

The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 71, Issue 10

October 2021

From Pastor Diane

Dear Bethlehem Community,

It is hard to believe that this is my last Star letter to you! It's sad for me to conclude my ministry among you because I love you, and it has been such a pleasure to serve as your bridge pastor since January of 2021. My last Sunday, almost ten full months later, will be October 24, 2021. This is a happy occasion, though, because Pastor Tyler Jenson is arriving soon to be your new, official, long-term, called pastor. His first day on the job is Monday, October 18. Thanks be to God!

So why don't we talk about clergy spouses for a minute? I think it's probably fair to say that Abigail, soon to be married to Tyler, also must have felt called in some way to accompany Tyler on this adventure.

We are no longer in the days (thank goodness) when a married pastor was a two-for-the-price-of-one deal for the congregation. I'm old enough to remember when the pastor's wife (it was always a wife) was expected to be the church secretary, or to direct the choir, teach Sunday School, or at the very least, head up the women's group. Now we understand that we call the pastor to be the pastor, and their spouse, if they have one, is their own person. They can volunteer with the congregation if they like, but honestly, they don't even have to join the congregation! This is as it should be.

Still, you don't marry a pastor/become a pastor's partner without getting into...something!

My husband Hans and I met on Match.Com. Hans saw my profile, and contacted me, and after some email exchanges, we agreed to meet in a coffee shop in San Francisco. We chatted for a bit about common interests, and then I said, "I have to tell you something. I am a Lutheran pastor." I waited for him to blanch, to recoil, to run for the exits, but he didn't. He blinked, and said, "Oh, cool." That was one of my first clues that we would be a good match!

In every healthy marriage or partnership, the people involved support each other's goals and dreams and commitments. A pastor's spouse has some unique commitments to support, or at least to navigate, on the part of their spouse, including a spouse who works odd hours, evenings, and weekends, who gets up in the middle of the night to respond to emergencies, and who is always thinking about the Sunday sermon! Perhaps most importantly, a pastor's spouse is the pastor's number one emotional supporter, a listener, and one who keeps confidences.

In my last permanent call, Hans was very involved with the congregation. He came early with me on Sundays and set up chairs for coffee hour, and he brought the newspaper to read because I was always the last to leave. He came to church events and even served on council for a while. He did this freely. This was our life B.E., Before Elijah. While I've been with you, Hans has rarely come with me. Coming on Sundays with a toddler from Berkeley to Santa Rosa is just too long a day, so Hans has stayed home with our son. Each response, very different, was and is right for the context. Abigail and Tyler will figure it out too.

When Abigail arrives, welcome her warmly as you would any newcomer to the BLC community. Give her space and time to figure out what she wants her involvement in the community to be, if any. Support her in your prayers and offer her your friendship, without insisting on anything. Trust that Holy Spirit is leading each of you, on your own paths, to something beautiful.

May God bless you and keep you in God's love always.

-Pastor Diane



Greeters. Welcome one and all to Worship on Sunday mornings. No need to handshake in this current climate, but a word of welcome and a smile are needed. This position requires you to attend 1 or 2 Sundays every other month.

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!

Ushers. Be apart of a team and an important volunteer in our Sunday Worship. Help with communion and offering as well as take attendance. Training is definitely provided and we are in desperate need of usher teams.

Readers & Assistants. Volunteer to read the lessons or assist Pastor in Sunday Worship or help with Communion. Readers and assistants volunteer once a month. Training is provided.



Second Mile Sunday

On October 10th, Bethlehem and the Sierra Pacific Synod churches will give our Second Mile offerings to CLU - the college that our congregational member, Jackson Petty is attending!

Founded in 1959, California Lutheran University is home to more than 2,810 undergraduate and 1,316 graduate students who come from more than 61 countries and represent a wide variety of faiths.

Our dedicated, accomplished faculty works with small classes of students who are open-minded—about ideas, about people, and about faith—and are seeking to grow as individuals. Both in the classroom and outside of it, everyone at Cal Lutheran is committed to helping each student pursue their passions to discover their purpose, and follow that purpose to transform their community—and the world.

Please keep CLU 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: 9-3, W & F Church Website: www.blc-bcc.com
Church Email: blc@sonic.net Zoom Meeting ID: 889 9423 0337
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa Password: church
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA1g8W7SFMET386SfZBdwZQ>

Bridge Pastor:	Linda Knapp, Witness & Service
Reverend Diane Bowers, Ph.D.	Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Worship Interim
510-816-5765 (Pastor’s cell)	Michelle Thomson, Youth
Email: Revdrdiane@yahoo.com	Susan Jenkins, BCC Executive Board
Congregational Officers:	Siri Fenson, Bethlehem WELCA President
Jason Kracht, President	Staff:
Janet Bertoli, Vice President	Deborah McNally, BCC Director
Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Secretary	Michelle Frabotta, Parish Administrator
Beverly Schaap, Treasurer	Janet Bertoli, Adult & Youth Choirs
Susan Jenkins, Financial Secretary	Barbara Laferriere, Organist, Adult Choir,
Council Commissioners:	Laura Lightfoot, Youth Choirs
Laura Lightfoot, Education	
Cal Eriksen, Property	
George Schweizer, Stewardship	

Coffee Hour - A Ministry of Hospitality

You know you might be Lutheran if...the church is on fire and you run in to save the coffee pots.

They say that Lutherans recognize three sacraments, not just two: baptism, communion, and coffee hour.

We call it coffee hour, but we could also call it "Coffee and..." because there is coffee and snacks, as well as coffee and friendship, laughter, community, mutual consolation, and a few jokes.

Coffee hour is a ministry of hospitality, and hospitality is kind of the whole gospel in a nutshell. All sorts of people, of many ages, backgrounds, and places in life, gather together, having been fed by God's word and the sacrament, to be fed with the food of earthly life and sustained by the friendship of the body of Christ. All of it is provided freely by their gracious host.

"Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price." (Isaiah 55:1)

After the divine liturgy comes the divine coffee hour.

BLC is in need of hosts for the divine coffee hour, the fellowship of God's people, the food of earthly life and the sacrament of the coffee.

Interested, but need to know more? Here's what it would entail:

- Get coffee brewing by 10:30 AM for 11:30 AM coffee hour. Instructions are posted in the kitchen, and experienced coffee hosts are available to teach you.
- Alternatively, pick up coffee from Peets or Starbucks. The church office will reimburse you for this cost.
- Roll the coffee cart out to breezeway or fellowship hall, depending on weather conditions, and set up a table for treats.
- Set out paper cups, sugar, creamer, napkins, paper plates, spoons, and sometimes forks, all provided by the church.
- You provide homemade or purchased treats (truly, either way is fine). Reimbursement available.
- Clean up and put items away afterwards.
- If possible, work as a team with one or two other people.

Is this a ministry you feel the Spirit calling you to be part of? If so, sign up after church. The sign-up sheet will be near the coffee pots. And if it's your first time, the wonderful Siri Fenson and Linda and Rick Knapp are available to answer questions, offer support, and show you the way.

Come quilt with us!

You are all invited to join us in making quilts. There are jobs available for anyone - no experience required. Cutting out materials, sewing squares for the tops, tying and finish work. We give these quilts to wherever they are needed. We have given to kids who are graduating out of foster care, Lutheran World Relief and to fire victims in the past.

We will be meeting from 10:00am to 2:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month and the fifth Tuesday when we have a potluck. Our meeting this month is on Tuesday, October 19th. Come check us out...again no experience is required!



F.I.S.H. Volunteers

FISH is now open 5 days a week from 12:00 to 2:00 so we are looking for a few more volunteers to either bag groceries or put them out for our clients who come in their cars. We all wear masks and the contact with the client is only from behind the table after putting out the bags for them to pick up and put in their car. You can sign up at fish-of-santa-rosa.org or talk to Beverly Schaap 527-2872.



October

- 1 Emili Marlar, Naomi Christensen
- 2 Heinz Streckfuss
- 5 Kathy Ziegler
- 6 Gary Stone, Rev. James Fish,
Dahlia Nourn Bernard
- 11 Annmarie Kelly
- 12 Marie Eriksen, Karl Smith,
Declan Kelly, Janet & Greg
Perrone (25)
- 13 Lynn Carlson, Bridget Duffy &
David Strand (18)
- 15 Devon Buckley
- 16 Jessica & David Back (17)
- 17 Jessica Back
- 18 Alissa Kelly, Christopher Meyer,
Marcus Schmidt
- 19 Brianna Bertoli
- 20 Dorothy Wagner
- 21 Elizabeth Miller, Jack & Penny
Dauler (49)
- 22 Patrick Kelly
- 23 Jessica Knudtzon, Pat Markusen,
Cheri Hershwitzky, Kimberly
Clissold
- 25 George Carson
- 26 Jason Kelly
- 27 Jonathan Krug, David Strand,
Peggy & Bob Bimbi (19)
- 28 Dixie Offt
- 29 Ellie Petty, Lorie Moser
- 30 Tricia Karriker
- 31 Sandra McConnell, Kaitlyn
Morrow, Lynn Kintzi

God's work. Our hands. Update

The ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands event was on Sunday, September 12. This activity focused on service activities and offered an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

We assembled 200 Life Paxs, the food packets we give out to those in our community asking for help as they stand on street corners or in parking lots. We made thank you cards for the children's choirs and BCC teachers and families. We decorated paper bags for food collections. We walked St. Francis Road and collected trash. We also passed out Life Paxs at Safeway. Thank you for participating in this ELCA community event!



Life Pax

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

Life Pax are back in the Narthex! Thanks to the 'God's Work, Our Hands' folks, 200 meals were assembled for the hungry.

Each baggy contains a canned dinner, fruit drink, cheese/cracker combo, nutrition bar, spoon and napkin, emergency 211 card, and BLC card.

Members may support the program by donating \$2.00 for each meal and pass them out as needed. Your donations will then allow the Life Pax program to be self sustaining, with monies then generating more Life Pax meals.

Thank you for your support. For more information contact Elaine Adams 539.7831

Sunday School Volunteers

Children's Sunday School is beginning on September 19th. We are looking for volunteers to join our team! Volunteers will help support lessons, work with small groups of children, or could share a special skill that they have. Children's Sunday School is currently scheduled approximately twice a month from 9:30-10:15am. Please reach out to Laura Lightfoot if you have a special skill or would like to volunteer--even if it's just once! We'd love to have you on our team!



Welcome our New Members

Herbert & Phyllis Anderson

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.



Thankoffering Sunday 2021

Each year, Bethlehem Lutheran Church - along with all Lutheran churches – celebrates Thankoffering Sunday. This year, we observe this long-standing tradition on Sunday, November 21 and are asking for your support.

Donations received on Thankoffering Sunday support the work of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA). WELCA's purpose, as found on its website, states:

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

To that end, WELCA provides free worship and prayers resources, leadership tools for congregational synodical leaders and events and stewardship materials to over 4,500 locations in the US and the Caribbean. It also offers resources on racial justice and advocacy and works to raise awareness on human trafficking. WELCA also supports its own grant program, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls health initiatives. Some of you subscribe to WELCA's popular Gather magazine.

Thank you for your consideration in giving God's blessings.

-WELCA Board, *Secretary of Stewardship*

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/>



Living Lutheran Subscriptions

It's time to renew your subscription to the Living Lutheran magazine for uninterrupted service beginning January 2022. The annual group rate is \$8.95 (which is less than half price) if we have 20 or more subscriptions. Please drop off a check or cash when you come to church or mail it to the office. Please make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with *Living Lutheran* on the memo line. If you are a new subscriber, we'd be happy to add you to the list. The Living Lutheran is the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and has many timely articles.

Any questions, call Michelle in the office 539-5252.



Ladies, maybe joining a women's Bible Study circle could be of interest to you?

Miriam Circle. is meeting in person on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7PM with participants taking turns hostessing and leading. You may also join via zoom. The circle will continue using the Bible studies from Gather magazine (copies can be found in the Narthex). Please contact Linda Knapp (knapping@sbcglobal.net) for additional information and the zoom link.

Ruth Circle. continues to meet in person on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10AM in the Parish Center. Leslee Cramer plans and leads the studies. For more information, please contact Shirley Jensen (sj62@comcast.net).

Rebekah Circle. meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in person and also via Zoom, either in the Parish Hall or in someone's home. The Bible Studies from Gather magazine are used and the women take turns leading. For additional information, contact Siri Fenson (sirimax@att.net).

**Until All Are Fed!
A Hunger Education Hour Featuring the
Lifesaving International Work of ELCA World Hunger
With
Katy Ajer, Program Director,
ELCA World Hunger-International
Thursday October 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Presented by the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network**



**Come learn and be inspired to have an offering in
your congregation!
To register and receive the Zoom link,
email Edie Lott at thelotts@gmail.com
Everyone is welcome!**

Book Club Picks for 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

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

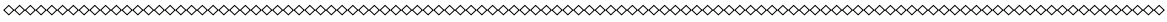
Meeting ID: 818 6333 9161


Dial In: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 495762

Passcode: 495762#


All meetings at 7pm.



 Tuesday, October 5- *Eight Flavors* by Sarah Lohman

The United States boasts a culturally and ethnically diverse population which makes for a continually changing culinary landscape. But a young historical gastronomist named Sarah Lohman discovered that American food is united by eight flavors and sets out to explore how these influential ingredients made their way to the American table.

This meeting will be held in-person at 5:30 pm at Bethlehem. Please bring a dish to share while we discuss this book about food. Questions? Call Linda Knapp at 707-539-8901

 Tuesday November 2- *When You Were Mine* by Kate Hewitt

Single mother Beth loves her seven-year-old son Dylan with all her heart. He's her world. But life with Dylan isn't easy - and his emotional issues push Beth to her very limit. When a misunderstanding leads Dylan to be taken into foster care, she is determined to do whatever she can to get him back.



October - Receptions Galore!

Please join us for a potluck reception on Sunday, October 24 as we say thank you and good bye to Pastor Diane Bowers. We will celebrate after church in the parish Center and ask for attendees bring a **main dish, salad, or dessert** to share. We look forward to celebrating our time with Pastor Bowers as our bridge pastor.

But wait- there's more!! One week later on Sunday, October 31 which is Reformation Sunday we will celebrate our first Sunday with Pastor Tyler being our new pastor. This time we will provide a buffet of sweet and savory snacks with beverages and cider and there is no need to bring anything! Please join us after the service in the Parish Center to celebrate our new pastor, Tyler Jensen and his wife Abigail.

The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is October 22, 2021

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.

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