



October
2020

Bethlehem Star

Pastor David Blair

• James Hing, Organist & Zoom Master

Dear Bethlehem members and friends,

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18).

As I write these words, we are about to transition from the season of Summer to the season of Fall. Life is never without a transition of some kind. Every breath we take moves us forward as the future becomes our present. Changing seasons are a fact of life. Even when we do not perceive change, it still is happening! Looking backwards in time, however, we clearly see the results in our own lives of change! The wrinkles are a little more pronounced; the number on the scale a little higher; our response time may be a little slower. We sing about this change in the hymn "Abide with Me:"

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

We perceive some change as good: the discovery of a safe and effective vaccine! The return to worship in the sanctuary. A changing and improving economic, social, and political environment.

One thing that change is NOT: JESUS! "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8). He and he alone is our spiritual NorthStar, our eternal bright Morningstar. He and he alone will guide us through this valley of transition called the Pandemic and the lesser transition called the Intentional Interim time of ministry here at Bethlehem. Every day, the words of the writer to the Hebrew Christians are worth practicing:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Pastor David

STEWARD

Steward sits well on a stool. No arm chair for him.

Not sexy by far. Not powerful like leader or owner. Feels at best second-rate.

Someone who answers to another. Someone who manages the assets of another.
Someone under another. Following another.

Definitely not The Other.

A good steward desires not the owner's seat. She humbly embraces her servant role.

Stewards realize their stuff is not their own. They work hard. Yes. They plan hard.
Yes. But they've seen stuff come and stuff go. In a blink of an eye or beat of a heart.

They've inventoried their good fortune versus the next door neighbor's. Nothing that
different between the two: college degrees, long tenure, decades of experience.

One laid off. The other not.

Nothing that different between the two... except the outcomes. Right place and right
time, it appears. Some would say lucky.

Perhaps more Providential. With a capital P. Meaning some One provided it to you.
Some One chose for you to manage it. Some One decided you could handle whatever it is.

We tend to believe our good fortune – small to large – is our doing. Our grit and de-
termination. Our moving the chess pieces just so.

Foolishness. Utterly.

When you realize you don't own anything and appreciate how everything – literally
everything – is a gift and privilege...

How all of life is a giant journey of receiving...

How all you have and the experiences you encounter all flow back to a giving God...

That's a steward. That's your calling in Jesus.

Steward well.

*Submitted by Karen Begalka for Stewardship. Written by
Bill Woolsey of the FiveTwo Network.*

OCTOBER



Janet Lee	October 3
Jerry Schuh	October 3
Mardelle Hammond	October 4
Tracy Brown	October 6
Kate-Lynn Lind	October 9
Jim Hanson	October 10
Kristy Pieczynski	October 13
Karen Marsyla	October 15
Hannelore Maas	October 16
Cynthia TeGantvoort	October 16
Joseph Rogers	October 17
Gil Wooden	October 18
Rowan Dennis	October 21
Jeanne-K Hughes	October 21
Betty Downing	October 22
Carolyn Parks-Hough	October 22
Hardison Rogers	October 24
Chenee Holcomb	October 25
Marjie Boydston	October 26
Adam Brown	October 26
Mac Barger	October 27
Ezekiel Sturgul	October 27
Suzanne Adams	October 30
Sabine Muller	October 30
Amber Wolf	October 31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Hanson, Jim & Peggy October 6, 1973
Kuhlmann, Don & Dielda October 17, 1981

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

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS :

Hannelore Maas turns a nice even number this month!

Caroline Parks-Hough celebrates 8 decades

Hardison will be 6 years old on October 24.



Ezekiel turns 4 this month.



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

We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all. In particular, we pray for:

Karen Begalka

Those living & working in our Bethesda home

Rachel Blair

Harold Carlson

Frank & Betty Downing

Marcy Hall

Mardelle Hammond

Gary & Kay Hanno

Jim Hanson

Larry & Marlene Holcomb

Jeanne-K Hughes

Jenny Iles

Donna Kahn

Pete & Hannelore Maas

Debbie Porter Mason

Ruth Schroeder



Carolyn Hough

Emma Humphrey

Joel & Karen Jackman

Glen Koppelman

Bob Pankow

Bud & Juanita Reynolds

Jerry Schuh

Brent & Karen Begalka's nephew Daniel

Jim Buechler's sister JoAnn

Sharon Buechler's brother James

Teresa Feltmann's sister Connie & family in Malden, Washington

Mardelle Hammond's sister-in-law Barbara

Jeanne-K Hughes' sister Denice, son David, aunt Ruth

LuAnne Humphrey's sister Shari, friends Debbie & Chris, Walt, David B.

Pete & Hannelore Maas' son Brian, friend Bill

Ron Muller's relative Shirley, sister Inge

Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives June and Johanna, friend Marge, son Patrick

Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie

Dick & Ellen Taylor's grandchildren Landon & Caroline, his cousins Bill & Eileen

Carolyn Troseth's sister Viola, sister-in-law Viona, friend Anita, daughter-in-law Sharon

Carolyn Warn's great granddaughter Masyn

Beverly West's family in Oregon fires

Amber Wolf's friend Katie

Cathy Wooden's friend Bobbie

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

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

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



to Ruth Ann Shimo on the passing of her mom, Ruth Adeline Waetzig, in Great Falls, Montana, on September 18, 2020. She was 92 years old; just one month and one day shy of 93.

Ruth Ann shares a memory of her mom's dedication to religious education. "Confirmation for me was every Saturday morning, for 2 years. Pastor assigned 10 Bible verses, whichever Article of the creed, Lord's Prayer, or 10 Commandments we were studying for the next week. Once I was home, I had to write everything out, then every morning go into my parents' room and recite the verses and extra we had to Mom. Saturday morning, she would check it off and off I went to class, recite to Pastor and get my mark. Then start the process over, for 2 years."

Another memory is from the Sunday of Ruth Ann's consecration. When her mom pinned the cross on her, she said, "Your Grandpa would be so proud."

MALDEN, WASHINGTON



Malden Community Church in Malden, Washington
Photographer unknown

This is a photo of the Malden Community Church in Malden, Washington, framed with the rubble of a burnt building. The church is one of the few remaining structures in that town after the Labor Day fire.

Teresa Feltmann writes, "This is a church we have been in before. It is located in the town of Malden, WA which over 80% of the houses were destroyed by the wild fire on Labor Day.

"My nephew and his wife, his Aunt, and 3 of his cousins lost their homes and all their belongings in this fire along with many other people.

"God works in mysterious ways. The church is still standing although the houses around it are all gone."

Founding member, **Ray Engum**, passed away on August 19, 2020. The story of his years at Bethlehem was published in the September Star. He was laid to rest on August 31. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the funeral service was limited to 30 attendees.

Comments from Pastor David:

Ray's Funeral went very well. Ellen (Weigelt) Taylor & Karen (Weigelt) Jackman attended as BLC representatives. Their Weigelt family was close to the Engum/Berend family since the 1940's. Many family and friends stood up to speak about their memories of Ray and how much he meant to them. He was remembered as a very caring and gentle giant! A 6 minute Video Tribute took place just after the Family Remembrances that included many pictures of a younger Ray as well as his wedding with Gretchen and other family gatherings.

I was able to bring the 1944 Bible from the office and lifted it up to show everyone at the point it was mentioned in the page 2 September newsletter article, which I read.

Red roses were placed into the open casket at the end of the Chapel service, and white roses on top of the casket at the gravesite service. Thankfully the weather was wonderfully pleasant with sunny/cloudy skies. The hope of the Resurrection and a joyful reunion with Ray & all who love Jesus was clearly proclaimed in both services.

Comments from Karen Jackman:

It was a very nice service. The chairs were spaced apart and masks were worn. A common theme among the speakers was that "no matter when you called Ray for help, day or night, he would be there to help." It was too bad that Ray's funeral couldn't be in the church where he was baptized, confirmed, and married but Pastor Blair was there, and God was there, and that's the important thing. Karen was able to talk briefly to Ray's brother, Joel Engum, and Ray's widow and daughter, Gretchen & Liz. Liz remembered that Ellen used to babysit her! Gretchen looked very well. Karen and Ellen did not attend the graveside service.

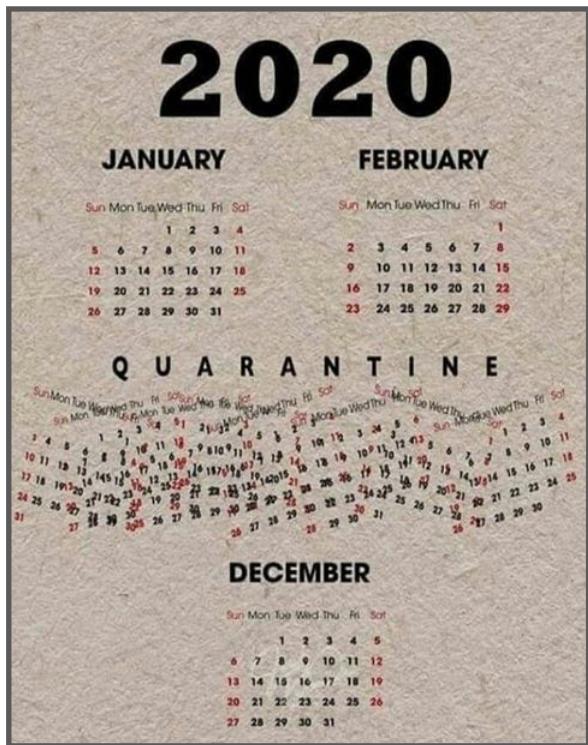
Report from Ellen Taylor:

The funeral was held at Greenwood, officiated by Pastor Blair. Only close family with a couple of "outsiders" were in attendance to meet the mandatory 30 limit. Quiet, reverently and yet warmly loving as we were able to greet many family members from long ago. Open casket allowed many to say last good-byes, many giving their farewells and fond memories of Ray. Gretchen was very thankful for the many cards & condolences from our congregation, the support she felt is very much appreciated!

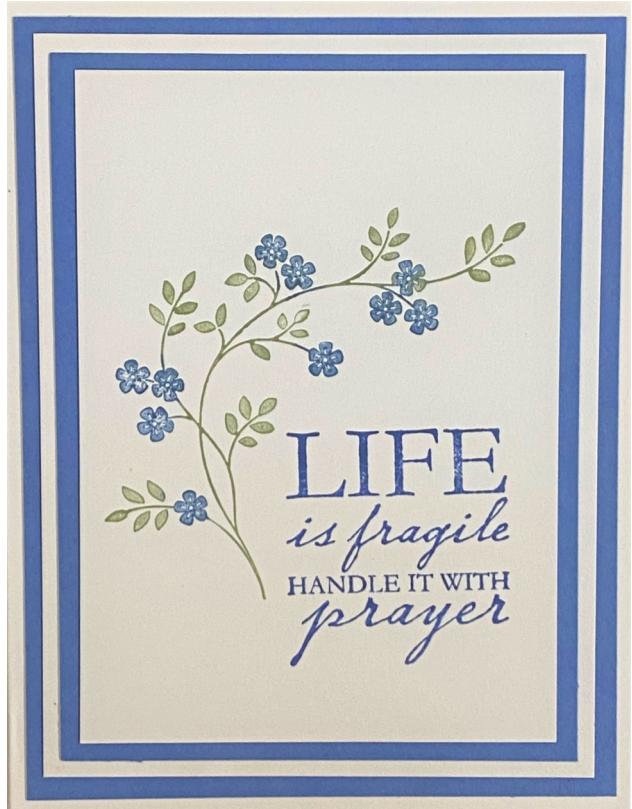
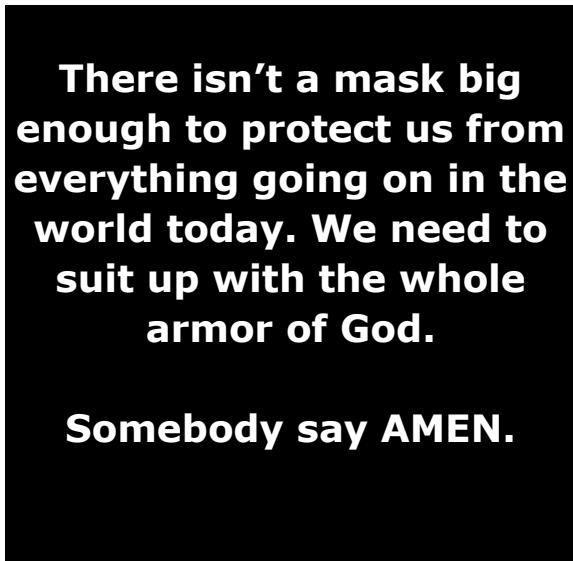
The memories of Ray will stay with us at Bethlehem for a long time to come.



White flowers at Ray Engum's funeral



Steve Breen Copyright 2020 Creators Syndicate





**Bonnie
Begalka**

+

**Jay
Anderson**

Wedding bells will ring on November 7, 2020 at Bethlehem! Bonnie moved from Renton a few years to Mesa, Arizona but has been Zooming with us on Sunday mornings. The couple dated briefly in high school (Ellensburg), and over 50 years later reconnected through Facebook. Jay lives in Yakima, Washington. Because of COVID restrictions, it will be a small ceremony with immediate family only. Following their wedding, they plan to be “snowbirds.”

May the Lord grant them a wonderful journey together.



MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Hannelore Maas celebrates a milestone birthday on October 16. Due to the virus, she will downplay this year's birthday until next year, when she will get a chance to really celebrate. They often celebrate their big birthdays with family in Germany. This year, of course, they were unable to fly to Europe.

She may have a small get-together with family this month for her birthday.

Carolyn Hough turns 80 years old on October 22. In a 'normal' year, she and Wayne would be dining at Anthony's Homeport, their favorite fish restaurant. She is a bit surprised by her age, as 80 sounds so much older than she feels!

Hannelore & Carolyn, in this contactless era, be blessed that God has you in his embrace. Happy birthday.

JANET LEE RETIRES



Janet Lee at her desk

My last day in the office is October 15th. I will have been with the Chief Seattle Council, Boy Scouts of America for 33 years. It is hard to believe, to tell you the truth.

Robert and I will be selling our house in Renton and moving to our beach house in Long Beach, Washington. We have plans to do some travelling, especially road trips. He has been retired for some years now so it will be nice that we can enjoy some retirement together. We have a Lutheran church, Missouri Synod just around the corner of our house at the beach so that will be convenient.

I will be joining Bethlehem up there at least once a month when we aren't travelling. My plan is to be up there for a few days every month to see family, join services and get my hair done! Robert and I will sell our house at the beach after two, three years and move to the Chehalis area.

JESSE HACK is at the HIGHLANDS BARTELL DRUGS



If you need to pop in to a Bartell Drugstore, why not go to the one on 4th Street in the Highlands and say hi to Jesse! Brent Begalka went there last week and was pleasantly surprised to see a familiar face.

Jesse was recently transferred to this store. He's delighted to be there as it has a great team and is really close to home.

Stop in some afternoon, do your shopping, and say hi to a friend.



I like looking at all the pictures and reading the newsletter. Here in Sun City, Arizona we are opening church services on September 12th. It will be with distancing and masks. We have been having really hot weather 110 plus. Today it's cooler, in the 90's.

I am giving all my worries about health to Jesus to help. Jesus has the answers.

Greetings to everyone. I have you all in my prayers. In the love of Jesus, stay safe.

Blessings, Jenny Iles

What We Heard

Our recent effort to engage the congregation in expressing their views regarding our future and the challenges we face is complete. I'd like to thank the Elders and all members who submitted their thoughts. Inputs from 42 members have been received, which I believe is a good response. If you did not have an opportunity to respond to the seven questions and wish to do so, please contact either myself or your Elder. Your thoughts will be considered as we move forward.

Now, for what I believe we heard. The members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are hopeful and greatly value the fellowship that has been fostered from generation to generation within our church. Many of you had suggestions about what we could do to reach out to our community. Some of these suggestions were quite specific, i.e. offer a food bank or free lunches. Some were very ambitious, i.e. use our property to build senior housing or athletic fields. A common theme was that we need more younger people to join our church family, but not many specifics were given. There was broad support for calling a pastor. There was both good news and bad news in your responses.

The good news is that many of you indicated a willingness to participate in some form of discipleship/evangelism training. A number of you indicated that you are comfortable sharing your faith with others – praise God! While finances always need to be considered, there was a sentiment that we could rise to the challenge if we have a common goal.

The bad news is that we have an aging membership and the world is changing around us. As I've said before, 60% of our active members are age 70 or older. This has obvious implications on not only our financial future, but also on our ability to do what needs to be done. Lutheran churches are not unique in experiencing declining memberships. It was a discouraging realization that many members are unable or unwilling to serve in an elected office because they have physical limitations, other priorities, or are already serving in other capacities. The sobering news is that slightly over half of you don't expect Bethlehem Lutheran Church to be in existence five years from now. There was an important caveat in those responses; we won't be in existence unless we commit to change.

I feel our job now is to ask God's help in determining what changes are needed. Before we start talking about change, we need to consider three things. We need to be willing to change, we need to have the ability to change, and we need to ensure that the change is sustainable. I guess you could call this Carl's WAS principle. Having said that, God has given each of us work to do and He promises to equip us with the abilities to do that work. We just need to ask God what work He wants us to do. Today's work may be different from yesterday's and our ministry might look different too.

While there was broad support for calling a pastor, I believe we need to do something before we make that decision. What I am suggesting is that we utilize one of the resources provided by our District office. That resource is a study of Congregational Life Cycles, helping con-

gregations discern God's wisdom in a time of transition. It is available on the web and it will be made available for your viewing, either during a future Zoom meeting or providing you with the details of accessing the material. We will also work to make the information available to those of you who do not have computer access. In any event, we will need to talk together about what we learn in the Life Cycle study. This will be important as we seek pastoral leadership.

I look forward to providing more information during our October 18 Voters' meeting. In the meantime, please pray for God's guidance and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.

In Christ,
Carl Stockamp



Register for a virtual table at REACH's 50th anniversary celebration gala. REACH is proud of its roots in the community and the impact they have had in service together. At this October 13 online event, you will get a chance to hear about the exciting things to come. reachrenton.org

"We work to provide everyone in our community a sustainable, healthy, and full life, with special care directed to the marginalized and less fortunate. We seek to embody the belief that every life has innate worth by providing shelter, hot meals, clothing, supplies & other resources."

REACH announces a new permanent location for the Center of Hope family services. In November, it will move to the Lakeridge Lutheran Church on the West Hill. Day services (including showers, laundry, meals, and social services) will be in the same facility as the overnight shelter for 55 individuals. It will be open 365 days a year. This arrangement will provide better comfort, dignity, and access to services for clients. The goal remains to help clients return to stable housing.

SATURDAY COMMUNION



LaRelle drove the family and a dog to Holy Communion on August 29



August Communion Servants
Gil Wooden—parking lot attendant
Cathy Wooden—Prayer of Confession sign holder
Pastor David Blair
Ron Muller—elder
Marjie Boydston—assistant and photographer

AUGUST

On August 29, 37 people took Holy Communion plus 4 children received blessings. Thanks to those who worked together to help everything go smoothly—Pastor David Blair, elder Ron Muller, parking lot attendant Gil Wooden, sign holder Cathy Wooden, and assistant Marjie Boydston.

SEPTEMBER

Small Step for Man
but a Big Step for Bethlehem

On September 19, Holy Communion was offered both outside and indoors in the sanctuary. This marks the first time we've had an event inside the building since March 15th. That's six months. 44 adults took Communion plus 3 children received blessings. About half chose the 'curbside' communion option and the other half walked into the sanctuary and down the center aisle.

Proper protocols were followed including masks and distancing. Thanks to all who cooperated and those who helped serve at this **historic event**; Elder Joel Jackman, sign holder Karen Jackman, greeter Cathy Frank, assistant Marjie Boydston, and of course Pastor David Blair.

Pastor David said it was a good transition experience to returning to the building.

As an added blessing that morning, the rain abated. All participants stayed dry.
¹² And the smoke from wildfires was gone.

OUTDOOR & INDOOR!



Cathy Frank, Karen & Joel Jackman, and Pastor David Blair greet communicant Glen Koppelman at September's outdoor communion.

Marjie handed out bulletin packets, Portal of Prayer booklets, and accepted your donations for church, Lutheran Bible Translators, and the quilt raffle. She was also there to help with clothing and food bank contributions. And had time to document the day with photographs. As she puts it, "The sky was clear, we had a few sprinkles of rain, and were showered with donations!"

For those who haven't been in the sanctuary recently, here's a look (on right) at how it may appear when we come back to worship. (date to be determined). Every third pew will be available to sit in, as indicated by rope and these summer flowers; a nice choice for the last Saturday of summer. These were the paper flowers that hung from out social hall ceiling last summer!



Aggie Brown participated in our indoor communion on September 19.

The Story Behind The Hymn

The Solid Rock 1834

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11

As Edward Mote was walking to work one day in 1834, the thought popped into his head to write a hymn on the “Gracious Experience of a Christian.” As he walked up the road, he had the chorus, “On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.” By the end of the day, he had the first four verses written out and safely tucked away in his pocket. Later that week, he visited his friend whose wife was very ill, and as they couldn’t find a hymnal to sing from, he dug up his newly written verses and sang those with the couple. The wife enjoyed them so much she asked for a copy, and Mote went home to finish the last two verses and sent it off to a publisher, saying, *“As these verses so met the dying woman’s case, my attention to them was the more arrested, and I had a thousand printed for distribution”* Almost two centuries later, we continue to sing these words of hope and assurance, our declaration that in the midst of all trials and storms, we will cling to the rock that is our Savior.



Edward Mote
1797—1874

Edward Mote was born into poverty on January 21, 1797, in London. His parents, innkeepers, wouldn't allow a Bible in their house. Edward once said, *“So ignorant was I that I did not know that there was a God.”* But he heard the gospel as a teenager, came to Christ, and was baptized at the age of 18. He eventually became a skilled carpenter and the owner of his own cabinet shop.

In 1852, Edward, 55, gave up his carpentry to pastor the Baptist Church in Horsham, Sussex, where he ministered 21 years. He was well liked by the congregation, and they offered him the church building as a gift. Pastor Mote replied, *“I do not want the chapel, I only want the pulpit; and when I cease to preach Christ, then turn me out of that.”* He resigned in 1873, in failing health, saying, *“I think I am going to heaven; yes, I am nearing port. The truths I have been preaching, I am now living upon and they’ll do very well to die upon. Ah! The precious blood.”* He passed away on November 13, 1874, at age 77.

In our Lutheran Service Book, the title is My Hope is Built on Nothing Less. We have the option of 2 different melodies. #575 uses the music from John Stainer while #576 has the tune written by William B. Bradbury.

The Solid Rock (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less)

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne. [Refrain]

Here is a verse from Mote's original that is omitted from most hymnals today:

*I trust His righteous character,
His council, promise, and His power;
His honor and His Name's at stake
To save me from the burning lake.*

Sources: Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan, hymnary.org and other internet sources.
Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
We plan on being open Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays 9 am-1 pm			
4 FOOD BANK SUNDAY LWML SUNDAY 10 Worship Service via Zoom	5 7 pm New Purpose	6 6 pm Elder Meeting via Zoom	7 Office Closed 9:30 Bible Class v Zoom
11 10 Worship Service via Zoom 11:45 Council meeting via Zoom	12 7 pm New Purpose	13 REACH online Gala 6:20 pm pre-register page 11	14 Office Closi 9:30 Bible Class , Zoom
18 10 Worship via Zoom NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:45 QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING— via Zoom	19 7 pm New Purpose	20	21 Office Close 9:30 Bible Class , Zoom
25 10 Worship Service via Zoom ~12:30 pm movie matinee via zoom	26 7 pm New Purpose	27	28 Office Close 9:30 Bible Class Zoom

Looking ahead, **Sunday November 1** will be a special Sunday.

During the **All Saints' service**, we will honor our members who passed away this year:

Laura Brester Dolores Fischer Ray Engum Marie Teel

After the November 1 service, we will hold the **annual voters' meeting** to approve next year's budget, and elect officers and board members.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

We acknowledge that we have received our gifts from God for two purposes—to serve others and to bring praise to God. Serving isn't about us receiving attention or glory; it is for Him to receive glory. This election is your opportunity to be of service at Bethlehem. If you wish to run for a position, contact Carl Stockamp, congregational president, before the meeting. There are openings for president, vice president, secretary, elder, trustees, and Board of Stewardship.

OCTOBER 2020

d	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 pm New Purpose	2	3
Closed ss via	8 NW District Triennial Church Worker Conference Online 7 pm New Purpose	9	10 Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious will resume when church reopens.
Closed ss via	15 3 pm MARY MARTHA MEETING 7 pm New Purpose	16	17
Closed ss via	22 7 pm New Purpose	23	24 10:15–noon Communion Indoors & Outdoors Reservations required
Closed ss via	29 7 pm New Purpose	30	31 HALLOWEEN

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1024 Monroe Ave N.E., Renton, WA 98056
blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org 425-255-9772
www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

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

Let's ZOOM

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ZUNDAY ZERVICES

By Dielda Kuhlmann

August 30 marked our 25th Zoom Zervice!! It was the first time James Hing was not available to be the host. Don Kuhlmann volunteered to be the substitute host, and he did a marvelous job. James was able to find some wi-fi service for a short while to check in on how we were doing.



James Hing says hi from Crater Lake, Oregon.

Pastor Blair showed a video clip of Muhammad Ali claiming he was the greatest. It went along with his sermon titled 'The Path to True Greatness'. In his sermon, he said, "True greatness is not through self-proclamation, 'I am the greatest!'. It is through proclaiming the wonderful deeds of Him who has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. Not self-proclamation but Jesus proclamation! It is through proclaiming Jesus as the Greatest One who welcomes all of us sinners."

The closing hymn #821 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus was performed with hand bells and trumpets!

September 6. Labor Day weekend and we had 71 people attending worship. We moved to Divine Setting 2 this month. The Zervice began with cathedral bells instead of the familiar zimblestern and the prelude was played on a pipe organ. Pastor Blair's sermon was on the theme of Forgiveness. We sang a 'new to us' song #721 in the LSB called Lead Me, Guide Me. We sang it with traditional lyrics before the sermon with *thee's* and *thou's*. After the sermon, we sang other verses with more modern words.

During Pastor's sermon, he asked for guesses on what mountain was in his virtual background. Pat Mortrud all the way in Texas, knew that it was Mt Shasta! Her prize-winning story can be read on page 23.

KaLyla sat on her great grandmother's lap for most of the service. It was the first time we saw KaLyla on camera. We sang happy birthday and happy anniversary to everyone celebrating in September. Our Postlude was America the Beautiful.



Scenes from Zoom: Kalyla and great grandma Carolyn Troseth, Curtis Holcomb enjoying the fresh air, Jeanne-K Hughes's red hat, Dielda Kuhlmann's virtual background puts her in the back pew of Bethlehem, Pastor Blair appears to speak from Mt Shasta.

September 13 was Grandparents Day AND the Seahawk's had a 10 a.m. football game. You may recall that our air quality was at an all time unhealthy level due to smoke from the west coast wildfires. We had 75 in attendance, one of our highest attendance days in our Zoom history. Becky Payne had changed jobs and was able to be on Zoom with us for the first time. It was great to hear her voice.

Despite our smoke-irritated eyes, our scratchy throats from swallowing soot, the anxiety of helping evacuated family and friends, and constant reminders that our lives are not normal, we are thankful for everything we do have.

James Hing warned us that the music just may move some to tears this morning, and he was correct.

James writes about the prelude: With ALL that's going on in our world, locally, in our country & around the globe, from socio-economic, geo-political unrest, the pandemic health crisis, raging wild fires, death, destruction, uncertainty, mental & physical anxiety & stress..... what can make it all bearable even survivable is our faith in Christ and the great conduit to preparing our hearts and minds hearing his words to us, is music and today's Prelude: "O salutaris hostia" (Latin, "O Saving Victim" or "O Saving Sacrifice"), is a section of one of the Eucharistic hymns written by St Thomas Aquinas for the Feast of Corpus Christi. (Literal Translation) **O saving Victim, Who**

Zoom Services Continued from previous page

expandest the door of heaven, Hostile armies press, Give strength; bear aid. To the One and Triune Lord, May there be everlasting glory; who life without end gives us in the homeland. Amen.

James describes our September 13 postlude, "Pie Jesu" sung by Andrew Johnston. Andrew Johnston is a singer who made it to the finals of Britain's Got Talent in 2008, at the age of 14! In the audition and the finale, he performed 'Pie Jesu', today's Postlude! "Pie Jesu" is a text from the final couplet of the hymn, "Dies irae", and often included in musical settings of the Requiem Mass as a motet. Typically I'd consider this song in November during All Saints Sunday, yet with so many lives lost in the pandemic and wild fires, I thought it fitting to bring it forward to help us all heal from everything going on.

English translation:

**Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy,
You who take away the sins of the world;
Grant them rest,
Lamb of God, You who take away the sins of the world;
Grant them rest, everlasting, rest.**

September 20 was the last Sunday of the summer.



Part of the words are hidden by Pastor Blair but his virtual background today had a picture of a ship and the words "Amazing Grace". This matched his sermon for this day based on Matthew 20:1-16, the Laborers of the Vineyard. He spoke, "God's GRACE is truly AMAZING! His GENEROSITY is totally and completely UNDESERVED by all who receive it."

We reprised the peppy, toe-tapping song “We are More than Conquerors” based on Romans 8:37 and were introduced to a VBS song “All Around the World”. That song/video kept little KaLyla and Anna’s attention to the screen and put smiles on the adult’s faces.

With the interactiveness of Zoom, we are able to speak or type our prayer requests and praises.

Mark Humphrey’s virtual background.



MOVIE MATINEES ARE BACK

By Dielda Kuhlmann



We figured out how to stay home and watch a movie together. Sometimes technology is a good thing! If you’d like to watch a movie via Zoom, let Joel Jackman know and he will send you an invitation to the **October 25 matinee**. At press time, the movie had not yet been chosen.

Our September movie was a popular 1944 Bing Crosby movie “Going My Way”. It comes highly recommended! It has pretty much everything you need in a show: love, romance, comedy, drama, sadness, hope, a mother’s love, singing, baseball, repentance, redemption, greed, patriotism, and a happy ending. I laughed, I cried, and hated to see it end.

Some of my favorite quotes from “Going My Way” were
“I don’t dislike you; I disagree with you.”
“I handle the little sins; you handle this one.”
“You should sing a sermon because the spoken word can be so dull.”

The musical selections included 3 Blind Mice, Silent Night, Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral, Carmen’s Habanera, Ave Maria, Would You Like to Swing on a Star, and more.

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.*

Call Team Update – Culture and Change

By Joel Jackman

The Northwest District's *Congregation Life Cycle Series* describes how a congregation's "culture" is born, develops and matures. When young, it's more flexible and adaptable to change. But as it matures, it's less flexible and changes are not as easy. It's a natural phenomenon for organizations - and for our own bodies, don'cha know!

What do we mean by "culture?" It's hard to define it precisely. It's the way we do things: our style of worship, our customs and traditions, our taste in music, how we relate to each other. It's reflected in our values: our theology, our politics, the priorities we place on things we do. It's our background, our ethnicity, our peer group.

In our Adult Bible Study, we studied the book, [The Present Future](#), which addresses how The Church is evolving in a changing society. It describes and compares several generational "cultures," how different they are from each other, and why. How does The Church adapt to such changes? The author suggests that God's Kingdom will grow as The Church navigates through change. It's God's plan!

So, what is Bethlehem's role in God's plan? As our membership evolves and the community around us changes, do we need to reconsider how we serve Him? To help us to better understand how our role in His plan might have changed, our members will be encouraged to participate in the *Congregation Life Cycle Series*. In the near future, you will receive information on how to participate. It will be an important step forward.

RAVE from a member: I am so glad friendship doesn't come with a price tag!!!
I could never afford the wonderful people in my life!!

RAVE for Don Kuhlmann hosting the Zoom in James' absence for the August 30 Zervice.

RAVE & THANKS to all who donated backpacks and school supplies to Vision House. Their successful school drive has ended.

RAVE & A BIG THANK YOU to Pastor and all the volunteers that make communion happen. It is a blessing.

RAVE. We are very thankful and fortunate that the zoom services will be continued and give us the chance to remain close to our Bethlehem family while we are in Texas.
Katelynn Bumpus & family



PAT MORTRUD WINS CONTEST

At our August 30 Zervice, Pastor Blair asked if anyone could identify the mountain in his virtual background. Pat Mortrud, all the way in Texas, was the first to correctly answer Mt Shasta. Her reward was a Starbucks gift card!

Pat reports that she received the prize and got to have a short visit on the phone with Pastor Blair — win, win!



Our hallway bulletin board has been moved to the social hall window facing Monroe Avenue. Thanks to the decorating team of Ruth Ann Shimoi and Joel & Karen Jackman for their positive and encouraging messages. 23

CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



Linda Sheets hasn't been traveling to Europe but she was keeping close tabs on the Tour de France this summer. The commentators mentioned this Gothic cathedral, and it caught her attention.

It's the Clermont-Ferrand Cathedral in France and was built out of black lava rock transported from 7 miles away. Construction began in 1248 and lasted until 1355. Renovations, additions, and repairs continued through 1902.

The photo is from Wikipedia.



TRANSITIONS LOOKING FOR YOUR STORIES

Transitions

We haven't seen much of each other in social settings this year. It's quite likely that some of you have experienced life changes; some positive, some not so positive. I'd like to share updates on people's lives in a future newsletter. 90% of our members learned how to Zoom this year. Transitioning from in-building to online was a significant change for all of us!

Did you get a new job?

Did you retire?

Did you get engaged?

Did you have a surgery? Perhaps have a gallbladder removed or a body part repaired?

Did you move during the pandemic?

Did you lose a family member?

Did you take classes online?

Did you take up a new hobby?

Did your vacation plans change?

Did you have a baby this year?

Did you master reading e-books because the libraries were closed?

Were you or a relative evacuated from your home due to fire danger?

Did you spend time in a hospital due to an injury?

Did you celebrate a significant milestone differently than expected?

If you experienced a transition big or small, send your story to Dielda.

Treasurer Report As of August 30, 2020 (67% of the year)

Total Income \$102,381.30 (57% of budget)

Total Expense - 103,985.31 (58% of budget)

Difference - \$ 1,604.01

Total Assets \$75,717.76

Total Equity \$10,769,35 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer

P.s. Third quarter donation receipts will be handed out Saturday, October 24, our next Communion day.

Who Would be Calling Me at this Time of the Night?

So often, we hear that the Northwest is one of the most unchurched regions in our country. **WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE LORD!**

Matthew described how Jesus began his ministry in Galilee – when he gave His Sermon on the Mount, performed many miracles and visited many towns. *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Mt. 9:36-38)

Today, there are many who need to hear and understand the Good News. (The harvest is plentiful). But how overwhelming! (The workers are few). Please, Lord, send more workers!

In the following verses, Jesus commissioned his twelve apostles, calling them to him and issuing instructions on how to go out to the lost sheep of Israel (think Northwest). For sure, this was (is) an overwhelming task. Whom did He call to follow Him? Ordinary, unrefined men, fishermen, a despised tax collector. They followed and learned from Him for only three years. (That's shorter than high school). Important Note: HE called THEM, not the other way around; and look at what His "ordinary" men accomplished. In Acts we learn more about how they did this - the men AND the women.

Think what we can accomplish, as individuals and as a congregation, when we follow Jesus and listen to the Holy Spirit. Here is the refrain to the hymn, **I, the Lord of Sea and Sky** (WOV 752).

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY—The trustees would welcome anyone who has a desire to help maintain the church building and property to be a candidate in the upcoming November 1 election.

- Curtis Holcomb

MARY MARTHA — WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Wow!! We had our meeting on September 17th! First one since February 20th! How the time flies when you are having fun! NOT!!

The COVID restrictions eased enough to allow us to get together, and those horrible devastating fires that filled the air with all its impurities were doused with just enough rain to let us breathe through our masks, as we joined together (still socially distanced)! Pastor Blair installed the officers. We had 15 members in attendance, one 15-month old, KaLyla, one 6 year old, (almost 7) CeJae and one blond dog! What we don't do to keep our attendance in line! Ellen Taylor opened the meeting with Prayer. Karen led devotions in sign language to "Sing to The Lord of Harvest".

Our new Mary Martha books were passed out, along with the new Portals of Prayer.

We still need 20 more bars of 3 to 5 oz soap. If anybody feels the urge to drop a few of them off by October 8th, that would help us finish our 80 care kits for Lutheran World Relief!

For our first Miles for Mites, you reported a total of 421.5 miles. Some of those miles involved a bicycle ride to go visit with Glen Koppelman! That's fantastic. Your miles will be turned into mite \$ which supports Christian projects locally and around the world.

Don't forget also, there is still time to get raffle tickets for the Christmas Quilt. Nobody's home should be without one! IT'S ABSOLUTELY BEEAUUTIFUL! BUT -- Time flies when we're having fun and you might forget!

We will be having a "Zkit" as part of our October 4th, 2020 LWML Sunday Service by our own Karen Begalka and Sharon Buechler!

Carolyn Troseth, Secretary



RAVE and the PURPLE OCTOPUS AWARD to Carolyn Troseth for taking the minutes at our September Mary Martha outdoor meeting, and hanging up the quilt for display while tending to the needs of her 2 great grandchildren and her dog!! Job(s) well done!

For those viewing this on paper in black and white, the purple octopus is holding a golden trophy cup. Purple and gold are the official colors of LWML.



Our September meeting. Weather cooperated so we sat outside.

Karen Begalka taught us sign language for our devotional song.

Pastor Blair installed the officers.

Carolyn Troseth & Jeanne-K Hughes display the Christmas quilt.



Karen Begalka





SEPTEMBER'S PERSON IN THE CHOIR
CAROLYN TROSETH
THERE IS MORE TO CAROLYN THAN MUSIC!

I conducted my interview with Carolyn over the FaceTime app. It worked really well. The next day, Carolyn's 1 year old great granddaughter, KaLyla, Facetimed me all by herself! Both calls were fun!

-Dielda Kuhlmann

Carolyn Troseth is in our Bethlehem Choir. She also participates in Pinochle Club, the Ladies Book Club, Movie Matinee Club, Altar Guild, and Stewardship Board. She is frequently a greeter on Sunday mornings (pre-pandemic), the official announcer after the service, flower potluck arranger, Vacation Bible School volunteer, served on the Transition Team, and is the secretary for Mary-Martha Society. Oh, and she also works as an Avon representative and babysits her 2 great grandchildren. And she does it all with a smile!

She joined our church in 1970, after finding our ad in the Yellow Pages. She does lament that phone books are no longer available as they would help her great-grandkids sit up taller at the table.

When she started a job with Sundays off, choir leader Wilma Gardner asked her and daughter Camille if they wanted to join choir. Camille talked Carolyn in to it, and she's been up in the balcony ever since. She also enjoys the times when they dress up in the golden robes and sing from the front of the church.

She doesn't consider herself a real 'singer' and says she won't be doing a solo, but she enjoys the songs. She feels James Hing is a good controller, keeping everyone in line during the choir rehearsals, or at least keeps the group wandering in the right direction.

On the subject of music in church, "I think music is very important. It sets the mood. When you sing, you are not able to think about the world. Your thoughts are all about the song and the words."

She appreciates most genres of music, especially 60's music and hymns. On Eagle's Wings is one of her favorites.

With the pandemic shut down, Carolyn misses choir. She's grateful for the Zoom Services and sings along from home every Sunday morning which she likes much better than trying to sing through a mask. She appreciates that we are 'older' and need to be careful with the virus.



**Carolyn age 2 with sister Viola
Standing on their hill in
North Dakota**

Some early recollections from Carolyn:

- We always attended a Lutheran Church, except in the North Dakota winters when the snow banks were too high.
- In my country school, my grade had 2 students. There may have been 10 of us in the whole school.
- One of my earliest music memories is singing Silent Night in German at the age of 6.
- My 3 older brothers and older sister only spoke German when they entered first grade.
- I took piano lessons as a child but never actually got the rhythm part down.
- I was raised on a farm but moved into town as a teenager when my dad had a heart attack.
- I attended Luther League every week because my brother let me drive his old station wagon to the meetings!
- I typed up the church bulletins at Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown, North Dakota on a mimeograph. And I taught Sunday School to the 5 year old children.
- We moved to Washington state in 1965.

Carolyn has a great story to go with this outfit. It involves a 1966 airline strike and riding sideways in a cargo plane. You'll have to ask her about it.



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And we are blessed that she found her way to Renton and Bethlehem and our lives.

RAFFLES ARE OUT VOICES ARE IN

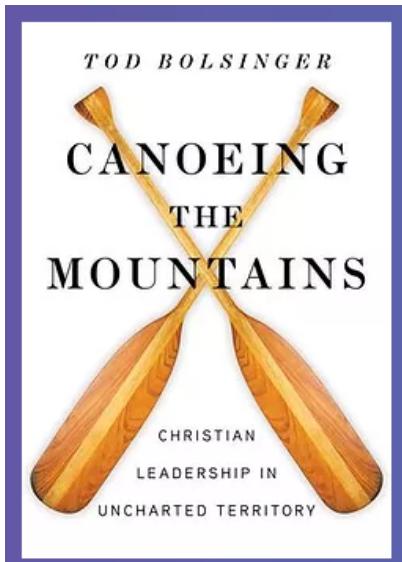
It's a different way of looking at the event. Instead of asking you to *buy* a raffle ticket, we are letting you voice your support of a good cause.

When you donate \$1, \$10 or \$20 or more to the Christmas Quilt raffle, the money goes to our Mary Martha Society. They turn around and donate the money to organizations that help make the world a better place. You are supporting people in crisis, and organizations that share God's Word locally and around the world.

Let your VOICES shout this fall as you loudly support this year's quilt raffle.

Your contributions are collected in the office in a new contactless format. No tickets need to have your name written on them. A photo of the cotton quilt is on **page 27**. The back is red. Flyers are available so you can share the opportunity with your friends. The drawing is scheduled for November 7, 2020.

LCMS CONFERENCE ONLINE October 17 Saturday 11 am—3 pm



We know that we are experiencing a time of upheaval and change greater than any in recent memory. Issues like a global pandemic, social unrest, and deeply polarizing politics are placing a heavy burden on churches and their leaders to respond faithfully. This often can lead to an increasingly inward focus or even ministry paralysis when it comes to meeting community needs with the mission of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of the popular book *Canoeing the Mountains*, defines the type of leadership necessary for this uncharted territory as “energizing a community of people toward their own transformation in order to accomplish a shared mission in the face of a changing world.”

Join Dr. Bolsinger and an amazing group of leaders as we convene Mission West, an online Mission Conference October 17, 2020. This event is a partnership between the three west coast Districts of the LCMS, and will be offered FREE to you and your congregations. It's our prayer that socially distanced gatherings of leaders from across our region will tune in from 11:00am – 3:00 pm on Saturday October 17th as we engage real issues of public health, social justice, and Government interaction with innovative and missional responses. Register at psd-lcms.org/missionwest

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

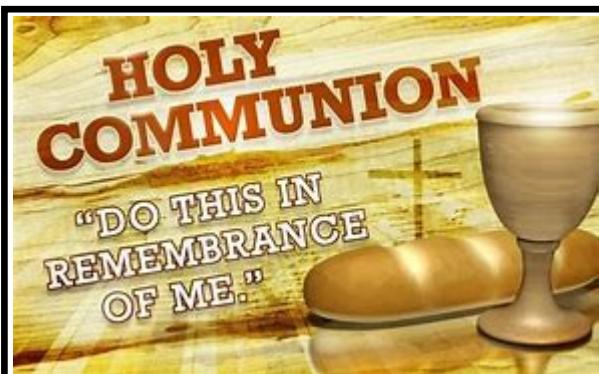
- › **Bring in bars of soap** by October 8 so we can finish the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. At press time, we need 38 more bars.
- › **Bring in your clothing** & other soft good donations to the church for our clothing drive. We will deliver the collection on Friday morning, March 5, 2021.
- › **Celebrate REACH's 50th anniversary.** Their big gala will be virtual on Tuesday, October 13 beginning at 6:20 pm. It's free to participate but when you register, you will be asked to help sponsor the event.
www.reachrenton.org
- › **Pray**
- › **DONATE TO OUR QUILT RAFFLE.** Drawing will be held in November. Dollars raised go to the charities supported by Mary Martha Society — Renton Food Bank, REACH, LWML Mite projects, Vision House, Bethesda Home, and Lutheran Bible Translators.
- › **Contribute to Lutheran Bible Translators.** They will be Zooming with us on Sunday, September 27. Their sermon will be "The Building Without the Book", based on 2 Kings 22:3-5, 8-13.



Millions of people can't read the Bible in a language they understand. Many speak a language that is not written down.

PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS

lbt.org/project/eshinee-rob-veith/



Holy Communion will be Saturday **October 24** beginning at 10:15 am.

Please contact the office with your intention to commune, whether you choose wine or grape juice, and if you wish to remain in your car or enter the sanctuary. An assigned time will be given to you.

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

A Year of “Firsts”

While it’s a little early to be thinking year-end thoughts, the fall season signals a number of significant events on our church calendar. It goes without saying, but I submit that this year has seen a number of “firsts”: first time we haven’t been able to worship in person for over six months; first time we have been able to offer virtual worship opportunities; first time we’ve had “drive through” communion; first time we’ve canceled two regularly scheduled two Voters’ meetings. With the exception of virtual worship opportunities, I hope things are about to change.

As you will see on the calendar, we are planning to have a quarterly Voters’ meeting on October 18th. We’re planning to conduct this meeting via Zoom, but we recognize we will need to make accommodations for members who don’t have computer access. I’ll be working with others to ensure that we have the ability to vote via Zoom – another first? Attendance details will be provided by the church office.

As in the case of more normal times, the meeting will follow our worship service. In addition to the normal reports by church officers and boards, this meeting will include the following agenda items:

- An update on our plans for reopening.
- I will provide additional details about what we learned from your responses to the seven questions asked during our recent effort to listen to you. You may find a summary report on page 10 of this newsletter.
- This is the meeting when we preview the slate of nominees for church offices for next year.
- This is also the meeting when we preview next year’s proposed church budget.
- We will have an opportunity to nominate our lay delegates (both primary and alternate) to the Northwest District Convention which is planned for June 17-19, 2021. We also have the opportunity to nominate pastors for the offices of president, first vice-president and regional vice-president for the District. In addition, we will have the opportunity to submit overtures to the convention.

Then, our annual Voters’ meeting will be held on November 1st. As specified by our constitution, the agenda for this meeting will consist of only two items: election of officers and approval of our budget. Again, we will prepare for a Zoom meeting.

I continue to be thankful for the dedication of all who have helped us navigate the many “firsts” we’ve faced this year.

Blessings,
Carl Stockamp