



Bethlehem Star



From the Pastor's Desk...

"I am about to do a new thing;..." (Isaiah 43:19) There are many places in scripture that reference a "new thing", the new thing might be a new place or commandment or person or promise. The new thing signals a shift, a change; sometimes it's dramatic, sometimes it's more subtle. The task force for resuming in-person worship has been busy with gathering information, forming plans, and making recommendations to the council for approval. We anticipate moving forward in the near future in all of these tasks, so that we can gather within the current directives for in-person worship...when recommendations have been approved and a start date set, a letter will be sent out sharing all of the pertinent information. But for now...I invite you to think about "new things."

While we will be returning to a familiar space that is Bethlehem Lutheran, there will be many "new things" that we will all have to adjust to, myself included. I want you to prepare yourself for these "new things" and know that while they may be new and perhaps even unwanted, they are being carried out to follow guidelines and to keep all of us safe, therefore caring for one another.

You may be asked to park in a different lot and space than you are used to, you will be asked to sign-up ahead of time to attend worship, wear a mask, have your temperature taken, sit in a designated space, there most likely will not be congregational singing or spoken responses, you will be asked to leave worship in a prompt manner, there will not be coffee fellowship....SO MANY NEW THINGS! And while these are not things you may be used to when you come to worship, please know that all of these "new things" are done with your safety and health in mind.

I want to further invite you to think about how in all of these expectant new things, you might experience the familiar. Seeing familiar faces, hearing familiar words, being in a familiar space...how might all of the "new" faithfully interact with the "familiar"? We have all had to do and experience "new things", some of them not by our own choice yet there can also be hopeful promise in the new...may the God of "new things" expand our capacity to accept new things that come our way and be challenged to process the new into the familiar. We will keep you up to date on the new things happening here at BLC for in-person worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Confirmation Sunday is Reformation Sunday, October 25. We will celebrate with our 3 students and their families as they gather for worship on this day, the service will be recorded so that you can participate by viewing the service from your home. Since the service will be recorded on that Sunday at 10:00 am, it won't be available to view until later that morning...you'll be able to view the service from the usual digital platforms. Aiden, Alannah, and Asher will be sharing their faith statements and confirming their baptismal vows as young people of faith. They have spent nearly the past 3 years in classes learning and discussing some of the tenets of the Christian faith, as well as learning more about Luther's Small Catechism. Confirmation Sunday was originally scheduled for this past May but due to the pandemic, we postponed and are so excited that Reformation Sunday will be the day to bear witness to these young people affirming their Christian faith. While we wish that the whole church could gather in the sanctuary to participate in this service, we are planning to have only the 3 students and their families present, along with a few volunteers. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this special service.

We continue to record weekly worship services and even when 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. 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"

Worship Volunteers: If you would like to assist with worship in any of the following ways: sing hymns, musical offerings, read scripture, please talk to Pastor Jennifer. It's been great to have volunteer participation, either recorded at church or from home.

Resuming In-Person Worship and Activities: The task force met last week and we continue to move ahead in preparation for resuming in-person worship, although we do not have a date yet. We need volunteers who are willing to help with some tasks before, during, and after in-person services. We figure we'll need 8-12 volunteers to help with a variety of tasks (including but not limited to parking lot attendants, check-in, set-up, clean-up, etc.). We are also hoping to have volunteers serve for 2-3 weeks, as we anticipate resuming in-person worship on a trial basis at first. Training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering and/or would like more information, please contact Pastor Jennifer.



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.

The ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran are generously supported by your tithes and offerings, we are grateful for your continued donations. 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 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.



“Empowered by God – Responding by Grace”

“Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you – so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking” (2 Cor. 8:7).

We who are Christians have been empowered by God. Through faith in Christ, we experience God’s power and realize afresh that God owns everything. God is our Source! On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He “richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment” (1 Tim. 6:17).

As we are empowered by God, we respond by grace. Like the Macedonian Christians, we begin by first giving ourselves to the Lord. When that happens, our resources – which are gifts on loan to us from God – will follow.

First, there is the matter of our time. Time is like a giant bank account into which God daily deposits 86,400 seconds. How we use our time reveals where we have placed our priorities. We can consume those precious moments on ourselves and our pleasures or we can use them for God’s glory in ministry to others. The choice is up to us.

The same thing is true concerning our talents. However God has gifted us, what is of utmost importance is for us to use our talents in the Lord’s work. The outreach of the Gospel in this ministry is made possible only as God’s people do just that.

Finally, there is the matter of our treasure. Perhaps more than anything else, how we use our money reflects what is really important to us. In fact, as we review the record of how we have spent the financial resources God has entrusted to us in the past few months, we will have a powerful testimony of that which we value most.

As you consider your life during this time of stewardship emphasis, will you – like the Macedonian Christians – excel in the “grace of giving” by first giving yourself to the Lord? Will you respond by grace through giving your time, talents and treasure for God’s glory in this ministry? Will you then covenant with God by faith to give in the coming months as God provides, even if you do not know the source of the funds?

Please ask God to give you specific direction concerning what you should give. Then, please complete the My 2021 Pledge Card which is included with this brochure and bring it with you to the worship service on “Harvest Celebration Sunday,” October 25, 2020.

Thank you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for your faithful financial support in the past. Thank you as well for being “Empowered by God” and for “Responding by Grace” here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Stewardship Emphasis Begins in September

The Stewardship Emphasis in preparation for the calendar year 2021 is titled **“Empowered by God - Responding by Grace.”** It will be based on 2 Cor. 8:7 **“Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.”** 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.

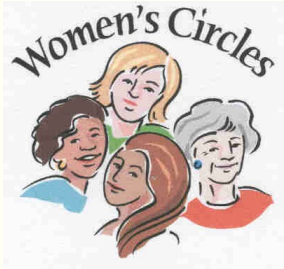
This Emphasis will begin Sunday, September 27th, 2020. It will consist of Newsletter and Stewardship articles plus temple talks on four Sunday mornings. It will culminate on **“Harvest Celebration Sunday,”** October 25th, 2020, when we will submit our **Pledge Response Cards** and **Time and Talent Sheets**.

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.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)



October 2020



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, October 6 (**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**), at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Debby Gustafson. Pastor Jennifer is scheduled to lead the Gather 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.



November 7, 2020 Save the Date Pacifica Synod WELCA will host a Zoom event in place of the 33rd Annual Convention and Gathering, which has been postponed until November 2021. More details to follow.



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,

Thank You to all for your help with Bethlehem's outreach ministry during these trying times. We are here to serve and love our neighbors.

As we continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2020. We are asking you for your continuing help during October for Cracker packets with cheese or peanut butter, tuna and crackers and granola or cereal bars. These items are a few of those needed to fill the homeless kits.

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 coming 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





OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/14 Lois DeForest
 10/18 Diana Campbell
 10/22 Eric Dobberteen
 10/26 Krissy Retrum
 10/27 Allison Warnock

10/1 Frank Gary
 10/8 Janice Hunt
 10/12 Jack Campbell
 10/15 Betty Jones
 10/20 BJ Stevenson
 10/23 Pam Tipich
 10/27 Joyce Payne
 10/27 Sharon Zarkos

10/7 Jane Clausen
 10/9 James Toth
 10/13 Sienna Martin
 10/18 Sigrun Borneo
 10/21 Erin Warnock
 10/24 Alicia Buezis
 10/27 Charlie Toth
 10/31 Becca DeSautel

10/13/2012 Jay & Diana Campbell

10/15/2010 John & Caroline Sisk



In Our Hearts & Prayers

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

