

February 2020

Bethlehem Star

Pastor David Blair • James Hing, Organist & Choir Director

Bethlehem family,

By the time you read this newsletter, the Voters' Assembly will have decided whether to issue a Call to a seminary student or a pastor from "the field." Either way, we continue this time of transitional ministry with a transition in the worship life of the Church from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent.



As we begin the 40-day season of Lent, you are invited to attend our Ash Wednesday worship (February 26) to receive the mark of ashes, a reminder that we are sinners redeemed by Christ the Crucified. In our lesson from God's Word, we will learn that, just as Lazarus was unbound and released from his burial wrappings, we are released from the deadly bonds of our sin through the forgiveness that is ours in Christ Jesus.

In this worship series for Lent and Holy Week, "**To Seek and To Save**", we follow Jesus as he turns toward Jerusalem and the cross. Walk in his footsteps, from the miracle of the raising of Lazarus to Jesus' own empty tomb on Easter morning. This was the purpose for which Jesus had come— to seek and to save the lost. As I have said several times, as members of the Church, the body of Christ, **WE ARE HERE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT!**

Jesus is calling/inviting each one of us to "Come, and follow Me..." He gives to us the ability to say "yes" to his invitation AND the "tools of the trade," the nets and poles we need to fish. Those tools are found in his Word. The Holy Spirit is calling YOU to join with your fellow Bethlehemites in worship this Lenten season for a time of spiritual tune up and retooling so that you will be more ready to give an answer to others about the hope that you have in Jesus!

Pastor David

Rev. David W. Blair
Intentional Interim Pastor

Dependency
By Carl Stockamp
Congregational President

God's perfect timing continually impresses me. A few days ago I heard one of the men in my Bible study group say that it is his family's New Year's tradition for each member to pick a word for the year. His word was "dependency". I think that is a good word for me, too. Webster defines dependency as: something that is determined or conditioned by another. Have you ever thought about how much you depend on other things or people?

I depend on traffic (or hopefully a lack thereof) to get to places on time. I depend on weather when thinking of taking a bicycle ride or going out for a round of golf. I depend on my wife, not only for her love and encouragement but also for more mundane things like doing laundry or ironing my clothes – no, I haven't yet learned those skills, and I'll admit, I'm spoiled. I even have to admit that I depend on the government to deliver my Social Security check.

We, here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church are also dependent. We depend on each other, but first and foremost, we depend on God. So, how do we demonstrate our dependence on God? Most importantly, we do this by going to Him in prayer. I pray that we are all doing this as we undergo the process of calling a new pastor. I also was taken by Pastor Blair's message a few weeks ago when he asked the question, "What are the gifts we can give God"? He identified the four "T's": our time; our talents; our treasure; and, our temple which is our hearts.

I have always been impressed by the time members devote to maintaining our church's presence in the community. As part of my preparation for assuming a new role in Bethlehem's leadership, I asked for copies of last year's minutes from Council meetings. I couldn't help but notice the diligence in which the Council tracked action items. And, I was taken by the number of people who offered to complete action items. But, I noticed that a number of items were assigned to "some unnamed person". As we consider the gifts we can give God, I pray that people will come forward and we will be able to identify names for these "unnamed persons".

Everything and everyone is ultimately dependent on God. Dependency implies trust. As we move forward, our work in fulfilling God's mission will require that we depend on Him and on each other. I will be depending on God, and each of you as we go through the year ahead of us. I pray for God's wisdom so that you will be able to depend on me.

ADDRESS CORRECTION: Please update Virginia Preston's zip code. Her address is 14905 Bothell Everett Hwy #207, Mill Creek WA 98012

FEBRUARY



We wish you continued happiness and God's blessings!

Elliette Rogers	February 1
Roman Sturgul	February 2
Wanda Brooks	February 4
Mark Humphrey	February 5
Daniel Gentil	February 6
William Jordanger	February 6
Kerie McNeal	February 6
Carolyn Warns	February 6
Glen Koppelman	February 10
Ruth Schroeder	February 11
Marcy Hall	February 12
Curtis Holcomb	February 13
Randy Barger	February 20
Alex Murphy	February 20
Cindy Starkey	February 24
Wayne Hough	February 26
Alissa Shapsnickoff	February 28



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Duett, Neal & Mary February 12, 1971
Downing, Frank & Betty February 18, 1956
Reynolds, Bud & Juanita February 18, 1956
Fischer, Elden & Dolores February 22, 1957

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH:

WANDA BROOKS TURNS 100

She was born February 4, 1920



Daniel is a whole hand full on
February 6 (Don & Dielda's grandson)

Curtis Holcomb celebrates 6 decades this month!!!!!!

Help us update our records.

If we don't have you listed, please let the office know.

If you have a **birthday** this year, you are invited to our annual birthday party on **Sunday February 9**, after the worship service. Birthday cakes will be provided. You bring a dish to share!

Elden & Dolores Fischer announce they have moved. Their new address is

Elden & Dolores Fischer
The Chateau
4450 Davis Ave S.
Renton, WA 98055



WE'VE MOVED!

Their phone number remains the same.

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, family strife, and other issues that burden our hearts.

In particular, we pray for:

**Ray & Gretchen Engum
Marcy Hall**

Pat Eskam's daughter Lori

**Mardelle Hammond's friend Lynette, and sister-in-law Barbara
Jenny Iles' daughter Kathy**

Hannelore Maas

Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky

Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie & niece Heidi

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

Cathy Wooden

Kathy Zable's daughter Margo's mother-in-law Brenda.



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, Jenny Iles, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Virginia Preston, Jean Shaw, Marie Teel, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.**

We pray for those affected by the fires in Australia and other natural disasters.

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.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



to Carolyn Troseth on the passing of her brother-in-law Tom Troseth on January 14, 2020, just 2 days after his 84th birthday. Carolyn shares, "He was my husband's oldest brother. He was married for 60 years. He and his wife had 5 children and we had 2. One of my fondest memories of them both was when we went to see them in 1976 during the week of Easter.

We packed all warm clothes to go to Michigan. That was the year that they had a heat wave! It reached the 80's. We were borrowing clothes from everybody! Let's just say we had the most interesting attire for Easter Service! What also is something I'll never forget was the morning after we arrived, there we were going to have breakfast! The kids were going to have cereal! Vi opened the cupboard and there were 10 different kinds of cereal! Each one of their children had their favorite! We reminisced on that for years after! Ken thought that they were trying to be a grocery store!

We had lots of special memories and time with them and their family through the years. He will be missed!"

CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

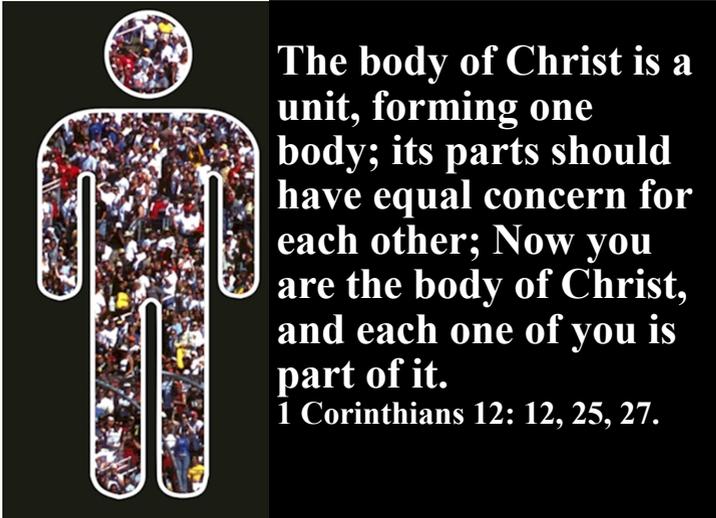


MESSAGE FROM PAT MORTRUD

Pat shares the news that she has found a home church in her new city of Lago Vista in Texas.

The photo above shows Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. Pat says it's about the same size as Bethlehem and has a more 'senior' congregation like we do. Interior photos are below! The church does have a pipe organ but they don't play it every Sunday so she hasn't heard it yet. Bible study runs 9 to 10:15. Coffee and cookies are served after Bible Study and then worship service starts at 10:30. Pat says 'hello' to everyone.





STEWARDSHIP:
Gifts Of The Spirit

Can you identify with some of the following gifts mentioned below? If so, can you think of ways of using your gifts to help those in your neighborhood, family or here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church?

On the top part of the body rest the gifts of the head:



Shepherd/Pastor who cares for the flock (congregation) and tends to their needs. **I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.** John 10:14.

Prophecy: Communicating God's truth to bring others to God. **Everyone who prophesies speaks to others to strengthen, encourage and give comfort.** 1 Corinthians 14:3.

Administration: ability to organize and get things done. **If you need to build a tower, first estimate the cost before completing the job.** Luke 14:28.

Leadership: influence others to see the big or little picture, vision or idea. **Obey your leaders so their work will be a joy, not a burden.** Hebrews 13:17.

Apostleship: Spreading and overseeing the Word. **Let's go back to the places where we have preached the Word and see how they are doing.** Acts 15:36.

Evangelism: Help pre-Christians to become new Christians. **"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked the Ethiopian. "How can I," he replied, "Unless someone explains it to me?" He replied.** Acts 8:30,31.

Teaching: To study and bring understanding to others. **Instruct a righteous man and he will add to his learning. Proverbs 9:9.**

Knowledge: ability to bring truth to a situation through God's Word. **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1:7.**

Wisdom: understanding situations through the use of scripture. **We speak of God's secret wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 1 Corinthians 2:7.**

Exhortation: Strengthening and Comforting others through Scripture: **Strengthening and encouraging others to remain true to the faith. Acts 14:22.**

Action Gifts of the Hands, Feet and Body



Hospitality: creating a warm, welcoming environment. **Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9.**

Helps: be supportive and see to the needs of others. **The women ... had followed Jesus and the disciples and cared for their needs. Mark 15:3,4.**

Mercy: with empathy, helping others who are hurting. **When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless. Matthew 9:36.**

Service: Doing tasks to help the body of Christ. **Do what is right to help with daily necessities and live productively. Titus 3:14.**

Craftsmanship: using hands to decorate, create crafts or build things. **God has given his Holy Spirit to give the skill, ability and knowledge to do all kinds of crafts. Exodus 31:3-11.**

Giving: generously giving back to God what He has blessed us with. **Give and it will be given to you. Luke 6:38.**

Continued on next page



The Gifts of the Heart

Faith: Saving faith plus belief that God will help us in every part of our lives. **If you have faith the size of a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you. Matthew 17:20.**

Prayers, Tongues and Praise: communicating with God. **Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.**

Intercession: Help others to believe their prayers will be answered. **We have asked God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all things spiritual with understanding. Colossians 1:9.**

Discernment: identifying spirits and right from wrong. **Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. 1 John 4:3.**

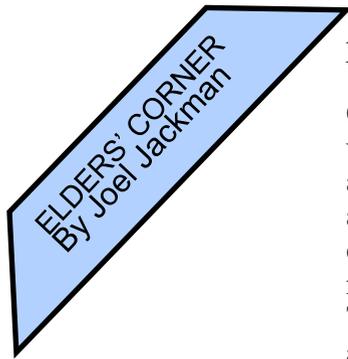
Healing: through faith and prayer to heal the body, soul or mind. **Peter said, "Silver and Gold have I none, but what I have give I to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." Acts 3:6.**

Miracles: altering things supernaturally through faith and prayer. **The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5.**

Love: God's unconditional love to all people. **Love is patient, Love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs, Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.**

Discover your gifts. You each have them. God has made you uniquely special. By using your special gifts, you will find joy in helping to connect more closely to the body of God.

Karen Begalka
Board of Stewardship



The Transfiguration – a terrifying experience for Jesus’ disciples: Peter, James, and his brother John.

One can only imagine what it must have been like. After being led up a high mountain, they witnessed Jesus’ face shining like the sun and his clothes becoming white as light. Then Moses and Elijah appeared, and Jesus was talking with them. It gets better! A bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” Then - - it was just Jesus standing there, telling them not to be afraid.

The disciples must have been thinking: “What just happened?! Was this for real? We can’t wait to tell people about this.” But, not so fast! Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.” Huh?”

Before their mountaintop experience, Jesus had already told his disciples of his coming suffering and death at the hands of the religious leaders in Jerusalem, but they wouldn’t hear of it or accept it. Even after witnessing the transformation, they may have been as confused as ever about what was about to happen.

The transfiguration, the appearance of Moses and Elijah, and the voice of God verified the divine character of Jesus and gave a glimpse of His glory and position in the heavenly realm. This month we will be observing *The Transformation of Our Lord* in preparation for the Lenten journey ahead.



The Story Behind The Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd

1650

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

Our oldest hymnal is the Book of Psalms, and Christians throughout history have wanted to obey the biblical injunction to praise the Lord using "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

John Calvin, quoting Augustine, wrote, "We shall not find better songs nor more fitting for the purpose than the Psalms of David, which the Holy Spirit spoke . . . And moreover, when we sing them, we are certain that God puts in our mouths these, as if He Himself were singing in us to exalt His glory."

But the Psalms were originally written in Hebrew, and, when translated, they don't typically have the rhyme or rhythm for easy singing.

In the early 1640s, Francis Rouse, an English Puritan, rendered all 150 Psalms from the Hebrew into metrical English. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, meeting in Edinburgh, took Rouse's translation and submitted it to revision committees. These committees spent six years comparing the metered Psalms with the original Hebrew, seeking to develop a singable translation that was accurate to the original Hebrew. They worked as painstakingly as if creating a new translation of the Bible.

Finally, in 1650, the Scottish Psalter was released and approved for congregations of the Church of Scotland. Its full title was: The Psalms of David in Meeter: Newly translated, and diligently compared with the original Text, and former Translations: More plain, smooth, and agreeable to the Text, than any heretofore.

The words have been set to several melodies. Belmont composed by William Gardiner is the one we use in our Lutheran Service Book, hymn #710. The first verse is as follows:

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.



Francis Rouse
1579—1659



William Gardiner
1770—1853

William Gardiner was the son of an English hosiery manufacturer and took up his father’s trade in addition to writing about music, composing and editing. After meeting Joseph Haydn and Ludwig van Beethoven, he helped popularize their compositions. Mr Gardiner frequently turned melodies from classical composers like Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven into hymn tunes in an attempt to rejuvenate the singing of psalms.

Credit goes to: Robert J Morgan’s book Then Sings My Soul and hymnary.org

MOVIE MATINEE

At our January movie, we laughed so hard that many of us were crying. The slapstick humor of Laurel and Hardy in the Music Box even had 4 year old Anna giggling. We highly recommend Bob Hope and Bing Crosby’s movie Road to Utopia. It was a musical, romance, adventure, comedy, with some very unexpected humorous surprises in it. “Fish number 15” is now an inside joke with the matinee attendees!

We celebrated Joel Jackman’s birthday with homemade pineapple upside down cupcakes. Thanks, Karen!

We decided to keep the laughter going and will watch more comedies on Saturday February 15 at 3 pm. Expect to see a Charlie Chaplain silent movie, some Carol Burnett and Johnny Carson highlights. Free popcorn.



**Happy Birthday,
Joel Jackman**
Photo by Dielda

RAVE and THANK YOU to Don Kuhlmann for putting the newsletter together this year and printing it while your usual editor was off cuddling with grandchildren.



Lutheran Ministry Services

N O R T H W E S T

MISSION BOARD REPORT

One of the duties of the Mission Board is to inform the congregation of the various mission agencies we support. One of these missions is Lutheran Ministry Services, Northwest which was established in 1938 by three women! This ministry serves hospitals, nursing homes/care centers, and jails/prisons. Their mission is to bring spiritual care and the healing touch of Christ's love to those who are in need. The chaplains serve as a pastoral extension for all Lutheran congregations in the Pacific Northwest. Pastor Werzner, is called upon for many referrals to the hospitals of Greater Seattle, Deaconess Ruth Ann and many volunteers take Word and song to many Care Centers, regardless of denomination, and Pastor Johnson picks up the requests from inmates who are asking for a "spiritual visit. The ministry is unique and very blessed. Thank you to members of Bethlehem for supporting this mission for many, many years.

Ellen Taylor



You can start bringing 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.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SPRAY

By Marlene Holcomb

Marlene shares this simple recipe to help clean your produce.

2 T vinegar (any kind)
1 T lemon juice
1 cup water

Spray your fresh fruit and vegetables thoroughly. Then rinse them with clear water.



Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Living as a Woman in Mission Comfort and Witnessing

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! ... He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble.
2 Corinthians 1:3a, 4

We were in the hospital waiting room – two women who had nothing in common except that our husbands were in surgery. We were of different ages and different backgrounds, and we could have sat silently waiting and praying. Instead, we struck up a conversation and found that we did have something in common - our faith in God and the knowledge that God would give us strength for the coming days.

As we talked together, others in the waiting room started listening and then joined in the conversation. ***“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them”*** (Matthew 18:20). This was not a religious setting, but God was present. He was with us as we professed our faith and encouraged each other to look to God for guidance. ***Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens*** (Psalm 68:19).

Dear Lord Jesus, You have given me hope, strength, and encouragement. Help me to share those gifts with others so that they, too, may experience Your help and comfort. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Living as a Woman in Mission. Author: Dianna Jenkins. 20/32 ©2009 Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Office Hours Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 noon			
2 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 Mission Board Meeting	3 6 pm Trustees' Meeting 7 pm New Purpose	4 WANDA is 100 6:30 Elders Meeting	5 7 pm Bible Study w Brent Begalka
9 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship 11:15 Birthday Potluck	10 7 pm New Purpose	11	12 7 pm Bible Study w Brent Begalka
16 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 Council meeting	17 PRESIDENTS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm New Purpose	18	19 No Wednesday nig Service
23 LWML MITE BOX SUNDAY 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Elders and Gideon Speaker Brent Begalka 11:15 Worship Team Meeting 11:15 Board of Ed Meeting 11:15 Stewardship Meeting	24 7 pm New Purpose	25 3 pm doors open SHROVE TUESDAY GAME NIGHT & PANCAKE SUPPER served at 5:45 pm	26 5:45 pm Soup Sup Minestrone Soup Mary & Martha 7 pm Ash Wednes Service

Note: our Sunday morning **Bible Class starts at 8:30 am** to allow enough time to watch a DVD clip and discuss the book The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church.

Also ladies, please arrive a bit earlier for our Thursday February 20 meeting. If you show up closer to 3:15, you'll get the dessert while it's fresh. That's right! Life is short so we will be eating our dessert first in February! Hostesses are Hannelore Payne and Marcy Hall.

FEBRUARY 2020

	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1
Friday with	6 7 pm New Purpose	7	8 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious with their SWEETHEARTS 
Friday with	13 7 pm New Purpose	14	15 8:30—1 Private use Social Hall 3 pm Movie Matinee - Comedy of Charlie Chaplain, Carol Burnett and Johnny Carson
Friday night	20 Pastor Blair at Best Practices in Ministry Conference, Phoenix. Feb 20-22 3:15 Mary Martha meeting 7 pm New Purpose	21 10:00 Pinochle Game & Lunch	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Supper pickup from Wednesday	27 Noon ladies' book club and sack lunch 7 pm New Purpose	28	29 10 am Friendly Visitor Meeting 

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 cell phone: 206-291-4237

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FIRST QUARTER VOTERS' MEETING

Carolyn Troseth was elected as a new member of the Stewardship Board. She joins Karen Begalka and Hannelore Payne.

All boards are to present their 2020 goals in the February 16 council meeting.

The office has a new Xerox copy machine, replacing our 9+ year old copier.

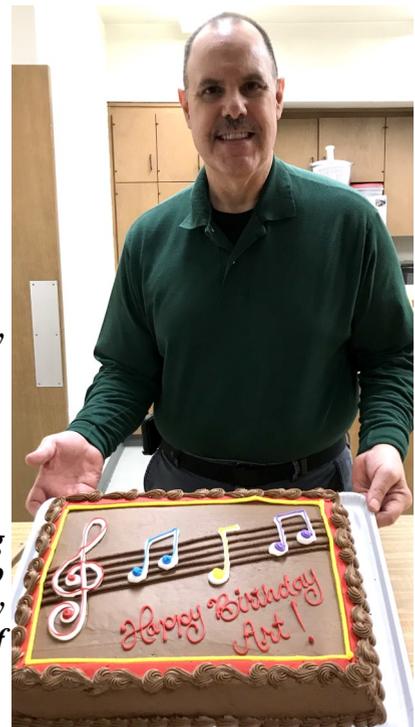
Don Kuhlmann will be heading the project on researching options for our property.

JUNE 19 = NEW SERIES STARTED IN BIBLE CLASS
+ WORSHIP SERVICE with COMMUNION
+ LUNCH
+ WE CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY
+ QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
+ DIVINE CALL SERVICE

Whew, it was a busy day and important day at Bethlehem but we did it! Many thanks to Carl & Joni Stockamp for hosting the lunch, and Amber for bringing a yummy chocolate birthday cake so we could celebrate her husband Art Wolf's birthday. We appreciate Pastor Kirk Hulvey, our Circuit Visitor, for leading the Divine Call Service. We voted to call a seminary graduate for our next pastor. We will learn who it is in April.



Left: President Carl Stockamp, Call Team Leader Joel Jackman, and Pastor Kirk Hulvey sign the Call Document at the conclusion of our Divine Call Service. Photo by Dielda Kuhlmann



Right: We sing Happy Birthday to Art Wolf. Photo by Amber Wolf

MARY MARTHA SOCIETY

ARE YOU READYYY!

Another one of your favorite GET TOGETHERS!! **FEBRUARY 9th!!!** Save the date, save the time, and start thinking! What are you going to bring to WOW your favorite person???? It's the **ANNUAL BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON!** We're bringing the dessert and decorating the table. All you have to do is make your favorite dish to show off, share and enjoy with good old-fashioned VISITING! Anyone having a birthday this year should attend!

AND at our meeting in January, we put our heads and minds together, for something a little different. Any of you who can join us for our next meeting on February 20th at 3:15 will hear about plans to "snip and twist". You have to be there to find out more details!!!

Carolyn Troseth, Secretary

COOK BOOK RECIPE

We had our January Mary Martha meeting despite a bit of snow earlier in the week. This inspired our hostesses to serve a dessert from our BLC Cook Book called Cherries In The Snow by Carolyn Warns. Kathy Zable and Hannelore Payne share the recipe below. It was beautiful and delicious.

20 Graham crackers, crushed

1 stick butter, melted

10 oz cream cheese, room temperature

12 oz Cool Whip

canned pie cherries (1 large and 1 small can)

Mix graham crackers and melted butter. Pour into 9x13 inch pan. Mix cream cheese and Cool Whip and spread over graham crackers. Spread cherries on top. Chill at least 1 hour before serving.

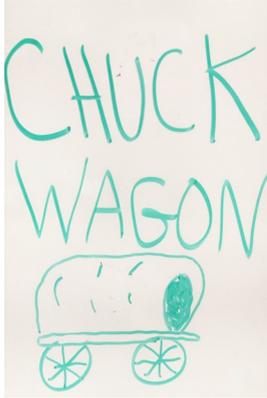
Treasurer Report As of December 31, 2019

Total Income	\$ 159,721.83	86% of budget
Expenses	<u>\$ 160,562.67</u>	86% of budget
Net Loss	\$ -840.84	

Total cash available \$60,050.65

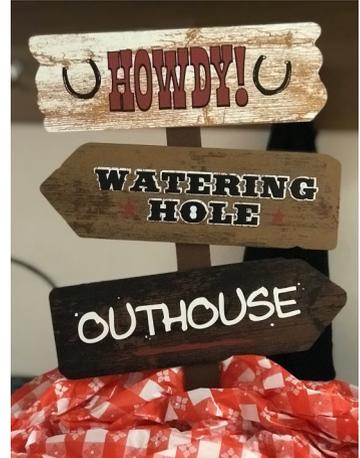
Equity 12,373.36 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

Submitted by Kathy Logan, Treasurer



We Had a Rootin' Tootin' Good Time on New Year's Eve

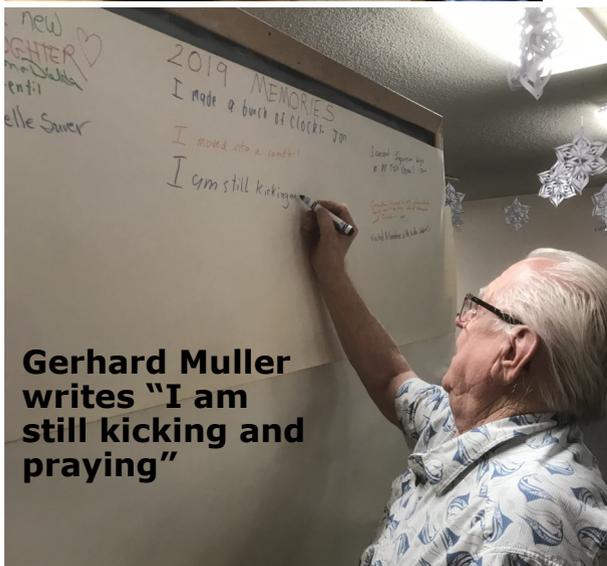
26 folks partied hard at our western themed game night and New Year's Eve celebration. Flannel shirts and cowboy hats were popular. Art and Amber Wolf cooked their favorite Pueblo green chili and homemade biscuits. Their photo is on the left. We also had red bean chili and corn-



Wolfs serve chili

bread. Many different games were played. Some people even got up and did line dancing. And what's a western themed party without a stable of horses! Anna Wolf and Ella Browning posed on their stick horses in the photo below.

Special thanks to Karen Begalka for drawing our chuck wagon sign.



Gerhard Muller writes "I am still kicking and praying"



Anna Wolf and Ella Browning

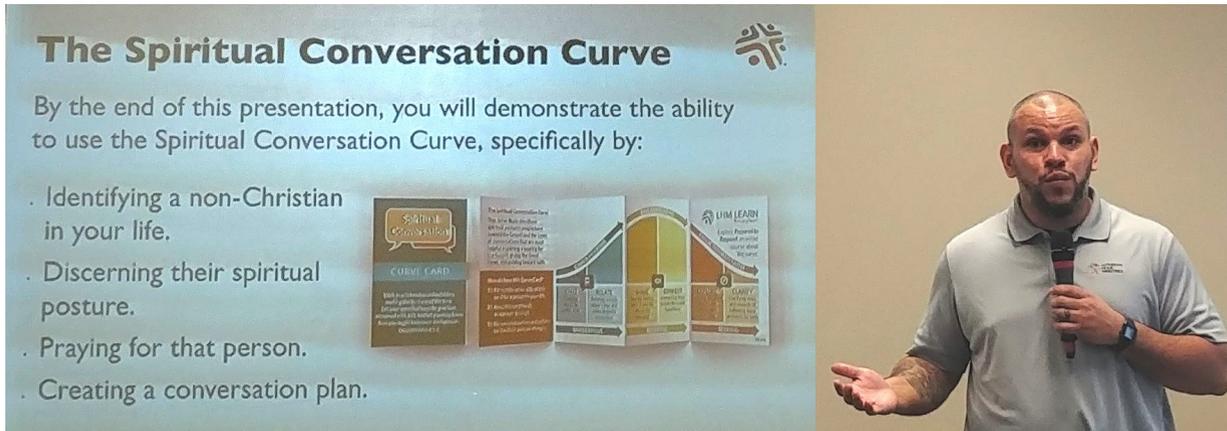


Marcy Hall plays Chinese checkers with guest John. Others at the table are Karen Begalka, Art Wolf, Gerhard and Ron Muller, Joel Jackman. Ruth Ann Shimoi and Ellen Taylor in the background.
Photos by Dielda



As we counted down from 10, the sun slowly set behind our bale of straw. At exactly 4:27 pm, we celebrated our Happy New Year. Ella Browning had the honor of lowering the sun for us, matching the time that the sun actually set in our time zone. We celebrated with a toast using root beer served in shot glasses.

It wasn't all just fun and games. Elder Art Wolf led us in a devotion and prayer, thankful for our previous year and hopeful for our next one. People shared their special memories of 2019 — Selling Mom & Dad's house. 51 years of marital bliss. A certain 4 year old started school. A couple celebrated their 58th anniversary! Another couple took a Hawaiian cruise for their 50th anniversary. The birth of a new granddaughter. A vacation to Yellowstone with her kids. Grandson is on a medical trial to extend his life. Successful surgery on worst knee. One of our members moved into a rambler in 2019. Someone else crossed a 10,060' elevation suspension bridge in Switzerland. A cruise to Alaska. Someone learned more about his family's journey. A grandson moved back to Washington so her entire immediate family now lives here. A member kept busy in his workshop building several clocks last year. And someone recalled all that snow last February! Happy new year.



Comments below are from our members who attended **Lutheran Hour Ministry Evangelism Presentation on Spiritual Conversations** in Bellevue on Saturday, January 11. They all felt it was a very worthwhile event.

Hannelore payne says, *“It gave me some new ideas on how to share my faith with people.”*

Don Kuhlmann reports, *“A really neat ‘Where am I from a Spiritual Conversation perspective?’ in the morning with a step by step plan for having a Spiritual Conversation in the afternoon. I liked that Pastor Micah started the day with a definition of Outreach and dispelled our stereotype of that interaction.”*

Pastor David Blair shares the following summary:

Saturday January 11 ten Bethlehem members joined fellow members from Pilgrim and Christ the King, Bellevue at a workshop on how to more effectively share our faith. The presenter was Rev. Micah Glenn of Lutheran Hour Ministries. About 80 were in attendance! We were given statistics on how many Christians are either reluctant or eager to share their faith. The heart of the presentation was a tool called “The Spiritual Conversation Card.” This is a handy pocket reference guide that enables a Christian to INTENTIONALLY PRAY FOR and SHARE FAITH with ONE person of your choosing. It identifies three possible spiritual conditions: UNRECEPTIVE, RECEPTIVE or SEEKING. Based upon the identified spiritual condition, the card gives prayer and conversation idea prompts on how to share faith in Christ.

It was an encouraging day to be equipped with specific resources and to be inspired by all of our brothers and sisters in Christ to be more intentional in sharing the Good News of Jesus! For more help ... please go to www.lhm.org.

Marjie Boydston says, *“Very knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker with great information of helpful resources available through Lutheran Hour Ministries.”*

Joel Jackman gives his thoughts on the Spiritual Conversation presentation:

Most practicing Christians feel uncomfortable engaging in spiritual conversations, even with people they know well. That's a fact, according to surveys. Sometimes people are afraid of offending someone, or they might lack confidence that they will say the right thing. When we are told that we should go out to make disciples, it can make us feel guilty.

Ten of our members attended the Lutheran Hour presentation at Christ the King January 11. At the beginning of his presentation, the speaker from Lutheran Hour Ministries assured us that making disciples doesn't mean knocking on doors or standing on a street corner with a sign. It's becoming comfortable with having spiritual conversations whenever the occasion might arise, perhaps when someone asks you a question about faith.

To demonstrate how we might approach a non-Christian in our life, the speaker led us through a process to understand the person and tailor a conversation plan to eventually share more about Jesus and the gospel. His presentation was only a couple of hours long, but effective in helping people feel more comfortable with spiritual conversations, and wanting to learn more.

Ruth Ann Shimoi says she learned, “Be confident in myself to have a spiritual conversation.”

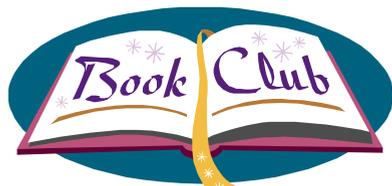
Cindy Blair adds, “The Spiritual Conversations workshop was really encouraging. It was exciting to see 80+ people come out on a Saturday to learn how to better share their faith. Pastor Micah Glenn was a genuine, transparent speaker. It was easy to relate to his experiences of trying to share his faith. We all feel inadequate at times as to how to approach sharing our faith. Pastor Micah walked us through a helpful tool called Spiritual Conversations, had us prayerfully choose one person to pray for and then to be open to God giving us opportunities to share our faith with that person. I am excited to see God work!”

I hope you are taking advantage of Amazon's free gift to Bethlehem. They donate 0.5% of your purchase to our church every time you shop online at Amazon.



To sign up, go to smile.amazon.com

In the box where it asks you to type your charitable organization, just enter **91-0850984** and click on the Search button. Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington will appear. Click on select. You only need to do this the first time. Be sure to order through smile.amazon.com so we receive the bonus!



Fat - Pray - Laugh

LADIES SACK LUNCH & BOOK CLUB

FEBRUARY 27 at noon

First we will continue to discuss *Voice in the Wind*, the first book in the trilogy by Francine Rivers. Also, any of the second book, *Echo in the Darkness*, that has been read by the participants

— Donna Kahn

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.

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.

INTRODUCING OUR CHOIR MEMBERS

Second in a series of articles about our choir

This month Curtis Holcomb shares his memories of singing at Bethlehem and his love of music with us. Curtis has spent his last 54 years at Bethlehem. He often serves as our cantor and rings the hand bell to start our worship service.

I don't remember how old I was when I started singing in cherub choir. I do remember wearing the short little white robes? and singing from the balcony. Mrs. Mech was our director and I remember her as being really tall and a little scary. One other distinctive memory is of the organ speaker in the balcony. I had a lot of ear infections as a child, and I remember being sensitive to loud noise. I don't know if the organ and speaker were newly installed while I was in cherub choir, I just remember that it was real loud, and I didn't want up be up there when it was being played.



**Curtis Holcomb with
Pastor Luttmann
1974 Confirmation**

As we got older the kids in cherub choir would transition to junior choir. I don't remember at what age we moved up, however I think it might have been around 10. I think it was around this time that my brother Guy and I started taking guitar lessons. We each had our own guitar and took private and group lessons in downtown Renton. The instructor taught out of the house that is located next door and behind the Renton Civic Theater. Guy and I took lessons and played for 4 or 5 years.

I believe around 8th grade, after confirmation, we joined the older youth group kids in what was call Joy In Him (Hymn). As a group, we sang in church frequently. Our focus was on contemporary Christian music and mostly accompanied by guitars and bass, which my brother Guy started playing in high school. I didn't play guitar for the youth group. We had two guys who were way better than me so I just used my voice. All through my guitar playing days, I played in high school. I was not very diligent or passionate about practicing so never really got any good at it. I realized later on that without that passion, you don't become very good at something. Whether it be for music, my son-in-law can pickup his guitar and play away, or sports like Lashawna playing fast pitch, if you don't have a passion for it you won't get far.

Throughout high school I was in some form of choir. In my junior and senior years, I sang in the Concert Choir. You had to have the choir director's approval to be in it. This was the choir that went to competitions and traveled around the state. We even

sang in a competition in Vancouver, Canada. In my senior year, I auditioned for the Jazz choir. I sang Mr. Bojangles and was accompanied on the piano by Corrie Sheets. I was selected to join the choir and sang baritone as I did in concert choir. That was one of the most memorable things I remember from high school. The Jazz choir also entered many competitions, and we did very well that year.

I don't remember exactly when I joined the adult choir at Bethlehem. I do know that Ken Crossman was still the director, and we had a lot of members. I sang next to Glenn Koppelman; he took me under his wing and showed me the ropes. During the time that Wilma Gardner was choir director, I sang at many weddings either as a soloist or in a duet with former member Barbara Warwick. We actually got paid for that!!



Curtis Holcomb sings at LaShawna's wedding.

My greatest thrill and honor was to sing at the weddings of both of my daughters. That was the most nervous and scared I have ever been during my singing 'career'. I sang '*Sunrise Sunset*' from Fiddler on the Roof for Ashley's wedding and '*I Loved Her First*' by Heartland for LaShawna's.

As I have said to a number of people, I never really paid much attention to what the words were saying while I was singing. I just liked to sing. A few years ago I started paying more attention to the words I was singing. I realized that most of the songs we sing, especially from the hymnal, are all from scripture. Our newest hymnal has the scripture passages listed that the hymn is referring to. It is very exciting to me when I learn a song and later read those same words while reading the Bible or read a verse and later find it in a new song we learn.

—Curtis Holcomb



DING DONG

Rain, snow, or shine, we've been ringing our bell on Sundays at 10 am since Palm Sunday 2017.



Beverly West called us to worship on the last Sunday of the year, December 29, 2019. Beverly pulled the rope 6 times in honor of her great granddaughter Fay in Oregon City who is 6 years old. Beverly was born in South Dakota. She lived in Idaho before moving to Washington 25 years ago.

She just became a member of Bethlehem in November and thanks everyone for giving her such a warm welcoming to this church. She loved the ladies' Christmas party and the summer retreat.

Beginning in January, the choir and ushers rang the bell to call us to worship.



**TUESDAY MARCH 3
At BETHLEHEM**

Make an appointment for their health tests.
Call 1-800-636-0186 or see their website
www.lifelinescreening.com/

ARE YOU A FRIENDLY VISITOR?

Do you like to visit with Bethlehem members who are unable to get to church?
Do you like to mail greeting cards?
Do you enjoy talking on the phone?
Do you want to pray for our shut ins?
Do you like to brighten someone's day with a bouquet of flowers?

If you answered yes, to any of these questions, we have the team for you! Bethlehem has a Friendly Visits Team of 15 people. We welcome anyone who wants to be part of our group. We meet together once a year. The next meeting is Saturday February 29 at 10 am.

If you are interested, talk to Dielda Kuhlmann or email her. Or just show up on Leap Day!



Ashes used on Ash Wednesday are from our palm branches.
Thanks to Jesse and Jeanie Hack for burning the branches.

Pinochle Club



We met for the first time in 2020 on Friday, Jan. 17th. Wow, there was 19 of us. We had 5 tables playing. Jeanne-K Hughes was our highest player followed by her husband, Ed. Sharon Buechler was the only one who got a double pinochle playing 3 at a table. If you wonder what these terms mean, we invite you to come join us.

Our next playing day will be on Friday, Feb. 21st, starting at 10 am.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Sharon Buechler



Lutheran World Relief

PERSONAL CARE KITS

During Lent, we will be collecting items that get distributed to people during times of crisis, often during a natural disaster.

We will be asking for metal nail clippers, single toothbrushes with no advertising on them, and bars of soap. We will give more specific details next month.

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 Breakfast. Men & their sweethearts meet at 8:30 a.m. at Plum Delicious for fellowship and food at this special couples' breakfast. Get your reservation to Gary Jordanger.



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9 BIRTHDAY POTLUCK. Cakes provided; you bring a dish to share at this annual party.



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 Matinee 3 pm Page 11 for more details. Popcorn provided!



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 Mary Martha Society meeting 3:30 pm. Page 17



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 Pinochle Game 10 a.m. Break for lunch at 11:30. See page 26.



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 GAME NIGHT & PANCAKE SUPPER 3 pm. Men will be serving pancakes! See last page.



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27 noon Ladies' Sack Lunch and Book Club. See page 22



KEEP PRAYING! PRAYER GUIDE 11 on goldenrod paper was handed out to our members. It was a special audience-participation edition. Thanks to those who submitted prayers in our search for a new pastor at Bethlehem.

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

Call Team Update Seminary Graduate

Joel Jackman

At a Call Service following last month's Voters' Assembly, we placed a divine call for a seminary candidate. It is now up to the Board of Assignments of the Synod to prayerfully match seminary grads with congregations, finding the best fit.

President Linnemann visited Concordia/St. Louis in December and said he met at least two candidates whom he thought would be good matches for Bethlehem. Every year there are more requests for seminary candidates than there are graduates to fill the demand. We believe it is ultimately God's choice; if He has chosen a seminary candidate to be our next shepherd, then may God's will be done.

We will know in mid-to-late April whether we will receive a seminary candidate. So, meanwhile, continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the Board of Assignments in the challenging task they have before them. And continue to pray for our congregation as we do God's work for our members and community.



GAME DAY & PANCAKE SUPPER TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25

Doors open 3 pm; supper served at 5:45 pm. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, and beads provided.

Bring a game you'd like to play and some snacks to share as we enjoy a Mardi Gras style party.

