



# Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 49, Issue 9

October, 2009

*From the  
Pastor*



*"They should pray...they shall sing prayers of praise...the prayers of the faithful will save...pray for one another...the prayers of the righteous are powerful..."*

Book of James - Chapter 5

Each Sunday for the past month we have been looking into that wonderful little Letter of James. As I said one Sunday morning, "Though it's one of those books in the Bible we tend to overlook, for me the more I read it the more I appreciate what James shares with us about living the Christian faith." We heard him remind us to be doers of the word not hearers only, that faith is an action verb, that we should care for all people, and that we should always choose our words carefully. And then finally in chapter 5, as seen above, James reminds us that prayer needs to be one of the centerpieces of our Christian lives.

Martin Luther once said, "If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith." Luther knew well that prayer is very much a part of being doers of the word and of faith being an action verb. Luther also believed, as James stated, that in the gift of prayer we find a great power.

One of the great reminders that we come away with as we read and study the words of James is that prayer must be a central part of our lives as individuals, but also as a church family. One of the ways we strengthen our worship family is by praying together. That's why James says if you're having a good day, pray. If you're sick, pray. If you have sinned, pray. Seeing the needs of each other, pray. As a worship family we want to keep, along with God's word, this powerful gift of prayer at the center of our life together. For this reason I remind and encourage us each time we meet, whether for fellowship, study, special event, or to carry out the business of the church, to begin and end in prayer.

I also invite you to join me in the sanctuary on Monday night, October 12<sup>th</sup>, for our next special time of prayer. In September twelve of us gathered together in the sanctuary to offer prayers of thanks, for our church family and national church, and for our petitions of concern. What a meaningful time to sit with part of our church family and raise our voices to God through prayer knowing that in our prayers we find strength.

I also encourage you to take home the prayer listing in our bulletin each week and pray for the needs of those listed on it. And finally, remember that we have a telephone prayer chain when you and your family have a special prayer need. All you have to do is call the church office to get the prayer chain started.

Let me close with this thought from William Barclay as he talked about prayer in Prodigals and Those Who Love: He writes:

When we pray, remember:

1. The love of God that wants the best for us.
2. The wisdom of God that knows what is best for us.
3. The power of God that can accomplish it.

In Christ,  
Pastor Will

## Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2009  
7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

## Newsletter Deadline

Monday, October 19, 2009 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)  
Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

## Council President's Message

Greetings,

How great it is to see our Bethlehem family back in church every Sunday after enjoying their many summer activities and vacations. With the Fall activities started here there are many activities to become involved in. Since our Sunday School program has begun, parents can join Pastor Will in Adult Education class, while their children can enjoy the children's Sunday School program. Thanks to Pastor Will and our wonderful teaching staff for getting us off to a good start this year as we learn more about the lessons and messages from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please read our monthly newsletter so that you can stay up-to-date with the variety of activities we provide throughout the year, including bridge, bowling, Paper Rollers, and other various committees that can always use new and fresh ideas.

In the months of October and November you will see the council nomination forms in your worship bulletins. Please prayerful consider having your name submitted for nomination for the 2010 council. The election will be held during the November annual meeting. Remember also that Council may have a youth representative for one year.

Please sign up for ushering on Sunday Mornings. *You are needed.* There will be a training session in October to go over ushers' duties, watch for the date. Please join us, it's really an easy and enjoyable way to serve your church.

Everyone please volunteer or come enjoy the Bethlehem Apple Festival & Bazaar on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. We need lots of help and it's a great, fun day!

In God's Service

Marianne Sakowski

## Would You Like to Become a Member of Our Worship Family?

If so please contact the church office. We will be having a session for those wanting to transfer their membership from another church family to ours in early November. Those adults who would like to become members by acclamation of faith should contact the pastor. If we have a number of people we will hold sessions leading to membership. If not the pastor will provide information for you to read at home.

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## Prayer Time With the Pastor

You are invited to join the pastor and other members of our worship family in a time of prayer on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. We will once again meet in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. to offer prayers of thanks, for the church, and for other concerns. This is not a worship service, but a time to gather in an informal setting to raise our voices to God. Last month this prayer time ended around 7:30, but this will depend on the number of concerns those attending have to offer. So once again you are invited to join us for this special time of prayer!

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## Adult Sunday Morning Discussion

Each Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:45 we have an adult discussion in the Fireside room. We will be continuing with the theme People of Faith. Each week we will look at the life of a Biblical character and see how their life of faith speaks to us. For this month we will be focusing on Old Testament people of faith.

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## Property News

The paper shed has a new door and a new ramp will soon follow. Thanks go to the Warnocks for shopping/hauling supplies and to John Buezis, Jr., Charlie Buezis and Dan Powers for the installation. Now all we need are newspapers!!

## Fall Stewardship Emphasis

### “Empowered by God — Responding by Grace”

“Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking” (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, “Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? The Lord Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). That not only happened as He said it would, but we, too, receive God’s power by His grace through our faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The words of a contemporary anthem by David Clydesdale and Claire Cloninger express this truth clearly: “Empower me! Like a rushing river flowing to the sea, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now thru me. ‘Til I’m living as Your child, victorious and free. Send the power of Your love; empower me!” (Copyright © 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co./ASCAP. All rights reserved.)

As we experience God’s power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. As Edwin Frizen stated, “. . . Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God.” God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He “richly provides us with everything” (1 Tim. 6:17).

And what should be our response to God’s provision for us? According to 2 Corinthians 8:7, we respond by “faith,” implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by “speech,” sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by “knowledge”

through the study of God’s Word. We respond in “complete earnestness,” that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the “grace of giving.”

As an example of what it means to give by grace, the Apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people — dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice — who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5 — “. . . they gave themselves first to the Lord.” Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocketbook. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God’s instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2, “. . . from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me.” This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God’s grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have been called to a wonderful ministry of God’s love and prayer. Our prayer gifts that we create will touch receivers in ways that we will never bear witness to yet, through these tangible gifts of God’s love and the church’s players each of the members will serve as reflections of Christ.

Are you willing to give part of your day or week to share the love and blessings that you receive from God every day? Our outreach to others can be very powerful.

To start this journey with us, contact Ann Tegtmeier for more information.

W.E.L.C.A. News  
October 2009



Women's Bible Study

**To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans**



**Session 2 – The Obedience of Faith**

W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held Monday, October 5, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Dianna

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Marynell will be the hostess. For questions and details? Call Shirley Campbell or Marjorie Moeller

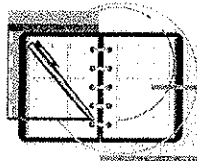
Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of Debby Gustafson, beginning at 7:00 p.m. For questions and details? Call Charlotte Driskill



**Sunday Morning  
Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to Men in Mission for providing coffee and cookies in September. Phoebe Circle will be responsible in October.

Upcoming Events:



Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – Pacifica Fall Event  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Santa Ana  
"Embracing God's Mercy" – Ezekiel 11:19  
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. We will be carpooling from the back church parking lot, leaving at 8:10 a.m.

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Budget and Bazaar  
Expenditure Meeting in the Sanctuary, right after the service. Please join us in reviewing our WELCA budget and expenditures for the upcoming year.

Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Pacifica Synod – Women of the ELCA, One-Day Gathering. First Lutheran Church in Redlands. The event runs from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. with the cost of \$60 which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and a banquet dinner at the renowned Edward's Mansion. **NOTE:** A scholarship is available to a "first time" attendee to this convention for the first Bethlehem Woman to request this. Please see Dianna for more details.

Many thanks to our Mission Growth co-chairs, Debby Gustafson and Jennie Anderson for securing the beautiful program at the Fall Salad Supper and General Meeting this past September 16<sup>th</sup>.

"His Grace" Liturgical Dance Group again blessed us greatly with their beautiful dances. Thank you also to the women of Phoebe Circle that fed us all well with wonderful salads and desserts.

The 2010 Election of WELCA Officers took place at the Fall General meeting and I am so pleased to share with you the new WELCA Board Members:

**President:** Jeanne Sandvig  
**Vice President:** Charlotte Driskill  
**Secretary:** Stacy Byone  
**Treasurer:** Caryl Harris

Welcome to this wonderful group of Women!

**Apple Festival Bazaar  
Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

The different areas of the Bazaar to offer your time and talent to for this very busy and fun day are:

Kitchen, Addie's Attic (Junktique), Gourmet Bakery, and Books - Brian Gary and the Youth

Check out Pacifica Partners on line  
[www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org) click on news & events

## Christmas at We Care

We Care will again this year be providing help to families in our community for Christmas. With all the layoffs and business closings we are anticipating a greater need than ever.

In lieu of bringing food items during October/November and December for We Care we are asking our members to bring in gift cards.

Suggested grocery stores include Ralphs/Food 4 Less, Albertsons, Vons and Stater Brothers. Other very useful cards are Target, Walmart, Payless Shoes and 99 Cent Store.

For teenagers we are asking for movie passes or even cards to stores like Best Buy. Gift cards in all denominations are welcomed.

We will again begin the food donation requests in January.

Thank you for all your help throughout the year!

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## Kirk Sandvig Update from Scotland

See what Kirk Sandvig is doing in Edinburgh for the 2010 Conference. The conference is an interdenominational gathering celebrating the 100 year anniversary of a similar conference for greater understanding and outreach between various denominations. Kirk is involved in the Youth portion of the conference.

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## Media Room Invites You!

The media room is proud to have interesting new equipment. Our capabilities have really expanded! **You** are invited to come help with our production of worship videos, learn how to coordinate all of our production equipment - audio, video and lighting. We are anxious to have your help. Please see Wilkie Adams or Ken Johnson. Hope to have you join with us soon!

## Please Remember in Prayer:

### Undergoing treatment:

Ed Booth (friend of the Brandon/Snyders) - cancer  
Joe & Barbara Bull (friends of Mary Seibert)  
Carl Chamberlain (friend of the Clausens) pancreatitis  
Sara DeWeese  
Eva Dick (friend of Bruce Gustafson) - breast cancer  
Katrina Gary  
Kenny Grant (Krissy Retrum's uncle) - cancer  
Lenora Jones (friend of Lynne Estabrook)  
Katherine Lindell  
Jim Mauritzen (friend of the Hunts) - cancer  
Didith Oakes (Sigrun Borneo's sister-in-law)  
Dean Page (friend of the Wolfe's) - lung cancer  
Eva Payne (Jim Brandon's cousin)- pulmonary disease  
Jacklyn Pedroza (friend of Wilkie Adams) - cancer  
Beth Pepper (friend of Sara DeWeese) - leukemia  
Bob Piper (neighbor of Sigrun Borneo)  
Hannah Powell ( 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 Sohi - hearing loss

### Recuperating:

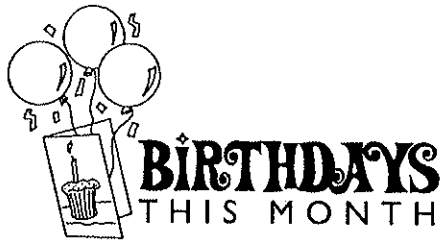
Gladyce Ackerman  
Jim Ackerman  
Julie Anderson  
Gregg & Susan Arakawa(friends of Joen Coleman)  
Laura Duke  
Quart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo)  
Hargrove - knee surgery  
Tony & Lynn Miles (friends of the Brandon/Snyders)  
Kristine Parkinson (Lindell's daughter) - pancreatitis  
Jackie Philips (Ron Clausen's sister)multiple sclerosis  
Dale Retrum - chronic lymphatic leukemia  
Mary Seibert  
Nina Van Tress - arm surgery  
Pastor Mark Will - foot surgery

### Convalescent or Care Facility:

Lois Bohlken Jean Franz  
Bryan Jones Jeanette Olmstead  
Jean Rich Bill Snyder  
Ed Sutton Jeff Thompson

### Military in Harm's Way:

Spc. Brian O'Hare (friend of the Toths) 3<sup>rd</sup> tour in Iraq  
Chris Rogers  
Andrew Ramirez - in Afghanistan  
Ryan Ueberroth



- 10/01 Frank Gary
- 10/05 Lynne Estabrook
- 10/07 Jane Clausen
- 10/08 Janice Hunt  
Dan Powers
- 10/09 James Toth
- 10/12 Sophie Happel  
Irene Zupke
- 10/15 Leslie Calderera  
Betty Jones  
Stacy Olivier
- 10/18 Sigrun Borneo  
Wayne Cooper
- 10/20 BJ Stevenson
- 10/21 Paul Haglund  
Donna Hughes  
Erin Warnock
- 10/22 Eric Dobberteen
- 10/24 Alicia Buezis
- 10/25 Charlotte Driskill
- 10/26 Betty Jacobs  
Krissy Retrum
- 10/27 Charlie Toth  
Allison Warnock  
Sharon Zarkos



## E.L.C.A. World Hunger Relief

*Reprinted from [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger)*

ELCA World Hunger is a connected, comprehensive, and compassionate program that helps individuals and communities lift themselves out of poverty into self-sufficiency. Through our giving and caring, through our advocacy and action, we make a life-saving difference.

Together, in Christ's name, **we experience the transforming power of connection.** As individuals, congregations, and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed, and multiplied. Together, we are ELCA World Hunger.

The international work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out with our trusted partners, notably Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective.

ELCA World Hunger is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies—**relief, development, education, and advocacy**—to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. ELCA World Hunger responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world. One way this happens in the United States is through domestic hunger grants.

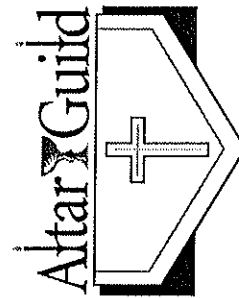
**ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise"** (Luke 10:37), serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children.

ELCA Disaster Response is known for its long-term healing presence after natural and human-caused disasters. After a major disaster, go to [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster) to learn how ELCA Disaster Response is "prepared to care," give a donation to help fund the response, and find information to share with your congregation.

Please look for special giving envelopes and coin collection boxes in the narthex. These donations are dedicated for ELCA World Hunger Relief.

## Thanks to These People for Serving in October, 2009

DATE	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
10/4	Joseph Byone	Blake Anderson	John Buezis	Dianna Reynolds	Rick Gary	A. Campbell B. Campbell	B. Campbell F. Campbell
10/11	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Charlotte Driskill	Debby Gustafson	Rick Gary	C. Harris J. Payne	D. Reynolds D. Reynolds
10/18	Blake Anderson	Joseph Byone	James Toth	John Buezis	Rick Gary, John & Janice Hunt Al Thunselle	D. Retrum D. Retrum	B. Ritz D. Sakowski
10/25	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Wilkie Adams	Charlotte Driskill	Rick Gary, Dianna Reynolds Christina Watson	M. Schneider S. Schneider	A. Tegtmeier J. Toth

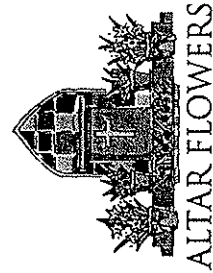


### Altar Guild

10/4 Marge Hargrove  
10/11 Luelle Buezis  
10/18  
10/25

### Altar Flowers

10/4 P. Scott, Wolfe  
10/11 Coleman, Moeller  
10/18 Stevenson, Warnock  
10/25 Mazzari, Warnock



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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Los Alamitos, CA  
Permit No. 8

# Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
3352 Katella Avenue  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

October, 2009

PLEASE DELIVER BY 10/6/09

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E-Mail: [bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.blcla.org](http://www.blcla.org)

