

The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 72, Issue 4

April 2022

From Pastor Tyler

“Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me,” Luke 9:23

Holy Week, as the name suggests, is the holiest week of the liturgical calendar. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with Jesus triumphantly entering into Jerusalem with shouts of hosanna and palm branches. We continue our journey with Maundy Thursday as Jesus shares his last meal with the disciples only then to be betrayed by one of his closest friends. On Good Friday we gather at the foot of the cross as Jesus is crucified for the sake of the world. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and the promise of new life we are given.

Yet, why is it important for us as Christians to attend all of these services?

I know even getting out of bed some Sunday mornings can feel like a herculean effort. So, on a Thursday and Friday evening, I can imagine that after a long day many of us would much rather kick up our feet, queue up our favorite show, and call it a night. Yet, I believe we miss out on a sacred opportunity when we forgo Holy Week observances.

On most Sundays, we focus on the promise of the good news of Jesus Christ that was secured on the cross. Yet, it is during Holy Week that we see both the humanity and divinity of Christ on full display. We witness the love displayed in the washing of feet. We witness the goodbye to beloved friends. We witness the heart-wrenching pleading of Jesus with his Father in the garden. We witness the stinging betrayal of Judas. We witness the miscarriage of justice presided by Pilate. We witness the cries of the crowd to crucify. We witness the suffering Jesus endured on the cross.

For a Christian of the cross, it is only by the cross of Christ that we know the good news of Jesus Christ. Without the cross there is no resurrection. Without the cross there is no new life. Without the cross there is no good news. It is in this holiest of weeks that we are invited to journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross.

So, as we approach this Holy Week, I pray that you will prayerfully consider joining us for our Holy Week observances. I pray that you will be renewed, encouraged, strengthened and enriched in faith as we walk the path of Jesus' Passion and rediscover the meaning and power of his Resurrection for our lives.

Continued blessings on your Lenten journey,

Pastor Tyler W. Jensen

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

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

An Easter tradition at Bethlehem Lutheran is a breakfast of egg casserole, fruit and breads, served by the Youth of Bethlehem.

Please join us for Easter Breakfast on Sunday, 4/17 starting at 9:00am followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45am. The whole family is invited!



If you would like to donate baked goods (rolls, scones, croissants, etc), please bring them to the church kitchen by Saturday morning (4/16) labeled as "Easter Breakfast". We can't wait to see you there!



Second Mile Sunday

On April 10th, Bethlehem Lutheran, along with the other churches in the Sierra Pacific Synod, will gather contributions to support Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS). Please mail your donations to the Church office or place in the basket in the Narthex.

PLTS equips faithful leaders who enliven the church and care for the world. Today is a new day for theological education in the West. With expanded residential and online learning options, new faculty, shared teaching resources within Cal Lutheran and the Graduate Theological Union, our students learn, live, and serve in a place that is multi-cultural, economically diverse, and invigorating.

PLTS is one of eight seminaries of the ELCA, a founding member of the Graduate Theological Union, and a graduate school of California Lutheran University. PLTS was the first ELCA seminary to become Reconciling in Christ (RIC).

Theological education at PLTS is done in the context of people who are rich and poor, liberal and conservative, and a wide array of human race, religion, sexuality, education, experience, and background. If our theology did not take all people into account, it would be deficient.

Follow us on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/pltsofclu/>.

Please keep the seminary in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries. The Sierra Pacific Synod is blessed to accompany this organization in mutual ministry as we proclaim God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying love in our synod.



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: 9:30-2:30, M-Th

Church Website: www.blc-bcc.com

Church Email: blc@sonic.net

Zoom Meeting ID: 841 0567 7361

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa

Password: church

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

Pastor:

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

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

Congregational Officers:

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

Staff:

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

Council Commissioners:

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

Easter Candy Donations

The Easter Egg hunt is coming back this year!! We are so excited to welcome the kids with a traditional candy hunt. If you would like to bring donations of individually wrapped candy or small treats (erasers, stickers, etc) to help fill the eggs, please put them in the large basket in the Narthex.

Thank you!

The Education Commission

A word from Martin

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times."



-Martin Luther

Office Hours

The Church Office will now be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.

If no one answers the phone at the church office, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Our staff may simply be in a meeting, helping another member, or taking a lunch break.

Additionally, we ask that you please contact Pastor Tyler directly via his mobile phone (510-470-4305) or email (PastorTylerJensen@gmail.com).

**JOIN BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022**



JUNE 13-17

6:30-8:30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20 PER FAMILY

AGES: KINDERGARTEN-6TH GRADE

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 30TH



SCAN ME





April

- 1 Sharon Boschen
- 2 Rick & Linda Knapp (45)
- 3 Megan McConnell
- 5 Katie McCullough
- 6 Penny Dauler
- 7 Lisa McIntyre, Louann Ekren
- 8 Richard Schumann
- 9 Barbara Bertoli, Zack Thomson, Elaine Gutsch, Yasha Mokaram
- 11 Donna Jeye, Erica Meyer, Joni Schmidt
- 12 Heinz & Patsy Streckfuss (53)
- 13 John Sass, Carl Bowers
- 16 Clint & Shirley Stevenson (17)
- 20 Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Katrina Petty, Laura Apostle
- 21 Caecilie Von Perbandt
- 22 Sam Claasen, Corrine Knudtzon, Hans Christian Kasper
- 23 Mikayla Mokaram
- 26 Dan Thomson
- 29 Richard Vogel
- 30 Peter Walls, Caitlyn Kelly

Easter Lily Orders

Please submit orders by the extended deadline of **April 10th**. Plants are \$12 for either an Easter Lily or an Azalea. Dedications will be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

BLC Book Club pick for April 5th

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.



Meetings start at 7:00pm.



Women of Bethlehem

Saturday, June 25, 2022!

WELCA has begun the planning

for the Women's Retreat this Summer. Put the date on your

calendar and plan to have a wonderful Saturday lead by

Pastor Diane!!!

More information to come!

Elisha's Pantry-Essentials

Thanks to everyone who faithfully give to Elisha's Pantry each month. As volunteers, we often hear from the clients how grateful they are for the Essentials table.

In April, we're making a slightly different ask by requesting donations for these **specific** items: *Bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, dish soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes.* These items are much needed and run out quickly in the afternoon. We'd like to be sure everyone has a chance to get the essentials they need. Toilet paper, Kleenex, laundry detergent, lotions and masks are still accepted as well. (Note: The Pantry is still in need of paper bags.)

The next Essentials Thursday at the pantry is scheduled for **April 21st**. Please drop off your donations by **Wednesday, April 20**. Drop off times @ BLC are Monday – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or bring your donation on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

~Liz Ferrari

BLC Clean-up Day

Join us **Saturday, April 2** from **9:00 - 12:00pm** as we clean up Bethlehem in anticipation of our Easter Celebrations and Pastor Tyler's Installation. There are jobs for all ages and abilities.

Remember many hands, make light work!



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

The season of Lent began in March with Ash Wednesday and culminates with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Join us as we reenact, commemorate, and celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY (April 10th)

10:30 a.m. – Worship with a congregational procession with palms and a dramatic reading of The Passion Narrative from Luke’s Gospel.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 14th)

7:00 p.m. – Worship with Holy Communion and ceremonial stripping of the altar.

GOOD FRIDAY (April 15th)

7:00 p.m. – Worship with readings and choral presentations by Bethlehem’s Adult Choir.

EASTER SUNDAY (April 17th)

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. – Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt (9:45 a.m.) provided by Bethlehem Youth and Sunday School.

Freewill offerings support Bethlehem’s Youth Ministry programs and events.

10:30 a.m. – Festival Eucharist worship including choirs, bells, the Easter proclamation, and Holy Communion.



♥ Thank You ♥

On behalf of Rebekah Circle, THANK YOU, to the ever-giving Bethlehem congregation, for helping to make the zoomed Shrove Tuesday Breakfast a fun and meaningful event. Donations to the Social Advocacy for Youth (SAY) amounted to \$310.00.

~Siri Fenson, *WELCA President*

Help Needed

Elisha’s Pantry is located at 1717 Yulupa Avenue in Santa Rosa. The pantry is open to Clients on Thursdays from 4:00-5:00pm.

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!

For more information or to volunteer please call (707)542-2569.

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!

KNIT 3, PURL 2.....Working Prayers into Stitches

Interested in joining a prayer shawl knitting/crocheting group? If so, come to the Parish Hall on Tuesday, April 5, at 1PM. The plan is to gather every other Tuesday and together knit, socialize AND share thoughts and prayers for those in need. A shawl, in various sizes, styles and patterns, can be knitted with a special person in mind or put aside until there is a special need. If you have yarn and needles to share, kindly bring.



For details, contact Siri Fenson (*WELCA board/Rebekah Circle*)



Seesaw Faith

From *Christ in Our Home* (April 2022)

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies.
(Psalm 31:15)

Do you ever find yourself wavering in faith like a seesaw, one moment riding high on God's promises and the next plunging downward in dread? My faith sometimes wavers in this way, especially in times of stress. When it does, I often need to pour out my doubt and anxieties to my husband or a close friend before I can move toward renewed trust.

We hear this very pattern unfolding in many of the psalms, as the psalmist's voice vacillates between despair and hope. Though Psalm 31 is classified as a lament, the psalmist expresses as much confidence as anxiety. Perhaps David, to whom it is attributed, is a lot like us: in one moment desperate for deliverance and in the next filled with trust.

The psalmist can be a partner in our "up-and-down" times. His wavering assures us that when we falter in faith, the Holy One receives our lament graciously, and with loving hands reshapes it into thanksgiving.

Hold my fears and anxieties in your hands, God, and reshape them into praise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Concern: Those who live with depression

Homebound: *Astrid Haugaard, 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, Arend Folkens & Brian Krug*

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

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 10.

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.



Honoring Mothers

"April showers bring May flowers," or so the saying goes, and May is the month we honor mothers often with flowers. Maybe those flowers can be turned into blessings for our mothers and for mothers we don't know!

For several years the Women of Bethlehem have brought you an opportunity to send your mother, or a special woman in your life, the unique gift of a donation in her honor for The Living Room, a Santa Rosa day center for homeless women and their children.

Watch for a display of donation cards to enclose in your Mother's Day greeting in the Narthex later in April.

Mothers are known for their giving and serving attributes. Imagine the difficulties of caring for your children on the streets or in a shelter. The Living Room offers a safe environment for homeless women and children to spend quality time learning, playing, having meals, and getting counseling and help.

Contributions to The Living Room can be made during Sunday offering or online by visiting blc-bcc.com and click on 'Giving Options' or mail a check to the Church office with "Living Room" on the memo line.

Your mother will be blessed by your thoughtfulness in honoring her by giving help to others.

-Phyllis Hoover, *WELCA Vice President*



The Living Room



Yes We CAN!

Lent is a time for all of us to reach out. Between our "Flours" on the Altar, and a can a week, the goal through Lent was to bring in 1,000 pounds to F.I.S.H. All of us working together did achieve great things! We have gathered 1153 pounds so far with one week of Lent to go! Yes We CAN!



Life Pax

"Feeding the Hungry and Sharing the Love of Christ one meal at a time!"

The youth have put together new supply of Life Pax, and they are available on the table in the Narthex. The donation jar is right next to them and the requested donation is \$2 each to cover the cost. Thank you!

Members are encourage to store a few in their cars, and share them when they see someone on the street asking for food or money.

Midweek Bible Study

Join us Wednesday's, at 10:00am in the Parish Hall as we continue our study of Paul's letters.

All are welcome to attend!



After Easter, we will return to our tradition of "Flowers" on the Altar. Sign up on the kiosk for a Sunday. This is a great opportunity to honor someone special in your life, or to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. After the service the flowers are yours to take home and enjoy. Each bouquet is \$20, and you can sign up for one, or for both!

Benefit BLC with Online Shopping

Many of you are shopping for a myriad of items online. Don't forget, if you are shopping at Amazon, you can shop instead at smile.amazon.com and increase donations for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support BLC every time you shop, at no cost to you. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price (.5%) To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping.



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.

Treasurer's Report

Joy Petty

February 2022

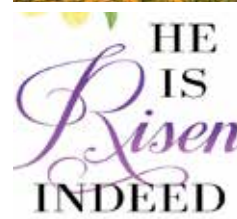
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$15,549	\$19,594	-\$4,045
Expenses	\$22,624	\$26,817	-\$4,193
Net	-\$7,075	-\$7,223	\$148

YTD 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$52,746	\$43,437	\$9,309
Expenses	\$51,868	\$54,473	-\$2,605
Net	\$878	-\$11,036	\$11,914

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

January	\$9,299
February	\$3,887



Save the Date

Join us **Sunday, May 1st at 2:30pm** for a special worship service as we install our new(ish) Senior Pastor, the Reverend Tyler W. Jensen!

Bishop Megan Rohrer will be presiding at this service, with the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson preaching. Clergy are invited to vest and take part in the opening processional; the color of the day is red. A festive reception will follow the service, to which all are invited.

The service will also be broadcast on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Please join us as we celebrate our shared ministry with Pastor Tyler!

Home Communion Distribution

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?

Training and materials provided.

Interested? Please contact the church office.

The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is April 22, 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.