to recite in the Christmas Presentation on December 22. A great way to support the kids would be to memorize the passage yourself! ○ = new verse	<b>Luke 2:8-18 NIV 1984</b> ○ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ○ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ○ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ○ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ○ This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ○ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and	<i>saying, ○ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."</i> ○ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ○ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ○ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ○ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.  NB: this is the pew Bible translation
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BABY SHOWER, November 16 @ 11:00am**  
For Cameron Robinson! All women are invited, and it is encouraged to wear pink or blue for the gender reveal. Brunch will be provided, however we welcome donations to help cover the cost.  
**Please Sign up in the foyer by Nov. 3!**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR MISSIONARIES**  
Throughout November, please give generously to our annual Christmas campaign to send gifts of appreciation and love to our missionaries! Tables will be set up at the back of the Sanctuary all month.

**NEW CLASS: “FAITH MADE SIMPLE”**  
Sunday mornings at 11:15am in the Lower Lounge. For anyone and everyone who wants to know what it means to be a Christian! The course material will be based on *Simple Truths*, a resource in simple English from *Clear & Simple Media*, which has been translated into many other languages. This new class will be taught by Pastor Yuri and replace the Q&A time (for now!) Visit [asimpleword.org](http://asimpleword.org) for resources.

**ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES**  
Continue through November, Wednesday nights at 6:30. Please see Dr. Neil for more info.

### PRAYER & INTERCESSION

- Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church:
  - Women: *hidden persecution*
  - Nigeria: *Leah S., kidnapped*
  - Nicaragua: *Maricarmen S., lawyer in prison*
  - India: *(Hari, pastor)*
- English Conversation Class: *many attending!*
- Newcomers to Bethesda
- “Faith Made Simple”: *Faith Formation Class*
- “Faith @ Work”: *presenters*
- Kids Ministry: *Teachers, too!*
- Youth Ministry: *Leaders, too!*
- Afghan Families: *language, culture, school*
- Andrea & Rick Wittebolle
- Andrew Poirier: *mental health*
- Betty Campbell: *PCH*
- Bernice Gruenke
- Cheryl Warax: *Pastor Mark’s sister*
- Chris Wilcoxson
- Debbie Mogilevsky
- Don Register: *Shelby’s dad*
- E’s brother in prison
- Edwin & Kamala Henry: *Esther’s parents*
- Gail Barnes
- Jaeho, Samjin & Eean Cho
- George & Lori Manalang
- Joan McRae: *Misericordia Place*
- Lawrence & Selma Churchill
- Laylee, her sons, and her mother
- Marion Hill: *Susanne’s Mom*
- Susanne: *care*
- Marye P.: *Kathy’s friend – cancer*
- Mike & Sunny Cheon
- Mona Behrens
- Pastor Mark
- Pastor Yuri
- Patti Poirier: *health & strength; travel*
- Ron De Hoff: *Patti’s brother*
- Shirley Mercer
- Tania & Valentyna K.: *Kathy’s friends*
- World conflicts: *Lebanon / Israel / Iran / Gaza; Ukraine / Russia, etc.*
- World: *U.S. election race, Spain (flooding)*