



Bethlehem Star

From the Pastor's Desk...

Resuming in-person worship has been heavy on my mind, as I'm sure it has been for you too. As places of worship and businesses have begun to open up in our area, the church has been asked about when we might resume in-person worship, and the standard answer has been "we don't know." While this is still true, we are also working towards a time in mid-August when we will resume in-person worship, outside in the courtyard, on Sunday mornings. There is still more conversation to be had and plans/protocols to put in place before we do so but we are engaged and working towards a date. We will share the specific date as we draw closer to August and discern whether we continue with these initial plans or need to adjust, depending on recommendations from health officials and our Synodical leadership.

It has been an unfamiliar time these past few months and with each passing day, the unfamiliar grows in familiarity. And yet, we all make adjustments as necessary and continue to look forward to returning to some once familiar aspects of our life. Worship and various activities/events at church are some of those longed-for familiar things we've been missing. As we continue to work towards providing these opportunities in confidence for all of you, I have been preparing for these days for some time, at least in my mind. Now that movement is going to paper, with other people's input and approval.

All of this reminds me of the season of Advent (the 4 Sundays before Christmas), for Advent is a season of preparation and expectation. While Advent 2020 is still months away, I can't help but be reminded of what it means to prepare in the context of church. In Advent, we are preparing for the birth of Christ; in this current "Advent" that I'm experiencing, I'm preparing to welcome you back to the church building...for we have still been the church in this time, we are still the body of Christ, the family of God...it has not been the same for sure and honestly, things will look and feel different for some time but preparing to gather in-person for worship will be a welcome step to the familiar. Take some time to prepare in your own way, prepare your heart and mind, and pray for those who are working towards this goal. We all need to prepare in our own way and know that there are folks preparing to welcome you to the building of Bethlehem Lutheran. In these summer months, I am experiencing a new Advent and preparing in new and different ways. I invite you to experience this new Advent with me.

Blessings in your preparation,
Pastor Jennifer Schultz

In-Person Worship Update: As of the publishing date of this newsletter, here are our thoughts on resuming in-person worship. We are working on plans and protocols so that we can gather for outside, modified, in-person worship. We are hoping to have plans and protocols in place and approved so that we can begin gathering for Sunday morning worship in mid-August. We are planning on modified worship services at 10 am on Sunday mornings, outside in the courtyard. More details will follow in a direct letter to you once things have been approved and established and we have set a date.

All of this is subject to change, depending on the directives and recommendations for our area, what the trends are in our community, and the decisions of our congregational leadership. We will continue to closely monitor advisement from local and state health officials, as well as our Synodical leadership. We are being careful and considerate in our planning and want to ensure safe and healthy opportunities for people to gather for worship, we have all missed being together and we hope that we will be able to see one another again soon. Stay tuned for more updates on the church website, church Facebook page, e-mail, and postal service...we will be using all of these platforms to inform you of the processes we will observe so that we can worship together in-person with confidence that we are doing everything we can to ensure a safe space to gather. We will continue to offer an online worship opportunity for those who do not yet feel comfortable gathering for in-person worship.

In-Person Worship Survey: As part of our planning for resuming in-person worship, we are asking for your feedback in a survey that will be sent out in the coming days. The survey will be asking questions to help us gauge your interest and comfort level in returning for in-person worship. A survey will be sent out via e-mail and for those who don't utilize e-mail, a survey will be mailed out, asking that you return it to the church. We value your input as we make these important decisions and we appreciate your participation.

Weekly Zoom Check-In Meetings continue on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. This is open for anyone who would like to participate in a fairly brief time of checking in with one another to see and hear from one another, share in a Scripture passage, and spend some time in prayer. You can be a part of these meetings as your schedule allows, so you don't have to feel as though you are committed to participate every week. This is a great opportunity to "see and hear" from one another on a regular basis in this time of physical distancing. If you have already been a participant in these meetings, the login information is the same. If you would like to join this meeting, please e-mail Pastor Jennifer and she can share the login information with you and the same goes if you are new to Zoom and would like some assistance, you can contact Pastor Jennifer at:

prjenniferblclosalamitos@gmail.com

Worship Volunteers: We are looking for folks who would be willing to volunteer to help us get ready for in-person worship. Some of our known needs include: cleaning assistants, folks to help ready the worship space (pop-up canopies, chairs, sound equipment), greeters, worship assistants, etc...If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Jennifer or Jeanne Sandvig.

Weekly Worship Services continue to be recorded and posted on a few different platforms, usually available to view beginning on Saturday late afternoon/evening. You can find the worship services here:

- 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"

Continued thanks for those who make these recordings possible and for the volunteers who participate in worship. If you would like to volunteer to read scripture, sing hymns, or share a musical offering, just let Pastor Jennifer know.

Offerings and Tithes: The ministries of BLC continue to be supported through your prayers and financial gifts. We are grateful for your generous gifts, especially in this challenging time. You can share your offerings and tithes by mailing them to the church, dropping them by in person during office hours, or slipping them through the mail slot in the front door. Your faithfulness and generosity are much appreciated as we support ministries within and outside of Bethlehem Lutheran.

Judy's Kitchen

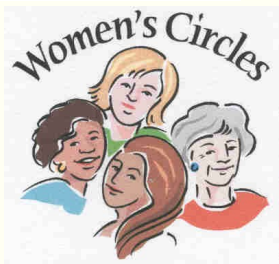


Judy's Kitchen served 69 meals on Saturday, June 20th. The guests enjoyed a hot pasta dish with ground turkey, marinara sauce topped with cheese, along with a fruit cup, chocolate cookie and a candy bar.

Thank you Dianna for organizing the event and for cooking a ton of pasta.



July-August 2020



PHOEBE Circle and Faith Circle meetings are taking our usual summer break for July and August. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig. Continue safe and well and see you in September, hopefully in person otherwise via Zoom.



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.

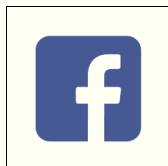
Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

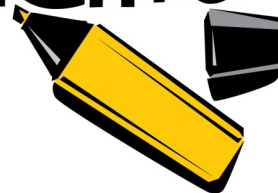
click on news & events

Join the Pacifica Synod

Women of the ELCA On Facebook

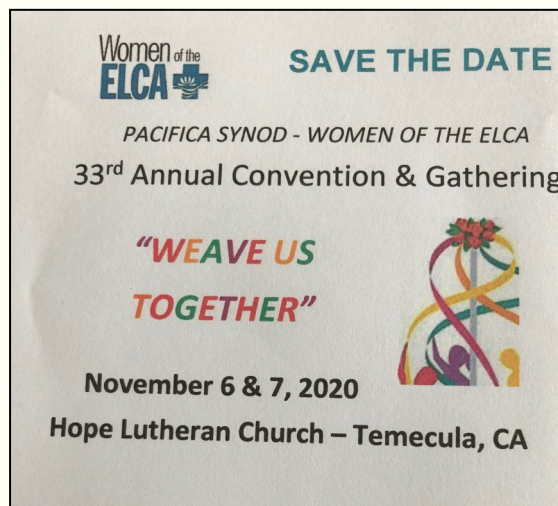


HIGHLIGHTS



We are 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.

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





Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center Monthly Report

Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2020. We are asking you for your continuing help during July and August for **Cereals, dried Pasta any kind and canned fruit**.

Continuous donations of all, cup of soups, canned vegetables, beans and/or any items you wish to donate are always appreciated. Needed are **warm clothes and socks (new or gently used)**.

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





“God’s Work-Our Hands” Congregational Update

**Scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2020
in Bachman Hall, 11:15 a.m.**

Our 7th year Servant event is being rescheduled until a further date due to the COVID 19 pandemic and our need to plan ahead.

We miss gathering with family and friends to share God’s love but we will continue to be a church together.

Until we come together again, let’s remember that throughout the ELCA we are all witnessing the love and concern God’s people have for one another.

Blessings,
Social Ministry Committee



7/2	Dave Scott	7/3	Vern Reynolds
7/5	Randi Bartels	7/8	Marianne Sakowski
7/12	Sara DeWeese	7/12	Dianna Reynolds
7/13	Shirley Campbell	7/13	Steven Joplin
7/15	Debbie Johnson	7/21	Liz Nehrenberg
7/24	Logan Sandvig	7/27	Ray Shelton
8/13	Blake Anderson	8/14	Fritz Campbell
8/27	Brooklyn Retrum	8/30	Steve Tegtmeier
7/4/2015	Michael & Christine Rosso	7/21/1967	Ron & Jane Clausen



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|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Julie Anderson | Diana Hayden | Kay Shelton |
| Elaine Asbury | Gaylord Hollister | Cindy Staggs |
| Amy Bachman | Violet Imoto Family | Hattie Stretz |
| Kevin Betts | Jason Jackson | Leslie Summers |
| Kate & Steve | Genevieve Jenkins | Ed Sutton |
| John Buezis | Betty Jones | Pauline Taylor |
| Luelle Buezis | Dean Kinzel | Ann Tegtmeier |
| Fritz Campbell | Julie Kizziar | Steve Tegtmeier |
| Shirley Campbell | Joan Lee | Tom Watkins |
| Caren Cantafio | William Lewis | Jerry Whitmore |
| Laurie Carpenter | Bill Lindell | Nancy & H.R. Williamson |
| Linnea Clayton | Erin Lopez | Marynell Wolfe |
| Irene Cooper | Patricia Lueckert | Mitsuko Yamamoto |
| Maxine Cornwell | John Maio | Margaret Ziegler |
| Sara DeWeese | Lawrence Massey | |
| Joan Ebersold | Jessica McIntire | |
| Ruth G. | Hal Miller | |
| Frank Gary | Pete Miller | |
| Katrina Gary | Sandy Miller | |
| Janet Harris | Ethan Mohr | |
| Joe Harris | Bill N. | |
| | Linda Nygard | |
| | Dan Opoien | |
| | Coler Pearce | |
| | Retta Rasmussen | |
| | Dale Retrum | |
| | Sandy Retrum | |
| | Elaine Schulthies | |





Altar Flowers

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>July</u>		<u>August</u>
7/5	Reynolds, Scott	8/2
7/12	Hansen	8/9
7/19	Gary	8/16
7/26	Watson/Sandvig	8/23 Stevenson
		8/30