



Bethlehem Star December 2019



From the Pastor's Desk...

This time of year stirs up varied emotions for me, I'm sure every single person reading this can identify with what I'm saying. The Advent and Christmas seasons bring to mind joyful memories from the past and hopes for the future, anticipation for time with family and friends yet missing those who can't be or are no longer with us, a variety of emotions can connect us so strongly to the holidays, some positive, some less than, and everything in between. Be aware of how you are living in these seasons in this particular year, be aware of those around you who may be grieving and lonely, be aware of those who may be facing difficulties in their life...allow yourself and those around you the grace and space to feel their realities this season. While songs exclaim "It's the most wonderful time of the year" and we may feel the need to be joyful and jolly but know that it's okay to honestly acknowledge that may not always be how we feel throughout these seasons.

In this season of Advent, we are in good company as we wait, watch, and prepare for what is to come...as the people of God, we know what it's like to live in a certain amount of tension as we wait. And we don't need to rush through the "wait"...we can find a certain comfort and reassurance as we wait from one season to the next, no matter what the season holds for us. As we eventually move through the waiting of Advent into the Christmas season...joy is evident yet there is also a plausible amount of fear and trust in the uncertain. For if we truly read the Christmas story (according to Matthew for this year), there is questioning, fear, jealousy, awe, wonder, grieving, and even death that is all a part of this season...echoing perhaps what some of us today might be feeling in this season. What I am trying to say is it's okay to not feel all of the joy and merriment of the season...take note of what you do feel, check in with those who may need a kind thought and word, be patient with yourselves and with others in these seasons. God is at work, God is with us, coming yet already here, present and still to come. Be extra kind and gentle with yourselves and others in these days. Be hope and hopeful.

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz



DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mid-Week Advent Worship Services: Take some time to pause and wonder, worship and sing on Wednesday evenings during this season of Advent. Join us on Wednesday evenings, December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:00 pm for Holden Evening Prayer. The message theme will be “Preparing in Christ’s Presence”. Please feel free to invite others to join you for a reflective time of worship.
- Open House at the Parsonage: You are invited on Sunday, December 8 from 2-5 pm to the home of Pastor Jennifer for an afternoon of fellowship and refreshments. Sweet and Savory treats will be available, as well as some beverages, you are also welcome to bring food and/or beverages to share.
- Children’s Christmas Program will be shared in worship on Sunday, December 22. Come and hear and see the children share their message of hope and joy.
- Adult Sunday School will meet only twice this month, on Sundays, December 8 and 15 at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room.
- Middle School Confirmation:
 - 6th Grade meets on Tuesday, December 3 at 3:15 pm
 - 6th & 8th Grades meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 3:15 pm for a Christmas Party.
 - Confirmation will not meet on December 17, 24, and 31.
- Christmas Eve Worship begins with a Christmas hymn sing at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. Worship will include songs, prayers, scripture, a message, communion, and candlelight. Please invite family and friends to join in the festive celebration as we proclaim the love of God gifted to the world in Jesus.
- The church office will be closed on December 25 and January 1.
- Pastor Jennifer is looking for volunteer readers for the December 29 service, please see her to sign up. Thank you.

WELCA 32nd Annual Convention & Gathering Nov 2-3, 2019



**Please join us for a potluck supper and Christmas Bag stuffing at the
International Seafarer Center (Lutheran Maritime Mission)**



When: Tues. Dec. 10th

Time: Meet at Christina Watson's Home to carpool at 6pm

Bring: Dish to share (6-8 people). I will provide chicken pieces, paper goods and beverages.

Please R.S.V.P. to me, Christina, by December 7th



Men in Mission will not meet in December, 2019. The next meeting will be meeting will be on Saturday, January 4th, 2020. All men of Bethlehem are invited.

New Microphone System for Pastor - You may have noticed that the microphone system for Pastor Jennifer has had a few problems lately. We have had that system for many years and it is now wearing out. Thanks to donations from Bethlehem member Herb Menzel, the Bethlehem Bridge Group, and the Bethlehem Memorial Fund, a new microphone system for Pastor Jennifer has been purchased and is in the process of being installed.

Thank You to Bethlehem: Dale Retrum wishes to extend his heartfelt thanks to members and friends at Bethlehem for their wonderful support of prayers, cards and calls after his knee replacement surgeries. So far the surgeries and the healing process have gone quite well.



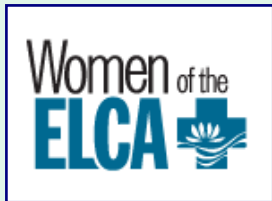
Please join us on Saturday, December 7th to help in decorating the sanctuary and church grounds for the Christmas season. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:00 am and work until done! Refreshments will be provided by Parish Life. Thank you for your help.

**If you who are looking for the holiday entertainment and concerts
here is a listing of some of the local events:**

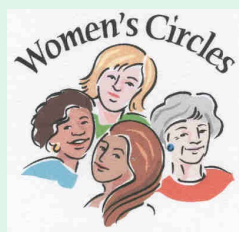
- El Capitan Theatre: Disney's Frozen II Nov. 22 to Dec. 15
Ticket info: www.elcapitantickets.com or call 1-800-347-6396
- Cerritos Center- Los Angeles Ballet's The Nutcracker -November 30th and December 1
The Beach Boys: Holiday Harmonies & Hits-Sunday-December 8th
Broadway Lights the Holidays-Friday-December 13th
Colors of Christmas-Saturday December 14th
Los Angeles Symphony Christmas Concert Sunday December 15th
Dave Kolz and Friends Christmas Tour 2019-Dec. 20th & 21st.
Celtic Angels Christmas-December 22nd
Ticket information: www.cerritoscenter.com or call 800-300-4345
- La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
The Young Americans-The Magic of Christmas December 6-15.
Matinee and Evening Shows.
The Masters of Harmony presents: Together for Christmas.
Saturday, November 30th.
Men Aiive Presents: Merry & Bright: Sounds of Joy-Saturday, December 21..
Christmas with the Celts-Sunday, December 22nd @ 3:00p.m.
Ticket information: or 562-944-9801
- The Irvine Barclay Theatre: The Nutcracker-December 7-24th
Ticket information: www.thebarclay.org or phone 949-854-4646
- Music Theatre West -Irving Bertlin's Holiday Inn-December 6-15th Ticket information:
musical.org, Musical Theatre West Box office, 350 7th Street, Long Beach; phone: 562-856-1999

If you have any questions see us, Parish Life, on the Patio.

Parish Life wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



December 2019



FAITH Circle: Tuesday, December 3, Christmas Gathering at Linda Scott's home, 3530 Jasmin Circle, Seal Beach, 90740-3122. For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Andrea Campbell

PHOEBE Circle Tuesday, December 3, Christmas Gathering at Linda Scott's home, 3530 Jasmin Circle, Seal Beach. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Thank you to Faith Circle for November coffee. Men in Mission is responsible for the month of December.

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events

Join the Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA

On Facebook



December 1: Installation of 2020 WELCA Board during worship at 10:00 a.m.

December 3: WELCA Christmas Gathering with General Meeting and Budget Approval at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Scott, 3530 Jasmin Circle, Seal Beach. We will collect General and Thank Offerings as well as gifts for LSS and Seafarers. Please bring a wrapped Christmas item (ornament, tea towels, candles, etc.), valued at \$10 or less, for exchange at the Gathering

December 10: Potluck dinner and work party making Christmas gift bags for Seafarers. 6:00 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service



Please remember our Fall Outreach Project for International Seafarer Lutheran Mission. We are collecting: nail clippers, pens/small writing pads, snack size chocolate candy. You can bring to circle meetings, leave in the collection box in the Narthex, or bring to Christmas Gathering.



Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center Monthly Report

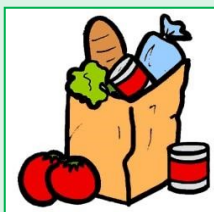
Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we end our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2019 we are asking you for your continuing help during December for **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FOOD items** on the list below. Let's see if we can stuff our Narthex Pastor's Food Pantry full of food items.

LSS is so happy to greet and receive the food items and warm clothing and scarfs. In addition, they still have an **immediate need** for more **Socks** (gently used OK) for adults and children of all ages. Any **warm jackets** also needed. **Cereal** and **peanut butter** always needed every day.

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



Holiday Needs:

***Canned Sweet Potatoes, Yams
Canned Gravy
Turkey Stuffing
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Fruit, Vegetables (Corn & Green Beans)
Box Potatoes/Rice
Marshmallow Bags
Canned Ham & Spam, Corn Beef Hash
Cranberry Sauce
Canned Pumpkin***





12/23/1967	Gary & Liz Nehrenberg	12/28/1974	Eric & Cheri Dobberteen
12/2	Joan Ebersold	12/3	Ginny Gary
12/8	Bill Ritz	12/12	Katrina Gary
12/23	John Hunt	12/23	Richard Toth
12/30	Lulu Meyer	12/30	J.R. Anderson
		12/3	Vanessa Stevenson
		12/14	Doug Wolfe
		12/25	Jeanne Sandvig



Julie Anderson
 Elaine Asbury
 Amy Bachman
 Kevin Betts
 Janet Booth
 Kate & Steve
 John Buezis
 Luelle Buezis
 Shirley Campbell
 Caren Cantafio
 Laurie Carpenter
 Mary Clausen & family
 Linnea Clayton
 Irene Cooper
 Maxine Cornwell
 Paul Crizer
 Ed Crogan
 Sara DeWeese
 Joan Ebersold
 Ruth G.
 Frank Gary
 Katrina Gary
 Mary Gilles
 Bruce Gustafson

Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 Diana Hayden
 Gaylord Hollister
 Violet Imoto Family
 Jason Jackson
 Genevieve Jenkins
 Betty Jones
 Dean Kinzel
 Loyd Lancaster
 Joan Lee
 Karol Lemerond
 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 Ramussen
 Dale Retrum
 Sandy Retrum
 Bill Ritz

Elaine Schulthies
 Cindy Staggs
 Leslie Summers
 Ed Sutton
 Pauline Taylor
 Ann Tegtmeier
 Steve Tegtmeier
 Mary "Betty" Vennes
 Tom Watkins
 Jerry Whitmore
 Nancy & H.R. Williamson
 Marynell Wolfe
 Mitsuko Yamamoto
 Margaret Ziegler



Thanks to These People for Serving in December

	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters
12/1	Liz Nehrenberg		Dave & Linda Scott Brad & Vanessa Stevenson	Caryl Harris Joyce Payne
12/8	Jane Clausen		John & Janice Hunt	Dale Retrum David Retrum
12/15	Jim Martin			Marjorie Moeller Doris Morrissey
12/22	Jeanne Sandvig			Jim Martin Marv Schneider
12/29	Lana Dieter			John Buezis John Buezis, Jr



Altar Guild

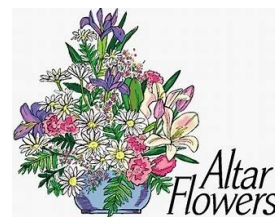
12/1 Marge Hargrove

12/8 Alice Roop

12/15 Debby Gustafson

12/22 Vanessa Stevenson

12/29 Christina Watson



12/1 Sandvig-Watson, Stevenson

12/8 Buezis, Jr, Gary

12/15 Hansen

12/22 Gustafson, Stevenson

12/29 Gary, Meyer