



Bethlehem Star June 2020

From the Pastor's Desk...

As many of our lives and the daily news continues to be dominated by Covid-19, you may find yourself growing weary of it all. Weary of the regular reports, weary of the still concerning statistics, weary of remaining at home, weary of wearing a mask and/or gloves, weary of feeling restricted, weary of (fill in the blank)... It is a weary time and as things start to change around the world in response, as well as in our own communities with moving into different phases, we may still feel weary and perhaps wary, as we make decisions as to how to move forward.

Along with continued discussion of different phases, the church and in-person worship has been a recent focus (in the news)...the truth is, the discussions of in-person worship and activities/events at the church have been taking place for several weeks already and will continue to be so. And as more businesses and opportunities start to "open-up" in our communities, the natural question is "what about the church, when will the church re-open?" I have two direct responses: 1. The church has not been "closed". 2. We don't know.

1. The church has not been closed...yes, we have suspended in-person worship, activities/events, and outside groups for the past few months but we have not completely closed our doors. The church office is open for its regular office hours. Pastor Jennifer is available to communicate with folks via phone, e-mail, Zoom, Facetime, etc... We continue to receive donations for LSS and our wonderful volunteers continue to deliver those donations. Lutheran Social Services has seen a dramatic increase in folks in need of assistance, non-perishable food items and clothing continue to be needed (especially gently used and clean or new socks). There are several volunteers who continue to serve the church, some on site using appropriate precautions and others from their homes utilizing technology. We continue to receive mail, e-mail, and phone calls at the church. Some groups from church continue to meet, via phone and/or Zoom. We continue to provide weekly opportunities for worship through our recorded services and weekly Zoom check-ins with one another. The church is definitely not closed but it is certainly different. We continue to learn, adjust, and make decisions that live out Jesus' call to love and serve one another. Covid-19 has not and will not shutter the Gospel, nor does it shutter the church, the body of Christ.

2. We don't know when we will gather again for in-person worship and activities/events. There continues to be much conversation within our own congregation, as well as in the Synod and Churchwide offices of the ELCA, along with the local, state, and national government and health officials. The council will not rush into any decision or setting of a date as to when we will gather again, in-person. We all miss being together, for what we understand as "normal or usual", we miss the sight of familiar faces, the recognition of one another's voices, the gestures of handshakes and hugs, the comfort of worshipping together, the conversations and fellowship...there are so many things we miss and while we anticipate that time when we can gather again, we are growing increasingly aware that whenever that day is, there will be unfamiliarity accompanying it. At this point, there is anticipation that we will not be able to safely go back to what we view as "normal and usual", adjustments will most likely be made, new protocols and precautions observed, and while we may mourn what "used to be", we trust that God is making a new way. A new way for God's church, for God's people, to be church with one another, in our communities. We don't know exactly what that will look like yet or when the date will be but we will continue to work towards that and we will certainly celebrate. There is still much we do not know yet we know that God is with us and will lead and inspire us together, as church, as God's beloved people. We do not know as much as we desperately want to know but **KNOW THIS: YOU ARE LOVED AND GOD IS WITH YOU!**

God's abundant peace be with you,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Two upcoming unique opportunities:

Sunday, June 7 is Holy Trinity Sunday and Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton is preparing a sermon to be included in congregational worship. We look forward to hearing from her in our recorded worship service.

Sunday, June 14 will be our Graduate Recognition service. Pacifica Synod Bishop Andy Taylor and student and adult volunteers from the Pacifica Synod will be recording a special worship service honoring the high school graduates from our Synod. Graduation celebrations of all sorts have been greatly impacted and this will be a service that provides an opportunity to celebrate with the graduates and their families in these milestones. We will also be sharing some pictures of various graduates from our church, from preschool, 8th grade, and high school. Many congratulations to all of them.

Your generous support of the ministries of BLC is so greatly appreciated. You continue to support us with your encouraging words in cards, e-mails, and phone calls. You continue to support us through your donations to other ministries and programs we support through benevolence giving and physical donations. You continue to support us with your tithes and offerings, received through the mail, dropping off at the office or through the mail slot, through electronic gifts. Thank you for your continued generous support of the ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran, for we remain open and able to serve.

Recorded Worship Services continue to be available to view on a few different platforms, each week's service is usually recorded on Saturday morning and posted on Saturday afternoon. You can check out the most current and previously recorded services on:

Church Website: www.blcla.org

Home Page has a link with the most current worship service.

Worship Page has several of the previously recorded worship services.

Church Facebook Page: On Facebook, search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA...you can scroll through the previous posts to find the recorded worship services.

YouTube: On YouTube, search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA...click on to "My Videos" to find all of the recorded worship services.

Many continued thanks to everyone who helps to make these recorded worship services possible, for the volunteers who read the scriptures, provide musical offerings, and fulfill other special requests. For the staff who provide their services and for the audio/visual volunteers who usually serve behind the scenes, both at the church and in their homes. Thanks to all who are watching and worshipping from home, for your faithful participation and kind words, and for sharing our services with others. Although we are not gathered together; assembled in the sanctuary in worship, sipping coffee and having conversation in the courtyard for coffee hour, and meeting in other rooms of the church campus for various activities and events...we are still the church, the body of Christ...the buildings continue to serve us well but the buildings do not make us the church. We, the people of God, are the church, drawn together in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Worship Volunteers: If you would like to help with recorded worship, please talk to Pastor Jennifer...she's looking for folks willing to read the scripture lessons and/or read the prayers of intercession. This can be done on site in the sanctuary (appropriately distanced) or you can record at home and e-mail it in. Just e-mail Pastor Jennifer at prjenniferblclosalamos@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer.

Weekly Check-In on Zoom: You are invited to participate on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom with folks from BLC. The Zoom session usually lasts about 25-30 minutes and includes: a time to check in with one another, reading of scripture, and time for prayer. You are invited to participate in this as you are able, you do not have to commit to every week. If you would like to participate, just e-mail Pastor Jennifer, there's no need to e-mail if you've already participated. If you are new to Zoom and would like some assistance, just let Pastor Jennifer know and she'll help as best as she can. It's been a nice time to "see and hear" from one another, we realize it's not the same as meeting in person but it's a great way to remain connected.

Church Council will meet on Sunday, June 14 at 1:00 pm on Zoom.

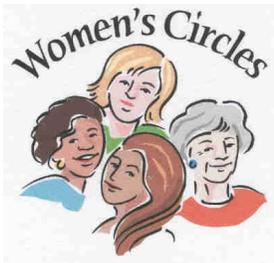
Worship & Music Committee will meet on Monday, June 29 at 9:30 am on Zoom.

The summer newsletter combines the months of July & August, please submit your article(s) by email no later than Monday, June 29th. Thank you.





June 2020



We will be collecting individually wrapped snack items for the Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim-Cypress branch for their children's program. Please label them for Boys & Girls Club and leave at the church.

PHOEBE Circle and FAITH Circle meeting via Zoom on Tuesday June 9th at 6:30 p.m. on ZOOM . Erika Gary will lead the group and send out the meeting link. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig

WELCA Triennial scheduled for July in Phoenix has been postponed a year until August of 2021.

November 6 & 7, 2020 Save the Date Pacifica Synod WELCA Convention & Gathering "Weave Us Together" Hope Lutheran, Temecula. More details as planning allows.



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.

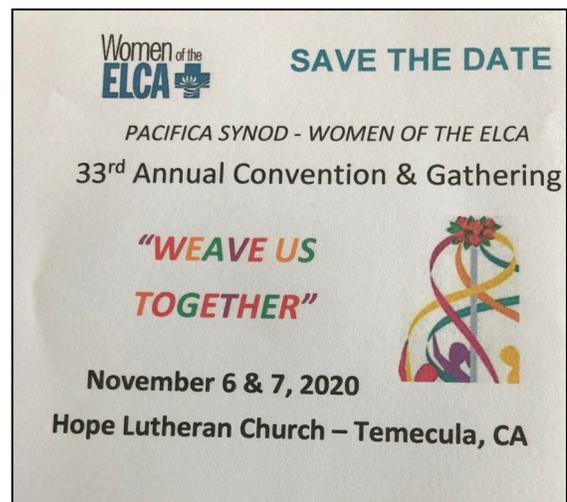
Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events

Join the Pacifica Synod

Women of the ELCA On Facebook





JUNE
Birthdays & Anniversaries

6/3	Margie Reynolds	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
6/28	Genevieve Jenkins	6/29	Jeff Cooper

6/2/1986	Fritz & Shirley Campbell	6/3/1972	Bob & Andrea Campbell
6/7/1975	Ken & Christina Watson	6/16/1990	Brad & Vanessa Stevenson
6/19/1976	Kevin & Nancy Godfrey	6/19/2004	Darren & Sarah Sandvig
6/21/1958	Paul & Lulu Meyer		



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
Violet Imoto Family
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
Sandy Miller
Ethan Mohr
Bill N.
Linda Nygard
Dan Opoien
Coler Pearce
Retta Rasmussen
Dale Retrum
Sandy Retrum
Elaine Schulthies
Kay Shelton

Cindy Staggs
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





We are continuing to order Sunday Altar Flowers to help support our local florist. Please sign up (email or phone) for available Sundays as before. If you'd like to have a printed dedication for your flowers, we will include them in the bulletins when we resume Sunday worship. Please email or send a note with your dedication. You may come by the church weekday mornings to pick up your arrangement. Thank you.

Flower Chart

(please help fill the empty slots)

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
7/7 Watson/Sandvig	7/5
6/14 Clausen, Stevenson	7/12 Hansen
6/21 Meyer	7/19 Gary
6/28	7/26 Watson/Sandvig