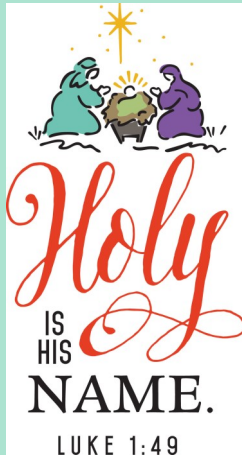


# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## December 2017



The season of Advent begins Sunday, December 3 and part of our tradition of observing and marking this season is the Advent Wreath. Each week, a candle will be lit, a reading shared, and the singing of an Advent hymn. Pastor Jennifer is still looking for a few more volunteers willing to read the prepared the reading and light the corresponding candle at Sunday worship. Individuals, Couples, and Families are welcome to sign-up, please sign-up in the office or talk to Pastor Jennifer if you are interested or have any questions.

We will be communing every Sunday during Advent by intinction. As we anticipate the birth of Christ during the Advent season, we are reminded of Christ's presence with us in the bread and wine of communion.

Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17 during 10:00 am worship. Come hear and see the children share the Christmas message.

Worship on Sunday, December 24

10:00 am – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve with candlelight  
(a communion service)

### December Greetings from Pastor Jennifer,

Waiting...with the first Sunday of Advent, we begin the season of waiting. The people of God waited for a very long time for the Messiah, the promised one. As Christians, we continue to wait, we wait for the time when Christ will come again.

In this season of Advent, we wait for many things in many areas of our lives. How is it that we wait? Do we wait in patience, frustration, expectation, boredom, longing, optimism? It is not always easy to wait and sometimes how we wait is dependent on what we are waiting for.

For the next four weeks, we wait with growing anticipation as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, the Word made flesh, God incarnate. As we prepare for various other things in our lives, perhaps moreso in this season, we still wait while we prepare for Christmas.

While the society and culture we live in has been preparing us for Christmas for several weeks now, we in the church, take the time to observe and mark time as we wait in this Advent season. With intentional waiting, we light candles one at a time on the wreath, we hear again Scriptures that speak of hope in the midst of darkness, we sing new and familiar melodies that remind us of God's presence.

My hope and prayer for each of you is to experience God's peace as we pause and wait in this season...we know Christmas is coming yet we wait with expectant hearts in Advent.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer



Pastor Jennifer will be hosting an Open House and you're all invited. Sunday, December 3 from 2-5 pm at 3441 Cortese Dr. In Rossmoor. Come for a time of fellowship and refreshments, a respite from the hustle and bustle of the season.

Adult Sunday School will meet on December 3, 10, 17 at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room, we are wrapping up our classes using the book "By Heart" and our final conversations will be on "The Sacrament of the Altar" and "Daily Prayer and the Household Chart." Adult Sunday School will not meet on December 24 and 31.

The Hanging of the Greens, also known as decorating the church, for the Advent Season will be on Saturday, December 9th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please come and join the members of the Parish Life Committee for the decorating party. Coffee and refreshment will be served. Come and stay as long as you can, most of the time we are finished by 11:30 a.m. We have two trees to decorate, garlands and wreaths to hang. See you on the 9th!



**Men-In-Mission:** The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue our study of the Gospel of John from the Master Builders Bible for Men. The reading for this week will be Chapter 11:45 thru Chapter 13:17 with discussion on verses 13:1-17, the Washing of Feet.

**Christmas Caroling** - You are invited to share the Christmas spirit this season by singing familiar carols at a couple of different locations.

**Saturday, December 9** - VA Hospital (Spinal Cord Injury Center) in Long Beach. Meet at 12:30 pm in the front parking lot of the church and we'll caravan together. Any questions, please talk to Ron Clausen.

**Sunday, December 10** - Meet at 4:00 pm at Katella Manor (3952 Katella Ave) in the lobby and we'll share some songs with the residents. We'll also have a brief time of fellowship with the residents, please bring a plate of holiday goodies to share. Any questions, please talk to Christina Watson.

The 2018 Church Council will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 31st.  
(Officers and committee assignments will be determined at the December Council meeting)

**Your 2018 Council:** Jim Brandon, Lana Dieter, George Egbert, Bill Lindell  
Susan Martin, Dale Retrum, Ann Tegtmeier, Richard Toth  
Pastor Jennifer Schultz

## Holiday Angel Tree

All church members are invited to participate in our Holiday Angel Tree donation drive this year. All gifts donated will support local low income children from the Boys & Girls Club of Cypress.



To participate, take a candy cane off of the tree in the narthex; each candy cane has a gift tag with a child's name and the gift they would like for Christmas. Then return the gift wrapped with the tag taped on it by Sunday, December 17th.

Contact Erika Gary with any questions.



Thank you for your generosity!



Please help decorate our chancel area with poinsettias for our Christmas services.

To order poinsettias, please fill out this form and use a pew envelope (mark it "poinsettia") for payment and place it in the offering plate, mail, or bring it to the church office. The cost per plant is \$10.00. All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

NAME OF DONOR: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEDICATION WISHES**

PLACED IN: \_\_\_\_ MEMORY

\_\_\_\_ HONOR or CELEBRATION

OF: \_\_\_\_\_

You may pick up your plant(s) **after** the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service or during the following week. Poinsettias that are remaining will be given to our homebound members or to a local convalescent home.





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

Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we end our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2017 we are asking you for your continuing help during December for CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FOOD items on the list below. Let's see if we can stuff our Narthex Food Pantry full of food items.

LSS is so happy to greet and receive the food items and warm clothing and scarfs. In addition, they still have an immediate need for more Socks (gently used OK) for adults and children of all ages. Any warm jackets also needed. Cereal and peanut butter always needed every day.

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



### ***Holiday Needs:***

***Canned Sweet Potatoes, Yams***

***Canned Gravy***

***Turkey Stuffing***

***Macaroni & Cheese***

***Canned Fruit, Vegetables (Corn & Green Beans)***

***Box Potatoes/Rice***

***Marshmallow Bags***

***Canned Ham & Spam, Corn Beef Hash***

***Cranberry Sauce***

***Canned Pumpkin***



# Social Ministry Committee invites you to:



## FUNdraising has never been so delicious

So  
Please JOIN with us  
for  
**PIZZA with a purpose**  
on  
Monday, December 11, 2017  
at  
California Pizza Kitchen Restaurant  
12171 Seal Beach Blvd. Seal Beach, CA  
from  
11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Please bring with you the special California Pizza Kitchen FLYER (received at church or printed in newsletter or call church) and present flyer to your server.

# Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

**FUNdraiser in support of:**

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Monday, December 11th, 2017**

**Thank you for the support.**

**We can't wait to see you.**

**11:00AM-9:30PM**

**Valid at the following location:**

**California Pizza Kitchen**

**12171 Seal Beach Blvd.**

**Seal Beach, CA 90740**

**562-430-2695**

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at **cpk.com** and receive a **free Small Plate** for registering.



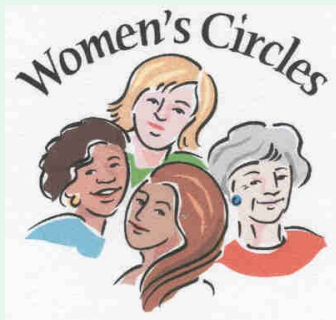
FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profits schools are eligible to participate in CPK's FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Not valid for delivery orders. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.



December 2017



Gather Study  
**JOY TO THE WORLD**  
God in Christ is for all humanity



FAITH Circle No meeting in December. See you at the Christmas Gathering! For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard

PHOEBE Circle No meeting in December. See you at the Christmas Gathering!

For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig. All Women of Bethlehem are welcome.



**Sunday Morning Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to FAITH Circle for providing coffee for the month of NOVEMBER. MEN IN MISSION is responsible for December.

THANKS to those who provided desserts for Thanksgiving Eve, set up and cleaned up. It was much appreciated!

**Women's 2017 Theme**  
**"Grace and Goals"**

**WELCA's Calendar of Events**



**December 3 WELCA 2018 Board installation during worship.**

**December 5 WELCA Christmas Gathering at Sarah Sandvig's 2971 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos at 7:00 p.m. Sign up for sweet or savory treats and bring your Love Gifts for LSS and Seafarers. Offerings will be collected. See you for food, fellowship, and carols.**



**December 24 Worship at 10:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m.**

*Check out Pacifica Partners on line*

[www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org)

*click on news & events*

Join the Pacifica Synod

Women of the ELCA On Facebook



## International Seafarer's Center and Lutheran Maritime Ministry

Did you know.....The International Seafarer's Center started in 1982 in a bus reaching out to Merchant Seafarers, much in the same way as the USO did to the military during the world wars.

Now, they are a non-profit organization with a 13 member board of directors , located on South Pico Ave. in the center of the Port of Long Beach. The center has a large common room complete with a ping pong table, pool table, separate T.V. and reading room, computer and telephone room, chapel and small store.

This center serves seafarers from Noon-10 p.m. six days a week and is run by two women and many volunteers. They have four vans that pick the merchant seamen up from the ships and bring them to the center (at no charge to them) and take them shopping at local stores if they desire. At the center they can enjoy complimentary refreshments and browse through the "back room" where they can take a jacket, pants, shoes and anything else they need, also at no charge.

Now I want you to close your eyes and think of yourself back home. Practically everything you picture in your mind's eye (furniture, knickknacks on shelves, food, and clothing) came to us by these huge ships. At any given time there are 60-80 ships in port. Long Beach is the largest port in the U.S, the third largest in the world. A crew of only 21-24 men and sometimes women run these ships. They are paid below poverty level salary. The top pay is around \$800.00 a month for a 12 hour, often dangerous, day.

The seafarers come from all countries around the world; places you have heard of like Russia, Bulgaria, China, and Indonesia and places you haven't heard of like Tuvalu and Kiribati located in the South Seas. These people are away from their families for up to ten months at a time. But to them it is a way to support their family (which may include parents, grandparents as well as their wives and children). Often there is no work available in their homeland and they are forced to work long hard hours on these freighters.

So where does the Lutheran Maritime Ministry come in, you ask? Well at the 2000 Pacifica W.E.L.C.A Convention, Chaplain Virginia Sharma spoke to the women about the International Seafarer's Center and explained that the Lutheran Ministry reaches out to seafarers of all nations and cultures with Christian Witness and Word, meeting personal needs and encouraging spiritual growth. This is where your donations come in. At Christmas time over 2,000 gift bags are assembled and distributed to the seafarers. The Lutherans are the main providers of the items that make up these "gift bags".

We spent several evenings last year putting the bags together and had the opportunity to meet some of these amazing people. These are the only gifts they will receive at Christmas. I will be going to the center on Wed. Dec. 13th, anyone interested in taking the donations and joining in a potluck dinner at the center, please let Christina know by December 7th.

Imagine yourself in a strange country where no one speaks your language, you are away from your loved ones and you can't even communicate that you need toothpaste. In a small but important way the International Seafarer's Center in conjunction with the Lutheran Maritime Ministry (of which we are all a part) can bring some joy to these deserving men and women.

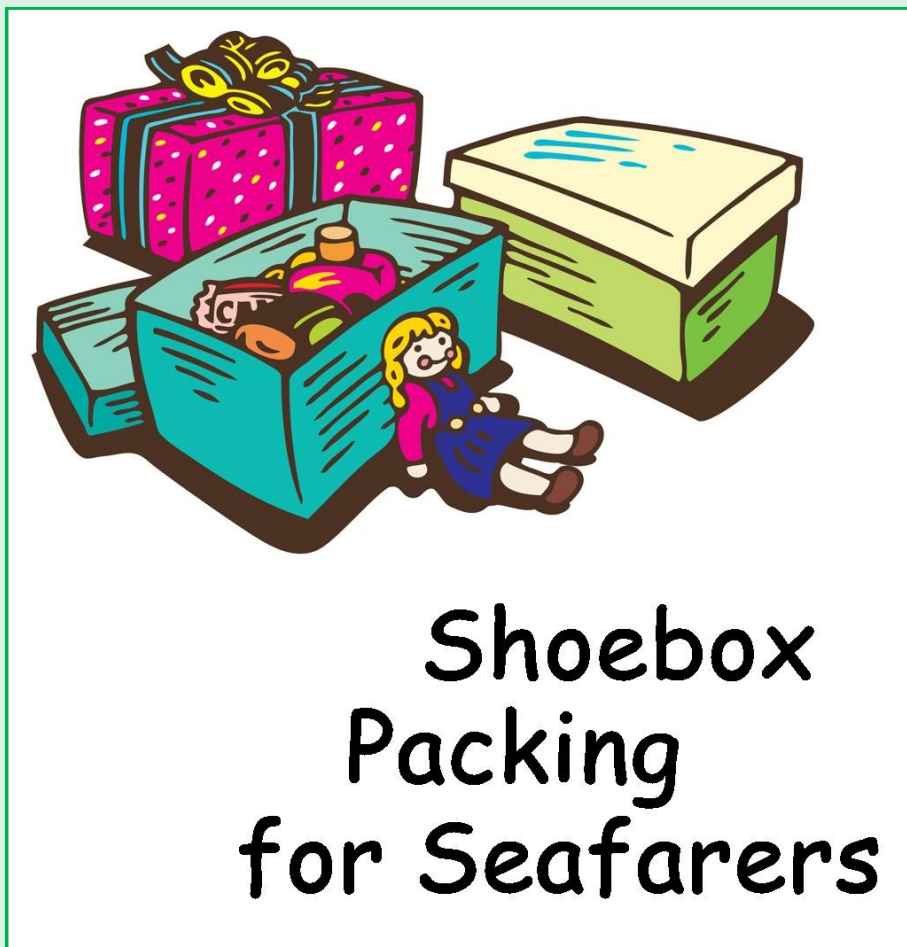
Thank you for all of your contributions. (See below)

Christina Watson, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Volunteer, International Seafarer's Center

Seafarer's Christmas "Shoe Box" Gift: Recommended gift items in each box: Shampoo (full size) Toothpaste (full size) Pens, any kind Tooth brush in package Disposable razors Chewing gum Men's white socks (doesn't have to be tube style) Wrapped hard candy Wrapped chocolate candy, any size Top Ramen (flat package) Nail clippers/nail files/emery boards

If you cannot make up a whole box, any contributions will be appreciated. Call Christina Watson at (562) 431-1112 if you have any questions or you can contact the center directly at (562) 432-7560 and ask for Pat or MaryJo. Address: 120 South Pico Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802-6247

Please join us for a potluck supper and Christmas Bag stuffing  
at the International Seafarer Center (Lutheran Maritime Mission)



## Shoebox Packing for Seafarers

When: Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

Time: Meet at Christina Watson's Home to carpool at 6pm

Bring: Dish to share (6-8 people). I will provide chicken pieces, paper goods and beverages.

Please R.S.V.P. to me, Christina, by December 10<sup>th</sup>

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

Over the past year there have been a number of incidents involving Churches and their congregations, namely Individuals targeting congregations that have resulted in both death and injuries. This is something with which I am keenly aware, and hope to prepare Bethlehem Lutheran Church for such an incident and additionally encourage/prepare members of the congregation and their families for any type of emergency. Remember that emergencies happen without notice, and the best we can do is plan for them.

With that end in sight I have discussed this with Pastor Jennifer and we believe that as a congregation we should evaluate and prepare ourselves for any emergency. On January 14, 2018 we would like to have a meeting after church, with light refreshments, to discuss emergency plans for our church and families. Many of these plans can also be carried over to everyday life. It is not the intention of this discussion to alarm you, but to prepare each and every one of you, and your families to cope with any emergency in the home, workplace, public places and the church.

Here are some website where you can view at your leisure showing you Active Shooter Drills that may help you prepare for these particular situation. Which I hope never happens, but we should be aware of what to do in the event these do occur wherever your are:

Active Shooter Drills:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department - Active Shooter Drill:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFQ-oxhdFjE>

Church Security:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxbR9x4rnts>

Thank you,  
Fritz Campbell



12/23/1967 Gary & Liz Nehrenberg  
 12/28/1974 Eric & Cheri Dobberteen

12/2 Joan Ebersold	12/3 Ginny Gary	12/3 Vanessa Stevenson
12/8 Bill Ritz	12/9 Alex Carillo	12/12 Katrina Gary
12/14 Doug Wolfe	12/18 Dawn Rentch	12/23 John Hunt
12/23 Richard Toth	12/25 Jeanne Sandvig	12/30 J.R. Anderson
12/30 Lulu Meyer		



Gladyce Ackerman

Julie Anderson

Elaine Asbury

Amy Bachman

Colleen Bidwell

Arthur Brandon

Luelle Buezis

Elinor Blum

Andrea Campbell

Bob Campbell

Candice & Brian

Laurie Carpenter

Bob Chambers

Linnea Clayton

Etta Bjornson Connell

Irene Cooper

Maxine Cornwell

Sara DeWeese

Keresey Dillon

Jim Dooley

Don Dooling

Laura Duke

Joan Ebersold

Doug Evans

Judy Frazier

Frank Gary

Ginny Gary

Katrina Gary

Dr. Steve Graham

Bruce Gustafson

Bill Haglund

The Halverson Family

Janet Harris

Joe Harris

The Hashimoto Family

Diana Hayden

Gaylord Hollister

Genevieve Jenkins

Betty Jones

Dean Kinzel

Julie Kizziar

Linda Lange

Joan Lee

William Lewis

Erin Lopez

Patricia Lueckert

Lawrence Massey

Jessica McIntire

Pete Miller

Sandy Miller

Mark Mills

Ethan Mohr

Linda Nygard

Coler Pearce

Dale Retrum

Bill Ritz

Jason Sakowski

Valerie Sanchez

Elaine Schultheis

Charlotte Sohl

Leslie Summers

Ed Sutton

Joyce Tarver

James Taylor

Ann Tegtmeier

Steve Tegtmeier

Alyssa & Jurrian Terpstra

Hank Van Zant

Kirk Von Salzen

Elisabeth Waddell

Tom Watkins

Jerry Whitmore

Hal Wolfe

Mitsuko Yamamoto

Alex Yarbrough

Margaret Ziegler



## Thanks to These People for Serving in December

	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters
12/3	Vanessa Stevenson	Dick Hansen	Bette Fritz, Terry Morriss Linda Scott Brad Stevenson	Caryl Harris Joyce Payne
12/10	Bill Lindell	Dick Hansen	David, Brooklyn & Samantha Retrum Pam Tipich, Christina Watson	Dale Retrum David Retrum
12/17	Jim Martin	Dick Hansen	George & Marsha Egbert	Marjorie Moeller Doris Morrissey
12/24	Bruce Gustafson	Dick Hansen	Paul Meyer	Andrea Campbell Bob Campbell
12/24 7:00 pm			Paul Meyer Dianna Reynolds	Lulu Meyer Paul Meyer
12/31	Marsha Egbert	Dick Hansen	John & Janice Hunt	Charlotte Driskill Jim Martin



12/3 Marianne Sakowski  
 12/10 Debby Gustafson  
 12/17 Marge Hargrove  
 12/24 Christina Watson  
 12/31



Altar Flowers

12/3 Stevenson, Wolfe  
 12/10 Egbert, Ritz, Roop  
 12/17 Gary, Toth  
 12/24 Sandvig, Stevenson  
 12/31 Hansen, Meyer