



Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 49, Issue 6

June, 2009

*From the
Pastor*



Dear Members and Friends of Bethlehem:

My letter this month will take on a little different form than usual because I want to introduce you to one of the major emphasis for congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America known as the **Book of Faith** initiative. If we are to grow in our own faith and if we are to be the church in the world today, we must be grounded in God's word. The truth, however, is that for whatever reason the number of Christians taking time to read the Bible has decreased and even within the church we have gotten away from making scripture a part of all that we do.

So, what is the **Book of Faith** initiative? Simply stated, it is a concerted effort to put scripture before us in everything we do within the congregation and encouraging our members to take serious studying the scripture.

So, how will we do this? Well, the answer to that isn't complete, since we are just beginning this new emphasis, but here are at least a few ways we will strive to take this seriously at Bethlehem.

1. We will encourage every group within our congregation to begin their meeting or event with the reading of scripture and prayer.

2. Once or twice a month at our worship services a member of our congregation will be asked to share one of their favorite scripture passages and tell why it is meaningful to them. This time will be called "Our Book of Faith Moments."

3. Beginning in the fall we will offer a variety of opportunities for our members to take part in events or studies that will focus on listening to God's word. Wouldn't it be great to get at least 50 % or more of our members involved in scripture study?

4. We will encourage our members to become members of this emphasis which can be done online at www.bookoffaith.org

In a number of my sermons lately I have talked about the importance of getting back to the basics of our faith journeys. What could be more important than for us to put scripture back into the place it deserves as we live together as people of God? Well, you will hear more about this in the coming months as we strive to make this initiative a reality among us.

In Christ,
Pastor Will

New Bible Study Opportunity!

Beginning on June 17th we will begin a study on the book of Jeremiah. We will meet on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Fireside room. Each session will be a combination of lecture and group discussion. Jeremiah is considered one of the great Old Testament prophets who was called at a very young age to take on speaking for God often in the face of much adversity. It will be helpful if you would read the book of Jeremiah before we begin the study or at least the first 15 chapters. Since we will be covering such a great amount of scripture each week it will not be possible to read the material at our sessions. Everyone is welcomed at our gatherings!

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2009
7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

Council President's Message

Greetings:

As we are now in the Pentecost season, this is the time we serve our Lord and spread the good news.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as one of your delegates for the Pacifica Synod Assembly. It was a wonderful gathering and we had great bible studies and guest speakers. The business portion of the Assembly will be printed and posted later this month.

I wish to thank the Education Committee and our outstanding teachers and substitute teachers for their great dedication and time they gave to our Adults and Sunday school children. To Pastor Will for teaching the Adult Class, to J.R. Anderson and Brian Gary for the High School class, to Margie Moeller for the 4th - 6th graders and Liz Nehrenberg for for the 1st - 3rd Graders. These teachers all went far above the normal requirements for each Sunday morning's lessons. I hope you have the opportunity to speak to them on June 14th at the closing day of Sunday School and the Hot Dog Day Picnic. Please join us for food, fellowship and games.

I also thank another outstanding group of men and women who serve our church - the Property Committee. Some of the members and chairman are on our grounds daily looking and doing. We appreciated the congregation letting then know when something is broken or needs repair, replacement or upgrading. These men and women spend a lot of time doing research, getting bids on any project before it is brought to the Property Committee for approval. After the Property Committee makes a motion to proceed with a project, it then goes to our Council for approval to fund the project. Sometimes they get the approval to spend the money and sometimes not. So, I ask that you be patient, because sometimes it takes longer than we would like to see a project completed.

We have enjoyed a wonderful Easter season, filled with joy and fellowship, now I wish you all great and safe vacations.

In God's Service,
Marianne Sakowski

Luther, Our Beloved Church Cat

Sadly, we must report that Luther has ended his earthly life. He passed in his sleep on Saturday, May 25, 2009.

Luther came to us alongside Pastor Barbara Bengtson for her internship at Bethlehem in 1991. He lived an admirable life, using our 2 acre site as his home, enjoying regular feeding by loving members of our congregation, apparently *many* female feline friends in his younger days (he would be gone for several days at a time back in his prime) and friends both in and out of the congregation.

There will be a memorial service for Luther on Sunday, June 21st, following our worship service. We will gather on the patio where he spent so much of his time to remember one of our long-time members, and to send him off with our prayers and blessings.

We are sad to see you go, Luther, but grateful to our loving God for giving us the pleasure of sharing your life.

Pastor Mark Will

Thank You!

The power of prayer is awesome. I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, concern and words of encouragement during my recent bout with pneumonia. The support from the Bethlehem community was overwhelming and I am now close to being fully recovered.

Yours in Christ,
Dale Retrum



Applying Bible Principles

One of the most striking accusations the Lord Jesus made when He was on earth was to label someone a hypocrite. Time and time again, He criticized the Pharisees and others for their hypocrisy. They said one thing but did something entirely different. They fit the description used by Zig Ziglar who said, "A hypocrite is one who is not himself on Sunday."

That's perhaps what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to Timothy: "And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." In other words, to give credence to Christianity, to give lip service to following Christ and to trusting in Him as Savior and Lord, and then to fail to provide for our own family, is hypocrisy. To do so, in reality, is to deny our faith and to be considered as someone who has no faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and no interest in spiritual matters.

It seems like such a small thing "relatively speaking (pun intended)" that Paul is exhorting Timothy to do. Provide for your own household, your own relatives. Take care of those under your care. Minister to those closest to you as a demonstration of your Christian faith.

Yes, we are to give to His ministry here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Yes, we are to be involved in ministering to others "on our own" and as part of the outreach of this church. But we are also to provide for our own families. We are also to minister to them and to care for them, for by doing so, we demonstrate the practical reality of our Christian faith. We thereby avoid the label of hypocrite since what we say is what we do.

How's the balance in your life? Are you providing for the needs of this ministry and those of your household? As a result, do others (especially your family) see Jesus in you?

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, June 15, 2009 (3rd Monday)

Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

When Was the Last Time You Had a *Financial* Checkup?

When you hear the work *checkup*, what comes to mind? Most likely it's your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health—which may be equally important.

Most financial experts recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it's finally time to start saving for retirement.

Regular financial checkups are one of the most important ways you can ensure you're doing what's necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Lana Clark, FIC, at 562-981-1358 or lane.clark@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

Thank You From the Sunday School Students

We hope you found the contents in the special eggs meaningful during Easter week. Thanks to your participation in purchasing the bags of eggs and your additional donations, we will be mailing a check for \$240.00 on behalf of our Sunday school to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. We are requesting that the money be used for educational purposes for the children in Africa who are orphaned by AIDS. The money will provide school materials for nine children. Thank you to everyone who filled the eggs during Sunday school classes and to those who helped assemble the bags at our Saturday workday. A project well done!!

.....Marjorie Moeller

Women's Bible Study
Mary: A Woman For All Seasons



Session 1 – The Annunciation

W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held Monday, June 1, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Dianna

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd. Faith Circle will be meeting for lunch. For questions and details? Call Shirley Campbell or Marjorie Moeller

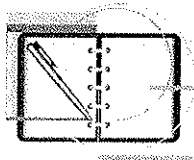
Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9th at the home of Debby Gustafson, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Phoebe will be having a potluck. For questions and details? Call Charlotte Driskill



Sunday Morning
Coffee & Cookies

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

Upcoming Events:



Women's Sunday Service: Save the date for Sunday, June 14th. If you would be interested in participating, please sign up in the Narthex or see Elise Johnson or Dianna Reynolds.

Ladies Day Event

What happens when 110+ women get together? The obvious answer, they have a glorious time! And that we did. Emilie Barnes was a wonderfully spiritual and inspirational woman. We were blessed beyond measure, especially when she announced that this was her final public speaking engagement.

Information about Mrs. Barnes is available at the following website location:

<http://emiliebarnes.com/home/Default.aspx>

Many of Mrs. Barnes books are available at our Orange County Libraries:

*Cleaning Up the Clutter *The Spirit of Loveliness

*If Teacups Could Talk: sharing a cup of kindness with treasured friends

*Survival for Busy Women *Let's Have a Tea Party!

Mark your calendars for the 36th Annual
Apple Festival Bazaar
Saturday, October 17th

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!

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 2nd – Ladies Day Event

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

2) Was this Saturday of May a good day to have this event? Yes or No, if No, why _____

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? _____

Please cut this out and place this in Dianna Reynolds narthex folder. Thank you.

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

Lock Repairs

It has been up to 20 years since the church locks have been installed or repaired. Several problems exist:

- Outside users are accessing areas other than those that they have requested.
- The current key system is too complicated - there are too many types of keys issued.
- The distribution of keys is now out of control. Hundreds of keys have been issued (and copied) and there is no control as to who has them or if they have been returned. A new database will be developed to help with this problem.

In the near future the locks and keys of all doors will be redone and a new distribution system will also be installed. Four doors will be keyed for the exclusive use of our outside users and restricted to their use only. A special non-duplicating lock and key will be installed for this purpose.

We would ask that church members turn in your keys to receive a new one. If you do not need a key please let the office know. We are trying to limit the number of keys that are assigned.

A schedule for this project will be published in a future bulletin.

Thank you,
Property Committee

The Parish Life Committee has a limited number of tickets for the July 26 Major league baseball game between the Minnesota Twins and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. The time is TBA (either 12:35 pm or 5:05pm). The cost is \$22.00 per ticket (regular cost of \$28.00) these tickets are terrace box on first level under the second deck and are in the shade. Please join us for a great day of baseball.



Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for the week of **July 27-31**. We need volunteers so don't go on vacation that week! Just kidding (sorta)! Our director is Shirley Campbell. She is already looking for volunteers to help teach, guide, and prepare.



Thank you to all who gave both time and talent to make our "Soup and Salad" supper a great success. Those that helped cook, serve and clean up were:

- Men in Mission
- Choir
- Paper Rollers
- Church Council
- Church Members
- W.E.L.C.A.

A special thank you to our Paper Rollers, who cleaned and set-up the tables, and made coffee and punch each night. Thanks to you all!

And for you whose greatest talent is eating our salad and soup, we thank you very much for coming each Wednesday night and making our lenten season such a great success!

Bob Campbell, Chairman
Parish Life Committee

We've had requests for this recipe, here you are:

Choir's Tortilla Soup

2 Cans each: Tomato Soup, Pinto Beans, Chicken Broth (low sodium), Beef Broth (or "All Chicken"), Rotele Tomatoes (found in most grocery stores in Mexican food section). Do not omit since this adds great flavor.

Add:

Cumin to taste-optional
1 large bag Frozen Corn
3 Cups cooked chicken thighs, chopped or shredded
Pepper and salt to taste

Dump all of the above in a large pot and heat. Do not overcook!

Top soup with sour cream, grated cheese, green onions, fresh avocado, cilantro

Crush tortilla chips over soup and squeeze fresh lemon over all. Enjoy!

Please Remember in Prayer These Members
and Friends of Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

Hospitalized:

Johnny McGinley (Peggy Lange's nephew) - premature birth

Undergoing treatment:

Larry Adams (Wilkie Adams' nephew) - cancer
Ann Anderson (Julie's sister-in-law) - stage 4 cancer
Ed Booth (friend of the Brandon/Snyders) - cancer
Joe & Barbara Bull (friends of Mary Seibert)
Fritz Campbell
Carl Chamberlain (friend of the Clausens) - pancreatitis
Sara DeWeese
Eva Dick (friend of Bruce Gustafson) - breast cancer
Katrina Gary
Kenny Grant (Krissey Retrum's uncle) - cancer
Jim Hargrove - knee surgery
Linda (Betty Jones' niece)
Lenora Jones (friend of Lynne Estabrook)
Bob Judy (friend of Charlie Lyons) - cancer
Katherine Lindell
Jack Lyons
Jim Mauritzen (friend of the Hunts) - cancer
Didith Oakes (Sigrun Borneo's sister-in-law)
Chuck Obright (former member)
Dean Page (friend of the Wolfe's) - lung cancer
Eva Payne (Jim Brandon's cousin) - pulmonary disease
Bob Piper (neighbor of Sigrun Borneo)
Hannah Powell (10 yr. old friend of the Temples)
-breast cancer
Chris Powers - stomach cancer
Carol Reid (friend of Jamie Slade) - brain cancer
Jack Rohrer (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tress) - cancer
Jay Sabic - adnoid cystic cancer
Chloe Sohl - hearing loss
Candie Toth

Recuperating:

Gladyce Ackerman
Jim Ackerman
Julie Anderson
Gregg & Susan Arakawa (friends of Joen Coleman)-cancer
Laura Duke
Dan Ekdahl (Jane Clausen's brother-in-law) - surgery
Stuart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo)
Charlie Lyons
Tony & Lynn Miles (friends of Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder)
Kristine Parkinson (the Lindell's daughter) - pancreatitis
Jackie Philips (Ron Clausen's sister) - multiple sclerosis
Dale Retrum - chronic lymphatic leukemia
Mary Seibert

Convalescent or Care Facility:

Bryan Jones Jeanette Olmstead Ruth Precker
Jean Rich Bill Snyder Jeff Thompson

Military in Harm's Way:

Spc. Brian O'Hare (friend of the Toths) - 3rd tour in Iraq
Chris Rogers
Andrew Ramirez - in Afghanistan



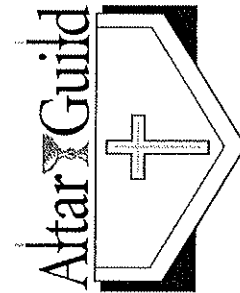
6/3	Margie Reynolds
6/4	Jordan Johnson Lacey Puhl
6/7	James Olivier Kristin Temple
6/8	Doris Schaefer
6/9	Irene Cooper Suzanne Oftedal
6/10	Margaret Hangartner
6/11	Madeline Laurence
6/12	David Retrum
6/13	Jared Gustafson
6/18	Dan Sakowski
6/19	Paul Scott
6/21	Ernie Mazzari
6/23	Abigail Warnock
6/28	Genevieve Jenkins
6/29	Gladyce Ackerman Jeff Cooper
6/30	Joseph Byone



6/1/1989	Al & Linda Thunselle
6/2/1986	Fritz & Shirley Campbell
6/3/1972	Bob & Andrea Campbell
6/3/2006	Jason & Maria Sakowski
6/6/1970	Dan & Marianne Sakowski
6/7/1975	Ken & Christina Watson
6/12/2004	Justin & Kristin Temple
6/19/2004	Darren & Sarah Sandvig
6/23/1956	Bill & Joyce Ritz
6/27/1964	Bill & Katherine Lindell
6/30/2000	James & Stacy Olivier

Thanks to These People for Serving in June, 2009

DATE	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
6/7	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	John Buezis			M. Moeller C. Warnock	J.R. Anderson B. Campbell
6/14	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Katherine Lindell			D. Hansen L. Johnson	F. Campbell D. Retrum
6/21	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Charlotte Driskill	Jane Clausen	Bob Campbell, Jay Campbell, Rick Gary, Al Thunselle, Christina Watson	J. Buezis J. Buezis, Jr.	C. Watson B. Ritz
6/28	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	James Toth	Paul Scott	Rick Gary	A. Campbell B. Campbell	D. Sakowski A. Tegtmeier

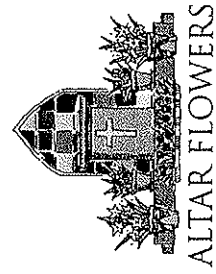


Altar Guild

6/7 Christina Watson
6/14 Debby Gustafson
6/21
6/28 Marge Hargrove

Altar Flowers

6/7 Jones, Olivier
6/14 Clausen, Gustafson
6/21 Sakowski, Warnock
6/28 Dawson, Stevenson



Nursery care is provided during our Sunday services. An attendant will be in our nursery from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. to care for infants and preschool children.



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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
3352 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

June, 2009

PLEASE DELIVER BY 6/8/09

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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