

# Bethlehem Star

Volume 56 Issue 6

June 2016

*i thank You God  
for this most amazing day:  
for the leaping greenly spirit of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky;  
and for everything which is natural  
which is infinite  
which is yes.*

*e.e. cummings*

We're just on the verge of summer. Although winters are mild here in southern California, there is still a discernible difference in the seasons. As I look out on a perfect May day, sunlight streaking through the branches of the trees as a gentle breeze stirs their leaves to life, it is a time to give thanks to God.

I suppose it might be said that all the times of our lives are appropriate for giving thanks to God. Maybe because I grew up where the winters were dark, cold and long, I've always found it easier to give thanks in the season of light, warmth and growth. God's grace is given in all times, of course, but in summer it seems present and palpable in ways even I can't miss. Summer is God's gift to those of us who need some help in learning to live by grace and with gratitude.

And so I bid you a gentle and joyous summer. May it be for you a gracious season filled with a growing awareness of everything, as the poet writes,

"which is natural/which is infinite/which is yes" – the grace of God present in all our days.

Peace,

Pastor Richard

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly**  
**Voting Member (Delegate Report)**  
**May 5 – May 7, 2016**  
**Marriott Hotel**  
**Irvine, CA**

**“Called for such a time as this...”**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly gathered in Irvine, California on Thursday May 5, 2016. Old friends greeted one another and new friendships developed. After Gathering Music, we were called in Session by Bishop Murray Finck. A Bible study to worship and glorify God was led by Rev. Dr. Shauna Kay Hannan, Associate Professor of Homiletics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (of California Lutheran University). We began with her study on the Book of Psalms.

The main order of business for this assembly was to elect a new Bishop as Bishop Murray Finck will be retiring July 31, 2016 after serving the maximum of three consecutive 6-year terms.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton joined us as Churchwide Representative and presided over the Bishop's election process. She reminded the assembly that the Bishop election process is a prayerful process and that the Holy Spirit is present. After Ballot Three, the 9 remaining Bishop candidates were provided the opportunity to respond to questions submitted by the assembly. On the Fifth Ballot, Rev. Andrew A. Taylor was elected Bishop of the Pacifica Synod. He will assume leadership of 106 congregations and 31,000 baptized members in Southern California and Hawaii.

We had Synod Council elections, Resolutions, Anniversary Recognitions, 2016 Lay Member Recognitions, Treasurer's Report and Budget reports to review/approve.

Bishop Murray Finck gave his final Report of the Bishop. Friday afternoon workshops were on different topics. Pastor Richard, Bob and I each chose a different topic and attended these informative gatherings.

Friday evening concluded with a wonderful and delicious banquet to celebrate the ministry of Bishop Murray Finck. Family, friends and colleagues shared memories and best wishes. Special music was shared including a song Deborah Liv Johnson wrote just for Bishop Finck and a Hula Palau presentation by Keala Simoes. Personal reflections, photos and wonderful tributes ended the evening.

Saturday morning session led to final discussion and voted to approve Resolution SA16-01: Resolution to Confront Racism and White Privilege.

Also:

Approved the Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders of the Pacifica Synod as amended and bring back to 2017 Synod Assembly a statistical and analytical report addressing use of and challenges from this baseline salary recommendation (1.5% increase).

Saturday's Closing Worship had Bishop Murray Finck preaching.

Special Resolution of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Rev. Murray Finck with Resolution approved conferring the honorary title of Bishop Emeritus to Bishop Finck as presented by Rev. Tim Philips

Bob and I wish to thank Bethlehem's Congregation for allowing us to be your "voting members" (delegates) from Son and Surf Conference to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly. We joined with 349 voting members. This assembly experience once again strengthened our faith and broadened our understanding. Being able to join in worship, share in discussions, equip us and encourage us was a very rewarding experience.

We learned that we need to welcome and encounter people outside our community. Where does our community excel? What areas need to be improved?

Blessings,

*Bob & Andrea Campbell*

Andrea and Bob Campbell

## Parish Life News

Please by the table on the patio for Summer events!

The tickets for the following Hollywood Bowl Programs have been ordered. All Bowl tickets will arrive at the same time, you will be notified when they are here so that you can pay for and pick all of your tickets.

June 24th	Sing a Long -Sound of Music
July 1st	A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor
July 2nd, 3rd, 4th	Fireworks Spectacular- Chicago
July 8th, 9th	Star Trek in Concert
July 15th, 16th	Diana Ross
July 29th-31st	A Chorus Line
September 2nd, 3rd, 4th	John Williams - Maestro of Movies



Please be sure to pick up your baseball tickets on June 5th for the Angels vs. the Cleveland Indians, June 12th @ 12:35 pm. If you will not be at church on June 5th please call Marianne so other arrangements can be made for pick up. Tickets are \$35.00 each which includes a hot dog and small drink.

Parish Life is serving breakfast on Father's Day June 19th at 8:30 am. Everyone is invited to join family and friends for a full breakfast before church services.



"I'm sending you a heartfelt thank you to all of you who came to my aid and helped me to get through those last two surgeries! Also to all those who offered help...it was nice to know you were there, just in case! God bless you for your many prayers, cards, phone calls and delicious meals.  
Love, Julie Anderson"

From Dale and Sandy Retrum: "We would like express our most heartfelt thanks to our church family for the beautiful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cards. Thanks, also, to the ladies who helped serve our cake and refreshments on the patio. Also, a special thank you to Vanessa for her very beautiful love song solo."

2016

W.E.L.C.A. News

June 2016

Women's Bible Study

**The Heart of the Matter-Conflict,  
Forgiveness and Reconciliation  
Lesson One-Treasure in Clay Jars**



#### WELCA Board

The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> via E-Mail**. For more information, contact Dianna Reynolds.

#### FAITH Circle

Faith Circle will **NOT meet on June 7<sup>th</sup>**. They are working on another time to get together. Stay tuned. For questions and details call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard.

#### PHOEBE Circle

Meets **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 6:30 p.m. for a **dinner meeting** at the home of Dianna Reynolds. Dawn Rentch is hosting the dinner and the Bible Study. For questions and details? Call Dianna Reynolds. All Women of Bethlehem are welcome.



**Sunday Morning**

**Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to Faith Circle for providing coffee and cookies in the month of May. Men in Mission will be responsible for the month of June.

WELCA Yearbooks **are Available!**

See your Circle Leader or Erika Gary  
for your copy.

Women's 2016 Theme

**"Serving with Joy"**



#### **WELCA's Calendar of Events**



**"Growing Through Narrows Spots  
From Fear to Joy"**



What a wonderful day hearing from Ruth Bachman. She shared her wisdom and inspiration with us all. In addition to our program we enjoyed a wonderful lunch, prepared with love, by Dawn Rentch. Many thanks to those who set up, decorated, and cleaned up.

#### **This Summer**

We would like to have an All-Women gathering (Potluck) this summer – stay tuned!



Coming Soon! Bethlehem's 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Apple Festival Bazaar

October 15, 2016

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

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

click on news & events



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School July 25, 29, 2016 9am-Noon  
Church wide Bar B Q Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30  
Director: Christina Watson

Theme: *Christmas in July*"

Program- Brian Gary and Ken Watson

Publicity-

Banner-

Signage-Dawn Rentch & Dianna Reynolds

Pre-Registration - Alice Roop

Daily Sign-In/Out- Alice Roop, Marynell Wolfe and Arlene Pollard

Lessons and Music- Brian Gary and Ken Watson

Instructor Pre-School-K - Erika Gary

Instructor 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> - Jeanne Sandvig

Instructor 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Sandvig

Crafts -Liz Nehrenberg, Johanne Hansen, Marjorie Moeller

Snacks - Cindy Rollefson and Janice Hunt

Games-Katrina Gary & Branden Pollard

Barbeque Food Coordinator-

Friday Barbeque Set-up-

Please let me know if you would like to volunteer in any of the above areas,  
Blessings, Christina Watson [cjwatsong@aol.com](mailto:cjwatsong@aol.com)



## Men in Mission

The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will be studying "Luke's Gospel to the Gentiles" from the Master Builders Bible for Men. The reading for this week will be Chapter 2:21 thru Chapter 4:30 with discussion on verses 4:14-30.

### Birthday Celebration at Paper Rollers



The Paper Rollers invite everyone to join them on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 am to noon. Come for a little while or stay til noon. They do great work, have lots of fun and there is always goood food. And, please, bring your newspapers to the paper shed (or storage box) located between the kitchen and the block wall. Papers are always needed and very much appreciated!

### This is a copy of a letter that Ron Clausen sent to Lutheran Braille Workers in Yucaipa:

I have known Charlie Toth since he was a little kid. We first met at our church, Bethlehem Lutheran, in Los Alamitos. Charlie has a very good singing voice and has sung with his mother and brother and also in the Church choir. Charlie is legally blind and never ceases to amaze me at what he can do.

I have been cleaning and repairing Brailers for Lutheran Braille Workers Inc. in Yucaipa, Ca., since June 2015. After I finish cleaning and repairing the Brailiers, I call my good friend Charlie, AKA Inspector Clouseau, to have his dad bring him over to inspect my work.

Charlie will write a poem or dialogue from his favorite musical, Phantom of the Opera, and leave it in the Brailier for the staff to see. Once he has declared that the Brailier is in working order, I pack it up for shipping back to LBW Inc. Thank you Charlie for being both my friend and my work buddy.

Ron Clausen

(The Braille machines are shipped to blind and nearly blind all around the world. Ron, and Charlie, through Lutheran Braille Workers, are sharing the gospel to Christians they'll never meet. Many thanks to Bethlehem's various groups for supporting LBW.)



**The next newsletter will be the combined July & August "Summer issue" so make sure to send articles and announcements for both months. Word documents attached to email work best but we'll accept all submissions, especially pictures!**



## 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 2016 we are asking you for your continuing help during June for **Cereal**. This item is currently needed daily. Continuous donated items of all food items especially with pop tops, fruit cups, clothes and socks (new or gently used) are always needed 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



## Campbell Soup Labels for Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Rock Point, Arizona

The Campbell Soup Label program will be discontinued on July 31, 2016. The Mission receives labels from all over the country, and many more are mailed directly to the program headquarters earmarked for the Mission's benefit. Over the years the piles of carefully clipped labels have added up to at least 8 new vehicles, along with tables, chairs, school supplies, and much, much more.

The Campbell Soup Label program has been a God-send to Navajo Lutheran Mission. The benefits to the Navajo people are more than can be numbered. Please accept our sincere gratitude for the many dedicated individuals and congregations who have participated.

Labels received and recorded prior to July 31<sup>st</sup> can still count toward valuable resources for the Mission and School. Please advise your label collectors so that everything can be sent in by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**You can still send the "Box Tops for Education" from General Mills to Solheim Lutheran Home or the Mission.** *Ahxéhee' (thank you)*



6/2/1986	Fritz & Shirley Campbell	6/2/1979	Rich & Elaine Schultheis
6/3/1972	Bob & Andrea Campbell	6/3/2006	Jason & Maria Sakowski
6/7/1975	Ken & Christina Watson	6/12/2004	Justin & Kristin Temple
6/16/1990	Brad & Vanessa Stevenson	6/19/2004	Darren & Sarah Sandvig
6/21/1958	Paul & Lulu Meyer	6/23/1956	Bill & Joyce Ritz
6/27/1959	Larry & Lee Rolf		

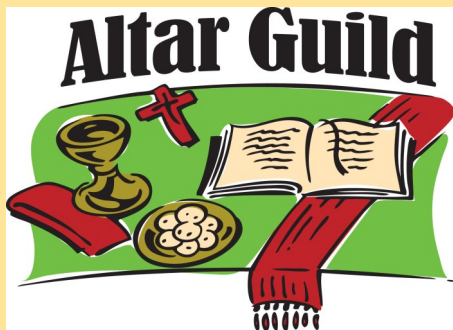
6/3	Marsha Egbert	6/3	Margie Reynolds	6/4	Jordan Johnson
6/7	Kristin Temple	6/9	Irene Cooper	6/9	Brody Sandvig
6/10	Margaret Hangartner	6/11	Charlotte Sohl	6/12	Laura Clausen
6/12	David Retrum	6/13	Jared Gustafson	6/19	Paul Scott
6/26	Julie Joplin	6/28	Genevieve Jenkins	6/29	Gladycce Ackerman
6/29	Jeff Cooper				



Gladycce Ackerman	Keresey Dillon	Betty Jones	Valerie Sanchez
Julie Anderson	Laura Duke	Linda Kjenstad	Rich Schultheis
Melody Andreoli	Joan Ebersold	John La Barbera	Mary Seibert
Elaine Asbury	Lynne Estabrook	Joan Lee	Dorothy Sideris
Amy Bachman	Doug Evans	Erin Lopez	Bertram Sohl
Colleen Bidwell	Jean Franz	LoSandy Miller	Charlotte Sohl
Arthur Brandon	Judy Frazier	Michael Murray	Leslie Summers
Charlie Buezis	Katrina Gary	Linda Nygard	Ed Sutton
Luelle Buezis	Rick Gary	Jeanette Olmstead	James Taylor
Elinor Blum	Jason Guerin	Dana Pagett	Ann Tegtmeier
Bob Campbell	Bruce Gustafson	Coler Pearce	Steve Tegtmeier
Laurie Carpenter	The Bryan Halverson Family	Andrew Pritchard	Allen Thunselle
Shirley Carrier	Joe Harris	Dale Retrum	Linda Thunselle
Gloria Clara	The Hashimoto Family	Nick Riley	Hank Van Zant
Maxine Cornwell	Dennis Hengy	Bill Ritz	Sandy Wasky
Jeff Davis	Donna Hoffman	Louise Ronchetto	Tom Watkins
Sara DeWeese	Genevieve Jenkins	Jason Sakowski	Hal Wolfe

## Thanks to These People for Serving in June

	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters
6/5	Dan Powers	Eric Dobberteen	Paul Meyer, Terry Morriss Ray Shelton, Pam Tipich	Caryl Harris Joyce Payne
6/12	Alice Roop	Eric Dobberteen	Alice Roop Marianne Sakowski	Dick Hansen Alice Roop
6/19	Bill Haglund	Eric Dobberteen	George & Marsha Egbert	George & Marsha Egbert
6/26	Marsha Egbert	Eric Dobberteen		Margie Moeller Doris Morrissey

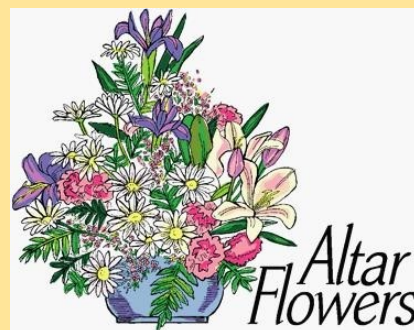


6/5

6/12 George and Marsha Egbert

6/19

6/26 Debby Gustafson



6/5

6/12 Clausen, Gustafson

6/19 Martin, Stevenson

6/26 Meyer, Ritz