

# The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 72, Issue 7/8

July/August 2022

## From Pastor Tyler

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds,” Matthew 11:19

Amongst the various books I have collected along the years in ministry, you would be hard pressed to find Martin Luther's Works, Volume 54 among them. But there, collecting dust, is the 54th volume of Luther's Works titled: Table Talk. The work is a collection of Luther's conversations and sayings, often recorded by his students around Luther's dinner table. While the Reformer John Calvin had a stipend of 250 gallons of wine per year written into his church contract, Martin Luther was a lover of his wife's homebrewed ale – which I am sure was often enjoyed during his “table talks” with students and colleagues.

Yet, these kinds of informal gatherings were not new. In ancient Greece, philosophers such as Plato and Socrates would often meet for symposiums where they would discuss philosophy, cite poetry, and enjoy wine. Seeing that Jesus was accused of being both a drunkard and a glutton by the Pharisees, we can imagine the Son of God often proclaimed the gospel and discussed theology with wine in hand among his disciples and friends around the dinner table.

In the tradition of Martin Luther (and arguably, Jesus), I am looking forward to hosting similar table talks this summer. Now, I understand that “Pub Theology” type events may not be everyone's cup of tea, but what I like about events like these is that they offer us the opportunity to discuss matters of faith in a relaxed and casual environment that gives room for both conversation and fellowship. These kinds of events can also serve as an easy “point of entry” to invite friends and neighbors who may not feel comfortable joining us in worship or Bible study just yet.

So, please join us the 2nd and 4th Sundays of July and August, 3:30-4:30 PM, for BLC's Bibles & Brews at 3 Disciples Brewing (501 Mendocino Ave) for informal discussion and fellowship! I have selected discussion topics that I hope will encourage thoughtful open-ended conversation and inquiry.

- Sunday, July 10th: Why be Lutheran?
- Sunday July 24th: Why practice Social Justice?
- Sunday, August 14th: Why Sing in worship?
- Sunday, August 28th: Why be Church?

All are welcome! Hope to see you there!

Cheers,

*Pastor Tyler W. Jensen*

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

## July 3rd 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!



## Struggling With Sin

From *Christ in Our Home* (July 2022)

**I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. (1 John 2:1)**

Do you feel you have a pretty good sense of right and wrong? The letter of 1 John is written to new believers, though it's more of a sermon or devotion than an actual letter. Evidently, some new believers in the Johannine community have been led astray by false teachers. The author attempts to point them back in the right direction.

In the age of the internet we know about false teachers. We can all be led astray-often to our detriment-and fall prey to a phishing attempt, or a fake-news website, or a click-bait headline. It feels like piling on to call this "sin", but in 1 John sin basically comes down to turning away from the light and love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. That can be alarmingly easy to do.

That's why, even if you feel confident in your right-and-wrong discernment, it doesn't hurt to be extra vigilant. Pray for God's guidance, consult with wise people in your circle of friends, commit yourself to "walk just as [Christ] walked" (v.6), and trust in his forgiveness when you're led astray.

**Step by step and day by day, Lord, help me stay true to your path. Amen.**

*Prayer Concern: Victims of internet hoaxes and hacking*

## 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! Next meeting is Tuesday, July 19.



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

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

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

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 841 0567 7361

Password: church

### Pastor:

Tyler W. Jensen

510-470-4305 (Pastor's cell)

Email: [PastorTylerJensen@gmail.com](mailto: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

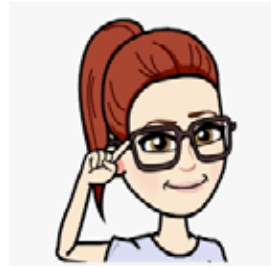


*Homebound: Astrid Haugaard, Marion Heiken, Gloria Hamilton, Clarissa Tuor, Judy Warner, Ruby Malde, Helen Osborne, Adele Mortensen*

*Special Concerns: Richard Doran, Tom Ziegler, Steve Sturgeon, Donna Cole, Mira Kiick, Donna Rudningen, Pam Pegly, Michael Ferri, Sharon Boschen, Donna Jeye & Laurie Claasen*

## 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 Narthex. The church is open on Monday through Thursday from 9:30am – 2:30pm 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*

## Bethlehem Believers Game Schedule

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <del>May 16 - 6:10 p.m.</del>  | <del>The Rock vs. Bethlehem NW</del>         |
| <del>May 23 - 6:10 p.m.</del>  | <del>Bethlehem vs. Spring Hills SW</del>     |
| <del>June 6 - 7:10 p.m.</del>  | <del>Bridge vs. Bethlehem SW</del>           |
| <del>June 13 - 6:10 p.m.</del> | <del>Bethlehem vs. Victory Outreach NW</del> |
| <del>June 20 - 6:10 p.m.</del> | <del>Bethlehem vs. Calvary RP NW</del>       |
| <del>June 27 - 7:10 p.m.</del> | <del>Bethlehem vs. Hessel NW</del>           |
| 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.

## 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 10**, 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 (51)
- 5 Craig Clissold
- 6 Denise and Terry Newkirk (33), Megan & Jason Kelly (14)
- 7 Sue McCullough
- 8 Mason Cole-Schweizer
- 9 Lisa and Mark McIntyre (38)
- 10 Bob Beck
- 11 Cara McIntyre
- 12 Shirley Jensen
- 13 Susan Comstock, Barry Gubrud
- 16 Danielle Sass
- 17 Dorotha Misasi, Pastor Tyler Jensen
- 18 Elizabeth Sanders, Bob and Judiann O'Connell (63)
- 19 Rick Knapp, Dan and Michelle Thomson (36)
- 20 Laura and Greg Apostle (31)
- 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 (8), Dave and Rose Smith (18)
- 27 Connie VanPelt, Wes and Christiane Silverthorne (53), Charla & John Paine (44)
- 28 Daniel Virtue, Nancy and William Trbovich (32)
- 30 Dean Thompson
- 31 Justin Wong

## August 14<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)



## 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 almost \$300!

By July 17, 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.

# Sierra Pacific Synod Council appoints an Interim Bishop

MILLBRAE, Calif. — After consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and per the Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution (S8.54), the Sierra Pacific Synod Council has appointed the Rev. Claire S. Burkat as its interim bishop. She hopes to begin working in the synod the week of July 10.



Burkat joins the Sierra Pacific Synod from the Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Synod, where she served two terms as bishop (2006-2018). She is a 1978 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and has served as a congregational pastor, assistant to the bishop, and mission director with the SEPA Synod, New Jersey Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Since her retirement as synod bishop in 2018, Burkat most recently served as interim chaplain of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., and stepped in as acting bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod during Bishop William Gohl's sabbatical.

The Sierra Pacific Synod Council and staff warmly welcome Burkat and thank the Office of the Presiding Bishop for its support in this time of transition.

## Kitchen Clean Up Thanks!!

The kitchen is beautifully tidy, thanks to the WELCA women who spent a recent morning with mops, cleaning supplies and rubber gloves.

We are grateful for Shirley, Judiann, Liz, Leslee, and Elaine.

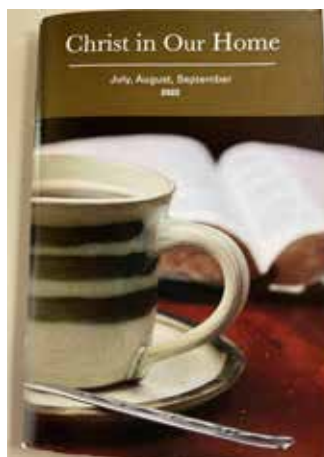
If and when any group uses the beautiful new kitchen, please help keep the area looking tidy and clean. Thank you!

-Ruth Circle



## 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!



# "Discovery on Adventure Island" Quest for God's Great Light

Vacation Bible School was a great success!

Thank you so much for coming and participating in Discovery Adventure Island! 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 2022 VBS possible!



## August

- 1 Kathy Hannon
- 3 Jo Treagus, Richard Doran, Linda Smith
- 5 Barry and Jennifer Wong (22)
- 6 Luke & Rachel Anderson (11)
- 9 Avery Apostle, Pastor Brian and Laurie Claasen (47)
- 10 Michelle Frabotta
- 11 Janet Krug
- 16 Jesse and Candy Claasen (14)
- 17 Victoria Thomson
- 19 Jonathan Walls, Connie Lorenz, Donette Mack, Richard and Ramona Doran (55), Dean and Christen Thompson (27)
- 20 Susan Jenkins, Matthew Barnekow
- 21 Katy Jenkins, John & Tracy Huotari (40)
- 22 Kara Kracht, Jason & Kara Kracht (14)
- 23 Brianna Perry, Cal Eriksen
- 24 Jared Bertoli
- 25 Eva Mikalson
- 26 George and Melissa Kuhn (33)
- 27 Jenna Stein, Rose Smith, Lynn Schouest
- 29 Annie Jenkins, Helen Jane Rommereim
- 30 Melissa Preston, Jeff & Vicki Thomson (63)





## June 16th at Elisha's Pantry

On this day, 107 households were handed a bag of fresh produce together with groceries, bread, desserts, etc.). Out of these 107, nine came for the first time. With prices of food spiking to levels beyond the reach of many in our community, Elisha's Pantry is expecting even more needy people to turn to us.

On every third Thursday, several of the clients also visit the (Lutheran) "Essentials" tables. There they pick out what they need in the way of personal items, "extra" food, household items and clothing...all of which are donated.

You, the Bethlehem Lutherans, have been extra kind in donating. Thank you and please continue keeping us in your thoughts.

*Deborah, Lisa, Liz, Bill, Melissa & Siri*



### Mission Statement

Elisha's Pantry is an interfaith non-profit dedicated to alleviating hunger in Santa Rosa by providing nutritious food with kindness and respect for all.



### **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 on  
Mon-Thurs. 9:30AM-2:30PM

~Thank you!~

# Book Club Picks for 2022

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 5- *The Atlas of the Heart* by Renee Brown

In *Atlas of the Heart*, Brown takes us on a journey through 87 of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human. As she maps the necessary skills and an actionable framework for meaningful connection, she gives us the language and tools to access a universe of new choices and second chances — a universe where we can share and steward the stories of our bravest and most heartbreaking moments with one another in a way that builds connection.

 Tuesday, August 2- *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult

Diana O’Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by 30, done having kids by 35, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She’s not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galápagos - days before her 30th birthday. But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city. In the Galápagos Islands, where Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection was formed, Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself - and wondering if when she goes home, she, too, will have evolved into someone completely different.

## Treasurer's Report

Joy Petty

### May 2022

|                 | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>   | \$21,368      | \$24,364      | -\$2,996          |
| <b>Expenses</b> | \$23,744      | \$31,941      | -\$8,197          |
| <b>Net</b>      | -\$2,376      | -\$7,577      | \$5,201           |

### YTD 2022

|                 | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>   | \$121,790     | \$112,749     | \$9,041           |
| <b>Expenses</b> | \$139,724     | \$148,247     | -\$8,523          |
| <b>Net</b>      | -\$17,934     | -\$35,498     | \$17,564          |

**Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,793 per week**  
 May \$4,274

## F.I.S.H. Volunteers

F.I.S.H. 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.

## Office Closed for July 4th

The Church Office will be closed Monday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day! Enjoy the long weekend!



The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is August 26, 2022.

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 our publication we will be pleased to receive them.