

Bethlehem Star

March 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

In my annual quest of a Lenten discipline, I often “give something up” or “add something in” for the season. This year’s Lenten discipline looks different; I mean really, these past almost 12 months have looked and felt VERY different for all of us. The pandemic has limited us in so many ways, you are well aware of them, so there’s no need to recount them. Limits aside, there are many things we still have the capability and accessibility to do and one of them is prayer.

The season of Lent is often observed as a time of fasting and prayer. I invite you to consider your prayer life in these days. This is meant to be something to ponder, to devote time to and for, to open up our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds for ourselves and for others. There is no shortage of people, situations, lands, joys, and concerns to pray for...perhaps you might focus on someone or something new to pray for every day, even just being aware of taking time to pray daily is a beautiful start. You can write your prayers down or pray spontaneously, you can pray out loud or silently, you can pray in the morning or in the evening (or any time in between)...the point is, there are no limits to prayer. In these days when we still are experiencing limits due to the pandemic, we can pray without limitations.

Lent is a contemplative time, my prayer for you is that you experience a meaningful Lenten season, a season that focuses both inward and outward, a season that begins dusty yet points to hope...hope of life...hope of new life. Prayers poured out for you, for our communities, for our world...prayers of hope and peace beyond today, prayers for all of the tomorrows yet to come.

Prayerful Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Shared Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship: We will be participating with other churches in shared worship services for midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays through 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 by 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, Hope in Palm Springs and Bethlehem.

The Finance Committee met on February 13th to audit the church records for the years 2019 and 2020. A report, on or before the end of March, is forthcoming.
Thank you to: Marv Schneider, Paul Meyer, Susan Martin and Johanne Hansen for assisting.

In-Person Worship Update: We are working on the possibility of holding outdoor worship services on Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter Sunday (April 4) at 10:00 am on the lawn behind the church, closest to the back parking lot.

As we work towards this possibility, we are asking for your input. We would need volunteers to help set-up and clean-up, as well as volunteers to help during the service. If you would be available and are interested in volunteering, please talk to Pastor Jennifer. We also want to gauge the interest and comfort level in attending an outdoor worship service, so an e-mail will be sent out soon to those in our area.

We would continue to follow current health guidelines and ask that worship attendees sign-up ahead of time (call or e-mail the church office), wear face masks, physically distance by households, etc... We would also ask that you provide your own chair (camping style chair, folding chair, etc...), we will have chairs available from Bachman Hall for those who do not have a chair. **We are still working on the details and feasibility of having outdoor worship and will be sending out an e-mail/letter asking for your input on whether you would attend these outdoor services. We will keep you updated via e-mail, church website, church Facebook page.** Regardless, we will continue to record worship services and have them available on our regular digital platforms.

Easter Candy: At this time we do not anticipate hosting a children's Easter egg hunt this year but we are planning on having some goodie bags with crafts, crayons, stickers, and sweet treats available for the children. We're looking for donations of individually wrapped candy to include in these bags, if you would like to donate some candy, please have it to the church office by Monday, March 29. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

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, March 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, March 8, as she will send out the meeting sign-in information. Look for the Bible Study in the March edition of the Gather magazine. 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.

Holy Week begins at the end of this month. Palm Sunday is March 28, Maundy Thursday is April 1, Good Friday is April 2, Holy Saturday is April 3, and Easter Sunday is April 4. We are still working on the details and logistics of the possibility of having outdoor worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday (we'll have recorded worship available too). We anticipate at this time having recorded worship services available for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We are working on providing an in-home devotional observance for Holy Saturday. As we draw closer to Holy Week, more detailed information will be shared with you via our digital platforms and most likely a dedicated e-mail/letter.

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.

Worship Recordings: We are grateful for your continued support as we continue to record our worship services. 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:

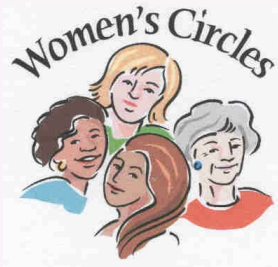
- A) Church Website: www.blcla.org On Homepage, in the "Worship" section and on the separate "Worship page"
- B) Church Facebook page: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos
- C) YouTube: www.youtube.com Search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos", click on "Videos"

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.

Ash Wednesday "Drive thru" Imposition of Ashes



March 2021



Faith Circle We have been invited to join Phoebe Circle for a Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. on March 9, the meeting information will be provided by Pastor Jennifer. 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, March 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.



Saturday, March 6 at 1:00 p.m. Pacifica WELCA will host a Zoom Spring Event. Units in Pacifica Synod will be sharing how we are creatively continuing to support our area service agencies during the pandemic. Since it is a virtual event, offerings/donations can be made through the Pacifica WELCA website under "About Us" then "Donations and Payments" or checks can be sent directly to our Treasurer: Laura Ortiz, 501 J Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910.



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,

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 **March for Cup of Soup, Canned fruit and Applesauce Cups**. These are used daily.

Continuous donated items of cereal, pasta, beans, soups, canned items of any kind, individual size granola bars, diced fruit cups and juice boxes are always appreciated.

Warm clothes, jackets, sweats, gloves, scarfs, and socks (new or gently used) are greatly needed this time of the year. *Especially need MENS clothing****

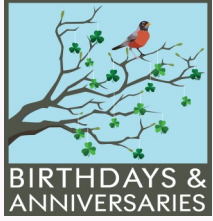


Thanks again for helping to keep our Lutheran Social Service cupboard (Pastor's Pantry in Narthex) full. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Long Beach and the people and families served daily in their Ministry again appreciate your kindness, care and compassion.

Bob, Andrea and crew
Social Ministry Committee



MARCH



3/2	Katrinna Cassidy	3/2	Michaela Desautel	3/4	Lon Warnock
3/7	Lenore Rolf	3/9	Joyce Ritz	3/10	Sandy Retrum
3/10	Caleb Sandvig	3/11	Ron Clausen	3/12	Dick Spies
3/17	Shary Reed	3/17	Ann Tegtmeier	3/18	Kevin Gustafson
3/20	Doris Morrissey	3/22	Jason Sakowski	3/28	Julie Kizziar
3/28	Susan Martin	3/29	Bill Haglund		

3/9/1957 Vern & Margie Reynolds 3/12/2005 Erik & Melissa Sandvig
 3/15/1997 John, Jr & Susan Buezix



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

Katrina Gary
 Family of Gay Gustafson
 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
 Shary Reed
 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

