

The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 72, Issue 6

June 2022

From Pastor Tyler

“I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:3-4

Thank you!

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped make our installation worship service and reception so joyous!

Thank you to Bishop Megan Rohrer of our Sierra Pacific Synod for presiding at our service, to Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson for preaching from the other side of the world while feeling under the weather, to our music staff and choirs who performed so beautifully, to all those who helped prepare our sanctuary, to all those who helped planned and hosted our reception after the service, and to all who were able to attend this special service. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this installation service so special!

It is a blessing to be your pastor and I am so glad we finally got to celebrate our partnership in ministry together as Bethlehem Lutheran Church! My prayer continues to be that our partnership in ministry will be a blessing to you, our church, and our community.

As the summer approaches and things slow down ever-so-slightly here at church, I am looking forward to the opportunity to get to know our members better. If you are so inclined and willing, Abigail and I would love your invitation to dinner or the opportunity to sit down for coffee. Part of what makes Bethlehem so special is it's people and both Abigail and I are looking forward to continue getting to know you all!

Safe travels this summer!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tyler W. Jensen

The Star is going paperless!

To save on paper and postage, *The Bethlehem Star* is going paperless. *The Star* will be published each month and sent out online and posted on our website for folks to get all information on events and happenings here at BLC. The online publication will be in color and have in-document links to easily access information.

To continue receiving a paper copy of *The Star*, please contact the office by **Sunday, June 26** and we will be happy to continue your paper subscription. Thank you for helping us conserve.

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

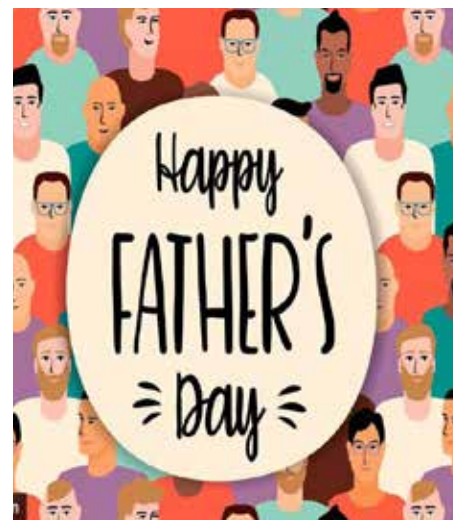
BLC Book Club pick for June 7th

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 7:00pm on Zoom.



Sunday, June 19



VBS

June 13-17

6:30-8:30pm

Congratulations, Graduates

We are so proud of you and send our best wishes for your future success! Please join us on Sunday, May 29 for our 10:00 am service and a special coffee hour in your honor. We will present a L.U.T.H.E.R. scholarship to high school graduate **Lucas Marlur**, who has successfully completed the application process. We will present the Lutheran Education Scholarship to **Jackson Petty** who attends California Lutheran University, and also completed the application process. Endowment Scholarships will also be awarded to **Jackson Petty** and **Mason Cole-Schweizer**. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments and pray for God's blessings on you always. ~Education Commission and the Endowment Committee



Second Mile Sunday

On June 12, 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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Children's Center
1300 St. Francis Road, Santa Rosa, California 95409
Sunday Summer Worship : 10:00 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/UCA1g8W7SFMET386SfZBdwZQ>

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
Position Available, 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



Bethlehem WELCA Women's Retreat

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022
Place: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Time: 9:30-2:30pm
Bring: A sack lunch! morning coffee time, drinks and dessert provided for lunch.
Cost: None!

Speaker: Pastor Diane Bowers is coming to lead us!!

The theme is "Show Him your hands, He'll know you belong to him"

There will be a poster and sign-up sheet in the narthex

Please join us



Bethlehem Believers Game Schedule

May 16 - 6:10 p.m.	The Rock vs. Bethlehem NW
May 23 - 6:10 p.m.	Bethlehem vs. Spring Hills SW
June 6 - 7:10 p.m.	Bridge vs. Bethlehem SW
June 13 - 6:10 p.m.	Bethlehem vs. Victory Outreach NW
June 20 - 6:10 p.m.	Bethlehem vs. Calvary RP NW
June 27 - 7:10 p.m.	Bethlehem vs. Hessel NW
July 11 - 7:10 p.m.	Bethlehem vs. Gateway NW
July 18 - 6:10 p.m.	The Rock vs. Bethlehem SW
July 25 - 6:10 p.m.	Bridge vs. Bethlehem NW
Aug 1 - 6:10 p.m.	Victory Outreach vs. Bethlehem NW
Aug 8 - 6:10 p.m.	Spring Hills vs. Bethlehem NW
Aug 15 - Playoffs	TBD

All games are held at Santa Rosa Bible Church 4575 Badger Rd.



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, Donna Rudningen, Pam Pegly, Michael Ferri, Sharon Boschen & the Family of Arend Folkens.

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.

A word from Martin

"Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart."



-Martin Luther



JUNE

- 1 Josh Bertoli, Alan & Joy Petty (30)
- 3 Seth Bowers
- 4 Jason Kracht, Linda Wilkening
- 5 Pr. Brian Claasen, Jim & Kay Fish (56)
- 6 Katrina Kuhn, Janet Bergman
- 7 Tony & Elizabeth Miller (24)
- 8 Alan Schroeder
- 9 Judiann O'Connell, Clint Stevenson,
Astrid Haugaard, Gary & Jenna Stein (42)
- 12 Anita Anderson, Bill Stirnus
- 13 Nancy Marvits, Michele Doss,
Alexander Fountain,
Mary Beth & John Wells (40)
- 14 Ross Winn, Steve & Joyce Mortensen-
Child (35)
- 15 Alexis Kracht
- 16 Gale & Robert Muehlbauer (37)
- 17 Gloria Hamilton
- 18 Jenna Tiedeman
- 20 John LaRussa, Janet & Brian Bertoli (34)
- 21 Katrina Anderson, Tom Torgerson, Jr.
- 22 Heidi & Justin Wood (8)
- 23 Daniel Abel, Matthew Younger, Bill &
Leslie Stirnus (48)
- 24 Alice Richardson
- 25 Joy Petty, Else Rodrigues
- 26 Jackson Petty, John & Tricia Karriker
(16)
- 27 Duane & Shirley Jensen (62)
- 28 Alan Wall, Alan & Mary Schroeder (63)
- 29 Kaiden Kelly, Karl & Linda Smith (59),
Craig & Sarah Fountain (19)
- 30 Sara Mokaram, Carrie Winn

Season of Pentecost

The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word meaning "fiftieth." Originally, the name Pentecost referred to a Jewish harvest festival known as the Festival of Weeks. This festival was also called Pentecost because it took place seven full weeks or fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits. However, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of fire above the heads of Jesus' Apostles and gave them the ability to speak in tongues, which is foreign languages they never knew before. Afterward, the Apostles preached to the Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost about how Jesus was their savior. On that day, 3,000 people came to faith in Jesus and the Christian church was born. Today, the Christian Church celebrates this special event 50 days after Jesus' resurrection on the Day of Pentecost.

The color of the paraments in church for this day is red to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit working in people's hearts.

The season of Pentecost is the longest season in the Christian Church year. It begins the Monday following the Day of Pentecost and lasts until the season of Advent begins. It lasts anywhere between 22 and 27 weeks, depending on when Easter takes place. We do not know when the season of Pentecost began. Christians have been celebrating the Day of Pentecost prior to the second century. It is believed they began celebrating the season of Pentecost around the second to third century.

During the season of Pentecost, the Christian Church focuses on the teachings of Jesus.

Choose your name

From *Christ in Our Home*
(June 2022)

Let us make a name for ourselves.
(Genesis 11:4)

As commencement speeches get made at this time of the year, graduating students often hear, "You can be anything you want to be." Speakers wish to inspire young minds that their only limitations are the ones they place on themselves. "Go make a name for yourself," grads hear.

"Making a name for yourself" likely means taking on names given or earned, but that may not be truly *you*. Names such as teacher, CEO, EMT, supervisor, mechanic, retailer, Rotarian, parent - they only tell part of the story of who you are, never the whole story. We can make a name for ourselves by taking on many names while ultimately remaining confused about who we really are.

May I suggest that the best name to be known by is one we do not make for ourselves, but one that is given in the waters of baptism - child of God. When we see and believe ourselves to be known, claimed, loved, forgiven, and blessed by God, we truly know who we are and whose we are.

Holy God, regardless of how we are named, help us know we are your children. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Prayer Concern: Those graduating this spring

Tools to Build Lives - Support Habitat!

Father's Day will be here soon, a time to especially remember and thank God for good men in our lives.

Gifts for Dad can be difficult to come up with, but honoring our fathers is always appropriate.

You are invited to honor the man in your life by giving a monetary gift to **Habitat for Humanity** in his name.

You will find a table in the narthex for your gift to Habitat and a card to give your Dad to let him know what you have done.

Please make your check payable to BLC with Habitat for Humanity on the memo line.

~Phyllis Hoover, *WELCA Vice President*



Welcome to our new members!

On the Feast Of Pentecost, June 5th, Bethlehem Lutheran will celebrate and welcome 4 new families into our congregation. Some of our "new" members joined during the pandemic and we are celebrating their entry into the Bethlehem community this Pentecost.

Here is a photo and a little bit of information about our new families. Be sure to greet them and introduce yourself!



Bill MacBlane

Joined June 2022

I'm Bill MacBlane and thrilled to be here in Santa Rosa and to have found such a welcoming church home in Bethlehem Lutheran. Though I wasn't raised Lutheran (lapsed Presbyterian), I've been in the fold since the '90s and part of an ELCA congregation in Alexandria, VA until recently.

I grew up in western Pennsylvania, went to Penn State, and for nearly all of my career worked in and around Washington, DC; my family is mostly in/northern New Jersey and NYC. Retirement seemed a ripe time to really change things up, so after a lifetime on the east coast, I'm here, 2 rescue beagles in tow (Gracie, left; Lucy, right), and, despite the cross-country drive, we're all settling in well. I'm a regular at the downtown YMCA and seem to have settled into a Tuesday afternoon gig bagging produce at the Redwood Empire Food Bank's warehouse. Being brand new to California, I'm always open to driving directions (often!), suggestions on getting to know Sonoma County better, and everything else I probably haven't yet thought to ask.



Continued on page 6

Herbert & Phyllis Anderson

Joined October 2021

Phyllis grew up in San Francisco and Herbert grew up in the Midwest. They were married on Twin Peaks in San Francisco 57 years ago while Herbert was pastor of Advent Lutheran Church outside of Sacramento. In 1966, they left for the East coast where Herbert studied for a Ph.D. in pastoral theology. During the six years that he taught at Princeton Theological Seminary, Phyllis began her theological study. She completed her M.Div. at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and earned a Ph.D. in historical theology at Aquinas Institute while being a pastor of three small rural parishes outside Dubuque.

Chicago was the next stop. Phyllis was the first Director of Theological Education of the ELCA and Herbert taught pastoral care for 15 years at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Before beginning her ministry as President of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley in the spring of 2005, Phyllis and Herbert lived and worked in Seattle, Washington and New Haven, Connecticut. During the Berkeley years, Herbert cooked dinners for donors and taught courses in pastoral care while Phyllis worked to keep the seminary solvent. They moved to Sonoma in January, 2014 when Phyllis retired.

The Andersons have a son who teaches philosophy in the Netherlands and a daughter who is the founder and President of a 'think tank' called Criterion Institute. They have two grandchildren in the Netherlands in University studies and a granddaughter who is in her second year at Yale Divinity School as a candidate for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Phyllis works part time for her daughter and Herbert has continued to be involved with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. We love our home in Sonoma. In addition to volunteer work, we have many interests that fill our days: entertaining friends, music concerts, gardening and canning, games of Rummikub or Mexican Train, jigsaw puzzles, reading and occasionally binging on a Netflix series. We are grateful for an abundant life.



Cheryl Malseed

Joined February 2022

Hi. I'm Cheryl Olson Malseed and have recently joined BLC. I moved to Santa Rosa this summer to be closer to my daughter who lives in Willits. A little about me - I was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and moved to Thousand Oaks in 1962. I attended California Lutheran College; post graduate studies were at Children's Hospital of LA School of PT. After graduating I married and lived many places. I moved back to be near my parents. I have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. I am retired and spend time gardening, reading, hiking and making traveling plans.

Continued on page 8



Much Appreciated!

The Bethlehem Weekly Weeders had practically given up on trying to keep the parking lot 'islands' looking attractive and welcoming. Our last resort was to talk to Cal Eriksen, head of the BLC Property Committee. Cal turned to Peggy and Bob Bimbi, Scout leaders and church members, who were able to find Grant a scout, who was searching to take on a project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

This is how the BLC parking lot islands got a brand-new look. The crepe myrtles will grow quickly, and their red blooms will provide a warm welcome to anyone coming to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and to its Children's Center.

Thank you so much, Grant, and congratulations on being on your way to becoming an Eagle Scout. Our appreciation also goes to scoutmaster David, and the entire BSA Troop 707 which spent two days finishing the project. To Peggy, Bob and Cal who followed Abraham Lincoln's advice to "determine that the thing can and shall be done. Then find the way". Thank you!

-Jan and Barry Gubrud, Linda Widdifield, Elaine and Bob Adams & Siri Fenson



Abigail Jensen

Joined October 2021

Abigail Jensen grew up in Louisville, Kentucky and moved to the East Bay about 10 years ago after graduating from Taylor University. Over the last decade, she has worked as a teacher and non-profit program manager in management consulting, and also started her own business, TopKnot Stitcher Shop, an online shop where she designs and sells cross stitch patterns and supplies. After moving to Santa Rosa last October with Pastor Tyler, Abigail was delighted to find herself embraced by such a wonderful community at Bethlehem and has loved getting to know its members and history.

In her spare time, she can be found eating cookies, cross stitching, playing with her cat Jam, or - her favorite - hanging out with her husband at the bungalow and around Sonoma County.



Treasurer's Report

Joy Petty

April 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$24,383	\$20,834	\$3,549
Expenses	\$32,464	\$29,912	\$2,552
Net	-\$8,081	-\$9,078	\$997

YTD 2022

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$100,422	\$88,385	\$12,037
Expenses	\$115,980	\$116,306	-\$325
Net	-\$15,559	-\$27,921	\$12,362

Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,793 per week
 April \$6,096

Join us for:
"Bringing Hope and Help to Arab Immigrants"
 Saturday,
June 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we explore
"The Salam Mission Team- ELCA World Hunger Project"
 A program to help Arab Immigrants living in the Sacramento Valley thrive. Charbel Zgheib will lead a discussion about how ELCA World Hunger is helping to support Arab refugees and how you can get involved.

Sponsored by the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network

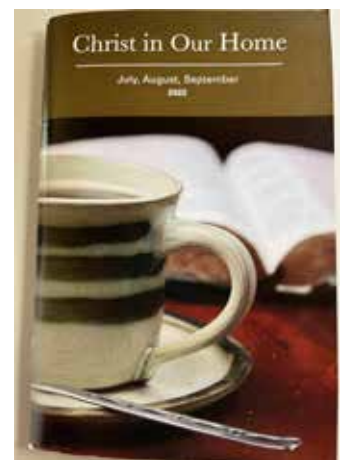
We are a migrant people, saved by one whose first human experience was escaping violence with his mother and father (Matt. 2:13-15).



Everyone's Invited! Register now!
 Email Edie Lott at thelotts@gmail.com with your name, city and congregation to register. You will receive a Zoom Meeting Invitation during the week before the event.

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.



Get your copy now!

The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is June 24, 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 our publication we will be pleased to receive them.

To continue receiving a paper subscription of The Star, contact the office by **Sunday June 26**. Thank you for helping us conserve paper!