



BETHLEHEM STAR

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Los Alamitos, California

Volume 46, No. 2

February, 2006



It was during the memorial service for those who died in the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. It was a little after 7:00 a.m. and ABC switched from Good Morning America to Peter Jennings in Oklahoma City. After

Peter signed on, there were 168 seconds of silence for those who had died in the terrorist act. Following that, Peter Jennings began reading a poem, written by a prominent Oklahoma poet, about the wind and the grass and the state of Oklahoma. In the middle of the poem Peter Jennings began to break down. They didn't show his face, but you could hear it in his voice, and I began wondering if he was going to get through the poem before his crying overtook him. He did . . . barely. But when the camera went back to Peter Jennings Charlie Gibson was also in the picture. Obviously he had rushed in to save his friend. He was sitting on an overturned bucket and without any back support he couldn't even sit straight. Jennings couldn't talk but Charlie immediately began to talk. And he didn't hide from the public the situation, or the emotion, but immediately began talking of his own experience a little earlier.

He said, "You know, Peter, this place has hit us a lot harder than we realized it would coming in. This is live now for our West Coast viewers, but an hour ago I finished filming Good Morning America live for our East Coast viewers, which the West Coast will see when we are through here. I was able to maintain my professionalism almost to the end. Then I signed off, 'Charlie Gibson here, good morning, America,' and before the camera could even pan away I broke. I began crying uncontrollably. This is a very emotional day, a very emotional experience." Peter Jennings never said another word. They broke for a commercial

and when they returned they came back to the previously recorded Good Morning America.

I was moved. Two men, so prominent in the public eye and so professional, especially when doing newsworthy items, showed proof that they were, after all, human beings, and very caring, compassionate, sensitive human beings at that.

February is the month of love, the month of Valentine's Day. When I was a kid in elementary school, we used to bring Valentine's cards to everyone in the class on Valentine's Day. I wouldn't bring mine to just my favorite friends or the little girls in the class, but everyone in the class and I believe that's what love for all people is about.

In John 13:34-35 it says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." And in 1John 4:7 it says, "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God."

I believe Peter Jennings showed his love for the people in his emotions. And I believe Charlie Gibson showed his love for Peter Jennings and his love for the people of Oklahoma and around the country by his willingness to jump in and be unembarrassed in his own confession. I think that this is an example that we can learn from.

So let us remember this month (and all months) to love one another, for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. Enjoy Valentine's Day.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Tom Lange

Church Council

Bruce Gustafson, President

Your Church Council for 2006:

Bruce Gustafson, President
Marianne Sakowski, Vice-President
Andrea Campbell, Secretary

Myke Strafford and Nick Medrano, Youth Committee
Wilkie Adams, Archives Jeff Moeller, Education
Elise Johnson, Evangelism Alan Coxson, Finance
Bob Campbell, Parish Life Lon Warnock, Property
Everett Zupke, Social Ministry Eric Dobberteen, Stewardship
Joanne Hansen, Worship & Music

A special thank you to Lon, Elise and Eric for volunteering to serve one-year terms and fill three vacancies. Thanks to Everett for being so flexible in changing committee assignments (twice). I was sorry to lose from the council John Rygh, who had served for many years and was a past council president.

On Saturday, January 28 the council will have had a planning session to establish goals and priorities. The most important thing I want is a lot of communication with you, the members. There are huge changes that will take place this year and I want you informed and involved. I have challenged every council member to recruit five new members for their committee. That would give us 55 more families directly involved in the administration of the church. I encourage each member to answer the call and donate one more hour a month to the church. If you want to be proactive, you can call the council members and volunteer for the committee of your choice.

The church needs your help and serving on a committee is a big help. The church and the council need your prayers. Keep both on your personal prayer list. Thank you.

Attention Parents!!

Hello! My name is Jeff Moeller and I would like to introduce myself as the new head of the Education Committee. I also teach the 12-14 year old Sunday School group. This is my first year serving on the church council and also my first year teaching. This brings me to the other reason for this message....I am asking for help. We have a wonderful teaching staff in place for this year and materials for each age group. The help I am asking for is feedback from parents on how your children are enjoying the lessons each week. I also am asking for parents who are interested in teaching classes starting in the Fall. Please let me know at church or call me. I will be contacting the existing teachers for suggestions, needs and possible availabilities for next year. Thank you for your time on this and God bless.

Jeff Moeller

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2006
Immediately following the
9:30 am worship service
Bachman Hall

February Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

“Scramble” Golf Tournament in March

We will have a Bethlehem Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 11th, 2006, at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course in Anaheim. The tournament format will be a four-person team “scramble” where the best ball will be played by each team. The Peoria Handicap System will be used. The lowest handicap will be 0 (zero) and the largest 36. The first tee time will be at 10:00 A.M. All golfers are welcome. This format is particularly nice for the lady golfers to participate. You can organize your own team or we will help match-up team members. Cost is \$70 per person and will include green fees, golf cart and prize fund. Please note that NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED on this course. To secure our reservation we need to have everyone signed up and the money collected by Sunday, February 26th. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337 or (562) 982-5732.

Men in Mission Support for Navajo Lutheran Mission

Each year the Bethlehem Men-In-Mission try to provide some mean of support for the Lutheran Navajo Mission in Arizona. This year we are again collecting items in three areas:

1. Bath Towels – Each year in April the Mission school sends home with the students a health kit that includes bath size towels. These are also used for the students’ showers at the school and for the guest apartment. We will be collecting new bath size or accept designated donations so we can purchase as many towels as possible at Costco or Sam’s. Last year our congregation responded with over 70 new towels. We need to have all towels collected by April 9th, 2006, so we can arrange to have them delivered to the reservation.
2. Children’s Clothing – Children’s clothing in all sizes is needed.
3. Layette Items for New Mothers – The Mission gives a layette to each new mother. Infant clothing, blankets, diapers and care items are included.

There will be a box in the Narthex to collect these items. If you would prefer to make a cash contribution to help out please contact any Men-In-Mission member. Thanks for your help.

Newsletter Deadline for the March issue:

Monday, February 20, 2006.

Please submit your article by e-mail, on disc, fax or handwritten to the office.

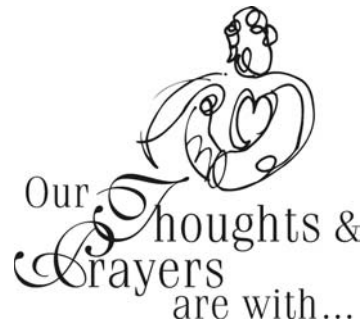


February Birthdays

2/4 Monica Sabic
 2/5 Beau Clemens
 2/6 Sylvia Eden
 2/7 Sarah Sandvig
 2/7 Brian Schultze
 2/8 Samm Boner
 2/9 Julie Anderson
 Jennifer Sprengeler
 2/11 Jim Hargrove
 Steve Schultze
 2/12 John Byone
 2/13 Lisa Gould
 2/15 Jim Brandon
 Emily Schultze
 2/16 Suzanne Adkins
 Bob Van Tress
 2/17 Bruce Reynolds
 2/19 Tom Lange
 2/20 Darlene Staglin
 2/21 Sandra DeBourdieu
 Jay Sabic
 2/22 Cindy Varalyai
 2/23 David Sakowski
 2/25 Chris Hastings
 Greg Hastings
 Tom Starmann
 2/27 Angela Roesner
 2/28 Luelle Buezis
 Lois Cannon
 Geraldine Knox

February Anniversaries

2/ 7/1959 Arlene & William Pollard
 2/14/1960 John & Janice Hunt
 2/14/1986 Lowell & Elise Johnson
 2/14/1964 Bill & Sandra DeBourdieu
 2/25/1993 Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder
 2/27/1988 Michael & Karen Hubert



are with... **Hospitalized:**
 Pat Denny
 Scott Meisner (Luelle Buezis' nephew)
Recuperating:
 Florence Anderson (Gary Nehrenberg's mother)
 Jaysen Armas (8 mo. old)
 Amy Bachman
 Sigrun Borneo
 Diana Carter
 Joel Cooper
 Joshua Gimbel (Betty Jacobs' great-grandson)
 Melanie Henniges (Everett Zupke's niece)
 Katherine Lindell
 Charlie Lyons
 Cyrena Raichel
 Mary Seibert
 Everett Zupke
 Lucille Zupke (Everett Zupke's mother)
Undergoing treatment:
 Mike Amdal (friend of Lon & Cathy Warnock)
 Anna Backlund (friend of Sara DeWeese)
 Adeline Beemer (Lynn Roesner's mother)
 Sophie Buttler
 Carmen Chavez (friend of the Straffords)
 Kyle Cooke (friend of the Driskills)
 Ruth Dalton (friend of Alice Roop)
 Sara DeWeese
 Mike Edson (cousin of Charlotte Driskill)
 Katrina Gary
 Wilma Gary
 Rev Kay M. Glaesner (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tress)
 Jack Lyons
 Don Magnuson (friend of Bill Haglund)
 John Moeller (Marjorie Moeller's brother)
 Harold Miller (Betty Jacobs' son)
 Shirley Moleneux (Betty Jacobs' niece)
 Joanne Montith (Jill Tilley's mother)
 Rev. Daniel Morris
 Joyce Rekstad
 Evie Romano (Joanne Wolfe's mother)
 Lisa Rough (niece of Bob & Nina Van Tress)
 Katherine Shephard (friend of Betty Frovarp)
 Gary Schulze (friend of Betty Frovarp)
 Tracy Serve (friend of Peggy Lange)
Convalescent or Care Facility: Sue Bradish, John Buttler,
 Ruth Hudson, Ernie Kling, Hartley Koch, Arlene Larson,
 Jeanette Olmstead, Ruth Precker, Glenn Snyder, Darlene
 Staglin, Jeff Thompson.
Homebound: Gladyce Ackerman, George Maxwell.

WELCA NEWS

February 2006

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 20: 1-16

"ACT BOLDLY with Generosity" Feb. 2006

Generosity, Greed, and Envy: Ouch!

COME LEARN MORE AT A CIRCLE MEETING!!!

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Tues., Feb 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. For information call Circle Leader Jean Franz.

Hostess: Wilma Gary Bible Study Leader: Ginny Gary

PHOEBE CIRCLE will meet on Tues., Feb. 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Debby Gustafson. Bible Study Leader: Margaret Hangartner. For more information call Charlotte Driskill, Circle Leader.

WELCA BOARD will meet on Mon. Feb. 6, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in Bachman Hall.

For information call President, Christina Watson.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE & COOKIES

Thank you to Phoebe Circle for providing coffee and cookies in January.

Faith Circle will be responsible for coffee and cookies in February.

Upcoming Events:

- Sat. Feb 4 - Cluster President's Planning Meeting, Newport Harbor Lutheran Church. For information call our Cluster Co-ordinator Marianne Sakowski
- Sat Mar. 4th - Mission Areas Awareness Day, San Diego. Call Marianne for more information.
- Sat. Mar 18th - Spring Brunch-General Meeting at Bethlehem-Hostess: WELCA Board 9-11:00am
- Wed. April 5 - WELCA sponsors Lenten Soup and Salad Supper.

Attention: All Women
Saturday May 6th Phoebe Circle will hostess a luncheon featuring "His Grace" a liturgical dance company. Look for more details next month

Mark your calendars!
Saturday June 10th the Men in Mission will provide a pancake breakfast while WELCA offers a great Junktique-start saving your treasures now. Thrivent matching funds will be requested for benevelence.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Phoebe and Faith Circles have decided to put together school kits for the Lutheran World Relief Project for this year. Monthly donations of canned goods to We Care will also be collected.

February is named for a Roman purification festival that fell during this month.

It is an ancient custom to remember saints on the day of their death, the day of their birth into heaven.

Martin Luther died on February 18th, 1546.

What act of bold generosity do you think
God wants you to do this month with
something precious to you-your money,
your time, your talents?

ACT BOLDLY WITH GENEROSITY!

Reminder from the Long-Range Planning Committee

The congregation has selected a Vision Statement and a set of goals to guide the ministry program here at Bethlehem. The Congregation Council is formulating plans as to how best coordinate the effort for the Goals. Now is the time for each of us to figure out what we are going to do to help accomplish these goals. Please review the enclosed list and determine if there are one or more items that you can be of help in accomplishing, then tell somebody. As a reminder, here again are the Mission Statement, Vision Statement and the Long Range Goals.

Statement of Mission (From By-Laws)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Los Alamitos consists of the People of God united in Christ as one body, established by God through the Holy Spirit.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to:

- provide regular opportunities to worship, to participate in the sacraments and to hear God's word.
- witness to Christ and His Kingdom in our congregation, the extended community and the world,
- serve God through serving the people or our extended community
- provide regular, theologically sound instruction to facilitate individuals' spiritual growth through their relationship to Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior



Vision Statement

Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Los Alamitos, California Seeks to be a community of committed believers led by the Spirit, informed and educating by the Word, shaped by prayer and called to be faithful in

Boldly sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ
Enthusiastically building up the Body of Christ, the church Joyfully witnessing to the love of God

Long-Range Goals

- **Near Term Goals (Less than 2 years)**
 - **Average of 50 in attendance for Sunday Church School classes (K – Adult)**
 - **Growth goal: Sunday morning of average attendance of 200 worshippers**
- **Two Year Goals**
 - **Have an active Small Group Ministry with participation level of 25% of average Sunday worship attendance**
 - **Accomplish one annual youth service project**
- **Five Year Goals**
 - **Fund \$25,000 - \$30,000 per year for an Intern Program**
 - **Formulate a comprehensive plan for an on-site Pre-School program**
- **Ten Year Goals**
 - **Have an on-site Pre-School program operating**
 - **Construct a “Columbarium” on church property**
 - **Have an active Small Group Ministry with participation level of 75% of church membership rolls**
- **Twenty Year Goals**
 - **(No Goal for the present time)**

What is Heifer International?

Heifer International works to end world hunger and save the earth. For close to 60 years Heifer has helped more than four million impoverished families in 128 countries lift themselves out of poverty and achieve self-reliance.

The idea is simple and it works. Instead of providing hungry families with a non-renewable source of food, Heifer International provides a "living loan" of an animal. The family's health and standard of living is greatly improved by what that animal can provide. This might be milk from a cow or goat, eggs from poultry, meat from rabbits, draft power from water buffalo or wool from llamas.

Key to success of the program is that Heifer provides extensive training in animal care, ecologically sound agriculture practices and community development. The result is to transform not just families, but the environment and community.

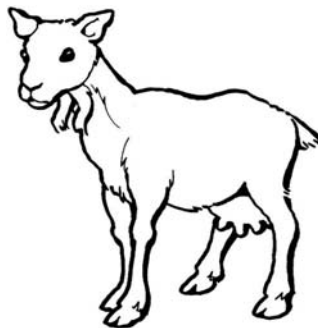
Another key cornerstone of Heifer International is "passing on the gift." Families who receive an animal repay the loan by passing on one or more of the animals' offspring to other needy families. That family passes on their gift to another family and so on. So one gift multiplies through the community.

Heifer International currently provides more than 27 types of animals that provide food and/or income to struggling families in 48 countries (including the U.S.)

How We've Helped So Far

Last year we collected \$630.41 which was used to purchase a variety of gift animals, including sheep, ducks, a llama, a pig, a flock of chicks and a goat.

As an example, during the month of January, 2005, we collected an impressive \$143.50 just from the change that you saved in the plastic arks and were able to purchase a Heifer International goat. This goat provides milk for a needy family, its manure makes a fantastic fertilizer for increasing vegetable crop yields, and goats give birth to two kids a year, providing a steady source of income. Also, the owner of the goat is encouraged to share the offspring with neighbors to help lift others out of poverty. Wow!



Let's Buy a Heifer!

During the month of January 2006, we at Bethlehem Lutheran collected for the Heifer Project with the goal of purchasing a large animal. Thank you for donating enough for us to buy a Llama for \$150!

When resources are scarce, it's important that livestock don't use up land reserved for people. At home in rough, mountainous areas of Latin America, llamas are a blessing to families with limited pasture land, and they play a pivotal role in the cultural life of indigenous communities on the high plains of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

Women weave their llamas' fleece into warm clothing to wear or sell. They load them up with goods for market and trek with them across rugged slopes at high altitudes. As they travel, llamas' padded feet don't damage the fragile terrain and their selective browsing doesn't destroy sparse vegetation.

Llamas and their kin, the alpaca, provide Heifer families with invaluable sources of transportation, income and wool, which is prized for making blankets, ponchos, carpet and rope.

Llamas are remarkably disease resistant and require little care; they can carry small loads for distances over rugged slopes at high altitudes.

From now until Easter, we'll save our donations with the goal of purchasing a Heifer. This means that we need to collect \$500. It's ten weeks until Easter, so grab one of the empty plastic arks from the Narthex and start saving your change. Of course, folding money will get us to our goal faster, so if you want, you can designate the Heifer Project on your offering envelope or a pew envelope. We'll keep a running total posted on our website (www.blcla.org) if you want to keep track of our progress, and we'll have a chart posted in the Narthex for those of you who are not online.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Heifer Project International
P.O. Box 8058
Little Rock, AR72203
(800) 422-0474

Thanks to These People for Serving in February, 2006

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
2/5	8:30	Briana Rovida	Emma Cooper	Dianna Reynolds	Al Thunselle, Nick Medrano Marv & Susan Schneider	Marv Schneider Susan Schneider	Myke Strafford
	11:00	Kristen Davis	Charlie Toth	Bill Lindell	Jim Dawson		Everett Zupke
2/12	9:30	Glenn Miller	Juli Medrano	Debby Gustafson	Al Thunselle, Bob & Andrea Campbell	Scott Benning Lowell Johnson	Andrea Campbell Jeff Moeller
2/19	8:30	Briana Rovida	Kristen Davis	Scott Benning		Dale Retrum David Retrum	Marianne Sakowski Johanne Hansen
	11:00	Glenn Miller	Jessie Welker	Bruce Gustafson	Jim Dawson		
2/26	8:30	Kristen Davis	Randi Reynolds	Liz Nehrenberg		Andrea Campbell Bob Campbell	Bob Campbell
	11:00	Cameron Bonwit	Charlie Toth	Dale Retrum			

ALTAR GUILD

2/5
2/12 Debby Gustafson
2/19
2/26 Luelle Buezis



ALTAR FLOWERS

2/5 Henrichs
2/12 Scott, Wolfe
2/19
2/26



NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is provided during our Sunday services. An attendant will be in our nursery from 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. to care for infants and preschool children.