



Bethlehem Star

From the Pastor's Desk...

To say that 2020 has been a challenging year thus far is an understatement! Yet here we are, about to enter another new month, some 5 ½ months since so much of what we understood as normal, dramatically changed. During these months, I've heard and felt a deep sense of longing for a return, a return to what we viewed as normal, as routine. Not only has there been a deep sense of longing, I would also say I've heard of deep, deep grief because of this pandemic and the constraints it has put on us, on our normal, on our routine. We long for a return to what we knew, what we were familiar with and we grieve for the wide range of losses we've experienced. If you have felt this way, you are not alone...the more I talk with folks, the more I hear this expressed.

Typically, September signals a return to the fall schedule in the church...with Rally Day, God's Work Our Hands, Sunday school classes, choir and hand bell rehearsals, Men's Bible studies and Women's circles, and more. September 2020 will be different, we may long for and grieve that which we miss...in our everyday life, in our church life...yet we trust and hope that which we long for will return. It may not be the same and it is okay to grieve that possibility, yet hope remains.

Hope in the One who came and continues to come and shower grace and mercy upon us each and every day. Hope in God's Son, Jesus, who loves us unconditionally and promises that we are never ever alone. I trust that our longing and grieving during this time will flow into hope, the hope that Christ brings, hope of new life, new life beyond physical distancing and Covid, new life beyond scorching wildfires and raging hurricanes, new life beyond cancer and all other illnesses and diseases, new life beyond loneliness and isolation, life that leads to new life. As we may continue to experience longing and grief, I pray for deep and abiding peace and hope for your heart and mind. Let it be so, Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Task Force on Resuming In-Person Worship: A task force was recently formed to put protocols and plans in place for resuming in-person worship at the church. The first step in this process was a brief survey, either e-mailed or mailed to those who live in close proximity to the church. Based upon the responses and results of this survey, the task force will move on to next steps, while following the directives put in place by the government and health officials, as well as our Synod office. We want to provide opportunities to gather that are safe and meaningful for everyone who attends and we will keep you apprised of next steps. We are grateful for your faithful patience as we navigate these new paths. Meanwhile, we continue to record weekly worship services that are available to view online, via the following platforms:

A) Church Website: www.blcla.org (Most recent worship is in the “Worship” section on the home page, previous recordings can be found when you click on the “worship” tab)

B) Church Facebook: On Facebook, search for “Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos

C) YouTube: www.youtube.com Search for “Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos”, click on “Videos”

Worship Volunteers: If you would like to assist with worship in any of the following ways: singing hymns, musical offerings, read scripture, please talk to Pastor Jennifer. It’s been great to have volunteer participation, either recorded at church or from home.

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.

The ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran are generously supported by your tithes and offerings, we are grateful for your continued donations. Your support is deeply appreciated in these challenging times, your financial support, your support by participating in weekly worship and Zoom check-ins, your support of LSS with food and clothing donations, your support of Paper Rollers with your newspapers, your support of one another by checking in on one another, your prayers and notes and phone calls. We thank you for your continued support in all of these ways and more.

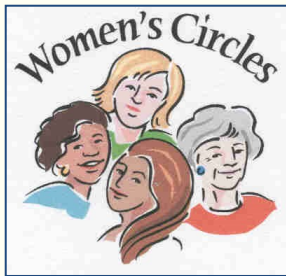
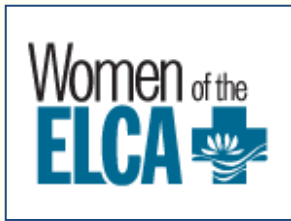
Weekly Zoom Check-In Meetings: Each Wednesday evening from 7:00-7:30 pm, a group of 12-15 people have been gathering on Zoom to see and hear from one another. These are informal check-in style meetings, there is a time for sharing, offering prayer concerns, reading scripture, and praying the Lord's Prayer. You are invited to participate as you are able, if you would like to participate or have questions, let Pastor Jennifer know and she can share the login and password information. Zoom is best utilized on a computer or tablet and can be both video and audio or audio only through your telephone. Participants have commented on how much they appreciate this opportunity to see and hear from familiar folks.

Confirmation Sunday: We are excited to announce that Confirmation Sunday has been rescheduled to take place on Sunday, October 25, which is also Reformation Sunday. We have three students who have spent nearly the past 3 years meeting regularly to learn about, ask questions, and discuss the Christian faith. At this point, we don't know exactly what this service will look like (i.e. in-person or recorded) but we will celebrate and hear from the students nonetheless. We will continue to update you about this special service in the October newsletter.



Christina Watson and the Scuba Queen at a Bethlehem WELCA community outreach on 1st Street, Seal Beach..

September 2020



Faith Circle: In person meeting has not yet resumed. If interested in a Zoom meeting, contact Pastor Jennifer. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Andrea Campbell or Jeanne Sandvig.

Phoebe Circle: Current plans are for a **physically distanced meeting** on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jeanne Sandvig. Jeanne Sandvig is scheduled to lead the Gather 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.

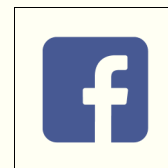


November 7, 2020 Save the Date Pacifica Synod WELCA will host a Zoom event in place of the 33rd Annual Convention and Gathering, which has been postponed until November 2021. More details to follow.

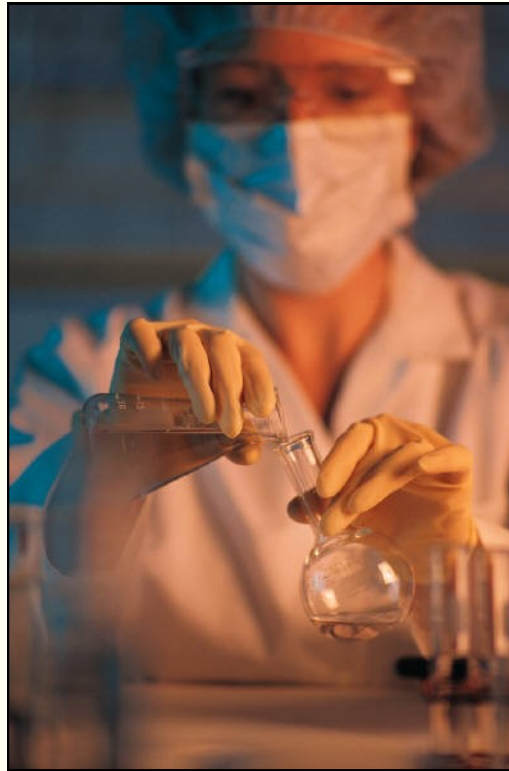
Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events



Join the Pacifica Synod
Women of the ELCA On Facebook



Let's Face It!

On behalf of our Task Force I would like to ask if we have any members who have already used their sewing skills to create cloth face masks for themselves, friends, and family. Could you put your talents and fabric remnants to use to create cloth face masks for Bethlehem to have available when we are able to gather together for in person worship? Please let the church office know if you are able to assist in this ministry. Thank you for caring for each other!

Jeanne Sandvig



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 **September** for **Cereals, beans (any kind) and soup**. **Continuous** donations of cup of soups, pasta, canned vegetables/fruits and/or any items you wish to donate are always appreciated.

Fall is coming so needed are **warm sweats, socks (new or gently used), blankets and jackets**.

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



Flip-top lids appreciated





A sincere Thank You to Marianne Sakowski for all of her years of service on Altar Guild, "you are very much appreciated".



Ken Watson's mom, Patricia Watson, 96, and his uncle, Norman Fiesell, 91, passed away within 5 days of each in July.

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards and flowers.
Love, Ken and Christina



Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Thank you all very much for your wonderful GET WELL cards, Thinking of You and Praying for you cards and phone calls during this past month. Looking forward to seeing everyone as soon as possible. Blessings, Bob Campbell





September

Birthdays & Anniversaries

9/1 Johanne Hansen
 9/8 Steve Wolfe
 9/24 Dale Retrum
 9/30 Candie Toth

9/6 Heidi Kracy
 9/17 Marge Hargrove
 9/27 Christina Watson

9/2/2018 Zachary & Randi (Reynolds) Bartels
 9/13/1986 Brian & Ginny Gary

9/12/1964 Dick & Johanne Hansen



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

