



Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 52, Issue 2

February, 2012

*From the
Pastor*



"All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." John 1:3-4

The clergy author and lecturer Dr. Ruel Howe tells of an experience on one of his airline flights. No sooner had he taken his seat on the plane when it became apparent that the man next to him was going to begin a time of visiting. And sure enough the first question out of his mouth was, "What do you do?" Howe related that he really didn't want to tell him he was a clergyman because that would either terminate the conversation quickly or, as he put it, soon lead into some heavy discussions about religion. Ruel paused for a minute to avoid the question, but the man soon pressed the question again. This time Ruel responded, "I'm a pilgrim." His face showing some surprise the man replied, "What the heck is that?" "Surely" Ruel responded, "you know what a pilgrim is!" The man not sure how to take this said, "Oh, you mean one of those; well, I thought they were all dead," obviously referring to the pilgrim fathers. Then Ruel continued, "I'm a pilgrim who is trying to find the way from his birth to life." You can almost guess what the next response was, "Oh, don't you mean from birth to death?" "No" Ruel said, "I mean just what I said. I mean my pilgrimage from my birth to my life." "Well" the man responded, "where does death fit into this pilgrimage of yours?" Ruel then quietly said, "Oh, I expect to die but life itself is a rhythm of life and death. In order to live, I have to learn to die; die to myself, surrender things I have for the sake of things I would like to have. The kind of pilgrim I'm talking about requires taking risks in order to have the kinds of experiences that keep me alive and going."

Now when you think about it both men were talking about life, but from a very different perspective. The man next to Ruel was thinking about physical life, the flow of blood through the body. Ruel on the other hand was talking about

life in relationship with his Lord. John, as he begins his story of Jesus, loves the word life when speaking about Jesus, none more pointed than when he has Jesus saying, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Have you ever thought about the fact that you are a pilgrim on a journey from birth to life with Jesus? For us as we take our pilgrimage its not just about life from birth to death, but from birth to real life. Thanks be to God that John reminds us about what our real life journey is about. Our journey doesn't end at death, but rather is one that forever is about life.

In a few weeks we will once again begin our Lenten journey. This journey will take us with Jesus as He takes His pilgrimage to the cross and tomb so that we might know our pilgrimage is not just from birth to death, but from birth to real life. Join us during Lent as we learn not only more about Jesus' pilgrimage, but ours.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Will

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services

Join your worship family on February 22nd as we begin our Lenten season and journey with Jesus. We will begin this season as we gather in worship at 7 p.m. During the service those wishing to participate will have the opportunity to take part in the imposition of ashes.

Then each Wednesday during Lent we will continue our tradition of having a soup supper sponsored by different groups with in our church family at 6 p.m and a short worship service at 7 p.m. We hope you will take time during this season to follow Jesus and to once again see God's amazing love and grace for you.

W.E.L.C.A. News
February 2012

Women's Bible Study
**To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel
of Mark**
Session 6 Tough Questions



W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held Sunday February 5 at 11:15 at the church. For information contact Jeanne

Faith Circle: Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Meeting at Bethlehem Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m. Hostess: Camille Riach. Bible Study Leader: Margaret Hangartner. For questions and details? Call Janice Hunt

Phoebe Circle Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Margie Reynolds, 4848 Elder Ave, Seal Beach. For questions and details? Call Julie Kizziar

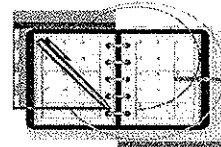


*Sunday Morning
Coffee & Cookies*

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



Upcoming Events: Mark your calendar.



February 5 WELCA Board meeting
11:15 a.m.

February 7 Faith Circle 9:30 a.m.

February 11 Cluster Pres. Planning meeting 9-11 Redeemer, Seal Beach (Leisure World)

February 14 Phoebe Circle 7:00 p.m.

March 3 Pacifica Women Spring One Day Event @ Bethlehem Luth. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 4 WELCA Board meeting
11:15 a.m.

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



Coffee & Tea

Love Your Coffee and Your Neighbor, Too

Coffee is big business. But sadly, it is often an unjust business.

A lot of coffee is grown by small-scale farmers in poor, isolated regions. In conventional trade, middlemen often force them to accept low prices that don't even cover their production costs let alone basic living expenses.

The more conventionally-traded coffee and tea we buy, the more we perpetuate this unjust way of doing business. With Fair Trade, however, farmers get a fair price while coffee (or tea) drinkers like us enjoy a gourmet product for about the same price as conventionally traded varieties.

Through our Fair Trade partner, Equal Exchange, Lutheran World Relief helps coffee and tea grower associations in Latin America, Africa and Asia bring their delicious products to the U.S. market.

For each pound of Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar and snacks you order through the LWR Coffee Project, Equal Exchange donates \$.20 to Lutheran World Relief's Small Farmer Fund.

While you may know Lutheran World Relief for our nimble response to emergencies, we have a much broader mission to relieve suffering and poverty and to promote justice around the world.

You will find us in rural and remote regions of the world's poorest countries. Working with local partners allows us to go where many other aid agencies can not.

We focus on attacking the root causes of poverty and breaking the cycles that keep people from being healthy, productive and self-supporting. Most often, all people need is a helping hand to provide a resource they have not been able to access on their own.

Lutheran World Relief responds to that need efficiently and effectively by providing resources to local partner organizations — groups who are already there in the trenches and are therefore best equipped to get the right help to the right people.

(from the website of Lutheran World Relief -- lwr.org)

You can purchase Equal Exchange fair-trade coffees and teas at Bethlehem Lutheran Church after Sunday worship services or when you visit the church office during the week. We have available drip grind and whole bean coffees and three varieties of tea. This is a nice, easy way to help others make a better place for themselves in God's creation.

To sample the coffee, pour yourself a cup after church during

the Fellowship Hour. Bethlehem has been serving Equal Exchange's Fellowship Blend Decaf (percolator grind) for a number of years. The Women of ELCA at Bethlehem have also been serving Fellowship Blend Decaf and Equal Exchange's Decaf (drip grind) at their general meetings.

Men in Mission

The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, February 4th at 8:00 am in the Fireside Room. We will continue our study of the book of Romans. All men are invited for study and fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.

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 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. The cost for a bundle of six towels is \$25 or they can be purchased individually. Last year our congregation responded with 104 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.



Sunday, Feb. 12th

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Bachman Hall

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

The cost is \$7 per adult, families up to \$25, children 6 - 12 are \$4, those under 6 are free. Please sign-up with Marianne on the patio after service.

“Scramble” Golf Tournament in March

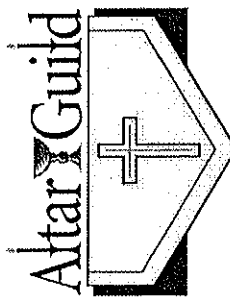
We will have a Bethlehem Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 24th, 2012, at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course in Anaheim. The tournament format will be a four-person team “scramble” where the best ball will be played by each team. The Peoria Handicap System will be used.

The first tee time will be at 9:30 a.m. All golfers are welcome. This format is particularly nice for the lady golfers to participate. 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. To secure our reservation we need to have everyone signed up and the money collected by Sunday, March 4th.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex hallway by the restrooms. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.

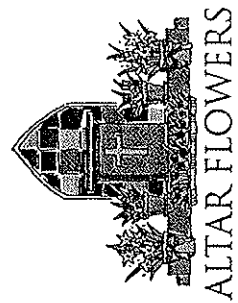
Thanks to These People for Serving in February, 2012

DATE	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
2/5	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	Charlotte Driskill	George & Marsha Egbert Rick Gary Bill Haglund, Camille Riach	Lulu Meyer Paul Meyer	Randy Upright Christina Watson
2/12	John Buezis	Dianna Reynolds	Rick Gary Dawn Rentch Al Thunselle	George Egbert Marsha Egbert	J.R. Anderson Andrea Campbell
2/19	Vanessa Stevenson	Alice Roop	Rick Gary	Dick Hansen Alice Roop	Ron Clausen Gary Nehrenberg
2/26	Charlotte Driskill	Jeff Moeller	Rick Gary	Caryl Harris Joyce Payne	David Retrum Darren Sandvig



Altar Guild
 2/5
 2/12 Debby Gustafson
 2/19
 2/26 Marge Hargrove

Altar Flowers
 2/5 Sarah & Aiden Sandvig
 2/12 Roop, Wolfe
 2/19 Krazy
 2/26



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 under five.



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Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 3352 Katella Avenue
 Los Alamitos, CA 90720

January, 2012

PLEASE DELIVER BY 2/1/12

Lenten Service Schedule

Wednesday, February 22, 2012	Ash Wednesday service	7:00 pm
Wednesday, February 29, 2012	Lenten service	7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 7, 2012	Lenten service	7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 14, 2012	Lenten service	7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 21, 2012	Lenten service	7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 28, 2012	Lenten service	7:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Mark Will
 Telephone: 562/430-3444 Fax: 562/594-0322
 E-Mail: bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net
 Website: www.blcla.org
 Find the Church Calendar posted in the office

