



March
2020

Pastor David Blair



James Hing, Organist & Choir Director



In preparation for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, more than 10,000 relay runners took turns carrying the Olympic torch on a 9,000-mile journey across the United States---through 41 major cities in 33 states.

Similarly, our Lord Jesus wants his Gospel---a light, a burning torch---to be carried to all nations to dispel the darkness of sin. To that end he appointed 12 apostles, telling them to make disciples of all people by teaching and baptizing them. In addition, He called St. Paul as an apostle to the Gentiles.

But the apostles needed other Gospel runners to assist them and eventually to succeed them. They enlisted men and women who, like Olympic torchbearers, carried the light of the Gospel to many communities. St. Paul, too, covered a lot of ground himself. But he couldn't keep on doing this, so he named many helpers: Timothy, Titus, Silas, Mark, and Luke among others. And Paul prepared people everywhere for spreading the Good News about Jesus.

Because generation upon generation has passed on the torch, you and I have come to know the love of Jesus. How happy we are that we are not orphans and victims of blind fate but are the children of our heavenly Father!

Continued on next page

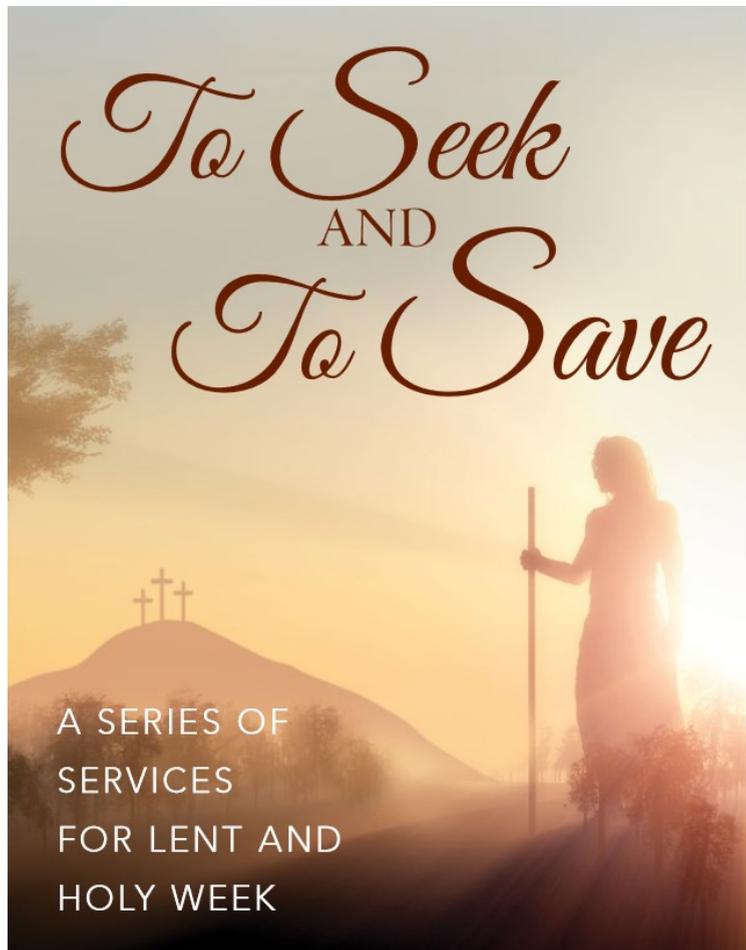
It would be tragic, however, if the progress of the Gospel stopped with us. We don't want that to be so; therefore, we pass the torch of God's truth on to others—to our children, neighbors, coworkers, and others. In doing this, we keep the torch moving as it leads people to the ultimate destination: to their heavenly home.

We are called to be torchbearers in our personal lives of Christian witness. We are also called to be torchbearers as we work together as the body of Christ here at Bethlehem. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation as we turn away from our sin and to our Savior Jesus and the cross on which he died to redeem us. Lent begins this year on February 26. We will be having a 5:45 p.m. Fellowship meal in the Social Hall prior to each mid-week worship service which will include Holy Communion. Our theme is "To Seek AND To Save." In this worship series for Lent and Holy Week, *To Seek and To Save*, we will follow Jesus as he turns toward Jerusalem and the cross.

We will walk in his footsteps, from the miracle of the raising of Lazarus to Jesus' own empty tomb on Easter morning. This was the purpose for which Jesus had come—to seek and to save the lost. This is also why we come—through the power and strength that the Holy Spirit gives to us ... we pass the torch of faith so that lost loved ones will be found loved ones!

In the name of Jesus,

Pastor David



MARCH



We wish you continued happiness and God's blessings!

Sandy Barnett	March 1
Mikayla Bumpus	March 3
Michael Bumpus	March 4
Frank Downing	March 5
Sarah Logan	March 9
Irene Lingat	March 10
Jerry Hermann	March 12



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Humphrey, Mark & LuAnne	March 2, 1985
Kahn, Gene & Donna	March 4, 1963
Lee, Robert & Janet	March 15, 1993
Brown, Tracy & Daryl	March 26, 1997

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

Hough, Wayne & Carolyn March 27, 2010
Happy 10th Anniversary to Wayne & Carolyn

Mary-Martha served minestrone soup on Ash Wednesday.

March 4 Mission Board serves chicken noodle soup

March 11 Elders serve beef vegetable soup

March 18 Landscaping Team serves 13 bean with Italian sausage soup

March 25 Board of Stewardship will serve lentil soup

April 1 Curtis & Marlene Holcomb will serve baked potato soup

Your freewill offerings for these meals will go towards our Renton Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity, and a huge thank you to the cooks!

Reminder that during the time of Lent, dessert is not part of the soup meal.



We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all, including our members and friends and relatives with medical concerns, financial worries, unemployment, housing crises, emotional distress, family strife, and other issues that burden our hearts.

In particular, we pray for:

Pastor Blair's mother Adelaide

Ray & Gretchen Engum

Marcy Hall

Mardelle Hammond's friend Lynette, and sister-in-law Barbara

Jenny Iles' daughter Kathy

Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky and friend Dawn

Fred 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



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

We pray for peace, love, and comfort to our members who can't attend church services:

Pat Boydston, Wanda Brooks, Betty Cowan, Jenny Iles, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Virginia Preston, Jean Shaw, Marie Teel, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.

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

We are thankful for all we have been given. We pray for our friends and family members who are not yet Christians that they will be moved to accept Christ as their savior and follow Jesus.



Lori Chinnick, also known as Pat Eskam's daughter, sends her sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers and well wishes from her "home church" of Bethlehem. "I'm doing better but it will take a while to completely heal from the injuries. God bless you all."



Be sure to read Scott's letter. It's posted on the bulletin board. Look for the yellow paper. Scott is doing well and misses everyone at Bethlehem.

CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



Tucked inside the 13th century castle of Grandson, Switzerland is a small chapel. The room was designed and sanctified in 1961 for the wedding of the castle's owner. It seats 20 guests on wooden pews and is still available as a wedding venue. Dielda Kuhlmann toured here on her recent trip to visit daughter Halley and family.



Dick & Ellen Taylor snapped these photos of the Saron Lutheran/First Presbyterian Church in Hoquiam. For over 100 years, this church has been known in the area as the church with the bells. A variety of songs are played for all to hear on their carillon.

An interesting feature of their worship service is that the children's play area is at the front of the sanctuary so the kids have the best seats!



Saron Lutheran
Hoquiam, Washington

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP FOR LENT by Rev. Rob Blezard

For centuries Lutherans have observed Lent with passionate devotion and prayerful attention to spiritual disciplines. These faith practices strengthen us and open our hearts to the resurrected Christ of Easter.

This year, try developing a sense of *holistic stewardship* for your life. Stewardship, of course, looks at how we use not just our financial abundance, but ALL the blessings that God has given us - our health, our family and friends, our faith, our time, our intelligence, and so on.

Just as holistic medicine takes a big picture view of physical health as a dynamic interconnection of our body's systems, holistic stewardship helps us see and appreciate all our gifts in relationship to one another.

For instance, how does your stewardship of time interact with your stewardship of your relationships or health? How might better stewardship of time, relationships and health improve your financial abundance?

When you examine your stewardship of these and all your gifts in dynamic interconnection with one another, you can find more meaning and purpose as a disciple of Jesus.

To get there, for the days of Lent, focus on just five major categories of the blessings God has given you, easily remembered by the shorthand word, **FAITH**.

F family and friends - nurturing relationships
A abundance - finance and material possessions
I intelligence - your mind and special talents
T time - living fully 24/7
H health - physical and emotional wellness

Spend 15 minutes every day to prayerfully ponder and meditate on these **FAITH** blessings. A prayer journal or notebook may help you process and connect.

- . Take stock of your blessings in each category, thanking God for them.
- . Reflect how they interrelate to give you joy and purpose and meaning.
- . Ask God to help you use these gifts more wisely and fully for God's purposes.
- . Imagine God blessing and enriching your life as you learn to steward these gifts in a way that they will support and enhance one another.

This Lent, let holistic stewardship help you envision your gifts and life more fully in God's reality, the reality called THE REIGN OF GOD. It's the REIGN that Jesus preached and proclaimed, and that he brought to fulfillment.

—Respectfully submitted by Karen Begalka, Board of Stewardship



April
30
2020

7:30 A.M.
COFFEE &
NETWORKING

7:50 – 9:00 A.M.
BREAKFAST &
PROGRAM

Hyatt Regency
Lake Washington
1053 Lake Washington Blvd N
Renton

Every day, REACH's staff, volunteers, clients, and partners create breath-taking possibilities as we work together to end homelessness and hunger.

On April 30th, we will host local leaders, stakeholders and friends for breakfast in support of this work. **It will be an inspirational morning, with great speakers and stories**, and we are confident it will spark new ideas and open new doors in the work of building an equitable and flourishing community.

Thanks to our generous sponsors your breakfast is covered! We hope you will be encouraged to make a gift to REACH at the breakfast, but equally we hope you will be inspired to bring your ideas, experience and skills to community efforts to end homelessness and hunger. We need wide and varied partnerships if we are going to build a community where all have access to what they need to be able to flourish.

Guests will be seated at tables of ten. If you have any question please contact our Development Director, Maggie Breen at Maggie@reachrenton.org

SUNSET NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION COMMITTEE will meet Thursday **March 12** at 6 pm at the Renton Housing Authority at 2900 NE 10th Street.. They are discussing improvement ideas for the Renton Highlands such as Community Garden space, public art, teenage drop in place, cleaning up public parks, and hosting a block party. They welcome your ideas and input.

Contact Claire Wilkinson, City of Renton, 425-430-6592 or CWilkinson@Rentonwa.gov

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY—PORTLAND CAMPUS

One of our missions that Bethlehem has contributed to for over 50 years is Concordia University. Concordia was established in 1905 as a 4-year academy to educate pastors and teachers for LCMS. The campus has evolved into a university that offers bachelor and graduate degree programs with 5,000 students, from across the U.S. and around the world.

It was a place where Christian leaders were trained and grew spiritually so they could be in mission once they graduated. It later became a Mission Field, as many students came to Concordia as a place where they encountered the Gospel and the love of Christ for the first time! It is very sad and unfortunate that it has been decided that **Concordia-Portland, Oregon will be closing this Spring, 2020.**

Alumni at Bethlehem include Pastor & Cindy Blair, Jurgen Feltmann (Bruce & Teresa's son), Debbie Porter Mason, Ruth Ann Shimoi, and Ellen Taylor. Other Concordia graduates associated with Bethlehem include Pastor Randy Grauer, Wilma and Doug Gardner, Natalie & Heidi (Pastor David Blair's daughters). Pastor Blair's grandfather was in the first class held in 1905.

Northwest District President, Rev Dr Paul Linnemann, offers these words of thanksgiving and praise.

Dear Heavenly Father, We are so thankful that You hold each of us and each moment of our lives in Your hands. Draw near to us now, O Lord, as we grieve the closing of Concordia, Portland. Our school has been such a gift to us. It has been Your instrument of blessing to so many people in so many ways. Help us to remember those blessings now, not that they might merely comfort us, but that they might spur us on to be a blessing to the people in our lives. Please care for the needs of faculty, staff, and students as they face significant challenges and decisions. Grant to all of us Your peace, O Father, as we continue to follow You into our future. Thank You, Lord, for Your love and Your promise of blessing in all circumstances... even this one. For Jesus' sake, we pray. Amen.

-Mission Board Report by Ellen Taylor



What does this picture mean to you?

Who is Jesus?

In a world in which information is readily available and opinions abound, this fundamental question stands above all other inquiries and considerations.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believes Jesus is exactly who He said He is. Along with the ancient Church, we confess that Jesus is true God and true man in one person. He is the Son of God who was crucified and raised from the dead for the salvation of all who trust in Him.

Christ is not Jesus's last name, but identifies Him as the Messiah (Christ is the Greek translation of Messiah), the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises that God saves His people.

This fulfillment and salvation happened in history in real time and in a real place (first century AD in Israel) through a flesh-and-blood person named Jesus.

The Bible is the true and trustworthy Word of God that records God's love for the world through His Son Jesus. The miracles recorded in the Gospels and the teachings of Jesus are true and accurate.

Jesus physically died on a cross and physically rose from the dead in three days. He physically ascended into heaven, and the Church awaits His second coming when He will judge all people.

Those who trust and have faith in Jesus as their Savior will rise to eternal life in heaven. Those who deny Jesus and live in their sin will be cast out of His presence to hell.

What does Jesus Christ mean to you?

Have a blessed and fruitful life with Jesus Christ, our savior.

The Story Behind The Hymn

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Written in 1740

*For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5b-6*



Charles Wesley
1707—1788

The Netflix TV show The Crown inspired the selection of the hymn *Jesus, Love of My Soul* this month. The Season 3, Episode 3 titled “Aberfan” told the story of the October 1966 disaster in Wales when an avalanche of coal waste engulfed a junior school in, as the children were singing *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. 116 children and 28 adults were killed. The entire community of Aberfan gathered at the mass burial of 82 of the victims. The last hymn they sung at the graveside was *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*. It was a heartbreaking moment.

This hymn is not in our current Lutheran Service Book but it was in our previous blue hymnal. When Karen Jackman saw the show, she remembered the song and felt it was the right one to share with us this month.

Charles Wesley was the 18th child in the family!! He was born in England in 1707. He and his brother John were co-founders of the Methodist movement. John recorded in his journal the moment on May 24, 1738 when he had his evangelical conversion: *"I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

He wrote *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* in 1739. The next year, he wrote the hymn *In Temptation*, which has been renamed to *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*. He went on to write over 6,000 hymn and poems. He also traveled from place to place as an itinerant and fiery preacher.

The theme of this hymn is that Christ is sufficient to give comfort, power, and grace in any circumstance, making it an appropriate choice for the mass funeral of children in Wales. Hymnary.org explains that the first verse is a plea that Jesus will provide sanctuary to the tempted because there is no other refuge (second verse). Christ is declared to be the sole desire of the Christian, who is undeserving (third verse), while Christ’s grace is declared sufficient to cleanse the Christian from all his sins (fourth verse).

Charles married in 1749 at the age of 41. Two of their sons were child music prodigies and became prominent musicians and composers. He died at the age of 80 years. While bedridden and unable to write, he dictated his last hymns to his wife, Sally.

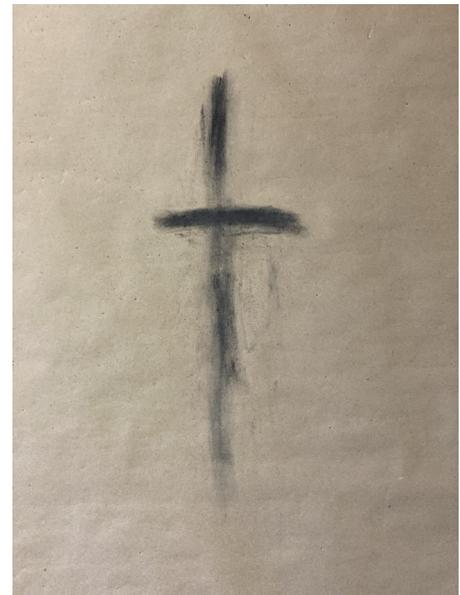
Jesus, Lover of My Soul

1. Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; Oh, receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none, Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want, More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, Source of all true righteousness;
Thou art evermore the same, Thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; Rise to all eternity.



The photo on the left shows our wooden cross draped in purple, with a crown of thorns on it, for the Lenten season.

The photo on the right shows our bulletin board for Ash Wednesday. The only thing on the brown bulletin board was a black cross made of ash.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BIRTHDAY PARTY!



Mary Martha members decorated the tables and supplied the cakes; thanks to everyone else who brought in yummy food to share. And thanks to Art Wolf for snapping a few photos of the event.



A combined March/April table.



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

Last year's clothing drive brought in a total of \$783.73.

Call Team Update

By Joel Jackman

In January, we placed a divine call for a graduate from this year's seminary classes. We expect to hear sometime after Easter whether a seminary candidate will be assigned to Bethlehem. Meanwhile, we pray.

If God has chosen one of the seminary grads to serve with us in Renton, we pray that the Holy Spirit will make that clear to Synod's Assignment Board. And we'll continue to pray for the Spirit to guide our congregation according to God's will.

Since we have started the Lenten Devotional Series, "Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free," we will not be providing the usual Prayer Guides. Instead, we will suggest appropriate prayer topics to include in your daily prayers.

CORONAVIRUS. At press time, there were 59 confirmed cases of the new COVID-19 in the USA. Around the world, there are estimates of 83,652 cases. The CDC reports they will be testing a vaccine some time this year. There is no known treatment. It is suggested we follow the basic hygiene safeguards to prevent illnesses.

**WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP THOROUGHLY & FREQUENTLY
USE HAND SANITIZER**

COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW (not your hands)

DON'T TOUCH YOUR EYES, NOSE or MOUTH

USE SANITIZING WIPES ON PUBLIC SURFACES

DON'T GO OUT IN PUBLIC (work, church, etc) IF YOU ARE ILL

GET YOUR FLU SHOT (It will help keep you healthy but will not protect against this particular virus)

It is recommended that you don't travel to China. Masks are not recommended in the USA but if you do travel, the N-95 face respirator is the one to use. Warning, they can be uncomfortable.

If you develop a fever and cough or shortness of breath within 14 days after travel from China or if you've been in close contact with someone showing these symptoms who has recently traveled to China, call your doctor.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 Mission Board Meeting	2 6 pm Trustees' Meeting 7 pm New Purpose	3 LIFELINE HEALTH SCREENING at BLC 6:30 Elders' Meeting	4 5:45 pm Chicken Noodle Soup Supp 7 pm Lenten Serv That One Man Shc
8 DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship 11:15 Council meeting	9 7 pm New Purpose	10	11 5:45 pm Beef Veg Soup Supper 7 pm Lenten Serv For My Burial
15 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 Board of Ed Meeting	16 7 pm New Purpose	17 St Patrick's Day	18 5:45 pm Soup Suj Bean w/Italian Sa 7 pm Lenten Serv Up to Jerusalem
22 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship 11:15 Worship Team Meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 7 pm New Purpose	24	25 5:45 pm Lentil So 7 pm Lenten Serv The Cup that I Dir
29 LWML MITE BOX SUNDAY 8:30 choir rehearsal 8:30 Adult Bible Class 10 Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 Stewardship Meeting	30 SPRING CLEANING WEEK 7 pm New Purpose	31	APRIL 1 MARCH 30 — A 5:45 pm Baked Pc Soup Supper 7 pm Lenten Servi To Save the Lost

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

Also this month, Mary Martha meeting will have a special hands-on event at 1:15 on March 19. You are welcome to join us. No special skills are required. We'll have dessert at 3:15 and then begin our devotion and regular business meeting at 3:30.

MARCH 2020

Day	Thu	Fri	Sat
Men's Supper Service — Should Die	5 7 pm New Purpose	6	7
Vegetable Service —	12 7 pm New Purpose	13	14 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious 8:45 am LWML Joyshop at Pilgrim Church, Bellevue.
Men's Supper 13 Sausage Service — m	19 1:15 Mary Martha meeting Special Event. Earlier time. 7 pm New Purpose	20 1st day of spring 10 am Pinochle Game & Lunch	21 8:30—1 Private use Social Hall 3 pm Movie Matinee - The Overcomer
Men's Soup Service — Drink	26 Noon ladies' book club and sack lunch 7 pm New Purpose	27	28
Men's Potato Service — Post	2 7 pm New Purpose	3	4

— APRIL 4. — SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR LIST OF CLEANING TASKS

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Blair email: Pastor@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

cell phone: 206-291-4237



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

KINGS

2020 Jesse Hack
2019 Joel Jackman
2018 Ron Muller
2017 Mark Humphrey
2016 Jim Buechler
2015 Larry Cournoyer
2014 Jon Kuhlmann
2013 Brent Begalka
2012 Bud Reynolds



THANKS TO OUR COOKS



Don Kuhlmann, Dick Taylor, Jesse Hack, Art Wolf

31 party-goers attended our Mardi Gras Game Night and Pancake Supper. We played several different games: Racko, What do You Meme, Pinochle, Pictionary, Qwirkle, and Uno. The younger kids rode stick horses, built with blocks and chased each other around a lot! We listened to a devotion on the theology of pancakes, crowned a new king, stuffed ourselves with pancakes and bacon and a bunch of junk food, and had a lot of fun.

MARY MARTHA SOCIETY

Dessert first is a winner, and a delicious way to start a meeting!

At our **Thursday March 19** meeting, we will work on a craft project starting at **1:15 pm. Anyone who wants to learn how to tie fleece blankets is invited to join us!!** No special skills are required; sharp scissors would be helpful. The finished blankets will be given to a local agency that helps the homeless.

Dessert will be served early again, at 3:15 on March 19. Our hostesses are Tracy Brown and Ellen Taylor. Our regular March business meeting will start at 3:30 with Marjie Boydston leading the Devotions.

Page 26 describes the items we are collecting for Lutheran World Relief. Please ask your dentist for a few extra toothbrushes at your next check up.

Palm Sunday is **April 5**, and we will hold our Bake Sale. Due to people's schedules, we won't be baking breads at the church this year. So..... We are depending on you to bake goodies at your home and bring them in on Palm Sunday. Spring crafts and plant starts can also be sold.

Looking ahead to May, our annual ladies' lunch will likely be changed to **May 2**. We will get that confirmed at our next meeting.

—This message brought to you by a substitute helper because the regular Mary Martha secretary, Carolyn, opted to stay home ill instead of attending the meeting and taking notes. We are glad she's getting better!

Treasurer Report As of January 31, 2020

Total Income	\$ 9,327.04	5% of budget
Expenses	<u>\$ 12,595.01</u>	7% of budget
Net Loss	\$ - 3,267.97	

Total cash available \$56,835.66

Equity \$9,105.39 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

Submitted by Kathy Logan, Treasurer

More on Dependency

By Carl Stockamp

Last month I wrote about our dependency on each other and on God. This month I'd like to ask the question, "**Does God depend on us**"? I believe He does and it takes the form of stewardship. The dictionary defines stewardship as the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. And, it defines a steward as a person who acts as the surrogate of another.

But, what are we stewards of? Many people think of stewardship as applying to money and finances. However, stewardship also encompasses the time God has given us here on earth. As we go through the year, there will be opportunities for us to demonstrate our stewardship in both of these areas. There will be opportunities for us to prioritize our time in taking care of our church property and in assuring that ongoing programs can continue. There will be ways to demonstrate our financial stewardship as we seek God's will in calling a new pastor.

Since it is time for us to file our federal income taxes, I thought it might be a good opportunity to remind those of you who either are, or will be age 70^{1/2} by the end of the year of a relatively new strategy for contributing to charitable organizations, including churches. I believe about two-thirds of us are in this age category at Bethlehem. If you have Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) or 401-K plans and must take Required Minimum Distribution (RMD's) from these plans, you can use something called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to make contributions to these organizations. The advantage of using the QCD strategy is that your contributions do not count as Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and it is to your benefit to keep AGI as low as possible. This may be useful since the ability to itemize deductions has been severely restricted by the Tax Act of 2017. I know I've used a lot of acronyms and I am not a financial advisor. If you haven't already looked into the applicability of the QCD strategy in your particular situation, I'd suggest you either talk to your financial advisor or investigate further. I also believe seminars either are or will be conducted to provide more information.

You will be hearing more about stewardship during the coming year and as we contemplate all the gifts God has given us, I think it's appropriate to consider this thought which comes from a man named Jim Elliot – "**He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.**"

ELDER SUNDAY

February 23



Elders **Joel Jackman, Tracy Brown, Pat Eskam, Ron Muller and Art Wolf** greet worshippers at the end of the Elder Sunday service. Also in the photo are Betty and Frank Downing. **Elder Dick Taylor** was also present but is missing from the photo! -Dielda Kuhlmann



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

JOYSHOP SATURDAY MARCH 14

at
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
10420 SE 11th Street, Bellevue

All women are invited to attend the LWML Lake Washington Zone Joyshop. The topic is "At Table With Jesus" and is based on Acts 2:46-47.

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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the LORD added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

You are encouraged to bring a friend AND a new or gently used bath hand towel. They will be turned into clothing protectors for adults which are appreciated by care centers.

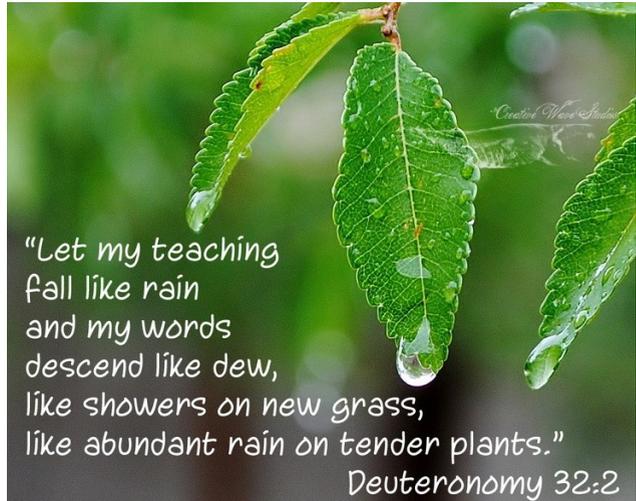
Registration opens at 8:45 am, breakfast at 9 am, rally starts at 9:30. Fee is \$5. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

THE OVERCOMER

The movie matinee for **Saturday March 21** will be The Overcomer. It is a Christian film from the makers of War Room, Courageous, Facing the Giants, and Fireproof. It is rated PG and is described as a squeaky clean Christian film with positive messages.

Several people who have seen it suggested we show it at our matinee. Reviews say *"It will have you cheering"* and *"You will laugh and you will probably cry after watching this compelling story."*

In February, our comedy night included Charlie Chaplin's silent film The Kid, a Carol Burnett TV show from 1967 and a Johnny Carson episode.



Photographer and flower planter Hannelore Maas can be seen in the window reflection.

Spring is still a month away but we got an early start by planting primroses.

Check out the blooming Heather and soon to bloom daffodils.

During Spring clean up we will concentrate on weeding and pruning and enlarging the two flower beds by the driveway.

Hannelore and Pete Maas
Landscaping

RAVE to the Trustees for the lighting on the south side of the church!! Now I won't drive into the flower beds!

RAVE and THANK YOU for the landscape team for the new colorful plants on our patio!

A 2nd RAVE to whoever planted all the Primroses. A **BIG THANK YOU!** It was so nice coming to church on this pretty day and see those happy little flowers smiling at me. Made my day!

RAVE for our wonderful group of elders who did another excellent job of working together to provide us a refreshing Elder Sunday Worship Service.

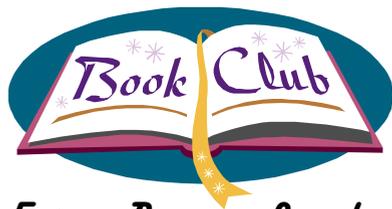
RAVE for Brent Begalka for giving us a sermon and special Gideon message on Elder Sunday. His words were appreciated.

RAVE and THANK YOU to Karen Marsyla for the **BEAUTIFUL** "hot pads" for the buffet tables! She went above and beyond my expectations!!

RAVE for members who are using the SmileAmazon site and chose Bethlehem as their charity. We've received \$47.68 from them so far this year. Keep on shopping!



THANK YOU, people of Bethlehem, for giving me the opportunity last Sunday to give you a Gideon talk, and thank you for your offering of \$313. —Brent Begalka



Fat - Pray - Laugh

LADIES SACK LUNCH & BOOK CLUB

The Paths to Christianity

Do you ever wonder how your ancestors converted to Christianity? What motivated them to leave their family traditions and make the leap of faith in Christ? Was it 100 years ago, 500 years, or 2,000 years ago? Did your ancestor ever talk to one of the twelve apostles?

In “A Voice in the Wind”, we follow many characters as they experience brutality, war, desperation, slavery, and betrayal. Through encouragement, bravery, love, strength, and prayer, some of them gain that faith in Jesus, and some don’t.

We’ve learned that our deeds, be they words, actions, or the lack thereof, define our character and allude to our motivations. When writing this story, Francine Rivers had a key Bible verse in mind: ***“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father”*** (Matthew 5:16).

When we join together on Thursdays as a book club, we are surrounded by love and friendship, and are united in Christ. Our book discussions encompass many areas of life and have a way of helping us gain knowledge and grow in faith.

We will discuss Book 2 of the Trilogy, “An Echo in the Darkness”, and probably a lot of other tangential topics, at our March 26 meeting.

-Diolda Kuhlmann

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.



Marlene 4th grade

INTRODUCING OUR CHOIR MEMBERS

*Third in a series of articles about
our choir*

*This month Marlene Holcomb
shares with us her musical story.*

I started singing when my church Sunday School in Wenatchee, Washington prepared for Christmas Eve services. I was about 5 or 6 years old. Then in Junior High and High School, we would have

school Christmas Concerts where I always sang soprano. After I was confirmed at St Paul's Lutheran Church, I joined the church choir. I also took violin lessons so that gave me an appreciation and better understanding of music.

My parents both played instruments and sang, as well as many of my aunts, uncles and cousins!

After Larry and I married and had settled in Renton, about 1966, I joined Bethlehem's choir which was directed by Ken Crossman. Other choir directors that followed him were Wilma Gardner and James Hing. As the Youth Leader, I would sing with the Youth Group as they practiced their songs. My sons, Guy, Curtis, and Leon participated in Youth Group and Joy in Hymn. My granddaughters Chenee', Ashley and LaShawna were also in our cherub choir and youth choir led by Wilma.

Singing the special songs that our choir sings helps remind me of all the things the Bible teaches.

We are blessed that Marlene has shared her gift of music with us at Bethlehem for 54 years!



Marlene Holcomb



*2015 Palm Sunday Marlene with her
granddaughter Chenee' Holcomb*



A recent visit with Sabine Muller was photographed by a Stafford employee.

We all miss Sabine!

Hannelore Payne, Kathy Zable, Karen Fritsvold, Gerhard & Sabine Muller

WORSHIP NOTE

Worship: what is it? Ask 10 people and you may very well get at least 5 different answers. For us as Christian Lutherans, the answer is a multi-dimensional one. **First**, worship begins when God acts. He created this world and entered it in the person of Jesus to save it. **Second**, worship involves our response to God’s saving presence in our lives. **Third**, God commands us to worship Him and nothing or no one else. **Fourth** and finally, in obedience to God we respond by becoming a “living sacrifice” as we offer to him our lives in daily/hourly worship (168 hours per week)!

A practical question: how do we use the 167 hours preceding the 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning corporate worship time at Bethlehem in preparation for that time set aside to encounter God in the presence of his people? I’m glad that you asked! Certainly, in constant dependence upon God through the daily reading of his Word; regularly communicating with him in prayer. Listening to a variety of Christian music: uplifting hymns, spiritual songs as well as contemporary melodies. Practically as well, preparing the night before so that we come well rested, not rushed, eager to hear God’s Word. We come expecting to not only to be blessed, but to bless others in the Body of Christ as we take our turn in singing, praying, listening, speaking. When we come to church on Sunday morning, we are ready and eager to worship our Lord with 167 hours of practice under our belt! See you in church!

Pastor David

Pinochle Club



Wow, what fun we had at the last Pinochle party, and such good food!

We had 14 people at the event. We missed those who were sick. And we will truly miss Robert and Juanita Reynolds and their daughter Terri, as they have retired from playing cards. We had a guest, Becky Payne (Hannelore's daughter).

Ed Hughes and Karen Begalka were our highest players. Ed and Jeanne-K Hughes took home the Double Pinochle gifts. There were a total of 5 of them.

We invite anyone who would like to come and play with us on **Friday, March 20th**, starting at **10:00 am**. We stop for lunch after the 2nd round and then continue to play when we have dessert. We will gladly teach anyone who wishes to learn how to play.

Spring is on its way!
Blessings!
Sharon Buechler



DING DONG

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

Ushers, greeters, and choir members have been tolling the call to worship bell this year. This is to let you know that anyone CAN ring the bell. Just be standing at the rope in the narthex a few minutes before 10 o'clock!!



TUESDAY MARCH 3 At BETHLEHEM

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



Lutheran World Relief

PERSONAL CARE KITS

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

We ask you to bring in **metal nail clippers**, **single toothbrushes** with no advertising on them, and any brand of **bars of soap** between 3-5 oz.



Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Thank you for your support with this project. Bring in your items by Palm Sunday. Kits will be packaged and delivered on May 1.



REACH is asking for donations of umbrellas or rain ponchos during the rainy spring season for the residents of their Center of Hope. They shelter women, children and families.

You can drop them off at the Day Center inside Renton City Hall Mondays through Fridays 9 am to 2 pm. Email kizzy@reachRenton.org with any questions.





PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO

EVERY WEDNESDAY in MARCH Soup Supper at 5:45 pm and Lenten Service at 7 pm



SATURDAY MARCH 14 Breakfast. Men meet at 8:30 am at Plum Delicious for fellowship and food.



SATURDAY MARCH 14 LWML JOYSHOP and BREAKFAST. Women meet at 8:45 am at Pilgrim Church in Bellevue. See details page 19



THURSDAY MARCH 19 Mary Martha Society special craft project starts at 1:15 pm; dessert at 3:15; meeting 3:30 pm. Page 17



FRIDAY MARCH 20 Pinochle Game 10 a.m. Break for lunch at 11:30. See page 26.



SATURDAY MARCH 21 Matinee 3 pm Movie is The Overcomer. Page 11 for more details. Popcorn provided!



THURSDAY MARCH 26 noon Ladies' Sack Lunch and Book Club. See page 22



In March, you will have the opportunity to purchase a lily for our Easter altar. After Easter, the elder and friendly visitor team will deliver them to our members who can't make it to church.

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



SPRING AHEAD!

Most of our clocks “spring forward” on their own but this is a friendly reminder that Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday morning, March 8.

LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Wednesdays February 26 through April 1
Soup Suppers at 5:45 pm;
Service at 7 pm



April 5 Palm Sunday Service
10 am



April 9 Maundy Thursday
7 pm



April 10 Good Friday Service
7 pm



April 12 Easter Sunrise
7:30 am
Breakfast 8:30 am
Worship Service 10 am



CALL FOR SINGERS

Besides an audience, what's the most important thing to have at a music concert?

If you answered, musicians, you would be correct!

Our very own James Hing is the director for our Mass Choir/Organ Concert to be held here at Bethlehem on **Saturday May 16 at 4 pm.**

Rehearsals will start in March so if you have a connection with a local church choir or know great singers who love sacred music, please let James know.

Contact Info: (425) 255-9772
Blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org