

Bethlehem Star

Volume 56 Issue 5

May 2016

Dear God,
I do not know where you are leading me
I do not even know what my next day,
my next week or my next year will look like.
As I try to keep my hands open,
I trust that you will put your hand in mine
and bring me home.
Thank you God for your love.
Thank you.
Amen.

Henri Nouwen, *With Open Hands*

This simple prayer by Henri Nouwen concludes his book, *With Open Hands*. In his reflections on prayer and the life of faith Henri contrasts the images of a clenched fist and an open hand: the journey of faith is the loosening of clenched fists that seek to possess into hands opened to receive. As he writes: "To pray means to open your hands before God. It means slowly relaxing the tension which squeezes your hands together and accepting your existence with an increasing readiness, not as a possession to defend, but as a gift to receive."

To live in light of God's promises means to open our hands to receive God's abundance. This is why the meal we call the eucharist, where we open our hands to receive the gift of Christ's nurturing and healing presence, is at the very heart of our worship and our life together as a community of faith. For once our hands have been unclenched to receive, they are open to share God's abundant gifts with those whose hands are empty.

Peace,

Pastor Richard



Faith Circle - a gentle reminder to all Faith Circle women that we have a meeting on May 3rd in the Fireside Room. We also welcome others who would like to attend. Andrea Campbell will be our Hostess and Ginny Gary our Bible Study Leader. We gather at 9:30 am.

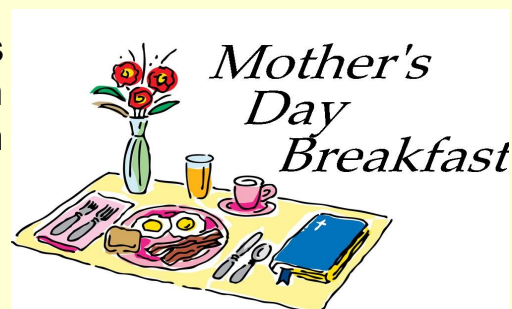


Men in Mission

Men-in-Mission: the next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, May 7th at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room. We will be studying "Luke's Gospel to the Gentiles" from the Master Builders Bible for Men.

The reading will be Chapter 1:39 thru Chapter 2:20 with discussion on verses 2:1-20.

Mother's Day Breakfast at Bethlehem: everyone is invited to a Mother's Day Breakfast at Bethlehem on Sunday morning, May 8th from 8:30 am. to 9:30 am in Bachman Hall, compliments of Men-in-Mission.



SAVE THE DATE(S)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church's

Vacation Bible School July 25 to 29, 2016 9am-Noon

Bar B Q Friday July 29th 5pm

Theme: " *Christmas in July* "

Once again, our own talented Brian Gary and Ken Watson are creating an original Vacation Bible School session filled with song, crafts, games and treats. Mark your calendar now and tell your friends and family.

Thank you, Christina Watson, Director

Parish Life News

We have the information on the events available at the Hollywood Bowl for 2016. Sign up for which events you would like to see.

- June 18th Opening Night with Steely Dan
- June 24th Sing a Long - The Sound of Music
- July 2,3,4 Fireworks Spectacular- Chicago
- July 8-9 Star Trek in Concert
- July 15-16 Diana Ross
- July 22-23 Weird Al Yankovic Takes the Bowl
- July 29-31 A Chorus Line
- August 5-6 Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks
- Aug. 12-13 An Olympic Carnival-with Sergio Mendes, Herb Alpert and Lani Hall, Dianne Reeves, & Romero Lubambo.
- August 19 Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals
- August 20 Brandi Carlile—Old Crow Medicine Show.
- Aug.26-27 Culture Club
- Sept. 2,3,4 John Williams-Maestro of Movies.

We have the Angel Baseball tickets for June 12th @ 12:35 p.m. with the Cleveland Indians, please reserve yours today!

Please stop by the Parish Life table on the patio after Sunday worship. We have all sign-ups and information available. You can also call Marianne to add your reservations.



We need volunteers to learn and operate the Audio/Visual system. If you would like to learn this interesting process and be part of the team, contact Ann Tegtmeier at 562-596-5961 or asaint2@verizon.net.



W.E.L.C.A. News

May 2016

Women's Bible Study
Mary and Elizabeth
Sisters Across the Generations



WELCA Board

The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, May 1st after service in the Fireside room.** For more information, contact Dianna Reynolds .

FAITH Circle

Meets **Tuesday, May 3rd** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The hostess will be Andrea Campbell and Bible Study leader will be Ginny Gary. For questions and details call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard.

PHOEBE Circle

Meets **Tuesday, May 10th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Margie Reynolds. Margie will also conduct our Bible study. For questions and details? Call Dianna Reynolds. 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.

WELCA Yearbooks **are Available!**
See your Circle Leader or Erika Gary
for your copy.

Women's 2016 Theme

"Serving with Joy"



WELCA's Calendar of Events



ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

"Growing Through Narrows Spots
From Fear to Joy"

Sunday, May 22nd we will hold our Spring Gathering and General Meeting of WELCA 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. Ruth Bachman will provide an inspiring program and a light lunch will be included. Please join us!

Cost \$7.00 Sign up on the patio after service.



Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events





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 2016 we are asking you for your continuing help during May for **Peanut Butter (small jars), Jelly and Cups of Soup (any size or flavor)**. These items are needed daily. Continuous donated items of all food, clothes, socks (new or gently used) are always needed this time of the year.

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



Campbell Soup Labels for Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Rock Point, Arizona

The Campbell Soup Label program will be discontinued on July 31, 2016. The Mission receives labels from all over the country, and many more are mailed directly to the program headquarters earmarked for the Mission's benefit. Over the years the piles of carefully clipped labels have added up to at least 8 new vehicles, along with tables, chairs, school supplies, and much, much more.

The Campbell Soup Label program has been a God-send to Navajo Lutheran Mission. The benefits to the Navajo people are more than can be numbered. Please accept our sincere gratitude for the many dedicated individuals and congregations who have participated.

Labels received and recorded prior to July 31st can still count toward valuable resources for the Mission and School. Please advise your label collectors so that everything can be sent in by July 1st.

You can still send the "box tops for education" from General Mills to Solheim Lutheran Home or the Mission. *Ahxéhee' (thank you)*



5/1/1956	Ray & Kay Shelton	5/7/1966	Dave & Linda Scott
5/14/1966	Dale & Sandy Retrum	5/17/1980	Geoff & Heidi Kraczy
5/30/1981	Bertram & Veronique Sohl		

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	5/14	Betty Kizziar
5/18	Terry Morriss	5/19	Bruce Gustafson	5/19	Gary Nehrenberg
5/21	Hannah Wolfe	5/22	Laura Tencati	5/24	Sophia Cooper
5/26	Bob Campbell	5/26	Daryl Isaacs	5/28	Pat Notrica



Gladyce Ackerman	Lynne Estabrook	Joan Lee	Bertram Sohl
Julie Anderson	Doug Evans	Erin Lopez	Charlotte Sohl
Melody Andreoli	Jean Franz	LoSandy Miller	Ed Sutton
Elaine Asbury	Judy Frazier	Michael Murray	James Taylor
Amy Bachman	Katrina Gary	Linda Nygard	Ann Tegtmeier
Colleen Bidwell	Rick Gary	Jeanette Olmstead	Steve Tegtmeier
Arthur Brandon	Jason Guerin	Coler Pearce	Allen Thunselle
Charlie Buezis	Bruce Gustafson	Andrew Pritchard	Linda Thunselle
Luelle Buezis	The Bryan Halverson Family	Dale Retrum	Hank Van Zant
Elinor Blum	Joe Harris	Nick Riley	Sandy Wasky
Bob Campbell	The Hashimoto Family	Bill Ritz	Tom Watkins
Laurie Carpenter	Dennis Hengy	Louise Ronchetto	Hal Wolfe
Shirley Carrier	Donna Hoffman	Jason Sakowski	
Maxine Cornwell	Genevieve Jenkins	Valerie Sanchez	
Jeff Davis	Betty Jones	Rich Schultheis	
Sara DeWeese	Linda Kjenstad	Mary Seibert	
Keresey Dillon	John La Barbera	Dorothy Sideris	

Thanks to These People for Serving in May

	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters
5/1	Dianna Reynolds	John Buezis	George & Marsha Egbert Marv & Susan Schneider	Marv Schneider Susan Schneider
5/8	John Buezis, Jr	John Buezis	Paul Meyer Vanessa Stevenson	John Buezis John Buezis, Jr
5/15	Eric Dobberteen	John Buezis		Andrea Campbell Bob Campbell
5/22	Bruce Gustafson	John Buezis	John & Janice Hunt Dianna Reynolds	Lulu Meyer Paul Meyer
5/29	Dale Retrum	John Buezis		

Altar Guild

5/1 George & Marsha Egbert

5/8 Marianne Sakowski

5/15 Shirley Campbell

5/22 Arlene Pollard

5/29

Altar Flowers

5/1 Moeller, Retrum, Shelton

5/8 Schultheis

5/15 Gustafson, Retrum

5/22 Roop, Tegtmeier

5/29 Clausen, Herzburg, Wolfe