

Bethlehem Star

Volume 56 Issue 1 January 2016

In the heart of God begotten
Ere the world from chaos rose,
You are Alpha: from that fountain
All that is and has been flows:
You are Omega, of all things
You to come from the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

We have just celebrated the birth of Christ. On January 3rd, the second Sunday of Christmas, our gospel reading is from opening verses of John's gospel, where he writes: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" and "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . . full of grace and truth." It was in light of the experience of the revelation of God in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that early Christian theologians spoke of "the Incarnation," the presence of God in human flesh.

You became our mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
For without your grace we wither
And decay, in death to lie,
evermore and evermore.

The words of the ancient hymn, "Of the Father's Love Begotten," echo John's understanding of the Word become flesh. This is the deepest meaning of what we celebrate at Christmas: not merely the birth of a great teacher or prophet, but the saving presence of Immanuel, "God with us."

Let the heights of heaven him
angel hosts his praises sing
powers, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King
let no tongue on earth be silent
every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore

Blessings
Pastor Richard

2016 Church Council

Officers:	President:	Alice Roop
	Vice President:	Marianne Sakowski
	Secretary:	Andrea Campbell
	Treasurer:	George Egbert
Committees:	Finance:	George Egbert
	Music & Worship:	Ann Tegtmeier
	Education:	Alice Roop
	Evangelism:	Jim Brandon
	Property:	Frank Gary
	Social Ministry:	Bob Campbell
	Parish Life:	Marianne Sakowski

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 14, 2016 after worship service. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Adult Christian Education

Sundays at 9:00am

Next Sunday, January 10 we will begin a new adult Bible study 5 week series based on the "Journey Together Faithfully" ELCA study document that examines Bible passages related to sexuality and marriage. You can download the study guide at the elca.org website; go to "resources" and enter "Journey Together Faithfully Part 2 Background Essay Part 2;

OR in your browser you can directly enter

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA Resource Repository/
Journey_Together_Faithfully_Background_Essay.pdf?_ga=1.4600534](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Journey_Together_Faithfully_Background_Essay.pdf?_ga=1.4600534)

Monday Evenings at 7:00pm

On Monday, January 11 we will begin a 5 part DVD/discussion series on World Religions, surveying Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Call Process Update/Call Committee Formation

The Transition Team has completed its work on a draft of our Ministry Site Profile. Our next step is a review of the draft profile by the Church Council and its submission to the Pacifica Synod. We will then schedule a meeting with Synod staff, the Transition Team, Council and a Call Committee to review the document and prepare to receive the names of candidates. Early in 2015 some of you expressed an interest in serving on the call committee. If you are (still) interested in serving, please contact Alice Roop, Pastor Richard or Richard Toth by January 3rd.

Parish Life - To all our wonderful Christmas decoration volunteers we will take down the Christmas tree and all of the decorations after worship service on Sunday, January 3rd. A light lunch will be served afterwards. We now have an artificial Christmas tree and are looking for new ornaments. If you find great looking ornaments while "after Christmas" shopping and would like to donate for the new tree we thank you very much.

Card Bingo – *Wrong date!* The correct date is 1-17, 2-4 PM. I goofed on the date in December's Newsletter. Parish Life is having its' first Card Bingo on Sunday, January 17th from 2-4 pm 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 WRAPPED, not over \$3. 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, we would like to see you again! Snacks and beverages will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Margie.

Men in Mission Meeting - the next Bethlehem Men in Mission meeting will be on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at **9:00 am** in the Fireside Room. Please note the later start time. All men are invited. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.

Faith Circle will meet again on Tuesday, January 5th in the Fireside Room at 9:30 am. Arlene will be out of town that day but Margie Moeller will conduct the meeting. Our hostess will be Marge Hargrove and Janice Hunt will be our Bible Study Leader.



**Volunteering at
International Seafarer's Center
in Long Beach**



the



W.E.L.C.A. News

January 2016

Women's Bible Study

Session 1: Christian Citizenship 101



WELCA Board

The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, January 3rd after service in the Fireside room.** We will also meet **Sunday, January 31st after service in the Fireside room** for our February Board Meeting. For more information, contact Dianna Reynolds .

FAITH Circle

Meets **Tuesday, January 5th** beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The hostess will be Marge Hargrove and Bible Study leader will be Janice Hunt. For questions and details call Faith Circle leader, Arlene Pollard.

PHOEBE Circle

Meets **Tuesday, January 12th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dianna Reynolds, 4773 Ironwood Avenue, Seal Beach. Dianna will conduct our Bible study. For questions and details? Call Dianna Reynolds .All Women of Bethlehem are welcome.

Note: Please save your January/February Gather Bible Study for our February session.



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Thank you to Men in Mission for providing coffee and cookies in the month of December. Phoebe Circle will be responsible for the month of January.



WELCA's Calendar of Events

January – Quiet Month

Your **2015 WELCA Board** Members

President – Dianna Reynolds

Vice President – Christina Watson

Treasurer – Dawn Rentch

Secretary – Jeanne Sandvig

Mission Growth – Debby Gustafson

Mission Action – Open

Membership – Erika Gary

Circle Leaders – Faith - Arlene Pollard

Phoebe – Open/Shared

I look forward to another great year with the above women. My special thanks to Caryl Harris who served as the Phoebe Circle leader for many years. Thank you for your servants heart Caryl.

Little Drummer Boy

WELCA's Christmas Gathering

A big thank you goes out to Sarah Sandvig for hosting our WELCA Christmas Gathering at her lovely home. The mingling and the food were wonderful. Our program, narrated by Darren Sandvig was very fun. We collected love gifts for Lutheran Social Services, and Lutheran Maritime Seafarer's. Thank you all for your generosity. My personal thanks to the WELCA Board members for my Christmas gift. You are all fabulous women!

WELCA Yearbooks will be coming soon!

Stay Tuned.

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 January for **Cereal and Peanut Butter (small size jar)**. These are everyday staples needed.

Continuous donated items of pastas, beans, canned items of any kind including individual sizes (apple sauces) are always appreciated along with warm clothes, gloves, scarfs and socks (new or gently used) 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





Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank everyone for your wonderful support of our Lutheran Social Services outreach and special projects in 2015.

Andrea & Bob Campbell and our special Angels and Volunteers



Dear Bethlehem Family & Friends,

Thank You for all of your prayers, telephone calls and visits.

Bob Campbell

Happy Birthday!



1/1 Linda Scott	1/3 Erik Sandvig
1/5 David Sandvig	1/7 Kay Shelton
1/8 Magnus Campbell	1/9 Jeri Dawson
1/10 Hal Wolfe	1/13 Nina Van Tress
1/16 Travis Retrum	1/17 Susan Driskill
1/17 Christine Rosso	1/24 Al Thunselle
1/25 Jay Campbell	1/25 Annie Dobberteen
1/27 Charlotte Sisk	1/30 Marjorie Moeller
1/31 Debby Gustafson	

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Gladyce Ackerman	Julie Anderson	Melody Andreoli	Elaine Asbury
Amy Bachman	Colleen Bidwell	Arthur Brandon	Luelle Buezis
Elinor Blum	Bob Campbell	Laurie Carpenter	Shirley Carrier
Maxine Cornwell	Jeff Davis	Sara DeWeese	Keresey Dillon
Lynne Estabrook	Doug Evans	Jean Franz	Judy Frazier
Katrina Gary	Rick Gary	Jason Guerin	Bruce Gustafson
The Halversons	Joe Harris	The Hashimotos	Dennis Hengy
Donna Hoffman	Shirley Hooper	Cory Hutter	Genevieve Jenkins
Betty Jones	Linda Kjenstad	John La Barbera	Joan Lee
Erin Lopez	Lori Maldonado	Lynn & Noel Miles	Harold Miller
Sandy Miller	Michael Murray	Jeanette Olmstead	Dale Retrum
Nick Riley	Bill Ritz	Louise Ronchetto	Jason Sakowski
Valerie Sanchez	Doris Schaefer	Rich Schultheis	Mary Seibert
Dorothy Sideris	Charlotte Sohl	Ed Sutton	James Taylor
Ann Tegtmeier	Steve Tegtmeier	Allen Thunselle	Linda Thunselle
Hank Van Zant	Elisabeth Waddell	Barbara Wagner	Sandy Wasky
Tom Watkins	Hal Wolfe		

Thanks To These People for Serving in January

	Cantor	Reader	Ushers	Counters
1/3	Eric Dobberteen	Liz Nehrenberg	Marv & Susan Schneider Ray Shelton Cathy Warnock	John Buezis John Buezis, Jr
1/10	Eric Dobberteen	Alice Roop	Merle Hower, Paul Meyer Dianna Reynolds Christina Watson	George Egbert Marsha Egbert
1/17	Eric Dobberteen	Dan Powers	Jim & Susan Martin Harold Snell	Dick Hansen Alice Roop
1/24	Eric Dobberteen	Eric Dobberteen		Caryl Harris Joyce Payne
1/31	Eric Dobberteen	Bruce Gustafson	George & Marsha Egbert	Dale Retrum David Retrum

Altar Guild

1/3

1/10 Vanessa Stevenson

1/17 Andrea Campbell

1/24 George & Marsha Egbert

1/31

Altar Flowers

1/3 Roop, Wolfe

1/10 Stevenson, Wolfe

1/17 Hansen

1/24 M. Moeller

1/31 Gustafson