

# The Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CENTER



Volume 72, Issue 9

September 2022

## From Pastor Tyler

“May God grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans.”  
Psalm 20:4

It’s about to get busy here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

As we approach the fall, many of us have felt the renewed sense of busyness that comes with this season. Co-workers have begun returning from their vacations. Children have started a new academic year – some at new schools. While the summer is often a season of rest and relaxation, so often the Fall seems to be the season of getting back business as usual. Yet, as the days (hopefully) get cooler and the leaves begin to fall, I wonder if we can take a moment, in the midst of all this busyness, and give thanks for all the opportunities we were able to take advantage of this past summer and all the opportunities that lie before us in this next season of life? I give thanks for the opportunities I had to see family and loved ones this past summer and I give thanks for all that God has in store for us this Fall at BLC. I’m excited for all of the opportunities we are offering this Fall and all of the programs starting back up!

Sunday, September 11th, Rally Day Sunday, we kick-off our fall programming with Bible Games and Crafts for all ages at 9:30 AM on and worship starting at 10:30 AM.

Wee Praise and Cross Connections began Thursday, August 25th (4:30/5 PM)

Adult Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 8th (7 PM)

Bell Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 8th (6 PM)

Confirmation begins after worship Sunday, September 11th (12 PM)

Wednesday morning Bible Study resumes Wednesday, September 14th (10 AM)

BCC Chapel resumes Wednesday, September 14th (11:15 AM)

Sunday, September 18th, we will host a joint worship service with Faith Lutheran and participate in service projects for God’s Work our Hands Sunday after worship.

Certainly, we have a lot going on this September, and more is yet to come this year. Thank you to everyone who makes these opportunities possible for us and thank you to everyone who participates! I look forward to another wonderful fall and spring with you here at BLC.

With thanksgiving,

*Pastor Tyler W. Jensen*

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

## Labor Day Picnic!

Labor Day weekend at Bethlehem Lutheran is celebrated with an outdoor worship service, followed by a church picnic barbecue.

Bethlehem’s Praise Band will lead worship with guitars and keyboard. The service will begin at **10:00 a.m.** (our last 10:00am worship service of the year).

To honor laborers everywhere, be sure to come dressed as your current or former occupation!

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.

This Labor Day event will take place on **Sunday, September 4** on Bethlehem’s Memorial Patio area at the top of the church parking lot.

**All are invited! All are welcome!**



## Thank You!

The board members of Bethlehem's Women of ELCA thank you for so kindly having supported our Mother's and Father's Day requests for donations. In honor/memory of mothers, \$641 has been given to The Living Room. The \$860, in honor or memory of fathers, has been sent to the local Habitat for Humanity.

"You are all rainbows in someone's cloud".

With great appreciation,

*The BLC WELCA Board*

## Worship Time Change

As we return to our Fall schedule, our worship time will change. On Rally Day - **September 11**, worship will start at **10:30am**.

## Thanks to BLC Members

A note of thanks to those who donated glasses and hearing aids. There were quite a number of eyeglasses to pass along to the Lion's Club. The staff at Kenwood Hearing Centers was delighted to receive the donated hearing aids - "You made my day!" These worthwhile organizations appreciate your generosity - Thank you!

Liz Ferrari, *Secretary of Stewardship/WELCA*

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: 9:30-2:30, 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

## Second Mile Sunday, Sept. 11

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 11th. Please send your donations to the Church office with 'Second Mile' in the memo line.

*Thank you for your support!*

## Prayers

Dear BLC Community of Faith,

I am so very thankful for your cards, messages and prayers. Having Melanoma varies so much with each patient. Because it travels through the lymph system the cancer can spread to many places in the body.

After my surgery I received 8 months of immunotherapy. However, scans showed I was growing tumors in my lungs, liver and brain. At that time, it was decided to add chemo to the infusions I was getting. After just 2 chemo treatments I ended up with autoimmune hepatitis, as a side effect, and the chemo did not slow the progress of the size and the amount of tumors increased. My doctor agreed with me to stop the chemo. Instead I am taking steroids to help my liver improve.

Next step for me will be whole brain radiation. As they prepare me for these treatments, I welcome your prayers for myself, and my family, and my medical team. I have appreciated your care and concern during this difficult journey. Some have asked what they can do. My response to that dear people, is that is what you have already gifted me with. I have a supportive team caring for me. Your prayers help to lift me up, and I know they have already been answered, as I feel a sense of peace with whatever the outcome might be.

What assurance to know God continues to hold my hand, offering me renewing forgiveness and grace each new day! I have come to appreciate each new day in a way I never had before.

I am also very thankful that BLC is able to have open doors to worship on a Sunday morning, and that you have Pastor Tyler with you for pastoral leadership.

Thanks Be To God!

In Christian Love,

*Laurie Claasen*

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## Save the Date - Asante Fair Trade Sale

Our friends, Kathy and Stan Booker plan to visit Bethlehem on Sunday, October 23 to host a Fair Trade African Bazaar. Items are provided by women's craft groups in East Africa. The money raised will be sent to women's groups in Tanzania to provide scholarships for needy students. The Sale will be open from 9:30am - 10:30am before church or immediately after Service. Please come and take a look (and bring your own shopping bag). Cash or check only, please. Welcome back, Kathy and Stan!



## Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle is a women's Bible Study Group that meets 9 months a year. We gather on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the parish hall of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The months we gather are January to May and then September to December. In our meetings we socialize, enjoy some snacks with coffee and then we discuss the Bible, history and issues of faith.

We welcome new members. If you have any questions, please email Leslee Cramer at [maccramer@hotmail.com](mailto:maccramer@hotmail.com) or phone me at 707-539-3553. I hope to see you at our meeting on September 13th.

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## BLC History Fact

Former member Julia Anderson donated the first \$200 towards purchasing an organ. It took three years of fundraising and in 1948 our organ was purchased. Barbara Laferriere has been our organist here at Bethlehem since 1968!

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## A word from Martin

“Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see.”

*-Martin Luther*







- 2 Pam Frost
- 3 Laura Knapp, Barbara Laferriere,  
Jasmine La Russa
- 4 Christian Sanders, Lori & Buz Buckley  
(38)
- 5 Diane Wall, Pat Stone, Lori Buckley,  
Alex Kuhn, Cal & Marie Eriksen  
(52), Debbie & Jeff Tiedeman (35),  
Jasmine & Ron La Russa (6)
- 6 Alan Petty, Haley Stein
- 7 Denise Newkirk, Lucas Marlar, Lynn &  
Dan Carlson (36)
- 8 Linda Edstrom, Shirley Stevenson,  
Rod & Kathy Hannon (50), Steve &  
Susan Jenkins (40)
- 9 Tony Miller
- 10 Clarissa Tuor, Peggy Bimbi
- 11 Jeffrey Perrone, John Paine, Peter &  
Stephanie Walls (29)
- 13 George Schweizer
- 15 Sophie Bertoli, Audrey Hulsey
- 16 Janet Perrone, Karen Schmidt, Scott  
Malde
- 20 Debbie Knudtson, Deana Majcherek
- 21 Rod Gundy, Janice Gubrud
- 22 Adele Mortensen, Doug & Kathy  
Campbell (43)
- 23 Susan Jensen
- 24 Jack Anderson
- 25 Alexandria Schmidt
- 26 Kyle Preston
- 27 Bob Adams
- 28 Thomas Abel
- 29 Carolyn Shada, Annie Jenkins

## YOU ARE ALL WELCOME,

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

### MIRIAM CIRCLE

Miriam Circle meets in members' homes on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM. Our Bible Study is taken from the GATHER magazine, a publication of WELCA, and is led by various members of the group.

Our mission offerings go to F.I.S.H., a multi-denominational agency, providing food for the needy.

Phyllis Hoover ([phoover@sonic.net](mailto:phoover@sonic.net))

### REBEKAH CIRCLE

Rebekah Circle is the newest of the Bethlehem women's circles having started in January 2020. It meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10AM, in-person in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. We take turns leading the GATHER magazine study.

Our mission is The Living Room, a day-center for homeless or at-risk-to-become homeless women and children.

Siri Fenson ([sirimax@att.net](mailto:sirimax@att.net))

### RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle meets nine months a year on the second Tuesday of the month at 10AM at the Parish Hall. In our meetings we socialize, enjoy some snacks with coffee and then discuss the Bible and issues of Faith.

Our mission is the Kid Street Learning Center, a charter and after-school program for TK-6th grades.

If you have any questions, please email Leslee Cramer at ([maccramer@hotmail.com](mailto:maccramer@hotmail.com))

## Coming Soon: Thankoffering Sunday 2022

Each year, Bethlehem Lutheran Church - along with all Lutheran churches – celebrates Thankoffering Sunday. This year, we observe this long-standing tradition on **Sunday, October 9, 2022**. Your Thankoffering donation will support the many resources and tools WELCA provides to over 4,500 locations in the US and the Caribbean. Special Thankoffering envelopes will be available in the narthex starting on Sunday, September 25.

We hope you will join us on October 9.

Liz Ferrari

*WELCA Board/Secretary of  
Stewardship*

[womenofthelca.org](http://womenofthelca.org)





# Thank you, Bethlehem Believers & Fans

Congrats to the Bethlehem Believers softball team and Coach Tony Miller for taking third place in the league! The faithful fans enjoyed watching the exciting games and mingling with the players as we all sampled the delicious hot dog stand treats. (We also thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a grant to help with refreshment costs.) See you in 2023!





## God's Work our Hands

Please join us as Bethlehem participates in the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands event on Sunday, September 18. Our friends from Faith Lutheran Church will join us! 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 will be writing welcome notes to the teachers and families at Bethlehem Children's Center. We will be collecting baked goods, dividing them, and delivering them to local firehouses to thank our firefighters for the work that they do to keep us all safe. We will be decorating food bags for food collections. We will provide trash bags to collect trash along Highway 12. (Please bring gloves.) We will do some trimming at BCC (Please bring clippers and gloves.) We are looking forward to having you participate in these service opportunities.

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**



**SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

## Self-pity vs. Mercy

From *Christ in Our Home* (September 2022)

**"Let them curse, but you will bless." (Psalm 109:28)**

Sometimes I am my own biggest critic. While this psalm points to enemies who are full of dangerous accusations and curses, a familiar voice inside of me does the same thing. This voice curses me with the ugly truth about my sinfulness and imperfection. Often it is the voice of self-pity that condemns me the most.

God speaks from a different heart. Honest about our defects but also honest about unconditional love, God lifts us out of the pits of self-hatred to bless us and make us new. Good, steadfast love rescues us from self-inflicted wounds. As children of God, we belong to a family of grace, and God stands by us so that we can live out of that gift and share it with others.

It's not that we figure it out and do better on our own. Rather, God's healing touch makes of us what we could not otherwise be. We can trust God's steadfast love because we have died with Christ and are now alive with him in his resurrection.

**Lord, help us to be alive in your steadfast love, not dead in self-pity. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Prayer concern: Those dealing with self-condemnation.*



**ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S  
GLOBAL FARM  
Challenge**

**A Hunger Education Zoom Event Sponsored by the  
Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network  
On Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM PDT.  
Featuring: Ryan P. Cumming, Program Director for  
Hunger Education with ELCA World Hunger**

**In a world faced with increasing hunger we are called to meet  
the challenge! Ending hunger isn't just about food. It's about  
access, it's about justice, it's about caring for creation and  
each other. It's about hope for the world we want to live in.  
Ending hunger means recognizing the ways God is at work  
in farming communities and the ways God is calling all  
of us, together, to be part of the solution. Join us  
to learn how your congregation can be a part  
of this important ministry!**

**Everyone's Invited! Register now!  
Email Edie Lott at [thelotts@gmail.com](mailto:thelotts@gmail.com) with your name, city and  
congregation to register and receive the Zoom link.**

## Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th in celebration of Labor Day.

## Midweek Bible Study Resumes

Join Pastor Tyler for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Upper Room. Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 14th as we begin our study of 1st Corinthians.

## Confirmation Begins

Our first Confirmation Class will begin after worship on Sunday, September 11th! Lunch will be provided.

Contact Pastor Tyler for more information.

## Bread for the World Update

### **Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021 (S.2956/HR.4693)**

In April, The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives after receiving strong bipartisan support.

The GMPT Act authorizes USAID to advance targeted programs to prevent and treat malnutrition around the world. The war in Ukraine, climate change, and COVID have increased the numbers of people affected. BFTW's Fact Sheet has detailed information on the Act – why it is needed and how it will help (See <https://www.bread.org/library/global-malnutrition-fact-sheet-2021>).

As S.2956, the bill moved from the House to the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee where it received a unanimous voice vote. It is awaiting passage in the Senate.

State Senator Alex Padilla has signed on as a co-sponsor to S.2956. BFTW is encouraging us to reach out to Senator Dianne Feinstein to ask for her co-sponsorship of this important bill addressing global hunger. You may also like to reach out to Senator Padilla's office and thank him for his support. You can find both state and local address information for both senators at: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>.

Thank you – *BLC/ Witness & Service*

# 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, September 6- *Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts* by Joshua Hammer

In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River, tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that had fallen into obscurity. The *Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* tells the incredible story of how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist and historian from the legendary city of Timbuktu, later became one of the world's greatest and most brazen smugglers.

 Tuesday, October 4- *Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to an isolated mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. On the island they are cut off from everything but each other and the inescapable shadows of their own past lives. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. And one by one, they die...

Which among them is the killer and will any of them survive?

## Treasurer's Report

Joy Petty

<u>June 2022</u>				<u>July 2022</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$15,934	\$19,594	-\$3,660	Income	\$22,664	\$22,010	\$654
Expenses	\$24,626	\$32,177	-\$7,550	Expenses	\$30,717	\$26,768	\$3,949
Net	-\$8,692	-\$12,583	\$3,890	Net	-\$8,053	-\$4,758	-\$3,295
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2022</u>			<u>YTD</u>	<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$137,724	\$132,343	\$5,381	Income	\$160,388	\$154,353	\$6,035
Expenses	\$163,455	\$180,424	-\$16,969	Expenses	\$194,172	\$207,191	-\$13,019
Net	-\$25,732	-\$48,081	\$22,349	Net	-\$33,784	-\$52,838	\$19,054
Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,793 per week				Amount needed to meet the budget \$6,793 per week			
	June	\$3,187			July	\$5,666	

*The deadline for the next issue of The Bethlehem Star is September 23, 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 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.*