

Bethlehem Star September 2021



From the Pastor's Desk...

This month is traditionally the time when various church programs, events, groups, and activities would begin. While we are planning to resume some of the regular offerings this fall, we are also paying close attention to the health concerns for our area, should any adjustments need to be made. We are still living in an in-between time, while many things feel like they're returning to the familiar, we also know that the virus and its variants have not been eliminated, thus hampering a full return to the familiar. In this in-between time, I would like to encourage you to consider something in the positive. What is one thing that you would like to see continued as we look towards coming out of the pandemic? What is one thing that you've experienced in this last year and a half that has been good for you that you can see yourself continuing into the future?

There are many things we have grieved during the pandemic, the loss of so many lives, the postponements and cancellations, the missing out on important life moments, the wide-reaching effects that the pandemic has brought to many lives, etc... With all of the things and moments we grieve, there are still moments and things to remember that might be considered positive. Remember early on, when at certain times of the night, folks would gather outside their dwellings and clap and cheer, banging on pots and pans in thankfulness for healthcare and essential workers. Remember a brief online series from actor John Krasinski, called "Some Good News"...that inspired thousands of people to share moments of good news in the midst of such despair. Remember the creative ways in which individuals and groups were inspired to help out others in need, by providing meals and food, necessities, and encouraging notes.

What is one thing that you can carry with you from this challenging time, that can sustain you as we continue to navigate this in-between time? For me, I've held on to hope during this trying time...hope in people, hope in this world, hope that we are never alone, hope that God is with us, ALWAYS. Romans 5:4-5 says *"and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."* My hope for you is that you have hope and have it abundantly.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Bethlehem Lutheran continues to follow current CDC guidelines by recommending the wearing of face masks while gathered indoors at church (worship & fellowship). This is not a mandate but a recommendation, we will continue to monitor guidelines/recommendations and update our protocols as needed. We continue to encourage physical distancing, frequent washing of/sanitizing of hands, and staying home if not feeling well...we want to ensure the health and safety of our community and all who gather at BLC. We continue to record our worship services and make them available online, they can be found on the following platforms:

A) Church Website: www.blcla.org On Homepage, in the "Worship" section and on the separate "Worship page"

B) Church Facebook page: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos

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

Sunday, September 12: Rally Sunday and God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Everyone is invited to join us for a morning of fellowship, worship, and service. There will be an all ages activity in the Fireside Room at 9:00 am, Worship begins at 10:00 am, followed by a time of putting together the Birthday Bag Kits for Lutheran Social Services. You're invited to wear your yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirt or a Thrivent Financial t-shirt to the day's activities. We'll be joining thousands of other folks across the country in participating in a day of service. Please note, these in-person plans are contingent upon the current health guidelines.

Information for Birthday Bag Kits are available in the narthex, please bring donations by Sunday, September 5. If you have any questions, please talk to Andrea Campbell.

Bishop's Gathering for the Son & Surf Conference will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, September 23 at 7:00 pm. This year's theme is "Hopeful Leadership in Changing Times". Bishop Andy Taylor will be leading this time gathered together online. Anyone can participate, there is no cost but you must register ahead of time, you can register by going to the Pacifica Synod website at: www.pacificasynod.org

The ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran are generously supported by your tithes and offerings, we are grateful for your continued donations. Your donations can be brought to the church, mailed in, or you can use PayPal. You'll find the PayPal Donate button on the Homepage of the church website www.blcla.org FYI, PayPal charges a service fee (2.9% + \$0.30) that is deducted from each donation. 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 Paper Rollers with your newspapers, 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.

Weekly Zoom Check-In Meetings: Each Wednesday evening from 7:00-7:30 pm, a group of people gather 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.

Fresh flower bouquets are available to donate towards and dedicate, there are 2 bouquets available each Sunday and can be picked up following the worship service. Please contact the church office by phone or e-mail to participate, you can also check the flower calendar in the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Mark your calendars for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 31, it will be held in the front church parking lot from 2-4 pm. More details to come next month but you can start thinking about how you'll decorate the trunk of your vehicle.

SAVE THE DATE

BETHLEHEM'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND
RECEPTION FOR

BRUCE GUSTAFSON

OCTOBER 23, 2021

MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW



MEN-IN-MISSION MEETING : The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, September 18th, 2021, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue with a study of the **Book of Romans** from The **Master Builders Bible for Men**. The reading for this week will be Chapter 7: 7 - 25 with discussion on verses 7 - 25 / **The Law of Sin**. All men are invited.

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER: The Stewardship Emphasis in preparation for the calendar year 2022 is titled **"Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace."**

It will be based on 1 Peter 4:10 **"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."** The campaign will emphasize how God has blessed us, how we can respond to God's blessings, how this impacts the use of our time, talents and treasure, and finally, what this means to each of us in terms of giving in the future for the ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

This Emphasis will begin Sunday, September 26th, 2021. It will consist of Newsletter and Stewardship articles plus temple talks on four Sunday mornings. It will culminate on **"Harvest Celebration Sunday,"** October 24th, 2021, when we will submit our **Pledge Response Cards** and **Time and Talent Sheets**. Please give prayerful consideration as to how you can best give of your time, talents and financial resources to help Bethlehem meet its mission to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is from your brother in Christ, Rev. Wal Reat



Greetings to you all my news readers

You see the above pictures they all were taken during our evens in different time and different Months. From left to right, that picture was taken in June 2020 in Burebiey, the second picture was taken in October on our way back from the meeting in Jekow, third was from New Year celebration in Jewii camp, fourth one were Gambella choir picture from Christmas day in Kule two refugee camp in Tharpam, the fifth one you can see the red flag with cross and you can see me beating drum that was from Kule two refugee camp at Christmas eve and the six one was Christmas day in Kule two refugee camp in Tharpam.

We celebrate our Lord Jesus's birth day every year and thank God for giving us His Holy Spirit to do His will. Now the life in the camps is very difficult because things are very limited, especially like food, water, places for living like houses are not really good, medical care also is not really supporting in good ways. As you know South Sudan is war country for couple years this is a result of wars, if these people lives in their country they may live good life. But the good thing of this is the adult and elderly people committee themselves to God, they are really good Christians.

You will see some Tukuls were people lives in us their houses and the church gates are made with grasses they may look to you like not a living place for people.

Again, thank God for we reach 2021 the year 2020 has already passed; He will protect us in this 2021 more than last year. May our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen His Church and make all its congregations happier in Jesus name. Amen.



God's work.
Our hands.

We are ready for:

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HAND’S.” Sunday, September 12, 2021!

In case you forgot, this is the servant/project Sunday event that we have celebrated for the past 7 years along with other ELCA churches which total 3.3 million members in nearly 8,900 congregations across the 50 states and Caribbean region. Let me remind you, that our Bethlehem Social Ministry Committee and our Thrivent Action Team members have chosen to help by supplying:

**“BIRTHDAY BAG KITS” for families at:
Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach**

Can you please help by bringing the donated items listed below to church by Friday, Sept. 3, 2021? Monetary gifts will graciously be accepted and our Action Team will do the shopping for you.

With our \$250.00 Grant gift card from Thrivent Financial Services, our Action Team members will be purchasing additional kit items for LSS. After we fill 50 bags, a lite refreshment will be available due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith, President and CEO from Lutheran Social Services-Southern California will join us during worship. Please join with us.

•Wear your yellow “God’s Work Our Hands” T-shirt or the Thrivent Action Team shirt if you have one. Limited new Thrivent shirts are available.

Donations still needed are: can frosting, sprinkles, birthday candles, napkins, balloons, tissue paper, and gift bags (8 1/2 by 11 size).

Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center - Monthly Report



Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

We are asking you again for your continuing help during **September** for: **Cereals and fall food items** in addition to the immediate need below....

items for HOMELESS BAGS WHICH ARE STILL URGENTLY NEEDED DAILY

These items are Cereal, Peanut Butter (small size jars), Cup of Soup, all pop-top lids such as tuna, span, applesauce, jello, puddings, Vienna sausages, Ravioli, Mac & Cheese, soups, canned beans, and granola bars. Even "surprise" food items are welcome.

Continuous donated items of pasta, spaghetti sauces, any kind of individual cookies, bars or candy, individual size cereal bars, diced fruit cups and juice boxes are always appreciated.

Socks (new or gently used) are always needed for men, women, or children.

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



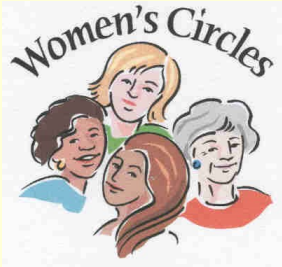
From the Church Council:

This is to let you know that the Council is in the process of reinstituting the Mutual Ministry Committee. This is a group of four persons from our congregation who are available to the pastor, lay professionals and all members of the congregation.

The Committee listens to concerns, provides mediation, and reports any issues requiring action to the Church Council. All communication to the Mutual Ministry Committee is strictly confidential. We look forward to the additional love and support that will soon be available to our church family through the work of the Mutual Ministry Committee.



September
2021



Faith Circle We plan to resume our regular meetings in Fireside on **Tuesday, September 7**, at 9:30 a.m. For questions and details, call Andrea Campbell

Phoebe Circle We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jeanne Sandvig on **Tuesday, September 14**. Jeanne will lead the study. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig



The study is in the current issue of Gather magazine.



Sunday Morning Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.



Join Women of the ELCA on Facebook



Our BBQ on August 10, held at the home of Melissa Sandvig, was attended by 19 women and 6 children. We enjoyed an evening of food and fellowship.

August 5-7 our churchwide organization of Women of the ELCA held their 11th Triennial Convention (2020) via a Zoom meeting for the purpose of election of officers, executive board, and adoption of proposed changes to the Constitution. Over 200 voting members were in attendance and 6 registered guests.

For the 2020-2023 Triennium, the following women were elected: Joy Michalicek (Pres.), Freddie Jordan (VP), Angela Bell (Sec.), Raeann Purcell (Treas.). Executive Board: Laura Krueger, Miranda Searcy, Lori Garcia, Elizabeth Burgess, Yma Mulero, Tracy Williams, Dawn Wicklund, Diane Henning, Jean Pishaw, Lynette Todd, and Jennifer Armstrong.

September 18: Judy's Kitchen at the Congregational Church 10:00 am—12:30 pm

September 26: WELCA Board meeting-Fireside room after service

October 16: 47th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar 8 am - 12 pm

Mark your calendar: Pacifica Women of the ELCA met on August 14 and decided that our **November 5-6** Business Meeting/Gathering will be held via Zoom with the business meeting, for Board and Delegates, on November 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., for election of officers and board members. On November 6, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., a Gathering for all women, via Zoom, with a program to be determined, will be held.

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

WELCA Summer 2021 Barbecue

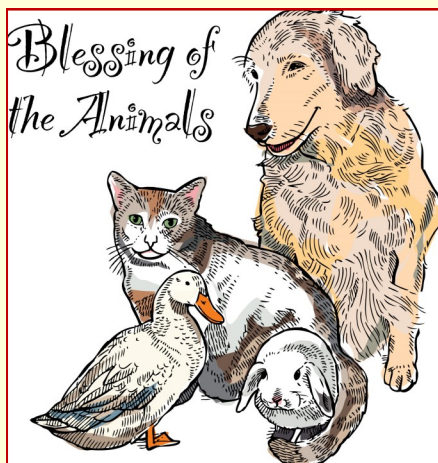




Ice Cream Social July 11th:



More Summer Fun!



Blessing of the Animals will be on Saturday, October 2nd at 10:00 am in the church courtyard. Bring your animal companion for a brief service that gives thanks and honors the animals in our lives. In remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, whose commemoration is October 4, we offer this time of recognition to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. Please bring your animal on a leash or in a carrier to ensure the comfort and safety for all attendees.



47th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Save the date for our next Bethlehem Bazaar

What's changed?

Time: 8:00 a.m. to noon

There will be NO kitchen this year

Volunteers working will have goodies provided

All Junk, whether new or old will be in one location

No electronics bigger than small kitchen appliances

**Larger items can be brought, but if they do not sell
you must pick them up from the church**

We have no outside company picking up the leftovers this year

**We are having the Bakery area – and would love all the help we
can get with baked goods and volunteers to work.**

Questions: See Christina Watson or Dianna Reynolds

SEPTEMBER



9/1	Johanne Hansen	9/6	Heidi Kracy
9/6	Carol Snyder	9/8	Steve Wolfe
9/12	Margaret Ziegler	9/17	Marge Hargrove
9/24	Dale Retrum	9/27	Christina Watson
9/30	Candie Toth		

9/2/2018 Zachary and Randi (Reynolds) Bartels
 9/12/1964 Dick and Johanne Hansen
 9/13/1986 Brian and Ginny Gary



Julie Anderson
 Elaine Asbury
 Amy Bachman
 Kevin Betts
 Kate & Steve
 John Buezis
 Fritz Campbell
 Shirley Campbell
 Caren Cantafio
 Laurie Carpenter
 Linnea Clayton
 Irene Cooper
 Maxine Cornwell
 Sara DeWeese

Katrina Gary
 Marge Hargrove
 Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 Diana Hayden
 Gaylord Hollister
 Jason Jackson
 Genevieve Jenkins
 Betty Jones
 Dean Kinzel
 Julie Kizziar
 Barbara Krause
 Joan Lee
 William Lewis
 Erin Lopez
 Patricia Lueckert
 John Maio
 Jessica McIntire
 Pete Miller

Ethan Mohr
 Coler Pearce
 Retta Rasmussen
 Shary Reed
 Dale Retrum
 Sandy Retrum
 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