

The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 72, Issue 2

February 2022

From Pastor Tyler

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things," 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

As I write this article, my local Safeway has taken down all of the Christmas and New Year decorations and replaced them with Valentine's Day cards, stuffed animals, and candies – all with red and pink hues. It is expected that Americans will spend over 20 billion dollars on Valentine's Day alone this year. Yet, where did this holiday come from?

Some say St. Valentine was a Roman priest. Others say St. Valentine was the bishop of modern-day Terni, Italy. Others yet say St. Valentine was a martyr who suffered with a number of companions in the Roman province of Africa. In fact, there are no fewer than three different martyrs named Valentinus who died on account of their faith on February 14th – all of them toward the end of the third century. Many legends are connected to St. Valentine, but the truth is, no one really knows who St. Valentine was or which of these saints we are meant to commemorate. Reportedly, the feast day of St. Valentine was first established in 496 by Pope Gelasius the First, who included Valentine among all those "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God."

Ironically enough, the exchanging of gifts, greetings, and tokens of love can only be documented as far back as the Middle Ages. Many even credit the famed English writer, Chaucer, for inventing out modern association with the feast of St. Valentine and romantic love. The "Parliament of Fowls," Chaucer's poem about birds selecting their mate, is thought by some to have been the origins of our modern celebrations. At the very least, it seems to be one of the first documented association between St. Valentine's Day and romance. Despite the dubious origins of our modern "St. Valentine's Day," it has remained a day celebrating romantic love.

Considering the confusing and murky origins Valentine's Day, I wonder if we might consider expanding our understanding of the holiday. My nieces call Valentine's Day "Love Day," as their favorite cartoon tiger (Daniel Tiger) is fond of calling it. "Love Day," celebrates the love found in all relationships, rather than a day reserved for only romantic affections – much like we might have celebrated Valentine's Day as children in elementary school.

So, I wonder if we might expand our concept of Valentine Day to share God's love in the world? What kind of "valentine" would God have us send our neighbors? How might we be living valentines – signs of God's gracious love in the world? I wonder.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tyler W. Jensen

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



On January 30th, members of Bethlehem Lutheran gathered for our annual meeting.

A budget of \$353,262 was passed, officers and commissioners were voted in, and reports from our different commissions were presented.

Thank you to the 2022 Bethlehem Children's Center school board members; Susan Jenkins, Demitri Esquivel, Anna Smith, Michael King, Kara Kracht, Janet Krug, Elaine Bowers and Anita Anderson. We look forward to your new ideas, & appreciate your willingness to serve.

Blessings to our new and continuing officers, commissioners, and Endowment Committee Members, Jason Kracht, Janet Bertoli, Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Joy Petty, Susan Jenkins, Laura Lightfoot, Michelle Thomson, Cal Eriksen, George Schweizer, Linda Knapp, Michelle Frabotta, Siri Fenson, Laura Knapp, Steve Jenkins & Brian Bertoli. Your dedication and caring are invaluable. Many thanks!

To request a paper copy of the Annual Report, please contact the office.

Church Office

Closed

The Church office will be closed on February 21st for President's Day.



Offering Envelopes

If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes, they are in the Church kitchen hoping to be picked up and taken to their home.

If you cannot pick up your envelopes by Friday, February 18th, please contact Susan Jenkins at rvwhine@sbcglobal.net or the Church office to make arrangements. Please make plans to pick up your envelopes even if you do not use them every Sunday.

Thank You!

The Love Fund

Did you know that Bethlehem Lutheran has a “Love Fund”? Once in a while folks notice the line item in the church budget entitled, “Love Fund” and wonder what it is and what it is for?

Bethlehem’s Love Fund is an account that is not funded by members’ regular offerings to the budget, but rather by individual contributions of members, specifically designated the Fund.

The Love Fund is a discretionary account used by the pastor to help people (sometimes members, sometimes non-members) who are in need of one-time, short term financial help. The Love Fund has been used to purchase groceries, provide temporary housing, assist with utility bills, and more.

Contributions to the Love Fund can be made through the regular Sunday offering, with “Love Fund” noted on the check memo line.

The Love Fund. Now you know!



Second Mile Sunday

The second Sunday of each month, Bethlehem Lutheran Church along with the other churches in the Sierra Pacific Synod supports a special Lutheran program with a special offering, beyond your pledged offering. This month on February 13th, the focus is on Lutheran Social Services of Northern California.

Lutheran Social Services responds when people are vulnerable because of homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction or disaster. Providing support services and compassionate guidance, we help individuals and families to stabilize their lives and become self-sufficient.

LSS currently serves over 3000 clients in Sacramento, San Francisco, Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties. Our programs include money management services, case management in transitional and permanent supportive housing sites, case management and housing services for emancipated former foster care youth, disaster preparedness training, and long-term disaster response services in the event of a local disaster.



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 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
Michelle Thomson, 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

BLC Book Club picks for 2022

Join Zoom Meeting:


<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81863339161?pwd=amE0L1A3K1ovVEpiQ0dxbGZsTzBaQT09>

Meeting ID: 818 6333 9161


Passcode: 495762

Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 495762#

 **Tuesday February 1-** *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson


Originally published in 1951 Carson's book provides a timely reminder of both the fragility and the centrality of the ocean and the life that abounds within it. Anyone who loves the sea, or who is concerned about our natural environment, will want to read this classic work.

 **Tuesday March 1-** *The Power of Giving: How Giving Back Enriches Us All* 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!

Scout Sunday

February 6th is Scout Sunday. On Scout Sunday, we celebrate the 112th anniversary of Boy Scouts in the United States.

The mission of the Scouts BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting starts at age 5, or Kindergarten, boys and girls can join as Cub Scouts, and at age 11, become Scouts and at 14, can become Venturers. With an emphasis on the outdoors, they learn life skills, duty to God, leadership, teamwork, and service to others.

This year we recognize and celebrate Alexis Kracht as she receives her God & Me Award. Congratulations Alexis!





February

- 1 Karen Gundy
- 2 Kayla Steindorf
- 3 Hunter Jacobson
- 5 Terry Newkirk
- 6 Samuel Bertoli
- 8 Helen Osborne, Kristina Pettersen
- 9 Michael Knudtson
- 10 Lauren McCullough
- 12 Cara Green, George & Carolyn Schweizer (17)
- 13 Doug Campbell, Elaine Adams
- 14 Aloha Corning, Gale Muehlbauer
- 15 George & Mary Carson (36),
Liz Ferrari
- 16 Riley Winn
- 17 Phyllis Hoover
- 20 Annette Daniele
- 23 Ryan Winn
- 24 Megan Steindorf, Carrie Winn
- 25 Jeff Perry
- 26 Nancy Trbovich
- 27 Claire-Marie Krug

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!

Prayer Chain

Praying for each other is a powerful gift from our Lord. Anyone who is in need of prayers should be comfortable asking for others to pray for him/her. We are a loving congregation and often pray for others without being asked, just knowing that prayer is a loving way to support each other.

BLC's Prayer Chain is an ongoing way for members to request prayers from the Prayer Chain participants. The request should be made to the Church Office as are prayer requests for public prayers during Sunday Worship services.

The Prayer Chain keeps prayer requests private and only those on the chain receive notices of those requests. The office secretary or Pastor Tyler will notify the chain members of the request.

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

Adult Forum on Zoom

Due to Covid precautions, adult forum has moved to Zoom. Join Pastor Tyler for adult education hour. Be sure to save the link in your favorites as it will be used until Adult Forum is able to meet in-person.

Time: Sundays 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87006163327?pwd=TzFiYUUhNZlQwVFFrVkJNudE1VYUVWZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 0616 3327

Passcode: 1300

Using a telephone?

Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 1300#

Praise Band Sunday, February 13th

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 Praise Band Sunday, February 13th.

Upcomming Sunday's:

- March 6th
- April 3rd

You are invited to join us at Bethlehem Lutheran for **The Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation** on Sunday, February 27, from 1pm-2:30pm on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88929065041?pwd=N05NVEJPRVpqSTBHVHFBdlQ3RnZ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 889 2906 5041

Passcode: 957870

What is the racial wealth gap? Why is wealth more concentrated in one racial group than another in the U.S.? Participate in the **Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation**, and you may be surprised by what you learn. In this interactive simulation, participants learn how federal policies created structural inequalities—property ownership and education are just two among many areas affected—and how these policies increased hunger and poverty in communities of color. The simulation guides participants to an understanding of why racial equity is so important to ending hunger and poverty in the United States.

We are excited that David Gist, Regional organizer for Bread for the World, will be the facilitator for this impactful workshop. Our hope is that participants, in becoming aware of structural inequity, can support policies that undo and/or reduce disparities. We will be given an opportunity to send emails to CA Assembly members/Senators on relevant bills addressing hunger and race.

More information on the simulation is available at

<https://www.bread.org/library/racial-wealth-gap-learning-simulation>

Blessings and we hope to see you (on Zoom) on February 27,

Linda Knapp (knapping@sbcglobal.net)

Witness and Service Commissioner

In February it's Baby Shower at Bethlehem

Help us fill the crib in the Narthex with items for babies aged 0 to 24 months. Most needed are diapers, onsie undershirts, sleeper outfits, receiving blankets, socks, as well as baby formula, bottles, baby lotion and shampoos.

Your donations will go to SoCo Public Home & Visiting Service and to Santa Rosa Birth Center. Cash is also welcomed.

The WELCA board thanks you for your generosity.



A word from Martin

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”
-Martin Luther



We pray for our 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

Online shopping benefits BLC

Many of you are shopping for Valentine's Day gifts 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.



Souper Bowl Sunday

The Souper Bowl is coming to Bethlehem! Join Youth from ELCA congregations across the country for the annual Souper Bowl of caring. Show your team spirit by making a donation on **Sunday, February 13th**. Soup pots will be available before and after worship service. Simply put your donation in your favorite team's pot. Every team wins in this Souper bowl game! Donations will be divided between the Redwood Empire Food Bank and the BLC Love fund. If you are joining on Zoom that Sunday you can mail a check to the church office. Thank you for showing your team spirit on Souper Bowl Sunday!



2021 Giving Statements

Susan Jenkins our Financial Secretary has prepared the Giving Statements for 2021, just in time to prepare your taxes.

Statements will be available starting Sunday, February 6.

If you would like your giving statement mailed to you, please contact Michelle in the Office.

Thank You!

Office Hours

The Church office will be open **Monday-Wednesday from 9-2:30pm**. Appointments can also be made by contacting the office.

I will continue working Thursday and Friday answering calls and emails, but will be working primarily from home.



Thank you!

Michellle Frabotta
Parish Administrator

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast, March 1, 8:30AM

EATING IN or EATING OUT?

March 1st is Shrove Tuesday (aka Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras or Pancake Day), the day before Ash Wednesday. "It's the big hurrah before Christians start Lent, a season of prayer, penance and fasting in preparation for the Easter season".

It's a tradition at Bethlehem that one of the women's circles invites the congregation to a Pancake Breakfast on Shrove Tuesday morning. Plans this year are being made by Rebekah Circle, although it is not for sure, at this point, that we will, due to the Omicron variant, be able to gather in the Parish Hall. We can always fall back to having our pancake breakfast via Zoom, as we did a year ago.

But as for now, our plans are to start at 8:30AM serving you a hearty breakfast of pancakes, ham and fruit salad, coffee and tea. There will be a Lenten Quiz. A speaker has been secured. He is Dennis Agnos, Chief Development Officer of SAY (Social Advocates for Youth). Donations to SAY will be collected during the breakfast.

We will start taking reservations February 13th - \$5.00 per adult/ \$3.00 per child.

Be sure to mark your calendar March 1, 8:30AM or will it be Breakfast at 7PM via Zoom? In any case, the Rebekah Circle women will be welcoming you - with a smile!

For Rebekah Circle,

Siri Fenson

You are mine

From *Christ in Our Home* (February 2022)

God is their refuge in the time of trouble. (Psalm 37:39)

It is hard when things don't make sense. We like to understand not only how things happen but why. Why do bad things happen? Why is good not always rewarded? Why do the wicked sometimes win? We look for cause and effect. We like to connect the dots. We seek answers.

God's people of old did the same thing. they wondered why sometimes it seemed like evil prospered while goodness suffered. They sought direction for how to survive in the face of injustice. Psalm 37 is a pastoral response to such concerns. It provides insight for living in a world that sometimes seems upside down. It is a reminder to trust in who God is and what God promises.

When we face our own confounding experiences or suffer injustice, this psalm reminds us to look to God. The psalmist proclaims God's power to overcome the evil that appears to be winning. God is the author of salvation. God will help. God is our refuge in every trouble.

**God of promise, be my refuge today and always. In the name of Jesus.
Amen.**

Prayer Concern: Those without homes or a living wage.

Thy Will Be Done

When others have some cross to bear

In which I do not have to share

'Tis easy then to say this prayer-

"Thy will be done."

It's when God sends some trial my way-

My heart is touched; I try to pray

'Tis then so very hard to say

"Thy will be done."

O, help me always Father dear,

And by my side be ever near

Teach me to pray without a tear,

"Thy will be done."

-Lillian E. Frank

Phyllis Hoover's Mother, circa 1935

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

Beverly Schaap

December 2021

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$46,728	\$25,300	\$21,428
Expenses	\$33,263	\$28,024	\$5,239
Net	\$13,465	-\$2,724	\$16,189

YTD 2021

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$283,038	\$259,100	\$23,938
Expenses	\$301,331	\$327,629	-\$26,298
Net	-\$18,293	-\$68,529	\$50,236

Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,216 per week
December \$11,682



DONATE **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
Monday-Wednesday 9-2:30PM
or on Sunday Mornings.
~Thank you!~

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.

The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is February 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.