



## Bethlehem Star May 2020

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

Settling in...these last several weeks, we've all had to adjust our usual, our normal, our routine. Are any of you settling in to all of this? I have to say, in some ways I am and in some ways I am not. I'm settling in because I don't have much of a say in the matter. I'm not settling in because this still feels new and different and worrisome. We have all had to make adjustments, some of them drastic, because of this global pandemic and while we've been living into these adjustments for nearly a couple of months now, we still feel unsettled. We feel unsettled, even as we are settling in because this is new and different and so much has changed within a matter of weeks.

As a church, we continue to observe that we are in the season of Easter, not just one day of Easter. Easter is all about the new and different and so many changes within a matter of days. I've always liked the encouraging phrase, we are an "Easter people." For me this label is one that I happily receive, it claims that we look to the hope that Jesus brings, hope of new life, even when death seemingly wins. Being Easter people is about loving and serving one another and being the message of hope and grace to all. Easter brings the hope of new life to life, it brings the unexpected to fruition, it speaks life in the midst of death. We can always, always be invited to remember that we are an "Easter people" but maybe more so in these days. Not only shall we remind ourselves but we should remind one another. In these days when we may find ourselves settling in to be being unsettled, may we receive the good news that Jesus' resurrection brings with a fresh awareness that indeed we are an "Easter people" and that as such, we are loving and serving one another by physically distancing ourselves from one another and we are at this time being called to love and serve one another by settling in to being unsettled. Easter is about hope and new life...may the good news of Easter bring new hope to your unsettled life.

As an aside, there are several places in this newsletter, where you are asked to contact Pastor Jennifer for various requests, I'm including it here, rather than listing it several times in this newsletter. If you'd like my cell number, please contact me via e-mail and I'll send it to you: [prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com](mailto:prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com)

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

1 Peter 5:10

*10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.*

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.

Wednesday Evening Check-In and Prayer via "Zoom". Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm for a time of checking in with one another and prayer, we will be using the digital application of Zoom for these meetings. You can download Zoom onto your computer or smartphone at [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and sign-up, it's free. If you'd like to participate, please e-mail Pastor Jennifer and she will send you a link to sign in for these meetings (we're hoping to use the same ID meeting number and password for all of these meetings). If you need help in setting this up, please let Pastor Jennifer know and she'll help you walk through the basics of using Zoom. Zoom lets us "see" one another on our screens, as well as "hear" from one another too; there is also a call-in option using your phone, we won't be able to see you but we'll be able to hear you. You are always invited to join in these Zoom sessions as you are able.

Women's Circle via Zoom: Pastor Jennifer will lead Bible Study for Phoebe Circle on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. **This opportunity is open to all women of Bethlehem**, if you'd like to be e-mailed the Zoom link/sign-in information, please contact Pastor Jennifer. If you do not already receive the "Gather" magazine from Women of the ELCA (Bible Study is in the Gather magazine), please contact Pastor Jennifer and she can either e-mail or snail mail you a copy (please respond by Wednesday, May 6 if you want to receive a mailed copy).

Confirmation Sunday was scheduled for Sunday, May 24th and we are postponing this celebration for our current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We hope to reschedule for sometime this fall and will keep you updated.

Recognition of Graduates: Many graduations have either been postponed or cancelled due to Covid -19. People are being creative in how their recognizing graduates, with signs in yards, pictures/signs posted on school grounds, etc... Graduations are meant to be celebrations, of recognizing these important transitions and recognitions. We'd like to honor the graduates from Bethlehem, preschool, middle school, high school, college, and beyond by including a picture in the upcoming recorded worship service for May 31. Please send a picture of your graduate to Pastor Jennifer by Sunday, May 24.

Readers for May 31: Pastor Jennifer is looking for volunteers who can comfortably read a foreign language and would be willing and have the capacity to either take part in a recorded Zoom call or record a brief reading from home, and send it in. We're working on which might work better for our worship recording (Zoom recording or separate recordings from individuals) but if you are willing to be one of these readers, please contact Pastor Jennifer before Sunday, May 16, so she can make the necessary arrangements.

Romans 8:18

*18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.*

## Recorded Worship:

A small group of folks are committed to recording Sunday worship services for you to view at home. We will be uploading these recordings and publishing them in time for you to view on Sunday mornings. 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.

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. 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).

An update about prayers in recorded worship: Pastor Jennifer has received some text messages, phone calls, and e-mails when a new name is added to the prayers in worship. Folks have offered concern and want to know about updates and/or reasons why people's names have been added. Since our recorded worship services are published and much more available to the public now, you've probably noticed that only the first names of people have been included in the prayers and the reasons why their names are mentioned have not been included. This is intentional, as a means of privacy and confidentiality for those mentioned. You can always feel free to contact Pastor Jennifer for specifics or updates, if she has the permission and information to share, she will.

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.

### 1 Corinthians 10:13

*13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

As we continue to navigate these days, conversations have already begun about adjustments we anticipate making to ensure safe practices when we're able to gather again. 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 also want you to know that if you or someone you know can use some assistance, such as grocery shopping or small errands, 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.

#### 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

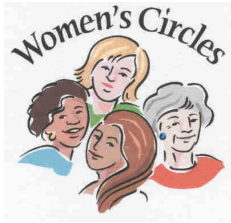
*<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, <sup>4</sup>who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.*



**No matter what difficulties may come, Lutherans will meet for fellowship (at Alice Roop's home.)**



May 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 meeting on Tuesday May 12 at 6:30 p.m. on ZOOM 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**

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.

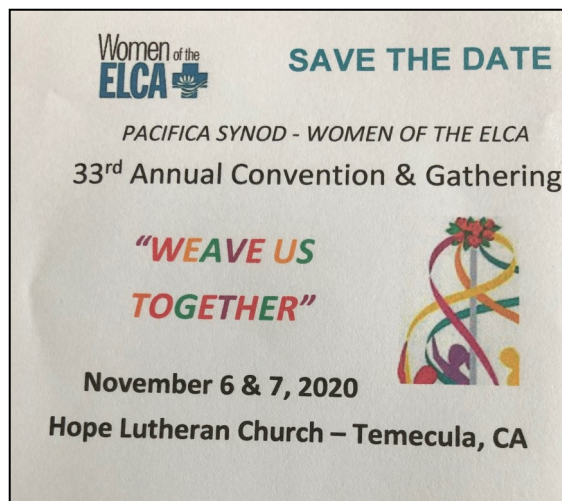
**May Ladies' Day Luncheon for May 3 has been cancelled due to CDC Guidelines for Covid-19.**

**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.**

**(We just received word that the WELCA Triennial Convention & Gathering has been postponed from July 16-19, 2020 to August 5-8 of 2021. It will still to be held in Phoenix.)**

**November 6&7, 2020 Save the Date Pacifica Synod WELCA Convention & Gathering "Weave Us Together" Hope Lutheran, Temecula. More details as planning allows.**



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





## 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 May for **Cereals, Peanut Butter-small size and fruits with flip top lids if possible.**

**Continuous** donations of all dried pasta, cup of soups, canned vegetables and fruits and/or any items you wish to donate are always appreciated. Needed are **warm clothes 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



**Note:** Thank you from LSS for donation of COVID-19  
FACE MASKS. Our "Silent Angels" are hard at work  
Making these.





# Food Pantry Needs

Hi Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As you all know we support LSS or Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Center. We take all donations of food and clothing there on a weekly basis. Yes, we wear a face mask and they as well take all precautions following Social Distancing Guidelines and also empty our carload.

Their client intake has doubled during this COVID-19 crisis and needs are greater than ever. So any help with donations are welcomed at all times. You can call us (Andrea and Bob Campbell) and we will pick-up or answer any questions. You can also drop off your donations at church in the Narthex or Church office.

Once again we thank you for your caring and sharing.

Andrea and Bob Campbell  
Social Ministry Committee





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

5/14 Betty Kizziar

5/23 Herb Menzel

5/30 Violet Orcutt

5/1/1956

5/14/1966

5/27/2000

Ray & Kay Shelton

Dale & Sandy Retrum

Joe Desautel & Katrinna Cassidy

5/2 Susan Schneider

5/3 Samantha Retrum

5/5 Elaine Schulthies

5/19 Gary Nehrenberg

5/26 Daryl Isaacs

5/3 John Buezis, Jr.

5/4 Leslie Moeller

5/6 Brian Gary

5/21 Hannah Coe

5/26 Bob Campbell

5/7/1966

5/17/1980

Dave & Linda Scott

Geoff & Heidi Krcy



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

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