

The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 72, Issue 3

March 2022

From Pastor Tyler

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,” Luke 4:1

Each season of Lent is greeted with an account from one of the synoptic gospels of Jesus being driven into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. This is fitting, as the forty days of Lent are meant to remind us and represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Nearly two years ago, we entered a wilderness of our own. We entered this pandemic without knowing how long the journey would be, only that God was with us. When we approached difficult decisions, God was guiding us. When we felt isolated and alone, Christ's love showed up in the form of the care and concern of family, friends, and neighbors. We have come this far by faith, led in the wilderness of life by Christ's guiding hand.

As our normal lives slowly begin to return, the memory of that which was taken away from us for so long still lingers. So, if you are considering taking on a Lenten practice, rather than giving something up for Lent, I would suggest taking up a Lenten practice. Be it a more intentional prayer schedule, or the giving of alms, or service in the community – I suggest taking up a spiritual discipline rather than giving something up this year. Perhaps, one of the Lenten practices you can take up is attending our midweek compline services?

One of the things I missed most dearly throughout the pandemic was singing with others, so what a blessing it is to be called to a church with such talented musicians and staff! Clearly, we are a church that loves to sing and appreciates music. So, as I reflected upon our theme for our midweek services, I wondered how we might incorporate our shared loved of music as a congregation and celebrate our ability to once again gather and praise God in-person.

Certainly, singing our cherished hymns can lift us up out of the depths of despair, inspire us to action, and service, and even inscribe God's Word upon our hearts. So, for this year's midweek worship we are inviting members of Bethlehem to share their favorite hymns with us and to reflect upon the meaning and comfort they find within the verses. I am calling this year's midweek worship series, “Then Sings my Soul,” a quote from the hymn How Great Thou Art, as we share and reflect upon the powerful ways God has worked within our lives through music.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our soup suppers and I look forward to hearing your reflections – I hope you will join us.

Blessings to each of you on your Lenten journey to the cross of Christ.

-Pastor Tyler W. Jensen

*Gathered to worship,
Equipped by the Holy Spirit,
Strengthened through community,
Sent in peace to serve the Lord.*



Elisha's Pantry Essentials:

- Kleenex
- Toilet paper
- Small size laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Regular size shampoo
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Skin lotion
- Razors
- Masks

Drop donations off @ BLC

**Mon - Weds 9 - 2:30PM or
on Sunday Mornings.**

Next Pick-up Date: March 16th

~Thank you!~



Women's History Month

Each March is designated Women's History Month by Presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history.

Did you Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week in 1978, a local celebration started right here in Santa Rosa¹. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women. We celebrate over 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States. 40 years of women of color being ordained and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely².

¹National Women's History Museum.org ²ELCA.org



Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Children's Center
 1300 St. Francis Road, Santa Rosa, California 95409
 Sunday Worship : 10:30 a.m.

Church Office: 707/539-5252, Hours: 9-2:30, M-W

Church Email: blc@sonic.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

Church Website: www.blc-bcc.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 841 0567 7361

Password: church

Pastor:

Tyler W. Jensen
 510-470-4305 (Pastor's cell)
 Email: PastorTylerJensen@gmail.com

Congregational Officers:

Jason Kracht, President
 Janet Bertoli, Vice President
 Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Secretary
 Joy Petty, Treasurer
 Susan Jenkins, Financial Secretary

Council Commissioners:

Laura Lightfoot, Education
 Cal Eriksen, Property
 George Schweizer, Stewardship

Linda Knapp, Witness & Service
 Michelle Frabotta, Worship
 Anna Smith, Youth
 Susan Jenkins, BCC Executive Board
 Siri Fenson, Bethlehem WELCA President

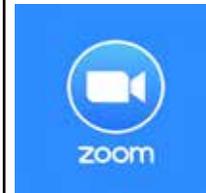
Staff:

Deborah McNally, BCC Director
 Michelle Frabotta, Parish Administrator
 Janet Bertoli, Adult & Youth Choirs
 Barbara Laferriere, Organist, Adult Choir,
 Laura Lightfoot, Youth Choirs

Sun. March 13th



Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.



Meeting ID:
 841 0567 7361
 Password:
 church

Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 771254#

Contemporary Sunday, March 6th

One Sunday a month, the Bethlehem community worships accompanied by guitar, piano, bass, flute and other instrumentation at the 10:30 a.m. service.

The pattern of liturgy is familiar, the songs often have a more contemporary rhythm and "feel". Be sure to check out, and enjoy, Bethlehem's monthly "contemporary" Sunday, March 6.



Second Mile Sunday

On March 13th, Bethlehem Lutheran Church along with the other churches in the Sierra Pacific Synod support a special Lutheran program with a special offering, beyond your pledged offering. This month the focus is on Campus Ministry.

The mission of Campus Ministry is "Expanding minds, deepening faith, and inspiring service". There are seven different colleges that provide many different programs for students from; a place to connect with God, to worship with peers and to have Bible studies; to community outreach such as homeless shelters, food pantries and low-income home building projects.

These are the seven Northern California Campuses:



The Belfry:

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at UC Davis

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at CSU Monterey Bay

University Church at Stanford: Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno

University Chapel of Berkeley: Lutheran & Episcopal Campus Ministry at Cal

Lutheran Campus Ministry at UC Santa Cruz

Sacramento Area Campus Ministry

Bethlehem Lenten Charities

- Witness and Service Commission

At Bethlehem we have many opportunities to share what we have with others throughout the year. This is true especially during Lent.

Meals on Wheels and the **YWCA of Sonoma County** will be the 2 recipients of our Lenten Offerings. Meals on Wheels helps seniors stay in their homes, maintaining their independence and happiness. A daily check by a Meals on Wheels driver allows monitoring for potential problems, falls and accidents. When a senior signs up for Meals on Wheels, they also receive access to other programs operated by Council on Aging including Social Services, Financial Services, Legal Services, Care & Case Management, Senior Peer Support, and Adult Day Social Programs.

The YWCA of Sonoma County operates the community's ONLY 24/7 Crisis Hotline for victims of domestic violence and provides emergency shelter, advocacy, resources and therapy support. The YWCA offers the only therapeutic preschool, A Special Place, for 3-5 year-olds in Sonoma County.

In your pack of offering envelopes, there is one envelope for each week marked Lenten Offering, which can be filled and sent back to church. If you don't have the envelope pack, just send a check to BLC marked for Lent. You also have the option to make an online offering by going to the church's website and clicking on Giving Options and selecting GivePlus and Lenten Offerings. Please consider making Lenten Offerings this year.

Lenten Flours (not Flowers)

Beginning on March 6 and throughout the season of Lent, BLC adorns the altar with non-perishable food items rather than flowers. Each week this bounty is taken to the F.I.S.H. Pantry where it is distributed to those who need it.

A Sign-up to bring a bag or two of groceries is posted on the kiosk in the narthex, just as if you were signing up for flowers. If possible, please place them in the baskets near the altar. Or you can also participate by bringing a few items to donate each week to the wagon in the narthex.

What a great way to celebrate "hunger no more" during the season of Lent. Our goal is to collect **1000 pounds** of food during Lent and we will share updates. Food bags are available in the narthex.

Prayer Concerns

Homebound: Astrid Haugaard, Arend Folkens, Marion Heiken, Gloria Hamilton, Clarissa Tuor, Judy Warner, Ruby Malde, Helen Osborne, Adele Mortensen

Special Concerns: Richard Doran, Tom Ziegler, Steve Sturgeon, Donna Cole, Mira Kiick, Bob Beck Donna Rudningen, Pam Pegly & Michael Ferri

If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office and offer your name and email.



March

- 1 Gary Wilkening
- 2 Else Gillette
- 3 Elaine Bowers
- 4 Steve & Kathleen Sturgeon (43)
- 5 Amanda Knudtson, Pastor Diane Bowers
- 6 Joyce Mortensen-Child, David Vogel
- 8 Leslee Cramer, Steven Younger
- 9 Kristi Marlar, Stephen Virtue
- 10 Kathy Phillips
- 11 Gary Stein, Donald Schaap, Gabriel Gutsch
- 12 Charlene Shaw, George Kuhn Max Fenson, Luke Anderson
- 15 Steve Jenkin, Dennis Marvin
- 18 Jennifer Wong
- 19 Mark Knapp, Maureen Caudill
- 20 Steven & Wendy Younger (11)
- 21 Janet & JJ Krug (40)
- 24 Leah Morrow
- 26 Bob Bimbi
- 27 Francine Majcherek, Ronald Barnekow, Nicholas Barnes
- 28 Dylan Thomson, Hannah Kelly
- 29 Justin Majcherek, Nicholas Jeye
- 31 Beverly Schaap



**We
Celebrate
YOU!**

BLC Book Club picks for 2022

Join Zoom Meeting:

[Click to Join Meeting!](#)

Meeting ID: 818 6333 9161

Passcode: 495762

Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 495762#

Tuesday March 1- *The Power of Giving* by Azim Gamal

This practical and visionary guide helps you discover that the more you give, the more you have. *The Power of Giving* provides a wealth of down-to-earth ideas, exercises, and real-life stories that reveal to each listener the unique gifts he or she has to give, including kindness, ideas, advice, attention, hope, and more, and the many ways you can benefit from giving them, from better health to better job prospects.



Tuesday April 5- *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright

This is a story of hope, of one woman's journey to save her son and another woman's chance at redemption. It demonstrates that even in a dump in Cambodia--perhaps especially in a dump in Cambodia--everyone deserves a second chance.

Tuesday May 3- *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek: A Novel* by Kim Michele Richardson

The author has written a fascinating novel about people almost forgotten by history: Kentucky's pack-horse librarians and "blue people." The factual information alone would make this book a treasure, but with her impressive storytelling and empathy, Richardson gives us so much more.

Tuesday June 7- *State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny

Consistently entertaining....Penny and Clinton demonstrate a sure hand at international intrigue and narrative pacing....The real key to 'State of Terror,' though, is its secret weapon: female friendship.

Meetings start at 7 p.m. All are welcome!



Water is Life!

World Water Day is March 22, 2022!

Join the

Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network

as we explore our faithful and grateful response
to the amazing gift of water and the current
global water challenges.

On Zoom Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 10:00 am

Featuring

- ELCA World Hunger Water Ministries
- Local Water Conservation Efforts
- What are our ideas to share?
- What can we do to celebrate World Water Day?
- Upcoming later events.

Everyone is welcome!

To register and receive the Zoom Link
email Edie Lott at thelotts@gmail.com

A Heartfelt Thank You!

from Lien Cibulka, coordinator of Elisha's Pantry

On behalf of everyone at Elisha's Pantry, I would like to send a huge, heartfelt thank you to all Bethlehem Lutheran members and friends who have donated personal care items. The Essentials Giveaway started in August of 2020 to help those struggling to make ends meet. Since that time, you have stepped up, bringing thousands of items to be handed out.

A special thanks to Siri Fenson for helping to promote our giveaway, collecting your donations and for volunteering to pass them out on the third Thursday of each month. We're equally grateful to BLC members Lisa McIntyre, Melissa Preston, Elaine Adams and Liz Ferrari who have also come out to help.

Thank you, again, for making a difference in our clients' lives.

Thanks to Bob Beck and Beverly Schaap

There are three representatives from each of the three congregations (Christ UMC, Congregation Shomrei Torah and Bethlehem Lutheran) that make up the Elisha's Pantry Steering Committee.

Bob Beck has, faithfully, served on this committee for over ten years. Now, as he is stepping down, we want to thank him for helping where help really has counted - serving those in need.

And now, with great pleasure, we welcome Beverly Schaap, who has agreed to be the third Bethlehem representative - besides Nancy Marvits and myself. As we know, Beverly has experience in various fields and will therefore be of great help.

-Siri Fenson

Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

The BLC community and friends are invited to take part in Lenten midweek compline services on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. Each service includes, music, scripture, and a reflection by a member of the community on the theme, *Then Sings My Soul*. Our lenten speakers are Janet Bertoli, Gail Bowers, Pastor Tyler, Max Fenson & Elizabeth Goodson.

Midweek Services will also be broadcast on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

[Click Here to Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 841 0567 7361

Passcode: church

Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 771254#

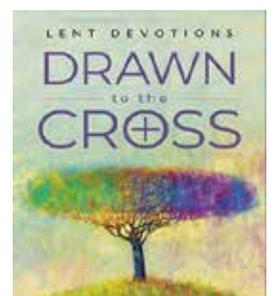


Gifts of food and Love.

Lenten Devotional

Our Lenten journey starts Wednesday, March 2nd-join us in reading *Drawn to the Cross*.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual thinkers of the 20th Century, writing passionately about the steadfast love of God. Excerpts from Nouwen's inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers in this booklet for each day of Lent, as we come to understand more deeply the meaning of the cross in terms of humility, service and sacrifice.





BLC High School and College Scholarships

The Education Commission administers the L.U.T.H.E.R. scholarship, a one time \$500 scholarship for high school graduating members (of at least 1 year) who will be attending a college or trade school.

Due May 1, 2022.

The Education Commission administers the congregational Lutheran Education Scholarship, an ongoing \$500 scholarship for those members (of at least 1 year) attending a Lutheran College, university or seminary. **Due May 1, 2022.**

Eligible students will be contacted by Linda Knapp 539-8901.

The Endowment Committee has funds available this year for Endowment Scholarships in varying amounts for applicants who will be fulltime sophomores, juniors, or seniors at an accredited college or university for the 2022-2023 school year. Preference will be given to a student who shows financial need. The application is available by contacting the Church office blc@sonic.net

All applicants should send their applications to lak9383@hotmail.com in PDF format.

Questions- contact Laura Knapp at 761-4160.



*The sanctuary will once again be brought back to life
Easter morning with a display of our traditional lilies and azaleas.
If you wish to buy a plant for \$12, please make checks payable to "Bethlehem Lutheran Church" with "flowers" on the memo line, and return with your order by Sunday, April 3.*

Name _____

Please choose an option below:

I prefer (enter quantity):
 _____ x azalea plant _____ x Easter lily

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Please plan to take your flowers home after Easter Services.





PRETZEL SUNDAY-MARCH 6

Pretzel Sunday has been a Bethlehem Lutheran tradition for many years. It highlights the story of a young Italian monk creating pretzels in honor of the season of Lent and as a treat for youngsters who said their prayers during this time.

Come join us on Sunday, March 6 from 9:30-10:15am to kick off the season of Lent and make your own pretzel! All ages are invited to join. We will hear the story and learn how to make this tasty snack! We are asking that everyone who attends wears a mask regardless of vaccination status. Please let me know if you have any questions.

See you all there! ~Laura Lightfoot



Soup Supper Signup

The Lenten Soup Suppers begin on March 16 and continue through April 6 at 6pm. If you would like to bring a pot of soup or bread, there is a signup located on the kiosk in the Narthex. Contact the Office for details.



Treasurer's Report

Joy Petty

January 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$37,197	\$24,363	\$12,834
Expenses	\$29,244	\$27,657	\$1,588
Net	\$7,953	-\$3,294	\$11,246

YTD 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$37,197	\$24,363	\$12,834
Expenses	\$29,244	\$27,657	\$1,588
Net	\$7,953	-\$3,294	\$11,246

Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,793 per week
January \$9,299



Home Communion

Do you or a loved one wish to regularly receive communion at home, being no longer able to regularly attend worship?

Do you wish to become one of our lay eucharistic ministers and help us distribute communion once a month to our homebound?

If so, please contact the church office!

Zoom Hosts

We will train you, and you can do this from home or from church. It involves welcoming people, starting the recording, muting as needed, and a few other details. Interested? Let the church office know. Learn a new skill and be apart of an important ministry - online worship!

How about a Can?

Lent is a time for all of us to reach out. If "Flours for the Altar" seems overwhelming, bring a can each Sunday for the basket during the season of Lent. The goal through Lent is to bring in 1,000 pounds for the F.I.S.H. Food pantry. Let's show our loving, giving spirit to the community. All of us working together can achieve great things!

A word from Martin

"You have as much laughter as you do faith."

-Martin Luther



The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is **March 25, 2022.**

Please submit information and story ideas to the Church office or email blc@sonic.net

Should you have any comments or suggestions that will help improve The Star, we will be pleased to receive them.

Should you wish to discontinue your subscription to The Star please let us know via email.