



# Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California



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*From the  
Pastor*



Have you ever noticed how young children pay little attention to the T.V. until a commercial comes on? I remember watching our children playing in the living room ignoring the T.V. until a

commercial came on at which time they stopped, watched, and listened. What was so appealing about those commercials? Perhaps it was the catchy music or the action packed into 60 seconds.

And what is the message that often comes through many of those commercials, which even draw our adult attention? Buy this product and have happiness guaranteed. Buy this and have good health, freedom from all pain, a slim attractive body, be the most popular person around, become wealthy, and have the man or woman of your dreams run your way. Well the message is clear, having these things are the answer to your happiness. And here's the greatest part - it's all yours with the waving of a credit card.

Of course we don't really believe all this, do we? We don't really take seriously all these great sounding promises, do we? Or do we? Don't we Christians sometimes even buy into the promise that the right possessions and success can make us happy? Don't we even hear from some Christians that if we have the right faith we will be free from pain, suffering, all the bad of the world and we'll have nothing but the good life? Wouldn't it be great if all this was true especially during all these challenging times we now live in?

But the truth is that it isn't true, is it? That's why I appreciate the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk's moving confession of faith:

"Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines, though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is not herds in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will exult in the God

of salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights." (Habakkuk 3:17-19 - NRSV)

These words from Habakkuk remind us that as Christians not only are we not exempt from all the temptations and challenges of this world, but that no matter what we face we have the most important good news, which is that no matter what else comes our way in life we have a Lord who will be there to sustain us. Habakkuk says even if everything seemed to be going wrong, he would still rejoice in the God of his salvation.

The truth is that no matter what deodorant we use, or what formula for success we follow, life will have its bumps and bruises to hand us. None of us are immune to the realities in our fallen world. We suffer illness, grief, loneliness, calamities, temptations, material losses, and even death. In the midst of this, however, we know we have a Lord who has traveled the journey and will be by our side in all circumstances to give us the strength needed to see us through until the light appears again. This is the power of our faith in the one who not only faced all the trials of life, but who faced the cross for us. In one sense, happiness is guaranteed in that no matter what comes our way, we have a bedrock of joy in the promise that Jesus gave us that he will be with us always. Plus, even greater is the promise that comes from the empty Easter tomb that some day we will find true happiness in God's eternal kingdom. So like Habakkuk, let us even in the most difficult times of life remember to give thanks for the Lord of our salvation.

In Christ,  
Pastor Will

**APRIL**

## A New Journey Begins on April 5<sup>th</sup>

Pack your bags and join our Sunday morning adult discussion group. We're going to begin another study journey which is a quest to uncover Scripture and its meaning across history. Each week will be a short video from the series *Death and Resurrection of the Messiah* which is filmed in Israel and throughout the middle East. As we journey we will gain knowledge of why Jesus turned the world upside down with his call to follow. Each week will also challenge us to think about our faith journey of following Jesus and about our call to serve him. We'll begin our journey at the Sea of Galilee and end at Caesarea, but along the way we'll visit Kursi, Caesarea Philippi, The Temple and Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, Capernaum, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Garden Tomb. This journey will continue until our summer break. So join us every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Fireside room. (We will not have a session on Easter morning)

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### Wednesday Night Bible Study

You are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings April 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 29<sup>th</sup>, and May 6<sup>th</sup> as we study Chapters 40 to 66 of the Book of Isaiah. It is recommended that you read these chapters before we begin the sessions. The first session will cover chapters 40 to 49. Each session will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude by 8p.m.

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*Hosanna!*  
**HOSANNA!**  
*Hosanna!*



### Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday

We will begin our service in the patio area with the dedication of Palms service and then proceed with our Palms into the sanctuary. Service begins at 10 a.m.

### Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday

We will worship around tables in Bachman Hall. This service will focus on the Last Supper with the sharing of communion. Service will begin at 7 p.m.

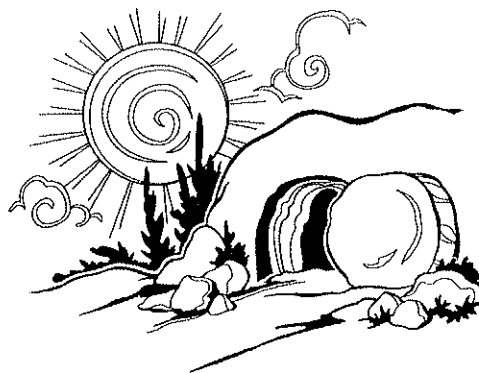
### Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday

We will gather in the sanctuary for a tenebrae (service of darkness). We will focus on our Lord's journey on the cross and its meaning for us. Service will begin at 7 p.m.

### Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Easter

We will gather to celebrate the Resurrection good news at our regular 10 a.m. worship time. This will be a service of song and word that will begin and end with the Easter proclamation. A special fellowship time will take place after the worship service.

*Please invite a friend to these special worship services.*



## A Thank You from the Pastor

Once again we exceeded our goal for pasta and sauces in March. On behalf of the families who benefit from our food collections let me thank each of you who once again took part in this special ingathering. Our food gatherings each month provide hundreds of meals for those in need.

In April we will focus on canned fruit and juice. It is again our goal to gather at least a 100 of these items.

Just so you know ahead of time what our future focus items will be and can watch for sales on these, we have set a schedule through August. Here it is:

May.....Peanut Butter and Jelly  
June.....Canned meat other than tuna  
July.....Canned Vegetables  
August..... Hot and cold cereals.

Once again thanks for you support of these monthly food gatherings!

In Christ,  
Pastor Will

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### Newsletter Deadline

Monday, April 20, 2009 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

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### 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.

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### Would you like to become a voting member?

If you are not a voting member of our worship family and would like to join please contact the pastor. We will be having some new member sessions in the near future for those who want to transfer from another congregation and those who would like to join by affirmation of faith. The date has not yet been set for the sessions, but you will be contacted at that time.

## Council President's Message

Wishing each one of you a very Happy Easter, a wonderful time of the year to rejoice with our church families.

Your council members and their committees have been busy so far this year with activities and plans for more projects and activities for the up coming months. If you have completed your Time and Talent sheet, by now you should have been contacted by the council chair inviting you to be on their committee or to help with a project or activity. If you haven't completed the Time and Talent sheet, please check with Richard in the office, and he will be happy to give you one to complete. If you know which committees you would like to be on or could help with a certain activity, please call or talk to the council members as they would love to have more members and helpers.

Thanks to Bob Campbell and the Parish Life Committee for arranging the wonderful Soup and Salad Suppers before our Lenten Services. Thanks also goes to the great cooks who made the soups and to the men and women who step up, served and cleaned up after. Wasn't it great to have an evening that you didn't have to cook and could enjoy such great fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing you on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Sincerely,

Marianne Sakowski

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### Did you fill it out?

If you were at the annual meeting the pastor handed out a three question survey for you to fill out. This will serve a number of purposes as we move forward as a growing congregation.

The survey should only take a few minutes of your time, but it will be helpful to the leadership of our congregation. If you have misplaced the survey or didn't get one please pick one up at the church office. We would like as many responses as possible.

Thanks for taking the time to help your congregation as we look to the future

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### Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

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



Women's Bible Study

**The Hidden Hand of God: Wisdom Stories  
from Ruth, Daniel and Esther**



**Session 8 - Esther: For Such a Time as This**

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

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Irene Cooper is hosting and Janice Hunt is conducting the study. For Questions? Call Shirley Campbell or Marjorie Moeller

Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, \***April 21<sup>st</sup>** at the home of Charlotte Driskill. Margaret Hangartner will be conducting the study. Questions? Call Charlotte Driskill

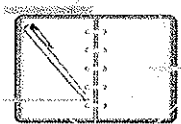
\* **This is a change from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday for this month.**



**Sunday Morning  
Coffee & Cookies**

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

Upcoming Events:



Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Spring Cluster Event – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fullerton. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. brunch at 9:00 a.m. \$6.00 fee and the topic of "The Church Universal" will be presented by Merle Bailey, Doctor of Divinity. See Dianna Reynolds for additional information or carpool opportunities.

**Ladies Day Event**

**SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, May 2, 2009.** You will not want to miss our guest speaker Emilie Barnes, Internationally Acclaimed Author, Speaker and Organizer. Emilie is no doubt going to bless all those in attendance as she speaks on "The Spirit of Loveliness – Organizing you, your purse, your prayer life and surviving life's valleys." We hope to fill the sanctuary to the rafters with Emilie's appearance.

A continental breakfast will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. The event should conclude between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for all the additional details, but please, tell your friends and neighbors and make this an event NOT to be missed.

**Registration forms are available online at our Bethlehem website at [www.blcla.org](http://www.blcla.org). Click on Upcoming Activities and find the event information and there is an active link to the registration form. Don't be left Out!**

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

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

Many of Ms. 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!



**"Women's Day of Self Esteem"**

Thank you to all the Bethlehem women and friends who attended our Spring Brunch. It was a lovely day.

**Soup and Salad**

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>



**Thank you to all who either brought or made food, served or cleaned up. It's always nice to have as many ladies as we can participate.**

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

## Property Notes

Items which are gifted to Bethlehem Lutheran Church must first be approved by the appropriate committee or Church Council. This is to ensure that gifted items fit the needs of the Church and will not cause undue care or maintenance.

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### Men-in-Mission Support for Navajo Lutheran Mission

Each year the Bethlehem Men-In-Mission try to provide some means of support for the Lutheran Navajo Mission in Arizona. This year we are again collecting bath towels. Each year in April the Mission School sends home with the students a health kit that includes bath size towels. These are also used for the students' showers at the school and for the guest apartment. We will be collecting new bath size towels or we can accept designated donations so we can purchase as many towels as possible at Costco or Sam's. Last year our congregation responded with over 90 new towels. We need to have all towels collected by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, so we can arrange to have them delivered to the reservation.

There will be a box in the Narthex to collect these items. If you would prefer to make a cash contribution to help out please contact any Men-In-Mission member. Thanks for your help.

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### Men in Mission Meeting

Men-In-Mission will meet on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue our study of the book The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel. On April 4<sup>th</sup> our discussion will be on the chapter titled "The Evidence of the Appearances" and on April 18<sup>th</sup> the discussion will be on the chapter titled "The Circumstantial Evidence." All men are invited for study and fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.

## Stewardship Thank You!

Dear Friend in Christ,

John G. Wendel and his sisters were some of the most miserly people of all time. Although they had received a huge inheritance from their parents, they spent very little of it and did all they could to keep their wealth for themselves. In fact, they had such a compulsion to hold on to their possessions that they lived like paupers. Even worse, they typified the kind of person described by the Lord Jesus in Luke 12:21, one who hoards material possessions here on earth and is not rich toward God.

Through your faithful giving during the past three months here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, you have demonstrated just the opposite attitude towards money and material possessions. Your support of the Lord's work here indicates far better than mere words that you realize what it means to be "rich in good deeds" as you store up treasure in heaven (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

Thank you for your participation in this ministry in this way. We are grateful to God for you and for your financial support. Even more importantly, to the extent that your gifts came from a heart filled with God's love and in response to His leading in your life, you may be sure that God Himself takes great joy and delight in your giving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Your Stewardship Committee



**"FATHER,  
FORGIVE THEM;  
FOR THEY KNOW  
NOT WHAT  
THEY DO."**

LUKE 23:34, KJV

## Please Remember in Prayer:

### Hospitalized:

John Drum (Mary Ann Wilson's brother) - heart surgery  
 George Kracy (Geoff Kracy's father) - heart

### 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  
 Laura Duke  
 Katrina Gary  
 Kenny Grant (Krissy Retrum's uncle) - cancer  
 Linda (Betty Jones' niece)  
 Lenora Jones (friend of Lynne Estabrook)  
 Bob Judy (friend of Charlie Lyons) - cancer  
 Blaire Murphy King (Chris Murphy's sister)  
 Katherine Lindell  
 Jack Lyons  
 Jim Mauritzen (friend of the Hunts) - cancer  
 Didith Oakes (Sigrun Borneo's sister-in-law)  
 Eva Payne (Jim Brandon's cousin) - pulmonary disease  
 Bob Piper (neighbor of Sigrun Borneo)  
 Chris Powers - stomach cancer  
 Carol Reid (friend of Jamie Slade) - brain cancer  
 Jack Rohrer (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tress) - cancer  
 Jacqueline Scott (friend of Bonnie & James Boire) - cancer  
 Chloe Sohl - hearing loss

### Recuperating:

Gladyce Ackerman  
 Jim Ackerman  
 Julie Anderson  
 Gregg & Susan Arakawa (friends of JoenColeman)cancer  
 Katie Breeding (friend of the Paper Rollers) - stroke  
 Dan Ekdahl (Jane Clausen's brother-in-law) - surgery  
 Stuart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo)  
 Jim Hargrove  
 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  
 Linda Scott  
 Mary Seibert

### Convalescent or Care Facility:

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

### Military in Harm's Way:

Cpt. Justin Marshall (friend of the Dobberteens) - in Iraq  
 Spc. Brian O'Hare (friend of the Toths) - 3<sup>rd</sup> tour in Iraq  
 Chris Rogers

## Birthdays in April

4/ 1	Maria Sakowski
4/ 2	Ken Johnson
4/ 3	Kenneth Correia
	Caryl Harris
4/ 6	Caroline Clausen
	Cathy Warnock
4/7	Dana Bailey
4/ 8	Bonnie Boire
	Marv Schneider
4/ 9	Cameron Bonwit
4/10	Bruce Johnson
	Katherine Lindell
	Marynell Wolfe
4/12	John Buezis
	Caitlin Johnson
4/13	Dwight Boyles
4/17	Ruth Bennett
	Geoff Kracy
4/18	Donald Ochampaugh
4/19	Erika Gary
4/21	Madison Hoglund
4/22	Irene Johnson
4/23	Velomy Kizanis
4/26	Cheri Dobberteen
	Laura Duke
4/28	Sofia Paulson
4/30	Virginia Robinson
	Melissa Sandvig

## April Anniversaries

4/1/1989	Richard & Candie Toth
4/8/2006	Dan & Andrea O'Gara
4/11/1987	Ken & Debbie Johnson
4/14/2007	David & Krissy Retrum
4/17/1945	Jack & Ruth Bennett
4/18/1975	Marv & Susan Schneider
4/24/1976	Lon & Cathy Warnock
4/30/1971	David & Jeanne Sandvig

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

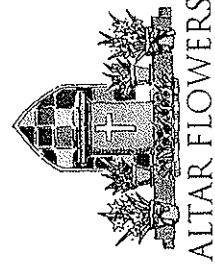
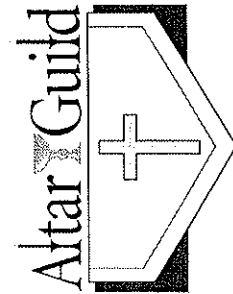
DATE	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
4/5	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	Dale Retrum	Rick Gary Bruce & Debby Gustafson	M. Schneider S. Schneider	D. Reynolds B. Ritz
4/12	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Katherine Lindell	Dianna Reynolds	Andrea Campbell Jay Campbell, Rick Gary Dan & Marianne Sakowski	D. Retrum D. Retrum	D. Sakowski A. Tegmeier
4/19	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	John Buezis	Alice Roop	Rick Gary, John & Janice Hunt Dianna Reynolds Christina Watson	M. Moeller C. Warnock	J. Toth C. Warnock
4/26	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Charlotte Driskill	Marti Mazzari	Rick Gary	D. Hansen L. Johnson	C. Watson J.R. Anderson

### Altar Guild

4/5 Marge Hargrove  
4/12 Andrea Campbell  
4/19  
4/26 Debby Gustafson

### Altar Flowers

4/5 Brandon/Snyder, Clausen  
4/12 Hunt, Stevenson  
4/19 Moeller, Retrum  
4/26 Sandvig, Warnock



*Nursery care is provided during our Sunday service.*

*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 Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

3352 Katella Avenue

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

April, 2009



APR 1 2009  
LOS ALAMITOS, CA

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