

June
2020

Bethlehem Star



Pastor David Blair



James Hing, Organist & Choir Director

Bethlehem,

May 31st we celebrated the Festival of Pentecost ... the Festival of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. This took place 50 (Pente) days after Jesus rose from the dead. 40 days after he rose, Jesus ascended into heaven and before he left the disciples' visible sight, he told them to WAIT. WAITING is what we are all doing as I write these words (May 14). Waiting to come back together ... in work, in worship, in recreation and in simple everyday interactions. Oh, how we had taken life as we know it for granted.

This pandemic can be viewed as a GIFT. It has served as a reminder that we are TOTALLY and WHOLLY dependent upon GOD for LIFE in all its fulness. When life was "normal" we really were blinded to the truth that we were living truly abnormal lives ... lives that too often gave lip service to being servants of Jesus; lives of fractured relationships desperately needing forgiveness; lives that did not step out in faith and share the love of God so richly showered on our lives.

What lessons will we ponder upon in this time of pandemic that cause us to resolve to live life differently? Here are just a few:

- I resolve to more regularly read God's Word and seek to apply it to my daily life in ever more practical ways
- I resolve to pray/praise/and give thanks to God on a more regular basis on behalf of people for whom Christ gave his blood on the cross
- I resolve to reach out more intentionally to meet the needs of others
- I resolve to take myself less seriously and God more seriously
- I resolve to be more faithful with all that God has given for my use
- I resolve to allow the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5) to be in greater evidence in my daily personal life

The list could go much longer ... perhaps most important of all ... remember that FIRST ... Our God did not give up on us or our world. He resolved, at just the right time in world history, to send his Son Jesus to rescue us. He alone gives us HOPE for June/July 2020 and beyond!

Pastor David

Our God Works in Mysterious Ways

Last month I wrote about our God's faithfulness. We know that God loves us, both individually and as a community of believers here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington. But, what about the times His faithfulness is shown in ways that are much different from what we think they should be? I believe the general increase of people seeking a spiritual connection shows that we're living in such a time.

Who would have thought that our Sunday morning church attendance would actually be increasing during this time of our confinement? Last year our Sunday morning worship attendance averaged about 65 members. This year we are seeing about 75 people participating in our Zoom services. A big reason for this increase is the fact that many of our home-bound members are able to join the services. I must confess that complying with stay-at-home orders has given me a new appreciation for what being home-bound really means.

It is a well known fact that we have a "geriatric" membership. In fact, over 60% of our active members are older than 70. One of the things the Transition Team struggled with was determining whom we are serving. I believe God is showing us that we should be including our home-bound and senior members in future worship opportunities. This is a good time to say a prayer of thanks to those who have enabled these members to join our virtual worship services. It is also a good time to look introspectively and ask ourselves,

"What is precluding me from doing more to further the mission God has given Bethlehem?"

The ability to virtually attend worship services does not diminish the importance of coming back together as a community of believers. Recall the early history of the church as recorded in Acts 2:48, ***"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."***

God willing, during the next month we will be challenged in determining how we will be able to meet again as a community. There will be many things to do and our worship services will undoubtedly look different from what we are used to seeing. I believe it will be important to remember the words from Isaiah 55:8, ***"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord"***.

Carl Stockamp
Congregational President

JUNE



We wish you continued happiness and God's blessings!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**Jordanger, Gary & Joanne June 6, 1970
50 years**

**Engum, Ray & Gretchen June 16, 1950
70 years**

Holcomb, Curtis & Cynthia June 18, 1983
Bumpus, Michael & Cheryl June 30, 2006

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS :

Ella is a teenager!!! She turns 13 this month.

KaLyla celebrates her first birthday on June 14!

Nancy Jackman	June 3
Robert Pankow	June 4
Jeanie Hack	June 6
Katelyn Bumpus	June 7
Donna Kahn	June 8
Joyce Baade	June 9
Mary Duett	June 9
Teresa Feltmann	June 10
Halley Gentil	June 11
Ella Browning	June 12
Jon Kuhlmann	June 12
Kathy Logan	June 14
KaLyla Troseth	June 14
Gary Jordanger	June 17
James Sturgul	June 24
Neal Duett	June 25
Larry Holcomb	June 26

Help us update our records.

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

A THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM

The man who comes in to our church building regularly to pray is thankful that we are open to allow him to continue his prayerful devotion each week.

During our self-isolation we've missed being together and visiting with our friends. We've also missed out on watching KaLyla grow! In this photo, taken the week of Mother's Day, she was 11 months old.



We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all.

In particular, we pray for:

Those living 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

Marlene Holcomb and son Guy

Jeanne-K Hughes' sister Denise and son David

LuAnne Humphrey's friend Debbie

Jenny Iles' daughter Kathy

Joel Jackman and his brother John

Donna Kahn

Dielda Kuhlmann's sister Brenda

Pete & Hannelore Maas' son Brian, friend Bill

Bob Pankow

Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relative June & sister Johanna, friend Dawn

Debbie Porter Mason

Ruth Schroeder

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

Beverly West's daughter Janet

Cathy Wooden's friend Tammy

Pastor Zimmerman

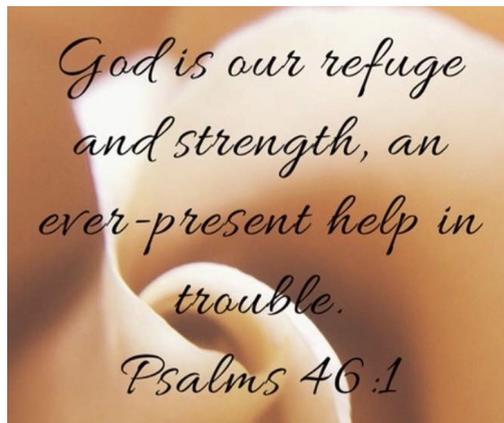
We pray for the health and safe return home of our members and relatives serving our country in the military: **Alex Murphy (Army), Kyle Murphy (Air Force), Austin Kahn (Air Force), Garrett Kahn (Air Force).**

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 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.



Dear Lord, we are grateful for choices in our life. Please help us make wise choices. We pray for a safe vaccine and reliable treatment for the COVID-19 disease. Help guide us toward unity, not division. Amen





Wife of Former Bethlehem Pastor Receives her Eternal Rest

Arlene Heins, age 98, passed away on January 19, 2020 in Corvallis, Oregon. She married Reverend Norbert Heins in August 1942. Photo on the left. On October 15 of that year, they arrived in Renton where he was installed as our first called pastor. While they were here, our first permanent building, the white chapel on Sunset Highway, which took 7 months to erect, was dedicated on June 25, 1944. Rev. Heins' last sermon at Bethlehem was Sept 2, 1945 as he was called to Sunnydale, Washington.

Arlene was preceded in death by her husband in 1991. She is survived by her five children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Her memorial service was held on February 22, 2020 at Zion Lutheran Church in Corvallis, Oregon.

ARLENE HEINS

September 6, 1921 — January 19, 2020

CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



To raise awareness of the importance of wearing a mask, the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was lit up with a protective face mask in May, and the words “#MascaraSalva”, which translates to Mask Saves.

GLORIOUS BABY NEWS



ELIJAH WARD

Meet **Elijah Hunter Ward**, Brent and Karen Begalka's new grandson! He was born May 15, 2020 at 11:38 am, and was 8 lbs and 20 inches long. His parents are Brenda Begalka & Josh Ward.

Elijah has very strong lungs and likes to sleep during the day. As you can see in the photo, he has lots of hair, a cute smile, and a dimple in his chin.

The word Brenda thinks of is "hope" when she looks at this new baby. She shares her story, "I ran into someone I knew when I was pregnant shopping at Safeway. We were both wearing masks and I told her I was having a hard time being pregnant after all these years and during a pandemic no less. In that moment without skipping a beat, she replied that this right here is hope, pointing to my very pregnant belly. My eyes sort of swelled up in that moment, and I felt like I was going to cry, but it stuck with me through the rest of my pregnancy."



JADE HAMMOND

We welcome **Jade Elise Hammond**! Mardelle Hammond is delighted to share the news of her newest great grandchild. Jade was born on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 3:22 pm in Olympia, Washington. She weighed in at 8 lbs and measured 20" long. Her parents are Aaron & Kelli Hammond, and she has 3 older siblings. Mardelle rejoices in this beautiful family.



Left to right:
Rell is almost 2
big brother Cole
is 5 1/2 and
holding Jade
Meli is almost 4



**Sarah Zable
High School Graduate 2020**

GRADUATE SARAH ZABLE!!



Sarah has been a part of Bethlehem her entire life. We celebrate her graduation from Hazen High School this year! She has been studying online since our state's schools closed in early March. She has also been attending Renton Technical College for the past 2 years.

Life has been busy for Sarah. She was active in Drama Club and Gay Straight Alliance, and has earned a 2nd degree brown belt in karate. Her favorite class was Humanities. In that class, she learned about art and architecture through the ages. It was very project centered and very fun. In her spare time, she babysat, until the pandemic struck.

She is doing ok with the self-isolation but she does confess that she misses her friends and being around people.

In the fall, Sarah will be heading to Ellensburg where she will pursue a degree in Psychology at Central Washington University and hopefully land a job at Starbucks.

The plan for this year's graduation is that she will go onto the Hazen campus at an assigned time the first week of June and be filmed walking across the stage dressed in her cap and gown. Students will be 6 feet apart and must leave the building immediately after they are filmed. Then the school district will produce a graduation ceremony Youtube video which will be aired on June 15. It will be unlike any graduation ceremony any of us had; it will be memorable.

Congratulations, Sarah, from all of us at Bethlehem!



Sarah, way back in 2005, when she helped us set up for VBS. Photo by Dielda Kuhlmann

OUR 2020 GRADUATES

Kathy Zable has 2 granddaughters graduating this summer. Her son-in-law Marc's oldest daughter, **Megan Santee**, is graduating from WSU with a major in Human Development & Psychology and several minors. She plans to attend law school to further her chosen career in prison psychology. A virtual celebration was held online in early May for the graduates. The actual in-person graduation ceremony has been delayed until August.

Her other granddaughter, **Sarah Zable**, shares her story on the previous page.

Carolyn Warns reports that her great granddaughter, **Masyn Lopes**, is graduating from Naches Valley High School, over in eastern Washington. The ceremony will be on June 13. It will either be a drive-thru or virtual commencement, depending on the quarantine phase level we are at. Masyn is looking forward to her next adventure in life!

“For I know the **PLANS**
I have for **you**”
declares the **LORD**
“plans to **PROSPER** you
and not to harm you,
plans to *give* you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”
Jeremiah 29:11

THE FOUNDER OF ZOOM

I found a great article on the history and emergence of Zoom written by Jon Sarlin. He writes that Eric Yuan is the founder and CEO of Zoom, and his company has been propelled into the world far beyond his expectations. They have worked steadfastly to improve Zoom's capabilities to handle the large amounts of new users during the pandemic. This particular quote had me wondering, how do you want to be written by history...

"In ten to twenty years, when people write the history of Covid-19, I want them to write that Zoom did the right thing for the world," Yuan said.

-Dielda Kuhlmann

Let's **zoom**



James Hing and Carnegie Hall



Pastor Blair
at virtual sunrise

On Sunday April 26, we had 73 people attend our Zoomed worship service. James' virtual background made it look like he was playing in Carnegie Hall! Pastor Blair used a sunrise photo that he had taken. We were reminded that the crucifixion wasn't the end but the beginning. During the announcements, elder Joel Jackman announced that we would not be getting a seminary candidate as our pastor.

On Sunday May 3, we had 77 people attend. Pastor Blair read Psalm 23 in Hebrew and showed photos that he took at Ein Gedi, or Goat Springs, an oasis in Israel, located west of the Dead Sea, near Masada and the Qumran Caves. We had the opportunity to each speak out our prayers or type them. We offered praises for the positive blessings in our lives and prayers for illnesses and other problems we have. James Hing provided insight into the hymns so we could have a deeper appreciation of them.

Verse 4 of Blest Be the Tie That Binds was especially poignant:

When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

We ended our service today with a favorite song from James' personal I-pod collection called "Tuba Tune" as our Postlude. Composed by Norman Cocker in the 1800's this was performed by "one of the country's

Zoom Services Continued from previous page

most distinguished organists", Frederick Swann (89), Organist Emeritus of the famed Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California and Dr. Robert Schuller's weekly "Hour of Power" nationally-televised services.

For Mother's Day, May 10, we had 74 participants online and listening on the phone. It's nice to see members who are medically fragile or homebound able to join us! Today was our first service with a member attending who had just tested positive for COVID-19. She was safe and isolated in her home but able to join us on Sunday morning. We listened to a special reading about how God designed mothers. The postlude was a recording done by people in South Africa, singing a blessing, filmed during the quarantine of April 2020:

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
And give you peace.
Amen

May His favor be upon you
For a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children and their children.

May His presence go before you
And behind you and beside you
All around you and within you.
He is with you. He is with you.

In the morning, in the evening,
In your coming and your going,
In your weeping and rejoicing,
He is for you. He is for you.
Amen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EPcd0B5SNs> if you want to watch it again! The words are sung in English and in Xhosa.

There were 75 people attending our zervice on **May 17**. 20% of the attendees were listening in on their phones; the rest on their electronic devices. The service began with an invitation to offer our prayer and praise requests. And then we heard a lot of bells to officially start our service.

James had a new virtual background that made it look like he was in the choir loft at Bethlehem.

Pastor Blair's sermon was titled "From Paul to Peter: One Message—Jesus Lives!" Members are emailed or mailed the sermon and bulletin earlier in the week, and are encouraged to read the sermon before Sunday. He reminded us to:

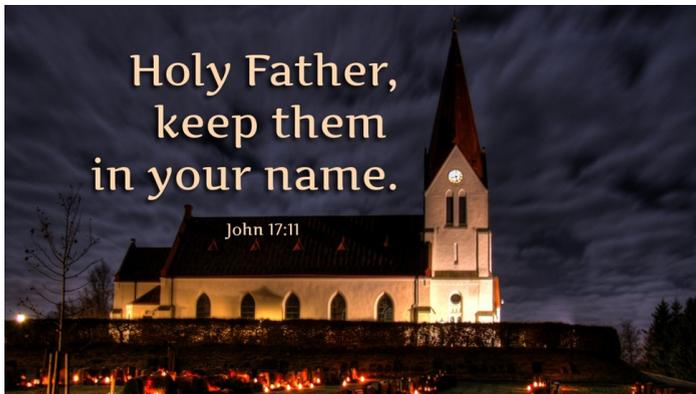
"Now, go and be my witness where you are! In our uncertain times, share the certainty that you have in the resurrection of Jesus. Because he lives, we shall live forever as well! That truth is spelled H – O – P – E! Our God is calling YOU today to consciously connect with others and share this life-giving and life-transforming message of HOPE!"



The postlude was Carillon de Westminster played by Peter Richard Conte on the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia. It is the largest pipe organ in the world with 6 ivory keyboards, and over 28,000 pipes ranging from 1/4 inch to 32 feet in length all contained in a 6-story building. The console, shown on the left, is ten times the size of the organ at Bethlehem.

On Memorial Weekend Sunday May 24, the title of the sermon was We Are Not Alone. You are not alone! We are not alone! We together are not alone! The Father and his Son Jesus and their Spirit are with us always!

There was a brief audio glitch during this service to add some excitement



but the issue was resolved. Technology is so wonderful when it works!

Attendance was 67. This week 24% dialed in using their phone, 37% used a device with no camera, and 39% were visible with a camera. Many of those with a camera were able to show their red, white and blue clothes and backgrounds.

Zoom Services Continued from previous page

The postlude on May 24 was Hornpipe from Handel's Water Music which was first performed in 1717. It featured a chime sound which James explained was an organ stop called Zimbelstern. It is a popular sound for some Christian hymns. Zimbelstern is German for Cymbal Star and was common on Northern European organs of the 16th through 18th centuries. A Zimbelstern is a stop consisting of a wooden star mounted on the organ case that rotates when the stop is engaged, as well as a set of small bells which produce a tinkling sound to accompany the playing of the organ.



Zimbelstern

A MESSAGE FOR THE MEN OF BETHLEHEM

The Mary Martha Society are inviting you to a Drive-By Event at the church on Thursday **June 18**. You can arrive any time between 2 pm and 3:30 pm for a special treat. We realize we can't give you our traditional Father's Day offering but we think you'll enjoy what we have planned.

See you Thursday afternoon.

a godly Father is:



Faithful, to God and family.
Able, to discern God's will in trying times and good times.
Thankful, for all the joys and trials of life.
Happy, no matter what the life brings.
Enthusiastic, about a life lived with purpose.
Righteous, rock-solid in heart and mind, from a growing relationship with Jesus.

TIPS ON USING ZOOM

If you have a computer or smart phone, you can create and host your own Zoom meeting! You can try it anytime with just yourself or a friend to learn and practice all the features available to you. That way you will be prepared when you join a meeting with other people.



If you're entering a Zoom meeting by dialing in on a phone, you have the ability to mute yourself and 'raise your hand'. By pressing *6 you can mute yourself. When you press *6 again, it will unmute you. On a smart phone, you can also just press its mute button. During a meeting, you can press *9 on your phone to let the host know you are raising your hand. Pressing *9 again will lower your hand.

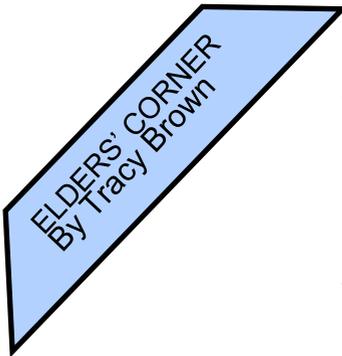
If you want to mute or unmute yourself on a computer/smart phone or raise your hand, there are icons that you can click on. The microphone with a red slash through it means you are muted and no one can hear you or your dog or your microwave dingling or papers rustling. While muted, you can temporarily unmute yourself on a computer by **HOLDING DOWN ON THE SPACE BAR** while you talk. When you release the space bar, you will be muted again.

For those using a camera, you want to avoid a strong light shining behind you as it will make it very difficult for people to see your face. Speaking of faces, in the Settings, there is a video feature called Touch up my appearance. It's a beauty filter, designed to soften the focus of your camera. Be sure to have your camera at a good angle. You may need to prop up your laptop on some books so the camera is not aiming up your nose. And sit back a bit from the camera to avoid a wide-angle distortion of your face.

For those who are easily distracted and don't want to see everyone's face, you can watch a Zoom meeting in Speaker View instead of the Gallery View. Then you will only see whoever is speaking and what the host is sharing on his/her screen. There is a chat feature for typing messages. They can be sent to Everyone or to a specific person Individually. Be careful what you type. There are stories about people typing personal messages, thinking it was going to just 1 person, but it was accidentally sent to Everyone!

Zoom has been a real blessing during our self-isolation, as a way to help us hear God's Word, listen to familiar and new hymns, and to not feel so isolated. After many weeks of attending church services, people seemed to have gotten more comfortable with the program. With a little practice, you can reach out and use it to communicate with your friends and family also. Maybe even host a little social coffee hour on Sunday afternoons. One more tip, from experience, if you keep the number of attendees to less than 8, it makes it much easier to have conversations.

-Diolda Kuhlmann



I found this article and thought it was interesting that the person who created Father's Day was from Washington State. - Tracy

The History of Father's Day Let's All Cheer for Fathers!

By Aurelia C. Scott

Though **Father's Day** wasn't made a national holiday until 1972, the efforts of one woman in Washington sparked a movement to celebrate dads long before then.

Sonora Dodd and Father's Day

The first known Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, thanks to the efforts of Grace Golden Clayton. The service was to honor all fathers, especially those hundreds who were killed during a devastating mine explosion in Monongah (just a few miles from Fairmont) the previous year. However, the observance did not become an annual event, and it was not promoted—very few outside the local area knew about it.

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, also was inspired to create a holiday honoring fathers. William Jackson Smart, her father, was a farmer and Civil War veteran that raised Sonora and her five younger brothers by himself after his wife, Ellen, died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27, came up with the idea.

Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons. So it was that on June 19, 1910, Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

The widely publicized events in Spokane struck a chord that reached all the way to Washington, D.C., and Sonora's celebration started its path to becoming a national holiday.

Treasurer Report As of April 30, 2020

Total Income \$48,110.83 (27% of budget)
Total Expense - \$53,257.05 (30% of budget)
Difference - \$ 5,146.22

Our total assets = \$52,492.24
Equity = \$7,227.14 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

Submitted by Kathy Logan, Treasurer

RAVE to James Hing for keeping the Zoom services running so smoothly.

RAVE to those who moved the bulletin board from the hallway to the front windows so more people can get a message about God's love.

RAVE to the Friendly Visit Team for the beautiful cards they send each month. Mail is much appreciated in our isolation.

RAVE & THANK YOU to Ruth Ann Shimoi for helping with all the on-site events.

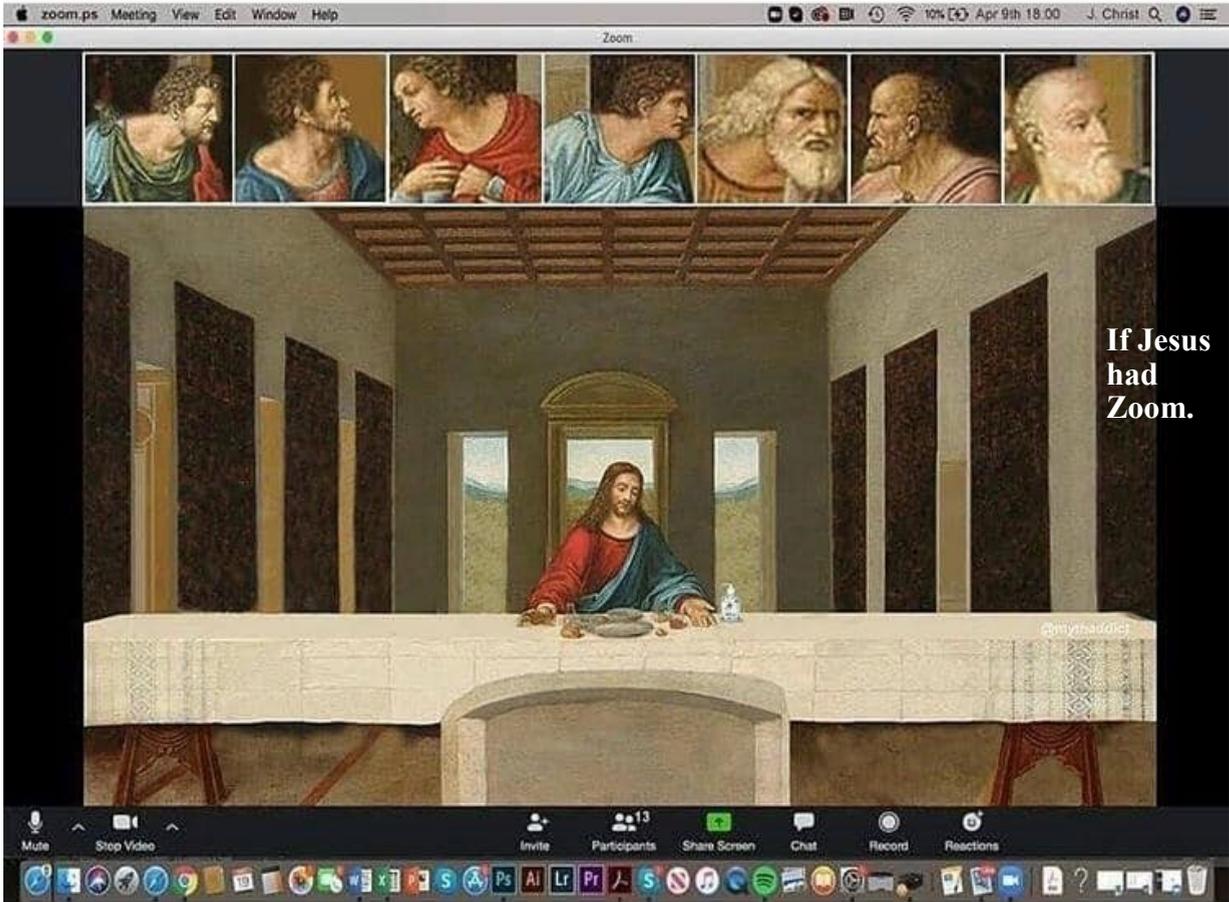
RAVE to those who posted photos of their gardens on our church website. So many green thumbs in our congregation.

RAVE for the great informative newsletters that continue to come during this difficult time.

RAVE to the Landscaping Team and their helpers who have kept our yard and flower beds bright and healthy this spring.

RAVE for Jeanne-K Hughes who has produced another fabulous quilt for our fall fundraiser. Photos and details on the work of art will be coming soon!

RAVE to the office for mailing and hand delivering the bulletins each week to members with no computers.



If Jesus had Zoom.

LET'S SPREAD THE
GOSPEL
 (not the germs)

AND JESUS SAID,
 "WHERE 2 OR MORE
 (BUT LESS THAN
 10) ARE GATHERED
 THERE I AM ALSO"

I'm gonna zoom, zoom, zoom
 Around the room, room, room
 I'm gonna zoom
 Around the room
 And praise the Lord



WASH
YOUR HANDS
AND SAY YOUR
PRAYERS
BECAUSE JESUS
AND GERMS ARE
EVERYWHERE



**I miss the days when we
were terrified of Romaine
Lettuce.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 6 pm Trustees' Virtual Meeting 7 pm New Purpose	2 6:30 Elders' Meeting via Zoom	3 9:30 am ZOOM Bible Study led by Pastor
7 FOOD BANK SUNDAY HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY 10 Worship via Zoom NO Mission Board Meeting	8 7 pm New Purpose	9	10 9:30 am ZOOM Bible Study led by Pastor
14 FLAG DAY 10 Worship via Zoom 11:45 Council meeting via Zoom	15 7 pm New Purpose	16	17 9:30 am ZOOM Bible Study led by Pastor
21 FATHER'S DAY 10 Worship via Zoom 11:30 Board of Ed Meeting—TBD	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7 pm New Purpose	23	24 No Bible Study
28 10 Worship via Zoom or in the building—to be determined 11:30 Worship Team Meeting—via zoom or in person—TBD	29 7 pm New Purpose	30	

The 2nd quarter Voters' Meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 19.

Please note that Garage Sale, Men's breakfast, Pinochle, Ladies' Book Club and movie matinee are cancelled for June.

JUNE 2020

d	Thu	Fri	Sat
v Bible astor Blair	4	5	6 Garage Sale POSTPONED
v Bible astor Blair	11 7 pm New Purpose	12	13 Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious. Canceled
v Bible astor Blair	18 2:00 -3:30 pm Father's Day Drive-Thru Event 7 pm New Purpose	19 Pinochle Game & Lunch Canceled	20 8:30-1 Private use Social Hall
y	25 Noon ladies' book club and sack lunch Canceled 7 pm New Purpose	26	27 3 pm Movie Matinee Canceled

**June Office Hours may be adjusted during this "Phase 2" time. Please call
Pastor or the office to make an appointment.**

**CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES
ON WHEN WE WILL REOPEN FOR SUNDAY SERVICES.**

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

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

ZERVICE PHOTO



Here's a screenshot of some folks with their cameras on at our Mother's Day service. There were a lot more people without a camera who were also smiling! The birthday girls, Karen Jackman and Peggy Hanson, had a bouquet of flower cupcakes and a bouquet of real flowers, respectively.

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.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Because there are Bad People in the World

When was the last time you checked your bank balance? Pulled your credit reports? Changed online passwords and locked down your credit files? Fraud is rampant right now during this pandemic. We are being reminded to take these precautions to prevent being hacked and losing a lot of money. See steps below provided by James Hing that will help.

HOW TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD

Create an account with the Washington State Employment Security Department to see if your information has already been used.

- <https://secure.esd.wa.gov/home/SAWUserRegistrations/SignUp> and fill out the form.
 - Select - "For yourself"
 - Select - "If you're an unemployment claimant, a job seeker, or if you want to send us a message or look up your past wages"
 - Select - "Verify my identity" and complete the form.
 - If you registered before a bad actor has, you will be presented with options such as "Apply for unemployment benefits..." or "Look up your past wages". This is a good thing, and you should now be protected from unemployment fraud from the site.
 - If the site determines that you have already registered based upon the SSN you provided, it will present you with an error code and partial details about the email address that was used to register on your behalf. Follow up with the state accordingly.
 - <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/unemployment-benefits-fraud>
- If you think that you have been a victim of identity theft, please follow the below guidance from FTC
- <https://www.identitytheft.gov/databreach>

Report the fraud to the FBI at 1-800-CALLFBI (225-5324), online at <https://www.ic3.gov/complaint/default.aspx>, or WAEmploymentFraudIntake@usss.dhs.gov

Consider freezing your credit and adding a fraud watch for your identity. Multiple services provide the ability to do so. Take control of who can run your credit and when they can do it, and you may avoid difficult situations in the future. The link below is a good starting point.

- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0497-credit-freeze-faqs>

File Form 14039 with the IRS: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f14039.pdf> (Identity Theft Affidavit)

File an identity theft report with your local police department

The Marriage of the Lamb (perhaps in June)

The first thing that comes to my mind when I think about June is...

James Russell Lowell's poem that starts

"What is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days..."

Then comes the song:

*By the light of the silvery moon, I want to spoon;
To my honey I'll croon love's tune:
Honeymoon, keep a shining in June.
Your silvery beams will bring love's dreams.
We'll be cuddling soon
By the silvery moon.*

Traditionally, June is the month for weddings. Though only 10 percent of weddings happen during that time, it still (barely) is the number one wedding month. The greatest wedding ever is the marriage of the Lamb and the Church.

Who is the Lamb? Why, He is our Savior, Christ Jesus, God's own Son.

John 1:29: ***"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."***

Revelation 19:7,9: ***"The marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride (the church of all believers) is made ready. Blessed are they that come to the marriage supper of the Lamb."***

Matthew 25:1-13: ***There once were 10 virgins waiting to be married, but only 10 were ready, dressed and with oil in their lamps.***

Matthew 22:1-14: ***One guest did not wear wedding clothes at the king's wedding, so was sent away. "For many are invited, but few are chosen."***

Who is the bride of the Lamb? WE ARE! We are the church, the invisible church of all believers. Those who have faith and have entered a close relationship with Christ are part of the Church. The church is made of many people who are physically different on the outside but are the same on the inside. We are all part of the body, but are as different from each other as an arm or a leg. We are the same because inside we are connected through the belief of the forgiveness of sins and redemption through God's grace.

When God created marriage, the first thing that he wanted to show us was His unconditional love. He wanted us to imitate Him and understand the marriage of the Lamb with the church. Edward Koehler who wrote "A Summary of Christian Doctrine" (Lutheran Theologian), explained this relationship:

"While all believers are most intimately joined by faith to Christ, their Savior, they are for this very reason also most intimately joined to one another by the bond of a common faith, a common hope, and a mutual love, and thus they constitute, no matter how far apart locally they may be from each other, a single body, a great communion, which we call the Church."

Ephesians 4:4-6: ***"There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope--one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."***

You all have special gifts that are different as you are from the rest of the body of the church. Use these special gifts as creative as you can during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Also, remember to help support your Church body financially, as there are still costs in running a church, even though we aren't using our building for worship. Thank-you, for your generous gifts. Many people are already doing that faithfully. Some members of our body have brought family and friends groceries. Some of you are medical workers helping patients in many ways. Some of you are helping make bulletins and are part of our Zoom church service. Marjie is still working at the church building Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Pastor David Blair and the Elders are connecting by phone with members at home or in the hospital. The Landscape committee and others are keeping our grounds looking beautiful. Mary Martha members, Ruth Ann Shimoi, the Friendly Visitor team and others are spreading joy and caring to church members and others.

When we all get to Heaven, most of our gifts will no longer be needed, because we will have everything! Corinthians 13:13: ***"And now these 3 gifts remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is LOVE."***

This Bethlehem Star is brought to you by God's sunshine and contributors trying to bring a few beams of light to you.

-Karen Begalka
Stewardship Committee

MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF MISSIONS We Support Seattle Lutheran High School

This is a wonderful school to continue a God-centered education for our children. I have included the website, the address and the phone number for the school below. Seattle Lutheran is both student and parent oriented. The family is involved as their child continues their education. Reading about this school makes me think of another school that Michael went to most of his school life and that was New Horizon school. If you have some time you can look up on the web site and find out more about this school.

Lu Anne Humphrey

May you always be a blessing to all you love.

MISSION STATEMENT

***Seattle Lutheran High School provides
a Christ-centered and student-focused environment
that equips young people in their educational and
spiritual journeys
to be servant-leaders in the world.***



The goal of SLHS is to instill in each student, motivated by the love of God, the will to grow into intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual maturity and vitality through his or her learning experience. Beyond meeting requirements of entrance into colleges or universities, we help students recognize their unique value and worth; understand the life-changing dynamic of grace; grow in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit; behold life as a Christian vocation; and live in confidence and joy as an ambassador and servant to the world.

What does your gift do for Seattle Lutheran High School?

It supports the talented teachers, small classes, and unique opportunities our students enjoy such as technology, fine arts, athletics, and personal faith development.

4100 SW Genesee St. Seattle, WA 98116 • office 206-937-7722 • www.seattlelutheran.org



Pete & Hannelore Maas, Dick Taylor

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Thanks to the outdoor photographers: Dielda K. Hannelore P. Ruth Ann S.



The landscaping team kept busy in May. On some of the better weather days, they gave all the Japanese maple trees haircuts, mowed the lawns and back field, fertilized, and cleaned the flower beds.

A rabbit was spotted relaxing under one of the maple trees.



Don Kuhlmann mowing the back field

Pete Maas weeding and trimming

Others helped but we don't have pictures of them!



Summertime Poem by Alissa Shapsnikoff

Summertime
Sounds like laughter, a sweet symphony of joy
vibrating out one ear and through the other
As you pass the group of friends at the beach

Brent & Karen Begalka's grand-daughter, Alissa, wrote this poem. She is finishing up her year as a high school freshman.

Summertime
Smells like flourishing flowers, overwhelming your senses; It binds you like fog
Smells like the sunscreen you splatter on your skin like paint; Armor to protect you
from the sun

Summertime
Tastes like watermelon, sweet as sugar, or the ice-cream you buy, chilling your
tongue,
Sending tingles down your spine; Goosebumps rise like the mountains on top of
your skin

Summertime
Looks like a flaming sunset, colors drenching the sky
Reminiscent of fireworks exploding in the night like bombs, grasping your attention
Eyes glued to the show above you

Summertime
A season of time where life feels good
A time you want to freeze like ice, so you can continue to feel it as long as possible
Stuck now inside, idolizing these once simple pleasures such as

Summertime
We repeat daily in our minds, Summertime, SUMMERTIME, SuMmErTiMe;
A time for next time will not be taken for granted.

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.

PENTECOST BANNER



We aren't in the church building this year for Pentecost, May 31, but here's your chance to see our banner.

Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, is a high festival of the church year, celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit. Our red banner has a white dove which is centered in a burst of light and lists the nine gifts of the Spirit that St. Paul names in his letter to the Galatians. These words sum up the visible attributes of a Christian life. The red color symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Each flame from the light contains a small black cross.



*Volunteer sanitizing PPEs at Redeemer.
Photo by Eugene Baade*

TECHNOLOGY + BLEACH + A DASH OF LOVE = SAFETY

Redeemer Lutheran Church on Mercer Island has teamed up with the Mercer Island—Final Assembly Brigade to sterilize face shield frames that other volunteers have created using 3-D printers!

They are then packaged and sent to first responders and healthcare staff. This organization has provided more than 10,000 homemade face shields to organizations including Children's Hospital, Overlake, Swedish, Virginia Mason, Harborview, Valley Medical Center, Providence, Kaiser Permanente, Mercer Island Police, Sound Transit, and many others. More information can be found at www.faceshieldhub.org

MARY-MARTHA NEWS

I've been thinking, wondering, and praying what to write for an article for Mary Martha in the monthly newsletter! We have had our usual "PLANS" that we had to cancel or postpone with no definite date! OH DEAR!

We did find a way to reach out to all our mothers on Thursday, May 7th, for our first Drive By Celebration with some of our mothers, and then we delivered gifts to those who were not able to come to us! AND it was a wonderful, sunshiny day! Thank You, God!

Most of us have, in the last months, had to postpone or cancel many of "our plans"! But we have to be so thankful and grateful to not have been woke up in the middle of the night, or day, to our house being ripped away due to a tornado or flood or a fire. All we have had to complain about is that *"oh dear, I have to wear a mask to go get groceries, or to do some social distancing"*.

God has plans for us and we need to thank and praise Him every morning, noon and night for this privilege to carry them out. If any of you can help us in the next days, months and years to find out and work on these plans, please stop, think, pray and let us know how you can help us with upcoming projects!

Carolyn Troseth, Secretary for Mary Martha



Wearing masks & gloves, we hand out goodies to the moms in our Drive By Celebration event. Hannelore Payne, Ruth Ann Shimoi, Pat Eskam, Carolyn Troseth. Photos by Dielda



Pat Eskam hands a sunflower to Karen Jackman

**SUNSHINE
FLOWERS
CHOCOLATE
SMILES & JOY**



Kathy Zable drives by to get her flower



Marlene Holcomb shows off her sunflower



Marjie Boydston hands a sunflower to Cathy Frank



Karen Marsyla enjoys her sunflower



Tracy Brown poses with the sunflowers



Irene Lingat & Pat Eskam get a chance to chat

**MEMORABLE
WONDERFUL
MEANINGFUL
NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER
MOTHER'S
DAY**



Jeanne-K Hughes (left) poses with quilt she made for KaLyla. Carolyn Troseth, CeJae and LaRel standing

The Story Behind The Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty Published in 1826

And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Revelation 4:8



Reginald Heber
1783-1826

In 325 AD, Church leaders convened in the town of Nicaea in Bithynia to formulate a consensus of belief and practice amongst Christians. What resulted was the Nicene Creed, a document passed on through the ages as one of the pillars of church doctrine. The primary function of this creed was to establish a firm belief in the Trinity. It was this creed that inspired Reginald Heber to write this hymn of praise to the Triune God, with the intent that the hymn be sung before or after the creed was recited in a service, and on Trinity Sunday – eight weeks after Easter. The tune, composed by John B. Dykes for Heber's text, is also titled NICAEA in recognition of Heber's text. The words evoke a sense of awe at the majesty of God, and call on all of creation – humans, saints and angels, and all living things – to praise the Godhead three-in-one.

Reginald Heber was born April 21, 1783, to a minister and his wife in an English village. He was gifted in poetry and translated a Latin classic into English verse at the age of seven. He enrolled at Oxford at age 17 where he excelled in poetry and became friends with Sir Walter Scott. At the age of 24, he succeeded his father as vicar in his family's parish, and for sixteen years he faithfully served his flock.

During his time as Vicar, it's noted he was devoted to the care of his people and also continued to write poetry and hymns. He dreamed of publishing a collection of hymns corresponding to the church year but the Bishop of London did not approve his request. Heber wrote 57 hymns during his 16 years. The funeral hymn "Thou Art Gone to the Grave" was written after the loss of his first child.

He did fulfill another lifelong dream of traveling to India when, at age 40, he was appointed to oversee the Church of England's ministries in India. He worked intensely for 3 years until the weather and travel took its toll on his health and he died suddenly of a stroke. Hours before the stroke, he had confirmed 42 people.

His widow, upon finding his 57 hymns in a trunk, succeeded in publishing his Hymns Written and Adapted to the Weekly Service of the Church Year. In this volume was the great Trinitarian hymn based on Revelation 4:8-11, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." It is hymn #507 in our Lutheran Service Book.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - migh - ty!

Ear - ly in the mor - ning our song shall rise to thee.
cas - ting down their gol - den crowns a - round the glas - sy sea;
though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!
che - ru - bim and se - ra - phim fal - ling down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!

God in three Per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!
which wert and art, and e - ver - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)
Tune: John B. Bykes (1823-1876)



11 12 12 10
NICA EA
www.hymnary.org/text/holy_holy_holy_lord_god_almighty_early

This hymn is in the public domain. You may freely use this score for personal and congregational worship. If you reproduce the score, please credit *Hymnary.org* as the source.

It's All Different Now

That's the title of a recent article by Rob Veith, a missionary with Lutheran Bible Translators that Mary-Martha supports. While he enjoys the adventures of life, he never imagined that his trips to Greece, Israel, Thailand, Kosovo, Bangladesh, and Texas for this year would all be cancelled, and he would find it an adventure just to get to his neighborhood grocery store! He has trust that God is at work during this pandemic. Rob says, "Even while most of us are locked down or socially distanced, God is not locked down, God is not distant. May God give you that sense of peace in the midst of adventure. May he give you the energy to endure. May he bless you with health and safety."



OUR GROUP PHOTO?!

We did it. We were able to have our annual group photo this year even though we haven't seen each other or been within 6' of another person for 3 months. Thanks to all who submitted a photo of themselves. Many of you were wearing masks which added a bit of humor and poignancy to the photo. You'll be getting a copy soon.

Call Team Update

By Joel Jackman

If you have been following our announcements, you are aware that we were not assigned a seminary graduate. We will be communicating with District President Linnemann to help identify our next pastor.

It is important for all of us to continue in our faith that God has a plan for Bethlehem and that, *right now*, the Holy Spirit is preparing us for the path that God has laid out. So, continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our leaders, members and our next pastor.



**LuAnne
Thomas Jefferson
High Senior –1975**

JUNE'S PERSON IN THE CHOIR LUANNE HUMPHREY

LuAnne likes to sing. As a youngster she remembers going up to her room after school, putting records on the turntable and singing all night long while doing her homework. She was a 2nd Soprano in her high school Girl's Glee Club.

She met her future husband, Mark, when she joined Zion Lutheran's choir in Auburn, Washington. Mark was the Choir Director. When they transferred to Bethlehem, she joined choir right away as a soprano, and has loved her time up in the balcony. She likes it when they get a chance to wear the long golden choir robes.



**LuAnne
Bethlehem Choir 2015**

LuAnne likes to sing. For many years in the 1990's, she & Mark sang in the Renton River Days Choir. She sang at our talent shows. She sings in her car. She sings in the shower. When asked what her favorite hobby is, she replies, singing.

She enjoys an eclectic range of musical styles. High on the list are Gospel, Elvis, Celtic Thunder, Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, and country.

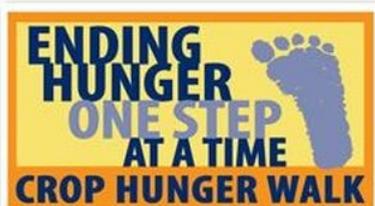
Her parents were very musical. Her mom played French horn and violin, her dad played ukulele, clarinet and trumpet. LuAnne used to play a little guitar and recorder. She's managed to do all this and not be able to read a note of music.

We are blessed by LuAnne's singing talent and thankful that she likes to sing.



**LuAnne & Mark Humphrey sing at talent
show in 2001.**

It is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. Ecclesiastes 3:13



We had 6 walkers in the Crop Walk this year— Tracy Brown, Don, Dielda & Jon Kuhlmann, Hannelore Payne, and Ron Muller. They walked but just not together on the usual trail. At press time, the people of Bethlehem have contributed \$600 to Team BLC. The deadline to donate has been extended to June. You can donate online at crophungerwalk.org/rentonwa/blc or send a check to the church office, payable to Bethlehem with CROP WALK in the memo field. Thank you!

From Portals of Prayer for May 17, 2020

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:21

THE OFFERING

Our offerings are an act of worship. They give us an opportunity to respond in gratitude to the grace, love, and mercy of God. It's a way to put our faith and trust in the Lord into action. The Lord spoke to us in the Word. We heard His forgiveness and offered our prayers. Now, we give back a portion of what the Lord has given us.

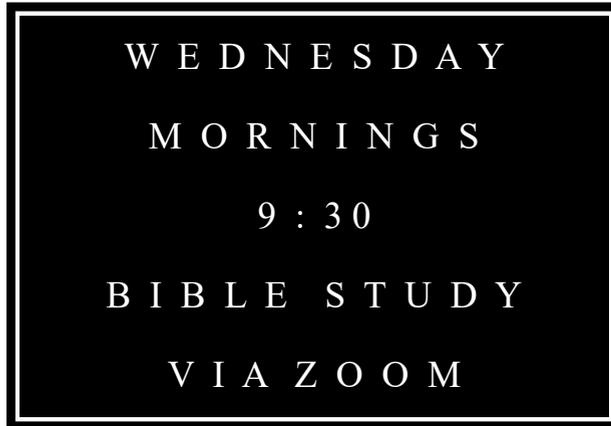
We read in Matthew 6 Jesus' admonition to trust Him to take care of us. ***"Do not be anxious"*** (v.25), He tells us. He takes care of the sparrow; He will take care of us. What are our priorities? What do we consider our treasure? ***"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*** (v.21). ***"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"*** (v.33).

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper" (I Corinthians 16:2). Paul admonished the Church in Corinth to weekly set aside their offerings, which were to aid the Church in Jerusalem. It was part of their worship and a gift back to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, you have richly blessed us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Accept our offerings and use them to your glory. Amen.

by Mrs. Roberta R. Hilgendorf, Sterling, Alaska

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO



Pastor David Blair is leading a Zoom Bible study Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Contact the office if you need the weblink or phone number.

It's an opportunity to get a preview and more understanding of the Bible verses that will be read the following Sunday. The title is "A Look at the Lessons"

Not all heroes wear capes. Some make face masks.



Lutheran World Relief hopes to collect 75,000 home-made masks before October 1, 2020. Directions for making them and how to ship them can be found at <https://lwr.org/masks> LWR was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who were suffering during World War II. Please send your face masks as soon as possible so they can start shipping.

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

The Landscape Team is looking for volunteers to help them keep up on the weeding and watering this summer. Contact Pete or Hannelore Maas.



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

June 2020



We are offering Sunday worship services and Wednesday morning Bible Study classes online via Zoom. When you are notified by Zoom to update your account to version 5.0, please do so. It's a free upgrade. Those with older versions may not be able to connect with us after May 30.

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.*