



Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Los Alamitos, California



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July & August, 2008

*From the
Pastor*



About a month ago one of our members came up to me after reading the last newsletter and asked, "Pastor, do you really think we can grow?" To some that may seem like a bad question, but in fact that question is one that has to be answered before growth has a real chance. My first response was to say, "Yes, I believe we can, but the more important question is, do you?"

At our synod assembly, Dr. Kenneth Inskeep, director of Research and Evaluation of the E.L.C.A., when asked a similar question at a workshop I was attending with him, responded that he believed we can, but he wasn't sure most members of our congregations really believed we can complete in today's world. He went on to say that if we are to grow we have to believe we can and that we have something to offer the people in our communities and world.

Can we grow? I believe we can, but here are some key thoughts that will help determine that answer. First, if we want to grow we have to believe that we have much to offer those who are not among us. I would ask that you take out a piece of paper, entitle it "What Bethlehem has to offer those not among us," and write down what you think the answers are. In the fall we will begin a process of envisioning about the future of our congregation and one of the first parts will be to talk about what we have to offer those in our community. If we are to grow we must believe that we have something important to offer others in the name of Jesus.

Second, if we are to grow we have to be willing to lay aside our built in Lutheran defense responses. Most of us have heard them and most of us have uttered them. So here are the top five Lutheran Defense System comments:

#5 "We've done that before and it didn't work"

#4 "It'll never work here. We'll lose members if we try it"

#3 "Our older members will never accept it."

#2 "But we've always done it this way."

And finally the big one:

#1 "That isn't Lutheran."

Are we willing to lose these saying in our Lutheran vocabulary? Are we willing to really consider what is really at the core of being Lutheran?

Third, if we are to grow we must be willing to listen to those in our Lutheran church who are in a growing congregation and be open to considering what they are doing as part of what we can do.

Fourth, if we want to grow we have to be serious about the prayer life of our congregation. We need to join together and pray about the ministry of our congregation. We need, as a congregation, to ask the Spirit to lead us into the future, but most of all, to be willing to follow where the Spirit leads us even if it's where we never thought we would go and maybe even where we'd rather not go. One thing I have learned in my career is that when you take a ride with the Spirit you never know where he will lead you, but it's always a great and exciting ride.

Finally, for this newsletter is this thought, as a small or medium size congregation we have to find ways of balancing out doing what serves those of us who find comfort in a more traditional Lutheran setting, those who are already among us, those who are not among us, and those who have not grown up in a Lutheran setting. This will become one of our tasks in the envisioning process we will begin in the fall, which I hope each of you will take part in and support.

So, once again, can we grow? I keep asking that question. My answer is still the same, I believe we can and I believe we at Bethlehem have much to offer those who are not among us. I believe the Spirit has much for us to do and that we as Lutherans have a lot to offer those in our communities today. Will the journey of

growth be easy? Well, you'll have to tune in to upcoming newsletters to hear my answer to that.

In the mean time, let's continue to lift up the name of Jesus in what we do as a congregation and as individual disciples of our Lord and God.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark Will

Applying Bible Principles

If you read annual reports from publicly held companies or banks, you will frequently see the word "fiduciary." Fiduciary is used as an adjective to describe something which is held in trust. It is also used as a noun to describe the one who is a trustee who must account for that which is held in trust.

For example, a bank president has a fiduciary responsibility to stockholders in the bank and to depositors who place their money in the bank. A company treasurer has a fiduciary responsibility to the owners of the company. A payroll clerk has a fiduciary responsibility to pay people what they have earned.

You may never have considered yourself a fiduciary, and you may never have acted officially in a fiduciary capacity, but in reality, you are a fiduciary. All of us are. That applies both to Christians and to those who are not part of God's family through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We who are Christians will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. There, we will not be judged for salvation, since the penalty and judgment for sin was settled once and for all on the cross of Calvary when the Lord Jesus paid the price for our sin. Instead, when we stand before Christ, we will give an account of how we have used what God has entrusted to us.

Just as a bank president must account to stockholders and depositors on how their funds are used, we must account to Christ for how we have used what God has entrusted to us. Since everything we have rightfully belongs to Him, we will need to report on how we have managed His assets!

As you consider how you have used what God has entrusted to your care and keeping during the past few months, what kind of job have you done? And more importantly, as a "fiduciary" of what God has placed in your hands, will you stand before Him with joy, eager to report on your giving and management of His assets?

What's new at our parsonage?

Both bathrooms have recently been refurbished after many years of wear and tear, leaks, bugs, and other issues that happen to a 50 year-old house.

Both bathrooms now sparkle with new lights, glossy counters, smooth ceilings, new energy efficient windows, and attractive color schemes that work with the existing tile floors. We also added storage vanities, replaced exhaust fans, repaired plumbing, tiled, and accessorized.

Thank you to the Bethlehem Lutheran congregation for funding this project, the Property Committee for their support, and to the members involved in its design and execution: Ron Clausen, Lon and Cathy Warnock, Rev. Mark and Kathleen Will, Ernie Mazzari, and Bill Haglund.

Education News

As we recess from the 2007-2008 education year, I would like to acknowledge those who have made the commitment to teach the Word of God and His lessons. Your time and faith is appreciated by the whole congregation at Bethlehem.

These special members are Liz Nehrenberg-1st and 2nd grades, Marjorie Moeller-3rd and 4th grades, Julie Kizziar-5th and 6th grades, J.R. Anderson-7th and 8th grades, Brian Gary-High School and Pastor Will-Adult Class and Bible Studies.

Thank you to all of you! Have a great Summer.

Ann Tegtmeier
Education Ministry

August Council Meeting

Our church council will not be meeting at its usual time in the month of July. If the need arrives for the council to deal with any issue a special after worship meeting will be called. The executive committee, the church staff, and the pastor will as always be available to deal with any concerns that arise. The next council meeting is **Wednesday, August 20, 2008**, 7 pm, Fireside Room.

You Are Invited to Our Next Hymn Sing Service

Please join your worship family and invite your friends to join us on July 6th for our patriotic hymn sing service. Among the songs will be: God Bless America, Mine Eyes have seen the Glory. O Beautiful for Spacious Skies, Faith of our Fathers, My country 'Tis of Thee, Let There be Peace on Earth, God of our Father's, and Let there be Peace on Earth.

Are You Interested in Becoming a Member of Our Church Worship Family?

If you would like to join our worship family as a voting member please contact the pastor. We are aiming at accepting members in the near future and will be having a special session for anyone who would like to join us by transfer from another church, by baptism, and by affirmation.

We Need Your Help

If you have a special announcement you would like to give during the Sunday announcements we ask that you check with the pastor first. We would like to limit the number of these to one or two a Sunday so that we can keep our service time around 60 minutes. We would suggest that for an upcoming event that you give a special announcement 3 or 4 weeks before the event and then again the Sunday previous to the event. If you would like the pastor to highlight your announcement on other Sundays he would be glad to do so. Just let him know before Sunday morning.

Congratulations to Paul Scott! Best Musicianship



Scripture Lessons for July and August

We have had some request by those who want to read the lessons before they come to worship to have the scripture lessons printed in the newsletter for bulletin. So here are the lessons for the next 2 months. Let us know if you feel this helps in your worship lives.

- July 6th: Zechariah 9:9–12, Romans 7:15–25a, Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30
- July 13th: Isaiah 55:10–13, Romans 8:1–11, Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23
- July 20th: Isaiah 44:6–8, Romans 8:12–25, Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43
- July 27th: 1 Kings 3:5–12, Romans 8:26–39, Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52
- August 3rd: Isaiah 55:1–5, Romans 9:1–5, Matthew 14:13–21
- August 10th: 1 Kings 19:9–18, Romans 10:5–15, Matthew 14:22–33
- August 17th: Isaiah 56:1, 6–8, Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32, Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28
- August 24th: Isaiah 51:1–6, Romans 12:1–8, Matthew 16:13–20
- August 31st: Jeremiah 15:15–21, Romans 12:9–21, Matthew 16:21–28
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Saturday, July 5th, beginning at 7:30 pm, the movie will be shown at dusk on the patio. Please bring your favorite comfortable chair, cushion, or sleeping bag. Popcorn will be provided, if you can bring drinks or dessert or snacks that will be great! We can't announce the movie, but it's a sequel to one we saw last year, which was a real treasure!

Bridge Players Welcome

The Bethlehem Bridge Group meets on the second Friday evening of each month in Bachman Hall from September through June. The format for each evening is two-person teams playing six rounds (four hands each round). Any interested Bridge players please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337 or (562) 982-5732. Substitutes are also needed.

Looking forward

We Care Benefit Concert

Sunday, September 28, 2008

3:00 p.m.

at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos

Guest musician, Peggy Dequesnel, will sing and play the piano to benefit We Care of Los Alamitos. A donation of \$10 is requested and proceeds will be given to We Care. A portion of CD sales that day will also be given to We Care. A reception will follow the concert.

This concert is open to the community in hopes of raising much needed funds for We Care. Please invite friends and family and join us for this special event.

Peggy has an eclectic background in jazz, pop, Latin, gospel and the classics. She has a vibrant collection of original songs and has a passion to learn and grow in her faith. Her unique blend of songwriting, piano improvisation and smooth vocals shine in her lively arrangements. The following is some of the biography of Peggy Dequesnel from her web site: www.peggymusic.com

- Has internationally released seven C.D's as a featured artist in the jazz and inspirational markets.
- Performed as guest vocalist and pianist with the Auckland Philharmonic
- Toured domestically and internationally with Dionne Warwick
- Recorded with numerous artists including Henry Mancini, Monica Mancini, Pocket Change, Ric Flauding and John Pattitucci.
- Served as stadium keyboardist for the Anaheim Angels baseball team at Edison Field
- Served as keyboardist at the Arrowhead Pond for the Mighty Ducks NHL Hockey Team.
- Has several works published as a songwriter, composer and arranger.
- Studied jazz and classical music while attending Fullerton College and California State University Northridge where she received her Bachelor's degree in classical piano.
- Adjunct Professor of Music at Concordia University.



Send Us a Vacation Photo!

Every year, we ask you to let us know “what you did last summer.” We have not had a very good response. Now we realize, Bethlehem members don't just vacation in the summer! They travel year-round! So, drop us a line whenever you travel and send us a picture or two when you return. By the way, the photo above is of Monica Kracy skiing at Mammoth Mountain during Spring Break last March.

Scramble Golf Tournament in September

The next Bethlehem Golf Tournament will be on Saturday, September 27th, 2008, at the La Mirada Golf Course in La Mirada. 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 11:00 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 \$65 per person and will include green fees, golf cart and prize fund. To secure our reservation we need to have everyone signed up and the money collected by Sunday, September 14th. 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.

July & August Birthdays

7/2	Dave Scott
7/3	Vern Reynolds
7/5	Julie Davis Randi Reynolds
7/8	Marianne Sakowski
7/10	Tim Campbell
7/11	Bernice Smith
7/12	Carol Cummings Sara DeWeese Dianna Reynolds
7/13	Shirley Campbell Steven Joplin
7/15	Debbie Johnson Jay Sabic, Jr. Kathleen Will
7/19	Austin Temple
7/21	Liz Nehrenberg Amelia Roesner
7/24	Madison Slade
7/27	Ray Shelton
7/29	Alice Evans
7/30	Susan Mlynaryk
8/1	Jeri Alacano
8/3	John Gearhart
8/7	Lauren Scott
8/13	Blake Anderson
8/14	Fritz Campbell
8/15	Dana Urewicz
8/17	Lowell Johnson
8/18	Evald Andersen
8/20	Peggy Lange
8/22	Kristin Scott
8/26	Russ Knox
8/27	Eleanor Henrichs Cameron Reed
8/30	Sarah Davis

July & August Anniversaries

7/1/1995	Ernie & Marti Mazzari
7/8/1951	Jim & Gladyce Ackerman
7/11/1959	Donald & Shelba Ochampaugh
7/12/1980	Jay & Janis Sabic
7/14/1962	Jim & Marge Hargrove
7/21/1967	Ron & Jane Clausen
7/22/1987	Ely & Nellie Malana
8/11/1996	Doug & Fiona Wolfe
8/22/1974	Mark & Kathleen Will
8/25/1962	Dan & Krys Powers

Please Remember in Prayer These Members & Friends of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Hospitalized:

Dan Ekdahl (Jane Clausen's brother-in-law)
Ray Olsen (friend of the Clausens)

Undergoing treatment:

Gladyce Ackerman
Adeline Beemer (Lynn Roesner's mother) - lymphoma
Joan Bissing (friend of Charlotte Driskill) - cancer
Joe & Barbara Bull (friends of Mary Seibert)
Julie Davis - rheumatoid arthritis
Sara DeWeese - cancer
Laura Duke
Katrina Gary
Kenny Grant (Krissy Retrum's uncle) - cancer
Bryan Jones (grandson of Betty Jones) - cancer
Lenora Jones (friend of Lynne Estabrook)
Jack Lyons
Jim Mauritzen (friend of the Hunts) - cancer
Tony & Lynn Miles (friends of Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder)
Shirley Moleneux (Betty Jacobs' niece) - cancer
Didith Oakes (Sigrun Borneo's sister-in-law)
Ingrid & Joel Origel (friends of Joen Coleman) - cancer
Eva Payne (Jim Brandon's cousin) - pulmonary disease
Bob Piper (neighbor of Sigrun Borneo)
Carol Reid (friend of Jamie Slade) - brain cancer
Joyce Rekstad - lupus
Virginia Robinson
Jack Rohrer (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tress) - cancer

Recuperating:

Julie Anderson - kidney cancer
Ruth Bennett
Sigrun Borneo
Irene Cooper
Lynne Estabrook
Joshua Gimbel (Betty Jacobs' great-grandson) brain surgery
Stuart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo)
Pat Greene (Carol Snyder's cousin) - cancer
Sophie Happel
Betty Jacobs
Genevieve Jenkins
Katherine Lindell
Charlie Lyons
Susan Mlynaryk
Kristine Parkinson (The Lindell's daughter) - pancreatitis
Jackie Philips (Ron Clausen's sister) - multiple sclerosis
Chris Powers
Dave Scott
Mary Seibert

Convalescent or Care Facility:

Ferne Lange Jeanette Olmstead
Ruth Precker Jean Rich
Jeff Thompson

Military in Harm's Way:

Jeffrey Geis (friend of Wilkie Adams) - in Iraq
Evan Jones (Cathy Warnock's nephew) - in Iraq
Cpt. Justin Marshall (friend of the Dobberteens) - in Iraq
Matt Purtell (Krissy Retrum's cousin) - in Iraq
Chris Rogers
Chad Schweam (friend of Joen Coleman) - 3rd tour in Iraq

W.E.L.C.A. News
July/August 2008

Women's Bible Study
Enjoy your independent Summer Study time.



W.E.L.C.A. BOARD Next meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2008, 6:30p.m. in Bachman Hall. For information call President, Dianna Reynolds

Faith Circle Next meeting will be on Tues., September 9th, in the Fireside Room. Questions? Call Luelle Buezis

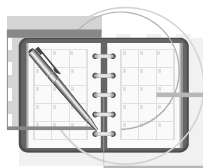
Phoebe Circle Next meeting will be on Tues. September 9th, at Carol Snyder's Community Room. The Bible Study will be led by Margaret Hangartner. We will be assembling Health Kits. Questions? Call Charlotte Driskill.



Sunday Morning
Coffee & Cookies

Thank you Men in Mission for providing coffee and cookies in June. Phoebe Circle will be responsible in July and Faith Circle in August.

Upcoming Events:



Women's Sunday Service:

Save the date, Sunday, July 27th. If you would be interested in participating, please see Heidi Kracy or Dianna Reynolds.



Fall

General

Meeting and Program:

Faith Circle will be hosting our Fall General Meeting, Wednesday, September 17th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for a salad supper and the program for the evening will be:

"Women of the Well"

Performed by

"His Grace" Liturgical Dance
Group



**Mark your calendars for the 35th Annual
Apple Festival Bazaar
Saturday, October 18th**

Save your "good junk" and please join us by helping chair an area, set-up or tear-down on the day of the event, and contribute your junk. Stay tuned!

Check out Pacifica Partners on line
www.pacificawomen.org click on news & events

**Your WELCA Board would
like to hear from you.**

Women's Event Survey

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey and place it in Dianna's Narthex box. We would love to hear from you all.

Saturday, May 10th - Ladies Day Event

- 1) If you did NOT attend could you tell us why?

- 2) Was the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend a good day to have this event? Yes or No
- 3) If you did attend, did you like the entertainment? Yes or No
- 4) If you did or did not attend, was the ticket price either a) reasonable, b) too high or c) too low? (circle one)
- 5) If you have not attended an event recently, what would get you to come? _____

Enjoy your Summer!

Thanks to These People for Serving in July & August, 2008

Date	Cross Bearer	Acolyte	Reader	Cantor	Ushers	Counters	Open/Close
7/6	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Dale Retrum	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	Dan Sakowski Marianne Sakowski Rick Gary	John Buezis John Buezis, Jr.	J.R. Anderson Bob Campbell
7/13	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Paul Scott	Katherine Lindell	Rick Gary	Bob Campbell Andrea Campbell	Fritz Campbell Katrina Gary
7/20	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Bill Lindell	John Buezis	Bob Campbell Andrea Campbell Rick Gary John Hunt Janice Hunt	Dick Hansen Lowell Johnson	Bruce Gustafson Dale Retrum
7/27	Women's Service					Marv Schneider Susan Schneider	Dianna Reynolds Bill Ritz
8/3	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	James Toth	Rick Gary	Dale Retrum David Retrum	Dan Sakowski Marianne Sakowski
8/10	Paul Scott		Debby Gustafson	John Buezis	Rick Gary	Margie Moeller Cathy Warnock	Ann Tegtmeier James Toth
8/17	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Jane Clausen	Charlotte Driskill	Rick Gary	John Buezis John Buezis, Jr.	Cathy Warnock J.R. Anderson
8/24	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	James Toth	Geoff Krcy Heidi Krcy Rick Gary	Bob Campbell Andrea Campbell	Bob Campbell Fritz Campbell
8/31	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Bruce Gustafson	Wilkie Adams	Geoff Krcy Heidi Krcy Rick Gary	Dick Hansen Lowell Johnson	Katrina Gary Bruce Gustafson

Altar Guild

7/6
7/13 Debby Gustafson
7/20
7/27 Luelle Buezis
8/3
8/10 Andrea Campbell
8/17
8/24 Doris Schaefer
8/31

Altar Flowers

7/6 V. Reynolds, Sakowski
7/13 Will
7/20 Roop
7/27 Hunt, Krcy
8/3
8/10 J.R. Anderson, Lurbine
8/17
8/24 Stevenson
8/31 Hansen, Happel