



Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 49, Issue 10

November, 2009

*From the
Pastor*



The story goes of a father who was out driving one rainy afternoon. He was taking extra precautions necessary for the wet and slick roads. Suddenly, his daughter spoke up for her relaxed position in her seat, "Dad," she said, "I'm thinking of something." This usually meant that she had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that her six year old mind had discovered. So the father asked, "Well honey what are you thinking?" To which she replied, "Dad, the rain." "The Rain what?" he asked. "The rain," she began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away." Astounded at her insight he replied, "Honey that's really good!" Then wondering just how far this little girls mind could take this concept he asked, "do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?" To his surprise without any hesitation she replied, "Dad, it tells me we keep sinning and God just keeps on forgiving us." He ended the conversation by saying, "Honey, every time I turn on these wipers I'll remember what you said." I imagine we will too!

This story obviously goes along with the themes of Reformation Sunday, which we just celebrated, and All Saints Sunday which we celebrate the first Sunday of this month. We are reminded that we are sinners no matter how hard we may try not to be, but God loved us enough to forgive us and continue to make us His saints. I think it also is a good story for us to hear as we head into Thanksgiving day, on the 26th, and then into Advent, which begins the last Sunday of this month. For Thanksgiving we are reminded that beyond the ways God blesses us with our daily needs, He also is a God who loves us enough to offer us His amazing grace. For Advent this story reminds us that because He loved us so much He put into action His plan of redemption. During Advent we prepare ourselves to

celebrate the beginning of that plan which takes place on Christmas, but also to be reminded that this plan ultimately aims us to the time our Lord comes again to usher His people home.

I hope you will join us on Thanksgiving Eve as we begin our holiday by taking time to give God our thanks for our daily blessings and our spiritual blessings. Then I hope you will join us every Sunday morning during the advent season as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the beginnings of God's amazing plan of redemption.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Will

Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 22nd: Annual Congregational Meeting in Bachman Hall, immediately following our worship service. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, Dec. 5th: Decorate the Christmas tree and the sanctuary. Everyone is invited at 9:00 am in the sanctuary, we will work until all is done. You'll enjoy great fellowship and the traditional chili lunch will served. Please come join us.

November Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2009
7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

December Newsletter Deadline

Monday, November 16, 2009
Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

Message from our Missionary
(This letter includes excerpts from a recent email)

Good Members of Bethlehem,

Greetings from Africa.

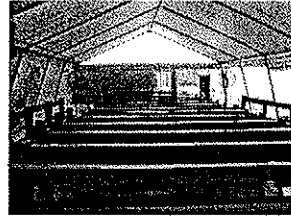
I'd like to begin with some background information. In the early 80's I, along with my Kenyan co-workers, started a Swahili church in Dagoretti, a village situated on the outskirts of Nairobi, at the foot of the Ngong Hills which were made famous in Karen Blixens "Out of Africa". At that time Dagoretti was a small and relatively peaceful village. In the ensuing years it has been swallowed up by Nairobi and the once quiet village has become a depressed area, mainly due to overcrowding, unemployment, underemployment and the other problems associated with rapid urbanization. However, on the other side of the road (literally) nice housing and apartment dwellings have gone up, which attract many from Nairobi's expatriate population. The church is in the middle.

In recent years the Kenyan Synod has challenged the Dagoretti congregation to minister to all of God's children in the area and so the church now has services in Swahili as well as an international English speaking service. Additionally, outreach programs have been started to minister to and address the rampant poverty, social and health issues that the community faces. An AIDS outreach clinic is being planned, as is a technical training school and a water project.

I have been called primarily to serve the English speaking church and to oversee the outreach projects. However, I will also be active in the Swahili congregation

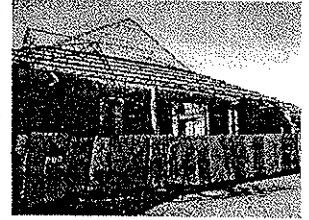
I am now back in Africa. Cindy is still in the States as she goes through her radiation therapy. All is going well with her and the prognosis remains very positive. Presently she is undergoing radiation for breast cancer that is causing burning, itching and fatigue. I will go back next month for a few weeks or so to be with her and then we expect, as does the doctor, that she will join me in Nairobi in early January. Thank you for your continued prayers for her.

I am beginning to get my feet back on the ground. I would love to start this letter by saying that the mission is going along just wonderfully but Africa is never an easy place, sometimes it seems as if everything is difficult.



The church is only partially built, so for now we worship in a tent. The building has been frozen over a tribal land dispute and the wheels of justice turn especially slow in Africa.

But we hope for a favorable decision and that we can resume our work in the near future. The plans call for a sanctuary and nursery school. We also plan on an AIDS outreach programme, water project and teacher training facilities.



Presently we have a nursery school, a sewing school and a weaving school. These rather modest projects are a great benefit to the community as the nursery provides affordable early education while the sewing and weaving schools give some of the women marketable skills.



Especially difficult right now is the devastating drought that has gripped the country.

People are dying, not so much in Nairobi but in many of the rural areas people are starving. The World Food Programme of the U.N. has estimated that about 6 million of Kenya's 30 million are in danger of dying due to lack of food and water and the diseases that go along with poor nutrition and contaminated water.

So is there good news? Of course, for as we all know where there is Christ there is The Good News. We are working together, I have a very talented young Kenyan pastor working with me, the church will get built, our meager water supply at the church is helping at least a few. People are coming to worship; the Spirit is alive and moving.



God's peace to you all, please pray for rain for Kenya and thank you for your continued support.

In His Grace,
Sam and Cindy Wolff

Women's Bible Study

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



Session 3 – Hope Does Not Disappoint

W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Tuesday, November 3, 2009** beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Dianna . **Date change)**

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. Marynell Wolfe will be the hostess. For questions and details? Call Shirley Campbell at or Marjorie Moeller at

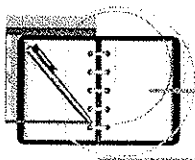
Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at the home of Christina Watson, beginning at 7:00 p.m. For questions and details? Call Charlotte Driskill



**Sunday Morning
Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to Phoebe Circle for providing coffee and cookies in October. Faith Circle will be responsible in November.

Upcoming Events:



Saturday, November 7th – 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.

Thank you to everyone who made the **36th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar** a huge success! We celebrated with fellowship, food, fun and music. Last count showed us about \$400 ahead of last years earnings, at \$3,300.00. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide \$1,250.00 as part of their Care in Congregations program. The Thrivent funds will be given out to the community.

Thanksgiving Eve Dessert

Calling All Women of Bethlehem to help! All women are encouraged to help by setting up at 6:00 p.m. We will also need help cleaning up after the dessert. Please consider helping out.



The Bethlehem WELCA Christmas Program will be held at the home of Debby Gustafson on Wednesday, December 2nd beginning at 7:00 p.m. The WELCA Board members will hostess this event and love gifts will be collected for We Care, and the Lutheran International Seafarers. We Care: Cereal, and small Peanut Butter Seafarers: Tube socks, combs, pens, wrapped candy/gum

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



Council President's Message

Greetings to all,

Please remember the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2009.

Thanks to Dale Retrum, the Stewardship Committee and our members who gave of their time to give the temple talks in October, preparing us for the Stewardship Drive. Everyone gave a great message.

It was great to see all the men and women who came out early to set up the for the Apple Festival Bazaar. What a wonderful group of people to work with. Bill Lindell had everyone doing something, either setting up the Pop Ups or moving all of the valuable goodies from Bachman Hall. Everything was set up well before the 8:00 a.m. start time. Thanks to Dianna and Christina for chairing another great Bazaar. Of course it all happens because of all the men and women who come out and help that day, we are continually blessed to have so many wonderful people volunteer their time in this annual fund raiser. Thanks to so many others doing so many jobs and also to the people who attended and enjoyed buying all of our treasures and food!

2010 Church Council nomination forms will be in your Sunday bulletins. Please fill these out and return to the office for the election of council members for the next three years. Please pray and give thought to your name and others you can suggest to serve on the council next year. We have three members leaving, as their term will expire December 31st.

Wishing each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Please remember the Thanksgiving Eve service and great refreshments after the service.

Peace to you in Christ,
Marianne Sakowski

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Please join with your worship family as we begin our Thanksgiving holiday with a short service of thanks and praise. We will begin with worship at 7:00 p.m. and then have a time of fellowship following the service. The women of the church will once again provide us with thanksgiving desserts and coffee. So, mark you calendar for November 26th!

Adult Sunday Morning Discussion

You are invited to join us at 9 a.m. in the Fireside room every Sunday for our adult discussion. We are continuing with a series called *People of Faith*. Pastor Will has been giving it the subtitles *As the Bible Turns* and *All God's Children*. Each week we are looking at the main character of the Bible. As we study their lives we can hear God speaking to us in our lives. So, why not join us every Sunday morning? The only requirement is to bring yourself ready to learn about God's people, including us!

Looking Ahead!

Believe it or not the season of Advent us just around the corner. With that season comes a number of special events. Two of these are the Advent-Christmas open house at the parsonage on Sunday, December 6th, from 2 to 5 p.m. and decorating the Church the day before, Saturday, December 5th, at 9 a.m. More details to come!

Practice Healthy Habits During Flu Season

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If a tissue is unavailable, cough or sneeze into your shoulder or elbow instead of your hands.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Get the seasonal flu vaccine and/or the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine, if recommended
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Keep sick children at home.
- If you have flu-like symptoms (fever with cough or sore throat), stay home for at least 24 hours after you are free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

To Everyone Who Helped Make Our 36th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar Such a Huge Success

Especially our main Junktique pricers: Arlene Pollard, Luelle Buezis, Camille Riach, Susan Schneider, Johanne Hansen, Joen Coleman & Doris Schaefer, just to name a few.

Assisted by John Buezis, & Ernie Mazarrì

Our Annual Cashiers: Andrea Campbell & Diane Clark kept our money straight

Couldn't happen without our electronic wizard Ernie Mazari and all the labor from our Men in Mission & Marianne Sakowski

The Bakery & Gourmet contributions were incredible.

The Kitchen kept us well fed.

The Craft & New Item dept did a wonderful job!

Dan Powers and his truck helped dispose of unwanted items.

The community benefitted from our bargains: We Care received clothing, Pathways Church gathered items to ship overseas, Working Wardrobe will receive 4 racks of great outfits, Lutheran Seafarer's Mission filled their 2 vans with boxes of men's clothing, and last but not least WELCA raised over \$3,300 cash.

Again, Dianna and I say a Big THANKS,
Christina Watson

Lutheran International Seafarer's Christmas "Shoe Box" gift:

Recommended Gift Items in each box:

Shampoo (full size), toothpaste (full size), toothbrush in package, disposable razors, white tube socks, wrapped hard candy, chewing gum, wrapped chocolate candy, Cup-0-soup or Top Ramen, pens, nail clippers, combs. (Cookies and coffee is needed at the center too!)

If you cannot make up a whole box, any contributions would be appreciated. For pick up or drop off information call Christina Watson. You can bring your donations to the narthex anytime before Dec. 19th or you can take them directly to the center at 120 South Pico Ave., Long Beach 90802

If anyone is interested in going with me to assemble the Christmas gifts for the Seafarers, please talk to me, it is quite an experience!! In Christ's Love, Christina

Petal Pushers 2009

Our Bethlehem Petal Pushers are scheduled to work on the Rose Parade floats on December 30th from 8 am to 3:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to work on and see the many beautiful floats. Petal Pusher shirts are required. You may wear a shirt from a previous year or contact Heidi Kracy to purchase a 2010 Petal Pusher shirt, black in color this year, or to borrow a clean used shirt. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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.

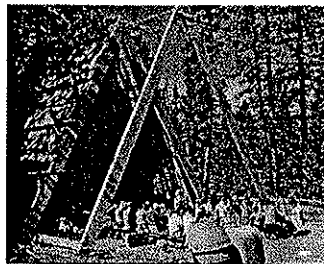
Suggested grocery stores include Ralphs/Food 4 Less, Albertsons, Vons and Stater Brothers. Other very useful cards are Target, Walmart, Payless Shoes and 99 Cent Store.

For teenagers we are asking for Movie Passes or even cards to stores like Best Buy. 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!

El Camino Pines Celebrates 50 Years in the Forest! Saturday, November 7th



To celebrate our 50th anniversary as a Lutheran Camp/Retreat we invite everyone to join us. Come up for the clean air, fresh mountain water and our vision for the next 50 years in the pines. You are welcome to arrive on Friday night and spend the night. Please contact the camp office to reserve a bed, 661-245-3519 or ECP@LRCChome.com Please visit our website: www.LRCChome.com/ecp50 We hope to see you here!



Happy Birthday!!

- | | |
|-------|-------------------|
| 11/ 2 | William Pollard |
| 11/ 4 | Charlie Buezis |
| 11/ 5 | Susan Buezis |
| 11/ 7 | Bill Lindell |
| 11/ 9 | Arlene Pollard |
| 11/10 | Marti Mazzari |
| | Alice Roop |
| 11/11 | Erik Bonwit |
| 11/12 | Harold Miller |
| 11/17 | Carol Whitlock |
| 11/19 | Nadine Bohlken |
| | Andrea Campbell |
| 11/20 | Lois Bohlken |
| | Darren Sandvig |
| | Bertram Sohl |
| 11/22 | Dick Hansen |
| 11/24 | Kent Schlesselman |
| 11/26 | Stacy Byone |
| 11/27 | Steve Slade |
| 11/28 | Monica Krazy |
| | Camille Riach |
| 11/30 | Ken Watson |

Happy Anniversary!!

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 11/15/1952 | John & Luelle Buezis |
| 11/21/1959 | William & Carol Whitlock |

Please Remember in Prayer:

Hospitalized:

Undergoing treatment:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Ed Booth (friend of the Brandon/Snyders) | - cancer |
| Joe & Barbara Bull (friends of Mary Seibert) | |
| Sara DeWeese | |
| Katrina Gary | |
| Kenny Grant (Krissy Retrum's uncle) | - cancer |
| Lenora Jones (friend of Lynne Estabrook) | |
| Verna Kwiatkowski (Bill Haglund's sister-in-law) | - breast cancer |

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 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 (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 |
| Jill Harris (Camille Riach's niece) | - heart condition |

Recuperating:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Gladyce Ackerman | |
| Jim Ackerman | |
| Julie Anderson | |
| Laura Duke | |
| Stuart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo) | |
| Jim Hargrove | - knee surgery |
| 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 | |
| Nina Van Tress | - arm surgery |
| Pastor Mark Will | - foot surgery |

Convalescent or Care Facility:

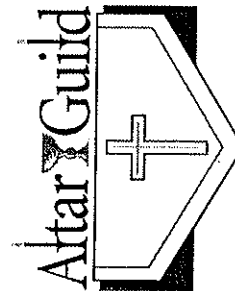
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|-------------------|------------|
| Lois Bohlken | Jean Franz |
| Jeanette Olmstead | Jean Rich |
| Bill Snyder | Ed Sutton |
| Jeff Thompson | |

Military in Harm's Way:

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

Thanks to These People for Serving in November, 2009

DATE	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
11/1	Blake Anderson	Joseph Byone	Bill Lindell	Bill Lindell	Rick Gary, Cathy Warnock Dan & Marianne Sakowski	M. Moeller C. Warnock	C. Watson C. Warnock
11/8	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Elise Johnson	John Gearhart	Rick Gary, Dan & Marianne Sakowski	B. Gustafson D. Hansen	J.R. Anderson B. Campbell
11/15	Joseph Byone	Blake Anderson	Karin Bonwit	Alice Roop	Rick Gary, Dale & Sandy Retrum	J. Buezis J. Buezis, Jr.	F. Campbell D. Retrum
11/22	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Katherine Lindell	Eric Dobberteen	Rick Gary, Bruce & Debby Gustafson	A. Campbell B. Campbell	D. Reynolds B. Ritz
11/29	Blake Anderson	Joseph Byone	John Buezis	J.R. Anderson	Rick Gary, Dale & Sandy Retrum, James & Charlie Toth	C. Harris J. Payne	D. Sakowski A Tegtmeier

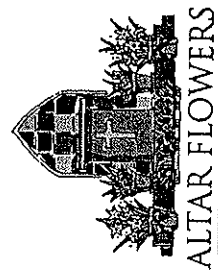


Altar Guild

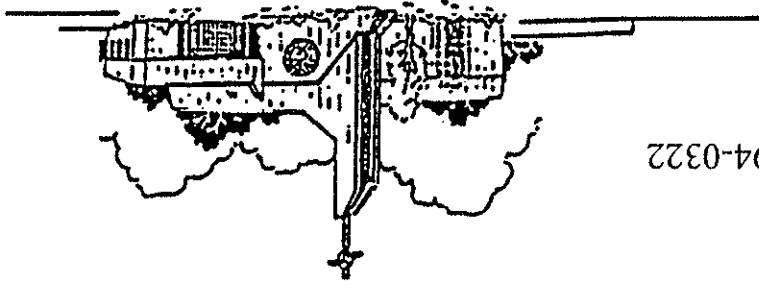
11/1 Christina Watson
11/8 Debby Gustafson
11/15
11/22 Marianne Sakowski
11/29 Luella Buezis

Altar Flowers

11/1 Buezis, Carrillo
11/8 Bonwit, Clausen
11/15 Buezis, Olivier, Vargas
11/22 Clausen, Hansen
11/29 Krczy, Watson



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.



Pastor: Rev. Mark Will
Telephone: 562/430-3444 Fax: 562/594-0322
E-Mail: bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net
Website: www.blcla.org

PLEASE DELIVER BY 11/6/09

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November, 2009



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