



## Bethlehem Star April 2020

### From the Pastor's Desk...

Sunday Mourning, no that's not a typo, I intended to type "mourning" instead of "morning." Typically, Sunday morning is the day we would gather together, in faithful community for worship in the sanctuary of BLC. As you know, we have not been able to gather together for in-person worship in the sanctuary for the past couple of weeks because we are promoting physical distancing as a response to Covid-19. The church council has met a couple of times specifically for these decisions and we are following the directives of health and government officials, as well as recommendations from our Synod Bishop and so at this point, we are not sure when we will be advised that it is safe to gather again for in-person worship and activities. And so, I am in a sense, in Sunday mourning.

I know that I am not alone in this, in talking with some of you and with colleagues, we all mourn that we cannot gather together in-person at this time and for the foreseeable future. I miss going over to greet Paper Rollers, attending Women's Circles, visiting with folks in the hospital, care facilities, and in their homes, the casual conversations of people stopping by the office, teaching confirmation, leading Bible study, the rehearsals for handbells and choir, and the ordinary interaction with people from the church and the community.

I am in Sunday mourning because so much has changed so quickly and I miss so much of what I took for granted. Now, with that being said, I do want to be clear in that I am doing okay, I appreciate the check-ins from family, friends, and the community of BLC. I am grieving what I knew to be and so I mourn these (temporary) losses but I also believe that this mourning will not last forever. I pray often for hope, for those who are experiencing grief and mourning, and I now pray for hope, for this kind of mourning. We are almost at the end of the season of Lent and as we prepare for the days of Holy Week, we know that there is still more grief to come but we also know that Easter is on its way. And the hope and joy of Easter doesn't come to us only when we gather together in-person for worship and annual events, the hope and joy of Easter comes because we hear the great, good news that Jesus is alive...that is where we place our hope. We know that Holy Week and Easter will not be the same for any of us this year, our celebrations and traditions will be adjusted, our worship will be virtual but hope still comes, to us, to each and every one of us because we will soon hear the words that proclaim hope over mourning, victory over death, and resurrection life.

So while we may be mourning for what was and for what currently is, we turn toward hope, embracing the Easter good news that may be particularly extra good news to receive and proclaim this year...Jesus is alive and that our mourning will turn to dancing and joy. Continue to reach out to one another, checking-in, communicating as a way to foster faithful community until we can gather again. Oh, and by the way, when we are able to safely gather again, we will have ourselves a party and you are all invited!

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

In-Person Worship and Activities at BLC continue to be suspended until we receive the directive from government and health officials that is safe to gather again, this goes for all outside groups that usually meet at BLC too. We don't know when that date will be yet but we will keep you updated.

**Recorded Worship:** A small group of folks are committed to recording regular worship services for you to view at home. We will have recordings for the 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and the following Sundays. We will be uploading these recordings and publishing them in time for you to view on the actual day. We've been sending out e-mails when recordings are published, we've also included an Order of Service to follow along, as well as timely announcements. If you have not been receiving these e-mails but would like to, please e-mail the office at [blclosalamitos@gmail.com](mailto:blclosalamitos@gmail.com) to let Richard know.

You can watch a recorded service on the following platforms:

A) Church Website: [www.blcla.org](http://www.blcla.org) The most recent recording is on the Home page in the "Worship" section, there's a link to click to view the video. There is also a "Worship" tab/page that you can click and all of the recordings are posted there.

B) Church Facebook page: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA

C) YouTube: Search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Los Alamitos" and the posted videos should appear.

Please feel free to share these recordings with others. Be on the lookout for more "Name that Hymn" opportunities at the end of the services and maybe a few other surprises as well.

If you would like to be a part of a recorded worship service by reading a scripture lesson or sharing prayers, please let Pastor Jennifer know. You don't need to come into the church to do this, you can record at home and e-mail it to her at [prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com](mailto:prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com) Is there a favorite hymn you'd like to have included in a future worship recording or a prayer request you'd like included in worship? You can e-mail Pastor Jennifer with your suggestions and requests (if for a person, please make sure you have their permission to share publicly in the prayers).

A special thanks to those who make the recorded worship possible: Ron Clausen, Debbie & Ken Johnson, Chris Barron, Richard Toth, and additional physically-distanced worship participants. We are very fortunate to have a group of people so dedicated to give of their time and efforts.

Since we know that we will not be gathering in-person for Holy Week and Easter worship, Pastor Jennifer is asking for your help to create some meaningful worship moments to share in the recorded worship services. We will do our best to include all submissions. You can e-mail them to Pastor Jennifer at [prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com](mailto:prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com)

For Palm Sunday, (need to be sent to Pastor Jennifer by Thursday, April 2): A brief recording or photo of you/your household waving a palm (a real one from your yard or one you create on paper). A brief recording or photo of: a) you/your household saying or shouting Hosanna or b) the word Hosanna written on a piece of paper. You could make it as festive as you want and for the students, you could write and/or draw palms and the word "Hosanna" on your driveway or sidewalk.

For Good Friday (need to be sent to Pastor Jennifer by Sunday, April 5): A picture of a cross, any cross.

For Easter Sunday (need to be sent to Pastor Jennifer by Sunday, April 5): A picture of your interpretation of "new life".

We have had to make adjustments for worship because we cannot meet in-person at this time, some of the components of worship can still be easily communicated so that you feel as though you are still participating in worship. There are some components of worship that cannot be as easily communicated or they just don't feel the same, including sharing the Peace, singing hymns together, participating in Holy Communion, and the receiving of the Offering. We are aware that this is an unpredictable and precarious time for all of us, there are so many varied concerns. We also are aware that some of us may be feeling the effects of financial uncertainty and instability because of the health crisis and directives to shelter at home. We pray for calm and full resolution to all who are anxious and faced with insecurity. You are asked to give prayerful thought as to how you can support the ministries and mission of Bethlehem Lutheran, it's not just about paying staff and bills, we support other organizations and ministries who provide care and resources for some of the most vulnerable.

You are asked to continue to give regular tithes and offerings, you can mail them to the church, if you happen to drive by the church, you can drop it off through the mail slot in the front door. We are also looking some electronic giving options and will give you that information as decisions are made. We also want you to know that if you or someone you know can use some assistance, such as grocery shopping, please let the church office know. There are folks who have volunteered to help as needed. We are grateful for your thoughtful consideration and generosity always and at this time, when we cannot be gathered together in-person, we are ever more grateful to receive your offerings as you give in a different way instead of passing the offering plate. Thank you.

We are looking for some alternative ways to form community, while not meeting in person, for some of our regularly scheduled events. Zoom is a great application that allows multiple people to see and hear from one another at the same time. If you watched the recorded worship for Sunday, March 29, we used Zoom for the Gospel reading. The church council has met on Zoom as well. You can download Zoom on your computer and/or your smart phone and there may be some opportunities to participate in future church meetings and activities via Zoom. We will keep you updated as to if and when those opportunities arise but if you want to get a head start, you can download the app and you don't even have to "Sign Up" for an account if you don't want to.

#### **Other news:**

"Thank you" to the groups that hosted our three Lenten Suppers: Parish Life, Bell and Church Choirs and the Men in Mission. 47 diners attend the 2/26 supper, 33 attended the 3/4 supper and 36 attended the "Last Supper" on 3/11. The money that was left over was used to replenish kitchen supplies, replenish the "busy bags" and purchase communion supplies. Sadly, due to the "stay at home" ruling the rest of the suppers were cancelled. Stay safe and well, blessings, Christina Watson.



One of our two roaster ovens that are used for Lenten Suppers is missing. If you see it or know of its whereabouts please call the church office. Thanks.

## Ministry Updates- Pastor Wal Reat serving in South Sudan

These photos were shared via Wal Reat's Facebook page. The captions included below each photo come directly from the captions provided with the photo posted.

Photo Credit: Pastor Wal Reat; Caption: This South Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission-Gambella outreach. We celebrate New Year in Burebiey cross river to South Sudan.



Photo Credit: Pastor Wal Reat; Caption: These pictures are taken on or way back from Jokow war-eda after our meeting in the beginning of October.

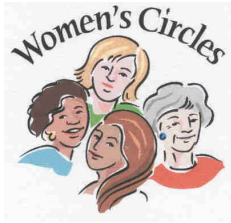
Photo Credit: Pastor Wal Reat; Caption: These pictures were taken during our baptism schedule at Kule two refugees camp, friends and relatives enjoy viewing the pictures.







April 2020



**FAITH Circle:** Circle meetings on hold until further notice due to CDC guidelines for Covid-19. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Andrea Campbell.

**PHOEBE Circle:** Circle meetings on hold until further notice due to CDC guidelines for Covid-19. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig.



**Sunday Morning**

**Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to Men in Mission for coffee for the month of March. If services are able to resume in April, Phoebe Circle is responsible for coffee.



**April 5 WELCA Board meeting cancelled until further notice.**

**May Ladies' Day Luncheon for May 3 has been cancelled due to CDC Guidelines for Covid-19.**

**When we are able to return to regular WELCA activities, we will be collecting individually wrapped snack items for the Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim-Cypress branch for their children's program**

**July 16-19, 2020 WELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ.**

*Check out Pacifica Partners on line*

[www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org)

*click on news & events*

Join the Pacifica Synod



Women of the ELCA On Facebook

# Pacifica WELCA Spring Gathering

Hope Lutheran Palm Desert



Pastor Karen Stephenson  
Hope Lutheran



Bible Study



## Pacifica WELCA Spring Gathering



Jackie Severa



Mama's House  
Representative



Shelter from the Storm  
Representative



Craft Time—Marianne & Andrea

Crafting with Andrea & Jeanne





## Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center Monthly Report

Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2020. We are asking you for your continuing help during April for **Cereals, Soups and Beans with flip top lids if possible. Continuous** donations of pasta, cup of soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruits and/or any items you wish to donate are always appreciated. Needed are **warm clothes, gloves, scarfs and socks (new or gently used).**

Thanks again for helping to keep our Lutheran Social Service cupboard (Pastor's Pantry in Narthex) full. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Long Beach and the people and families served daily in their Ministry again appreciate your kindness, care and compassion.



Bob, Andrea and crew  
Social Ministry Committee







# APRIL

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

4/2 Ken Johnson    4/3 Caryl Harris    4/6 Caroline Sisk  
 4/6 Cathy Warnock    4/8 Marv Schneider    4/10 Marynell Wolfe  
 4/11 Merle Hower    4/12 John Buezis    4/17 Geoff Kracy  
 4/19 Erika Gary    4/26 Cheri Dobberteen    4/30 Melissa Sandvig

4/1/1989	Richard & Candie Toth	4/9/2016	Taylor & Hannah Coe
4/11/1987	Ken & Debbie Johnson	4/14/2007	David & Krissy Retrum
4/18/1975	Marv & Susan Schneider	4/23/1983	Jim & Susan Martin
4/24/1976	Lon & Cathy Warnock	4/29/2017	Travis & Courtney Retrum
4/30/1971	David & Jeanne Sandvig		



Julie Anderson  
 Elaine Asbury  
 Amy Bachman  
 Kevin Betts  
 Kate & Steve  
 John Buezis  
 Luelle Buezis  
 Shirley Campbell  
 Caren Cantafio  
 Laurie Carpenter  
 Linnea Clayton  
 Irene Cooper  
 Maxine Cornwell  
 Paul Crizer  
 Sara DeWeese  
 Joan Ebersold  
 Ruth G.  
 Frank Gary  
 Katrina Gary  
 Janet Harris  
 Joe Harris  
 Diana Hayden

Gaylord Hollister  
 Violet Imoto Family  
 Jason Jackson  
 Genevieve Jenkins  
 Betty Jones  
 Dean Kinzel  
 Julie Kizziar  
 Joan Lee  
 William Lewis  
 Bill Lindell  
 Erin Lopez  
 Patricia Lueckert  
 John Maio  
 Lawrence Massey  
 Jessica McIntire  
 Hal Miller  
 Pete Miller  
 Sandy Miller  
 Ethan Mohr  
 Bill N.  
 Linda Nygard  
 Dan Opoien  
 Coler Pearce  
 Retta Rasmussen  
 Dale Retrum  
 Sandy Retrum  
 Elaine Schulthies  
 Kay Shelton  
 Cindy Staggs

Hattie Stretz  
 Leslie Summers  
 Ed Sutton  
 Pauline Taylor  
 Ann Tegtmeier  
 Steve Tegtmeier  
 Mary "Betty" Vennes  
 Tom Watkins  
 Jerry Whitmore  
 Nancy & H.R. Williamson  
 Marynell Wolfe  
 Mitsuko Yamamoto  
 Margaret Ziegler





We are continuing to order Sunday Altar Flowers to help support our local florist. Please sign up (email or phone) for available Sundays as before. If you'd like to have a printed dedication for your flowers, we will include them in the bulletins when we resume Sunday worship. Please email or send a note with your dedication. You may come by the church weekday mornings to pick up your arrangement. Thank you.

### Flower Chart

(please help fill the empty slots)

<u>April</u>		<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
4/5	Clausen, Johnson	5/3		6/7	Watson/Sandvig
4/12		5/10	Stevenson	6/14	Clausen, Stevenson
4/19	Gary	5/17	Tegtmeier	6/21	Meyer
4/26	Hansen, Watson/Sandvig	5/24	Clausen	5/28	
		5/31			