



# BETHLEHEM STAR



The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California

**Volume 46, No. 11**

**December, 2006**



On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, along with the beginning of a new church year, we begin the season of Advent. This season, which spans the four Sundays before Christmas day, is marked with the spirit of anticipation and preparation. The word Advent itself means “coming” or “arrival.” For us Christians Advent is a time when we focus on the coming of our Lord and the preparation for His coming.

This season, along with our advent candles, reminds us that we are in a waiting period. A period where we must prepare to greet our Lord as He arrives. This waiting period takes on a double focus for us. As each candle is lit during this season we are reminded that the day of celebrating our Savior’s earthly birth is drawing closer. It is important that we make ourselves ready to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas day. We all know that this season is a busy one and it becomes so easy to lose our focus. For this reason I encourage you to make our Sunday morning Advent worship a priority and to find other ways to prepare yourselves for a joyous celebration of Christ birth.

A few simple suggestions are these:

- Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ birth
- Listen to Christmas hymns that tell the story
- Have an Advent wreath and candles in your home
- Use an Advent Calendar that shares the message of Christ’s birth

- Offer a prayer to God each day asking for the Spirit’s help in keeping your focus during this busy season
- Watch a video or movie that tells the story of Christmas

Our Advent candles also remind us the we are now in a time of waiting, until, as He has promised, Christ comes again. Everyday is a time for us to wait and prepare so that whenever the day arrives we will be ready to celebrate that feast that has no end. Every day is a chance to live as the best child of God that we can be. Every day is an opportunity to live in God’s amazing grace. Every day is another chance to help others be ready for the great day. May this Advent season be a time that refocuses us as we wait and prepare to celebrate our Lord’s birth and as we look forward to the celebration when He comes again.

May your Advent and Christmas season be a blessed one!  
Pastor Will



Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>:

- 10:00 am Advent Communion Worship
- 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship
- 10:00 pm Candlelight Communion Worship

## *"His banner over me is love." Solomon 2:4*

Bethlehem is blessed with banners. At last count, we have over thirty banners stored in various nooks and crannies of this church. Some of our banners have been purchased and others have been crafted and donated by our members. One of our more prolific banner makers is Cyrena Raichel. She had some art training in school, and received some serious coaching from Pastor Bruce Craft. Pastor Craft made sure that Cyrena was aware of the symbolism of color and which colors could be used for each of the seasons of the church. For instance, red is the color for blood, and a banner with red on it is not appropriate for Easter.

One of Cyrena's trademarks are that each banner that she has designed will have one or more small crosses on it. Some of her banners do not have the trademark because she followed a pattern from a design book, but her original designs all include the small cross. She does not know what inspired that trait, but she has been including a small cross in each of her original designs from the beginning.

Over the years, people have become aware of Cyrena's special gift and requested banners to fit various themes. One of our Easter banners, was made at the request of Albert Bachman. It's the one that has a sunrise behind a cross and the words, "Now is the Day of Salvation." He was so pleased with the finished banner that he could not help but tell Cyrena how much he liked the banner every time he saw it hanging in church.

For the past several months, a very long banner with a silhouette of the church building has been hanging on the lectern side of the church's back wall. It was designed at the request of Pastor Tom Lange and Dale Retrum. The banner was to be used for a processional at one of the synod assemblies, and they requested that it be as big as she could make it. Cyrena chose the words, "love, faith, charity" for the red ribbon which runs down the middle of the banner because she thought the words best described our church. Because, for her, the banners are gifts from her heart, Cyrena



does not usually accept reimbursement for her materials. This banner happens to be the only one that she accepted a reimbursement for her materials.

A set of banners, one with a treble clef and the words, "Sing unto the Lord" and the other with eighth notes and the words "Sing for Joy" were created for a Music Appreciation Sunday. Another banner with Autumn colors and the words, "Here I am Lord Send me" was for to inspire volunteers to help the church, to honor missionaries and also for use on Stewardship Sunday. The banner that has a dove and what looks like a stained glass window and the words "Live in God's Grace" was made shortly after the construction of the new church building and to celebrate the new stained glass windows. Cyrena's latest creation was at the request of Charlotte Driskill. She wanted Cyrena to create a banner with candles to be hung for Advent and Christmas. Soon you will see the result of Cyrena's creativity because that is exactly what she has made to grace the wall of our church this year. Please be sure to note that one of the candles has a small cross on it.

Cyrena puts a lot of time, love and prayer into the making of each of the banners. The next time you see Cyrena, please let her know how much her fellow church members appreciate her efforts. "Thank you, Cyrena!"

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## **ANOTHER THOUGHT FROM THE PASTOR**

As I was growing up I heard many times at my home congregation, "On Sunday morning we must offer our best to God." Certainly this is still true today. God deserves our best each Sunday as we worship Him. When you think about what God has given us in Jesus, His best, how can we not give back to Him the same?

There is also another important reason we must be at our best on Sunday. On any given Sunday morning we have people who visit our worship service and who are looking for a church family to join. If we want them to return we have to offer them our best as well. All the experts tell us that if a visitor has any type of negative experience they will not return. Most of the time we know that we get only one chance at convincing a visitor to join us again. If we fail to properly make a visitor feel welcome, look unorganized, or don't do things at our best, we will likely not see that person again. It's important that when Sunday morning comes around that everything is well planned, everyone knows what job they are doing and how to do it, everyone is in place at the right time, and everyone gives their very best.

We have a great worship family here at Bethlehem and have a lot to offer those looking for a worship family to call their own. Let's make sure we offer them our best on Sunday morning!

## 33rd APPLE FESTIVAL BAZAAR REPORT 2006

Chairpersons: Christina Watson & Dianna Reynolds

| <u>DEPARTMENT</u> | <u>HEAD CHAIRPERSONS</u>           |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kitchen           | Charlotte Driskill                 |
| Gourmet/Bakery    | Cheri Dobberteen                   |
| Addie's Attic     | Arlene Pollard                     |
| Handmade Crafts   | Katherine Lindell                  |
| Setup/Tear Down   | Men in Mission & Marianne Sakowski |
| Book Nook         | Youth                              |
| Cashier           | Andrea Campbell & Diane            |
| Treasurer         | Alice Roop                         |

The 33rd Annual Apple Festival Bazaar was held on October 21, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Kitchen crew sold coffee & donuts from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 Lunch was sold from 11:00 until 1:00 p.m. To help publicize the event, an all out appeal was placed in the September and October newsletter requesting the help of all members at Bethlehem. The newsletter tear off sheet was not used because of poor response in prior years. Inserts were placed in the Sunday bulletins during the months of September and October as well as a sign up sheet posted in the narthex, requesting participation. The telephone tree was activated Thursday October 19 to all members.

In order to reach the community, Christina faxed and emailed press releases to the Sun, News Enterprise, L.A. Times, Leisure World publication, 1 week in advance. Only the News Enterprise ran our ad.

A candy/cookie-making workshop was held on Thursday evening prior to the Bazaar with 10 people participating. Several women worked on their own to provide baked goods. 2 Women spent at least two evenings making Zucchini Pickles. Kristen Temple and Bill Haglund donated 19 jars of "Donna's" bean soup. Cheri Dobberteen donated the cookie and candy making ingredients, bags and ribbons.

Craft Workshops were not held this year, instead women were encouraged to make crafts at home. Besides the chair people, approximately 6 women participated. Katherine donated most of the craft materials.

Allie Oop, a children's recycled shop, donated 3 big boxes of clothing and miscellaneous items. The new picture frames from a retail store that were donated last year were brought out from storage, leftovers are stored for 2007.

Donations for Addie's Attic started coming in early morning, Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Blue tarps were laid down in Bachman Hall to protect the carpet. Dianna and Christina hung signs from the ceiling indicating donation locations to make sorting and pricing easier. Several women worked throughout the week pricing and organizing the donations, especially Doris Schaefer. Ernie Mazzari sorted all the electrical items. Saturday he set up all the computers in the Fireside room and sold several.

All food and drinks sold from the kitchen came from donations from the congregation and the community.

The wooden APPLE FESTIVAL BAZAAR sign was propped up against the tree on Wallingsford. The yellow banner was placed on the PCP pipe facing Katella. These were placed 7 days prior to the event. The Red banner was strung across two poles facing the back alley 3 days prior.

Set-up began at 6:00a.m. Sat. morn. Where the Men In Mission erected 6 pop-up tents and 3 10 x 20 awnings (gray & brown). 6 round tables were placed for dining. All other tables were used for Addie's Attic and cashier area.

All departments were outside except Gourmet/ Bakery- they were in the Nursery. The Bank was in the Sunday school room. Kitchen served from in the building, offered seating outside under one of the awnings. Centerpieces were created and donated by Margie Reynolds. Inside seating was not used.

About 1:30p.m. everyone working began "taking down". Two vans from the Seafarers Lutheran Maritime Mission came and loaded up mostly men's clothing for their mission. Donations were also collected for the Senior Center rummage, Assistance League, and for National Charity League. "Friends of the Library" were not interested in collecting our left over books. The books were taken to Vons Pavillons on Spring for their Breast Cancer fund raiser. Thank you to the Youth who delivered them.

At least 7 charities were contacted for a Saturday pick up. None would come on Saturday. The church building and parking lot were cleaned up by 3:00p.m., (except for one couch and headboard) due to many helping hands. Dan Powers loaded up his truck with approximately 18 "white plastic bags" stuffed with clothes and unbreakable items, and took them to WE CARE.

Alice Roop and Susan Driskill counted the money and were finished by 3:00p.m. Approximately \$2,400.00 was raised on Saturday. Matching funds of \$1,600.00 was applied for from Thrivent by Dianna Reynolds. Additional funds for Addie's Attic and for Gourmet/Baked Goods were collected the next day.

As in the past, the main goal set by Dianna and myself was to have a day of fun, fellowship, make additional money for the church and to reach out to the community. Even though it was a very hot day, the weather didn't seem to affect anyone's spirit and we feel that the goal was reached and then some.

In Christ's Name,  
Christina Watson & Dianna Reynolds

10/26/06

Women's Bible Study

Laments give us words to say in time of suffering.

*Psalms*



Faith Circle will not meet in December. Next meeting will be on Tues. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Fireside Room. Hostess-Alice Roop. Bible Study Leader-Jean Franz. Questions? Call Jean Franz at (562)596-6153.

Phoebe Circle will not meet in December. Next meeting will be on Tues. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Carly Warnock. Margaret Hangartner will lead the Bible Study. Questions? Call Charlotte Driskill.

W.E.L.C.A. Board will not meet in December. Next meeting will be on Monday Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Bachman Hall.

For information call President, Christina Watson at



Sunday Morning  
Coffee & Cookies

Thank you to Faith Circle for providing coffee and cookies in November. Men In Mission will be responsible in December.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm Christmas Gathering at the home of Dianna Reynolds. 2772 Silverwood Dr. Rossmore. Love gifts for WE CARE and SEAFARERS will be collected. Sign up in the narthex.

Dec pac

*A huge THANK YOU to Andrea Campbell, Dianna Reynolds, Sarah Sandvig, Marianne Sakowski & Doris Schaefer who donated Gift Cards to the 2006 Pacifica Synod Gathering. The Convention was amazing and I appreciate you sending me as Bethlehem's Delegate. Yours In Christ, Christina Watson*

W.E.L.C.A. 2007 Board

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President:            | Christina Watson   |
| Vice-President:       | Arlene Pollard     |
| Secretary:            | Cathy Warnock      |
| Treasurer:            | Alice Roop         |
| Faith Circle Leader:  | Jean Franz         |
| Phoebe Circle Leader: | Charlotte Driskill |
| Mission Growth:       | Dianna Reynolds    |
| Mission Action:       | Janice Hunt        |
| Membership:           | Deborah Gustafson  |

A big thank you goes to Marianne Sakowski and to Luelle Buezis who faithfully served on the WELCA Board for 2006 and to the rest of the board who have agreed to serve another year. You all make my job as president such a pleasure, Sincerely, Christina



Unto us a child is born. A Savior who is Christ the Lord.  
ter for



**Pacifica Women of the ELCA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
November 3,4,5 2006 Pacific Beach Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

Theme Verse: *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1*

There was a total of 67 people present at convention; 26 Delegates, 4 executive officers, 6 SWO (Synodical Women Organization) board members, 1 church wide member, 3 honored guests and 27 visitors.

The convention goals were to conduct the business of the Synodical Women’s Organization so that the purposes of the Women of the ELCA are accomplished to the glory of God, to help women understand that only as we live in the spirit can we fulfill the will of God in our lives and to encourage the women to use their gifts of the spirit and branch out to others in love. The Women of the ELCA’s mission is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Five members of Bethlehem Lutheran attended this convention. Christina Watson, our WELCA President, served as the Chairperson of the Committee on claims and was our convention delegate. Andrea Campbell, who is on the Synodical Board as the treasurer. Marianne Sakowski convention visitor and served on the Conduct of Elections Committee. Charlotte and Susan Driskill, convention visitors.

Convention opened with Keala Simoes dancing a Hula to the Hymn “Here I Am Lord”. All the main business meetings were conducted on Friday. Eunice Hansen remains the President for one more year, Keala Simoes was elected Vice President on the third ballot, Becky Shurson was elected Secretary and Andrea Campbell remains Treasurer. The rest of the board members are Viola Angebrandt, Juli Patten, Sue Bodenschatz, Lynda McClennan, Mary Ann Messick, Karen Ronchetti, Inga Sanders and Violet Quist. The four delegates that were elected to go to the 2008 Triennial Gathering are Viola Angebrandt, Sue Bodenschatz, Andrea Campbell and Jacqueline Corina. After a delicious lunch, Andrea Campbell presented the 2007 budget and the report of the Treasurer. Eunice Hanson gave her presidential report and Susan Humphrey, our Churchwide Representative, conducted a workshop on how to write a resolution.

Only two workshops were offered this year and unfortunately they were held simultaneously. I attended the *Praise Hula Dancing* workshop led by Iris Norseth, a teacher of praise hula. The workshop taught us a short history of Hula where we learned that Hula is the term for the dance of the Hawaiians. The origin of Hula is the worship of God through dancing. We performed the Doxology using “Hula Hand and Arm Movements” at the Saturday Night Banquet. It was fun and inspirational. Wanda Bledsoe, Churchwide Board Member, conducted the *Lutheran Women and Sexual Intimacy* workshop. I attended this workshop last year and perhaps the most important aspect of the workshop is the chance to just talk about this issue surrounded by loving women of God.

The Friday evening activities included a wonderful Hawaiian buffet supper, followed by a worship service led by Pastor Karla Lundgren of St. John Lutheran Church in Kailua, HI. The ladies could end their day with *Stretch ‘N Pray* with Bishop Murray Finck.

The next morning, several of us rose at 5:30a.m. to jump in the warm waters of Waikiki Beach to *Paddle and Pray* with Susan Humphrey. I can't tell you how beautiful it was to see the sun rise from behind Diamond Head while floating in the surf.

After a gourmet breakfast of eggs benedict and fruit we loaded in buses and headed out for Winners' Camp. The camp is located up in the mountains where it was previously used by the armed forces. Winners' Camp, Hawai'i Leadership Academy, is a one-week retreat, designed to enhance teenagers' academic performance and social proficiency, giving them tools to make positive choices. About 40% of the young people are "at risk" 60% are not. While at the camp we broke into small groups and got to know each other better. We took a tour of the camp and were treated to a great salad lunch after which some of us took a difficult hike. The view from the top of the mountain afforded us a breath taking view of both sides of the island. \$2,456.00, love gift offering, was donated to the Winners' Camp from the Pacifica Women of the ELCA.

Upon returning from Winners' Camp we attended a very informative lecture given by Mikki Contreras, Eunice Hanson's daughter, on *How to Engage the Young Women-ages 18-35*. The simple answer is...in order for any person of any age to become involved in anything they have to take ownership of it and they need to feel needed and wanted. Some ideas to accomplish this is:

- Bring a Friend to Council one night to learn what the problems are and how can you be a part of the solution.
- Select a Volunteer Coordinator that has one job to break every task of the church into small manageable pieces- learns the gifts of the each member then personally asks that person to volunteer.
- Transition Pastors-Who has ownership in your church? The pastor, the congregation or is it shared? Practice with caution in this area-there are real people involved.
- Be aware of what message your youth program is sending and what message is your youth program receiving. Are you keeping them involved after the letdown after Confirmation?
- Be Open-Minded to young ideas, new ideas. Ask those younger than you for their ideas. Be able to tailor the skills of the young and old. Make it a constant message to be open-minded. Think – Brainstorming.
- Youth/Senior Mentoring. Pair youth with someone 30-35 years his or her senior. Meet once a month for a year to discuss pre-determined topics i.e. church event, current events.
- Treat Confirmands as adults. Find out what service do you ask of the youth in your congregation. Ask – go to them. Send the message that their service is needed.

Nikki finished her speech by encouraging all of us to share ideas of what worked and what didn't in our congregations. "Church is a family event-have mom and dad involve their children in their service to their church" "Let the *community* raise the child". In conclusion-Use all ideas together, be open-minded, ask what young women want-start with the parents of very young children and never let go. LEARN IT – TEACH IT – LIVE IT

A silent auction was held Saturday with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. \$1,781.00 was raised from the auction. Thank you to Andrea Campbell, Dianna Reynolds, Sarah Sandvig, Marianne Sakowski and Doris Schaefer who donated gift cards to Bethlehem's Basket.

The Saturday evening banquet opened with a beautiful hula dance, Kay Craft was one of the dancers, and authentic Hawaiian music provided wonderful entertainment while we dined on everything from fresh Ahi Tuna to Chicken Picata with papaya salsa.

Sunday morning at 6:45 a.m. we loaded into the buses and traveled to *Calvary by the Sea*. There we joined their worship in a sanctuary with windows behind the altar overlooking the ocean. It was an awesome experience! We returned to the hotel for a delicious brunch and Bishop Murray Finck updated us with his report:

- Lutheran Disaster Relief is working on the big island to help with the earthquake repair and they are still in New York helping with the aftermath of 9/11. LDR goes in as a second team.
- He admired our “Boldness” as we tackle difficult topics such as Human Sexuality.
- The State of the Church - Ecumenical progress merging Episcopalian, Methodist and Lutherans together.
- Synod is working to establish a Japanese Church in the ELCA. We have one in California and we need one in Hawaii.
- 25 churches are looking for a pastor in the Pacifica Synod.
- 7 Pastors were ordained this year, 3 men and 4 women (one of which was our own Pastor Patricia.)

We finished up the rest of our business with the installation of officers and the discussion of the resolutions. Seven resolutions were submitted. Five were accepted, one was referred to the SWO board for further study, and one did not get accepted. Details of these resolutions will be published in the next Pacific Partners. The Pacific Partners will no longer be mailed after March 2007 due to the high cost of postage and copying. It will be published on the SWO website.

After checking out, six of us walked along the ocean front and dined at Lulu’s where we enjoyed the sunset and live music. We caught the red eye home on Hawaiian Air and returned home to LAX with no problems.

Thank you for allowing me to attend this gathering as your delegate. I’ll close with this Hawaiian saying- ma la ma po no (take care of your well being).

Mahalo & Blessings

Christina Watson  
Convention Delegate



Poinsettias will be available for purchase beginning Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Look for an order form in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office to make your request. The price per plant is \$8.50.

for Ruth Precker  
Jeff Thompson  
**Homebound:**  
Gladyce Ackerman  
George Maxwell

Darlene Staglin

John Buttler

## Remember in prayer members and friends of Bethelehem:

### Hospitalized:

Gwen Bailon (friend of Cathy Warnock) - surgery  
Jennifer Reinholz (granddaughter of the Sheltons) - brain tumor

### Recuperating:

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

Katherine Lindell  
Charlie Lyons  
Aline Snook - hip surgery  
Everett Zupke - intestinal surgery

### Undergoing treatment:

Adeline Beemer (Lynn Roesner's mother) - lymphoma  
Rev. Bruce Craft - experimental eye treatment  
Sara DeWeese - cancer

Katrina Gary  
Rev Kay M. Glaesner (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tress)  
Jack Lyons  
James Lyons - lymphoma  
Lisa Maldinado (Jim Brandon's niece)  
Jim Mauritzen (friend of the Hunts) - cancer

Rev. Don McMillan  
Harold Miller  
Shirley Moleneux (Betty Jacobs' niece) - cancer  
Joyce Rekstad - lupus

### Convalescent or Care Facility:

Florence Anderson Ruth Hudson  
Ernie Kling Hartley Koch  
Arlene Larson Jeanette Olmstead

## December Birthdays

12/1 Lane Reed  
12/3 Ginny Gary  
Karleigh Ochampaugh  
12/6 Michele Knowlton  
12/7 Kirk Sandvig  
12/8 Bill Ritz  
12/10 Deron Scott  
12/11 Nick Medrano  
12/12 Katrina Gary  
12/13 Amy Lyons  
12/14 Jane Benning  
John Butler  
Doug Wolfe  
12/15 Arlene Larson  
12/19 Jack Scott  
12/20 Thomas Upright  
12/22 Janis Sabic  
12/23 John Hunt  
Steve Reynolds  
Richard Toth  
Carl Van Sauter  
12/25 Jeanne Sandvig  
12/29 Rick Gary  
12/30 J.R. Anderson  
Jessica Metz  
12/31 Diana Esch

## December Anniversaries

12/ 5/1976 Russ & Geraldine Knox  
12/23/1967 Gary & Liz Nehrenberg  
12/28/1974 Eric & Cheri Dobberteen

**Next Council Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 10, 2007  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room