

Bethlehem Star

From the Pastor's Desk...

Happy New Year! Haven't we all been looking forward to saying these words? What a year it has been, unprecedented for us all! Perhaps this year more than any other year, we have been anticipating a new year, a fresh start, a new beginning...2020 was tough for a variety of reasons and so with the dawning of a new year, new hope springs forth.

This is also one of the reasons I so enjoy these church seasons we are in...Christmas until January 5, Epiphany begins January 6. In these seasons, God declares doing something new, fresh, to bring hope anew. In the birth and manifestation of Christ, new hope, new light is dawning on the world and in the world. As we begin another new year, my prayer is that the hope Christ embodies, brings and breathes new life into your life. For in Jesus, we trust and believe that God has become flesh and blood to live amongst the world and its people, that God indeed comes close, dwelling, abiding with us.

In a time when many of us have been more isolated and separated than ever before, when we may feel especially alone, we hear the good news that in Christ, God comes to God's people and the world, and in that good news, we are reassured that we are never alone, that in Emmanuel, in Christ, God is with us. While we most often hear and sing and pray the word Emmanuel in this time of year, may its very definition (Emmanuel = God with us) dwell richly and abundantly within and around you.

Here's to welcoming another new year, here's to receiving the good news that God is with us, no matter what the year brings, here's to hope renewed in the birth and manifestation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Peace, hope, and blessings to you, prayers for good health and the sustained comfort that you are never, ever alone.

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Worship Recordings: We are grateful for your continued support as we have moved back to recording our worship services. We were happy to hold a few inside in-person worship services and we know that when we are able to do so again, we will be ready to do so. We continue to follow current health guidelines and have returned to recording our worship services and making them available on our digital platforms. We thank you for watching, participating, supporting, and sharing our services. You can view our current and past services on the following platforms:

A) Church Website: www.blcla.org On Homepage, in the "Worship" section and on the separate "Worship page"

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

C) YouTube: www.youtube.com Search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos", click on "Videos"

Memorial Service for Frank Gary: We will be recording a memorial service for Frank Gary and plan to make it available to view on Sunday, January 3. Frank loved Bethlehem Lutheran and its people, he had a long history of membership and involvement in the church, and his family wanted to honor him by having a service in the sanctuary. Due to current health guidelines, the service will be recorded with worship participants only in attendance. You are invited to watch the service on January 3 and then that afternoon, the Gary family would like to invite you to participate in a Zoom call beginning at 3:00 pm to see and greet one another and share stories and memories of Frank. A separate e-mail will be sent out with the links for the recorded memorial service and the Zoom call.

Women's Circle Zoom Meeting: All women are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting for our January Bible Study. The meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm, Christina Watson will be our leader. If you'd like to participate, please e-mail Pastor Jennifer at prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 13, as she will send out the meeting sign-in information. If you'd like to participate but don't have the January Gather magazine (Bible Study is included in this magazine), please contact Pastor Jennifer and she will mail you a copy, please allow a couple of days to receive it in the mail. We hope you will join us for a time of conversation and prayer.

Wednesday Zoom Check-In: Everyone is invited to participate in this weekly time of checking in with one another, reading scripture, and prayer time. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom, if you haven't participate yet but would like to, please e-mail Pastor Jennifer at prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com so she can send you the log-in information. These meetings usually are between 20-30 minutes in length and it's a wonderful time to see and hear from our church family.

Flower Dedications: Beautiful, fresh flower arrangements are delivered every week in time for our worship services. If you would like to purchase a flower arrangement and have them dedicated in honor of, memory of, or celebration of...just e-mail or call the church office with the date and dedication you are requesting. We will do our best to include these dedications in the worship services. Thank you for supporting the local business that creates and delivers these arrangements and for the opportunity it provides to include these beautiful arrangements in our worship services.

Tithes and Offerings: Check out the church at website www.blcla.org and you will find that you can give electronically to the church through Paypal or Debit or Credit Card. You'll find the Paypal Donate button on the Homepage. FYI, PayPal charges a service fee (2.9% + \$0.30) that is deducted from each donation. We are grateful for your continued generous support of BLC's ministries. Your financial gifts sustain these ministries of BLC and beyond. We continue to receive your financial gifts through the mail, in person, and now electronically through PayPal.

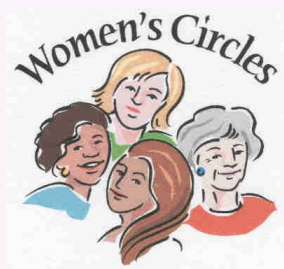
2021 giving envelopes are ready for pick-up in the narthex. If you do not have numbered giving envelopes and would like them please contact the church office.

Many heartfelt thanks to the folks of Bethlehem who generously contributed to the staff gifts. Your generosity is much appreciated, especially in what has been a challenging year in so many ways. Your thoughtfulness and support of our ministry together continues to lift us up and move us onward. Again, we are grateful for your generous gifts and support.



Congregational Meeting on Zoom on Sunday, January 31 at 11:00 am. In accordance with our constitution and bylaws, we will be meeting to receive the 2020 Annual Report and install the 2021 Church Council members. Annual reports will be available beginning Sunday, January 17 in the church office. We hope you will join us for this meeting.

January 2021



Faith Circle In person meeting has not yet resumed. We have been invited to join Phoebe Circle for their Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 12, contact Pastor Jennifer for the meeting information. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Andrea Campbell

Phoebe Circle We will be meeting via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12. Christina Watson will lead the study. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig

Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.



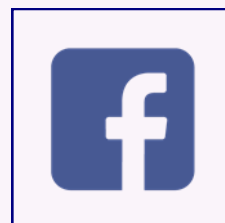
Tuesday, December 8, our Bethlehem WELCA met via Zoom for a virtual Christmas Gathering. We approved our 2021 Budget and elected our 2021 Board (Current Board members have all agreed to continue to serve for 2021).

January 23, 2021 watch for information regarding a Zoom gathering for Pacifica WELCA featuring Pastor Gloria Espeseth.



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 begin a New Year let us please continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2021. We are asking you for your continuing help during January for **Cereal and Peanut Butter (small size jars)**. Continuous donated items of soups, canned items of any kind, including individual sizes (apple sauces, fruits) are always appreciated along with **warm clothes, jackets, sweats, gloves, scarfs and socks (new or gently used) this time of the year.**



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





Lutheran Social Services- Long Beach Community Care Center

Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

You did it again... Surpassed our expectations!

Thank you all very much for your wonderful response to our request this past year (2020) for in-kind food donations, supplies, lots of beautiful warm blankets, warm scarfs, gloves, socks, jackets, grocery bags, clothes, financial support and volunteer assistance for LSS. These contributions have been used in their Ministry and have been very meaningful during this time when requests are great and resources are few for those in need.

The staff is always so happy to see Bethlehem Lutheran arrive with a car full of donations and give special thanks and hugs for your help, support and prayers.

We do receive special Thank You letters from LSS during the year addressed to our entire Bethlehem family.

Blessings,
Andrea and Bob Campbell and their helpful crew





1/17 Susan Driskill
 1/21 Kevin Godfrey
 1/27 Charlotte Sisk

1/1 Linda Scott
 1/3 Erik Sandvig
 1/7 Kay Shelton
 1/9 Geraldine Dawson
 1/16 Travis Retrum
 1/17 Christine Rosso
 1/25 Jay Campbell
 1/31 Debby Gustafson

1/3 Louise Opoien
 1/5 David Sandvig
 1/8 Magnus Campbell
 1/11 Caleb DeSautel
 1/17 Joe DeSautel
 1/18 Luke Retrum
 1/25 Annie Dobberteen



Julie Anderson
 Elaine Asbury
 Amy Bachman
 Kevin Betts
 Kate & Steve
 John Buezis
 Luelle Buezis
 Fritz Campbell
 Shirley Campbell
 Caren Cantafio
 Laurie Carpenter
 Linnea Clayton
 Irene Cooper
 Maxine Cornwell
 Sara DeWeese
 Joan Ebersold
 Ruth G.
 Katrina Gary

Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 Diana Hayden
 Gaylord Hollister
 Jason Jackson
 Genevieve Jenkins
 Betty Jones
 Dean Kinzel
 Julie Kizziar
 Joan Lee
 William Lewis
 Erin Lopez
 Patricia Lueckert
 John Maio
 Lawrence Massey
 Jessica McIntire
 Hal Miller
 Pete Miller
 Ethan Mohr
 Bill N.
 Dan Opoien
 Coler Pearce
 Retta Rasmussen

Dale Retrum
 Sandy Retrum
 Elaine Schulthies
 Kay Shelton
 Hattie Stretz
 Leslie Summers
 Ed Sutton
 Pauline Taylor
 Ann Tegtmeier
 Steve Tegtmeier
 Tom Watkins
 Jerry Whitmore
 Nancy & H.R. Williamson
 Marynell Wolfe
 Mitsuko Yamamoto
 Margaret Ziegler

