



Bethlehem Star January 2020

New Year's Blessings from Pastor Jennifer:

As the end of 2019 quickly approaches, I have been reminded several times of memories of anticipating Y2K and how there were various speculations as to how the world would successfully transition from 1999 to 2000 (much of this speculation seemed to concern technology). There was both a sense of anticipation and concern, as to what going into a new century would be like, would things be better, worse, or the same? I remember that I wasn't worried and in fact, was trying to calm and reassure a co-worker at the time, who was quite worried. As we know, the year 2000 came and for most of us, going into the new year, the new decade, the new century occurred much like any new year.

Fast forward to 2020, I hadn't paid much attention to the fact that we would be entering into a new decade, not just another new year. While there may not be much build-up to this new decade of 2020, I find myself marveling at how quickly the past 20 years has passed. One of the things I enjoy doing in the seasons of Advent and Christmas are reading the devotional book "God With Us". I've reread the daily devotionals for the past several years and in thinking about the new calendar year, I skipped ahead to read the devotion for December 31. Here's a portion of that day's devotion, *"By living the Christian life on the deepest possible level, we remain secure in God no matter how fearful the times. How do we do this? Not by denying the uncomfortable facts of our environment and our troubled societies, but by letting the Incarnate Christ transform us. The God life with us will strengthen us in times of war and peace. And with transformed hearts we will do what we can for our anxious neighbors and our societies."* While there may be unresolved situations as we near the end of 2019 and there are unknowns as we enter into 2020, we are assured that God has come to us in Jesus. As we remain in the Christmas season for the first days of the new month and the new year and as we enter into the new season of Epiphany on January 6...we are reminded of how God gifted love embodied to the world in Jesus and that the Light of Christ continues to shine within, around and before us, so that we might share it with others. "Do not be afraid" were the repetitious words spoken by the angel/s in the Christmas story, words of comfort that we still need to hear today...Emmanuel has come, God is with us, we need not fear...a new year or a new decade, for God is with us Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

- We will be celebrating First Communion Sunday on January 12 at 10:00 am worship. We have two students who will be receiving communion for the first time on that day, Brooklyn Retrum and Logan Sandvig. Come and celebrate with their families as they continue their faith walk with a new milestone in receiving communion.
- Children's and Adult Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 12 at 9:00 am. Children meet in Bachman Hall, Adults meet in the Fireside Room.
- Middle School Confirmation resumes class on Tuesday, January 7 at 3:15 pm.
- Many thanks and appreciation for the members of the Church Council, for their dedication and willingness to share their faith, time, and efforts to serve Bethlehem Lutheran in this way. A special thanks to members who have completed their terms, Susan Martin and Dale Retrum. New members are Jane Clausen and Christina Watson, they are joining remaining members, Lana Dieter, Richard Hansen, Bill Lindell, Shary Reed, Brad Stevenson, and Pastor Jennifer. Another special thanks to Debbie Johnson, who is temporarily filling in as Treasurer for Bill Lindell, due to recent health concerns.
- Church council meetings for 2020 will take place on the second Sunday of the month following 10:00 am worship.
- Many thanks for all of the volunteers who helped in any way, shape, or fashion with all of the additional Advent and Christmas preparations...there are so many people that volunteered and we just want them to know they are appreciated.

Lutheran Seafarer Mission Project



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Lutheran Seafarer Mission Project. Nine ladies took a trunk full of items and a trunk full of food down to the center on Tuesday 12/9 evening. We filled 100 bags that will serve as the only Christmas gift that the hardworking Seafarers will receive. Dinner was enjoyed by our Bethlehem elves and several workers at the center.

Blessings, Christina Watson

Bells of Bethlehem (the only Bell Choir present) playing at
Rush Park in Rossmore on Dec. 13th





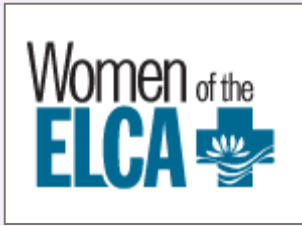
If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes for 2020 please check with the church office.



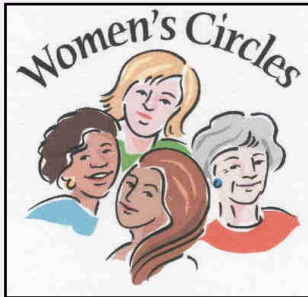
The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, January 4th, 2020, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue with our study of the **Book of Revelation from the Master Builders Bible for Men**. The reading for this week will be Chapters 17:1 through 19:10 with discussion on verses 19:1 through 10 / **Song of Praise**. We will also be meeting on Saturday, January 18th, 2020, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue with our study of the **Book of Revelation from the Master Builders Bible for Men**. The reading for this week will be Chapters 19:11 through 22:21 with discussion on verses 20:1 through 15 / **Scene 7: God With Us**. All men of Bethlehem are invited.

WELCA Christmas Gathering at Linda and David Scott's Home





January 2020



January 19 Bethlehem Lutheran WELCA Board Meeting 11:20 am

Upcoming: Pacifica Synod WELCA March 7 One Day Event in Palm Desert.

January 6 last day for Early Bird Registration at \$325 rate for WELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering in Phoenix, AZ.

Rate increase to \$375 on January 7.

FAITH Circle, Tuesday, January 7, 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Andrea Campbell is the Hostess and will lead the study. For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Andrea Campbell

PHOEBE Circle Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Christina Watson, 11262 Weatherby Rd, Los Alamitos.

For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Thank you to Men in Mission for December coffee. Phoebe Circle is responsible for the month of January.

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 2020. 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, 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





1/11 Caleb DeSautel	1/1 Linda Scott	1/3 Louise Opoien
1/17 Joe DeSautel	1/3 Erik Sandvig	1/5 David Sandvig
1/21 Kevin Godfrey	1/7 Kay Shelton	1/9 Geraldine Dawson
1/27 Charlotte Sisk	1/16 Travis Retrum	1/17 Susan Driskill
	1/17 Christine Rosso	1/18 Luke Retrum
	1/25 Jay Campbell	1/25 Annie Dobberteen
	1/30 Marjorie Moeller	1/31 Debby Gustafson



Julie Anderson
Elaine Asbury
Amy Bachman
Kevin Betts
Kate & Steve
John Buezis
Luelle Buezis
Shirley Campbell
Caren Cantafio
Laurie Carpenter
Mary Clausen & family
Linnea Clayton
Irene Cooper
Maxine Cornwell
Paul Crizer
Ed Crogan
Sara DeWeese
Joan Ebersold
Ruth G.
Frank Gary
Katrina Gary
Bruce Gustafson
Caryl Harris
Janet Harris

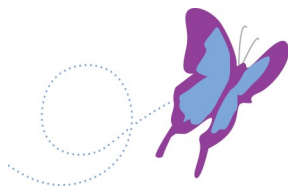
Joe Harris
Diana Hayden
Gaylord Hollister
Violet Imoto Family
Jason Jackson
Genevieve Jenkins
Betty Jones
Dean Kinzel
Julie Kizziar
Loyd Lancaster
Joan Lee
Karol Lemerond
William Lewis
Bill Lindell
Erin Lopez
Patricia Lueckert
John Maio
Lawrence Massey
Jessica McIntire
Hal Miller
Pete Miller
Sandy Miller
Ethan Mohr
Bill N.
Linda Nygard
Dan Opoien
Coler Pearce
Retta Rasmussen
Dale Retrum
Sandy Retrum
Camille Riach
Bill Ritz
Cindy Staggs

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



Thanks to These People for Serving in January

	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters
1/5	Brad Stevenspn	Charlie Toth	Jim & Susan Martin Christina Watson	Andrea Campbell Bob Campbell Lois DeForest
1/12	David Retrum	Charlie Toth	Paul Meyer	Lulu Meyer Paul Meyer
1/19	Jane Clausen	Charlie Toth	John & Janice Hunt Jim & Susan Martin Dave & Linda Scott	Lois DeForest Dick Hansen
1/26		Charlie Toth		Caryl Harris Joyce Payne



Altar Guild

1/5
1/12 Vanessa Stevenson
1/19 Lana Dieter
1/26 Christina Watson



Altar Flowers

1/5 Sandvig, Stevenson
1/12 Hansen
1/19 Moeller
1/26