



Bethlehem Star



From the Pastor's Desk...

As the holiday season quickly approaches, many of us may have already been thinking of how we'll mark this time differently this year. I've been thinking about this a lot too, especially as it applies to our worship experiences together at Bethlehem Lutheran. While I anticipate that some of our familiar traditions may be similar as in years past, there is also the possibility of having to adjust, a little or a lot, what we are able to do this year, especially when it comes to gathering in the presence of others. My hope is that we will still be able to create experiences that are meaningful and provide new visions of how we lean into and celebrate this time of year.

I invite you to consider and prepare for how this year's holiday season (Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year's) will be different. It's okay to mourn the losses we may feel because of all of the "different things" this year has brought. In the midst of all of these "differents", there are possibilities of creating new ways or, dare I say, traditions, that are born out of this challenging time. Here are a couple of concrete ways I invite you to think about some new traditions for this year, drawing from the familiar to something new.

1) Thanksgiving: Many of our Thanksgiving plans may look different this year. Consider one of your favorite parts about Thanksgiving and why it's one of your favorites. Is it a recipe handed down from the generations? Is it gathering at a table with others? Is it watching a certain parade or a football game or a dog show? Just pick one thing and write down why it's one of your favorites and then the day of Thanksgiving, take a look at what you wrote down and you can keep it for yourself and look at it again next year or perhaps share what you wrote with someone else and maybe ask them about one of their favorites.

2) Advent: November 29 is the First Sunday of Advent for this year. Do you have an Advent Wreath for your home? If not, I invite you to create one for this year's Advent season, when the promise of the Christ child and the Light he brings might be more of a hopeful message than ever before. You don't need to buy an Advent wreath, you can create one simply with 4 candles in a circle (flame lit or battery operated, tealights, tapers, or pillars, the candles don't need to be a matching set)...with space for a 5th candle as the Christ candle to be placed in the center for Christmas. A simple song, scripture, or prayer can accompany a daily or weekly lighting of your Advent Wreath. One of my favorite seasonal devotion books is "God With Us", that includes a daily scripture, brief devotion, and prayer that accompanies a fine art picture...this book has a devotion for every day of Advent and Christmas up to the Day of Epiphany. Maybe you have something similar already in your home, you can create your own, or there are plenty of resources online as well.

I hope these two examples are an encouragement for you to experience the differences of this year's holiday season in new or renewed ways. And to know that no matter how chaotic and challenging our world is, we continue to be loved by a God who comes to us each and every day through the redemptive love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you, peace be with your hearts and minds, peace be with you in the calm and in the chaos, peace is with you, always.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

On Sunday, October 25, we celebrated Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday. We celebrated with our 3 confirmands and their families at a special in-person worship service, where we heard the students' faith statements and witnessed as they confirmed their faith in Christ. Pictured are Aiden, Asher, and Alannah...we had to mark 2020 by having pictures with and without masks. Congratulations to these young people and their families!



We are resuming in-person worship on Sunday, November 1 at 10:00 am. If you are on our regular church mailing list, you should have received a letter and the approved plan and protocols to ensure everyone's safety. We are excited to be able to resume in-person worship but also recognize that not everyone may be able to attend, please use your good judgment in making the decision that is best for you and your household. Don't forget that you must Sign-Up each and every week you plan to attend, by either e-mailing the church at: blclosalamitos@gmail.com or calling the church at (562) 430-3444...we'll need your name and the number of people in your household attending. Following the current health directives in maintaining physical distancing, we have a limited seating capacity. Don't forget to wear your mask too! There are plenty more details to be aware of as you make your decision about attending in-person worship, we kindly ask that you read the plans & protocols document. If you didn't receive a document and would like one, please e-mail the church to request one. Many thanks to the task force members who helped put all of these plans in place and to the volunteers who are helping with these new protocols for worship.

All Saint's Sunday is November 1 and we will honor those from our congregation who have died since All Saints Sunday in 2019, as well as those who were baptized. We will light candles in their honor, reminding us of the light of Christ given to all of God's saints, to all of God's people. You are invited to spend some intentional time in reflection of God's saints and those saints in your own life, you can light candles in your home as a symbol of Christ's light in this world, the light that is not overcome.

Worship Volunteers: As we prepare to resume in-person worship, we are looking for volunteers to assist with worship in any of the following ways: musical offerings, read scripture, help with implementing covid protocols, ushering, please talk to Pastor Jennifer. Musical offerings, reading scripture can be recorded at home or may be coordinated at the church. It's been great to have a variety of volunteer participation, both at church and people's homes.

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.

We recently shared this year's stewardship theme, heard temple talks from some of our members, and asked that you participate by completing the time & talent forms and pledge cards for 2021. Thank you for sharing and giving of yourself, your time and talents, and your financial gifts. You can mail in or drop off your time and talent forms, 2021 pledge cards, and offerings to the church. We also have a PayPal account that you can use, check it out on the church website: www.blcla.org Please note that PayPal deducts a % and fee for their services (2.9% + \$0.30 transaction fee). Your support is deeply appreciated in these challenging times, your financial support, your support by participating in weekly worship and Zoom check-ins, your support of LSS with food and clothing donations, your support of one another by checking in on one another, your prayers and notes and phone calls. We thank you for your continued support in all of these ways and more.



*Standard Time resumes on Sunday, November 1st -
don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour.*

We continue to record weekly worship services and even as we resume in-person worship, we intend to continue recording the services, so that those who are not able to join in-person can still view and participate in worship. Please note that worship recordings will not be available to view until Sunday afternoons. Recorded worship can be viewed on the following platforms.

A) Church Website: www.blcla.org (Most recent worship is in the "Worship" section on the home page, previous recordings can be found when you click on the "worship" tab)

B) Church Facebook: On Facebook, search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos"

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

Weekly Zoom Check-In Meetings: Each Wednesday evening from 7:00-7:30 pm, a group of 12-15 people have been gathering on Zoom to see and hear from one another. These are informal check-in style meetings, there is a time for sharing, offering prayer concerns, reading scripture, and praying the Lord's Prayer. You are invited to participate as you are able, if you would like to participate or have questions, let Pastor Jennifer know and she can share the login and password information. Zoom is best utilized on a computer or tablet and can be both video and audio or audio only through your telephone. Participants have commented on how much they appreciate this opportunity to see and hear from familiar folks.

The Congregation presented Pastor Jennifer with a personalized portfolio



We appreciate and love you Pastor Jennifer!



Parish Life

Is selling See's Christmas candies!!

(with a few changes due to current circumstances)

Bethlehem Lutheran Parish Life will sponsor a fundraiser now through December 4th with earliest shipments starting November 16th. **The Church will be the beneficiary of profits from the sale.** We won't be able to offer our previous discounts and you'll need to enter your order on-line using the directions below so the Church gets credit for you purchase.

Orders will be shipped directly to you or whatever delivery address(es) you enter and there is free shipping for orders over \$65. There is a nominal charge for smaller orders, but it's still less expensive than mailing it yourself and there's no effort!! Some boxes are wrapped in festive paper and the cute little gift samplers are themed. Gift Certificates will not be available.

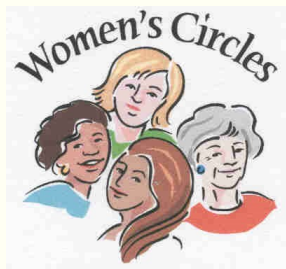
To place an order, have your credit card ready, press this link to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Storefront, and follow the prompts:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/bethlehemlc_bethlehem_lutheran_church_losal2/candy?h=CatWar6644&c=ot7028

Remember, you can enter multiple orders so you don't have to make deliveries or go to the post office. Or get free delivery if an order is over \$65. When entering an order, the expected arrival date will be shown. The offer is available to your friends and family as well, so please share our storefront link and help us with fundraising.

If you don't have a computer or need help placing an order, please contact Pastor Jennifer at the Church office. Thank you for your support.

November
2020



November 7, 2020 Save the Date Pacifica Synod WELCA will host a Zoom event, Celebrating Women. If interested in joining the Zoom event, contact Jeanne Sandvig for the Zoom check-in information. The guest speaker is Pastor Jean Bozeman.

Faith Circle: In person meeting has not yet resumed. If interested in a Zoom meeting, contact Pastor Jennifer. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Andrea Campbell or Jeanne Sandvig

Phoebe Circle: Current plans are for a **physically distanced meeting** on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dianna Reynolds. Dianna is scheduled to lead the Gather Study. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig



Give Thanks

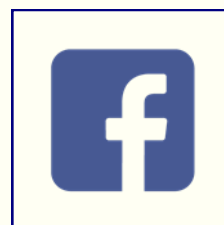
Check out Pacifica Partners on line
www.pacificawomen.org
click on news & events



Sunday Morning Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.

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,

New items for HOW CAN YOU HELP:

COVID-19 supplies:	Masks, gloves, hand sanitizers (70% alcohol based)
Anything Dry Items:	Umbrellas, blankets, comforters, sleeping bag
Shelter materials:	Paper goods: plates, bowls, plastic forks & spoons
Food-to-go:	Oatmeal packets, muffins, fruits cups
Canned goods:	Chili/Ravioli/Spaghetti-O's/Chef Boyardee Pasta meals
Hygienic supplies:	Wet Ones (<i>travel packs or singles</i>)
	Deodorants (<i>men's & women's</i>)

As we continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2020. We are asking you for your continuing help during **November** for **Thanksgiving holiday food items** as well as everyday food items.

Continuous donations of cup of soups, pasta, canned vegetables/fruits and/or any items you wish to donate are always appreciated. **** Flip-top lids appreciated**

Fall is here, so needed are **warm sweats, socks (*new or gently used*), blankets and jackets.**

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



NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/9 Arlene Pollard
 11/15 John Payne
 11/19 Nickolas Carrillo
 11/22 Dick Hansen
 11/27 Paul Meyer
 11/30 Ken Watson

11/2 Colton Rosso
 11/5 Susan Buezis
 11/10 Alice Roop
 11/18 Harold Snell
 11/20 Darren Sandvig
 11/22 Jim Martin
 11/28 Monica Kracy

11/5 Ayla French-Campbell
 11/7 Bill Lindell
 11/12 Harold Miller
 11/19 Andrea Campbell
 11/20 Bertram Sohl
 11/22 Rowan Sisk
 11/28 Camille Riach

11/15/1952 John & Luelle Buezis



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.
 Frank Gary

Katrina Gary
 Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 Diana Hayden
 Gaylord Hollister
 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
 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

