



## Adult Education

SUNDAY MORNINGS

### ADULT EDUCATION IS:

**Open to all.** Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend alongside you. There's no need to register or prepare in advance.

**Flexible.** Some of the classes are part of a longer series, but there's no need to attend all of them. Come whenever it works best for you!

**A value of our congregation.** In these classes we want to create a place where we can learn together as a congregation, hear and respect different perspectives and grow in our faith and sense of community.

**BUDGET FORUMS, JAN. 12 & 19** Join Council leadership in conversation around the proposed 2020 budget, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 26.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JAN. 26** Twice a year, we gather as a community to hear from our leadership and to vote on important congregational matters. At this meeting in January, the congregation will vote on the proposed operating budget for ministry year 2020. Please plan to attend!

### VIEWING THE LAST SUPPER: IMAGES FROM THE 6<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FEB. 2

Led by BLC disciple, Jim Kautz, this is an opportunity for you to become more familiar with how Christian imagery developed over 1000 years of western European history and how, in this case, the Last Supper was portrayed in specific settings and how that image changed over those years. We will view several depictions of the Last Supper in order to get a better understanding of how the various "moments" described in the gospel text are portrayed

in the paintings. Jim will explain for whom this art was made and where the art was displayed. We will also cover certain problems that some versions of this painting caused for the church. We will take note of where specific disciples are seated and the tell-tale signs of who's who. Jim shares, "My hope is that by offering this opportunity for you to see some of these important works of art, and to give insight into not only what we are seeing but also to know what was behind the particular effort in the first place, you will then have a richer understanding of this category of art that so purposefully tells this episode in the life of Jesus Christ."

### BEGINNING THIS NEW CHAPTER FEB. 9

Join Pastor Sarah in conversation around her hopes and dreams for Bethlehem as she begins her ministry among us as Lead Pastor.

### BEGINNING THIS NEW CHAPTER FEB. 16

Join Pastor Sarah, Deacon Heather and a few Council leaders in conversation around the leadership vision and structure that is guiding us in this new chapter.

### INSTALLATION SUNDAY FEB. 23

Installation of Pastor Sarah! No Adult Ed classes.

### ALL CONGREGATIONAL READ FOR LENT: "INSPIRED" BY RACHEL HELD EVANS

#### MAR. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Lent is a season of the church year that asks us to take on a new intention when it comes to our lives of faith. Often we pick up a new discipline or give up something that tempts or distracts us – all for the sake of growing in our relationship with God. This year all Bethlehem disciples are invited to grow together in faith by reading the same book – Inspired, by Rachel Held Evans, and then joining in a small group conversation about this book. Here's a brief blurb about this book:

"If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her – and it will change you, too."

# Spring Guide

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SUNDAY MORNINGS

(All-Congregation Read Continued)

So many of us know the Bible is important, but we're not even sure where to begin. So many of us want to be better connected to others at BLC, but that, too, can be daunting. This is a great way to tackle both! Look for sign-ups for small groups in early February. These group meetings will be offered at all different times and locations in hopes that as many people as possible can participate in this! If you're interested in facilitating a group, please contact Pastor Sarah by Jan. 15. We will have a few books available at church for purchase, or we encourage you to borrow it from the library or order from your favorite bookseller.

**PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY, NO ADULT ED**  
**APR. 5 & 12**

**COFFEE WITH COUNCIL APR. 19** Join the Congregation Council for coffee and conversation! Council leaders will share with congregants the progress we are making on our ministry goals and priorities, as well as leave space for questions and conversation.

**"BEING MORTAL" APR. 26 & MAY 3** During these two Sundays, we will discuss the book "Being Mortal." It is author Atul Gawande's commentary on modern approaches to aging and death. It focuses primarily on the Western treatment of death and dying with suggestions on alternate approaches. These forums will be lead by Dr. Joe Boyle, an emergency physician who sees patients often with end-of-life issues in his practice, Dr. Kelly Jirschele, who has navigated many end of life issues both personally and professionally, and Judy Hanson, LCSW, who has spent many years working with hospice care, doing both bereavement and direct service with individuals and families. You may attend this forum regardless of whether you've read the book ahead of time, though you will likely get more out of it if you've been able to read the book beforehand. Free copies of will be available in the church office in January.

**CS LEWIS' SCREWTAPE LETTERS: A CHALLENGE TO CONVERSATION APR. 19, 26; MAY 10, 17** Led by BLC disciple, Lee Eustyrlid, this series of four conversations will take us through CS Lewis' penetrating look into the heart of being human, of trying to be a Christian, and the nature of evil. As always, Lewis is illuminating of the travails of life in the modern world, combining the psychological with the diabolical. Please plan to read this book ahead of class time, so that the discussion can be lively and productive! Lee recommends this edition: CS Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, HarperOne; Reprint edition (April 21, 2015) ISBN-13: 978-0060652937. This one is in print, and its available on audio.

**FAITHFULLY AGING, LED BY DEACON HEATHER FELTMAN MAY 10 & 17** As life expectancies increase, we are spending more time in the stages of life we call 'old age'. What used to be a few years can now easily stretch into 30—fully a third of our lifespan! Still, in both the medical community and the church, it's common for many to treat old age monolithically, as if it were one uniform span of time. In her new book, *Elderhood* Louise Aronson pushes us to think differently. She draws on her experience as a physician caring for an aging population. We will refer to this book during our time together, along with memoirs that speak to this time of our lives as a time to cultivate new relationships and meaning. This class will be meaningful for any who find themselves currently in this "last third" of life, but also those in younger generations who are caring for or supporting parents or grandparents in this season of life.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 24**

Our second annual congregational meeting takes place this Sunday. We will gather to celebrate the ending of the programmatic year, to thank leaders, and to elect new leaders to Council and other various roles/teams. Please plan to attend!