

Bethlehem Star

February 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Created for Community" will be our theme for this year's Lenten mid-week worship services (look for more specific information in this month's newsletter). I feel like I've said the following phrase more times in the last several months than I ever have before, "We're trying something new and different". Indeed, I say it again, in reference to this year's Lenten Wednesday worship services. BLC will be participating with a few other churches in recorded services for the 5 Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday. You'll have the opportunity to see and hear from other churches, their volunteers and pastors; as we collectively create an expanded worship community, we will be reminded of the larger community we are a part of in southern CA and around the world as well.

These past several months, we have all reexamined what community looks like and how we interact. Community in February 2021 may feel very different than community in February 2020 did, for in March 2020, many of our lives changed dramatically and so quickly. Community continues to feel very different, for community has become physically and socially distanced, community has become increasingly "virtual" with time gathered around our screens (computer, cell phone, television). These new realities of community have not been without challenges and frustrations yet there is also gift and joy in new appreciation of what community is and means to us.

The word, "community", is not new to our understanding as it relates to our shared Christian faith, it is part of our history, it is a part of our current story, and will certainly be in our future as well. We, as people of faith, are indeed created for community and that community is to continually expand. The good news of Jesus isn't for a select few or contained to one geographical region, it never was and never should be. The faith community is ever expanding and while our recent understanding and experience of community seems more limited, we trust that we are still created for community, to be in relationship with one another and with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Indeed "we're trying something new and different" with this year's midweek Lenten worship services and I hope that you will be actively engaged in this expanded community of faith and worship. I look forward to participating in these Lenten services and to hear about your experiences in participating in them. For we are all created for community, sometimes that community, even the faith community, may look and feel "new and different." A blessed beginning to our Lenten experience.

Peace,
Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Worship Recordings: We are grateful for your continued support as we have moved back to recording our worship services. We were happy to hold a few inside in-person worship services and we know that when we are able to do so again, we will be ready to do so. We continue to follow current health guidelines and have returned to recording our worship services and making them available on our digital platforms. We thank you for watching, participating, supporting, and sharing our services. You can view our current and past services 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"

Women's Circle Zoom Meeting: All women are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting for our February Bible Study. The meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 pm. Pastor Jennifer will be our leader, if you'd like to participate, please e-mail her at prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com by Tuesday, February 8, as she will send out the meeting sign-in information. Please note that this month's Bible Study is in the January/February edition of Gather magazine, we'll be using Session 2. If you'd like to participate but don't have the Gather magazine (Bible Study is included in this magazine), please contact Pastor Jennifer and she will mail you a copy, please allow a couple of days to receive it in the mail. We hope you will join us for a time of conversation and prayer.

Ash Wednesday: At this time, we don't anticipate being able to gather for in-person worship by Ash Wednesday, February 17...we will record a worship service for you to view that day on our regular digital platforms. We are offering a few options to receive ashes in observation of Ash Wednesday: 1) Drive-thru ashes will be available in the back parking lot on Wednesday, February 17 at 2 separate times, 12 pm - 1 pm and 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. You will remain in your car (masked please) and Pastor Jennifer will mark your brow with ashes while masked and gloved with a long Q-tip. 2) Small packets of ashes, along with instructions, will be available to pick up in the narthex beginning Monday, February 15 - Wednesday, February 17 during regular office hours and may be used in your home. 3) If you are not able to get to the church, e-mail or call Pastor Jennifer and arrangements can be made to get some to you...please notify her by Wednesday, February 12. While we certainly wish we could gather for in-person worship to begin the Lenten season together, we hope the various offerings of ashes and the recorded service will provide a meaningful opportunity to worship on this year's Ash Wednesday.

Shared Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship: We will be participating with other churches in shared worship services for 5 midweek Lenten services, February 24 - March 24. The overall theme is "Created for Community" and each week, there will be a more focused theme including "In community with: creation, all the saints, our neighbor, those on the margins, with Christ." There will be a new service each week and will be available to view on Wednesday afternoons. Participating churches include: Emanuel Lutheran in La Habra, First Lutheran/the Table in Fullerton, Whittier Presbyterian/Salem Lutheran, St Paul Lutheran in Fullerton, and Bethlehem.

Wednesday Zoom Check-In: Everyone is invited to participate in this weekly time of checking in with one another, reading scripture, and prayer time. We will meet on Wednesday, February 3rd and Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm on Zoom (we will not meet during Lent, February 17th through March 24th). If you haven't participated yet but would like to, please e-mail Pastor Jennifer at prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com so she can send you the log-in information. These meetings usually are between 20-30 minutes in length and it's a wonderful time to see and hear from our church family.

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.

Tithes and Offerings: Check out the church at website www.blcla.org and you will find that you can give electronically to the church through Paypal or Debit or Credit Card. You'll find the Paypal Donate button on the Homepage. FYI, PayPal charges a service fee (2.9% + \$0.30) that is deducted from each donation. We are grateful for your continued generous support of BLC's ministries. Your financial gifts sustain these ministries of BLC and beyond. We continue to receive your financial gifts through the mail, in person, and now electronically through PayPal.

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 Jun 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.

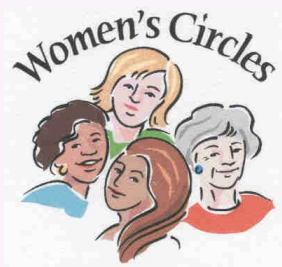
But the good thing of this is the adult and elderly people committee themselves to God, they are really good Christians.

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.

This is your brother in Christ, Rev: Wal Reat

February 2021



Faith Circle We have been invited to join Phoebe Circle for their Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 9, contact Pastor Jennifer for the meeting information. 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, February 9. 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.



February 17, Ash Wednesday, Wednesday evening Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m.



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

Join the Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA
On Facebook



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

W.E.L.C.A. 2021 Calendar at a glance

January 12	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host Christina Leader
January 23	Pacifica Zoom meeting 1 pm Pastor Gloria Espeseth leading the study
February 9	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host and Leader
March 9	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host and Leader
April 13	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host, Erika Gary Leader
May TBD	May Ladies Day Program-(If permitted) 11:30 am – 2 pm Bachman Hall-If we can meet in person
June 8	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6 pm:30 Pastor Jennifer Host Christina Leader
June 19	Judy's Kitchen-Congregational Church 10:00 am – 12:30 pm If permitted.
August TBD	W.E.L.C.A. Bar BQ – Location TBD – 6pm If permitted Tri-Annual Gathering Phoenix, AZ TBD
September 14 18	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host Jeanne Leader Judy's Kitchen-Congregational Church 10:00 am – 12:30 pm If permitted.
October 12 21	Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host and Leader 47 th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar 8 am – 1 pm (If permitted)
November 5-6 7 9 24	34 st Annual Pacifica Women of the ELCA Gathering – Details TBA General & Bazaar Expenditures Meeting with Election of Officers for 2022 Phoebe and Faith Circle Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Pastor Jennifer Host and Leader Thanksgiving Eve Dessert - All Bethlehem Women
December 5 7	W.E.L.C.A. Board Installation during the Sunday Worship Service W.E.L.C.A. Christmas Gathering 7 pm Location TBD General Meeting & Budget Approval

Please note: If you are interested in leading a bible study, please contact Andrea, Jeanne or Christina It is fun to lead a study! Your sister in Christ, Christina

1/18/2021

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



Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we continue in this New Year let us please continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2021. We are asking you for your continuing help during February for **Pasta, any kind and can fruit**. Continuous donated items of soups, canned items of any kind, including individual sizes (apple sauces) are always appreciated along with **warm clothes, jackets, sweats, gloves, scarfs, and socks (new or gently used) 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



FEBRUARY



2/7	Sarah Sandvig	2/9	Julie Anderson
2/15	Jim Brandon	2/19	Aiden Sandvig
2/23	David Sakowski	2/28	Luelle Buezis

2/14/1960	John and Janice Hunt
2/25/1995	Jim Brandon and Carol Snyder



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
 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
 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

