



Bethlehem

Newsletter

Summer, 2017

Flat Luther: A combination of the anticipation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and a riff on the children's book, "Flat Stanley", you are invited to pick up a Flat Luther in the church office. You can cut out the pattern, color it, attach it to a popsicle stick if you wish, and take him with you on your various summer outings. We'd love it if you'd snap a picture of Flat Luther's summer travels... you can e-mail it to the church and we're working on an easy way to post pictures to the church's Facebook page. Have fun this summer and don't forget to take Flat Luther with you!

Rally Sunday: Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 10, we'll begin our Fall Sunday Schedule with Sunday School for Children and Adults, both begin at 9:00 am. Children will meet in Bachmann Hall, Adults will meet in the Fireside Room. Worship begins at 10:00 am and this is also "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday", please see the article with more information. Following worship, there will be a potluck luncheon.

Greetings from Pastor Jennifer,

Summer is upon us...how do you differentiate summer from the other seasons? This being my first summer in California, I'm looking forward to experiencing what summer brings to this part of the country. One of the things I most associate summer with is watching things grow, it's the time of year when gardens grow and are harvested, flowers flourish, and the hoped-for balance of rain and sunshine stimulate growth.

The Pentecost season is also upon us, also, a season of growth. The topic of growth of the church has been in the forefront for quite some time now...there are studies that cite the shrinking numbers of people attending and/or belonging to churches, these are valid concerns and many churches, especially in the summer season, experience smaller worship attendance. How about reframing this topic, instead of growth **of** the church, might we consider growth **in** the church. Changing "of" to "in", is not just for the "insiders", those already part of the church but is meant to challenge how the church might grow not just to raise attendance figures but how the church might actually grow and expand...grow and expand in its sense of identity, its ministries, who Jesus is, how we connect to Jesus' Gospel, its community presence, connecting not only those who are already "of the church" but to those who might want to be "in the church" as well.

I wish I had a definitive and guaranteed formula as to how we can promote such growth, I have some ideas and I'm thinking you might too. I invite you to take some time this summer, to consider growth and not just in numerical amounts but to dream of how you might grow so as to promote church growth as well. We are in this together and we certainly are not alone, for the Spirit is with us, stirring us up in this Pentecost season. Prayers for a healthy and safe and growth-filled summer!

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer



Summer Movies in the Courtyard: We'll gather again in July and August for a family friendly movie in the church courtyard. Friday, July 21 and Friday, August 18 are the remaining dates. As in June, the congregation will get to choose between 2 movies to determine what we'll watch. Popcorn, Licorice, Lemonade, Water are provided...please feel free to bring your own beverages and snacks as well. July's movie will begin around 8:00 pm. August's movie will begin a bit earlier because we're serving hot dogs, specific starting time to be determined. Looking for someone to serve as the "host" for July's movie, please talk to Pastor Jennifer if you're available.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING JULY 9TH?

We have another afternoon of CARD BINGO starting at 2 pm and stopping around 4 pm. Last time we had 20 people enjoying themselves and taking home many nice items. The criteria is a wrapped White Elephant or a \$3.00 new item. We will wrap the gifts if you don't care to. We have delicious refreshments and great table snacks. If you have any questions, please contact Margie. Hope to see you that afternoon!!

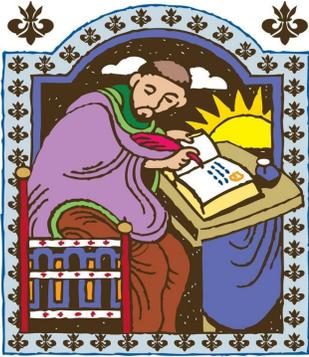


Church Photo Directory

A new directory will be available this Fall.
Many new features!

Look for upcoming announcements about scheduling your photo dates in October.

A BIG UPCOMING ANNIVERSARY



This year is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing the 95 theses to the church door on October 31, 1517.

To help all of us get a better understanding of the occasion, the Worship & Music Committee is publishing a series of articles in the church newsletters. The first article was in the October, 2016 newsletter giving a brief biography of Martin Luther's early years and the life changing thunderstorm when he promised to become a monk. The December, 2016 newsletter featured the story of Martin Luther's "Ah-ha" discovery as a result of his searching for God's grace. In the February, 2017 newsletter, we looked at the sale of indulgences and how the 95 Theses sparked the Lutheran Reformation. In this month's edition, we look at the events that led to the Bible translation by Martin Luther and its impact.

Following Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses in 1517, the pope condemned Luther's writings. In a debate with Johann Eck, Luther denied the infallibility of the pope and general councils of the church. By 1520, Pope Leo X had ex-communicated Martin Luther from the Catholic Church and declared him to be a heretic. The proclamation demanded that Martin Luther be seized and turned over to the pope.

Luther negotiated and obtained safe passage to attend the Diet of Worms in 1521. He was given the opportunity to repent and recant his writings before Emperor Charles V. After a great deal of thought, he refused to recant, calmly giving his reasons for writing the books and explaining why he could not recant. His most famous quote is attributed to this moment in time¹:

"Since your majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer without horns and without teeth. Unless I am convicted by scripture and plain reason--I do not accept the authority of popes and councils for they have contradicted each other--my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen."²

The emperor banned Luther's writings and declared him a heretic and an enemy of the state.³ On his way home from Worms, Luther was kidnapped and hidden at Wartburg Castle by order of Frederick the Wise of Saxony,⁴ the founder of the University of Wittenberg where Luther had taught. While in protective custody, Luther translated the New Testament into German in only eleven weeks.

He had previously translated parts of the Psalms, Old and New Testaments, and he was not the first to translate the Bible. However, the other translations were from Latin, and Luther translated the New Testament from Greek.

"Das Neue Testament Deutsch was published in September, 1522. A typographical masterpiece, containing woodcuts from Lucas Cranach's workshop and selections from Albrecht Durer's famous Apocalypse series, the September Bibel sold an estimated five thousand copies in the first two months alone."⁵

By that December, a second edition was published with corrections and improvements.

After he was allowed to return home to Wittenberg in March of 1522, Luther went to work translating the Old Testament from Hebrew with the help of a committee of scholars. The Old Testament was published in parts – Pentateuch in 1523; Psalter, 1524.

‘At last the whole Bible, including the Apocrypha as "books not equal to the Holy Scriptures, yet useful and good to read," was completed in 1534, and printed with numerous woodcuts.’⁶

Luther, already a best-selling author, surprised everyone with the popularity of his Bible. Other Bibles translated in the local dialect could not be read outside of their locales and were banned by the Catholic Church. Luther combined the language of the government and the ordinary citizen and invented words and phrases that are still used today.⁷ Even his critics and rivals used his German language to dispute his translation.

“The German Bible of Luther was saluted with the greatest enthusiasm, and became the most powerful help to the Reformation. ... Hans Lufft at Wittenberg printed and sold in forty years (between 1534 and 1574) about a hundred thousand copies,--an enormous number for that age,--and these were read by millions. The number of copies from reprints is beyond estimate.”⁸

Luther continued to revise, correct and improve editions of his German Bible throughout the rest of his life. His goal had been to write in a living language to be read by women, children and then men. Luther’s German became the language for the entire country and is in use today whether the German citizens know it or not.

Footnotes:

¹<https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/legends-about-luther/>

²<http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1501-1600/martin-luthers-most-noble-words-11629925.html>

³<https://www.britannica.com/event/Diet-of-Worms-Germany-1521>

⁴http://www.pbs.org/empires/martinluther/char_frederick.html

⁵<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-34/bible-translation-that-rocked-world.html>

⁶http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/luther_martin.shtml

⁷<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04k6rc8>

BBC Radio Episode

“Luther and a Language for All Germans
Germany: Memories of a Nation”

15 minutes; The story of how Martin Luther’s translation of the Bible created the modern German language.

⁸<http://www.bible-researcher.com/luther02.html>

YouTube Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tqfKbOergM&feature=youtu.be>

“Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation: The Story Behind the Show”

10 minutes

Lucas & Lydia

Eucharistic Ministry

Lucas (also known as) Luke was a companion of Paul's¹ and was referred to as the beloved physician². Luke was the writer of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.



In the Book of Acts, a businesswoman named Lydia offered hospitality³ to Paul, Silas⁴ and Timothy⁵.

About fifteen years ago, Bethlehem Lutheran Church started their Eucharistic Ministry with one woman and three men, and thus it was inspiration for the name of the ministry, "Lucas & Lydia."

Pastor-trained lay people are commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers and bring Holy Communion to our members who are unable to attend Sunday worship services. The Eucharistic Ministers deliver communion to wherever the individual resides. They have delivered to members who are homebound, hospitalized, residing in skilled nursing facilities or living in residential care facilities whether they are large and sprawling or small group homes in residential neighborhoods.

Through their efforts, the body of Christ is connected and strengthened by extending the table of communion to all our members. Our Eucharistic Ministers have remarked that they find this ministry enriches their own spiritual life, and they feel that it allows them to serve our Lord by serving His people. They have observed that after receiving communion, the members often experience peacefulness, thankfulness and joy. Eucharistic Ministers usually make visits about once a month or as requested by the church member.

Please contact Pastor Jennifer Schultz for more information on receiving this ministry or becoming one of our Eucharistic Ministers. Training will be provided.

¹ Philemon 1:24

² Colossians 4:14

³ Acts 16:14-15, 40

⁴ Acts 15:40

⁵ Acts 16:3

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School July 24- 28, 2017 9am-Noon

Church wide Bar B Q Friday July 28th 5:30-7:30

Director: Christina Watson

Theme: "Go Green with God"

Respect and Preserve our God given Natural Resources:

Plants, Animals and our Earth

Recycle!!!!

Program- Brian Gary and Ken Watson

Publicity-

Banner-

Signage-Dawn Rentch & Dianna Reynolds

Pre-Registration - Alice Roop

Daily Sign-In/Out- Vanessa Stevenson

Lessons and Music- Brian Gary and Ken Watson

Instructor Pre-School-K - Erika Gary

Instructor 1st-3rd -Jeanne Sandvig

Instructor 4th-6th - Christina Watson & Hannah Wolfe

Crafts -Marjorie Moeller, Liz Nehenberg, Johanne Hansen

Snacks - Janice Hunt, Camille Riach

Games-Katrina Gary

Barbeque Food Coordinator: Dianna Reynolds

Friday Barbeque Coordinator: Dale Retrum

Clean Up: Merle Hower

Please let me know if you would like to volunteer in any of the above areas,

Blessings, Christina Watson

Staying Connected this Summer



Here's how we would like for you to stay connected with us

(besides continuing your financial contributions ha-ha!):

When you go on your vacations and adventures this summer, take along "Flat Martin Luther." Print the page with the picture in this newsletter, cut it out and mount it on cardboard to give it some sturdiness. Take photos with it on your adventures, or if you are doing staycation day trips, take a photo with Flat Marty wherever you happen to go. Even if you are just keeping to your normal routine, we would enjoy of a photo of you and Flat Marty at work, at home or at play. It's a variation on the Flat Stanley project many children have participated in over the years. Let's see how many different places Flat Martin Luther will visit.

Once you have your photo(s), you can email
it/them to us with the subject "Flat Marty" at

blclosalamitos@gmail.com

and we will upload it to our Facebook page
and also share the collection in our September newsletter.

Here's one way we plan to stay connected with you (besides praying for your travel safety):

Each Sunday, we will post on our Facebook page the Bible references that were used for our Sunday worship readings that day. Then, you can read the passages in your Gideon Bible or online with one of the various Bible websites, such as:

www.BibleGateway.com

or

www.blueletterBible.org

We pray that you will have safe travels this summer, and when you return to us, you will be feeling refreshed and rejuvenated.

Keep in touch!

Worship & Music Committee

Instructions: Print this page, cut out Flat Martin Luther, mount on cardboard and glue to the back a popsicle stick or tongue depressor as a handle at the bottom. For an extra special touch, add some color to it.



W.E.L.C.A. News

July/August, 2017

Women's Devotional

All anew: Ready or Not

Session Two: Stand with the least of these

Session 3: Upend the Tables



Women's 2017 Theme

"Grace and Goals"

Thank You to all who contributed to the Boys and Girls Club of Cypress materials drive.

Christina had 4 bags for Erika to deliver!!



WELCA Board

The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, July 30**. For more information, contact Jeanne Sandvig.

Your 2017 WELCA Board

Jeanne Sandvig – President

Erika Gary – Vice President

Merle Hower – Secretary

Lana Dieter – Treasurer

Committees and Circle Leader

Debby Gustafson, Christina Watson,
Vanessa Stevenson and Arlene Pollard

FAITH Circle

Summer break. For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard.

PHOEBE Circle

Summer break. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig. All Women of Bethlehem are welcome.

Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies



Thank you to Men in Mission

for providing coffee and cookies in the month of June. Phoebe Circle will be responsible for the month of July and Faith Circle for August.

WELCA's Calendar of Events

Sunday July 9 Women's Service.

Tuesday August 15 All Women of Bethlehem are invited to 2nd annual BBQ/potluck at Debby Gustafson's at 6:30 p.m.

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events

Join the Pacifica Synod

Women of the ELCA On Facebook

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 2017 we are asking you for your continuing help during the summer for **Cup 'O Soups and Cereals**. Continuous donated items of all food, clothes, and **socks** (new or gently used) are always needed any time of the year.

Thanks again for helping to keep our Lutheran Social Services 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





**God's work.
Our hands.**

Save the date: Sunday, September 10, 2017

“God’s Work - Ours Hands” Sunday

with our project/servant event for

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry

Opportunity to share and participate in another service activity. Remember 2016 when we packed the 125 School backpack kits for Lutheran World Relief?

More information forthcoming as we plan. Let’s do this work together to make this a day of service!

Your Social Ministry Committee

Orders for T-shirts for **“God’s work. Our hands.”** Sunday 2017 will be taken on the patio starting July 9th.



Parish Life Announcements



Please join us on Sunday Afternoon, August 20th @ 4:00 p.m. for the Parish Life BBQ and Folk Sing with Ken Watson and Brian Gary.

Watch sign ups in August for the Potluck, we'll need Appetizers, Salads, and Desserts.

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided.

Hollywood Bowl

Our church members have picked the following Hollywood Bowl concerts to attend. If anyone did not have the opportunity to see the schedule and would like to go to one of these, please e-mail me as soon as possible.

- Tuesday July 4th, @ 7:30p.m.: Fireworks Spectacular with Pentatonix. These tickets are here, contact Marianne.
- Saturday, July 15th @ 8:00p.m.: Tony Bennett & Dudamel.
- Saturday, July 29th @ 8:00p.m.: Mama Mia
- Saturday, August 19th @ 8:00 p.m.: Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks
- Saturday September 2nd, @ 8:00p.m.: John Williams- Master of the Movies

See you at the Bowl!

Marianne Sakowski

50th Anniversary

On Sunday, July 23rd, you are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ron and Jane Clausen in Bachman Hall immediately following the service.

It's a special day for the Clausen family in that Rowan Marilyn Sisk will also be baptized during the service.

No gifts, please. Having a wonderful church family is more than enough. God has given us so much and your presence is yet another blessing.

**What?? Look!!
Watch!! Coming!!
A/V News!!**



Judy's Kitchen



Thank you for being a part of the Bethlehem Service:

On Saturday, June 17th at Judy's Kitchen we served a total of 43 lunches. We served BBQ Pulled Pork sandwiches, macaroni salad and cantaloupe slices. We began at about 10:00 a.m. and we were done by 12:30. Special thanks to Dawn Rentch for helping to prepare this meal along with serving. Thank you also to the Bethlehem group of volunteers that showed up to help. They included: Christina Watson, Dale and Sandy Retrum, and Alice Roop.

Thank you again to WELCA for donating the funds from the Bazaar expenditures to fund the lunch expense.

It is a joy to work alongside you all. See you all next June!

Dianna Reynolds
Judy's Kitchen Coordinator



| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 7/4/2015 | Michael & Christine Rosso | 7/21/1967 | Ron & Jane Clausen |
| 7/27/2003 | Harold & Judy Snell | 8/11/1996 | Doug & Fiona Wolfe |
| 7/2 | Dave Scott | 7/3 | Vern Reynolds |
| 7/8 | Marianne Sakowski | 7/10 | Tim Campbell |
| 7/12 | Dianna Reynolds | 7/13 | Shirley Campbell |
| 7/15 | Debbie Johnson | 7/19 | Austin Temple |
| 7/24 | Logan Sandvig | 7/25 | Judy Snell |
| 7/27 | Ray Shelton | 7/30 | Susan Mlynaryk |
| 8/14 | Fritz Campbell | 8/17 | Benjamin Haglund |
| 8/27 | Cameron Reed | 8/27 | Brooklyn Retrum |
| 7/5 | Randi Reynolds | 7/12 | Sara DeWeese |
| 7/13 | Steven Joplin | 7/21 | Liz Nehrenberg |
| 7/26 | Alex Sakowski | 8/13 | Blake Anderson |
| 8/26 | Brad Stevenson | 8/30 | Steve Tegtmeier |



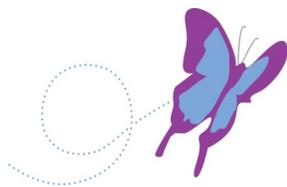
Gladyce Ackerman
 Julie Anderson
 Elaine Asbury
 Amy Bachman
 Colleen Bidwell
 Arthur Brandon
 Luella Buezis
 Elinor Blum
 Andrea Campbell
 Bob Campbell
 Laurie Carpenter
 Linnea Clayton
 Etta Bjornson Connell
 Maxine Cornwell
 Sara DeWeese
 Keresey Dillon
 Don Dooling
 Laura Duke

Joan Ebersold
 Doug Evans
 Judy Frazier
 Katrina Gary
 Dr. Steve Graham
 Bruce Gustafson
 Bill Haglund
 The Halverson Family
 Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 The Hashimoto Family
 Diana Hayden
 Genevieve Jenkins
 Betty Jones
 Dean Kinzel
 Julie Kizziar
 Pastor Tom Lange
 Joan Lee
 William Lewis
 Erin Lopez
 Patricia Lueckert
 Jessica McIntire
 Pete Miller
 Sandy Miller
 Mark Mills
 Ethan Mohr
 Linda Nygard

Coler Pearce
 Andrew Pritchard
 Dale Retrum
 Bill Ritz
 Louise Ronchetto
 Jason Sakowski
 Valerie Sanchez
 Rich Schultheis
 Dorothy Sideris
 Charlotte Sohl
 Leslie Summers
 Ed Sutton
 Joyce Tarver
 James Taylor
 Ann Tegtmeier
 Steve Tegtmeier
 Alyssa & Jurrian Terpstra
 Candie Toth
 Hank Van Zant
 Elisabeth Waddell
 Tom Watkins
 Jerry Whitmore
 Hal Wolfe
 Alex Yarbrough
 Margaret Ziegler

Thanks to These People for Serving in July

|  | Reader | Cantor | Ushers | Counters |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 7/2 | Lana Dieter | Charles Toth | | |
| 7/9 | Marsha Egbert | Charles Toth | Marianne Sakowski Pam Tipich | |
| 7/16 | Vanessa Stevenson | Charles Toth | Brad Stevenson Vanessa Stevenson | |
| 7/23 | Debby Gustafson | Charles Toth | Paul Meyer | |
| 7/30 | Bill Lindell | Charles Toth | John Hunt Janice Hunt | |



Altar Guild

7/2 Marianne Sakowski
7/9
7/16
7/23 Mr & Mrs Egbert
7/30

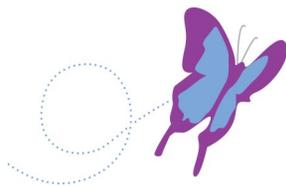


Altar Flowers

7/2 Morrissey
7/9 Hansen
7/16 Gary
7/23 Clausen (2)
7/30 Sandvig

Thanks to These People for Serving in August

|  | Reader | Cantor | Ushers | Counters |
|--|-----------------|-------------|--|----------|
| 8/6 | Brad Stevenson | John Buezis | Jim & Susan Martin Brad & Vanessa Stevenson | |
| 8/13 | | John Buezis | | |
| 8/20 | | John Buezis | | |
| 8/27 | Dianna Reynolds | John Buezis | | |



Altar Guild

8/6
 8/13 Hargrove
 8/20
 8/27 Gustafson



Altar Flowers

8/6 Gustafson
 8/13
 8/20 Payne, Roop
 8/27 Stevenson