

August
2020



Bethlehem Star

Pastor David Blair



James Hing, Organist & Choir Director

**“fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”** (Isaiah 41:10).

Dear Bethlehem family,

August is here!

The bad news: life is still not back to “normal.”

The Good News: Jesus’ promises are still good! They are ALWAYS good. In the “normal” days of life and in these (very) “abnormal” days of 2020.

Bethlehem leadership has developed a re-entry plan (see pages 16 & 17). The question now is ... when? As the congregational leadership monitors the situation as to when would be best to meet again physically and under what conditions ... our response is to ... PRAY ... to patiently WAIT ... to be about our Father’s business in our personal lives as we stay spiritually connected to one another through our mutual faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. He is ALWAYS present in our lives ... even virtually!

We pray: “Holy Spirit, breathe your breath of new life and hope into the hearts and minds of all congregation members as we anticipate and prepare for that day of joyful reunion!

In the name of our Savior Jesus we pray. Amen.”

Pastor David

Call Team Update

By Joel Jackman

You are blessed to be a blessing. That's what God told Abraham in Genesis 12, and it applies today for each of us individually and for Bethlehem. We have each been blessed with whatever we need to fulfill our respective roles in God's plan. And Bethlehem has always been blessed with members and pastors who have served in whatever calling they are needed. Recently, our pastor, staff and leaders have been working hard to adapt our ministry to deal with COVID-19 issues and consider how to return to "normal."

The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, is credited with saying, "Change is the only constant in life." While many things have changed at Bethlehem over the years, we have adapted, with God's help. He often seems to use adversity to His advantage, according to His plan. Will God use COVID-19 and all the other changes impacting our lives and our congregation these days to give us a new direction? A new calling?

To answer this important question, we need to turn to the Holy Spirit. Throughout our transition period and calling process, we have asked for the Holy Spirit to help us discern God's plan for Bethlehem, and for our next pastor to be the one whom He has called to serve with us.

So, as we await our next pastor, continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare us and nudge us along God's chosen path so that we can be a blessing in our individual lives and as a congregation.



JULY'S COMMUNION

41 members received Holy Communion and one child received a blessing at our July Drive Thru event.

The August Communion is scheduled for Saturday August 30. See back page.

Gil & Cathy Wooden graciously posed for this photo during our outdoor Communion on July 25. Pastor David Blair holds the communion tray, Ellen Taylor holds the Prayer of Confession sign. Way in the background is Elder Art Wolf preparing each tray. Karen Marsyla (not pictured) was the parking lot attendant, and Marjie Boydston handed out mail. Photo by Joel Jackman

AUGUST



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jean Shaw	August 1
Cassandra Rogers	August 4
Karen Begalka	August 5
Bud Reynolds	August 5
Joanne Jordanger	August 6
Tommie McNeal	August 6
Logan Browning	August 9
Joshua Bumpus	August 9
Wilma Gardner	August 9
LaRell Troseth	August 12
Ronald Muller	August 13
Makayla Boydston	August 16
Abigale Santee	August 16
JoAnne Simonton	August 17
Betty Cowan	August 21
Olivia Hudson	August 23
Harold Carlson	August 24
Pat Eskam	August 28
Kaye Hanno	August 28

Adams, Jeff & Suzanne August 5, 2000
Happy 20th Anniversary!!

Maas, Pete & Hannelore August 5, 1961

Schroeder, Fred & Ruth August 9, 1952
Happy 68th Anniversary!!

Blair, David & Cindy August 12, 1978

Baade, Gene & Joyce August 17, 1968

Murphy, Bob & Diane August 17, 1985

Rogers, Joseph & Cassandra August 28, 2010
Happy 10th Anniversary!!

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS :

Bud Reynolds celebrates 9 DECADES!!

Tommie & Joshua both turn 21 this month.

Makayla Boydston is a quarter of a century



Abigale is 5 years old this month.

*We wish you continued happiness
and God's blessings!*



Brent & Karen Begalka have cancelled their landline. They can be reached on Karen's cell phone (425) 761-2318

We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all.

In particular, we pray for:

Karen Begalka's sister Gayle
Those living & working in our Bethesda home
Rachel Blair's fiancée's mother Cindy
Jim Buechler's sister JoAnn
Sharon Buechler's brother James
Harold Carlson
Bruce Feltmann's cousin Kevin
Teresa Feltmann's sister Connie
Marcy Hall
Mardelle Hammond & her sister-in-law Barbara, friend Mavis
Gary Hanno
Jim Hanson
Curtis Holcomb's friend Matt
Marlene Holcomb and son Guy
Jeanne-K Hughes and her sister Denise, son David, aunt Ruth
Emma Humphrey
LuAnne Humphrey's friends Debbie & Chris, and David B
Joel & Karen Jackman
Joanne Jordanger's brother Leonard
Donna Kahn
Hannelore Maas
Pete & Hannelore Maas' son Brian, friend Bill
Ron Muller's relative Shirley, sister and brother-in-law Inge & Marty
Bob Pankow
Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives June and Johanna
Debbie Porter Mason
Ruth Schroeder
Jerry Schuh
Bud Reynolds
Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie, niece Heidi, friends Anne & George
Ruth Ann Shimoi's mom Ruth
Dick & Ellen Taylor's grandchildren Landon & Caroline, his cousins Bill & Eileen
Carolyn Troseth's sister Viola and sister-in-law Viona, friend Anita
Carolyn Warn's daughter Debbie, great granddaughter Masyn
Beverly West's daughter Janet



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, safety, and comfort to our members who can't attend church services: **Pat Boydston, Wanda Brooks, Betty Cowan, Ray & Gretchen Engum, Elden Fischer, Jenny Iles, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Gerhard & Sabine Muller, Virginia Preston, Fred Schroeder, Jean Shaw, Marie Feel, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.**



We note the passing of Darrel Mulkin, age 57, on July 4, 2020. He was a long-time resident of Bethesda's Olympia House. A formal memorial service is on hold until conditions allow gatherings with fewer restrictions. Darrel was a beloved child of God; the staff and his housemates all miss him.

DISAPPOINTMENTS, STRUGGLES

By Dielda Kuhlmann

The world has suffered during this coronavirus pandemic. At press time (July 29), 661,917 people have died from COVID-19 including our own Dolores Fischer. 16,810,315 people in the world are known to have had the virus, including some of our members, many with lingering long term health issues. Millions of people lost their jobs and with economic instability, are anxious about how to provide for their families. Our nation is divided, there is racial tension and riots, protests, science followers and science skeptics, mask wearers and mask deniers. Weddings and funerals have been delayed. Anniversary, birthday and graduation events have not been celebrated as we are used to. Here in Washington, churches and schools have been closed since March. Essential items have been out of stock. Surgeries were postponed.

Many of us had trips cancelled — Hawaii, Iceland, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Alaska, and more. Many of us have not been able to see our children or grandchildren, or visit family and friends in assisted living facilities.

Every part of our normal life was ripped away. It will take a while for us to recover.

Be kind to yourself and to each other as each of us will take our own unique journey through this trauma. An extra measure of patience may be necessary. If you're able to reach out and help someone or encourage someone, please do so. If you need help or encouragement, know that there are organizations set up to help. In Washington state, if you are experiencing excess stress due to COVID-19 **call 833-681-0211 for support and resources**. Website with more information is <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/information-for/you-and-your-family/mental-and-emotional-well-being>

As Christians, we have the additional comfort of prayer to help us through difficult times. Prayer is one of the greatest tools God gave us. Keep those prayer going; we are told in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to ***“pray without ceasing”***. Surrender your cares to God and trust Him for the outcome.

LANDSCAPE TEAM



Photo by Marjie Boydston



Pete Maas gives our Golden Chain tree a summer hair cut. Photo by Hannelore

With an overcast July sky, the landscape committee got together for a work party.

Dick Taylor mowed the lawns in front and back, **Karen Fritsvold** tackled and conquered the sturdy creeping groundcover by the church sign, **Pete Maas** pruned the rhodies in the front yard 1/3 down, **Karen Marsyla** weeded, **Hannelore Maas** took care of the flower bed by the front door, and we all pitched in to get everything done, including the clean up.

We were done in 2 and 1/2 hours, before the rain had a chance to soak us.

Rave to our wonderful committee, and a big thank you!

-Hannelore and Pete Maas

A few things I remind myself
when I need a boost.

We rise by lifting others.

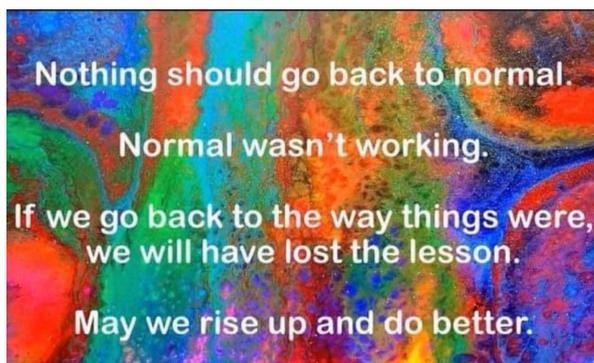
**Hope has a name: Jesus
Love has a name: Jesus**

**We receive strength in the
3 w's; Word, Worship,
Waiting.**

**Faith can move mountains
Doubt will create them.**

**I was created on purpose
for His purpose.**

-Pat Eskam



THE PRICE OF OXYGEN

After improving the health of a 93-year-old man in a hospital in Italy, he was asked to pay the cost of the respirator for a day, and then the old man began to cry. The doctor advised him not to cry over the bill. What he said, made all the doctors cry.

The old man said, "I do not cry for the money I have to pay, because I can afford all this. I cry because I've been breathing God's air for 93 years, but I never paid for it. It takes 500 euros to use the respirator in the hospital for a day. Do you know how much I owe God? I have never thanked God for this before."

The words of this man deserve our reflection.

When we breathe freely without pain and disease, no one takes the air seriously. Only when we get to a hospital, we can know that even breathing oxygen with artificial respirator costs money!

Thank God for the time you've spent all your life because you can breathe freely.

Posted by Georges Preem

We Count Our Blessings
Written by You
Compiled by Dielda Kuhlmann

- 1) I thank the LORD I have four children to check up on me and help when I need it. Hugs, Glen Koppelman
- 2) Let me brag on God for a minute! If you have remained Healthy and Lacked Nothing during this Pandemic - Say, "Lord, I Thank YOU!"
Carolyn Troseth
- 3) I'm thankful for the heat, 115 degrees. The temps here in Arizona help a person "stay in place and be safe." Bonnie Begalka
- 4) I thank God daily that my family and I have stayed healthy—so far.
Bonnie Begalka
- 5) With 4 children, under the age of 5, it was a blessing to find an *au pair* available to help while I home school them. Halley Kuhlmann Gentil
- 6) We've altered our children's bedtime routine during this period. We have a much longer hugging time and lots of physical contact to help them feel safe and secure. Halley Kuhlmann Gentil
- 7) Family time together has been our blessing. Anna's speech has grown a ton because she hears Art and I talking throughout the day. It's awesome that Anna gets to be with both of her parents! Amber Wolf
- 8) It's a blessing that Zoom was available to us and that our leaders were able to learn it, and so many of us were able to worship together electronically. And thankful we can video call our grandchildren. Dielda Kuhlmann
- 9) My daughter-in-law deserves a Medal of Honor for homeschooling five kids each with several teachers! Bonnie Begalka
- 10) We have enjoyed watching the deer wander through our yard and up to our porch. Raccoons and stellar jays come up to the house and help themselves to the cat food! We had an elk or moose come into the yard also. We do enjoy the wild creatures that aren't dangerous. Bud & Juanita Reynolds



- 11) I am blessed that 3 years after my Dad's passing, the sorrow becomes less painful. Kay Hanno
- 12) We both tested negative after being exposed to COVID-19, and Gary's much delayed surgery is now scheduled for August. Gary & Kay Hanno
- 13) Blessed to be able to look towards the future and celebrating our 26th wedding anniversary in September. Having our church family and close friends offer support during our trying time has truly been a blessing. Thank you, Gary & Kay Hanno
- 14) I am awed by how much technology we have learned during this 'house arrest'. I have listened to our granddaughter & great granddaughter churches, Church of the Cross and Peace in Covington, on how to present our live service when we re-enter the building. They do it quite differently, but I learned a lot from them. Also, learning how to be effective on Zoom has been an opportunity for us all. Don Kuhlmann
- 15) I had time to work in my garden. After 3 years of not producing much, I'm overjoyed that all of my zucchini plants are alive and growing! Marjie Boydston
- 16) I was looking for cooking instructions on the top of my fridge a couple of weeks ago, and I found an envelope. It had the 2019 tabs in it for our Ford Explorer. I reread it a couple of times and panicked then started laughing. We drove on expired tabs for a year and never got pulled over. That is a blessing. Jeanne Hack
- 17) I have actually been 'blessed' by this pandemic. How could that be, you ask? I had planned to retire from The Boeing Co. in the Spring of 2021. With the shut down of the 737 Max assembly line and then the Corona virus came along, Boeing needed to layoff some manpower. My job was included in the list to voluntarily be laid off. After 36 and a half years of course I said YES!! I was given a nice separation package, got to retire about 9 months early and saved a younger employee's job.
- I have been very busy in retirement as many of you who have retired already know. I have been re-landscaping our front yard, rebuilding a deck and mowing the back acreage at church. I have many more projects in the queue and not enough time to do them. I love it!! Blessing to All, Curtis Holcomb
- 18) I hardly know where to begin. I feel blessed that I made the move to Texas before all this craziness started. My move to Texas was the best

thing I could have done. I am settled in and happy. I have a sweet little home that I love. My daughter and son in law are wonderful and check on me every day. In fact I usually have dinner with them every day.

I get up early. Fix my coffee and if it is pleasant outside, my dog and I go outside to sit and enjoy the fresh air before it starts getting hot. Yesterday morning it was about 75 degrees. Olivia and I were out enjoying the cool, fresh air. Across the yard walks a doe and her twin fawns. Give Olivia no concern at all. I look up and a hummingbird is drinking from the feeder a couple feet from me. I'm full of joy for the beautiful new day. I thank God every morning for each new day and the blessings he has given me.



Pat's hummingbird

I'm not forgetting all of my friends and church family at Bethlehem. I think of all of you often. Miss you a lot. Will never forget your kindness and help when I really needed you. Love having "church" with you via Zoom. You are definitely part of the blessings the Lord gives me in my life. Pat Mortrud

19) During this pandemic, God has given us a means of separating us from our many 'idols', like sports, careers, busy schedules, glamour, activities, things, etc. so that we can concentrate more on His Word and His ways, realizing the essential aspects of our lives is really all that is necessary! Ellen Taylor

20) I'm grateful for being able to stay in touch via phone or face time with my friends and family in Europe.

Grateful to have a garden to enjoy with a cup of coffee and a good book and my cat next to me. Very grateful that all of our family is well and staying healthy and grateful for our Church service via zoom on Sundays, even though it would be nice to see everyone in person. Grateful for computer, internet and DVD's.

Disappointments, yes a few, I'm disappointed that I took a spill and won't be able to bike for a couple more months, but grateful for a great physical therapist who helps me and cheers me on. Hannelore Maas

21) We count our blessings with time spent at home keeping busy and keeping safe. We have a new fence in our back yard and a new front step. (no, we didn't build them). Our small garden is growing and we have enjoyed some lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, onions, and zucchini.

Bruce started his volunteer job again at Tahoma National Cemetery wearing masks and practicing social distancing, the new normal. God is good and He provides for all our needs. We are still enjoying worshipping together online.

God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Bruce & Teresa Feltmann

22) I feel so blessed to be able to spend my isolation time with Corrie and Brian. They live on 5 wooded acres with lots of different song birds, hummingbirds, and woodpeckers.

On nice days I sit on the back deck and watch the birds feed at the feeders and drink and bathe in the birdbath. They seem so happy as they flit around and their singing is calming music for the soul. I am in awe at how creative God was when he created these tiny little creatures, and how he cares for them and for me. Linda Sheets

23) Our daughter, Natalie, became engaged to John Carlson on May 31st. They have set the date for March 19, 2021 in Tuscan, Arizona. She flew here to be with our family, the first 2 weeks of July. Our other daughters, their husbands, and our grandkids were all here to celebrate Natalie. Natalie, her sisters and I got to go shopping for her wedding dress while she was home, and she found a beautiful dress! Rachel, our youngest will be her Maid of Honor, and Bethany and Heidi will be bridesmaids. Pastor will perform the ceremony at Oasis at Wild Horse Ranch in Tuscan. A lot of fun plans are being made for Natalie's wedding this summer! Cindy Blair



24) I am first of all thankful that my family is all well. I missed taking Logan and Ella to school each day but have been able to drive to Puyallup 4 days a week to babysit Coleton and Madisyn. My trip to London and Paris was cancelled but we got together for Ella's 13th birthday and Logan's graduation from Middle School (doing our best to social distance). We are mainly keeping our cool during the pandemic.

Kathy Logan

25) I am so Blessed! Thank you Lord!

My family, wanting me to stay home during this virus time, is making it possible. Doing all the shopping, from groceries to ordering or getting supplies for inside and outside overdue major house projects. I have been for a few car rides, so have had some change of scenery.

I am so thankful to be able to see my grandkids once in awhile in "masked person" and on Facebook and in texts. Also quick masked visits from a friend now and then on the front deck.

Praises and Thank Yous to our Heavenly Father for Bethlehem Church being able to Zoom our "Sunday Zervice". It takes a lot of effort and coordination to make it successful. Thank you all for making it work, as well as everyone who is keeping our Church Family together thru prayers, cards, phone calls and texts. And for keeping the other programs going. Kathy Zable

26) We count our blessings that we have our daughter, Tammy and her family. During this isolation time we were able to have our grandchildren down here with us off and on and we were able to go up north to see her family.

We are also thankful for the friends we have, that the 7 of us were able to get together on the 4th of July.

What a wonderful thing it is to get together and see faces while we worship on Sunday morning via Zoom. We really miss everyone. Thank you to James, Pastor, and anyone else who is involved in making this possible. James & Sharon Buechler

27) I am grateful I was able to go on walks by myself during the quarantine. Jon Kuhlmann

28) I am so thankful to be part of this Bethlehem family and have appreciated the phone calls. And I'm thankful not to have contracted the virus. Marcy Hall

29) We must always count our blessings. We have a loving God who knows our name and all our needs. Pat Eskam

A BLESSING TO BE A BLESSING

Luke Taylor, Dick & Ellen's grandson, enlisted some help to build a Tiny Home this summer. Construction took place in Luke's parents' driveway. This 8'x12x10' tall unit will be relocated to a local homeless community. The house has a window, a steel locking door, solid roof, insulation, and electricity, and will be a blessing to someone in need.



Luke Taylor, friend Josh, grandpa Dick Taylor



The completed tiny house with a nice gray paint job.

ANOTHER BLESSING

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE



A big thank you to Harrison, a friend of Bethlehem, who stopped by this summer and helped with a lot of tasks, both inside the building and outside. Harrison is waiting for school to resume and wanted to be helpful and useful. He was, indeed! We were so blessed to be the recipient of his kindheartedness.

The Story Behind The Hymn

This Little Light of Mine Written Circa 1920

You know the song and you know it well. *This Little Light of Mine* made it into the American folk music tradition when it was found and documented by John Lomax in 1939. The song is actually attributed to Harry Dixon Loes. He was a gospel songwriter and music director from Michigan who worked at the Moody Bible Institute, and penned over 1500 gospel songs and 3000 tunes in his career. Loes wrote the song for children in the 1920's.



Harry Dixon Loes
1892 – 1965

Though Loes was a white man from the North, the song is often attributed (even in hymnals) as an "African-American Spiritual." This is understandable because it sounds similar to other Southern spirituals of the time. In the 1960s, the simple song was popularized and became an anthem of the Civil Rights movement. It was adapted for this purpose by Zilphia Horton (who also taught Pete Seeger "Ye Shall Overcome.") and other activists.

The song takes its theme from some of Jesus's remarks to his followers. [Matthew](#) 5:14-16 of the King James Version gives: **"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."** The parallel passage in [Luke](#) 11:33 of the King James Version gives: **"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light."**

The lyrics to *This Little Light of Mine* are very simple and repetitive. This lends itself nicely to the folk tradition, making it an easy song to remember and sing along with. It's one of the first songs many children learn in Sunday school and is often passed down through generations. Only one line in each verse changes. The verses begin with one of the following phrases which are followed by "I'm gonna let it shine"; these two lines repeat a total of three times. Each verse is finished up with "Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."

Lyrics: *This Little Light of Mine*

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. *(repeat three times)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine. *(repeat three times)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Don't let Satan blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine. *(repeat three times)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
4. Let it shine 'til Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine. *(repeat three times)*
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

There is a special "little light" inside each of us. For some, it is a light that makes them kind and friendly, that shows that they are really curious, or that they love animals, music, art or the outdoors. For others, their very special light is a commitment to helping others, making sure that people are treated fairly, and doing their part to make sure that justice and freedom are preserved. Each person sharing his or her "light" helps us to appreciate and respect the little light that is different in each of us and bonds us together in "common" community.

Sources: hymnary.org and other internet sources. Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman

AUGUST CALENDAR. The next page would usually contain our calendar of activities. It is replaced this month by our Reopening Guidelines, an important document to read.

Items to note for August:



- Worship services will be held every Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Trustees Meeting Monday, August 3 at 2 pm onsite
- Elder Meeting Tuesday, August 4 at 6 pm via Zoom
- No men's breakfast meeting, No Vacation Bible School
- Newsletter Deadline is Sunday August 23
- Holy Communion date Saturday August 30 morning
- Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am to 1pm

Sept 15 is date of next Lifeline screening. See page 31 for more details.

Contact information:

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

While we are not yet able to set a date for reopening, I suggest that you review the following guidelines which have been developed and approved by the Council. The guidelines reflect the current requirements for public meetings, but they may change. Members will be receiving a call during the next few weeks to determine your ability and willingness to return to public worship under the conditions imposed by the guidelines.

Your response will help establish a date for reopening. Carl Stockamp

Plan for Reopening Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Renton, Washington

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will resume indoor worship services on Sunday, TBD and will continue to offer virtual worship opportunities for those who are unable to attend in person.

Our plan is comprised of four elements:

1. Preparation and maintenance of our facilities
2. Responsibility of worshippers
3. Conduct of worship services
4. Compliance with federal/state/local orders

1. Preparation and maintenance of our facilities:

- The following actions will be accomplished no later than one day prior to reopening:
 - All surfaces that can be touched will be sanitized
 - Hymnals, Bibles and cushions will be removed from pews
 - Signage related to COVID-19 prevention/detection will be posted throughout facility
 - Signage limiting occupancy of areas within the building will be posted
 - The balcony will be limited to the organist and projector operator.**
 - We reserve the ability to add a camera operator if needed for the virtual service. Anyone else will be requested to take a seat in the main sanctuary.
 - The social hall is limited to two people
 - The Serenity Room is limited to two people
 - Floor markings showing six-foot separation requirements will be installed
- Supplemental face masks will be available for anyone not coming with a mask
- Hand sanitizers will be available before each worship service
- Sanitization of all surfaces that can be touched will take place within two days after each worship service

2. Responsibility of each worshipper:

- Take temperature before coming to church and stay home if you or any family member in your household has a temperature exceeding 101.4° F or if you are not feeling well
- **Wear personal face mask at all times, with the exception of receiving communion**
- Maintain six-foot separation from other people
- No hugs or shaking hands with other worshippers

- Provide your name to registrar in narthex before entering sanctuary. Registrar will note your intention to receive communion when it is offered.
- Unless another person needs assistance, limit occupancy of lavatories to one person at a time
- Report any cases of you or a family member testing positive to COVID-19 to the church office

3. Conduct of worship services:

- **Entrance to sanctuary will be limited to main doors on Monroe Ave. and all other doors will be locked**
- As outside temperature permits, main doors and vestry door will remain open and overhead fans will be off for the service
- Offering plates will not be passed, but plates will be placed in a location that worshippers can use as they enter the sanctuary
- **Bulletins will not be distributed**
- **Singing will not take place**
- Seating will be determined by ushers and will adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Every other row of pews will remain empty
 - No more than three people will be seated in a pew unless they are a family unit
 - Six feet of separation will be maintained
- Order of worship, liturgy and announcements will appear on video screen
- Sunday school for children will not be provided
- **Children will remain in their pews when pastor delivers children's message**
- Ushers will dismiss worshippers from front of church to the back
- **Exit from sanctuary will be through the side door in front of the vestry**
- Communion, when served, will take place at the end of the service and worshippers will exit immediately following receiving the elements. Face masks can be removed to receive the elements prior to exiting through the vestry door.
- No food or beverages will be served

Compliance with federal/state/local orders:

- Bethlehem Lutheran Church will follow the guidance online by the Washington State Department of Health and CDC. The staff and those supporting worship services will be required to maintain cognizance of current information from the following sources. You are also requested to be cognizant of the information contained in these sources:
 - Phase 1, 2 and 3 Religious & Faith-Based Organizations https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Phase%201-3%20-%20Religious%20and%20faith-based%20orgs%20FINAL_6%2018%202020.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
 - Other sources posted on our church website
- Report cases of worshippers testing positive for COVID-19 as required

Let's **zoom**

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ZUNDAY ZERVICES

By Dielda Kuhlmann

The sermon title for **June 28**, 2020 was "Peace, Real Peace" based on Matthew 10:34-42. Our prelude was "Lift Every Voice and Sing" played by Edward M Nassor on the Washington National Cathedral Carillon. For those who would like to listen to it again, it can be found on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9LjPin5LqQ>



Carillonneur Edward M Nassor

June 28 was also a special day as it marked the 39th anniversary of Pastor David Blair's ordination at his home church in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

July 5 was our patriotic Zervice. It was our 14th Sunday worshipping together on Zoom and the first one that Pastor Blair was on vacation. With the benefits of modern technology, he was able to pre-record his sermon for us to see and hear. It worked quite well. The sermon title was "Freedom in Dependence" and we were reminded to look for "people of peace" in your life who you sense are open to hearing about true peace and freedom found only in Jesus Christ. Pray for opportunities to share life with them: a simple conversation; a listening ear; a ready helping hand. As we do so let our motto be: Freedom in Dependence (on Jesus!)

James Hing included some of our garden photos in the slide show so it was a bit like a flower potluck Sunday also!

Audience participation was at an all-time high. Many zoomers attended in patriotic attire. Jeanne-K Hughes' ensemble included a bright red hat. Dielda Kuhlmann and Joel & Karen Jackman had virtual flag backgrounds while Pete & Hannelore Maas, Jim & Sharon Buechler, and Carolyn Troseth displayed a US flag, and red, white and blue flowers. Linda Sheets had a candle powered by a battery. For those who participated, even though, we couldn't see you, we applaud your efforts.

We were blessed with 2 postludes today. Many were moved to stand for the National Anthem as it was played on a pipe organ. And then we got to hear a familiar melody with different lyrics. We know it as Be Still, My Soul. The tune is called Finlandia, written in 1899 by Jean Sibelius. The "newer" words we heard were written by Lloyd Stone in 1934 and is called This is My Song.

This is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace, for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine

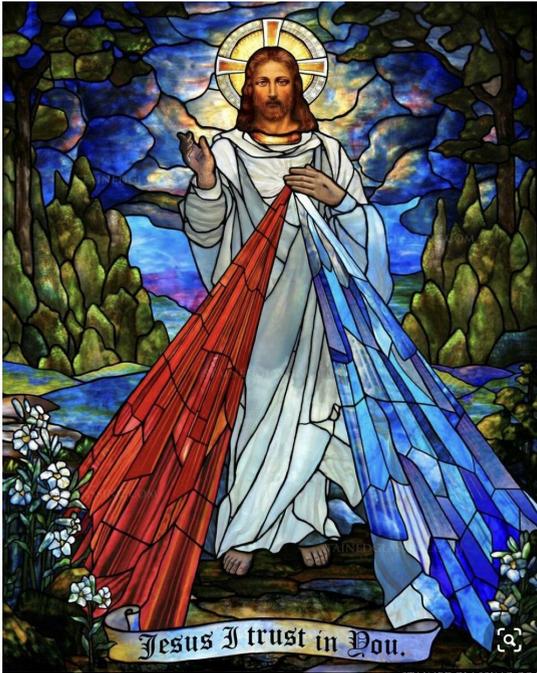
The a cappella version, sung in March 2020 while socially distant, can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuXrFZBforA>

During announcements on July 5, congregational president Carl Stockamp gave us a progress report on reopening plans. No date has been set for reopening.

July 12's opening hymn was brought to us by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. *O Day Full of Grace* was performed by 960 singers and 364 instrumental participants from around the globe, all united in prayer for God's Spirit to bring healing and newness and for the days when we will again "gather in song, our hearts aglow".

The sermon was The Parable of the Sower. Pastor Blair said it can be discouraging when we don't see our seeds grow but as Christians, we are called to scatter the seed of the Word of God wherever and whenever and with whomever we find in our life.

Zoom Services Continued from previous page



July 12's Power Point slide show featured beautiful stained glass photos from around the world.

The postlude was played on the pipe organ in the Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris!

July 19 was one of our warmer Sunday mornings. We had 67 attendees.

Although it was written in 1974, our Hymn of the Day for July 19 was new to us so we sang it twice, before the sermon and after the sermon. It was Lutheran Service Book hymn #769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ.

Pastor Blair told us, "Every breath we take, every word we speak, every thought we have, God is in it." He gave assurance that when we lift up our prayers, be confident that God hears them.



Pastor David Blair with Mt Rainier as his virtual background



James Hing Zooming from home with his BLC virtual background

July 26 was a good day to worship at Bethlehem. The service began with the perky sounds of zimblstern bells, and a prelude played by Elgar Nimrod on the largest pipe organ in Asia. This was the first Sunday that we were able to see Frank & Betty Downing. They have been faithfully phoning in every Sunday but today they were able to get on a computer and see the slide show!

Pastor David Blair gave a sermon titled More than Conquerors, based on Romans 8:37. While the virus has inserted a great deal of uncertainty into our lives, the Good News is that Jesus knows what's going to happen. This pandemic will not separate us from God's love.

During the closing hymn, we got to sing the last line a cappella as James' computer froze and had to be rebooted. We were all waiting eagerly for the announcements as James assured us it was a "once in a lifetime" announcement. After repairing the technical glitch, we learned that the announcement was very important, indeed. Our little Anna Wolf's 5th birthday was today! We were able to wish her a happy birthday, and she told us her cake was shaped like the sun. She was looking forward to a pandemic-version of her birthday party later that afternoon.

 <p>THE LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bethlehem Missions</p> <p>Our mission's organization at Bethlehem Lutheran Church supports a variety of organizations. One is LCMS Disaster Relief. They respond to "immediate and long-term needs following a natural or man-made disaster".</p> <p><u>Why?</u> <i>"We love because He first loved us."</i> 1 John 4:19.</p> <p><u>How do they help?</u> "On-site assessment, emergency relief and development grants, pastoral care for LCMS church workers and members, and other resources".</p> <p>During COVID-19, LCMS Disaster Relief has been assessing the dam failure flood in Midland, Michigan. It is great that they are still serving!</p> <p>For more information, go to LCMS.org or Google LCMS Disaster Relief. There are some good devotionals on their website too. Check it and see one of the great organizations we support through our giving!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Amber Wolf</p>
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Treasurer Report As of June 30, 2020 (50% of the year)

Total Income	\$73,541.22	(41% of budget)
Total Expense -	<u>78,723.15</u>	(44% of budget)
Difference	- \$ 5,181.93	

Our total assets = \$71,627.24

Equity = \$7,191.43 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

Offerings of \$65,701 are included in the Total Income amount. This is 40% of what our budget anticipated. Income from renting the social hall is under budget as groups have not been allowed in to the building since mid-March.

At 50% of the year, to be on budget, the expenses would be at 50%.

Significantly Under budget for the first 6 months of this year:

Mission donations 29%
Secretary salary 40%
Custodian salary 14%
Property Maintenance 25%
Parsonage repairs -0-
Newspaper ad 18% ad cancelled during closure
Office supplies 36%

On budget:

Utilities
Pastor's salary
Organist
Business Fees
Property Taxes
Property Insurance

Over Budget:

Copier 75% because we bought it

Compared to June of last year, our income is about \$3,000 less than this time last year. Your continued giving, whether done electronically, via mail, or dropped off at the office, during the building closure is much appreciated.

— Kathy Logan, Treasurer

CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



Camano Island, Washington



Chicago, Illinois

MARY-MARTHA NEWS

This is such a different world we live in!!!
Here we are all dusted and vacuumed!
Trying out all these different recipes! OR NOT!

Mary Martha has all their board members ready to go! The new book for the year is being printed!

The Christmas Quilt is all done, bright, shiny and all ready to have us put forth our best and SELL THOSE TICKETS!!!!

Now what???? We just need to keep praying that we, as a group, let God lead us to where we go from here!

Carolyn Troseth, Secretary

LWML PRAYER REQUEST

Nationwide, all LWML districts, except Montana, have made the decision to hold virtual conventions or vote electronically and via mail. Montana followed all safety protocols and held an in-person convention in July.

Please pray for strength and wisdom for **all 40 of our district presidents** and their leaders as we continue to serve the Lord with gladness, thanking Him for His mercy and grace and never-ending love.

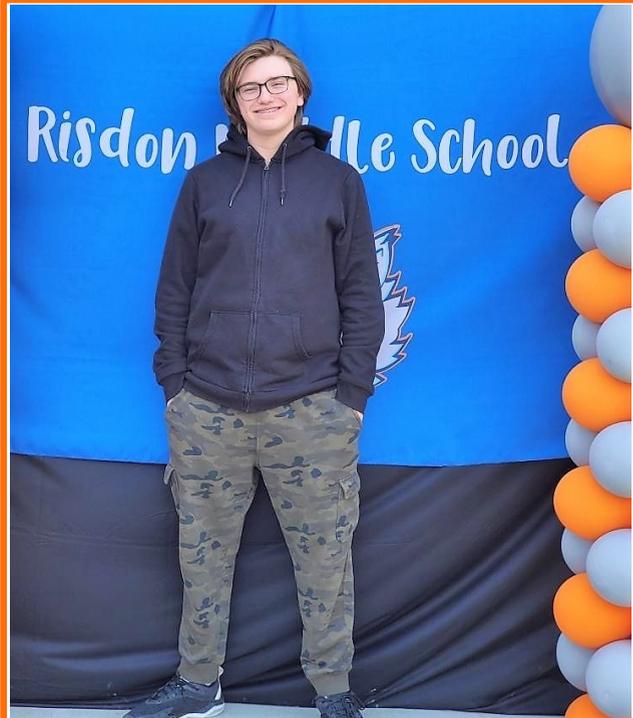
This, and all other prayers, we give to our Father. Thank you for your steadfast prayers.

LWML President Debbie Larson

SUMMER 2020 MILESTONES TO REMEMBER



Ella Browning celebrated her 13th birthday with family.



Logan Browning graduated from Risdon Middle School and will be moving up to Hazen High this fall!



Anna Wolf experienced the joys of turning 5 years old with a cake, gifts to open, and a loving family. Everything a child needs!



Bud Reynolds will be turning 90 years young on August 5. Juanita submitted this recent photo of him sitting in his favorite spot, the porch swing.

His 90th birthday party will be a more low-key celebration than originally planned.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

From Karen Begalka, Board of Stewardship

Like fireworks in the sky, we, the Church, the Children of God, need to express our joy of God's Kingdom. Celebrate and sing with the mountains and hills as the trees clap their hands (from Isaiah 55:12). Let us all clap our hands with the trees, without thorn or brier. Praise Jesus who brings truth, peace, joy, prosperity and rest to those who trust in Him. God, who promised His kingdom to the descendants of Abraham's grandson, Jacob (Israel), has chosen us to be his adopted children. So, we also are God's special treasure, though we are sinful by nature. He has made a covenant to us to be redeemed by His love and faithfulness.

John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit--fruit that will last."

I John 3:1 states, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!"

God's kingdom is like seeds that fall on fertile ground, where weeds, insects and birds cannot destroy them. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches which we can, through Him, bear much fruit (from John 15). Let's be like the mustard seeds that grow to become trees with birds singing in their branches (from Matthew 13). We are the heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus. We should not be afraid of COVID-19, other sicknesses or even death. God will always be with us, watching over us. You will not fear...the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. No evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near you. (Psalm 91:5,6,9,10) But don't purposely go into large crowds of people. The devil quoted Psalm 91:11,12. "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Jesus replied, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

We share in Christ's sufferings and also his glory. "Our suffering is not to be compared with the glory we eagerly await for the glorious liberty of being adopted by God." Romans 8:17,18.

So as children of God, let us serve others, including Bethlehem Lutheran Church, lovingly with our talents and money to be good stewards of Christ.

The Twenty and the One



A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why, I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!" "So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"



The one-dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church and the Lutheran Church."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

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.



As a testament that we know Jesus Christ is always present, and with faith that we will be together again, our everlasting candle has been kept lit during the pandemic.

A BOX OF FLOWERS



Joni Stockamp kept busy making many many colorful paper flowers. They've been on display in our front windows so they could be shared with folks passing by.

Photo by Ruth Ann Shimoi

SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE

On Monday July 20th, I read my Portals of Prayers, as I always do, after I have had my cup of coffee!

It is about Gabriel announcing that Mary would conceive and bear God's Son. Now when he created the earth, heaven and Adam and Eve, he did it instantly, (I don't know why I am hung up on "instant"). Maybe it's because I am not a very patient person and have to keep reminding myself that I cannot always be in control?

Anyway! In Mary's womb, baby Jesus thrived. He had a heartbeat by six weeks and soon was developing toes, lips, and a nose. By month five, Mary felt an active baby kicking. Month seven brought hiccups; month eight, recognition of His mother's voice; month nine, Jesus was born as true man.

Some two thousand years later, God spoke life and created you and me! Isn't that just wonderful! Nothing about coming into this world has changed!!! We need to remember this and thank God every day for our lives!

Carolyn Troseth

**AUGUST'S
PERSON IN THE CHOIR**

**Karen Begalka
Her World of Music**

A few words of introduction. Karen has been a member of our choir for many years. She has also sung songs to us using American Sign Language. She's been known to sing lullabies to her children and grandchildren. She likes all genres of music!! Thanks to her band and choir experiences, she gained an appreciation of many kinds of music including classical, marches, jazz, pop, oldies, and hymns. Living with a teenage granddaughter, she continues to hear and learn about modern music as well.



**Karen Begalka 2018
Hawaiian Day Choir Photo**

She was first attracted to the Lutheran Church because of the beautiful old hymns that were sung. She appreciates the Beethoven and Bach melodies, and hymns that Martin Luther wrote.

Karen feels it's important to listen to the sermon but when we sing the hymns, it reinforces the message from the sermon. She offers this analogy. A table is very sturdy and useful. When we add a tablecloth, it makes the table more elaborate. Music in church adds the lace. Music enhances the sermon and allows us to participate and reflect the sermon.

This is Karen's story in her own words.

To really become a musician or singer, it takes years and hours of practice. My singing debut was when I was 3, and my sister, Gayle, was 4, and my Uncle Bob made a record of us singing Teddy Bear's Picnic and the Good Ship Lollipop as a surprise for my parents. My Mom was always sickly and it cheered her up when she heard us sing.

Although both my parents could play the piano, we had a player piano in our home (that my sister, brother, and I broke).

My mother sang alto, played the piano, harmonica, and Jew's harp. This was because she was raised on a farm, far away from anywhere so they played their own music. (They didn't have a radio until my mom was in high school).

My brother, Mark, took 6 years of piano lessons and played the trombone for 8 years. My sister, Gayle, took 4 years of piano lessons and 6 years of playing the clarinet. I played the clarinet for 6 years but I only took half a year of piano because Mrs. Absher's cataracts forced her to quit teaching. My sister and brother then took piano lessons from Mrs. Ehrland but I didn't want to because the teacher was scary!



Karen age 6

I sang in choir at the First Baptist Church in Goldendale, Washington from the age of 6 through high school. I began singing alto at the age of 9.

Every 4th grader at Goldendale Elementary took song flute from Mr. Malcolm. For the Christmas concert, he assigned each student a Christmas song to practice and play for the concert. He assigned me with Jolly Old St Nicholas, which I had never heard of before, and neither had my family. On the day of the concert, I told Mr. Malcolm about it. He hummed the tune for me so I practiced it right before the concert. When it was my turn, I played it perfectly. That was a MIRACLE! Actually, everybody gave me a standing ovation!

I sang in the junior high and senior high choirs as an alto. I was also an alto in the Simcoe Singers Choir. We toured around the local nursing homes, brightening their day. We got to sing a lot of popular songs and oldies.

I took guitar lessons for a year and only learned several chords. I still couldn't play it well so I gave my guitar to my brother. Later at CWSC (now Central Washington University), I sang in the Chamber Choir. It was my favorite course of all time. My favorite song we sang was Brahms' "A German Requiem". I helped with the Sound of Music at Wenatchee High School for my student teaching. It was a good experience, working behind the scenes of the play.

After marrying Brent, we sang in the Concordia Theological Seminary Choir in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Our favorite piece was St Matthew's Passion. We also sang in several church choirs as we moved around.

At Bethlehem, we first joined choir with Wilma Gardner as the director. Now we have James Hing, who very patiently has taught us about music and compassion.



BACK TO SCHOOL?!

We have a Wishlist ready for backpacks!

Thank you for supporting families living at Vision House! Whether or not our students are actually back to school in the fall, we know these backpacks will enable them to stay more organized and focused on their schooling. Any questions, email info@visionhouse.org

Click on https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/4UILAFFALJ0Z/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl

Or go to SmileAmazon.com, search for Charity Lists, then type in Vision House. You will see the list of backpacks they are requesting. Order as you normally do but you can select Vision House's address instead of yours. -Ruth Ann Shimoi

REACH

Compassion in Action
Ending Homelessness & Hunger

REACH is looking for volunteers on Saturday evenings to help serve suppers in Renton.

Contact Pat Eskam if you'd like to help. They need about 3 people each Saturday evening; food is supplied by local restaurants.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

NAIL CLIPPERS WANTED. We need about 40 more metal nail clippers to complete the personal care kits. You can bring them to the office. It's hoped LWR will be able to have a local collection site this fall where we can drop off the towels, toothbrushes, combs, soap and clippers!

GARAGE SALE POSTPONED BUT BRING IN YOUR STUFF

You may continue to bring in your 'soft goods, shoes, and luggage' and garage sale items, and we'll store them in the downstairs room.

Ellen Taylor, for Board of Missions

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO

Remember way back in March, when you used to drive to church on Sunday mornings, pick up your bulletin, walk to your pew and sit down? Do you remember who sat in your same pew? Who sat in front of you? Behind you?

If you've got some free time on your schedule, consider spending a few minutes calling one of the people who used to sit near you. It could brighten both of your days.

A message from your Friendly Visitors

 <p>LIFE LINE SCREENING <i>The Power of Prevention</i></p>	<p>Get your appointment set up for Tuesday, Sept 15 by calling 1-888-653-6441 or online at lifelinescreening.com/</p> <p>Five vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount. Health screenings will be held in the Bethlehem social hall on September 15.</p>
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MERRY CHRISTMAS QUILT

The annual bazaar has traditionally been the biggest Mary-Martha fundraiser for the year, bringing in about \$2,000. Mary-Martha Society then donates that money to a variety of charities.

It's not likely that a traditional bazaar will happen this fall so we need you to reach into your pockets, wallets, purses, and hearts, and help us raise the necessary dollars to keep supporting some very worthwhile organizations.

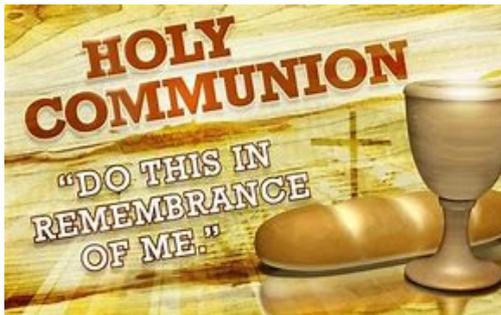
Raffle tickets will be going on sale soon. If you can, buy a LOT of tickets this year.

Thanks to Jeanne-K Hughes for crafting this wonderful work of art. It is approximately 82"x82". The backing is a rich Christmas red color.



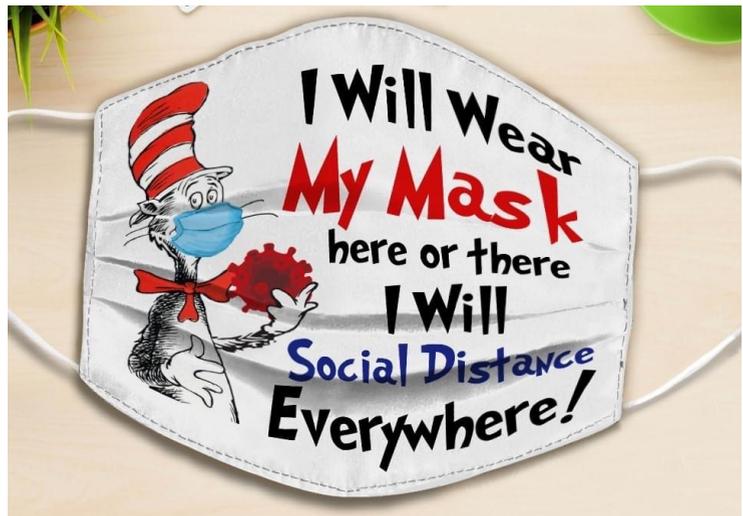
Pray, but only on days ending in "Y".

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1024 Monroe Ave N.E.
Renton, WA 98056 August 2020



In lieu of regular Sunday Communion, we will next offer Communion on Saturday August 30 beginning at 10:15 am.

Please contact the office with your intention to commune, and whether you choose wine or grape juice. An assigned time will be emailed to you.



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.*