

May 2015

Volume 55, Issue 5



# Bethlehem Star



## Greetings From Pastor Richard Rollefson

Although we are still in the fifty days of Easter in our church year, it will soon be Pentecost. Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Spirit that first gave birth to the Church. Jesus promised his disciples he would not leave them alone and helpless, but that he would send a presence to provide counsel, hope and encouragement as they continued to minister in his name. It is this mysterious, indwelling, empowering presence that we celebrate on Pentecost and throughout the season to come.

What Pentecost and the out-pouring of the Spirit means is that the Church – including Bethlehem Lutheran Church – is a part of God's unfolding plan to bring hope and healing to a broken and hurting world. St. Paul uses the image of the Church as "the body of Christ" to help us understand this God-given ministry and mission. In and through our baptismal calling we are commissioned to continue the ministry of Christ: to proclaim the good news of God's love, to touch the wounded with hands of healing, to go to those in need of hope and peace.

At times it may seem that it is beyond our capabilities to live out this high and holy calling. Yet it is not by our own power that we are Christ's body but through the counsel, encouragement and strengthening of the Spirit's presence with us. As we trust in and rely upon the gift of divine inspiration to fulfill our calling, we ourselves are renewed. It is this promise of the Spirit – the gift of Pentecost and our own baptisms – that is the sacred source and sustaining presence of our life and ministry together.

Peace,  
Pastor Richard

## Nepal Area Earthquake

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We have seen the devastating images and stories coming out of Nepal. Sections of Kathmandu, the nation's capital, and surrounding areas lie in rubble. More than 3,000 people have lost their lives, and the number continues to rise as officials make their way through rural communities. Historic buildings and houses have been leveled; roads are destroyed. The injured and their families line the streets in front of hospitals and caregivers. The need for food, water, medical care, blankets and shelter is great.



Photo credit: REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar

Lutheran Disaster Response is actively networking with partners such as The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief and the ACT Alliance who are already on the ground. LWF's office in Kathmandu escaped the worst of the impact of the quake and has already launched a large-scale emergency response.

Our church is committed to walking with the people of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh as they navigate every part of this disaster relief and recovery process – even long after the dust settles and media attention fades.

Your gifts are needed now. Every gift designated to the "Nepal Area Earthquake" through Lutheran Disaster Response will be used entirely – 100 percent – to help those impacted by the quake rebuild their lives and livelihoods. You can help provide comfort, healing and hope in the midst of destruction.

Thank you for your gifts, your prayers and your partnership.

Checks or money orders should be sent to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response**

**P.O. Box 1809**

**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009; Write "Nepal Area Earthquake" on your check memo line.**

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Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or online.

## Call Process Update: Transition Team

The word “interim” means “in between.” This “in between” time is to help us do the work of getting ready to call a new pastor. I have been with you for a bit over a month getting to know the people and ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran. It’s now time to begin our call process in earnest with the appointment of a “Transition Team.”

A transition team is usually composed of 6-9 people representative of the membership of the church. The team’s work begins with a discernment and assessment that focuses on the history, traditions, gifts and resources of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The Transition Team will be seeking the input of all Bethlehem Lutheran members as part of this process.

Our next step is to look at the character and needs of our neighborhood as the context for our church’s ministry. When this work has been completed the Transition Team will be responsible for completing a “Ministry Site Profile” that will be forwarded to the Pacifica Synod. As part of the ministry site profile, a congregation lists the leadership skills it sees as most important to have in its new pastor.

The Synod staff then works to match our profile with the gifts and experience of the available pastoral candidates. When the Ministry Site Profile is completed (usually a 5-7 month process) the work of the Transition team is ended and a Call Committee will be formed to interview prospective candidates.

If you are interested in serving on our Transition Team, please talk with Pastor Richard or Marianne Sakowski.

God’s peace,  
Pastor Richard

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### Welcoming Pastor Richard Rollefson



Vice President Bob Campbell  
Introduces Pastor Rollefson



Pastor & Cyndi Rollefson



Traditional Reception Cake

### Lutheran Worship Series

We continue our 5-part series on the theology and practice of Lutheran worship. Lutherans worship is based on the ancient worship format used by Roman Catholic and the Episcopal Church, among others, known as the "Liturgy," which includes word and sacrament. But the Lutheran Church is also characterized by grace-centered freedom and flexibility that also applies to worship. Come join us for a conversation on the central part of our life together as a community of faith.

### Phoebe Circle

Phoebe Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 12, at the home of Margie Reynolds. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. We will be studying lesson 9 from the series in the Gather magazine, so please bring the magazine and your Bible for the discussion. If you have any questions, call me, Caryl Harris. See you there!

### CARD BINGO

MAY 17, 2-4 pm

**Parish Life** is having another Sunday afternoon CARD BINGO in the Fireside Room. All ages are welcome and bring your friends with you!! The criteria to play is a WRAPPED White Elephant or a new item not over \$3 WRAPPED. We will even wrap your items if you don't want to! You are given ¼ of a deck of cards face up and when you no longer have any cards face up, you have won a BINGO. If you haven't played it before, come give it a try. For those who have played with us before, we would like to see you again! Snacks and beverages will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Margie. Hope to see you on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

### Parish Life

Here is a listing of Hollywood Bowl Events for 2015

#### DATE

#### EVENT/SERIES

Sat, 6/20

Opening Night at the Bowl w/ Journey

Sat, 7/11

Harry Connick, Jr.

Sat, 7/25

Tchaikovsky Fireworks Spectacular

Fri, 7/31

Monty Python's Spamalot

Sat, 8/8

Sheryl Crow & Alex Cuba

Sat, 9/5

John Williams & E.T. the Extraterrestrial

Tickets will not be ordered until we have a group of ten, so let Marianne know which event you would be interested in. (We are not guaranteed that all seats will be together in the same block). Other events are available! Please see the list on the patio.

Are you ready for the Angels baseball game with your Bethlehem family and friends? Tickets are now available for the May 31st game against the Detroit Tigers starting at 12:35 pm. The price is \$35 including seating in the shade, hot dog and small drink. Please sign up on the patio or call Marianne to reserve your seats.

Do you like to go out to lunch, dinner, movies, plays, baseball games, Hollywood Bowl concerts, but you don't like to go by yourself? If you are single, widowed or if your spouse can't attend, call Marge Hargrove. Parish Life has listened and now we can get together with friends and go as a group.

Parish Life will meet on Wednesday, May 6th @ 7 pm in the Fireside Room, we will plan our upcoming events. See you there!!

### Adventure Awaits You!

You are invited to a SAFARI on **Sunday, May 31st at 2 pm** in the Fireside Room where Ron and Jane Clausen will be hosting a photo show of their recent trip to Africa. The show takes less than an hour and light refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!!



## W.E.L.C.A. News

May 2015

Women's Bible Study

**Session 9: The Church –  
ansforming and Reforming**



## WELCA's Calendar of Events



***WELCA Ladies' Day***

***Saturday, May 2nd***

***Extend an Olive Branch***



*Please join us **Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, for our Ladies' Day Event. We have a wonderful program planned that includes a scrumptious lunch, beginning at 11:00 a.m. We invite you to "extend an olive branch" to all of your friends! Call Dianna at 562-715-4047 if you haven't rsvp'd yet! Don't miss it!*

**On Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>** – The Spring Pacifica Cluster Event held at St. Paul in Fullerton was attended by 6 Bethlehem ladies. The program was presented by International Sanctuary, "You are a Jewel".

What a lovely morning.

**WELCA Yearbooks** are available.

See a Circle Leader or they are  
available in the office.

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

[www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org)

click on news & events

**Join the Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA**

**On Facebook.**



### WELCA Board

The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, May 3rd** after service in the Fireside Room. For more information contact Dianna Reynolds .

### FAITH Circle

Meets **Tuesday, May 5th** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside room. The hostess is Andrea Campbell and the Bible study leader is Ginny Gary. For questions and details? Call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard .

### PHOEBE Circle

Meets **Tuesday, May 12th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Margie Reynolds at her home, 4848 Elder Avenue, Seal Beach and Dianna Reynolds will conduct our Bible study. For questions and details? Call Phoebe Circle leader Caryl Harris. All Women of Bethlehem are welcome.



**Sunday Morning**

**Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to Phoebe Circle for providing coffee and cookies in the month of April. Faith Circle will be responsible for the month of May.





## 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 2015 we are asking you for your continuing help during **May** for **Can Soup, Cups of Soup or Bowl soups**. In addition, **Cereals, peanut butter-small jars and Tuna or Span would help**. Of course any can food, dried pasta, beans, can vegetables and fruit that you would like to donate are always welcomed at Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Long Beach). A table of any and all miscellaneous items received are set out for individuals to select as a special treat.

**In addition**, they have an **immediate need for Socks and Underwear for adults and children of all ages**.

Any size **Baby Diapers** and all **Baby Foods** would help also.

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



Support Bethlehem Lutheran Church at



Monday, May 4, 2015

ALL DAY EVENT!

El Torito Grill

5955 Katella Ave, Cypress, CA 90630

\*Cut out and take this flyer with you and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to our church

**MEN-IN-MISSION MEETING:** The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:00 am in the Fireside Room. We will view and discuss a video by Rick Steves titled "The Life of Apostle Paul." We will also meet on Saturday, May 16, 2015. We will view and discuss another video by Rick Steves titled "The Life of Apostle Peter." All men are invited for study and fellowship. Ladies are also welcome for either of these videos. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.



**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AT BETHLEHEM:** Everyone is invited to a Mother's Day Breakfast at Bethlehem on Sunday morning, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, from 8:30 am to 9:30 am in Bachman Hall, compliments of Men-in-Mission.

**ADULT SUNDAYSCHOOL CLASS:** On three Sundays, May 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Adult Sunday school Class is going to view and discuss a video titled "Does God Exist?" It is a video that was taped in April 2009 at Biola University in La Mirada between William Lane Craig and Christopher Kitchens. Craig is one of the world's foremost Christian apologists. Kitchens is the leading spokesperson for the "new atheism" movement. They debated the origin of the universe, the implications of human morality, the deity of Jesus and the validity of Christ's resurrection. It was a compelling clash of worldviews and an examination of the major arguments for and against Christianity and atheism. Class is from 9:00 am until 9:45 am in the Fireside Room.

*Volunteers Needed!!*

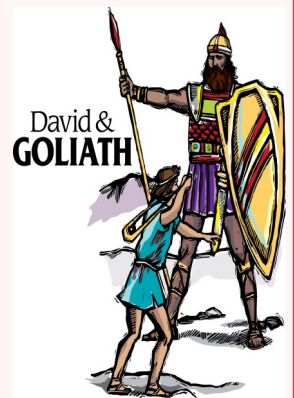
**SAVE THE DATES: July 13 through July 17**

**Vacation Bible School: "Super Heroes of the Bible"**

Original program and music by Bethlehem's dynamic duo:

Brian Gary and Ken Watson

Anyone interested in helping, please contact Christina Watson, Director







5/2	Emma Cooper	5/2	Susan Schneider	5/3	John Buezis, Jr
5/3	Samantha Retrum	5/4	Leslie Moeller	5/5	Elaine Schultheis
5/6	Brian Gary	5/9	Chloe Sohl	5/10	Joanne Wolfe
5/11	Krista Vargas	5/14	Betty Kizziar	5/18	Terry Morriss
5/19	Bruce Gustafson	5/19	Gary Nehrenberg	5/21	John Will
5/21	Hannah Wolfe	5/22	Laura Tencati	5/24	Sophia Cooper
5/26	Bob Campbell	5/26	Daryl Isaacs		

5/1/1956	Ray & Kay Shelton	5/7/1966	Dave & Linda Scott
5/14/1966	Dale & Sandy Retrum	5/17/1980	Geoff & Heidi Krcy
5/30/81	Bertram & Veronique Sohl		



Please Pray for These Members and Friends

Felice Abramovie, Gladys Ackerman, Julie Anderson, Melody Andreoli, Elaine Asbury, Amy Bachman, Joan Bissing, Arthur Brandon, Luelle Buezis, Elinor Blum, Laurie Carpenter, Shirley Carrier, Daniel Clauen, Madden Coleman, Maxine Cornwell, Jeff Davis, Sara DeWeese, Keresey Dillon, Doug Evans, Jean Franz, Judy Frazier, Katrina Gary, Rick Gary, Bruce Gustafson, The Bryan Halverson Family, Joe Harris, Dennis Hengy, Donna Hoffman, Shirley Hooper, Cory Hutter, Genevieve Jenkins, Betty Jones, Nancy Marotta, Marti Mazzari, Lynn & Noel Miles, Michael Murray, Linda Nygard, Jeanette Olmstead, Alvin Pecka, Steve Putzer, Dale Retrum, Nick Riley, Bill Ritz, Jason Sakowski, Valerie Sanchez, Doris Schaefer, Rich Schultheis, Mary Seibert, Dorothy Sideris, Charlotte Sohl, Ed Sutton, James Taylor, Ann Tegtmeier, Steve Tegtmeier, Allen Thunselle, Hank Van Zant, Elisabeth Waddell, Barbara Wagner, Sandy Wasky, Tom Watkins, Hal Wolfe.

## Thanks to These People for Serving in May, 2015



	Cantor	Reader	Ushers	Counters
<b>5/3</b>	Andrea Campbell	Charlotte Driskill	Bruce & Debby Gustafson Dawn Rentch Alice Roop	Dale Retrum David Retrum
<b>5/10</b>	Andrea Campbell	David Retrum	Andrea Campbell Paul Meyer Marianne Sakowski	Charlotte Driskill Jim Martin
<b>5/17</b>	Andrea Campbell	Eric Dobberteen		Margie Moeller Doris Morrissey
<b>5/24</b>	Andrea Campbell	Bill Haglund		Marv Schneider Susan Schneider
<b>5/31</b>	Andrea Campbell	Debby Gustafson	John & Janice Hunt Marianne Sakowski Vanessa Stevenson	

### Altar Guild

5/3  
5/10 Vanessa Stevenson  
5/17  
5/24 Marianne Sakowski  
5/31 Shirley Campbell

### Altar Flowers

5/3 Moeller, Retrum  
5/10 Gustafson, Keegan  
5/17 Gustafson, Tegtmeier  
5/24 Clausen, Wolfe  
5/31 Wolfe