



Bethlehem Star Summer 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and abounding in steadfast love." (Joel 2:13) This is one of the Gospel Acclamations (ELW, pg. 142) that may be used during the season of Lent, it's one that I have sung many times over the years. Even though we are not currently in the season of Lent, these words have been running through my mind more and more these days.

We, as a congregation and in many places throughout the world, are in a season of "returning" to familiar places and practices. With many peoples' lives being interrupted over the last year and a half, some in tragic ways, this season of "returning" has been anticipated for some time now. A "return" to being able to go about our pre-pandemic daily lives, of being able to confidently gather with family and friends, of feeling less restricted, etc... At the church, we have returned to indoor in-person worship for a few months now and as health guidelines have recently been adjusted, we are "returning" to some familiar practices at the church as well. We are being intentionally cautious in how and what we "return" to as far as some practices for worship and fellowship go.

While we are "returning" to practices in our lives, may we be reassured that while the scripture verse from Joel says "return to the Lord your God", we have never been alone...God has not forsaken us. And may we also be fully aware that physically "returning" to church is not the only way to "return to the Lord your God". If we have learned anything about our faith in God during the pandemic, it is to expand our thinking of who God is...when we had to abruptly halt gathering in-person worship and fellowship, we trusted that God wasn't present only in the physical building of Bethlehem Lutheran, that God was present in our homes and in all other areas of our lives. God is present where God's people are present...so "returning to the Lord" isn't only about returning to the physical building of BLC. We want to be a community of welcome, for those who physically come to the church and those who participate with the church online. While we continue to experience more "returns" to the familiar, may we be assured that returning to the Lord our God is one of blessing, in knowing that there is One who is already with us.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

A simple thank you doesn't seem to be adequate in expressing my gratitude for the many Happy Birthdays you shared with me in June. It was a beautiful gift to receive a collection of cards, text messages, and Facebook posts from so many of you. Thank you for taking the time to share your heartfelt words in celebration of my birthday, you all sure know how to make me feel appreciated.

Pastor Jennifer

We recently updated our Worship Protocols...you can check out the church website for the latest information. Worship services are held in the sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 am. You no longer need to sign-up ahead of time to attend worship and if you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear a face mask. We will continue to record worship services and make them available on YouTube (search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA and click on Videos), the website (www.blcla.org) , and the Church Facebook page (www.facebook.com search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA). Since we are recording the services on Sunday mornings, the recordings won't be available to view until early Sunday afternoons. We continue to be grateful for your flexibility and patient support as we make adjustments for the health and safety of those who enter our buildings.

Paper Rollers has resumed on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 8:00 am in Bachman Hall. If you would like to participate or learn more, please give the church office a call. This group will be busy for quite some time thanks to all of the papers that have been dropped off. Thank you for your donations. Here's a recent picture of the shed, full of donated papers!



Wednesday Zoom Check Ins have resumed on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. These sessions are available to anyone who would like to share in a time to check-in with one another, hear scripture, and pray together. There is no commitment to join every week, join when you can, in the past, these sessions have lasted between 20-30 minutes. For those that have been a part of these Zoom sessions in the past, you'll continue to be on the e-mail list...if you have not been a part of them and would like to join, please talk to Pastor Jennifer and she will e-mail you the Zoom link/sign-in information.

Would you like to contribute towards and dedicate in honor of a celebration or in memory of a loved one? We have 2 fresh flower bouquets for every Sunday worship service and if you would like to contribute and dedicate a bouquet, please e-mail or call the church office to sign up. Flowers are available to take home following the Sunday service.

Tithes and Offerings: Check out the church website www.blcla.org and you will find that you can give electronically to the church through Paypal or Debit or Credit Card. You'll find the Paypal Donate button on the Homepage. FYI, PayPal charges a service fee (2.9% + \$0.30) that is deducted from each donation. We are grateful for your continued generous support of BLC's ministries. Your financial gifts sustain these ministries of BLC and beyond. We continue to receive your financial gifts through the mail, in person, and now electronically through PayPal.



Thank You to the many kind thoughtful folks for their prayers, cards, calls and so many numerous and varied thoughtful gestures. With all of your kindnesses and prayers I am planning on winning this battle.
Shary Reed



SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL, JULY 11TH

JOIN US FOR A PICNIC IN THE COURTYARD

FOLLOWED BY AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC

BY OUR OWN TALENTED SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!!!

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS AND PICNIC LUNCH OR GET TAKEOUT

AND BRING IT BACK TO CHURCH!

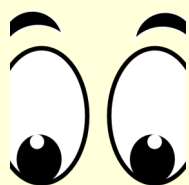
FEEL FREE TO BRING NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS!!

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX!!

LET'S CELEBRATE BEING TOGETHER!!!



The next **Bethlehem Men-In-Mission** meeting will be on Saturday, July 17th, 2021, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue with a study of the **Book of Romans** from **The Master Builders Bible for Men**. The reading for this week will be Chapters 4:1 - 25 with discussion on verses 1 - 25 / **An Example of Faith**. All men of Bethlehem are invited.



Be on the Lookout for a return of some educational opportunities in September, more information to come. We are working on resuming Sunday School for Children & Adults and Confirmation Classes for middle school students. It has been several months since we have been able to meet, so we are looking forward to gathering again.

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



Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

We are asking you again for your continuing help during **July and August 2021** for:

items for HOMELESS BAGS WHICH ARE STILL URGENTLY NEEDED DAILY

These items are Cereal, Peanut Butter (small size jars), Cup of Soup, all pop-top lids such as tuna, span, applesauce, jello, puddings, Vienna sausages, Ravioli, Mac & Cheese, soups, canned beans, and granola bars. Even "surprise" food items are welcomed.

Continuous donated items of pasta, spaghetti sauces, any kind of individual cookies, bars or candy, individual size cereal bars, diced fruit cups and juice boxes are always appreciated.

Socks (new or gently used) are always needed for men, women, or children.

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



Save the date: Sunday, September 12, 2021

“God’s Work - Our Hands” Sunday

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



**Sept. 12
2021**

We are ready to start planning for Bethlehem’s opportunity to share and participate in this coming service activity. Well, 2021 is here and once again we shall gather.

This is our plan: to make BIRTHDAY BAGS for LSS. Let’s do this work together to make this a day of service!

We will need: Cake Mix, Frosting, Sprinkles, Birthday Candles, Balloons, Birthday Napkins, Birthday Card, Variety of Cards with postage, tissue paper and Birthday Bags. We plan to ask for a Grant from Thrivent and purchase gift cards for each bag.

Sign-ups will be in late July to collect these items.

Your Social Ministry Committee

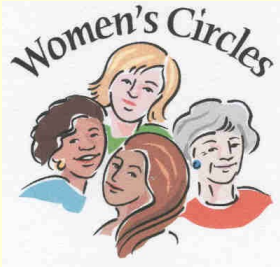
Judy's Kitchen - June 19, 2021



Dianna Reynolds, with help from Pastor Jennifer and Christina Watson, provided To Go lunch containers for 80 guests at Judy's Kitchen on Saturday June 19th. The yummy meal consisted of Green Chili Chicken Casserole and Creamy Corn. A homemade dessert was added of either a brownie, cookie or biscotti.

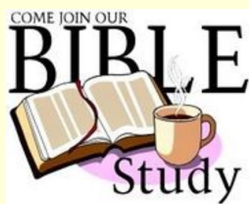
Thank you to Merle Hower for making the biscotti and to Johanne Hansen for shopping and helping to pull apart a ton of chicken with Dianna.

July/August
2021



Faith Circle: We are on our summer break for July and August and plan to resume our regular meetings in September. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Andrea Campbell.

Phoebe Circle: We are on our summer break for July and August. Offerings can be sent directly to Christina Watson, Treasurer. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig.



The study is in the current issue of Gather magazine.



Sunday Morning Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.



July 10 — Pacifica WELCA will hold a Zoom event beginning at 1:00 p.m. and Pastor Stephanie Lape from Cross & Crown Lutheran Church in Rancho Cucamonga will be our presenter. She has written a book titled “Beckoned, Hearing God’s Call to Deeper Faith”. Her topic for July 10th is “Healing Religious Harms”. Contact Jeanne Sandvig for the Zoom link.

Aug 10 — Women of Bethlehem BBQ at the home of Melissa Sandvig, 3211 Kempton Rd, Los Alamitos, 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Christina Watson (562-208-4564) by phone, email, or text so we know how many to prepare for. We are looking for women to serve on our WELCA Board for 2022—please consider serving.

September 7 — Faith Circle at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.

September 14 — Phoebe Circle at 6:30 pm at the home of Jeanne Sandvig.

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events



Join Women of the ELCA on Facebook

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

W.E.L.C.A. 2021 Calendar August - December

August	10	W.E.L.C.A. Bar BQ – Melissa Sandvig's Home – 5:00 pm Bring a side dish, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and beverages provided 11 th Tri-Annual Gathering Phoenix, AZ POSTPONED UNTIL 2023
September	07	Faith Circle Meeting-Fireside Room 9:30 am
	14	Phoebe Circle Meeting 6:30 pm Jeanne Sandvig Host and Leader
	18	Judy's Kitchen-Congregational Church 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
	26	W.E.L.C.A. Board Meeting-Fireside room after service
October	05	Faith Circle Meeting-Fireside Room 9:30 am
	12	Phoebe Circle Meeting 6:30 pm Debby Gustafson Host and Pastor Leader
	16	47 th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar 8 am – 12 pm Junktique , book and bakery departments No food served to the public, just coffee
November	05	Faith Circle Meeting-Fireside Room 9:30 am
	5-6	34 st Annual Pacifica Women of the ELCA Gathering – Details TBA
	7	General & Bazaar Expenditures Meeting with Election of Officers for 2022
	9	Phoebe Circle Meeting 6:30 pm Dianna Reynolds Host and Leader
	24	Thanksgiving Eve Dessert - All Bethlehem Women
December	05	W.E.L.C.A. Board Installation during the Sunday Worship Service
	07	W.E.L.C.A. Christmas Gathering 6:30 pm Location TBD General Meeting & Budget Approval



WELCA Summer 2021 Barbecue

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Home of Melissa Sandvig

3211 Kempton Rd., Rossmoor

Begins at 5:00 p.m.

bring a side dish to share

Sign-Up to let us know you are coming!

Email Dianna if you missed the sign-ups



47th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Save the date for our next Bethlehem Bazaar

What's changed?

Time: 8:00 a.m. to noon

There will be NO kitchen this year

Volunteers working will have goodies provided

All Junk, whether new or old will be in one location

No electronics bigger than small kitchen appliances

**Larger items can be brought, but if they do not sell
you must pick them up from the church**

We have no outside company picking up the leftovers this year

**We are having the Bakery area – and would love all the help we
can get with baked goods and volunteers to work.**

Questions: See Christina or Dianna



The ancient Greeks believed that butterflies were the soul of the departed. In Christianity, the butterfly is associated with the soul...initially trapped within the body but then freed in a resurrection into a new life as it transforms itself from a caterpillar into a spectacular creature of nature.

Many years ago Jennie Tessien, Marynell Wolfe's mother, taught me how to needlepoint this beautiful butterfly. I am reminded of God's love for us every time I see this paramont. I am sure manyhave felt like the butterfly emerging from the pandemic cocoon. Let us rejoice that we can now resume our worship in person again at Bethlehem.

Blessings, Christina



7/2	Dave Scott	7/3	Vern Reynolds	7/5	Randi Bartels
7/8	Marianne Sakowski	7/10	Tim Campbell	7/12	Sara DeWeese
7/12	Dianna Reynolds	7/13	Shirley Campbell	7/13	Steven Joplin
7/15	Debbie Johnson	7/21	Liz Nehrenberg	7/22	Sandy Retrum
7/24	Logan Sandvig	7/27	Ray Shelton	7/30	Susan Mlynaryk
8/13	Blake Anderson	8/14	Fritz Campbell	8/26	Kinsley Gustafson
8/26	Brad Stevenson	8/27	Brooklyn Retrum	8/30	Steve Tegtmeier



7/4/2015	Michael & Christine Rosso
7/21/1967	Ron & Jane Clausen
8/1/1996	Doug & Fiona Wolfe



Julie Anderson

Elaine Asbury

Amy Bachman

Kevin Betts

Kate & Steve

John Buezis

Fritz Campbell

Shirley Campbell

Caren Cantafio

Laurie Carpenter

Linnea Clayton

Irene Cooper

Maxine Cornwell

Sara DeWeese

Katrina Gary

Marge Hargrove

Janet Harris

Joe Harris

Diana Hayden

Gaylord Hollister

Jason Jackson

Genevieve Jenkins

Betty Jones

Dean Kinzel

Julie Kizziar

Barbara Krause

Joan Lee

Jill Leverantz

William Lewis

Erin Lopez

Patricia Lueckert

John Maio

Lawrence Massey

Jessica McIntire

Pete Miller

Ethan Mohr

Dan Opoien

Coler Pearce

Retta Rasmussen

Shary Reed

Dale Retrum

Sandy Retrum

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