



April
2020

Pastor David Blair • James Hing, Organist & Choir Director

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!

As I write these words on this first day of Spring 2020, Easter Sunday worship at Bethlehem, as well as all Christian churches throughout our United States, also as well as much of the rest of the world, is uncertain. Will we be able to gather on April 12 and boldly proclaim these life-changing, world history altering, earth shattering, eternity difference making words: HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA! The answer to that question: NONE OF US KNOWS ... Except our God alone.

Whether we can meet and worship our risen Lord on Resurrection Day 2020, or not, HE IS STILL RISEN!

Did you know (I have mentioned it several times) that EVERY SUNDAY is a little EASTER! Sunday is the day of the week that our Lord Jesus, dead in the grave, defeated both death and the grave by becoming the FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD (Colossians 1:18, Revelation 1:5). Because of Easter we have peace with God through the blood that Jesus shed on the cross to forgive our sin and sins.

Easter 2020, April 12 is a SUNDAY. Will we be together in worship and praise of our saving God? Physically and socially near or distant? We do not know. Spiritually near one another and together in ONE SPIRIT? Yes, and again I say, Yes! We are ONE in the SPIRIT, ONE in the LORD ... every Sunday, even every day! Even during this worldwide pandemic, JESUS is still risen, and he's got the whole world in his hands!

Pastor David

**IT'S SPRING TIME
IT'S RHYME TIME**

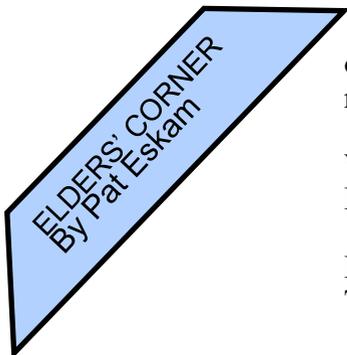
RAVE for the poets and artistic folks
Who contributed to our rhyme edition
With their enthusiastic keystrokes
And creative submissions,
I present to you a newsletter
That's sure to please
The rhymes are a treasure;
Thanks, and cover when you sneeze!

-Diolda Kuhlmann, editor

**Here's the Call Team's Latest Update
On the Sem Grad we Await**

By Joel Jackman

If this month we get a sem grad,
Then we'll all be mighty glad.
But if our God has other plans,
We'll need to leave it in His hands.



I am definitely not a poet but I do love poetry. I am sharing a part of a book of comforting poetry sent to me a long time ago that meant a lot to me. This is applicable to the circumstances of today.

Whenever I am troubled, and lost in deep despair
I bundle all my troubles up, and go to God in prayer.....

I tell Him I am heartsick, and lost and lonely too
That my mind is deeply burdened, and I don't know what to do.....

But I know He stilled the tempest, and calmed the angry sea
And I humbly ask if in His love, He'll do the same for me.....

And then I just keep quiet, and think only thoughts of peace

And if I abide in stillness, my restless murmurings cease.

Father God,

Thank you for being our living creator God. Our God who watches out for us, loves us, and cares for us. Let us evermore praise and worship you. Thank you for conquering our worst fears. Jesus thank you for living with us, dying for us, and rising from the tomb to overcome the darkness of this world to give us eternal life with you. We pray in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

APRIL



We wish you continued happiness and God's blessings!

APOLOGIES TO THE MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS WHO WERE MISSING FROM LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

Stephanie Myers	March 13
Curtis Boydston	March 14
Pat Boydston	March 15
Rylan Gunn	March 17
John Muller	March 23
Brenda Begalka	March 24
Karen Fritsvold	March 31
Cathy Wooden	March 31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Clayton, Tom & Kimberli	April 2, 2011
Wolf, Art & Amber	April 2, 2011
Hack, Jesse & Jeanie	April 9, 1989
Begalka, Brent & Karen	April 10, 1976
Dennis, Joshua & Julie	April 16, 2005

AND NOW THE APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST:

Ellen Taylor	April 2
Melanie Myers	April 4
Hannah Townley	April 7
Oliver Hudson	April 8
Gary Jackman	April 8
Lucy Sturgul	April 8
Melanie Hammond	April 9
Dick Taylor	April 10
Jesse Hack	April 14
Diane Murphy	April 14
Eleonore Gentil	April 15
Crystal Jordanger	April 16
Kimberli Townley-Clayton	April 19
Christie-Lynn Lind	April 20
Kathy Zable	April 25
Holden Jackman	April 26
Bonnie Begalka	April 28

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS :

**Rylan and
Eleonore are**



*Help us update our records.
If we don't have you listed,
please let the office know.*

We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all, including our members and friends and relatives with medical concerns, financial worries, unemployment, housing crises, emotional distress, and family disharmony. We are thankful for all we have been given. We pray for our friends and family members who are not yet Christians that they will be moved to accept Christ as their savior and follow Jesus.



In particular, we pray for:

Harold Carlson

Ray & Gretchen Engum

Marcy Hall

Mardelle Hammond and her friend Lynette, and sister-in-law Barbara

Gary Hanno

Marlene Holcomb

Jenny Iles' daughter Kathy

Bob Pankow

Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky and friend Dawn

Jerry Schuh

Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie & niece Heidi

Ruth Ann Shimoi

Dick & Ellen Taylor's grandchildren Landon & Caroline, his cousins Bill & Eileen

Carolyn Troseth's sister Viola and sister-in-law Viona

Carolyn Warn's daughter Debbie

We pray for the health and safe return home of our members and relatives serving our country in the military: **Alex Murphy (Army), Kyle Murphy (Air Force), Austin Kahn (Air Force), Garrett Kahn (Air Force).**

We pray for peace, love, and comfort to our members who can't attend church services: **Pat Boydston, Wanda Brooks, Betty Cowan, Elden & Dolores Fischer, Jenny Iles, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Gerhard & Sabine Muller, Virginia Preston, Fred Schroeder, Jean Shaw, Marie Teel, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.** Until further notice, none of us can attend church services. Peace and patience for all.

We know God is with us during difficult times. We pray for the survivors of the Tennessee tornado and their ongoing needs be taken care of, and we ask for an end to the spread of the COVID-19, protection for the workers who must continue working, and healing to all those affected.

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

At our March 15, 2020 worship service, we participated in the National Day of Prayer for All Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic and for our National Response Efforts. Americans of all faiths were asked to offer prayers for those affected, including people who have suffered harm or lost loved ones. At this service, we had guests from 3 different churches with us as their churches were closed. Due to gathering restrictions changing on March 17, that Sunday was our last worship service until further notice.

Prayer for a Pandemic

author unknown

May we who are *merely inconvenienced*
remember those whose **lives are at stake**.

May we who have *no risk factors*
remember those who are **most vulnerable**.

May we who have *the luxury of working from home*
respect and support **those who must choose** between
preserving their health or paying their rent.

May we who have *flexibility to care for our children*
when their schools close
remember **those who have no options**.

May we who have to *cancel our trips*
remember **those who have no place to go**.

May we who are *losing on our investments*,
remember **those who have no money to invest**.

May we who settle in for a *quarantine at home*
remember **those who have no home**.

During this time, when we cannot physically wrap our arms
around each other, let us each find ways to be the loving
embrace of humanity to our neighbors.

Be aware. Be accepting. Be supportive. Be kind.

READ THIS PLEASE
About LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Submitted by Hannelore Payne

On October 2, 1930, the first broadcast of The Lutheran Hour radio program was aired with Dr. Walter A. Maier as Speaker. For 90 years, the call of Christ has been carried around the world by radio waves to share the Good News. The program airs on more than 1,800 North American stations every week.

Find the station near you by going to LUTHERANHOUR.ORG
or download the FREE app at LHM.ORG/APPS
and listen anytime or receive a daily devotion to read.

LHM has expanded from a radio show to television broadcasts, podcasts, phone apps, paper booklets, online educational courses, and informative workshops. They proclaim the Gospel to more than 125 million people worldwide each week, in over 50 countries, often bringing Christ to place where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present.

LHM also supports the Float Committee whose mission is to provide a Christian witness and hope in Jesus Christ to the un-churched, who view the Tournament of Roses float in person and through the media. It is the only Christian float in the parade. January 1, 2020 was their 70th year of participation with the theme “Anchored in Jesus”.



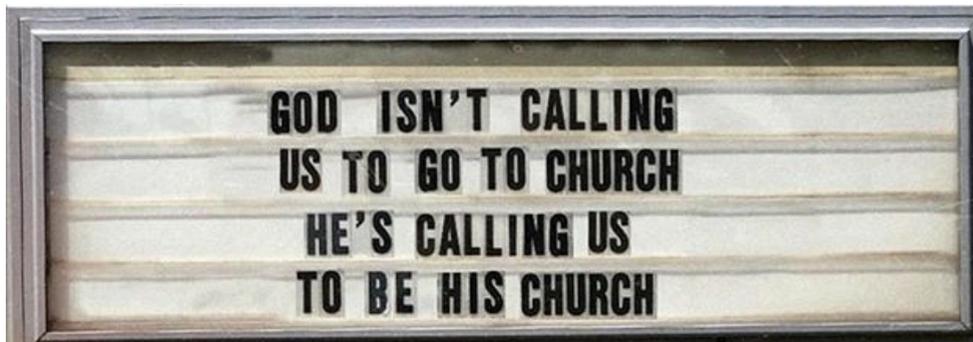
EXCERPT OF PASTOR LINNEMANN'S LETTER

His entire letter urging us to be a blessing during the pandemic can be read at <http://nowlcms.org/>

Let's pay attention for what we can learn through this and how we can be the church the Lord has called us to be. God may be leading us through some new ministry doors into the lives of the people around us. Let's learn from this and follow His lead. God bless you as you seek His wisdom in these different and unique days. This is, indeed, a time to grow.

Lord Jesus, We are thankful that You have promised to be with us and to bless us in each and every circumstance of our lives. We thank You for the opportunities You are giving us even now to be a blessing to the people You have brought into our lives. We ask that You would send to us Your Holy Spirit, that we might discern these new opportunities and that You would bless us with the resources we need to put them into play. Speak to our hearts, Lord, that we might see the way in which we can grow during these unprecedented circumstances. Lead us to answers to the questions we have, and provide us with what we need to reflect Your love to those in our circle of relationships. Be with us now. Speak to our concerns with Your Word of life and hope. Walk with us into our future. We pray for Your protection on those at risk from the Coronavirus, and we pray that You would bless the measures we are taking as a world community to limit the damage. Let this cloud pass from us, Lord, that we might be able to gather and enjoy the blessing of fellowship and society. Thank You for Your listening ear and Your loving response. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Serving the Lord and His church,
Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann
Northwest District President



The Prayer

Printed on May 21, 1996

The following is a prayer delivered by the Rev. Joe Wright of Wichita's Central Christian Church to the Kansas Legislature:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance.

We know your word says, "**Woe to those who call evil good,**" but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess, Father, that we have ridiculed the absolute Truth of Your Word and called it "moral pluralism."

We have worshiped other gods and called it "multiculturalism."

We have endorsed perversion and called it "an alternative lifestyle."

We have exploited the poor and called it "the lottery."

We have neglected the needy and called it "self-preservation."

We have rewarded laziness and called it "welfare."

We have killed our unborn and called it "choice."

We have shot abortionists and called it "justifiable."

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it "building esteem."

We have abused power and called it "political savvy."

We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it "ambition."

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it "freedom of expression."

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it "enlightenment."

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today. Try us and see if there be any wicked way in us. Cleanse us from every sin, and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by You to govern this great state.

Grant them your wisdom to rule, and may their decisions direct us to the center of your will.

I ask this in the name of your son, the living savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

-Submitted by Ellen Taylor

Clip art edited
for social
distancing
requirements



SPRING CLEAN

If health regulations permit us to leave our houses, trustees say that spring cleaning can still be done at church. The bulletin board shows the list of tasks; please mark them off as they are finished. Mary-Martha will be sorting through the boxes in the social hall and putting the keepers back into the closet. Only come if you are healthy, and if it's legal to do so.



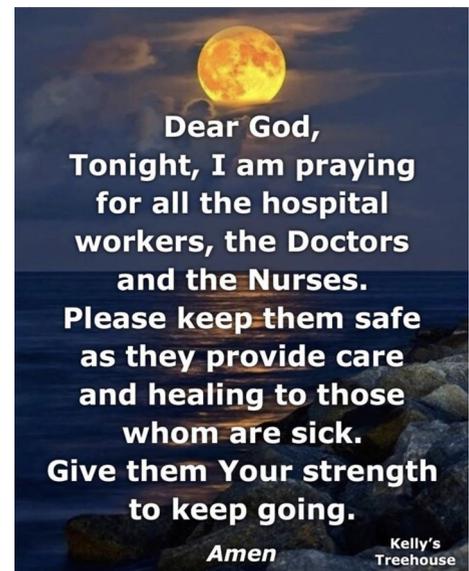
WORDS WRITTEN ALMOST 500 YEARS AGO

Sixteenth century Reformer Martin Luther wrote almost 500 years ago about responding to pandemics. When Luther was confronted by questions about how to respond to The Black Death Plague, he responded in words that should serve to inform our approach to the pandemic crisis our nation and the world is now facing today.

In a letter to Rev. Dr. John Hess, found in Luther's Works, Volume 43 p. 132, as "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague," Luther writes:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash no foolhardy and does not tempt God."

Amen!



The Story Behind The Hymn

The Old Rugged Cross

Published in 1913

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

George Bennard was born in Youngstown, Ohio, shortly after the end of the Civil War. His father, a coal miner, moved the family to Iowa, and there George came to Christ through the ministry of the Salvation Army. Eventually George moved to Chicago, married, and began in ministry with the Salvation Army. Later he was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal church and became a traveling evangelist.



George Bennard
1873-1958

After a particularly difficult season of ministry, George realized he needed to better understand the power of the Cross of Christ. He later said, *"I was praying for a full understanding of the Cross . . . I read and studied and prayed . . . The Christ of the Cross became more than a symbol . . . It was like seeing John 3:16 leave the printed page, take form, and act out the meaning of redemption. While watching this scene with my mind's eye, the theme of the song came to me."*

It took several months for the words to formulate in his mind. As he preached through the Midwest, George would carry the words with him, working on them, polishing them, and sometimes singing them in his meetings. It always struck a chord with his audiences.

The cross and its meaning are the themes of this hymn. The cross is seen as "the emblem of suffering and shame" in the first stanza, yet it has "a wondrous attraction" in the second and "a wondrous beauty" in the third. Why is such symbol of shame found so attractive? Because it is there that "Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me." The joy that is found in contemplating the cross is not found in the shame, but in the promise that someday the saints will exchange the labor of sanctification for the crown of life (James 1:12, Rev 2:10). Because of the hymn's focus on the cross, and its meaning for the believer, this hymn is most suited to Lent and Easter, though it may be sung at any time of year.

George Bennard retired to Reed City, Michigan and the town maintains a museum dedicated to his life and ministry. Their Chamber of Commerce erected a cross near his home.

Sources: hymnary.org and Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS
By George Bennard

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

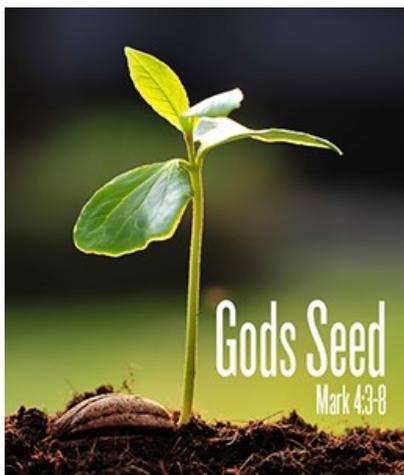
In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share.



To help us celebrate National Poetry Month, below is a thoughtful work of prose submitted by Karen Jackman.

It was written by Lutheran Volunteer Russell Bither-Terry.



The seeds I plant aren't tomatoes or forget-me-nots,
but seeds of hope
of justice and of peace.

The garden I tend isn't my backyard greenhouse
or a farm.
My garden is this place we call Earth.

I cannot know
how many of the seeds I plant
will sprout
nor how many of the ones that do
will survive and bear fruit.

But one thing I know for certain
is that nothing will grow
if I never plant at all.

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS One missionary's view of his ministry

Our Mary Martha Society has supported Rob & Eshinee Veith for many years while they lived in Africa. Now Eshinee is working for LBT in the USA and Rob travels around the world helping to create and record Christian songs in each country's languages.

At a recent East Africa Media Forum in Tanzania, Rob shared these words:

"I work for a Bible translation organization. We believe that the Word of God belongs in every language. No one would say, 'There's a language in the word that doesn't deserve to have the Word of God.' [I was asked], 'Is Music a universal language?' And it's not but it is a language. Rather, arts are languages. Every form of art is a unique language. The practitioners of these arts know how to communicate things that are too deep for words. And if we're saying that we aren't going to use these deepest ways of communicating for the glory of God, I think we lose a lot."

Rob Veith says that's his ministry in a nutshell ... to keep encouraging people to create deep things for the glory of God.

UPDATE: Please pray for all the missionaries whose international travel plans have been disrupted.



You can bring in your soft good donations in plastic bags. They will be stored downstairs. Money raised with these donations goes to the mission organizations that we support. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

Treasurer Report As of February 29, 2020

Total Income	\$ 20,718.76	12% of budget
Expenses	<u>\$ 32,298.70</u>	18% of budget
Net Loss	\$-11,579.94	

Total cash available \$48,374.54

Equity \$760.97 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

Submitted by Kathy Logan, Treasurer

We will be monitoring our mailbox regularly for members who wish to mail their offerings to the office. Address is on page 15.

Thank you!

RAVE for members who are using the SmileAmazon site and choosing Bethlehem as their charity. If you're buying online instead of a store right now, the extra dollars to Bethlehem are much appreciated.



RAVE and THANK YOU for Jon Kuhlmann who not only did his usual vacuuming of the church on Sunday but also sanitized every surface (door handles, pews, tables, and light switches) before and after the service.

RAVE for having the newsletters on our website so I can read them anytime and in a nice large font.



RAVE for a bright spot to the pandemic. Anna & Amber are happy to have Art working from home.

THE 2020 CENSUS It's Purpose is to Count us

It was the first day of census, and all through the land;
The pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;
His book and some quills were tucked close by his side.
A long winding ride down a road barely there;
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.

Those are the first few lines of a poem called The Census Taker by an unknown author. Times have changed since our first census was conducted. Instead of a man arriving on his horse, you can complete the 2020 Census via the mail, talking to someone on a phone, or filling out the form online. Renton, Washington was one of the "undercounted" areas 10 years ago and they are hoping for 100% participation this time. The census data impacts funding for community services such as education programs, public transportation, Medicare/Medicaid, school meal programs, libraries, community centers, parks, playgrounds, and food assistance programs. Please take the time to submit your census information. -Dielda Kuhlmann

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE DEPENDS ON HEALTH POLICIES	SPRING CLEANING WEEK — MARCH 30 — APRIL 4. — SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR LIST OF CLEANING TASKS		1 Soup Supper Cane 7 pm Lenten Servi To Save the Lost
5 FOOD BANK SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Communion—The King Who Comes 11:15 BAKE SALE CANCELLED 11:15 Mission Board Meeting	6 6 pm Trustees' Meeting 7 pm New Purpose	7 6:30 Elders' Meeting	8 No evening worshi
12 EASTER 7:30 SUNRISE SERVICE 8:30 Breakfast 8:30 choir rehearsal 10 Worship with Holy Communion —You Will See Him	13 7 pm New Purpose	14	15 7 pm Bible Study v Brent Begalka
19 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 Council meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 7 pm New Purpose	21	22 7 pm Bible Study v Brent Begalka
26 LWML MITE BOX SUNDAY 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship 11:15 VOTERS' MEETING	27 7 pm New Purpose	28	29 7 pm Bible Study v Brent Begalka

**April Office Hours may be adjusted during this quarantine time.
Please call Pastor or Marjie or the office to make an appointment.**

**ALL EVENTS & SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION.
CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.**

APRIL 2020

Day	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cancelled service — 1st	2 Pastor Blair's 2nd year anniversary with Bethlehem 7 pm New Purpose	3	4
Worship	9 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service— Pour Out 7 pm New Purpose	10 7 pm Good Friday Service— My God, Why?	11 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious 10 a.m. Decorate cross and altar
Worship with	16 1:15 Craft Project 3:15 Mary Martha meeting 7 pm New Purpose	17 10 am Pinochle Game & Lunch	18 8:30—1 Private use Social Hall
Worship with	23 7 pm New Purpose	24	25 3 pm Movie Matinee
Worship with	30 Noon ladies' book club and sack lunch 7 pm New Purpose	MAY 1	MAY 2 1 pm ladies' lunch

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1024 Monroe Ave N.E., Renton, WA 98056
 blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org 425-255-9772
 www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

Pastor Blair email: Pastor@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org
 cell phone: 206-291-4237

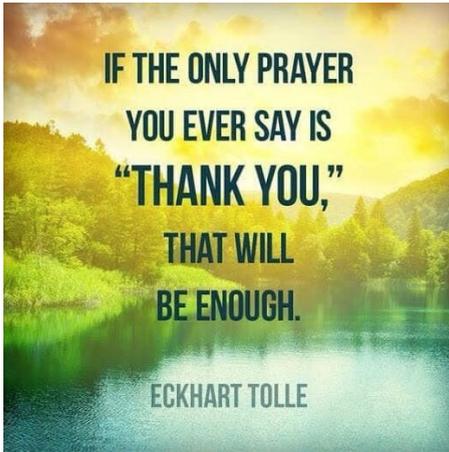
UPLIFTING WORDS and a BIT OF HUMOR

Covid 19
Peace instead of Panic
Faith instead of Fear
Kindness toward Others



LIVINGHEALTHFUL.LIFE

Don't Just Wash Your Hands, Also Fold Them
In Prayer



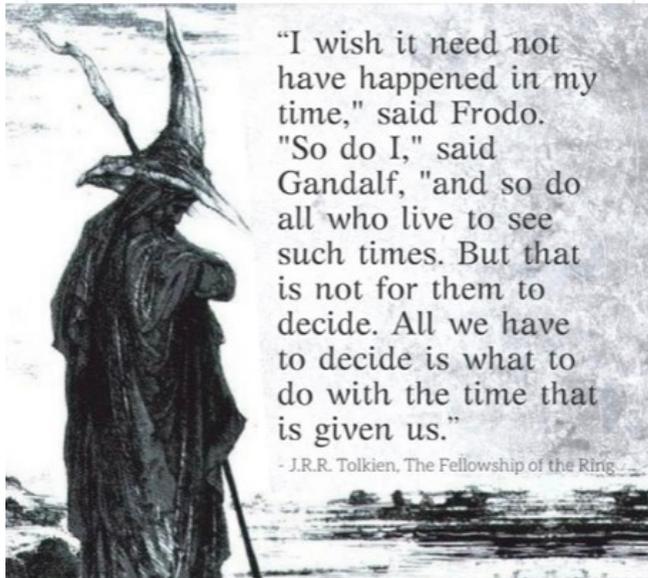
**No time for your health today;
no health for your time tomorrow.
Irish Proverb**

*Viruses are contagious.
So are laughter, love, joy,
tranquility, anxiety, patience, anger,
fear, trust, mindfulness & kindness.
Every day we cultivate a range
of thoughts and emotions
that we transmit to others.
Share wisely.*

**That moment when
you're worried
about the elderly
and realize that you
are the elderly. 😂**

Honestly hadn't
planned on giving
up quite this much
for Lent.

~ J.R.R. Tolkien



"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

- J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*



Remember, most of your stress comes from the way you respond, not the way life is. Adjust your attitude. Change how you see things. Look for the good in all situations. Take the lesson and find new opportunities to grow. Let all the extra stress, worrying, and overthinking go.

*"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

In the same way,
let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father
who is in heaven.

-Matthew 5:14,16-

LoveGodGreatly.com

In the global society we live in today, we are interdependent—we all depend on each other. Therefore, it is no longer appropriate to divide the world into 'us' and 'them'. We need to think of everyone belonging to one humanity. If the world were attacked by aliens, we would unite. We need to work together in a similar way to resist dangers to health that affect us all.

-Dalai Lama



On Leap Day, several friendly folks cut and pasted all through the morning and created dozens of greeting cards. The Friendly Visitors will be mailing them to our homebound members during the year. Taken a few days before we learned about social distancing, the photo shows Karen Jackman, Dielda Kuhlmann, Marjie Boydston, Hannelore Payne, Carolyn Troseth, Ellen Taylor and Cathy Wooden. It was taken by Teresa Feltmann who is shown in the photo on the left. Teresa is our fearless and creatively crafty card-making wizard. She also provided a yummy dessert; the recipe is below.

Ooey Goey not Really Chewy Chocolate Éclair Dessert

Make this the day before serving and refrigerate overnight.

- 1 large package instant vanilla pudding
- 1 container chocolate frosting (put in microwave for a minute to soften)
- 8 oz Cool Whip
- 1 small box graham crackers

Mix vanilla pudding according to directions and fold in cool whip.

Layer:

- 9x13 pan with whole graham crackers
- Pour on half of the pudding mixture
- Another layer of graham crackers
- Pour on rest of pudding mixture
- Another layer of graham crackers
- Spread the chocolate frosting over the top

**MASS CHOIR & ORGAN CONCERT
MAY 16 Saturday at 4 pm**

With an abundance of optimism and hearts full of faith,
the Mass Choir and Organ Concert is still on for its date!

Several choirs have signed up to join and James Hing is arranging practices while maintaining all the social distance requirements. This is an opportunity to host a community event, share some glorious music, and raise money for a worthwhile organization. This is a fundraiser as well as a musical event. Your donations will go towards helping Vision House.



Q: Why Vision House?

Vision House is a Christian social service agency in Renton and Shoreline, Washington, Vision House helps break the cycle of homelessness for families with children. Race doesn't matter. Neither does religion, national origin, gender, or sexual preference . . . every person deserves a healthy home. It's not a privilege. But a basic human right. And Vision House is just doing what we see Jesus doing in the Bible.

Founded in 1990 in Renton, WA, Vision House was born out of a God-given conviction in the hearts of John and Susan Camerer to reach and support single moms with kids at risk of ending up on the streets. Vision House has been providing transitional housing with supportive services over the past 30 years to help families experiencing homelessness move from crisis to stability and self-sufficiency. The ministry has grown from serving two single mothers and their kids at one time to now serving over 300 families a year, both single mothers, single fathers and two-parent families. Their program is infused with the commitment and passion to see lives changed and to see the cycle of homelessness broken for the next generation.

Their Mission: To follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and homeless to promote positive transformation of their lives.
Their Vision: to inspire our community to unite so that all people have access to a healthy home.

This is a chance to make a difference. We hope to see you at the concert!

POEM OF STEWARDSHIP TERMS

By Karen Begalka

If you are leaning toward learning the meaning of stewardship,
here's a poem to steer your ship to leadership.

If you sift through the "Simple Gifts," it will uplift you, if you get my drift.
Even amateurs can become managers
of their gifts, roles and goals
that God has given us to help other souls.

God is the owner, but you are the donor to labor for your neighbor.
The Savior has favor on your good behavior.

Our dependency is on God, though we all have a tendency toward independency.
It isn't a punity
to help your community.

Don't keep your courage locked away in storage,
or expect the entourage to encourage others, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers.
It's to your advantage to manage and share your gifts with those who care,
namely your family and friends to the end.

It all depends on the length of your strength
as you lean toward being a good steward.
You don't have to be angelic to collect your intellect
to get the chemistry of this ministry.

Use your talents and serve as servants and you will receive pleasure of the treasure.
It's the blessings of health and wealth that I'm confessing.
Yes, it is to you that I am addressing.
I'm not just guessing.
"It all depends on faith," God sayeth.
So you need to organize and prioritize,
and not use just a hocus pocus focus.

It's true that finance is not just a song and dance.
You don't want a wedge between a hedge and a ledge.
I advise you to seek an advisor that's not just a miser.
Someone like a CPA, Edward D. Jones or Thrivent will advise you
how to use your talents like a servant.

As for a budget, just let them judge it.
You might roll a 401k into a Roth IRA,
or pledge a RMD or a QCD.
It all depends on your AGI and you.

Do it today; don't wait 'til you're 70.
Then search for a church, maybe BLC,
and if you're a member try to remember
that you can help out or give a pledge before September or December.

**LANDSCAPING
IS WAITING**

By Pete & Hannelore Maas

Due to the virus crisis
the Landscaping Committee will be working from home
until further notice.

PS. Our yards are looking great.

**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE
DOWNSIZING WILL PREVAIL**

By Ellen Taylor

Start collecting all those things you're no longer using
Things that just take up space, but others might find amusing.
On June 6th the date on your calendars should be set
Collect those odds and ends, you still have plenty of time yet.

Our Mission Statement

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
will encourage and inspire our brothers and sisters by prayer and service.

By the grace of God,
we will reach out with God's Word and show love and fellowship to all.

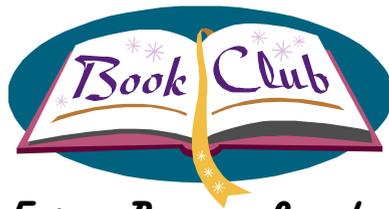
CANCELLED EVENTS

REACH's Compassion in Action Breakfast scheduled for April 30 will move to the Fall when we can gather to celebrate REACH's 50th birthday as a community organization.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale is cancelled.

Board of Ed will have a telephone meeting instead of meeting face-to-face in April.

Worship Team will not have a meeting in April.



Fat - Pray - Laugh

LADIES SACK LUNCH & BOOK CLUB

March's gathering was cancelled but ladies will be given a homework assignment! At our next meeting, hopefully on April 30, we will start our discussion on book 3 of the trilogy, *As Sure As The Dawn*, by Francine Rivers.



March's movie matinee showing of *The Overcomer* was cancelled. Stay tuned for the movie title and date of our next matinee. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday April 25.

Pinochle Club



March's game was cancelled. We are tentatively scheduled for Friday April 17 but will keep you posted.

Mary Martha Society's blanket craft and March meeting was cancelled. We are tentatively set for Thursday April 16 at 1:15 to make fleece blankets, and dessert to be served at 3:15. Meeting follows at 3:30.

If Plum Delicious Restaurant is open for dine-in service, men can meet for breakfast on Saturday April 11 at 8:30 am.

B ach afficiando
R hetorician
E nthusiastic for music
N ice
T alented tenor

INTRODUCING OUR CHOIR MEMBERS

Brent Begalka is our Choir person of the Month. He has enjoyed singing in Bethlehem's choir ever since Wilma Gardner was the choir director. LuAnne Humphrey asked him and his wife to join.



Brent Begalka
Photo by Aaron Begalka

Did you ever see the 1984 film, "Amadeus?" It was about the life and naturally also the music of the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. If you did, you had to have a new appreciation, as I did, for his beautiful music.

I am constantly discovering new (for me) music that I did not know about before. When I was in seminary, I participated in Bach's St. Matthew Passion as a member of the choir, but not as a soloist. I have become a lifetime admirer of this long musical presentation of the sufferings and death of our Lord. We sang it during Lent in the old Gothic style St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

I heard Linda Knebel play the sinfonia from Bach's 29th Cantata at a concert at Hope Lutheran Church in West Seattle. Afterwards, I listened to it on Youtube, which was even more impressive, because the original version has brass instruments accompanying the organ.

My enjoyment of music, though, is not limited to classical music. I watched the Ken Burns documentary, "Country Music," and realized that I even like some country music! My father liked the music of his generation, and hearing it on his records made me like swing music, too. Of course, I have some favorites that were popular when I was growing up.

Youtube will introduce you to new music, including musical numbers that you knew years ago and had forgotten. So, my message to you is to be open to new musical adventures!

Submitted by Brent Begalka



WASH & WORSHIP



Already tired of singing "Happy Birthday" twice through every time you wash your hands? Here are some hymns/worship songs where one verse takes roughly 20-30 seconds to sing:

AMAZING GRACE
BE THOU MY VISION
DOXOLOGY
MORNING HAS BROKEN
MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN
THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD
THIS IS THE DAY



Or you can sing the chorus of:

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
HERE I AM, LORD
HOW GREAT THOU ART



Or you can say:

THE APOSTLES' CREED
THE LORD'S PRAYER (2X)





CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

On a recent wet cloudy day, Dick Taylor took this photo of Calvary Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, Washington. They just celebrated their 100th year anniversary in February!

Calvary's Facebook page shows this interior photo of their sanctuary. (below)



Lit up with the flags of countries affected by coronavirus and the words '#praytogether,' Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer stood as more than just an iconic tourist attraction this past week, showing the need for (and strength in) togetherness across borders!

Wash your hands,
stay inside,
pray to God,
his love doth abide!

MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS



Betty Cowan's daughter, Linda, reports that while no visitors are allowed at Betty's Arbor Village home, they do get to visit through the window with gestures and expressions. Betty is very good at that! She gives Linda hugs by hugging herself, blows kisses, waves for her to come in (which she can't do), makes signs of tears coming down her face, and makes big belly laughs. Pantomiming is now a delightful part of their day. Betty seems to be doing well.



Elden and Dolores Fischer are now living at the Coal Creek Senior Center. Please contact the office for their address and phone number.



I have you all on my mind this morning. I pray that you are keeping well and keeping your spirits up during this trying time. Hello to everyone. I think of you so often. Take care.
Pat Mortrud



Sabine Muller has a cell phone while she's residing at Stafford. Please ask Ron or the office for the phone number.

Our Vision:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church dreams to be a place of prayer in our community where the love of God is embraced, the Word of God is proclaimed, relationships with Jesus Christ are transforming, and the Holy Spirit guides us to shine to our neighbors and friends.

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO

At press time, we are not sure when church will reopen. Our website will have updates www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org The office plans to remain open with adjusted hours. We will monitor the phone messages and read the mail. Emails and calling tree phone messages will be sent as we get new information. Worship bulletins will be emailed and mailed to members.

What can you do?

Organist James Hing says: **SING THE HYMNS....from the comforts of home!**

We can be resolute in our worship practices, no matter where we are, or even when, including using music! As we shelter at home during this national health crisis YOU can sing hymns from the comforts of home, using an internet connection with your sound turned up high, to the glory of god, who will see us through! For this week's bulletin, a hymnal is NOT needed, just follow along, karaoke style. It's music that will soothe your soul, your minds & hearts, centered on Christ Jesus!

Now, sip some coffee & get ready to SING! And may the peace of Christ which surpasses all human understanding keep your hearts and mind in Him! Amen! and wash your hands!

a time to bless...



Be a blessing to others in need.



- When you shop, remember the food bank still needs items especially sanitizing products. If you 'win' free items in the Safeway/Albertson's Monopoly game, you can donate them.
 - We are still collecting metal nail clippers, single toothbrushes & bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief.
 - We are accepting donations of umbrellas and rain ponchos for the REACH Day Center.
 - We welcome your travel-sized toiletries which will be offered to the homeless in Renton through REACH.
 - Lutheran Ministry Services are looking for dark color hand towels. They will be turned into adult clothing protectors. Ruth Ann Shimoi is our contact for LMS and can answer any questions.
- Check with your ill neighbors if they need anything.
 - **Crop Walk** has gone virtual this year. You can donate to our BLC team online at crophungerwalk.org/rentonwa/Team/View/129752/BLC Or mail your donation, check made out to Bethlehem, to our church office.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1024 Monroe Ave N.E.
Renton, WA 98056

April 2020



April's event are tentative. See the calendar on the middle page for this month's possible schedule. Be prepared for cancellations.

May events that are still being planned are:

- May 2 Saturday 1 pm Ladies' Lunch. It's a week earlier than usual.
- May 3 Sunday Crop Walk. We can walk anywhere anytime. Together apart.
- May 9 Saturday evening Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest fundraising dinner and choir at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Bellevue
- May 16 Saturday 4 pm Mass Choir and Organ Concert Fundraiser for Vision House here at Bethlehem, under the direction of James Hing.

We will keep you posted as things evolve.