



# Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 48, Issue 8

September, 2008

*From the  
Pastor*



Let me begin with the words of St. Paul as he addressed in letter the members of the church in Corinthians, "I give thanks to my God always for you..." (1 Corinthians 1:4)

These words of Paul's are ones

I have to take time to share as well. Because of that I want to take a break from my articles on future growth to thank each of you for the great summer we've had here at Bethlehem. Our hymn sing services have been so uplifting with each of you adding your voices. Our special music has been outstanding thanks to Vanessa who invited some guest musicians, Marynell who arranged other special music, and to many of you who provided such wonderful music. Everyone who took worship leadership roles as our organist, lesson readers, communion assistants, acolytes, cantors, bread baker, altar guild, ushers, skit participants, sound techs and others all came prepared and did a great job. How important that is not only to give our Lord our best but in offering our guest a meaningful and uplifting worship experience.

Another real highlight of the summer was our Vacation Bible school. So much work went into developing the program and carrying it out. Everyone taking part served the children and church well. What an exciting week it was with parents telling me how excited the children were to come back day after day. The program was so successful that rather than having declining numbers as the week went on, our numbers increased. And what a great Friday night event with the children singing and sharing their Bible School experience. Thanks to Brian and Ken and to everyone making this another highlight of our ministry at Bethlehem. This will be a great experience to build on in the coming year.

But then there was more! There was Cathy Warnock and the property committee working behind the scene

during the summer getting the parsonage work completed and keeping our church facility well cared for and one that presents a great picture of Bethlehem to the community. There was Bob Campbell and his committee working on our next picture directory which will hopefully be in your hands sometime in October. It will be great to have an updated photo directory so that we can be a congregation where everyone knows each others name. Plus what a gift it will be to our new members to help them get to know the members of our worship family. Added to this, along with their work on the directory, we are having a professional looking brochure of our life at Bethlehem which will be used as a key part of our evangelism outreach. This hopefully will be done by the end of the year. And then there were fellowship events like our movie nights and the annual Hollywood Bowl performance with Julie Andrews. Add to that committee meeting to get ready for the fall, Haley's baptism, Madaline's 101 birthday, paper roller's 40 years of service celebration, 12 of our members working the Heifer O.C. Fair booth, the everyday work of our faithful staff and council, our We Care volunteers, and ... Well do I need to say more.

It doesn't take much to see that our congregation is alive and well even during the summer months. So what is my final word? I give thanks to my God always for you! Now I look forward to another great fall and winter of life together with each of you and I know that God will continue to lead and guide us as He moves us into the future as His church and disciples. Once again I invite you to hop on the Bethlehem train with your fellow members. I have a feeling God has an exciting journey for us in the days ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mark Will