



# Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California

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April, 2007

*From the  
Pastor*



*"He is not here, He is risen!"*

Spring time is once again upon us. For those of us having the fortune of living in Southern California, though we're glad to have it arrive, it probably doesn't mean as much as those in other parts of our nation. Having lived so many years in Northeast Montana and Alaska I know the reality that the signs of spring became a very welcomed sign coming at the end of the usual hard and long winter. The crocus breaking through the frozen ground. The buds beginning to show some signs of life on the trees and bushes. The first signs of the pussy willows along the sides of the roads. The sun shining just a little longer each day. The signs of spring became not only a welcomed sight, but uplifting one's spirits. A reminder that winter was not the end, but new life was once again about to spring forth.

To me it's so appropriate for us Christians that the Easter season is celebrated during the season of spring. To me Easter is so much like spring. It reminds us that the darkness of Good Friday is not the final season. It reminds us that the darkness of death does not have the final word. The signs of Easter remind us that new life is just around the corner. The Easter lilies shout out the good news that new life is a reality. The empty cross and tomb proclaim that Jesus has and will deliver to us a new and perfect season of eternal life.

When I lived in the north country the signs of spring seemed to re-energize me. It was a time that uplifted my spirits and got me excited about the days ahead. May this Easter season do that for each of us. May the signs of Easter uplift our spirits once again. May they remind us of the new season of spring that lies just on the other side of the winter of life, the one Jesus has brought to a

reality for those who believe in Him. May the words we hear on Easter morning, "He is not here, He is risen!" re-energize us to take on the work that lies ahead as we strive to be the people of God here at Bethlehem and the heralds of God's Good News.

May your Easter season be a blessed one!

In Christ,  
Pastor Will

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## **April 1<sup>st</sup> - Palm Sunday**

9:00 am - Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will not be held.

10:00 am - The congregation will gather on the patio; worship service will begin and proceed into the sanctuary. After service, the cross on the patio will be decorated.

## **April 5<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm - Worship service in Bachman Hall.

## **April 6<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday**

7:00 pm - Worship service in the sanctuary.

## **April 7<sup>th</sup> - Holy Saturday**

3:00 - 7:00 pm - Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary.

## **April 8<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday**

9:00 am - Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will not be held.

10:00 am - Worship service with holy communion by intinction.

11:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt.

## **April 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am - Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will resume.

10:00 am - Worship service with holy communion

## Council Members 2007

President	Bruce Gustafson
Vice-President	Marianne Sakowski
Secretary	Andrea Campbell
Treasurer	Debbie Johnson
Archives	Eric Dobberteen
Education	Ann Tegmeier
Evangelism	Elise Johnson
Finance	Dianna Reynolds
Parish Life	Bob Campbell
Property	Cathy Warnock
Social Ministry	Alice Roop
Stewardship	Dale Retrum
Worship & Music	Johanne Hansen
Youth	Dan Sakowski
Youth Representative	James Toth
Pastor	Rev. Mark Will

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## Eucharistic Ministers

The Eucharistic Ministers were commissioned by the pastor to visit the ill and homebound and to provide holy communion for those who wish to receive the sacrament.

This group, otherwise known as "Lydia & Lucas" were installed by Pastor Will during worship service on March 4, 2007. If you would like a visit at home or know of someone who would like a visit please contact Pastor Will. Members of this ministry include:

Sandy Retrum	Charlotte Driskill
Debbie Johnson	Marge Hargrove
Margaret Hangartner	Janice Hunt
Heidi Kracy	Dale Retrum
Richard Toth	

## New Members

Please welcome these new members received into the congregation on March 8, 2007:

Joen Coleman	Franklin (Jim) & Joyce Payne
Charlotte Sohl	Mary Ann Wilson

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## Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee was asked by the Church Council to develop a policy for the distribution of communion. The committee feels that communion is open to ALL who believe in the presence of the body and blood of Christ in the elements distributed. As far as distribution to younger children, it was recommended that children receive communion instruction from the Pastor prior to taking communion. The committee realizes that there are younger children coming to our services who have already received instructions from their parents and possibly from other pastors, and have been receiving communion at churches other than Bethlehem. Therefore, we do not want to discourage these children from receiving communion at our church.

Communion classes are offered annually. Children 6 years old and up will be encouraged to attend at the discretion of their parents.

**E.L.W. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)** - now is your chance to purchase a dedication of one of the new red hymnals. Dedications will be placed inside the front cover of the hymnal prior to their placement in the pews. The cost of each hymnal, including dedication, is \$20. Forms are available in the Sunday bulletin or in the church office. The first use of the hymnals will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> so try to get your requests in by April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Y'ALL COME !!!

When: Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
What: Opportunity to hear the new liturgies of the E.L.W. (red hymnal)  
Where: Sanctuary

**We need Ushers** for our Sunday services. If you would like to be of service to your church in this way please sign up on the bulletin board or call Marianne Sakowski.

Training is available or you will usher with others if you have any questions.

**Food for the Poor** - On Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> we will welcome a guest speaker from Food For the Poor, Inc., Coconut Creek, FL. This organization has visited us before, their posters are still up on a few of our bulletin boards, and our cumulative donations were quite generous

. Food For the Poor is proud of their efficient program of giving, 96% of donations in 2006 went directly to help the poor.

Their Mission Statement: *Food For The Poor (FFP) ministers to spiritually renew impoverished people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Established in 1982 as a 501(c)(3)corporation, our goals are to improve the health, economic, social and spiritual conditions of the men, women and children we serve.*

*Food For The Poor raises funds and provides direct relief assistance to the poor, usually by purchasing specifically requested materials and distributing them through the churches and charity organizations already operating in areas of need. In this way, the organization serves the poor with dignity and ensures the most appropriate use of donors' funds.*

*Our ministry reflects God's unconditional love, which surrenders all, inspires trust and faith, and embraces all people regardless of race, status or creed. We believe that Christ is alive, and that we can best serve Him by being of assistance to those in greatest need (Matthew 25:31-46). Finally, we stress the need for regular prayer to guide and maintain the purity of our mission. Our mission is to link the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. The materially poor are served by local churches, clergy and lay leaders who have been empowered and supplied with goods by Food For The Poor. The poor in spirit are renewed by their relationship with and service to the poor through our direct ministry of teaching, encouragement and prayer. Ultimately, we seek to bring both benefactors and recipients to a closer union with our Lord.*



**"Close Knit" Life Together** small group will meet on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Kay Shelton's home at 7 pm. The group will continue to knit/crochet

blankets for Long Beach Memorial Medical Center's NICU. Any interested parties may call Johanne Hansen or Arlene Pollard.

**Golf Tournament Results:** The most recent Bethlehem Golf Tournament was a four-person team scramble held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course in Anaheim. Congratulations to the winning team of Richard Call, Eric Dobberteen, Ken Johnson and Lon Warnock. The next Bethlehem Golf Tournament will be a four-person team scramble on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the Los Serranos Golf Course.

**Men-in-Mission meeting:** Bethlehem Men-in-Mission meet the first and third Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside room. Please join us for bible study, discussion and fellowship. The current study is from the Master Builder's Bible for Men and is titled "WHOL-I-NESS: With Myself, Others and God."

**Men-in-Mission Support for the Lutheran Navajo Mission:** Each year the Bethlehem Men-In-Mission try to provide some mean of support for the Lutheran Navajo Mission in Arizona. 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 collect new bath size towels in the Narthex or we can accept donations so we can purchase towels on your behalf. Last year our congregation responded with over 70 new towels. We need to have all towels collected by mid-April, 2007, so we can arrange to have them delivered to the reservation. If interested please contact a member of Men-in-Mission for more information.

W.E.L.C.A. News  
April 2007

**Women's Bible Study**  
Theme Verse Proverbs 15:8  
*Session 8*  
The God to Whom We Pray



Faith Circle Next meeting will be on Tues. Apr. 3rd in the Fireside Room. Hostess-Sophie Happel Bible Study Leader-Janice Hunt Questions? Call Jean Franz.

Phoebe Circle Next meeting will be on Tues. April 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Katherine Lindell Margaret Hangartner will lead the Bible Study. Questions? Call Charlotte Driskill.

W.E.L.C.A .BOARD Next meeting will be on Monday April. 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in Bachman Hall.



*Sunday Morning  
Coffee & Cookies*

Thank you to Men In Mission for providing coffee and cookies in March. Phoebe will be responsible in April.

Upcoming Events:



Fri. April 27 L.A.F.F. nite in Irvine. Meet to carpool at Christina's at 6:30pm.

Sat. April 28 Cluster Spring\* Event-St. Paul's Church 111 W. Las Palmas, Fullerton. Meet to carpool at Christina's at 8:00am.



"The prayer of the upright is God's delight."

**Thank you to the W.E.L.C.A.  
Board for hostessing our Spring  
event where we put our**



into hearing  
Sauni Rinehart encourage women to  
grow in their relationship with Jesus.  
Special thanks goes to the ladies who  
brought the delicious baked goods, fruit  
and diapers for We Care. We enjoyed a  
wonderful morning which include a

*Thank you to all who helped with the Lenten  
Soup and Salad Supper on Wed. March 28*



**SAVE THE DATE:**

Sat. April 28 8:30-11:30

Come hear Pastor Judy Miller speak on

***Bad Girls of the Bible***

at the Cluster Event\*

Love Gifts: Fullerton Interfaith Shelter

Donations: Baby Formula, Baby Food, Diapers

Brunch will be served

\$6.00 Donation

Note: Pacifica Partners is now available on line  
at [www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org) click on news & events

**Welcome Spring**



## April Birthdays

- 4/ 1 Maria Sakowski  
Amber Wiswell
- 4/ 2 Ken Johnson  
Zachary Varalyai
- 4/ 3 Elsie Fisher  
Kelley Owens
- 4/ 5 Sierra Roper
- 4/ 6 Caroline Clausen  
Cathy Warnock
- 4/ 8 Marv Schneider
- 4/ 9 Cameron Bonwit  
Elizabeth Davidson
- 4/10 Bruce Johnson  
Katherine Lindell  
Marynell Wolfe
- 4/12 John Buezis  
Carthel Davidson  
Caitlin Johnson  
Julie Starmann
- 4/13 Spencer Varalyai
- 4/14 Erica Knowlton
- 4/15 Chanele Davidson
- 4/17 Ruth Bennett  
Geoff Kracy
- 4/18 Larissa Coe  
Donald Ochampaugh
- 4/19 Erika Gary
- 4/21 Madison Hoglund  
Joshua Strafford
- 4/22 Irene Johnson
- 4/23 Velomy Kizanis
- 4/24 Jennifer Strafford  
Constantine Zarkos  
Kathryn Zarkos
- 4/26 Cheri Dobberteen
- 4/30 Virginia Robinson  
Melissa Sandvig



## April Anniversaries

- 4/1/1989 Richard & Candie Toth
- 4/8/2006 Dan & Andrea O'Gara
- 4/11/1987 Ken & Debbie Johnson
- 4/11/1993 Robert & Julie Davis
- 4/15/1972 Don & Judy Gould
- 4/17/1945 Jack & Ruth Bennett
- 4/18/1975 Marv & Susan Schneider
- 4/24/1976 Lon & Cathy Warnock
- 4/30/1971 David & Jeanne Sandvig



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## Scramble Golf Tournament in May



There will be a Bethlehem Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the Los Serranos Golf Course in Chino Hills. The tournament format will be a four-person team "scramble" where the best ball will be played by each team. The first tee time will be at 10:15 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 \$75 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, April 29<sup>th</sup>. There is 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.