



# BETHLEHEM STAR

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California

Volume 46, No. 6

June, 2006



*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."* Philippians 1:3-5

Remember falling in love? All of a sudden the sky is bluer, the grass is greener and the trees taller than you have seen them in a long time. Then, if you have to leave that love, they all grow darker again. That's the way I'm feeling now.

I agree with Paul above in all that he said, "from the first day until now." I have been in love with you people for almost 18 years, but now I must leave. As I said many times, you are the most wonderful folks I have ever served and I have many, many great memories. Memories that I can take with me and will last my lifetime.

So, thank you from every fiber of my being. Thank you for your friendship and support. Thank you for our worship together, our learning together, our laughing together, and our crying together. Thank you for our golfing together and our partying together. Thank you for our meals together and our conversations. Thank for taking care of me as I tried to take care of you.

Peggy and I thank you for your parsonage. From the first day we walked in we felt a warmth and a good spirit inside. You have maintained it well through the years with new appliances, a new wall in the back, new grass and landscaping and new paint inside and out. We were extremely comfortable in your house and our home. When anything broke down you repaired or replaced it immediately.

I will miss your buildings, your patio and my office and I thank you for them. But most of all, I will miss

you, the people I love. The Lord truly blessed me when he called me to serve you.

We have no phones as of yet, but when we do I will have Richard publish the numbers.

Thank you again.....for everything!

Love in Christ,

Tom

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### Newsletter Deadline for the July issue:

Monday, June 19, 2006.

Please submit your article by e-mail or disc to the office. The newsletter is now available on our website: [www.blcla.org](http://www.blcla.org)

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### June Church Council meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Fireside Room

## Council President's Comments

As you are reading these words the selection of an interim pastor may have already happened. Tonight, Wednesday, May 24, the Transition Committee, under Committee Chair Dale Retrum, unanimously recommended to the Church Council that Reverend Mark Wills be brought to Bethlehem as the full time interim pastor. I will call an emergency meeting of the council to act upon this recommendation.

If the council approves, Rev. Wills could begin his ministry with us as soon as June 25. Also if he is approved, I will be sharing much more information about him with all of you.

Securing the services of an interim pastor was an important first step for the Transition Committee but it is only the first of many responsibilities that the committee members have agreed to undertake. The processes the congregation must go through before we are even ready to consider issuing a call for a new pastor are many and they are time consuming. You should expect it to take at least a year.

The Transition Committee members have committed themselves to keeping the congregation informed and involved. They will need prayers, help and cooperation in order to effectively do their tasks. Keep these people in your prayers and take them into your confidence. Share with them your concerns and vision for the future of Bethlehem.

The committee members are Dale Retrum, Chairman, Randy and Karen Upright, Eric and Melissa Sandvig, Eric Dobberteen, Dianna Reynolds, Debby Gustafson, Scott and Jane Benning, Dave Sandvig, and Sandy Retrum. Marianne Sakowski and I serve as ex-officio members. Help us do what is best for our church during this time of great change.

Prayerfully and in Christ's Service,

Bruce Gustafson

## Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee has compiled some statistics for our Congregation's giving through April, 2006. These statistics show the following:

A review of the Church's database of giving units reveals the following:

- A. Of the 255 giving units in the database, 71 (28%) have submitted pledges.
- B. Of the 71 pledging units, 41 (57%) are giving at or above their pledge for the year-to-date, a total of \$6653 above target.
- C. Of the same 71 pledging units, 31 (43%) are giving below their pledge for the year-to-date, a total of \$5364 below target.
- D. 35 non-pledging giving units have given \$100 or more, year-to-date.
- E. 112 giving units have contributed \$0, year-to-date.

This is pretty good, but we need to do better to keep our church financially healthy.

- How are you doing?
- Are you up-to-date on your pledge?
- Have you given as much as you had planned?

The Stewardship Committee is planning one or more "Catch-up" Sundays that will be dedicated to making up those missed contributions that we forgot to make when we were traveling, sick, or just too tired to remember our envelopes that day.

Look for the posters announcing these Catch-Up Sundays and please give this matter your prayerful consideration. Thank you.

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## Summer Schedule begins

### June 18<sup>th</sup>

For the summer we will have a  
single worship service  
at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
will not meet during the summer.

W.E.L.C.A. News  
June, 2006

Women's Bible Study  
Session 1  
Luke 10:38-42  
"ACT BOLDLY" with Balance  
Think about this...Are you a Mary or a  
Martha? Come to a Bible Study and find  
out..

Faith Circle will meet on Tues., June 6, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Circle members will all go to Mimi's for lunch. Call Circle Leader Jean Franz.

Phoebe Circle will meet on Tues., June 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jeanne Sandvig. Margaret Hangartner will lead the Bible Study. For more information call Charlotte Driskill

W.E.L.C.A. Board will meet on Mon. June 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in Bachman Hall.

Both circles need to finish working toward their goal of putting together 40 school kits, by September, for the Lutheran World Relief Project. Monthly donations of canned goods to We Care will also continue.



Sunday Morning Coffee & Cookies

Thank you to Faith Circle for providing coffee and cookies in May... Men in Mission will be responsible for coffee and cookies in June.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday June 10<sup>t</sup> June Junktique and pancake breakfast 8 a.m. to Noon.

Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> Cluster President's Meeting, King of Glory, Fountain Valley Call Marianne for details.

Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> Women's Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.



*Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mother Daughter Sister Friend event on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Ladies of all ages enjoyed a delicious lunch and were inspired by His Grace, a Liturgical Dance*

Please bring your, clean and in working order, *Treasures* Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> a.m.to Bachman Hall.



Mark your

calendars! Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> the Men in Mission will provide a pancake breakfast while WELCA offers a great Junktique-from 8a.m. to Noon. See you



there!!

ACT BOLDLY WITH BALANCE

## Prayer For Healing

The initial Life Together Prayer For Healing small group has been completed and additional prayer ministry and small group opportunities are being planned. Starting in June the members of the first Prayer For Healing small group are going to be available following worship services to pray with anyone wanting individual prayer. They will pray with you for any need you have, especially for healing of physical, mental, emotional or spiritual conditions for which you would like individual prayer. This can also include intercessory healing prayer with you for someone else.

Anyone interested in participating in a small group on healing prayer during the summer or this fall should contact Everett Zupke at (714) 828-1894.

## Walk and/or Donate for a Great Cause

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California will be conducting their annual Walkathon on Saturday, June 10, 2006. The theme for this year's Walkathon will be "Walk Against Poverty". This is a great opportunity to be a part of raising money to help others and at the same time enjoy a beautiful walk around Balboa Island in Newport Beach Harbor. The Walkathon is an easy route of approximately six (6) miles and starts at Newport Harbor Lutheran Church in Newport Beach. It will begin early in the morning and take about two (2) hours. Water, fruit and refreshments will be provided along the route. This is a good opportunity for a family outing and is open to walkers of all ages. If you would like to be a walker please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337 as soon as possible for a Walker Registration form and a Donor Collection envelope. If you are not available to walk but would like to contribute please contact the church office or Dale Retrum.

## Farmer's Market

We Care of Los Alamitos, in conjunction with US Bank, is proud to sponsor the St. Isidore's Square Certified Market to be held in Los Alamitos each Saturday from 3 to 6 pm. The location will be the parking lot of US Bank of Los Alamitos, located at the northeast corner of Pine and Katella in the city of Los Alamitos. Please plan to shop at the St. Isidore's Square Farmers Market.

## Please Welcome our New Members

On May 21<sup>st</sup> Barbara, Carole, Aidan, Tom and Adam joined our Bethlehem family. Please say "Hello!" when you see them.

### **WE'RE LOOKING FOR KODAK MOMENTS!**

**We need pictures, or colored copies of Pastor Tom through the years of golf, baptisms, bowling, weddings, parties, holidays, playing the trumpet, confirmations, etc., etc., etc.**

**Give to or call Janice Hunt**



## Judy's

## Kitchen

Bethlehem Lutheran Church sponsors Judy's Kitchen twice each year. Our next time to provide this support in our community is Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed between 10 am and 1 pm at the Community Congregational Church, 4111 Katella Avenue in Los Alamitos. If you can help serve, set-up and/or clean up please call Everett Zupke at 714/828-1894. Bethlehem needs to also establish the menu, purchase the food, and begin preparation of the meal prior to 10 am. If you can volunteer to coordinate and/or assist in that activity, please contact Everett.

The second Saturday for Bethlehem to sponsor Judy's Kitchen this year is in September on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers to coordinate and/or assist in establishing the menu, purchasing the food, preparing of the meal, serving, setting-up and/or cleaning up will be needed then as well. This is an important social ministry activity in our community when a noon meal is prepared and served for up to 80 people (some of these are second helpings) with approximately 50 or more people usually coming for what may be their only meal of the day. I suspect that for some this may be the only really nutritious meal they have during the week.

While all volunteers to help on those two days is important and needed, there is a special need for someone to coordinate the overall activity establish the menu, purchase the food, and supervise the preparation of the meal. Please come join us on the Social Ministry Committee if you can help with this coordination task.

Thank you to all volunteers who have participated in the past including the Youth who have helped with serving the meals and other tasks. Please help where you can as we continue this important activity.

## Graduation News



**Kiersten Wolfe** graduates from Cypress High School.

**Nick Medrano** graduates from Los Alamitos High School and will attend Golden West College to play football while studying History and Law Enforcement.

**Erika Gary** graduates from Los Alamitos High School and will attend Cal Lutheran this Fall. Erika will major in Education with plans to teach.

**Monica Krcy** graduates from John F. Kennedy High School in La Palma and will attend community college with plans to transfer to UCLA. Monica's goal is to pursue studies in various areas of Engineering, including Chemical, Mechanical and Aeronautical.

**Annie Dobberteen**, who received the Medallion of Excellence from Los Alamitos High School for highest achievement for the class of 2006 in Social Sciences. She will attend George Washington University in the fall, majoring in English and History. Annie hopes to work and write for the Smithsonian Institution.

**Nicholas Sohl** graduates from Sage Hill School and will attend Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont in the Fall.

**Adam Navarro** graduates from John F. Kennedy High School in La Palma and will attend the University of Oklahoma with a major in Meteorology. Adam plans on living on campus in the dormitory.

## Congratulations to Bethlehem's New Confirmation Graduates!

Cameron Bonwit, Emma Cooper, Randi Reynolds and Jessica Welker have completed their studies and affirm their baptisms on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We wish them well as they continue their lives in Christ.

## June Birthdays

6/1 Jessica Rovida  
6/3 Margie Reynolds  
6/4 Jordan Johnson  
Kara Lange  
Joyce Rekstad  
Lacey Sabic Puhl  
6/7 Kristin Temple  
6/8 Doris Schaefer  
6/9 Irene Cooper  
Suzanne Oftedal  
6/10 Barbara Cairns  
Margaret Hangartner  
Zoe Hubert  
6/11 Melissa Coxson  
6/12 Kyra Coe  
David Retrum  
6/13 Jared Gustafson  
6/16 Lauren Knowlton  
6/18 Dan Sakowski  
Coleen Walter  
6/21 Ernie Mazzari  
Sherry Riach  
Shelly Roper  
Sandra Wooldridge  
6/23 Chris Powers  
6/24 Steve Rekstad  
6/26 Julie Joplin  
6/28 Nicholas Belgum  
Genevieve Jenkins  
6/29 Gladyce Ackerman  
Jeff Cooper  
William Whitlock  
Linda Widera  
6/30 Joseph Byone

## June Anniversaries

6/ 1/1989 Al & Linda Thunselle  
6/ 2/1986 Fritz & Shirley Campbell  
6/ 3/1972 Bob & Andrea Campbell  
6/ 4/1994 Scott & Jane Benning  
6/ 6/1970 Dan & Marianne Sakowski  
6/ 7/1975 Ken & Christina Watson  
6/ 7/1998 Lane & Dana Reed  
6/10/1978 Steve & Joyce Rekstad  
6/12/1993 Harold & Donna Hughes  
6/12/2004 Justin & Kristin Temple  
6/19/2004 Darren & Sarah Sandvig  
6/20/1954 Frank & Wilma Gary  
6/23/1956 William & Joyce Ritz  
6/27/1964 Bill & Katherine Lindell

## **Hospitalized:**

Sophie Buttler  
Ardyce Rigg (Bruce Gustafson's sister)

## **Recuperating:**

Jaysen Armas (8 mo. old)  
Sigrun Borneo  
Wendy Billington (Charlotte Driskill's granddaughter)  
- auto accident  
Joel Cooper - heart surgery  
Joshua Gimbel (Betty Jacobs' great-grandson)  
- brain surgery  
Melanie Henniges (Everett Zupke's niece)  
- stem cell surgery

Katherine Lindell

Charlie Lyons

Scott Mizener (Luelle Buezis' nephew)

Cyrena Raichel

Mary Seibert

Paul Wuethrich (Alice Roop's brother) - stroke

## **Undergoing treatment:**

Gwen Bailon (friend of Cathy Warnock) - surgery  
Adeline Beemer (Lynn Roesner's mother) - lymphoma  
Rev. Bruce Craft - experimental eye treatment  
Ruth Dalton (friend of Alice Roop) - cancer  
Sara DeWeese - cancer  
Katrina Gary  
Wilma Gary  
Rev Kay M. Glaesner (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tres)  
Jack Lyons  
Lisa Maldinado (Jim Brandon's niece)  
Harold Miller  
John Moeller (Marjorie Moeller's brother)  
- chemotherapy for lymphoma

Shirley Moleneux (Betty Jacobs' niece) - cancer

Sue Moran (friend of the Retrums) - cancer

Joyce Rekstad - lupus

Evie Romano (Joanne Wolfe's mother) - emphysema

Gary Schulze (friend of Betty Frovarp)

Tracy Serve (friend of Peggy Lange) - brain tumor

## **Convalescent or Care Facility:**

Florence Anderson Ruth Hudson

Ernie Kling Hartley Koch

Arlene Larson Jeanette Olmstead

Ruth Precker Darlene Staglin

Jeff Thompson.

## **Homebound:**

John Buttler Gladyce Ackerman  
George Maxwell

**Remember in prayer:**



Share your vacation adventures with us! Tell us about where you're going, where you've been, what you've seen, who you've met - you get the idea!

In this age of electronics and instant messages and communication it's easy!!! Take those great pictures from your digital camera or cell phone and email them to the church. We'll get them and any words you'd like to include into the newsletter. Hopefully, we'll have plenty to use and we can add a new web page to our website. Let's share the fun of summer!! C'mon, join in!!

And recent graduates, please send us pictures and information about your new life in college!!!



A big "thank you" to Dianna Reynolds, John & Janice Hunt, Jim Hargrove, John Buezis, John Buezis, Jr., Lon Warnock, Christina Watson, Dan Powers, Dan & Marianne Sakowski, Bill Haglund and Ernie Mazzari for their tremendous work on May 27<sup>th</sup> cleaning and organizing all kinds of things around the church. If you didn't make it this time, don't worry, they'll be plenty of opportunities in the future! But, thanks again to these folks for a job "very well done".

## Thanks to These People for Serving in June, 2006

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
6/4	8:30			Nick Medrano	Al Thunselle, Christina Watson	Scott Benning	
	11:00			Debby Gustafson		Lowell Johnson	
6/11	8:30			John Gearhart		Dale Retrum	
	11:00			Everett Zupke		David Retrum	
6/18	9:30			Bill Lindell	John & Janice Hunt	Bob Campbell  Andrea Campbell	
6/25	9:30			Bill Haglund		Cathy Warnock  Everett Zupke	



6/4 Christina Watson  
 6/11 Marge Hargrove  
 6/18  
 6/25 Luelle Buezis

6/4 Reynolds, Reynolds  
 6/11  
 6/18  
 6/25



### 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. During the summer the nursery hours are 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.