

# The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 71, Issue 7/8

July/August 2021

## From Pastor Diane

Dear Bethlehem Community,

This past Sunday, June 27, was my first time (your second) worshipping in the sanctuary since the pandemic began! What a joy it was to be there, to hear the organ and the choir, and for you, I think, to sit in familiar places, and see each other without masks. We sang loudly. Some felt comfortable enough to embrace. I was grateful to those of you who went ahead and told me your names, even if we had “met” before online. We look forward to hearing our Praise Band indoors soon.

This is a really interesting time in the life of the congregation, and in yours and mine personally. The pandemic has changed and defined our lives for more than a year and a half, and although it was and is a terrible, world-wide, on-going tragedy, nonetheless we got pretty good at dealing with it in our little corner of the world. Zoom church on Sunday morning sitting in the living room with a cup of coffee did have its merits! However, now we are returning to “normal,” and we should not miss the opportunity it represents.

Because everything was disrupted and different for so long, we don't actually have to go back to how it was. I mean this regarding the Sunday service, other churchly events, and your and my individual lives. For example, this past Sunday, sitting inside, I loved the organ and the beauty and not having to set up all the chairs, but found that I missed the fresh air, sun, and casual nature of the outdoor service. What can we learn from that? What is it like for you? What did you experience during the pandemic that you'd like to keep doing as we emerge?

Two things are obvious. People are going to work from home more than before the pandemic, and more meetings and family gatherings, etc., will take place on Zoom. Here's one that's less obvious. During the pandemic our relationships were really limited. Some people found it refreshing to not have to try to maintain a whole network of casual friendships, and going forward, will prefer to focus on deepening just a few relationships. Others really missed having lots and lots of interpersonal contact, whether casual or deep, and want to have that again. What about a mix of the two? What will you do?

If all goes well, BLC will have a new pastor soon. Obviously, I am not involved and cannot comment on any of it, and leave the process entirely in the good hands of the call committee and council. It's been a couple of years since you had a regular, long term pastor, right? You must be feeling relief (also excitement), thinking, “Thank goodness. Now we can go back to normal.” Well, yes and no.

Yes, in broad strokes. A full-time, regularly called, long-term pastor is your normal, and you'll have that. The new pastor will preach and teach

*Continued on page 2*

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

## July 4th BBQ Picnic

The Fourth of July weekend at Bethlehem Lutheran is celebrated with a festive (and patriotic) outdoor worship service followed by a church picnic/barbecue.

Bethlehem's Praise Band will lead worship with guitars and keyboard, celebrating faith and nation. The service will begin with a pre-worship sing-a-long at 9:45 a.m., warming up for the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Following worship the Bethlehem Barbecue Team will be serving up hamburgers and hotdogs to go along with the potluck side dishes and desserts brought by Bethlehem members.

Summer casual is the dress code for the day. Outdoor worship will include Holy Communion, but will be a shorter service than Bethlehem's regular “indoor” liturgy.

This summer's July 4th event will take place on Bethlehem's Memorial Patio area at the top of the church parking lot.

All are invited. All are welcome!



## Pastor

*Continued from page 1*

and minister among you as any pastor would. But your new pastor is not a reincarnation of your beloved retired pastor. It is simply not possible. Humans are not the same. Your new pastor will be themselves, with their unique gifts and humor and yes, the occasional challenge. It will be wonderful! Embrace the new pastor and all that they are. Allow “normal” to be shaped by the best of what your new pastor brings.

Bethlehem, you are such a lovely congregation. You really are. You are a gathering of beautiful, loving, caring people, and you are more than that. As a group you exhibit maturity. You work well and play well together. You care for others and engage in many ministries that impact people outside your doors. There are many ministries, but let me lift up the Rwamagana Leaders’ School in Rwanda. Think of the young lives that are shaped and the leaders developed there who will lead Rwanda into a better future. Your ministry is local, and also international, and long-lasting.

You have amazing, committed, extremely capable leaders. More than once I have seen your leaders navigate tricky conversations with sensitivity and respect for each other and come to satisfactory conclusions. Let me tell you that that is a true gift. You are blessed. This is a good time to thank the the members of the Call Committee for their excellent and faithful work: Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Chair, Elizabeth Goodson, Phyllis Hoover, Michael Knudson, and Alan Petty.

This issue of the Star is for July and August, and I want to send you off on a high note for the summer. You are emerging into a good place. Take the opportunity to make positive changes rather than settling immediately into the old “normal.” God is guiding you, and later this summer you’ll meet your pastoral candidate and vote on whether to call that person. I hope you are praying every single day for that candidate, and this process, as I am! Let God’s voice be heard. You are a wonderful community with good news to share. May God continue to bless you and your ministry and multiply its impact, and may we all remain faithful.

Happy Summer!

*-Pastor Diane*

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Children’s Center

1300 St. Francis Road, Santa Rosa, California 95409

Sunday indoor worship : 10:00 a.m.

Church Office: 707/539-5252, Hours: 9-3, W & F

Church Website: [www.blc-bcc.com](http://www.blc-bcc.com)

Church Email: [blc@sonic.net](mailto:blc@sonic.net)

Zoom Meeting ID: 889 9423 0337

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa](https://www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa)

Password: church

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA1g8W7SFMET386SfZBdwZQ>

#### Bridge Pastor:

Reverend Diane Bowers, Ph.D.

510-816-5765 (Pastor’s cell)

Email: [Revdrdiane@yahoo.com](mailto:Revdrdiane@yahoo.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

Beverly Schaap, Treasurer

Susan Jenkins, Financial Secretary

#### Staff:

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



We pray for loved ones and friends who are ill, recovering or homebound especially:

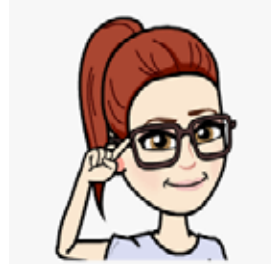
*Arend Folkens, Marion Heiken, Gloria Hamilton, Clarissa Tuor, Judy Warner, Ruby Malde, Helen Osborne, Richard Doran, Adele Mortensen, Tom Ziegler, Sharon Boschen, Don Hux, Janet Wolf, Brianne Konanz, Sue Bernard, Linda Wilkening, Steve Sturgeon, Donald Schaap, Wyatt Hughes Graham, Martin Curtis, Elaine Gutsch, JoAnn Lockhard, Darci Raphael, Jesse Halderman, Michelle Frabotta and Lorie Moser.*

## Hearing Aids and Eyeglasses Needed

Hello. A request (or reminder!) to bring eyeglasses, contact lenses, or hearing aids no longer in use to BLC. Donations go to the Lions Club and Kenwood Hearing Centers. A basket for drop-off is currently located in the BLC kitchen. The church is open on Wednesday and Fridays from 9 AM – 3 PM or drop them off at Sunday service. I check the basket from time to time and will deliver items to Exchange Bank or Kenwood Hearing Centers.

Thank You,

Liz Ferrari - *Stewardship Secretary, WELCA*



## BLC Women's BIBLE STUDY Circles

Starting in August, and continuing through October, Shirley Jensen will take on the role of circle "coordinator". Liz Ferrari follows by coordinating the November, December and January '22 meetings. Ruth Circle meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10AM. Thanks to Elaine Adams for having served in this capacity for the past four months.



Miriam Circle takes time off in July and August, with start-up again on September 21st at 7PM (This circle meets monthly on the third Tuesdays).

Rebekah Circle plans to continue meeting at 10AM through the summer ... July 8 and August 12 (and every 2nd Thursday thereafter ... in the Parish Hall and also via zoom).

-Siri Fenson for the BLC Women of the ELCA

## 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 can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it easier to return and shop.



## Second Mile Sunday

On **July 11**, Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Sierra Pacific Synod will focus on supporting The Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP). This is a ministry of public policy education and advocacy on matters of hunger and economic justice, the health and integrity of God's creation, and human rights and human dignity. It serves the California expressions of the ELCA as they seek to express God's love and care for our neighbors – especially the “least of these” – who experience poverty, deprivation, and discrimination. Priorities for LOPP are determined by a Policy Council appointed by the ELCA bishops in California. Issue areas and specific positions on public policy choices must be within the framework and direction of ELCA social statements, including *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*; *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*; *Caring for Health – Our Shared Endeavor*; *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*; *Our Calling in Education*; *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*; and *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*. Guidance is also provided by ELCA social messages and policy resolutions, and synod assembly actions. Priority issue areas have included poverty and the state budget, policies affecting children or immigrants, health care, fair and adequate taxation, and energy policy/climate change. Since “direct democracy” is a declining feature of public life in California, the LOPP Policy Council also makes recommendations on selected ballot propositions where issues of poverty, human rights, and care for creation are at stake.



# July

- 2 Brian Bertoli
- 3 Bonnie Barnes
- 4 Rod and Karen Gundy (50)
- 5 Craig Clissold
- 6 Denise and Terry Newkirk (32), Megan & Jason Kelly (14)
- 7 Sue McCullough
- 8 Mason Cole-Schweizer
- 9 Lisa and Mark McIntyre (37)
- 10 Bob Beck
- 11 Cara McIntyre
- 12 Shirley Jensen
- 13 Susan Comstock
- 16 Danielle Sass
- 17 Dorothea Misasi
- 18 Elizabeth Sanders, Bob and Judiann O'Connell (62)
- 19 Rick Knapp, Dan and Michelle Thomson (35)
- 20 Laura and Greg Apostle (30)
- 22 Jeff Burton, Lynne and Gary Schouest (43), Carl & Gail Bowers (32)
- 23 Charla Paine
- 25 Bob O'Connell, Judy Flowers, Christiane Silverthorne
- 26 Sara & Yasha Mokaram (67), Dave and Rose Smith (18)
- 27 Connie VanPelt, Wes and Christiane Silverthorne (53), Charla & John Paine (47), Michelle & Marc Frabotta (15)
- 28 Daniel Virtue, Nancy and William Trbovich (31)
- 30 Dean Thompson
- 31 Justin Wong

## August 8<sup>th</sup> Second Mile Sunday

### Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy in Nevada - LEAN

#### \*ADVOCACY MISSION\*

- Work for tax and fiscal policies that reflect our Christian values while making wise provision for a growing population, including the disadvantaged.
- Work to achieve affordable housing for all.
- Work to eradicate hunger and poverty in Nevada and throughout the world.
- Advocate for wage levels that enable all persons to adequately support self and family.
- Work toward a criminal justice system that is just and prepares offenders to re- enter society successfully.

LEAN gets some financial support from the Grand Canyon Synod Episcopal Diocese of Nevada and ELCA & Episcopal churchwide.

Gifts to LEAN in the Second Mile campaign during August will strengthen this ministry and continue working for a more just society in Nevada that reflects our shared values. Donation checks should be noted "LEAN Second Mile" and reported through your local church to the Sierra Pacific Synod.

LEAN and its ecumenical partner, Religious Alliance in Nevada (RAIN) look forward to continued visibility and success in the 2016 Nevada Legislature.

LEAN is guided by a Policy Council that meets to prioritize issues for advocacy activity. Policy Council members represent the Sierra Pacific and Grand Canyon Synods, and Episcopal diocese in Nevada. LEAN is accountable to the ELCA and the Synods for its advocacy work.

[www.leanforjustice.org](http://www.leanforjustice.org)



**Coffee Hour Hosts.** Hosts can make coffee in the big urn or pick up coffee from Starbucks/Peets (you don't have to pay for this). All paper items provided. Hosts provide a little something to nosh on (packaged cookies are totally okay), plus set up and clean up. Sign up on Sundays, or call the Church office.

**Zoom Worship 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!

## From the WELCA Board

A sincere thank you for your supporting WELCA's effort to help two local non-profit organizations: The Living Room and Habitat for Humanity, Sonoma County. Your donations on Mother's Day to The Living Room amounted to \$825. The result of your donations on Father's Day to Habitat for Humanity has not yet been confirmed.

On June 30, close to 30 women gathered for Bible Study, led by Pastor Diane. After lunch, an interactive mini retreat, "A Prayer Mosaic", planned by Lisa McIntyre, Secretary of Education, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Upcoming in November is the WELCA-sponsored Thankoffering, being organized by Liz Ferrari, our Secretary of Stewardship.

Thinking ahead, with joy, is the December Christmas luncheon, to be organized by Ruth Circle, and the February 2022 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast, to be planned by Rebekah Circle.

We are thinking ahead, indeed!

Siri Fenson,

*President, Bethlehem's WELCA*

## Summer Office Hours

The Bethlehem office will be closed on July 5 and 6 in observance of the holiday and for a summer camping trip. I will also be on vacation from August 8-11.

Due to my vacation, the office will be open Wednesday, August 11 from 9-12pm.

Please contact Pastor Diane with any essential business (510) 816-5765 or by email [revdrdiane@yahoo.com](mailto:revdrdiane@yahoo.com). Normal office hours for July and August will be 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or anytime by phone, 539-5252, email - [blc@sonic.net](mailto:blc@sonic.net) or on our website [blc-bcc.com](http://blc-bcc.com).

~Michelle Frabotta, *Parish Administrator*



## Bethlehem Believers Schedule

~~May 17 - 7:15 p.m. Bethlehem vs. Calvary RP~~  
~~May 24 - 7:15 p.m. Hessel vs. Bethlehem~~  
~~June 7 - 7:15 p.m. Spring Hills vs. Bethlehem~~  
~~June 14 - 6:10 p.m. Bridge vs. Bethlehem~~  
~~June 21 - 6:10 p.m. Gateway vs. Bethlehem\*~~  
~~June 21 - 7:15 p.m. Bethlehem vs. The Rock~~  
~~June 28 - 6:10 p.m. The Rock vs. Bethlehem\*~~  
~~June 28 - 7:10 p.m. Calvary RP vs. Bethlehem~~  
 July 19 - 7:15 p.m. **Bethlehem** vs. Spring Hills  
 July 26 - 7:15 p.m. Hessel vs. **Bethlehem**  
 Aug 2 - 7:15 p.m. **Bethlehem** vs. Gateway  
 Aug 9 - 7:15 p.m. Bridge vs. **Bethlehem**  
 Aug 16 - **Playoffs**

\*Double Header

All games played at Santa Rosa Bible Church, 4575 Badger Road, on the northwest or southwest fields.

## "God's Wonder Lab" - VBS 2021

Vacation Bible School was a great success!

Thank you so much for coming and participating in God's Wonder Lab! We had such a great time and enjoyed sharing the good news of Jesus while getting to know and share the Gospel with children from our community. They are truly miracles and we were blessed to spend some time with them. Thank you to our volunteers and group leaders that helped to make our 2021 VBS possible!



## Backpack Project

The Backpack Project is Here!

Bethlehem Lutheran will highlight the importance of education, right here in Santa Rosa. We will provide school supplies to support Redwood Gospel's Backpack Giveaway which takes place in early August to support families who could use some extra help with providing supplies for their children. We thank our VBS kids and families for getting us off to a good start by raising over \$300!

By July 18, please check out the display in the narthex which has lists of school items needed. Or feel free to make a cash contribution in the container provided which we will use to purchase school sale items in the weeks ahead. Thanks for your help in supporting families in our community.



# August

- 1 Kathy Hannon
- 3 Jo Treagus, Richard Doran, Linda Smith
- 5 Barry and Jennifer Wong (21)
- 6 Luke & Rachel Anderson (10)
- 9 Avery Apostle, Pastor Brian and Laurie Claasen (46)
- 10 Michelle Frabotta
- 11 Janet Krug
- 16 Jesse and Candy Claasen (13)
- 17 Victoria Thomson
- 19 Jonathan Walls, Connie Lorenz, Donette Mack, Richard and Ramona Doran (54), Dean and Christen Thompson (26)
- 20 Susan Jenkins, Matthew Barnekow
- 21 Katy Jenkins, John & Tracy Huotari (39)
- 22 Kara Kracht, Jason & Kara Kracht (13)
- 23 Brianna Perry, Cal Eriksen
- 24 Jared Bertoli
- 25 Eva Mikalson
- 26 George and Melissa Kuhn (32)
- 27 Jenna Stein, Rose Smith, Lynn Schouest
- 29 Annie Jenkins, Helen Jane Rommereim
- 30 Melissa Preston, Jeff & Vicki Thomson (62)





COME FLY AWAY TO SUMMER STOCK 2021

# PETER PAN

BASED ON SIR J.M.  
BARRIE'S CLASSIC TALE

# JR.



**KICKOFF PARTY:** 6:30-8:00pm June 29

**CLASSES:** 6:30-8:00pm  
July 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30

**DRESS REHEARSAL:** 9:00am-11:00am  
July 31

**PERFORMANCE:** 4:30pm July 31  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1300 St. Francis Road



**INSTRUCTORS:** Janet Bertoli, Jen Brown,  
Laura Lightfoot



# Book Club Picks for 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 818 6333 9161

Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 495762

Passcode: 495762#

All meetings at 7pm.

Tuesday, July 6- *The Boy Under the Table* by Nicole Trope

This is a stark look at the underbelly of society – at what can and unfortunately does happen. Told in the voices of Tina, Sarah, Doug and local policeman Pete, this story is a poignant look at how a small amount of hope can be all that keeps a person from snapping, never to be the same again.

Tuesday, August 3- *The Guardians* by John Grisham

“Grisham again delivers a suspenseful thriller mixed with powerful themes such as false incarceration, the death penalty and how the legal system shows prejudice. The Guardian team of characters is first-rate.” – Associated Press

Tuesday September 7- *Oregon Trail* by Rinker Buck

This is an epic account of traveling the entire 2,000-mile length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way, in a covered wagon with a team of mules - which hasn't been done in a century - that also tells the rich history of the trail, the people who made the migration, and its significance to the country.

## Treasurer's Report

Beverly Schaap

### May 2021

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$18,786	\$25,300	-\$6,514
Expenses	\$18,080	\$30,699	-\$12,619
Net	\$706	-\$5,399	\$6,105

### YTD 2021

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$110,082	\$112,500	-\$2,418
Expenses	\$112,449	\$140,853	-\$28,404
Net	-\$2,367	-\$28,353	\$25,986

Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,216 per week  
 May \$4,697

## Christ in Our Home

The July-August-September edition of Christ in Our Home is now available. Please send an email or contact the Church office for a copy to be mailed to your home. Please specify if you would like a large print edition.

These daily devotionals are another great way to worship at home and connect with scripture daily. Get your copy now.



The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is August 20, 2021

Please submit information and story ideas to the church office or email [blc@sonic.net](mailto: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.