



Bethlehem Star April 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

I am greatly anticipating this year's Easter celebration! I always look forward to Easter, for there is so much joy and good news to be shared on this festive day. The upbeat music, the Alleluias and Hallelujahs once again are sung and spoken, beautiful flowers are showcased, and the glorious news "He is risen!" is exclaimed in various ways. Such good and great news! The Easter message is the same this year but how we hear it and receive might feel different.

The news that life conquers death is important to the Christian faith every day and yet, this year, we might hear and receive it with renewed passion and hope, it might be more impactful for us because of what the world has witnessed and suffered from in the pandemic. With devastating statistics and an overall overwhelming situation, the world has been mired in sickness and death, burdened by unemployment and financial uncertainty, shortages of provisions and escalated debate of how to address the pandemic, and on and on. In some ways, it feels as though we have been living in a Lenten season that has lasted longer than "40 days", it's been over a year of uncertainty, fear, sickness, exhaustion, shutdowns, and death...and certainly these situations are not completely exclusive of the pandemic but the scale to which they were experienced is something fairly unprecedented in many of our lifetimes.

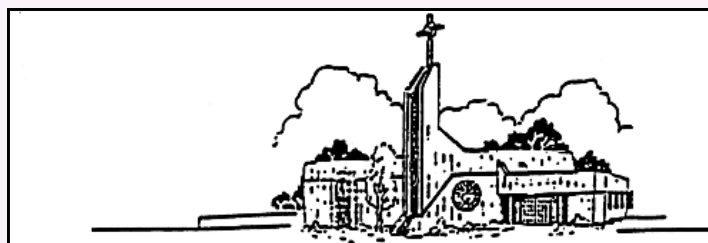
So this year, the Alleluias and Hallelujahs may sound especially joyous, the music of Easter may feel more joyful, and the good news that Jesus is Risen may be even more welcomed. May this good and great news be a renewal for your heart and mind, your body and spirit...may it fill you with fresh wonder and glimpses of God's kingdom on earth. May this good and great news about Jesus, be good and great news for you!

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

April 9th is a special day in the life of Bethlehem Lutheran Church...do you know what this day signifies? April 9, 1961 is when the charter of BLC was signed, it's the church's anniversary (there's a framed print of the charter in the narthex, next to the pull out drawers). Church anniversaries are a

wonderful time to celebrate; to honor and give thanks for the past, to live fully in the present, and to look forward to and dream for the future. This April 9 is the 60th Anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and we intend to celebrate in some way when we can safely and confidently gather together again with some sort of special event. We will certainly keep you updated.



Would you like to contribute towards and dedicate in honor of a celebration or in memory of a loved one? We have 2 fresh flower bouquets for every Sunday worship service and if you would like to contribute and dedicate a bouquet, please e-mail or call the church office to sign up. Flowers are available to take home following the Sunday service.

Worship Update:

We are excited to be resuming in-person worship. We had a beautiful service in the courtyard on Palm Sunday and we will again gather outside in the courtyard for Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 am. Our current plan is to resume in-person worship inside the sanctuary on Sunday, April 11 at 10:00 am.

If you would like to attend, we have some plans and protocols in place that we are asking you to follow, for the health and safety of all who attend. You need to sign-up to attend worship each week you plan to attend and we ask that you sign-up by 10:00 am on the Friday of that week, by either calling or e-mailing the church. We continue to follow recommended guidelines and we still have a limited capacity and to ensure proper physical distancing, we need to know who and how many people are expected at worship, the Friday deadline also allows time to create a seating chart.

You must wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth, young children and for those who are inhibited by a medical condition are not required to wear one. If you have a medical condition where wearing a face mask is a hindrance, it may be helpful to consider whether being around other people in an enclosed space is the right thing for you at this time. In some ways, worship will be familiar and in some ways, there will be things that you may miss. Again, following current recommendations, we are discouraging congregational singing and spoken responses; we may be trying some different things to account for that while still balancing the fact that those watching online are able to sing and speak if they wish. There are additional plans and protocols that we are asking all attendees to observe, you can read about them on our website (www.blcla.org) and there's even a brief returning to worship video that shows you what to expect.

We know that everyone is not yet able to or comfortable attending in-person worship and we will continue to record our worship services and post them online on our regular platforms. In fact, all of our worship services since mid-March 2020 are posted online on YouTube (search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA and click on Videos), you can find our most recent recording on the church Facebook page (Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA), and many of our recent services are on our church website (www.blcla.org). We are so grateful for your continued generous participation and support with our worship services and look forward to the time when we can all gather together again.

Many thanks to EVERYONE who helped with the outdoor in-person services and we will be needing volunteers for indoor in-person services as well, please look for sign-up sheets in the narthex and if you have any questions about volunteering, please talk to Pastor Jennifer.



Paper Rollers has resumed on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 8:00 am in Bachman Hall. Participants are asked to wear a face mask and follow physical distancing and cleaning protocols. If you would like to participate or learn more, please give the church office a call. This group will be busy for quite some time thanks to all of the papers that have been dropped off. Just take a look at the stacks and stacks and stacks of papers and there's much more not pictured (next page). **Thank you** for your donations.

Paper Rollers 2021 "We're Back!"



Greetings,

South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran church Africa-mission greets you for the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. We are doing fine with God's help because South Sudan is war country for couple Years. South Sudanese people are hoping on the peace to be implemented by IG and IO parties. I need you to pray that God to bring lasting peace in to country of South Sudan.

Last time I sent you pictures for how we celebrate Christmas and New Year days and eve every Years. This time I will share with you a pictures have been taken during our youth conference in January 2021 and you will also see youth pictures three parishes who celebrated their conference but two parishes celebrated their conference on their size in the middle of January and Kule churches, Jewi churches and Maiwut churches. The parishes who celebrate their conference are Vangtic and Kier parishes have done their conference in Burebiey. The young people where very happier when celebrating and worship their God.

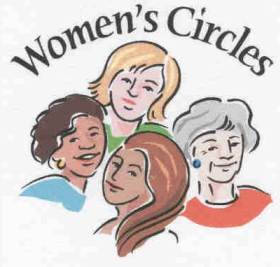


Those pictures have been taken at Kule two refugee camps during our youth conference in January 2021. Thank you so much for your time that you spent when you read my newsletter at this time and may God bless us all.

Representing Bethlehem at Spring Seal Beach beach cleanup



April 2021



Faith Circle We have been invited to join Phoebe Circle for a Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 14, the meeting information will be provided by Pastor Jennifer. 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, April 14. Pastor Jennifer will host and 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.



We are so happy that we are now in the Red Tier and can begin to gather again for indoor in-person worship and hopefully to soon resume our regular circle meetings and WELCA events, while continuing with health and safety protocols. Easter blessings to you all!



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 continue in this Year let us please continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2021. We are asking you for your continuing help during **April** for **Cereals and Peanut Butter (small Jars)**. These are used daily.

Continuous donated items of pasta, spaghetti sauces, beans, soups, canned items of any kind, individual size granola bars, diced fruit cups and juice boxes are always appreciated.

Warm clothes, jackets, sweats, gloves, scarfs, and socks (new or gently used) are greatly needed this time of the year. *Especially need MENS clothing*****



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



Double your Gift in a special Fundraiser for
Lutheran Social Services, Southern California

0.5% of your purchase will be donated back to
LSS, just follow the simple directions below
and generate SMILES across LSS Southern
California

Shop Amazon and help generate Smiles across LSS Southern California

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a portion of your proceeds will benefit
the programs and projects of
LSS Southern California.

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2. Sign in with your Amazon Account
3. Choose "Lutheran Social Services of
Southern California" as your
charitable organization

Welcome to
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Prime

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2225798>

Shop Away!

Thank You for caring,
Bethlehem Social Ministry Committee
Andrea, Bob, and Crew

APRIL



4/2	Ken Johnson	4/3	Caryl Harris	4/6	Cathy Warnock
4/8	Marv Schneider	4/10	Marynell Wolfe	4/11	Merle Hower
4/12	John Buezis	4/17	Geoff Krcy	4/19	Erika Gary
4/26	Cheri Dobberteen	4/30	Melissa Sandvig		

4/1/1989	Richard & Candie Toth	4/9/2016	Taylor Coe & Hannah Wolfe
4/11/1987	Ken & Debbie Johnson	4/14/2007	David & Krissy Retrum
4/18/1975	Marv & Susan Schneider	4/23/1983	Jim & Susan Martin
4/24/1976	Lon & Cathy Warnock	4/29/2017	Travis & Courtney Retrum
4/30/1971	David & Jeanne Sandvig		



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
Family of Gay Gustafson
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
Shary Reed
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

