

# Bethlehem Star

Volume 57, Issue 2

February 2017



## Pastor's Message

Thank you for your gracious welcome, for the invitations to participate in various groups at the church, for meals shared, for kind words, for the excitement in welcoming someone new into your midst, for helpful suggestions, for your assistance, and for answers to my questions. Beginning a new call and entering into a new setting is a bit overwhelming but you have made this transition smooth and have been so helpful...thank you! As I continue to familiarize myself with the congregation and the community, I am working on making some intentional efforts to get to know you, the synod, and the community. The following is what I shared in my report to the council and I would like to invite you into the conversation, specifically how I want to get to know you, the people of Bethlehem Lutheran.

I'm making an effort to get to know various groups in the congregation by attending as many of their meetings/events as schedule allows. I may not always regularly attend all of them but want to make an effort to be familiar with them and for them to be familiar with me.

I will be working on coordinating informal meeting times with people of the congregation, maybe in small group settings...an opportunity for me to get to know people and for them to get to know me. I am working out some procedural details still but I anticipate offering a variety of options to try and receive as much participation as possible. I am still thinking on this but I anticipate beginning this possibly in February or March. Some possible examples would be:

Asking for people to host a small group in their home and people could sign-up to attend, daytime and/or evening options.

Scheduling some daytime and/or evening options to meet at the church.

Meeting people at a restaurant or coffee-shop type setting, again daytime and/or evening options.

I plan on participating in Synod based events.

I also will be working on making connections with some of the local businesses, introducing myself, frequenting their business, giving them my business cards, etc... it's all about making connections and lasting relationships.

I am looking for some people who would be willing to host a group of 6-8 people in their homes, dates and times are flexible. Ideally, it would be great to have opportunities for people to meet during the day or in the evening, during the week or on the weekend...hosts would only need to provide one such opportunity, to whatever best suits their schedule. Expectations for hosts would be to provide a space for people to gather for conversation for 1 - 1½ hours, with perhaps some light refreshments. If you are interested in hosting or have any questions, please contact me and let me know. Once host sites are secured, I'll have sign-up sheets available for people to sign up and here comes the challenge, I would like to invite you to sign up with people you may not be as familiar with, the idea behind this is not only for me to get to know you but for all of us to get to know each other better.

Thank you for continued welcome and I look forward to our continued work together to be the hands, feet, voice, and heart of Christ in our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

**The Installation Service** for Pastor Jennifer will be Sunday, February 19th at 3:00 pm at the church, Pacifica Synod Bishop Andrew Taylor will be here to preach. Everyone is welcome to this worship service and a reception will follow. If you are able to help at this service, please talk to Pastor Jennifer...looking for volunteers to usher, assist with communion, sound and audio visual.

**Adult Sunday School** meets in the Fireside Room at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. We are currently looking at some topics from *The Lutheran Handbook* and *The Lutheran Handbook II*, it is not a requirement to purchase these books but if you would like to, they are available online at [Augsburgfortress.org](http://Augsburgfortress.org) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Everyone is welcome to attend, if you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Jennifer.

**MISSION MEETING:** The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue our study of "Luke's Gospel to the Gentiles" from the Master Builders Bible for Men. The reading for this week will be Chapter 18:9 thru Chapter 22:6 with discussion on verses 18:9-14 about Two Prayers.

We will also meet Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue our study of "Luke's Gospel to the Gentiles" from the Master Builders Bible for Men. The reading for this week will be Chapter 22:7 thru Chapter 23:43 with discussion on verses 22:7-34 about The Last Supper.

**Faith Circle**—We will be meeting on the first Tuesday of February at 9:30 in the Fireside Room. Arlene Pollard will be Hostess and our Ginny Gary will be Bible Study Leader. Hope to see all of you there.

**Musical Opportunity:** Pastor Jennifer would like to form a group of people who would provide leadership and support for new music and liturgies for worship. It would be helpful to be able to read music, instrumentalists are also invited. If you would like more information, have questions, or would like to volunteer, please talk to Pastor Jennifer.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following service in Bachman Hall on Sunday, February 12. Please plan to attend.

**Constitution and By-Laws.** Some years ago the church Constitution was changed. However, at that time the By-Laws were not changed to reflect the approved constitutional changes. We have now amended the By-Laws for the expressed purpose of aligning them with the Constitution. No additional changes were made. Copies of the revised By-Laws are in the office for your review.

The changes will be voted upon at the Annual Congregational Meeting February 12.

## Parish Life:

There will not be a planned Valentine Dinner this year at the El Torito, Long Beach as they have closed the restaurant. If anyone would like to get together as a group, please let a member of the Parish Life Committee know.

Pastor Jennifer's Installation Service will be on Sunday February 19th, anyone who would like to help with the reception setup, serve, or cleanup please contact Marianne at (562)594-8935. Also, anyone who would like to make cookies or bars for the installation please let me know.

The next Parish Life Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st at 7 pm in the Fireside Room.

Thanks so much,

Marianne



## THE PAGEANT OF OUR LORD

32<sup>ND</sup> Annual Presentation – March 31-April 15, 2017

Experience It. Believe It.

Over 300,000 people have enjoyed Pageant of Our Lord. Each presentation includes at least fourteen art pieces, magnificent orchestrations with a 60-voice choir, and original narration to lead the audience on a unique journey through Christ's life. Over 400 volunteers donate hundreds of hours each year to bring this unique gospel presentation to believers and non-believers alike.

Last year a small group of church members went to this performance. It is held at the Rolling Hills Covenant Church, 2222 Palos Verdes Drive No., Rolling Hills Estates, 310-521-2520. It is very similar to the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach. This year I have purchased twelve matinee seats for Palm Sunday/\$20 a ticket. I have six tickets left. When these tickets are gone, and if you want to join us, you will need to purchase tickets on your own or any of the dates mentioned above. We could carpool from the church on Palm Sunday. The website for ordering is <http://pageantofourlord.org/>. It is a very moving performance, especially at Easter time. Please contact Margie Moeller at or by calling 562-537-3100.

# A BIG UPCOMING ANNIVERSARY

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing the 95 theses to the church door on October 31, 1517.

To help all of us get a better understanding of the occasion, the Worship & Music Committee is publishing a series of articles in the church newsletters. The first article was in the October, 2016 newsletter giving a brief biography of Martin Luther's early years and the life changing thunderstorm when he promised to become a monk. The December, 2016 newsletter featured the story of Martin Luther's "Ah-ha" discovery as a result of his searching for God's grace.

In this month's edition, we look at the 95 Theses or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*. At thirty-three years of age, Martin Luther posted the itemized list of discussion topics on the church bulletin board (the door of the church) in the university town of Wittenberg. The church was a part of campus life and was referred to as the Castle church. There seems to be some debate whether Luther actually posted the 95 theses to the church door; however, it is recognized that he wrote them and sent them to the Archbishop of Mainz.

The sale of indulgences for fund-raising had become more and more prevalent. The tactics of the current salesman, John Tetzel were very troubling to Luther. Tetzel's slogan was, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs."

"Indulgences" (from the Latin *indulgentia*—permit) had become the complex instruments for granting forgiveness of sins. The granting of forgiveness in the sacrament of penance was based on the "power of the keys" given to the apostles according to Matthew 16:18, and was used to discipline sinners. Penitent sinners were asked to show regret for their sins (contrition), confess them to a priest (confession), and do penitential work to atone for them (satisfaction). Indulgences were issued by executive papal order and by written permission in various bishoprics, and they were meant to relax or commute the penitent sinner's work of satisfaction.<sup>1</sup>

Gradually, through the centuries and several generations of popes, the use of indulgences became more and more common and were granted for more common acts of contrition until all it took to earn an indulgence was to pay

the requested sum of money.

Rather than look to Christ for forgiveness of their sins, people were attempting to buy their forgiveness with the purchase of an indulgence. Luther's view was that God is not looking for a monetary payment for our sins. No one has enough money to buy his mercy. Martin Luther taught that God's mercy was in Jesus's dying for our sins, and we will be sustained by our belief and faith in God's mercy. For the rest of his days, Martin Luther wrote "books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society."<sup>2</sup>

The reaction to Luther's proposed discussion was as if a fuse had been lit on a powder keg. Copies of the theses were made and distributed. One source put it well. Martin Luther was front page news.

In 1518, he was called into a sort of court to defend his opinions. After three days of back and forth debate, Luther returned home with no church support for his opinions.

On November 9, 1518, barely a year after proposing changes to church practices regarding the indulgences, the pope condemned Luther's writings. The debating continued, but finally, on January 3, 1521 Pope Leo excommunicated Martin Luther from the Catholic Church.

The writing of the 95 Theses sparked the Reformation period "Every Protestant Reformer—like Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, and Cranmer—and every Protestant stream—Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, and Anabaptist—were inspired by Luther in one way or another. On a larger canvas, his reform unleashed forces that ended the Middle Ages and ushered in the modern era."<sup>3</sup>

Next time, translation of the Bible.

## Resources for further reading:

<sup>1</sup><http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-28/1517-luther-posts-95-theses.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.elca.org/en/Faith/ELCA-Teaching/Luther-and-Lutheranism>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/theologians/martin-luther.html>

The text of the 95 Theses:

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>

## W.E.L.C.A. News      February, 2017

### Women's Devotional

**Galatians: Children of God through Faith**



### WELCA Board

The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> (new 2017 Schedule)** For more information, contact Jeanne Sandvig.

### Your 2017 WELCA Board

Jeanne Sandvig – President

Erika Gary – Vice President

Merle Hower – Secretary

Lana Dieter – Treasurer

### Committees and Circle Leader

Debby Gustafson, Christina Watson,  
Vanessa Stevenson and Arlene Pollard

### FAITH Circle

Meets **Tuesday, February 7th** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The hostess will be Arlene Pollard with Bible Study by Ginny Gary. For questions and details, call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard.

### PHOEBE Circle

Meets **Tuesday, February 14th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Jeanne Sandvig, 6111 Barbados Ave, Cypress. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig. All Women of Bethlehem are welcome.



### Sunday Morning Coffee & Cookies

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

## Women's 2017 Theme "Grace and Goals"



### WELCA's Calendar of Events

#### Pacifica Synod Spring One Day Event

**March 4, 2017**

**Lutheran Church of Our Savior's**

**5050 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92404**

**From 8:30am to 4:00pm**

**Early Bird postmark by 2/28      \$25.00**

**Postmark after 2/28      \$30.00**

**See Jeanne Sandvig for details**

*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





# February Special!



**SAVE \$.25**

on any Equal Exchange

**Organic Green Tea**

or

**Organic Irish Breakfast Tea**

purchase from

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Coupon expires 02/28/17

**We are overstocked with tea!**

**Help us move some inventory!**

**Support the small-scale farmers!**

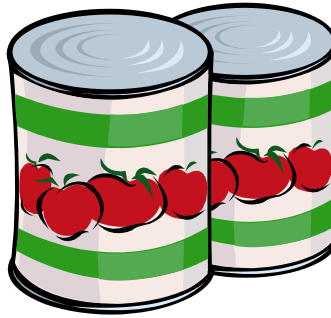
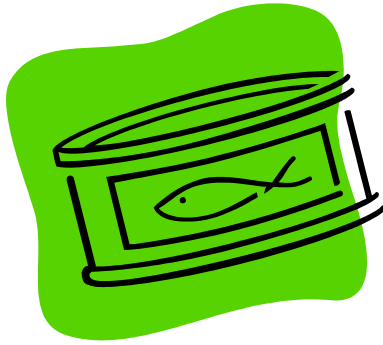
From the Lutheran World Relief website:

*Fair Trade products assure that small-scale farmers have been given a fair and dependable price for their crops on the world market. And the LWR Fair Trade helps support LWR's other work throughout the world.*

From the Equal Exchange website:

*Our fairly traded, organic teas come from small-scale tea farms in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa. While most tea on the market (even Fair Trade certified) comes from large plantations and estates, Equal Exchange partners with family farms and small-scale land owners. We buy our delicious, organic tea directly from democratically organized groups of these tea farmers — meaning workers, rather than plantation owners, reap the benefits.*

*Our authentic Fair Trade principles are still uncommon in the tea industry. We believe in trade that strengthens the autonomy of small farmer organizations, promotes among farmers a sense ownership and control over one's business, encourages entrepreneurial attitudes and a risk-taking culture, strengthens and builds community and encourages debate and participatory decision making. We believe that "Fair Trade" must mean "small farmer," and our relationships reflect that. Each of our producer partners is unique, with a storied history of ambition, struggle and success over the years they have worked to set themselves apart in a historically oppressive industry. There is still much work to be done in changing the tea industry, but these dedicated farmers, with your support, are paving the way.*



## Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center Monthly Report

Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

**Thank You, Thank You again for this past month's request for food!**  
**Thank you again for those of you who have taken special items down to LSS.**

As we continue our monthly request for in-kind food donations in 2017 we are asking you for your continuing help during **February** of **Canned Tuna or Canned Meats-beef stew, spam, chicken or ham along with Canned vegetables and Canned fruit.**

Our Special on-going request will be continuing for **warm clothes, new or gently used socks for all ages, scarfs and \*knit hats.** They are so appreciative and excited for these items for the homeless.

**Note: \* Found at Dollar Tree Store**

Any other food items, especially Cereals, healthcare items, miscellaneous food items or those clothes appropriate especially for job interviews are so appreciated. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Long Beach and the people and families served daily in their Ministry again appreciate your kindness, care and compassion.

Thanks again for helping to keep our Lutheran Social Service cupboard (Pastor's Pantry in Narthex) well supplied.

Blessings,  
Bob, Andrea and crew... Social Ministry Committee



shutterstock - 158138384



2/1 George Egbert

2/7 Sarah Sandvig

2/9 Julie Anderson

2/15 Jim Brandon

2/19 Aiden Sandvig

2/23 David Sakowski

2/27 Kevin Gustafson II

2/28 Luelle Buezis

2/14/1960 John & Janice Hunt

2/25/1995 Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder

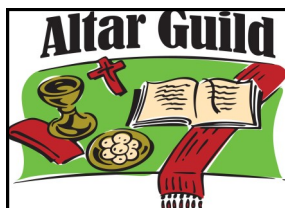


|                       |                      |                   |                  |                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Gladycce Ackerman     | Maxine Cornwell      | Parker Hay        | Coler Pearce     | Joyce Tarver      |
| Julie Anderson        | Sara DeWeese         | Diana Hayden      | Andrew Pritchard | James Taylor      |
| Elaine Asbury         | Keresey Dillon       | Genevieve Jenkins | Dale Retrum      | Ann Tegtmeier     |
| Amy Bachman           | Laura Duke           | Betty Jones       | Nick Riley       | Steve Tegtmeier   |
| Colleen Bidwell       | Joan Ebersold        | Julie Kizziar     | Bill Ritz        | Alyssa Terpstra   |
| Arthur Brandon        | Doug Evans           | Linda Kjenstad    | Louise Ronchetto | Julian Terpstra   |
| Luelle Buezis         | Judy Frazier         | Joan Lee          | Jason Sakowski   | Hank Van Zant     |
| Elinor Blum           | Katrina Gary         | William Lewis     | Valerie Sanchez  | Elisabeth Waddell |
| Andrea Campbell       | Dr. Steve Graham     | Erin Lopez        | Lorie Schnebelie | Sandy Wasky       |
| Bob Campbell          | Bruce Gustafson      | Patricia Lueckert | Rich Schultheis  | Tom Watkins       |
| Laurie Carpenter      | Bill Haglund         | Jessica McIntire  | Gail Shelton     | Hal Wolfe         |
| Shirley Carrier       | The Bryan Halverson  | Pete Miller       | Dorothy Sideris  |                   |
| Gloria Clara          | Family               | Sandy Miller      | Charlotte Sohl   |                   |
| Linnea Clayton        | Joe Harris           | Terry Morriss     | Leslie Summers   |                   |
| Etta Bjornson Connell | The Hashimoto Family | Linda Nygard      | Ed Sutton        |                   |



## Thanks to These People for Serving in February

|      | Reader         | Cantor | Ushers                                       | Counters                        |
|------|----------------|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2/5  | Jeanne Sandvig |        | Jim & Susan Martin                           | John Buezis<br>John Buezis Jr   |
| 2/12 | Jim Martin     |        | Charlotte Driskill<br>Paul Meyer             | Andrea Campbell<br>Bob Campbell |
| 2/19 | Jane Clausen   |        | George & Marsha Egbert<br>John & Janice Hunt | Lulu Meyer<br>Paul Meyer        |
| 2/26 | David Retrum   |        | Marianne Sakowski                            | George Egbert<br>Marsha Egbert  |

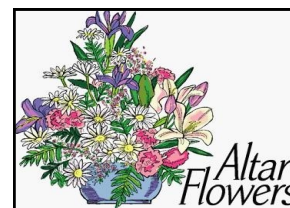


2/5

2/12 Jim Brandon

2/19

2/26 Marianne Sakowski



2/5 Morrissey

2/12 Gary, Wolfe

2/19 Sandvig

2/26 Gustafson