

July
2020



Bethlehem Star

Pastor David Blair



James Hing, Organist & Choir Director

Freedom and Love

Galatians 5:1

[Christ Has Set Us Free] For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Dear Bethlehem members and friends,

July is the month that we annually remember the founding of our nation with the Declaration of Independence and the ensuing battle for our freedom. It cost the lives of countless patriots. They pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Our nation is still on the path to a more perfect union. The foundation ultimately rests, not on the lives of our Founding Fathers; the foundation of our nation and our freedoms ultimately rests on our heavenly Father and the one life of his Son, sacrificially laid on the cross for our freedom from sin.

St. Paul, in writing to the Christians in Galatia, pointed them to the truth that the Freedom they had in Christ Jesus was to be used to serve their neighbor in love, not to use their freedom as an excuse to live a licentious and riotous life, while at the same time pretending hypocritically to be living a religious life conforming to all of the outward ceremonial rules of their fathers.

As we celebrate both our national and political freedom as believers freed by Jesus Christ, let us use the freedom, not in self-service, but in loving sacrificial service to the “neighbors” God brings into our lives.

Pastor David

What's on Your Mind?

If you're like me, one of the things foremost on my mind is, "when will things return to normal?" We are living in a world filled with fear and we hear people say that the new "normal" will not be what we were used to experiencing. This has contributed to living in an environment of fear. Fear is one of the strongest human emotions and I believe it is being exploited in the world in which we live today. The only emotion stronger than fear is love and I pray love will overcome fear. We are reminded by the words in John 4:18 – ***"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love"***.

Now, back to the question all of us are asking - when we can reopen Bethlehem for worship? Every day we are bombarded with new information; some of it conflicting in nature. We are also subject to the vagaries in the dates of our community's reopening phases.

There can be no doubt that when we return to corporate worship, it will look different from what we've seen in the past. We can be thankful for those who have worked to make our virtual worship experiences meaningful and available to people who would not normally be able to come to church on Sunday mornings. I've found that it has become quite comfortable to attend these services. In fact, it may be too comfortable. We do need to return to the fellowship experienced in corporate worship.

It is not realistic to expect that we will be able to offer the same type of virtual services at the same time as we return to corporate worship. The work of those who have supported our virtual services cannot be duplicated. It would be unfortunate if, when we reopen we find only a small number of members who are comfortable with coming to church and we are unable to offer meaningful virtual worship opportunities to those who do not attend. This would divide us rather than unite us.

Reopening will be a process. The process will consist of: procuring required personal protection equipment; defining the conditions in which corporate worship services will be conducted; defining what our virtual worship services will look like; procuring the equipment needed to offer the virtual services; and, gauging each member's commitment to resume worship under those conditions. The Council and the Elders are working on the process and you can expect to be contacted to determine your feelings about reopening. As you've probably noticed, there is one thing missing in this message – a specific date for reopening. We simply don't know, but we can be confident that God does.

Bethlehem has been known to be a "loving" community and I am confident that God's love for us will enable us to allow His love to conquer our fears as we prepare to reopen.

Carl Stockamp
Congregational President

JULY



We wish you continued happiness and God's blessings!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ryan Feltmann July 1
Fred Schroeder July 1
Debbie Porter July 5
Juanita Reynolds July 7
Sharon Buechler July 15
Gary Hanno July 15
Cindy Blair July 16,
Aaron Begalka July 18
Sara McNeal July 19
Gwen West July 20
Norman Hudson July 22
Jackie TeGantvoort July 22
Jim Buechler July 25
Anna Wolf July 26
Jenny Iles July 28

Gentil, David & Halley July 23, 2011
Rogers, Earl & Nancy July 26, 1975
Watanabe, Tracy & Liz July 26, 1986



MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS :

Sara will be 3 this month



Norman turns 4 years old



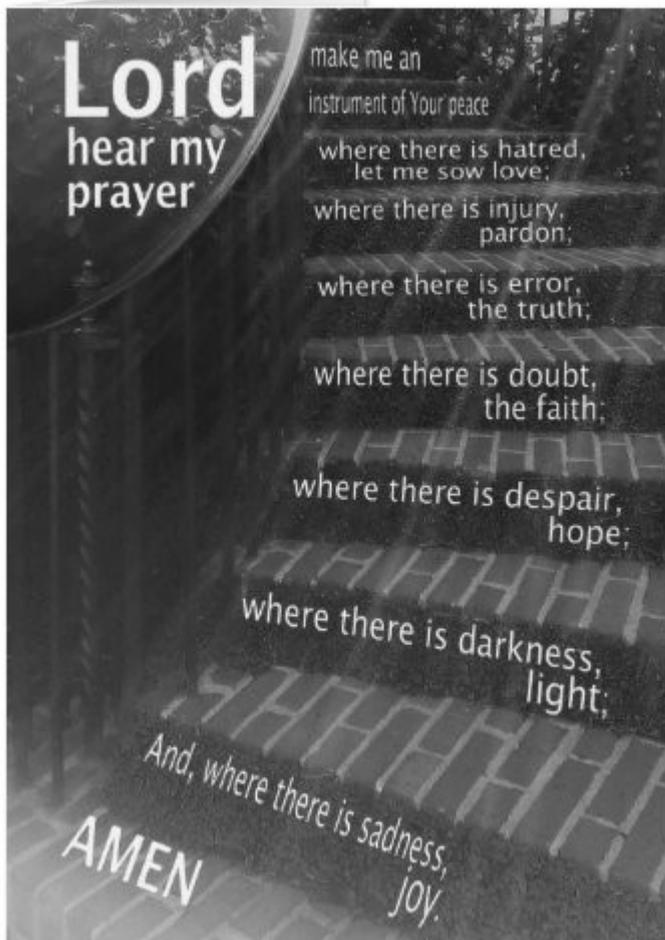
Anna is a whole handful of fingers

Sabine Muller moved to a room with a nice view at Stafford. While visitors are not allowed yet, you can write to her at

Sabine Muller
Stafford Rehab
2800 S 224th St, Room **304**
Des Moines WA 98198

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE

Carolyn Troseth reports that her granddaughter, Jessica Troseth, graduated in June from Vandelay Education in Kirkland, Washington with the title of RDA—Registered Dental Assistant. She may go into the field of oral surgery. As a youngster, Jessica attended Bethlehem with her grandma.



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**
- Jim Buechler's sister JoAnn**
- Sharon Buechler's brother James**
- Harold Carlson**
- Teresa Feltmann's sister Connie**
- Marcy Hall**
- Mardelle Hammond & her sister-in-law Barbara**
- Gary Hanno**
- Jim Hanson**
- Curtis Holcomb's friend Matt**
- Marlene Holcomb and son Guy**
- Jeanne-K Hughes' sister Denise and son David**
- Emma Humphrey**
- LuAnne Humphrey's friend Debbie**
- Joel & Karen Jackman and his brother John, friend Julia**
- Joanne Jordanger's brother Leonard**
- Donna Kahn**
- Pete & Hannelore Maas' son Brian, friend Bill**
- Ron Muller's relative Shirley**

- Bob Pankow**
- Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relative June & sister Johanna, friend Dawn**
- Debbie Porter Mason**
- Ruth Schroeder**
- Jerry Schuh**
- 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**
- Carolyn Warn's daughter Debbie**
- Beverly West's daughter Janet**
- Cathy Wooden's friend Tammy**
- Pastor Zimmerman**

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, Ray & Gretchen Engum, Elden Fischer, Jenny Iles, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Gerhard & Sabine Muller, Virginia Preston, Fred Schroeder, Jean Shaw, Marie Teel, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.**

We pray for full recoveries to our friends and relatives who have tested positive for COVID-19, and for the essential workers who have put their lives in jeopardy during this pandemic.



We have been keeping our eternal candle shining during this time.

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.

RAVE to Sarah Zable for graduating from high school!

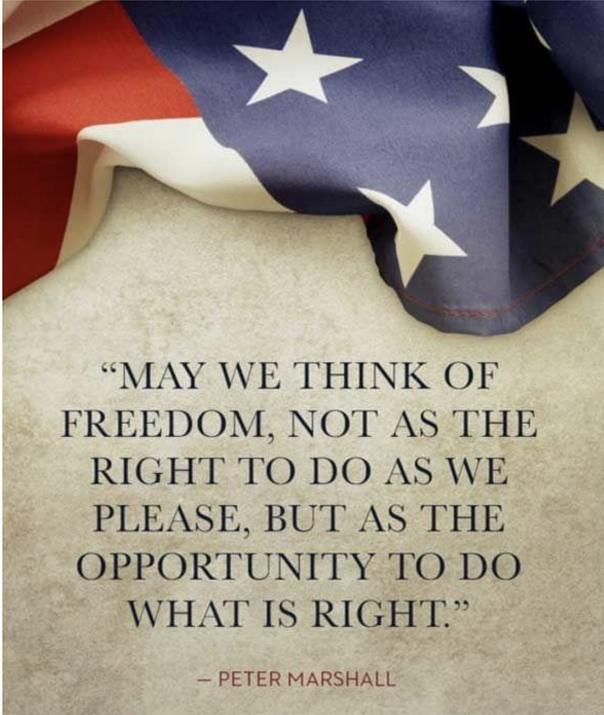
RAVE to everyone who came out to celebrate Sarah's graduation in the church parking lot!

RAVE for the men who drove to church to participate in our Father's Day Drive-Thru Event

RAVE & THANK YOU to BLC members who donated \$650 to the Renton Crop Walk.

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.





“MAY WE THINK OF
FREEDOM, NOT AS THE
RIGHT TO DO AS WE
PLEASE, BUT AS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO DO
WHAT IS RIGHT.”

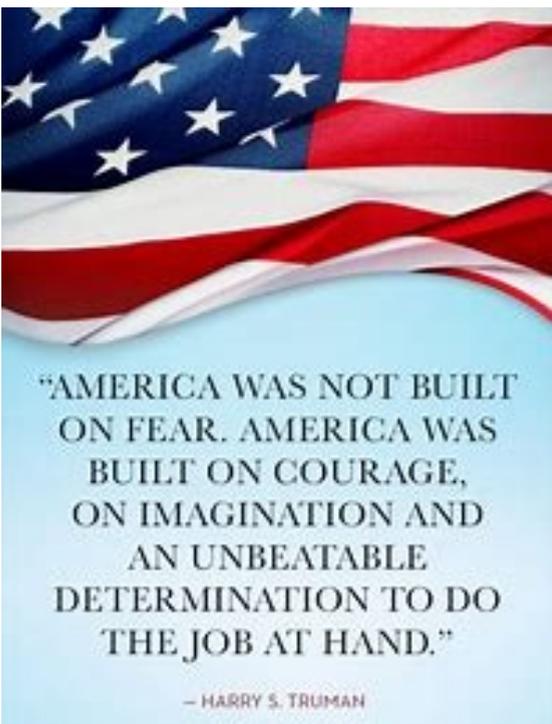
– PETER MARSHALL



You are not alone
God is always with you

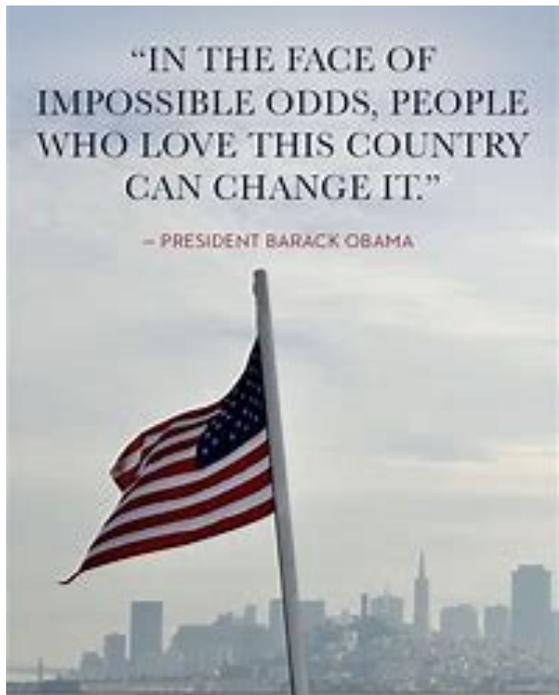


We are called to
LOVE



“AMERICA WAS NOT BUILT
ON FEAR. AMERICA WAS
BUILT ON COURAGE,
ON IMAGINATION AND
AN UNBEATABLE
DETERMINATION TO DO
THE JOB AT HAND.”

– HARRY S. TRUMAN



“IN THE FACE OF
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS, PEOPLE
WHO LOVE THIS COUNTRY
CAN CHANGE IT.”

– PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



Conversations are not cancelled.

Relationships are not cancelled.

Love is not cancelled.

Reading is not cancelled.

Hope is not cancelled.

God is not cancelled.



ZOOM TIPS

If you touch your I-Pad screen or phone during a Zoom worship service and suddenly you can no longer hear the music but you can hear people speaking, we have a solution for you. A few people have experienced this on Sunday mornings. The likely problem is that you unknowingly toggled the Screen Share button. In the upper left of your screen, when you spot the SWITCH TO SCREEN SHARE button, click on it! The music will return.

To avoid being distracted by all the faces on the screen, select SPEAKER VIEW. You will only see James' slide show and whoever is speaking. It's like having a front row seat! But do remember that we can still see you.

We are doing a good job of muting ourselves. Please don't be offended if the co-host mutes your microphone. We are doing it to enhance the worship experience with less echoes and feedback, and reducing paper rustling sounds. Thanks for your understanding.

If you arrive to the service a few minutes early, you can speak or type your prayer requests.

LONG DISTANCE ZOOMING

The Bumpus family has been faithfully zooming our zervices from Texas. They typically have 5 attendees each Sunday. Katelynn has this to say, *"We really enjoy the Zoom services because it allows us to remain close to our Bethlehem family since we are not physically able to be there. Also we are hoping you guys can continue the Zoom services so we can attend the service each week after all this is over with."*

Pat Mortrud also watches us from Texas. Now that her local church building is open, she attends it, and then comes home to watch our Zoom service.

While her Tacoma assisted living facility is locked down, Linda Sheets has been enjoying our Bethlehem zervices from the comfort of her daughter's home in Olalla.

Virginia Preston attended while she was rehabbing at her daughter's home.

Several of our shut-ins have been able to phone in to Zoom and listen to the service. It's been a blessing for those who are unable to drive to a church building.

Let's **zoom**

Slide
shown at
our Zoom
Pentecost
Service



May 31

was Pentecost Sunday. Instead of bells ringing, James surprised us with the sound of trumpets to begin our worship service. Attendance was 74. (15 listening in on the telephone and 59 watching on a screen device.)

In Pastor Blair's sermon, we were reminded that the Holy Spirit wants us to share our hope in Christ wherever we are, even out shopping. His message ended with these words about prayer:

"For what should you and I be asking?

- ▶ A heart and life that repents of evil and turns away from living life only for ourselves
- ▶ That our land would be healed from all that divides us
- ▶ That our nation and our world would be open to the hope and healing for our broken lives that can only come from Jesus' death on the cross to forgive my sin
- ▶ That that Good News which only comes through the ministry of the power and person of the Holy Spirit ... would come through you and me to our neighbor in need
- ▶ That we would LEARN the story of God's love in Jesus so that we would be able to INTERPRET our personal life story in the light of his redeem-

Zoom Services Continued from previous page

ing love in order that we might LISTEN to the people God brings into our lives.

- ▶ That those I know who do not know Jesus ... would come to know him through me! AND SO MUCH MORE!

Would you pray with me this morning for an openness to God and his work in your life? Would you ask for his help?

Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come with Your fire and burn.
Come with Your wind and cleanse.
Come with Your light and illumine.
Convict, convert, consecrate
Until I am (and we are) wholly Thine.
Amen."



Pastor David Blair at our Zoom Zervice June 7, 2020

Holy Trinity Sunday was **June 7**. We had 74 people in attendance. In recognition that June 6 was the 76th anniversary of D-Day, we sang the prelude hymn #717 Eternal Father, Strong to Save also known as the Navy Hymn.

On this day, it was acknowledged that we live in a broken world with the health pandemic, the economic struggles, the anarchy of looting, burning and killing.

Pastor spoke, "Today, as always, God's Word speaks into our lives TODAY! His Word is ALWAYS able to shed light into the darkness of our situation. And what is our situation? Desperate! Very desperate.

Our world, our nation, our cities, our souls need HELP!"

His sermon concluded with "In today's Gospel, Jesus gives to us the charge to make disciples doing two simple, yet profound tasks: teach and share ALL my Word and baptize in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus then gives to us the promise that he is with us always. Our world desperately needs this MESSAGE for the MESS that we are all in.

In these troubling times, let each one of us seek to be a PERSON of PEACE. Where there is hate, may we sow love. Where there is division, may we sow reconciliation. Where there is fear, may we sow the seed of faith.

Where there is no hope, let us sow seeds of hope and PRAY!”



James Hing with BLC Virtual Background



U P Youth Choir sings Thula Sizwe

The postlude for June 7 was an African prayer titled Thula Sizwe which translates to Hush Nation. This is an emotional song that gives us God’s promise during dark days. It is an anti-apartheid prayer from South Africa offering hope for resolution and our potential for peaceful coexistence. It is sung in Xhosa. To listen, click on this link [YouTubeThulaSizwe](#) Translation is below.

<i>Thula Sizwe</i>	Hush nation
<i>Ungabokala</i>	Do not cry
<i>Ujehova Wakho</i>	Our God
<i>Uzokunqobela</i>	Will protect us
<i>Inkululeko</i>	Freedom
<i>Sizoyithola</i>	We will get it
<i>Ujehova Wakho</i>	Our God
<i>Uzokunqobela</i>	Will protect us

June 14 was Flag Day and some of the 78 attendees had real and virtual flags waving. We were reminded that we don’t worship a flag or a cross, we worship God. At this zervice, we had our first children’s mezzage with 6 children in the audience (3 visible and 3 without a camera). Kathy Zable relayed her thank you for Sarah’s parking lot graduation party and we shared some virtual hugs. And we sang happy birthday to everyone with a June birthday.

Zoom Services Continued from previous page



June 14 Children's Message
Lucy & Roman with grandparents
Sharon & Jim Buechler



June 14 Children's Message
Anna listens with mom Amber
and dad Art (not pictured) Wolf

Father's Day was **June 21**. It was also the first Sunday in summer and was advertised as a Hawaiian themed day. Many people wore colorful Hawaiian shirts, leis, and displayed palm trees. Some are printed below.



The LCMS Stewardship Ministry for July, 2020 states: "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of God's family--the Church--in managing life's resources for His purpose. The Lord gives us 1,440 minutes per day. How are we using that time? How are we managing the gifts God gives us?"

Rain and snow falls on everything and everyone. So does God's everlasting Word which shall never be cut off. We are surrounded by the good and bad things in our lives. At the end of the world, God will reap all the good and toss out all the sin, like how the wheat and chaff grow up together. When the harvest comes, all the wheat is saved and the chaff is burned. A dragnet is cast into the water by fishermen. The good fish are saved but the bad fish are cast away. A man finds treasure in a field and another man finds a pearl of great price. They sell everything they have to purchase these "investments". (Matthew 13:24-48)

God has invested in us to do His good work. Everything we have has been loaned to us by God. Cast your heavy burdens of sin and cares of this world on Jesus and he will lift you up. He will give you the light burden of love, faith and joy in helping each other, and he will give you peace. Let's make good use of our talents and money to be good stewards of God's gifts and He will bless us abundantly.

John 15:16-17: ***"Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."***

MARY-MARTHA NEWS

Have we ever learned a lesson in the past MONTHS! We still have our instant coffee, instant potatoes, instant cereal, instant pictures, etc! Now, we need to learn and remember what we have gone through the past months! You know the old saying "slow down and smell the roses". We definitely need to pay more attention to the world around us and not get caught up in all the rigmarole!

I am praying that we have learned a very important lesson: Don't take for granted that we are allowed to go to church, grocery shopping and let's not forget the all important - haircut or permanent!

On Thursday June 18th we had our "drive through" for the Dads and some of the "new dads". It was a very rewarding day! We were able to do a "masked drop-off" to many who weren't able to make it to the church Pick-Up Event!!! All of the guys had HUGE smiles!

Carolyn Troseth,
Mary Martha Secretary



31 adults received Holy Communion and 1 child received a blessing at our first ever drive-thru Communion experience. June 20 was the first day of summer and our first opportunity to partake of Communion since March 15. Communicants stayed in their cars. Photo above taken by Joel Jackman who was the parking lot attendant for the morning. Greeter and sign holder Marjie Boydston wore a mask that says "Faith is Essential". Pastor David Blair conducted the Communion assisted by elder Dick Taylor.



The weather cooperated with just a brief light mist and a couple of sprinkles of rain. Flowers on the altar table were provided by Mary Martha members.

Thanks to everyone's cooperation, the event went smoothly and safely. More than one person commented that they were glad it was offered.

On the left, Joel Jackman is standing with the sign he created for the Prayer of Confession. His wife, Karen, took the photo.

THANK YOU, JEANIE



Jeanie Hack
Bethlehem Secretary
for 5 Years

Jeanie Hack has been our Wednesday secretary since 2015. She announced her retirement in June.

"I have very much enjoyed working with Bethlehem's staff and Pastor but really loved serving all of you. I will miss you in that capacity but I am still here. Thank you all for that opportunity. I have many home projects I have been working on and actually getting done. Very excited for our next chapter."

"Our thanks to Jeanie Hack for her years of service here at Bethlehem assisting in the office. She always has a welcoming smile and kind words for both members and visitors alike! Jeanie continues to serve our congregation in the re-entry process by providing and keeping track of various needed supplies. Blessings to you Jeanie, and Jesse in the years ahead!", Pastor David.

Co-secretary Marjie Boydston shares, "It was a pleasure getting to know you better as we worked together. I always looked forward to your notes you left me! Thank you for all that you did and your kindness."

RAVE for our Zoom services going so well!

RAVE for people with green thumbs and those who posted their garden photos on our website. It's a colorful collage of blooms and produce.

RAVE & THANKS to all who make our Zoom services possible and do such a wonderful job of producing it, coordinating it, and making it so enjoyable during this historical period of the pandemic virus.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
July Office Hours may be adjusted during this COVID-reopening time. Please contact the office to make an appointment.			1
		—————Pastor Blair Out of c	
		Office Closed	
5 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Worship via Zoom— Wear Red, white and blue!	6 3 pm Elder Meeting 6 pm Trustees 7 pm New Purpose	7 —————Pastor Blair on	8 Office Closed
12 10 Worship via Zoom 11:45 Council meeting via Zoom	13 7 pm New Purpose	14 —————Pastor Blair on vacation. July	15 Office Closed
19 10 Worship via Zoom Voters Meeting Suspended	20 ———Pastor Blair out of office July 20-21——— NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7 pm New Purpose	21	22 Office Closed
26 10 Worship via Zoom or in the building—to be determined 11:30 Worship Team Meeting—via zoom or in person—TBD	27 7 pm New Purpose	28	29 Office Closed

NOTES: The July Quarterly Voters’ Meeting is suspended. We will wait until we get settled back into the building before holding a Voters’ Meeting. See more information on the back page. If there’s a need for an emergency or urgent vote, you will be notified.

Pastor Blair will be taking a few vacation days in July. He plans to be with us on Sunday mornings. If you have a pastoral need during his time away, please call an elder.

JULY 2020

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>2</p> <p>of office. June 30—July 2 —————</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>  <p><small>CHRISTIANCAFE.com</small></p>
	<p>9</p> <p>r on vacation. July 7-9 —————</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious—Cancelled</p>
	<p>16</p> <p>uly 13-16 —————</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8:30—1 Private use Social Hall</p>
	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 Drive Thru Communion— reservations required Tentatively scheduled</p>
	<p>30</p> <p>10 Pastor's Circuit meeting 7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>31</p>	

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

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

GRADUATION PARTY!

We Sarah Zable



On Sunday, June 7, we celebrated Sarah's high school graduation. She arrived chauffeured by her mom, Colleen Zable, in a bright yellow convertible, dressed in her cap and gown.



Grandma Kathy Zable handed out M & M treats. Aunt Margo Passeau held out a net to catch a greeting card given by Curtis Holcomb. Signs of congratulations were on display.



Don Kuhlmann used a pump to blow up celebratory balloons and displayed more signs.



Pete Maas offers hand sanitizer.



The rain held off and the sun came out as we celebrated with Sarah. Here she is waving from the convertible and framed by festive balloons.

Dozens of people showed up to wish her well. As required for the times, we wore masks and maintained 6' physical distance. After such a long time of isolation, it was so good to see so many at Sarah's graduation gathering!

Her aunt Margo Passeur (far left) carries a basket full of graduation cards given to Sarah.

Ruth Ann Shimoi waves her sign.

Sara writes, "I'm just so thankful for everyone that was able to be there! I can't wait to see where life will take me!"



MESSAGE FROM MISSION BOARD

One of Bethlehem's missions to which we contribute is Lutheran Community Services. Their purpose is grounded in faith and ideals of inclusiveness and justice. A few of their many services include:

- ***Family and Community Support** to build stronger families by breaking generational cycles of poverty and trauma;
- ***Refugee and Immigration Services** that help refugees and immigrants to rebuild lives in a new country;
- ***Child Welfare Programs** to keep kids safe, supported, and loved;
- ***Crime Victim Services** which stands up for victims of crimes.

For 99 years, these services have been available to any and all people in need. We hope to have a speaker from this organization for one of our Mission Sunday's when we are open and running again. For more information, go to lcsnw.org.

-Ellen Taylor

Treasurer Report As of May 31, 2020 (42% of the year)

Total Income	\$60,361.19	(34% of budget)
Total Expense	- 65,851.73	(37% of budget)
Difference	- \$ 5,490.54	

Our total assets = \$70,829.98

Equity = \$6,882.82 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

Bethlehem applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Payment to help us cover 2 months of payroll expenses. We will be asking for loan forgiveness once the rules for that are in place.

Submitted by Kathy Logan, Treasurer

CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS for the first 2 quarters will be available in July. You can make an appointment to pick up yours, or contact the office and we can email/mail it to you.

EVENTS WE MISSED DURING THE SELF-ISOLATION

KaLyla TROSETH TURNED 1 YEAR OLD!

She took her first steps on June 11th. She says “momma” and “da”, and her favorite thing is her big brother, CeJae.

KaLyla’s birthday was June 14. In the photograph, she is sitting on a Minnie Mouse, surrounded by pink wrapping paper and rejoicing in a new pair of shoes!

Happy Birthday, KaLyla!



GARY & JOANNE JORDANGER’S 50th ANNIVERSARY!

Gary & Joanne tied the knot on June 6, 1970 in Canada. They recall that it was really really hot that day. They honeymooned in Disneyland. Fast forward 50 years to their Golden Anniversary. In the midst of a world-wide pandemic, they are putting off party plans until they can safely gather with friends and family. In celebration of their anniversary, on June 6 this year, they traveled together to Costco and purchased gas.

Happy Anniversary, Gary & Joanne!

THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Several Bethlehem members attended the six-session Zoom event called “The Great Opportunity” sponsored by PLI (Pastoral Leadership Institute). They felt it provided valuable information.

Pastor Blair says, “These sessions were a very practical teaching time with all the themes focused on how we can share the Gospel with our neighbor. We can look for “People of Peace” who may be more open than others to the message of hope in Jesus Christ. We can pray for them, invite them to share in a meal and seek to have a longer term relationship with them.”

Don Kuhlmann reports, “The Great Opportunity provided the attendees a six step process to create relationships with your neighbors in much the same manner Jesus did. The weekly exercises led us through the steps with small things we were able to accomplish. We were ALWAYS encouraged even if we were not able to complete the week’s exercise. It would be great if everyone at BLC did this workshop together.”

Ruth Ann Shimoi shares, “A theme for me through the 6 sessions was ‘Relationships’. We know Jesus was an example, especially with His disciples. Time spent together. We were encouraged, every session, to keep going whether we had done the exercise or not. This was encouraging to me. A couple of questions that have stood out for me, “What is one thing you are hopeful for in the next 6 months and Who in my life has mentored/showed me Jesus?” I agree with Don, about getting more members to view these sessions or for those of us who clicked in, to gather and review then step out, together.

To view the first session, go to vimeo.com/419013905/1057826a3a

If you want to see more, you can get the links to the other sessions from Don or Dielda.

Call Team Reminder:

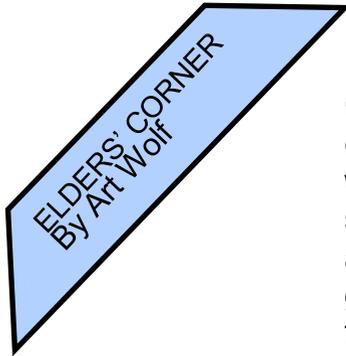
**God’s Plan is Not in Quarantine
As We Await our Next Pastoral Call.**

By Joel Jackman

The Times They are a-Changin’
But God’s plan is always the same
There’s one thing He’s not rearrangin’
That’s to share the Word in His Name

It’s the essence of our purpose
And that of our congregation
That we seek to do service
By sharing His love in every location

May we be guided by the Holy Spirit
As we reach out to our community
That we can do it and not fear it
When He shares an opportunity



ACTION WORDS

Churches are supposed to be sending churches that proclaim the love of God around the world. From the time it was created by Jesus, the church's mission has been to spread the good news of salvation to every nation, tribe, and people. Despite barriers of culture, politics, and language, the message is to be sent out and be proclaimed to bring the message to a world that does not know him.

The mission is ongoing. Jesus' promise to send his Holy Spirit is still viable. Jesus' commission that his followers would be witnesses everywhere, to the ends of the earth, is still in effect. The message that once traveled on horseback and by foot is now delivered electronically through many means, as well as traditional means. You can do this anywhere that you are. It is a function of remembering the verbs and **doing** words. You want to **bring** the word God to People. You want to **bring** people to the church. You want to **teach** them about Jesus and salvation. You just need to **step** out of your comfort zone and take the first step. The Holy Spirit will be there to guide you, he will not fail.

The means have changed, but the message is the same. It is the good news of God's unconditional love for sinners and the word of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter's words at Pentecost are as true today as ever before: ***"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"*** (Acts 2:38).

Bring the message out and be a Christian that is following Christ's mission.

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.



**WE
CELEBRATE
THE MEN**

Mary Martha executive team hold up some of the goodies offered to the men of Bethlehem on Thursday, June 18. Hannelore Payne, Diilda Kuhlmann, Marjie Boydston, and Carolyn Troseth. Photo by Pastor David Blair. Pastor Blair is pictured below left.

**PIES
POP
POEM
PEN**

Ladies honored the men with a variety of pies, a cold bottle of Dad's Root Beer, a poem about being a good guy and a pen with the motto "Rooted in Christ".

The ladies, dressed in purple and wearing smiles behind their masks, wished each guy a Happy Father's Day. A variety of flowers from our yards brightened the table and reminded us of our flower potlucks.

-Diilda Kuhlmann 24



Our first guest is Glen Koppelman.



Hannelore hands items to Jim Buechler.

COMMENTS: It's like Christmas! I'm going home to make a root beer float to continue the celebration! This is a nice surprise! Thank you! I'm not a dad but this made my day!



Edward Hughes with Root Beer & Moon Pie.



Three women hand the treats to Joel Jackman.



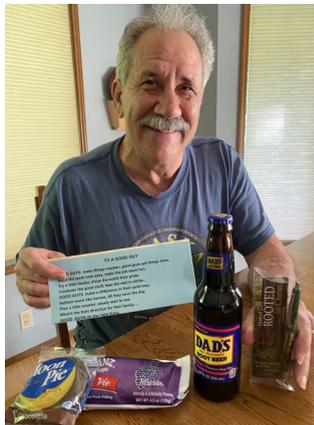
Gil Wooden is happy!



Brand new dad, Josh Ward, collects his treats and Brent Begalka's also.



Dick Taylor smiling.



25 Don Kuhlmann



Wayne Hough

The Story Behind The Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past Written in 1714

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
Psalm 90:1-2

Isaac Watts has been called “the greatest name among hymn writers.” He published more than 800 hymns.

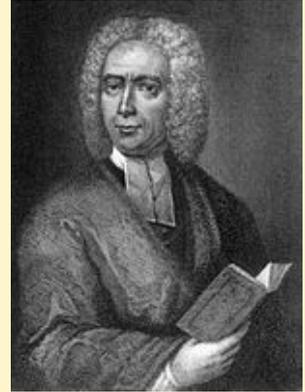
Isaac was the oldest of 9 children, born July 17, 1674 in Southampton, England, the son of a schoolmaster. He began to study Latin at age 4, and was writing respectable verses at the age of seven. He mastered ancient Greek, Hebrew and French by the age of 13. He attended a Nonconformist Academy from the age of 16 to 20. The first hymn he composed for religious worship, “Behold the Glories of the Lamb”, was written at the age of 20. On his 24th birthday he gave his first sermon. Four years later, in 1702, he was ordained pastor of the Mark Lane Meeting Congregational church in London.

The following year, his health began to fail, and by 1712 he was unable to preach but he continued to write. He emphasized the role of music in worship. As a minister, he was called to not only write sermons but sought to involve his congregation in worship through music. Many of his hymns were written to be sung after his sermons to help give more expression to the Bible texts he had preached. This is similar to what is done at Bethlehem! Our hymn selection team chooses songs that are based on the Bible readings for each Sunday.

The origin of the hymn “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” is well-documented. The text was written in 1714, shortly before the death of Queen Anne of England. This was a time of great crises and turmoil, as the successor of Queen Anne was undetermined, and the fear of a monarch who would reinstate the persecution of Protestants was great. King George I prevented such persecution, but the fear before Anne’s death was immense. Isaac Watts, in poor health, sat at his desk, thinking about the current situation and Psalm 90. He wrote these 9 verses. In 1738, John Wesley changed the “Our God” to “O God” when he published it.

*Our God, our help in ages past, / Our hope for years to come, /
Our shelter from the stormy blast, / And our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne / Thy saints have dwelt secure; /
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, / And our defense is sure.*



Isaac Watts
1674-1748

*Before the hills in order stood, / Or earth received her frame, /
From everlasting Thou art God, / To endless years the same.*

*Thy Word commands our flesh to dust, / "Return, ye sons of men:" /
All nations rose from earth at first, / And turn to earth again.*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight / Are like an evening gone; /
Short as the watch that ends the night / Before the rising sun.*

*The busy tribes of flesh and blood, / With all their lives and cares, /
Are carried downwards by the flood, / And lost in following years.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream, / Bears all its sons away; /
They fly, forgotten, as a dream / Dies at the opening day.*

*Like flowery fields the nations stand / Pleased with the morning light; /
The flowers beneath the mower's hand / Lie withering ere 'tis night.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, / Our hope for years to come, /
Be Thou our guard while troubles last, / And our eternal home.*

It is #733 in our Lutheran Service Book with verses 4, 6, and 8 omitted. No matter our situation, no matter our struggles and fears, no matter doubts, we are told to have courage, for the Lord is our God. As Isaac Watts writes so powerfully in this hymn, our God is everlasting, and will be our help through all of our years. The first verse gives us every assurance we need: God is our help, our hope, and our home. This does not dismiss our fears and troubles. They are, and always will be, very real. But it does assure us that even if we cannot feel the immediate comfort, or even when all we can do is lament, we have a God that withstands the storms of the life and the tests of time, and who protects us and hears our cries.

“O God Our Help in Ages Past” is appropriate for celebrations but also as an assurance in times of lament or fear. It was played on the radio by the BBC as soon as World War II was declared, and was later sung at the funeral service of Winston Churchill.

The University of Edinburgh bestowed an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on Isaac in 1728. There's no mention that he ever married. Isaac Watts died November 25, 1748. There is a monument to him in Westminster Abbey.

Another song that you know was written by Isaac Watts in 1719, as he studied Psalm 98:4-9. He wrote the words: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!*

Sources: hymnary.org and other internet sources, Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan



**Debbie about age 4
with a doll**

JULY'S PERSON IN THE CHOIR
Debbie Porter
a.k.a. Debbie Mason

Debbie is a soprano in our choir. She doesn't care if you call her Debbie Porter or Debbie Mason, just don't call her late for supper!

She was born into a musical family, has sung in many choirs, and sings in her car. Her brother and sister also sing in their church choirs. As a nurse in a memory care facility, Debbie sings old, familiar tunes to her patients. She will continue to sing as long as she has breath.



**Debbie Porter on
Hawaiian theme day
at Bethlehem**

Growing up, she had stage-fright and was petrified to speak in front of people. Thankfully she was able to overcome it and can now even sing a solo!

Fourth grade choir rehearsals were early in the morning before school, and Debbie loved the music so much that she arrived on time or early to them. On non-choir mornings, she was often quite tardy to school. School choirs gave her the opportunity to travel to places like the Grand Canyon, Disneyland and Mexicali. Her first *church* choir experience was in 8th grade, in Yreka, California. She was the youngest member and fondly recalls that there were special treats after choir practice.

Singing with a choir continued into college. She attended Lutheran Bible Institute from 1974 to 1976, originally to be a Bible translator. Her aunt and uncle were missionaries in Peru. She attended Concordia Portland back when it was a 2-year college. Their choir had the honor of singing for their director Dale Fisk's wedding! Pastor David and Cindy Blair were her classmates. Her degree in Christian Ministries/Music was earned at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon.

Playing the piano is also one of Debbie's talents. Her mom played piano and was the church organist. Debbie tried the violin in 4th grade but never perfected her vibrato so she gave it up.

When asked what her favorite type of music is, she replies, "I enjoy singing the classical, church hymns and the fun ones with African beats. I like listening to rock and roll, folks music like Peter, Paul & Mary, and the Kingston Trio, and I secretly like country music."

Debbie enjoys singing in the Bethlehem choir. "It's very small but we work well together." She thinks they sound pretty good for a small choir and encourages anyone who loves to sing to join the choir. She realizes it will be a while before choirs can sing again, due to safety concerns from the spread of COVID-19. She misses choir practice and singing in church but is grateful that we have Zoom to listen to God's word and praise him with music, and sing from our homes.

And we are blessed to have Debbie in our church family.



***Choir uniforms for the
fall!***



A new bulletin board put together by our whole bulletin board team! Thanks to Ruth Ann Shimoi, Joel & Karen Jackman, and Joni Stockamp. It's on display in our window. Next time you're putting together a jigsaw puzzle, take a moment to remember that you are a unique piece of God's plan.

How does your garden grow? Check out our members' quarantine gardens on our website bethlehemlutheranrenton.org If you have a photo of something you are growing during this time, send a jpg to dielda@comcast.net and she'll get it included in the BLC Garden Album.

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO

GARAGE SALE POSTPONED BUT BRING IN YOUR STUFF

We are still planning on holding our annual Garage Sale and continue to collect 'soft goods, shoes, and luggage' but we cannot set any dates yet until we are more certain about our opening and functioning. Bring your items and we'll continue to store them in the downstairs room.

Ellen Taylor
for Board of Missions



MERRY CHRISTMAS QUILT

Jeanne-K Hughes made this beautiful Christmas offset quilt as a fundraiser to support our Mary Martha Society missions. It is approximately 82"x82" and is getting quilted this summer.

WE ARE ACTIVE

By Dielda Kuhlmann

We have a team of dedicated talent people who are working diligently putting together the Zoom Worship Services every week and getting the bulletins delivered to members without a computer. It takes a village.

We have a Reopening Team that is working to upgrade our WiFi system so we can broadcast from the building when we reopen. They are purchasing the required Personal Protection Equipment, applying for Paycheck Protection Payment loan forgiveness, and documenting our Reopening Guidelines and Procedures.

Council is meeting at least once a month via Zoom. Our bills are being paid, donations are being deposited in the bank, and quarterly tax receipts will be available in July. The grounds are being maintained, flowers tended to, the reader board is changed regularly, and we even have bulletin boards and posters decorating the Monroe windows for all to see. Mary Martha held drive-thru events for Mother's Day and Father's Day. We celebrated Sarah Zable's high school graduation with a parking lot party.

Holy Communion is being held by appointment once a month and a lot of prayers are being said for our members and the health of the world. If you want to help, just ask!

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

July 2020

Our altar from last summer



July Voters' Meeting Suspended: In view of the uncertainty associated with current COVID-19 restrictions, the Church Council is recommending suspension of the quarterly Voters' Meeting that would normally take place during July. Regrettably, this is the second suspension of a Voters' Meeting this year. The Council is aware that this contradicts Bethlehem's constitution, but feels this is necessary to assure the well-being of our members. Please contact either me or the church office if you have concerns about this decision. As an interim measure, you may also request copies of the Council Meeting minutes from the church office. I look forward to the time when we can meet again in person.

Carl Stockamp