

# The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 71, Issue 9

September 2021

## From Pastor Diane

Dear Bethlehem Community,

I am truly delighted that you have called a new pastor, the Rev. Tyler Jenson, and that he has joyfully accepted your call. Pastor Tyler and Abigail Jenson will be moving into the bungalow in approximately mid-October and live there while they house-search. For those of you who didn't catch this already, Pastor Tyler and Abigail are soon to be newly-weds!

Even the best and most wonderful events mean change, and the change is that I must finish up being your bridge pastor. I have already told you many times, but BLC is a marvelous congregation. It has been a blessing for me to be here and to know you, and even in this short amount of time, come to love you. The current plan is that Pastor Tyler and I will overlap for a week in mid-October, and my last Sunday with you will be October 24.

One of the things that I love about BLC and that makes BLC special is its music ministry to children in the neighborhood and our preschool. Because Laura Lightfoot and Janet Bertoli direct the children's choirs, and Laura is also our education commissioner, Laura and Janet are combining the choir outreach with other children's ministries to neighborhood and preschool kids.

Everyone in the congregation looks around on Sunday morning and sees faces over 50 and asks, "Where are the families? Where are the children?" Well, here they are, coming to choir, and Vacation Bible School, and hopefully Sunday School. For these families to connect with BLC, the whole congregation must not only support this outreach but take part in it. I beg you to find a way to get involved in this outreach to children and their families. Pastor Tyler will be part of it, but it takes a village. I am convinced that this is a ministry to which every single one of you is called.

May God bless you richly, and guide you, and uphold you.

*-Pastor Diane*



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



## Labor Day Weekend Bungalow Painting Party!

The bungalow renovations are coming along great! Everything is on track for the arrival of Pastor Jensen and Abigail mid-October. The contractor is almost ready to install the floors, but before he does that, we will paint the interior.

If you are in town on Labor Day weekend (Sept. 4-5), please consider volunteering to help paint. The bungalow interior will be primed and ready to go. **We will be there Saturday 8am-4pm and Sunday noon-4pm. We have the paint, but ask that you please bring painting supplies (brushes, rollers, tape, tarps) if you have them.**

**Pizza and drinks will be provided!** 🍕

RSVP to Carolyn Cole-Schweizer at [carolynjeancole@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynjeancole@yahoo.com) or 707-525-1511 to volunteer. Thank you!



**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!

**Ushers.** Be apart of a team and an important volunteer in our Sunday Worship.

**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

ELCA Disaster Response Ministry-

During the month of September our Second Mile offerings will be donated to Disaster Response.

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.



Please keep responders 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.

Second Mile Sunday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be celebrated on September 12th. Please send your donations to the Church office with 'Second Mile' in the memo line.

*Thank you for your support!*

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 Email: [blc@sonic.net](mailto:blc@sonic.net)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa](https://www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa)  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA1g8W7SFMET386SfZBdwZQ>

Church Website: [www.blc-bcc.com](http://www.blc-bcc.com)  
Zoom Meeting ID: 889 9423 0337  
Password: church

**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  
Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Worship Interim  
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:**  
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



## WELCA Thanks You!

The Bethlehem Women want to thank each and every one of you for contributing to our Mother's and Father's Days drives, supporting two local non-profit organizations.

For the *LIVING ROOM*, the organization giving women and children "the gift of dignity", \$825.00 was collected.

For *HABITAT FOR HUMANITY*, the organization that is building modest, affordable homes "in Faith", \$2,492.00 was collected.

"God Loves a Cheerful Giver". You have indeed shown cheerful and kind giving.

*THANK YOU* for your help in supporting local persons in need.



Jan and Barry Gubrud by the newly landscaped area next to the main entrance to the Narthex. A good portion of the work was done by themselves, although other Weekly Weeders contributed ideas and the plant container.

The Nine Bethlehem Weekly Weeders



Interested in joining the Weekly Weeders? Contact Siri Fenson for more details, 303-7860

## 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, and 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 too except for September. Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 21 and have a potluck since it is our first time together for a long, long time.



## 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](http://fish-of-santa-rosa.org) or talk to Beverly Schaap 527-2872.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

# September

- 2 Robert Kelly, Pam Frost
- 3 Laura Knapp, Barbara Laferriere, Jesmine La Russa
- 4 Christian Sanders, Lori & Buz Buckley (37)
- 5 Diane Wall, Pat Stone, Lori Buckley, Alex Kuhn, Cal & Marie Eriksen (51), Debbie & Jeff Tiedeman (34), Jesmine & Ron La Russa (5)
- 6 Alan Petty, Haley Stein
- 7 Denise Newkirk, Lucas Marlar, Lynn & Dan Carlson (35)
- 8 Linda Edstrom, Shirley Stevenson, Rod & Kathy Hannon (49), Steve & Susan Jenkins (39)
- 9 Tony Miller
- 10 Clarissa Tuor, Peggy Bimbi
- 11 Jeffrey Perrone, John Paine, Peter & Stephanie Walls (28)
- 13 George Schweizer
- 15 Sophie Bertoli, Audrey Hulsey
- 16 Janet Perrone, Karen Schmidt, Scott Malde
- 20 Debbie Knudtson, Deana Majcherek
- 21 Rod Gundy
- 22 Adele Mortensen, Doug & Kathy Campbell (42)
- 23 Susan Jensen
- 24 Jack Anderson
- 25 Alexandria Schmidt
- 26 Kyle Preston, Nick Keane, Lin & Bob Beck (57)
- 27 Bob Adams
- 28 Thomas Abel
- 29 Carolyn Shada, Annie Jenkins

## God's work. Our hands. Sunday, Sept. 12

Please join us as Bethlehem participates in the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands event on Sunday, September 12. Wear your bright yellow tee shirt, if you have one. After church, we will have an indoor service activity at the church, and an outdoor service activity in the community. Service activities offer 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 need all hands on deck! We plan to assemble 200 Life Paks, 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 are also planning to make thank you cards for the children's choirs and BCC teachers and families. We'll have paper bags to be decorated for food bag collections.

If you prefer spending time outdoors, we'll be walking on St. Francis Road and collecting trash. Volunteers should bring gloves if they want to use them. (If you have previous plans for that day, please pick up trash in your neighborhood or favorite park on another day.) We'd also like to have several people give out samples of LifePax to interested community members to give to people in need.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 12!



## Believers Softball Season Wraps Up

The Witness and Service Commission extends a warm congratulations to Tony Miller and the members of the Bethlehem Believers softball team for a great season! Your fans and supporters from Bethlehem were so happy that this Monday night activity was able to resume. We really enjoyed watching you play each week, and thank you for providing this opportunity for camaraderie with each other and with the team members. We look forward to the 2022 season!



## Haiti Relief

Haiti has been struck once again by a terrible earthquake. The death toll is upwards of 2,100 people with thousands more injured. Tropical storm Grace drenched the country on Monday creating the possibility of floods and mudslides. The suffering of this nation is really beyond our experience, perhaps our imagining. Not only have these natural disasters happened, but this nation and these people are the poorest of the poor. They simply do not have resources to rebuild.

We are supporting the work of Lutheran Disaster Response. Every penny you give to this campaign will go to Haiti. Checks can be made to BLC with Haiti on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity. This is God's work, done by our hands.

## Meeting Wrap Up

Thank you all for your participation in the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 1, to call our next settled pastor.

This meeting was successful and both motions at the meeting passed:

- Motion to Call Pastor Tyler Jensen
- Motion to Approve the Compensation Package

I know that we are all excited for this new beginning at Bethlehem Lutheran.

-Call Committee

## 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](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You can add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it easier to return and shop.



## Calling All 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!

## Help our Preschool Fill Up!

Bethlehem Children's Center opened successfully this past Tuesday after a lot of hard work from our director, Deborah McNally, and our teachers, supported by our terrific BCC Board. However, we are nowhere near capacity and it is financially necessary that enrollment increase. Right now there is room for all ages beginning with 2 years and up (infant slots are full). Please do the following to help BCC. 1) If you know anyone looking for preschool, tell them about BCC. 2) If you are on facebook, go to the BCC page and "like" it and write something positive. 3) Please place a post on your own page with a little bit of information about BCC and the news that there are openings now. 4)



If you are on any neighborhood groups, post something about the availability at BCC. Thank you!

## Backpack Project Update

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Family,

Thank you for being such an important part of the 2021 City Kids North County and City Kids. This year, over **400 children** received a backpack filled with school supplies, ready for the school year! What's even more exciting, is that almost half of them accepted our Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior! In addition, these families had the opportunity to meet and connect with many local churches, further spreading the gospel message to our community.

Hosting events like these would not be possible without the help of numerous volunteers and partners. Without you, we might miss seeing the joy on the faces of the children and parents as they listened and responded to the Gospel presentation, picked out their backpacks, played games, won prizes, ate lunch, and chose new books.

Thank you again for helping to make City Kids North County and City Kids a success. Once again, it was such a pleasure getting to serve alongside you.

“For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.” ~ Hebrews 6:10

Serving Him Together,

Mariella Zapata, *Events Coordinator*, Redwood Gospel Mission



## Help for Afghan Refugees

You are all aware of the desperate circumstances of so many people in Afghanistan who supported the United States' presence there for the last 20 years, including working as guides and interpreters. These people now fear for their lives and most are trying to escape, along with their families. Explosions at the Kabul airport killed and wounded many, and increased suffering and fear.

We pray for these people, and we can do more for those who have been unable to leave. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) is one of the largest organizations in the United States working to settle newly arrived Afghan refugees.

Now is the time of crucial need. Lives are literally at stake. If you feel so moved, you have the opportunity to donate to LIRS to support Afghan refugees by sending a check to BLC with Afghan refugees on the memo line. Alternatively, you can give by clicking on the link below and going directly to LIRS.

[https://lirsconnect.org/get-involved/action\\_center/siv](https://lirsconnect.org/get-involved/action_center/siv)





## Come and Help Packing Bags at Elisha's Pantry

On Thursdays, between 3PM and 4:15PM, 60 to 80 bags are packed with fresh produce and various food items. With schools opening up, some of the volunteers are no longer able to help out; therefore the reason for this plea.

The job includes some lifting of the bags which are rather heavy when filled, but this is not a must, as there are others who can help with that. Just filling the bags does not require all that much strength.

Please feel free to contact me, Siri Fenson, if you want to know more OR you may just go right into the sign-up link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f49a8ad2ca57-elishas>

Thank you for considering giving some of your spare time to Elisha's Pantry.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" - Aesop

## Congratulations Elisha's Pantry!

*Elisha's Pantry has been chosen to receive this year's Merit Award by the Board of Community Service for "participating in its worthwhile program, recognizing those who help making our city a better place to live".*

## The gift of mercy

From *Christ in Our Home* (September 2021)

**"The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down." (Psalm 146:8)**

In 1975 my husband was serving Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Topeka when Russell, then a young layman, came to him with a request. Could our congregation sponsor a family of Vietnamese refugees for resettlement if he did the legwork? Russell and his wife had already adopted a young boy from Vietnam. The church council voted yes, and on July 8 three generations (eight members) of the Nguyen family, flew from Ft. Chafee, Arkansas, into Topeka's airport to a happy welcome. The newspaper sent a reporter and photographer to get the story.

Members of Our Savior's stepped up to provide a modest rental house, clothes, household goods, groceries, and bikes. With Russell's leadership our church members happily pitched in with Christian mercy and hospitality.

Psalm 146 reminds us of God's goodness to those who are oppressed, those who are hungry, prisoners, those who are blind, strangers, refugees, widows, widowers, and orphans. Through us, God reaches out to people in need and lifts them up.

**Dear God, bless all ministries that show your love to those who are bowed down. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Prayer concern: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.*

# 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 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Treasurer's Report

Beverly Schaap

### July 2021

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$13,863	\$17,300	-\$3,437
Expenses	\$23,664	\$24,151	-\$487
Net	-\$9,801	-\$6,851	-\$2,950

### YTD 2020

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$145,455	\$147,700	-\$2,245
Expenses	\$164,238	\$197,443	-\$33,205
Net	-\$18,783	-\$49,743	\$30,960

Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,216 per week  
 July \$3,438

## Christ in Our Home

The October-November-December 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 September 24, 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.