

Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

June 2018



From Our Pastor:

“This Changes Everything” is the theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering which takes place June 27 – July 1 in Houston, TX. I, along with many other people, have been working on this Gathering for over 2 years and this month, all of our planning, work, sweat, and even some tears will come to fruition in the 2 Pre-Gathering Events (MYLE and the tAble) and the Gathering itself. Not only have the people tasked with planning these events been preparing and working towards, the participant groups and their supporters have also been preparing and working towards these events for quite some time. There is a lot of time spent in preparation, prayer, intentional study and fellowship, planning, fund-raising, etc...that goes into participating in these Pre-Gathering and Gathering events. What is it that everyone has been preparing and planning for??? Read on to learn about the components that make up the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Participants will take part in various program areas during the Gathering: Community Life, Interactive Learning, Mass Gathering, Service Learning, and Synod Day. If you would like to know more about what each of these program areas are about, please click on this link: <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/event-programming>

I’ve recently been asked what it is that I’m doing for the Gathering, I’m serving as the Team Leader for Volunteers. There are 3 full time Gathering staff members based in Chicago, 15 Team Leaders from across the country, and countless members on each team. The Volunteers team has over 400 members and with 4 groups within the team, GVC (Gathering Volunteer Corps), Servant Companions, Local Volunteers, Chaplains. Members of the Volunteers team will be present in virtually every aspect and area of the Gathering, serving in a variety of roles.

It takes not only a lot of dedicated and faithful people to prepare for, plan, and participate in this event...it takes a lot of people to support all of those participating! Once again, I cannot thank the congregation enough for your inquisitive questions, your interest, and for your support in my role and participation in the Gathering. I ask for continued prayers for everyone involved and if you’d like to see for yourself, what this is all about, I invite you to participate by checking out the livestream Mass Gathering programs in the evenings of June 27-30 and the morning of July 1...remember Houston is on Central Time. You can watch the livestream on the website: www.elca.org/gathering or on the ELCA Youth Gathering Facebook page.

Worship Leaders Informational Training: One of the aspects I appreciate about worship in a Lutheran setting is that it's participatory, in fact, the word "liturgy" (another word we use for worship service) means "work of the people." In other words, the worship service, the liturgy, is designed to be participatory, that both leaders and the assembled congregation participate in worship.

We will have informational and training sessions for the following worship roles: Communion Assistants, Readers, and Ushers. All current communion assistants, readers, and ushers are asked to sign up for one of these trainings (as we have some new information to share). If you would like to find out more about or would like to serve in one or more of these roles, please sign-up for one of these trainings. The goal is for ALL (current and new) Communion Assistants, Readers, and Ushers to be given training and current information. Informational Trainings will be held on a variety of dates, please sign up in the office for your selected time and if one of these dates/times doesn't work for you, please talk to Pastor Jennifer to make other arrangements. If need be, we can add additional dates/times but we'll start with these:

Wednesday, June 13 at 10:00 am

Saturday, June 16 at 9:00 am

Sunday, July 8 after worship

At this year's Synod Assembly held on May 18-19 at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, there was a resolution urging all congregations to take time and study the "Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice" and submit responses by September 30 to the task force. In an effort to familiarize ourselves with this draft social statement and follow the protocol for responding, we will take some time this summer to have conversations about this draft. Recognizing that there may likely be a variety of reactions and responses to this draft, there will be intentional language and work to create a safe space for people to discuss, even though opinions may vary greatly. **You may download a copy of the draft at: www.elca.org/womenandjustice , if you are unable to do that, you can request a copy in the church office.** To allow adequate time to read and familiarize ourselves with this draft, we will have our discussion sessions on Sunday mornings in August at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room...please make sure to bring your copy with you to these sessions. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Jennifer.



Paul & Lulu Meyer

Invite EVERYONE

**To join them for a reception
celebrating their**

60th Wedding Anniversary!

Sunday, June 17th

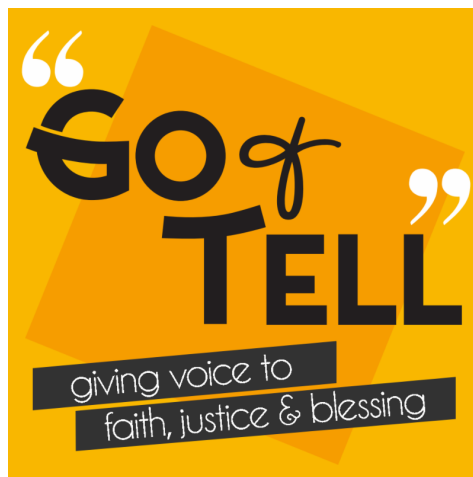
After Worship on the patio

Synod Assembly Final Review

We are pleased to share with you our Synod Assembly Final Review publication for you to share with your congregation. Please follow [this link](http://www.pacificasynod.org/news-events/31st-annual-pacifica-synod-assembly/) (<http://www.pacificasynod.org/news-events/31st-annual-pacifica-synod-assembly/>) that will take you to our Synod Assembly web page. Scroll down to the Post-Assembly Final Review section and click the 2018 Assembly Final Review link to download a PDF version of the publication (be patient, it's a fairly large file).

You will also find a link to our synod YouTube channel, which contains video recordings of all of the assembly business sessions and speakers. We are working to create an album of all of the photos taken during our assembly by our volunteer photographers - Paul Coulter, Chris Bach and Brenda Barrios. When complete, the link to access it will be posted on our Synod Assembly web page.

On behalf of the staff of the Pacifica Synod, we give thanks to ALL who made this 31st Annual Synod Assembly possible. For those who attended, our special guests, speakers, leaders, vendors and organization representatives and synod council. We especially thank Hope Lutheran and the countless volunteers who served on the many teams who planned, organized, and staffed the positions necessary to ensure that everything ran smoothly. You are all appreciated and loved!



31st Annual Synod Assembly Resolution

The assembly voted to pass Resolution 18.02, Encouragement to Study “Women and Justice”.

The ELCA is engaged in a concerted discussion around women and justice in church and society. The 2009 Churchwide Assembly authorized a social statement process and in 2016 a 137 page study guide, “Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement “ was created for use across our church. Feedback from the participants was due on August 31, 2017 and used to create the “Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice” for study and response prior to September 30, 2018. The final draft will be brought before the 2019 Churchwide Assembly for adoption.

If you are interested in studying this document, a single printed copy may be ordered by calling **800-638-3522**. It is also available online at **ELCA.org/womenandjustice**.

WHEREAS, girls and women experience exclusion, prejudice, and violence on a daily basis due to gender, and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures and church tradition are used by people to keep women in subordinate identity and roles in church and society, and

WHEREAS, members of the Pacifica Synod have differing views of these realities, and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran tradition of education, study, and respectful conversation is a treasured part of our life together, and

WHEREAS, the process of developing Social Statements depends upon broad participation across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with the goal of adopting a Social Statement after extensive consultation and with broad support, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has prepared a Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice, which draft social statement has been made available to all congregations, and asked for responses by September 30, 2018; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all congregations and members are urged to study the ELCA’s Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice and send their comments to the Task Force on Women and Justice before September 30, 2018.



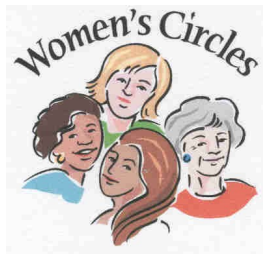
June 2018



Gather Study:

Let us pray

Session one: The paradoxes of prayer



FAITH Circle Meeting Tuesday, June 5, Lunch Out.

Contact Margie Moeller for details. For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Andrea Campbell.

PHOEBE Circle Meeting Tuesday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Paul's Place Hamburgers in Los Alamitos for dinner and brief Bible Study then to Precious Life for a tour of new facilities by Theresa Murphy. Christina will lead the Bible Study.

For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig at 714-893-0166. All Women of Bethlehem are welcome to attend and bring your LOVE GIFTS for Precious Life (glue sticks, paper towels, wipes).



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Thank you to Faith Circle for providing coffee for the month of May. Men in Mission are responsible for June.

Women's 2018 Theme

"Reform, Renew, Rejoice"

WELCA's Calendar of Events



Thanks to all who attended our May Ladies Day Event. We had a delicious lunch of salad and quiche with mini cheese cakes for dessert and an interesting program of the Bible's "Bad" Girls.

- ♦ **Sunday June 3, WELCA Board Meeting**
- ♦ **July 1 Pastor is in Houston for the Youth Gathering, Bethlehem Women will lead worship. Volunteers needed—see Vanessa to sign up.**

Continued prayers for our Women of Bethlehem, especially Andrea Campbell, Sandy Retrum, Charlotte Driskill, Shirley Campbell, Luelle Buezis, Julie Anderson

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events

Join the Pacifica Synod

Women of the ELCA

On Facebook



W.E.L.C.A. 2018 Calendar

January	21 st – W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting – after service – Fireside Coffee – January – Phoebe Circle
February	Coffee – February – Faith Circle
March	3 rd – Pacifica Spring One Day Event-Details TBA Coffee – March – Men in Mission
April	8 th W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting – after service – Fireside Coffee – April – Phoebe Circle
May	6 th W.E.L.C.A. May Ladies Day Program “Bible’s Bad Girls” & Luncheon 11:30 – 2 p.m. Bachman Hall Coffee – May – Faith Circle
June	**3 rd W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting – after service - Fireside Coffee – June – Men in Mission
July	29 th W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting – after service – Fireside Coffee – July – Phoebe Circle
August	**14 th W.E.L.C.A. Bar BQ – Melissa Sandvig’s – 6pm Coffee – August – Faith Circle
September	9 th W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting – after service – Fireside ?? Bible Study in the Orange County – Details TBA Coffee – September – Men in Mission
October	7 th W.E.L.C.A. Board meeting – after service – Fireside 21 st - 45 th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Coffee – October – Phoebe Circle
November	2-3 rd 31 st Annual Pacifica Women of the ELCA Gathering – Details TBA 4 th General & Bazaar Expenditures Meeting with Election of Officers for 2019 21 st Thanksgiving Eve Dessert - All Bethlehem Women Coffee – November – Faith Circle
December	2 nd W.E.L.C.A. Board Installation during the Sunday Worship Service 4 th W.E.L.C.A. Christmas Gathering 7 p.m. **Marsha Egbert’s General Meeting & Budget Approval Coffee – December – Men in Mission

**Revised May 22, 2018

Parish Life:

Breakfast and Fellowship at Bethlehem for all:
Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 3rd at 8:30 am
for the Parish Life's Parent Breakfast in Bachman
Hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy a full breakfast
with Grandparents, Parents, Sons and Daughters
before Worship Service.



Those who ordered Hollywood Bowl tickets, please see Marianne to pick
your tickets up for the summer concerts. There are currently 2 extra tickets
available for the July 4th event.

FAITH CIRCLE MEETING

Faith Circle will have brunch at Katella Deli on Tuesday, June 5th
at 10 am. For any lady who is not a member of the circle and
would like to join us, please RSVP to Margie Moeller.



The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will
be on Saturday, June 2nd, 2018, at 9:00 A.M in the
Fireside Room. We will continue with our study of
the Gospel of Matthew from the Master Builders
Bible for Men. The reading for this week will be

Chapter 12:1 through 13:52 with discussion on verses 13:1-23, Parable of Sower. We will also
meet on Saturday, June 9th, 2018, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room to finish assembly of
Men's Toiletry Kits to donate to Long Beach Lutheran Social Services.

From Sandy Retrum: I would like to thank our wonderful congregation at Bethlehem
again for all of your love, support, prayers, calls and cards after my kidney transplant
in Wisconsin. This support was so needed and helped very much as I went through the
unexpected complications and 2 month recovery. I also appreciate your support and
prayers as the doctors continue to work at getting the medications and labs results
stabilized which remains challenging.

Love, Sandy



Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center Monthly Report

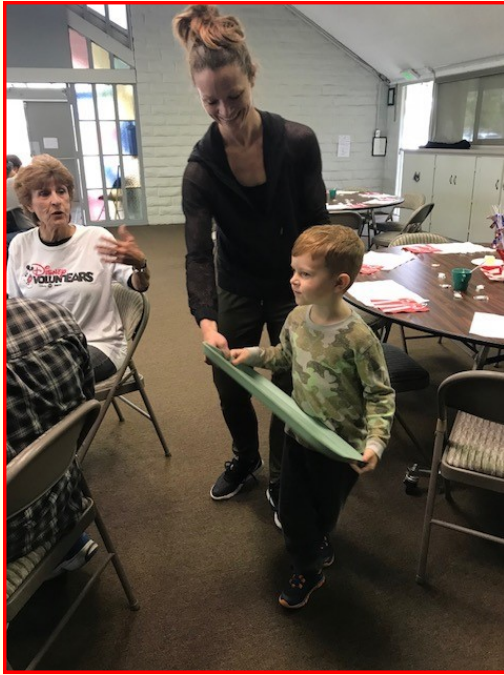
Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we continue our request for food donations we are asking you for your continuing help during June 2018 for **Cereal (any size or flavor), oatmeal any size or kind and can fruits**. Any other food items you wish to donate are always appreciated. There is still a request for **socks and clothing**.

Thanks again for helping to keep our Lutheran Social Service cupboard (Pastor's Pantry in the 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





Thank You to everyone who helped at Judy's Kitchen on Sat May 19th. We served around 40 customers. Members from a local Islamic Church came and helped serve along side Bethlehem members. It was a blessed day" Mark your calendar for Sat. June 16th for the next opportunity to help at Judy's Kitchen.



Greetings from our Pianist, Chris Barron

I would like to thank Bethlehem Lutheran Church for welcoming me so kindly. I really love the flexibility and freedom that you have here even with a liturgical based service. I speak from years of music directing at “mega” type non liturgical churches like Grace Church Los Alamitos (1995-98), Mariners Church Irvine (2000-2013), and seasonally with Stan Endicott at Willow Creek in Illinois, to say that this is a great gift!

My wife, Crystal, and I happen to be old time Los Alamitos residents from our early years of marriage on Green Ave. Then, in Long Beach, we purchased a home and enjoyed 12 years of bringing forth 4 children in a postage stamp sized home, replete with remodels, food gardens, chickens, dogs, a trampoline, and grass that we just couldn't keep alive.

Many blessings later, we have been able to move to El Dorado Park Estates where we can move around freely without bumping into one another. We can even have people over! Now, our kids rule on 3 school campuses in Los Alamitos.

I am and have always been a professional musician; performer, composer, music director, and whatever it takes. My wife is the world's best vocalist and MDH breathing coordination expert. She is currently 1 of 3 people in the US certified to practice this method. MDH is extremely sought after by top vocalists in Europe, and I am proud that Crystal is working closely with the founders as a key player in it's imminent world wide exposure starting right here in Los Alamitos.

My family is what I would call “multi-churched.” It's been a tumultuous spiritual journey, but God is really awesome in how he is allowing us to parent our children and for me to pastor the family. I am thankful that I still have their hearts and minds (as much as an American dad can expect) while we are all still intact.

Chris



Enjoy Your Summer!

Rally Day for Christian Education

will be held on Sunday, September 9th, beginning at 9:00 am.

All ages are welcome!



SAVE THE DATES: July 30 through August 3, 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

3352 Katella Avenue

Los Alamitos, CA 90720



Vacation Bible School: "Incredible Journeys—Jesus, Paul, Moses and Ruth"

Original program and music by Bethlehem's dynamic duo:

Brian Gary and Ken Watson

Join us for a week of Songs, Games, Learning, Playing, Eating and Art Work

Put on a show for Parents and Friends at our Friday Night BBQ 5:30 - 7:30

There's room for all from pre-school through sixth grade.

Share the music learned at our Sunday Worship Service on August 5.

Registration is limited. Cost is \$15.00 per child.

Pre-schoolers (must be potty trained) and Kindergarteners must pre-register.

Registration form on back (forms are also available in the church office).

Registration Form

Vacation Bible School 2018

Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone: (____) _____

Home E-mail Address:

Grade Going Into:

Age:

Birthday:

Siblings Attending VBS:

In case of emergency, contact:

Mother:

Father:

Other: (Relationship to child):

People who may pick up the child:

Food Allergies or Other Medical Conditions: (if child does not have allergies/medical conditions, indicate **NONE**)

Home Church:

Name of a special friend your child might like to be with:

How did you learn about our VBS?

For all participants in VBS: I hereby grant the VBS Camp leaders permission to photograph/film the minor designated on this form, in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program

Parent Initial: _____

For all participants in VBS: I hereby grant the VBS Camp leaders permission to call Emergency Medical personnel in the event my child suffers from an apparent emergency medical condition. VBS leaders will also contact parents/contact persons listed on front of this form.

Parent signature: _____

If you wish the Emergency Medical personnel to advise your doctor(s) please provide contact information:

Phone _____



6/2/1986 Fritz & Shirley Campbell
 6/7/1975 Ken & Christina Watson
 6/16/1990 Brad & Vanessa Stevenson
 6/19/2004 Darren & Sarah Sandvig
 6/23/1956 Bill & Joyce Ritz

6/3/1972 Bob & Andrea Campbell
 6/12/2004 Justin & Kristin Temple
 6/19/1976 Kevin & Nancy Godfrey
 6/21/1958 Paul & Lulu Meyer

6/3 Marsha Egbert	6/3 Margie Reynolds	6/7 Kristin Temple
6/9 Irene Cooper	6/9 Rae Kinney	6/9 Brody Sandvig
6/11 Jennifer Schultz	6/12 Laura Clausen	6/12 David Retrum
6/13 Jared Gustafson	6/19 Paul Scott	6/26 Julie Joplin Brzuska
6/28 Genevieve Jenkins	6/29 Gladyce Ackerman	6/29 Jeff Cooper



Gladyce Ackerman
 Julie Anderson
 Elaine Asbury
 Amy Bachman
 Colleen Bidwell
 Arthur Brandon
 Luelle Buezis
 Andrea Campbell
 Bob Campbell
 Shirley Campbell
 Candice & Brian
 Laurie Carpenter
 Linnea Clayton
 Etta Bjornson Connell
 Irene Cooper
 Maxine Cornwell
 Sara DeWeese
 Keresey Dillon
 Jim Dooley
 Don Dooling

Charlotte Driskill
 Laura Duke
 Roy & Jane Dunlap
 Joan Ebersold
 Sally Ekdahl
 Doug Evans
 Judy Frazier
 Frank Gary
 Ginny Gary
 Katrina Gary
 Dr. Steve Graham
 Bruce Gustafson
 Bill Haglund
 The Halverson Family
 Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 Diana Hayden
 Gaylord Hollister
 Genevieve Jenkins
 Betty Jones
 Dean Kinzel
 Julie Kizziar
 Loyd Lancaster
 Joan Lee
 William Lewis
 Erin Lopez
 Patricia Lueckert

Lawrence Massey
 Jessica McIntire
 Pete Miller
 Sandy Miller
 Mark Mills
 Ethan Mohr
 Tiffany Nen
 Linda Nygard
 Coler Pearce
 Dale Retrum
 Sandy Retrum
 Bill Ritz
 Elaine Schultheis
 Leslie Summers
 Ed Sutton
 Ann Tegtmeier
 Steve Tegtmeier
 Aurora Thayse
 Kirk Von Salzen
 Elisabeth Waddell
 Tom Watkins
 Jerry Whitmore
 Hal Wolfe
 Mitsuko Yamamoto
 Alex Yarbrough
 Margaret Ziegler

Thanks to These People for Serving in June

	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters
6/3	Bruce Gustafson	Charlie Toth	Bruce & Debby Gustafson Vanessa Stevenson Christina Watson	Dale Retrum David Retrum
6/10	Dianna Reynolds	Charlie Toth	Paul Meyer Margie Moeller	Margie Moeller Doris Morrissey
6/17	Brad Stevenson	Charlie Toth	Jim & Susan Martin Dave & Linda Scott	John Buezis John Buezis, Jr
6/24	Jane Clausen	Charlie Toth	Men in Mission	Andrea Campbell Bob Campbell Jim Martin



6/3

6/10 Debby Gustafson

6/17

6/24

6/3 Egbert, Retrum, Sandvig/Watson

6/10 Clausen, Gustafson

6/17 Meyer, Stevenson

6/24 Jones