



# Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 50, Issue 2

February, 2010

*From the  
Pastor*



*"Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of service but the same Lord, but it is the same God who activates all of them, to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...For just as*

*the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ...now you are the body of Christ and individual members of it."*

1 Corinthians 12

Ok, let me say WOW again. On Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> I sent out a phone tree about the situation in Haiti and how we would be taking a collection to help our Lutheran Disaster team in their efforts. On Monday morning, the 18<sup>th</sup> we sent a check for just under \$3,000.00 to Lutheran Disaster Relief to be used in Haiti. Once again, though I should expect it by now, I was amazed at how generous the members of our congregation are. When I told Pastor Ajer, assistant to the Bishop, about this his response was to say, "once again your congregation has shown how generous and caring they are. It must be a privilege to serve them." My response of course was, "It is certainly something I thank God for every week. God has blessed me to be among them. I hope I can be as much of a blessing to them as they are to me." (An additional \$1000+ has come in since the 18<sup>th</sup>)

Well, that Sunday and the following one in our second lesson we heard Paul talking about the church being like the human body and how each part is vital to the body working at its best. He stressed how when each part sees how important they are and contributes their part, the church under the direction of the Spirit can work at its best for the common good. Just as one part of the body can't do all the body needs to get done yet working together can make the miracle of life

happen, so it is with the church. Being led by the Spirit and each of us doing our little part we can make great things happen for the common good. We can take part in the miracle of life. Once again each of you has shown how true that is as we joined together in the Spirit to reach out to the people of Haiti. Now because of what we did and many other Lutherans in the ELCA, another part of the body of Christ, our Lutheran Disaster team, can to their part in this time of crisis and need.

We are indeed a team here at Bethlehem and once again the last year has shown how the spirit continues to led us in generous giving, but also in our compassion for those in need. This past year together in our We Care special collections we donated what amounts to more than 3000 meals for those in need. We donated as a congregation around \$5,000.00 to We Care on top of that. This amount does not include the amounts that some of our members give directly to We Care. With this we also donated over \$1,000.00 in gift cards to be handed out at Christmas time to families in need. And don't forget to add how many of our members have given hours of volunteer help at We Care, as well. Add to this giving \$2,500.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, \$1,500.00 to the Heifer Project, and \$1,700.00 to other life giving projects like the Water Pump and World Hunger projects of the ELCA. But that isn't the end because both our women's and men's group have taken on many projects to help those in need. Plus, add to this the many ways our members have reached out to our own members in need through out the year.

Well, I could go on but the point I make is that together we are God's team. Together our Bethlehem team, led by the Spirit, has shown its generosity and commitment to caring for those in need for almost 50 years and this past year was no exception. Together we can continue to make good things happen in the name of our Lord. I give thanks for each of you. You are

what makes our ministry happen. I am truly proud of our worship family and what we accomplish together. I hope you not only know how important each of you are, but that you are proud as well of what we do together.

In Christ,

Pastor Will

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### February Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2010  
7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

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### February Newsletter Deadline

Monday, February 22, 2010  
Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

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### Lenten Season Begins!

On February 17<sup>th</sup> we begin the Lenten season with a 6p.m. Soup & Salad supper followed with a 7 p.m. worship service. The service will include the imposition of ashes. Then on February 24<sup>th</sup> we will begin with a soup supper followed by a 30 minute worship service. We will have a short drama each week which is coordinated by Brian Gary. Please let Brian know if you would like to take part in one of these dramas.

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### Bethlehem Lutheran Church is on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, you can become a "fan" of Bethlehem Lutheran Church! In preparation for our Fiftieth Anniversary in 2011, we created the page to gather stories about Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Post your stories and/or memories about the church on the discussion page. Search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, CA." Become a fan for fastest access and enjoy reading the posts by other members who have become fans also.

Facebook is free of charge and available to anyone with internet access.

### Property News

The January 16th work party was very successful, with twenty-four people participating! We trimmed trees, polished the Sanctuary, cleaned the WELCA and Youth rooms, painted, cleaned the picnic tables and fixed lots of incidentals.

Thank you to everyone who helped: Dan and Marianne Sakowski, Al Thunselle, Dave Sandvig and guest Dan, Dale Retrum, John and Janice Hunt, Bill Haglund, Lon and Cathy Warnock, Camille Riach, John and Luelle Buezis, John Buezis, Jr., Christina Watson, Dan Powers, Joen Coleman, Ernie Mazzari, JR Anderson, Julie Kizziar, Paul Meyer, Ray Sheldon, and Ron Clausen

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### "Scramble" Golf Tournament in March



Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course in Anaheim. The tournament format will be a four-person team "scramble" where the best ball will be played by each team. The Peoria Handicap System will be used. The lowest handicap will be 0 (zero) and the largest 36. The first tee time will be at 10:00 am. All golfers are welcome. You can organize your own team or we will help match-up team members. Cost is \$80 per person and will include green fees, golf cart, range balls and prize fund. Please note that **NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED** on this course. To secure our reservation we need to have everyone signed up and the money collected by Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.

## What is the Season of Lent?

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent begins on February 17<sup>th</sup> this year and ends the day before Easter.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday before Easter. Its name comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes on worshippers' heads or foreheads as a sign of humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. It not only prefigures the mourning at the death of Jesus, but also places the worshiper in a position to realize the consequences of sin.. Ash Wednesday is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian. In many churches the day before Lent is called Shrove Tuesday. This is a day to celebrate and feast before the fast. Tradition became to have a pancake feast in many American main line churches.

Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food. Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians. At the end of the Lenten season comes what most churches call Holy Week. This begins with Palm or Passion Sunday then proceeds to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Watch next month's newsletter for the meaning of these special days.



### February 17, 2010 - Ash Wednesday

6:00 pm - Soup & Salad Dinner and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Worship service

### February 24, 2010 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in Lent

6:00 pm - Soup & Salad Dinner and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Worship service

### March 3, 2010 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in Lent

6:00 pm - Soup & Salad Dinner and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Worship service

### March 10, 2010 - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in Lent

6:00 pm - Soup & Salad Dinner and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Worship service

### March 17, 2010 - 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in Lent

6:00 pm - Soup & Salad Dinner and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Worship service

### March 24, 2010 - 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in Lent

6:00 pm - Soup & Salad Dinner and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Worship service

W.E.L.C.A. News  
February 2010

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



**Nothing Can Separate Us**

W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held **Sunday, February 7, 2010** following the Sunday service in Education Rm 2. For information contact Jeanne

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd. Jenny Anderson will be the Hostess. Marti Mazzari will be leading the study. For questions and details? Call Marjorie Moeller

Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at the home of Dianna Reynolds, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Margaret Hangartner will lead the study. For questions and details? Call Charlotte Driskill

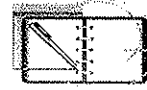


**Sunday Morning  
Coffee & Cookies**

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



Upcoming Events:



**Saturday, February 6, 2010 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

President's Cluster Planning Meeting  
Newport Harbor

**Saturday, March 6, 2010 - 8:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Pacifica Women - Springtime One-Day  
Gathering  
Christ Lutheran, San Diego

**Saturday, March 20, 2010 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Spring Brunch - General Meeting

**Saturday, April 17, 2010 -**

Cluster Spring Event  
Our Redeemer, Garden Grove

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



Men-in-Mission Support for the  
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 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 94 new towels. We need to have all towels collected by the end of April 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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**Clearance Sale!**

We have reduced the prices for our baking cocoa, hot cocoa mix and teas! The prices are now reduced to our cost price. Help us reduce our inventory. Stop by our display after the Sunday Worship service. You can also make your purchase during office hours on weekdays. All the items are organic and fair-trade products.

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**10K Volunteers Needed**

If you'd like to help at the 10K run at the Joint Forces Training Base on February 27<sup>th</sup> please call Marianne Sakowski

Congratulations to Allison Warnock for graduating from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History.



**Valentine  
Dinner**

Sunday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 - 8:00 pm in  
Bachman Hall

Bring your sweetheart, family, friends to the Valentine's Day dinner hosted by the Parish Life and Youth Groups.

The menu will include your choice of spaghetti or four sauce pasta, along with salad, beverage and dessert.

The prices are \$5 per person, \$10 per couple and \$15 for a family of five. Please reserve your preferred seating time with a Parish Life volunteer on the patio after Sunday Worship service. We hope to see you there!

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**Suggestions to make Lent More Meaningful**

1. Attend worship each Wednesday night beginning with Ash Wednesday.
2. Watch a movie about the life of Jesus.
3. Begin each day by offering thanks to God for letting Jesus be in your life.
4. Attend worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
5. Put a quarter aside each day and at the end of lent give it to a special cause like Lutheran World Hunger or the Lutheran Water Pump project.
6. Visit someone in a nursing home or Hospital
7. Sign up for the daily Bible reading email on the ELCA internet site.
8. Give up one out to eat meal and give it to a special cause like We Care or donate a little more that you usually do to the Needs item of the month.
9. Read one of the 4 gospels. Then next year read another one.
10. Invite someone you know to attend worship with you. Any Wednesday night, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, or of course on Easter morning.
11. Use the daily devotional available at the church.
12. Find a 20 minute time block each week and spend it in prayer.

Please Remember in Prayer These Members and Friends of Bethlehem:

**Hospitalized:**

Ron (friend of Leslie Moeller)

**Undergoing treatment:**

Ed Booth (friend of the Brandon/Snyders) - cancer

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

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

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

**Recuperating:**

Gladyce Ackerman

Julie Anderson

Laura Duke

Stuart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo)

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:**

Jim Ackerman Jean Franz

Jean Rich Jeanette Olmstead

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

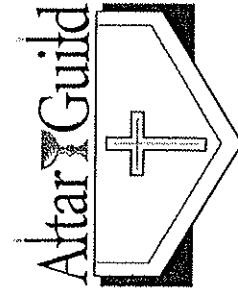
Krista Vargas - at Guantanamo



- 2/1 George Egbert
- 2/2 Pastor Mark Will
- 2/5 Salvador Vargas
- 2/7 Sarah Sandvig
- 2/8 Emilie Sohl
- 2/9 Julie Anderson
- 2/11 Jim Hargrove
- 2/12 John Byone
- 2/15 Jim Brandon
- 2/16 Bob Van Tress
- 2/19 Aiden Sandvig
- 2/20 Darlene Staglin
- 2/21 Sandra Du Bourdieu  
Jay Sabic
- 2/23 David Sakowski
- 2/28 Luelle Buezis  
Lois Cannon  
Geraldine Knox
- 2/7/1959 William & Arlene Pollard
- 2/11/2006 Deron & Jeannine Scott
- 2/14/1960 John & Janice Hunt
- 2/16/1964 Bill, Jr. & Sandra Du Bourdieu
- 2/25/1995 Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder

## Thanks to These People for Serving in February, 2010

DATE	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
2/7	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Charlotte Driskill	Jane Clausen	Bruce & Debby Gustafson Rick Gary Al Thunselle, Cathy Warnock	C. Warnock M. Moeller	R. Upright C. Warnock
2/14	Joseph Byone	Blake Anderson	Elise Parsons-Johnson	Paul Scott	Rick Gary, Alice Roop Dan & Marianne Sakowski Christina Watson	B. Gustafson D. Hansen	C. Watson J.R. Anderson
2/21	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Wilkie Adams	Dianna Reynolds	Rick Gary Richard & Candie Toth	J. Buezis J. Buezis, Jr.	F. Campbell G. Nehrenberg
2/28	Blake Anderson	Joseph Byone	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	Charlotte Driskill	Dan & Marianne Sakowski Rick Gary, Cathy Warnock	A. Campbell B. Campbell	B. Ritz M. Sakowski



### Altar Guild

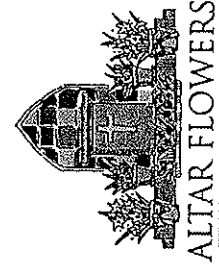
2/7  
2/14  
2/21  
2/28

Debby Gustafson  
Julie Kizziar  
Luelle Buezis

### Altar Flowers

2/7  
2/14  
2/21  
2/28

Sandvig, Warnock  
Hunt, Mazzari, Wolfe  
Brandon-Snyder  
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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# Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
3352 Katella Avenue  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

February, 2010

PLEASE DELIVER BY 2/18/10

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Telephone: 562/430-3444 Fax: 562/594-0322  
E-Mail: [bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.blcla.org](http://www.blcla.org)

