

September
2020



Bethlehem Star

Pastor David Blair • James Hing, Organist & Zoom Master

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19.

Jesus spoke these words of invitation and promise to the first disciples on the Sea of Galilee as he began and initiated his 3-year earthly ministry. Here we are almost 2,000 years later. The world-wide Gospel ministry movement that Jesus started has exploded around the globe with mission stations (congregations) both exceedingly small and exceptionally large. What ever their size, the mission is the same: to bring people to Jesus!

The vision of HOW to achieve that mission is what makes each congregation (mission station) unique. There is one and only one Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington. Even now our members are being asked for their input of how Bethlehem will accomplish this mission in the years ahead. Let me say that, each and every one of you are vital to the accomplishment of this mission that Jesus has given to his Church. Each of you have a unique set of relationships with people whom God is calling you to share his unconditional love in his Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus' promises ALWAYS come true! He has invited you to come and follow him. You have heard his call and have come to him. Having come to him, you and I are to listen to him. He promises to make us fishers of people. He wants to catch them through us. Unlike fishing for fish where a live fish becomes our dinner. We are called to bring people who are dead spiritually so that they can become eternally alive through their own connection to Jesus! Whatever your occupation/calling in life (businessman, teacher, retiree, student ...) means that the way you fish and share your faith in Jesus Christ will vary. Yet the end result will be the same. **Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest”** (Matthew 9:37, 38).

As we move into the season of Fall, let us each commit our lives to a renewing life of being a faithful laborer of the harvest. Remember what Jesus said, **“My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”** He does all the heavy lifting!

Pastor David

**FOUNDING MEMBER
RAYMOND LEONARD ENGUM**

Ray Engum, who has been with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington since its beginning, passed away on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. He was 91 years old.

He was born May 30, 1929 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to Joel & Alice Engum. His father died when Ray was young. Ray's mother and stepfather, Alice and Art Berend began worshipping with Reverend Jansen when services were conducted in Berend's Kennydale grocery store in 1936. His sister, Jeanette, age 13, was one of the first deaths mentioned in our records in 1942.

His family, along with Victor TeGantvoort, Mr. Jagow and the Weigelts helped erect our original white chapel in 1944. Ray & Gretchen Ducatt were married in that chapel on June 16, 1950. They were together on their 70th wedding anniversary this summer.

Ray was a wonderful story-teller, always able to lighten up a conversation with an amusing anecdote. A person was happier after talking to Ray. We will miss his joy-filled disposition and his smile.

During his time at Bethlehem, he served as congregational president, elder, trustee, treasurer, usher, and in many other roles. He and Gretchen were members of our pinochle club and attended most of our social events.

The Bible given to Bethlehem in memory of Ray's step grandfather, Charles Berend, 76 years ago, is still on the shelf in our office. A visible testimony that while people and worship practices change, the Word of God remains the same.

When interviewed for the Bethlehem Star in 2013, Ray wanted it to be known that , "This church has a lot of doggone nice people in it. He and Gretchen are thankful and fortunate to be members of Bethlehem. The friendliness, the atmosphere of love, and the lessons that we learn here, mean a lot to us."



RAY ENGUM

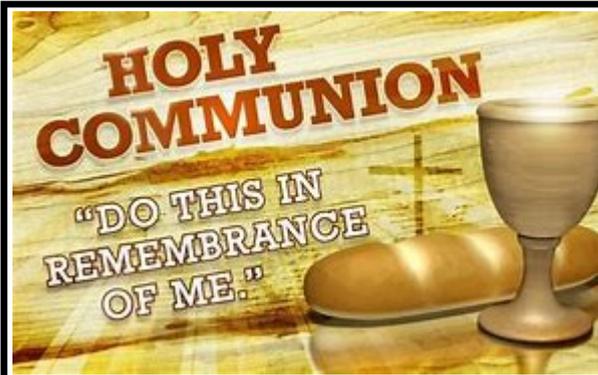
May 30, 1929

August 19, 2020

Ray is survived by his wife Gretchen, daughter Lizabeth (Tracy) Watanabe, sons Dennis and Robert Engum, grandchildren Danny and Kathy Engum, brothers Joel (Kathy) Engum, Bill (Trish) Berend of Nevada, sister-in-law Grace Berend of California and numerous nieces & nephews.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will be a private family-only funeral and burial at Greenwood Memorial Park on Monday August 31. Pastor Blair will officiate.

Well done, good and faithful servant!



Holy Communion will be Saturday September 26 beginning at 10:15am.

Please contact the office with your intention to commune, and whether you choose wine or grape juice. An assigned time will be given to you.

This is a drive-thru, stay-in-your-car event.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT. If you receive a phone call saying that you have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to pay for a test, just hang up. It's a scam to get your credit card number. All COVID-19 tests are free.

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.*

Birthday and Anniversary list is moved to page 6 this month

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
Jim Buechler's sister JoAnn
Sharon Buechler's brother James
Harold Carlson
Teresa Feltmann's sister Connie
Marcy Hall
Mardelle Hammond & her sister-in-law Barbara
Gary & Kay Hanno
Jim Hanson
Larry & Marlene Holcomb
Jeanne-K Hughes and her sister Denise, son David, aunt Ruth
Emma Humphrey
LuAnne Humphrey's sister Shari, friends Debbie & Chris, Walt, David B.
Joel & Karen Jackman
Donna Kahn
Glen Koppelman
Hannelore Maas
Pete & Hannelore Maas' son Brian, friend Bill
Ron Muller's relative Shirley, sister Inge
Bob Pankow
Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives June and Johanna, friend Marge
Debbie Porter Mason
Ruth Schroeder
Jerry Schuh
Bud & Juanita Reynolds
Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie
Ruth Ann Shimoi's mom Ruth
Dick & Ellen Taylor's grandchildren Landon & Caroline, his cousins Bill & Eileen
Carolyn Troseth's sister Viola and sister-in-law Viona, friend Anita
Carolyn Warn's great granddaughter Masyn
Amber Wolf's friend Katie

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.**



Lord, we need your help now. The world is suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray for a safe treatment soon and complete healing to those who contract the disease.

We pray for safety from natural disasters in this country and around the world. We pray for those suffering in California with the fires and smoke. We pray for the safety of the firefighters and for you to shower the area with needed rain. We ask that the hurricanes and other storms this season be mild with no casualties.

We pray that you surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you & be comforted.

AMEN

HEAVEN GETS A TRUMPET PLAYER MARIE TEEL

Marie joined our Bethlehem family in February 2013. She passed away on August 13, 2020 just 3 months before she would have turned 100 years old.

She was full of energy, a dedicated Christian, a delight to talk to, and a talented musician. She was joyful to remain independent as long as she did. With her accounting background, Marie volunteered for our finance team and helped count offerings on Sundays. She beautified our sanctuary by donating a palm tree. We were blessed to have her in our lives.

Two of the most important parts of Marie's life were church and music. As a young girl, she started on piano and then found her true passion was the trumpet. She loved playing in church. She was involved in many ensembles and jazz bands. After moving into Merrill Gardens, she enjoyed playing in their hand bell choir.

Marie nee Lentz was born in Bangor, Pennsylvania, and had a sister Dorothy who passed away in 2000. Marie married Carl Teel on June 21, 1941, the hottest day of the year as she recalled. They made their home in New Jersey. They had 1 son, Sheldon. Carl passed away in May 1960.

She is survived by son Sheldon (Betty) Teel, grandsons Alex (Julie) and Andrew (Susannah), granddaughter Rebecca, great grandson Lucian who just turned 1 year old, and nephew Bruce Garis.

There will be no service at Bethlehem. If you want to send a card or message to her family, please contact the office for the address. Per Marie's request, there will be a funeral in Pennsylvania, and she will be laid to rest there next to her husband, Carl.

Our sister in Christ has been called home by our Lord.



MARIE TEEL

November 23, 1920

August 13, 2020

SEPTEMBER



Tom Clayton	September 3
Carl Stockamp	September 5
Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss	September 10
Donnie McNeal	September 11
Michael Bumpus	September 15
Elden Fischer	September 15
Don Kuhlmann	September 21
Robert Lee	September 21
Sophie Barger	September 23
Brittany Bumpus	September 23
Dielda Kuhlmann	September 23
Cheryl Bumpus	September 26
Carolyn Troseth	September 26
Marlene Holcomb	September 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gardner, Doug & Wilma	September 2, 1967
Holcomb, Larry & Marlene	September 7, 1957
Sturgul, James & Tammy	September 9, 2006
Hanno, Kaye & Gary	September 10, 1994
Barger, Randy & Renee	September 20, 1997

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS :

Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss turns 90!!

Elden Fischer celebrates 9 decades!!



Michael Bumpus will be 2 years old

Sophie Barger will be sweet 16 on Sept 23

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

Treasurer Report As of July 31, 2020 (58% of the year)

Total Income	\$87,519.26	(49% of budget)
Total Expense	<u>- 91,036.02</u>	(51% of budget)
Difference	- \$ 3,516.76	

Total Assets \$74,535.57 (an increase of \$2,908.33 from last month's report.)

Total Equity \$8,856.60 (money not in a designated or memorial fund)

— Kathy Logan, Treasurer

OUR NEWEST NONAGENARIANS
2 MEMBERS CELEBRATE THEIR **90th** BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!



Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss was born in Seattle 90 years ago! She announces that she is a bit tired but still kickin'! She's grateful that she's still able to live in her home. She's not sure if she'll be able to celebrate with her twin sister, Eleanor, this year. Previous birthdays have been celebrated together at Civil Air Patrol gatherings (see photo below).



Elden Fischer is not sure what his birthday plans will be this year. He turns 90 on September 15. The COVID-19 restrictions in his care facility have made it difficult for him to see his family this year. His daughter, Cindy, hopes to be able to get him a cake and at least wave at him through the window.



Evelyn has not been able to Zoom with us so she has been catching up with her favorite preachers on television.

September 10 is their birthday!

He was born in Zap, North Dakota and moved to Renton in the late 1950's. He and Dolores have been members at Bethlehem since Pastor Luttmann was here. Sadly, Dolores passed away April of this year.

Elden was a barber and many men of our congregation were his customers.

Blessings to you, Elden, on this special day.



OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD;

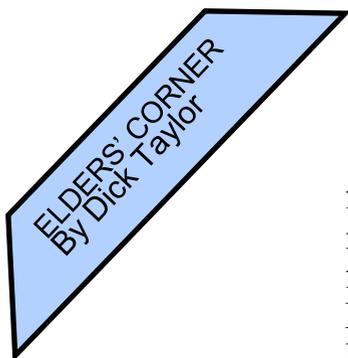
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13



The Lord's Prayer as more than a passing blur

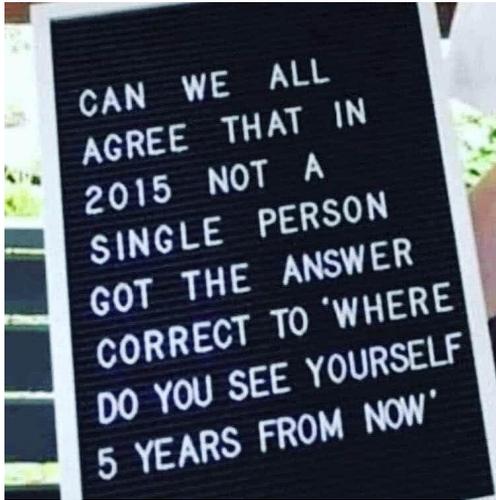
The nine stanzas of this hymn on the Lord's Prayer — one for each of the seven petitions, book ended by one for the introduction, "Our Father," and one for the "Amen" — reflect Martin Luther's catechism teaching on the Lord's Prayer and the theology of prayer that produced it. It is a longer hymn than many; it takes much longer to sing than to pray the Lord's Prayer. But time spent reflecting on the prayer's various petitions, instead of just racing through them, is time well spent.

"Many," Luther laments, "pray the Pater Noster (Our Father) as many as a thousand times a year; if they were to pray a thousand years they would indeed still not have tasted or prayed even one letter of it [Matthew 5:18]." (How often have you found your mind wandering to the grocery list, or worse, while the words roll, seemingly on autopilot, off your tongue?)

"In summary, the Pater Noster is the greatest martyr on earth, as much as the name and Word of God. Nearly everyone mistreats it and abuses it. Only a few are comforted by it and find joy in its correct use." Well, let us move on, hopefully, to do just that.

After all, for Luther, as with Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the right place to begin to answer the questions "What is prayer?" and "How shall we pray?" and the like is with our Lord's own command and promise. For when His disciples asked Him how they should pray, the Lord said, "When you pray, say" And then He gave them what we call the Lord's Prayer. Here is where Christians, with the disciples, learn to pray, in a school taught by the Holy Spirit. How does He teach? By the words of God: the Psalms, Gospels and Epistles, the whole Scripture, but especially "the very best prayer, because the true master of prayer, Jesus, composed it and taught it to us."

The Rev. Dr. John W. Sias Pastor, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Colstrip, Mont.



Tracy Brown reports that the virtual walk in Renton

this spring raised \$12,205. That's about half of what is raised in a 'normal' year. Many thanks to members of Bethlehem who contributed \$650 for the event. We were the 4th highest earning team in Renton!

One of the biggest global needs during this pandemic has been providing soap and water to needy villages. You helped make that possible.

NEW WORDS in 2020

Have new coronavirus words been creeping into your vocabulary lately? Have you noticed that familiar words can now mean something different?

The Merriam Webster dictionary has added new coronavirus related words to its dictionary, and added additional meanings to many common words. In January, we all considered a "bubble" a cute little thin sphere of liquid surrounding air that was fun to pop. But now we know a 'bubble' is a carefully managed quarantine area in Orlando with significant restrictions for NBA sports teams.

Here's a sample of some new and some re-purposed words for 2020:

Social distancing	Super-spreader	Asymptomatic
PPP	Novel Coronavirus	Drive-thru testing
Flatten the curve	Droplet transmission	N95 respirator
PPE	Nonessential	Doom scrolling
COVID-19	Telemedicine	Bubble
Pandemic	Index case	Zoom
Contact tracing	R-naught	Blursday
Fomite	Furlough	Asynchronous
Self-quarantine	Shelter in place order	

My personal favorite is "Blursday" to represent that feeling of not knowing what day of the week it is.....

-Dielda Kuhlmann

Back to School in the New Normal with Honor and Prayer



It is that time of year again when students return to school, whether on-line or in person. Especially now, they need encouragement to set personal goals, because there will not be sports, socialization in person or special social events. Their goal should be for their future and for God, rather than pleasing people or institutions. However, the teachers and learning institutions are there to help students reach their scholastic goals. When questions arise, teachers are still there via e-mails or chat.

Colossians 3:23-24: ***“Whatever you do, work with all of your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”***

The new normal can be a discouraging time, as change is often difficult to accommodate. There is a growing unrest among not only children, but others as they face the imposition of face masks, sanitizing everything, cancelling vacations, social distancing, social injustice, a crippling economy, perhaps loss of work, illness, violence and death of loved ones. Some people are seeking revenge on the government and police, causing damage and violence, while others are protesting peacefully. The government is not perfect, even our founding fathers admitted that. However, there are things we can do in this democracy of ours, like contacting our congressmen or others in authority, voting wisely for candidate or causes, or utilizing various media venues. Most of all, PRAY, and remember that God is in charge.

Romans 13:1 ***Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God,***

We must trust God at all times for he sees the big picture better than we do.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

So we also need to pay taxes, if we want those in charge to accomplish what they are supposed to.

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

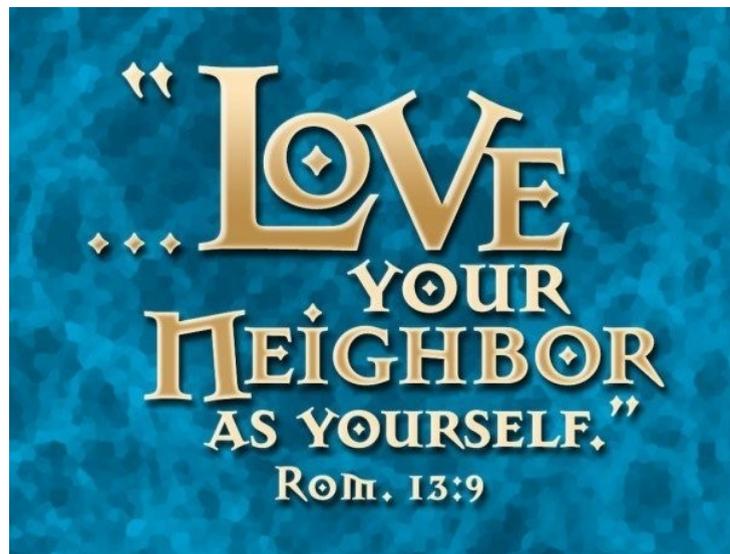
Likewise, let's also give to the Church what belongs to the Church by using our talents and money to further the Kingdom of God on Earth. How can we use our money wisely?

We can help others in need, we can use it to help our Church stay in business and we can pay our bills. God promises to take care of us. Is our Church able to support a new Pastor? How can we help? However we use the money that God has given us, it is His will for us to strive to make peace on earth and benefit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Romans 12:17-18 ***Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If possible, as far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone.***

So respect authority whether they are a pastor, teacher, parent, boss, government worker or law enforcer. As we show respect to those in charge, we should also respect one another in love, including children, whom Jesus said is the greatest in the Kingdom of God. Whatever kindness that you show to a child or to anyone else will be counted as a kindness to Jesus. Above all, remember Romans 13:9, ***Love your neighbor as yourself.***

Karen Begalka, Board of Stewardship



The Story Behind The Hymn

Rock of Ages 1776

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. John 10:29

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.



Rev. Augustus Montague
Toplady

1740—1778

The life of Augustus Toplady would not be described as pleasant. He was born in Surrey, England on November 4, 1740. His father died in a war the next year. Biographers write that his friends thought him "sick and neurotic" and his relatives disliked him. His mother spoiled him. He never married. He openly despised and engaged in bitter attacks on ministers who he felt were wrong. It is written that he was impulsive, rash-spoken, and reckless in misjudgment. He died of consumption at the age of 38.

He had a strong interest in nature and animals, and composed a work *Sketch of Natural History, with a few particulars on Birds, Meteors, Sagacity of Brutes, and the solar system*, where he recorded his observations about the marvels of nature, including the behavior of birds.

But the driving force in Augustus was his great devoutness to the Lord, even as a child. *"I am now arrived at the age of eleven years,"* he wrote on his birthday. *"I praise God I can remember no dreadful crime; to the Lord be the glory."* By age 12 he was preaching sermons to whoever would listen. At 14 he began writing hymns. At 16 he was converted to Christ while attending a service in a barn in Ireland. And at 22 he was ordained an Anglican priest and served as a vicar in England until his death.

Rev Toplady felt that no man could ever, by his own merits, satisfy the justice of God. In 1776, he wrote the poem Rock of Ages to describe Christ, the Rock of Ages, as the remedy for all our sin. He wrote a total of 133 hymns. On his deathbed, he told a friend, *"O, my dear sir, I cannot tell you the comforts I feel in my soul; they are past expression. . . . My prayers are all converted into praise."*

Rock of Ages is a very popular hymn. It has been published in 2,639 hymnals and translated into many languages. In our Lutheran Service Book, it is Hymn #761. It has been recorded by artists like Perry Como, Bing Crosby, and Rosemary Clooney. When the SS London sank in 1866, the 244 souls left onboard sang Rock of Ages as the ship sank into the Bay of Biscay. The man may not have been popular or even liked in his lifetime but he wrote a well-loved song of grace that has outlived him.

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 Except Labor Day		1 6 pm Elder Meeting via Zoom	2 Office Closed
6 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Worship Service via Zoom	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm New Purpose	8 QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS GO ON SALE!!!! Buy a couple dozen!!!!	9 Office Closed 2 pm Trustees Meeting
13 10 Worship Service via Zoom 11:45 Council meeting GRANDPARENTS' DAY	14 7 pm New Purpose	15 Lifeline Health Screening in social hall. Appointment needed	16 Office Closed Get message to call on your Miles walk/biked from Sept 1
20 10 Worship via Zoom NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 7 pm New Purpose INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE	22 FALL BEGINS	23 Office Closed 9:30 Bible Class via Zoom
27 BIBLE TRANSLATION SUNDAY 10 Worship with guest speakers Rob & Eshinee Veith, missionaries	28 7 pm New Purpose	29	30 Office Closed 9:30 Bible Class via Zoom

Mary Martha Society is sponsoring **Miles for Mites Sept 1-15**. You walk, run or bike and help make the world a better place. More information on page 31.

Bible Class begins September 23 Wednesday morning at 9:30.
In October, depending on people's schedules, it may switch to Tuesday.

We will have guest speakers from Lutheran Bible Translators on Sunday September 27. See page 27 for more details.

On October 4 we will celebrate LWML Sunday.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>closed</p> <p>3</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>closed</p> <p>Services Meeting</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PATRIOT DAY</p>	<p>12 Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious- CANCELLED</p>
<p>closed</p> <p>to church walked & pt 1-15</p> <p>17</p> <p>3 pm MARY MARTHA MEETING OUTSIDE & MITE COLLECTION</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>closed</p> <p>class starts</p> <p>24</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:15—noon Communion Drive-Thru</p> <p>Reservations required</p>	
<p>closed</p> <p>class starts</p> <p>OCTOBER 1</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 cell phone: 206-291-4237

Let's **zoom**

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ZUNDAY ZERVICES

By Dielda Kuhlmann

September marks our 6th month of being physically apart but we remain together in Christ.

67 people attended our Worship Service on **August 2** via Zoom. Sabine Muller was able to join us via phone. The service ran smoothly using James Hing's brand new computer system.

Pastor Blair's sermon was titled Bread that Satisfies based on Isaiah 55 and Matthew 14. While we were asked to ponder what our favorite meal is, we were reminded of the incredible spread available on Jesus' table:

- ◆ Forgiveness
- ◆ Salvation
- ◆ Eternal Life
- ◆ God's Love and Peace

The conclusion of his sermon was JESUS HAS SET AND INVITED US TO A WONDERFUL TABLE OF FOOD AND DRINK SO THAT WE MIGHT INVITE OTHERS. OUR RESPONSE TO THIS AMAZING INVITE CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD:

COME!

LET US INVITE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY PEOPLE THAT WE KNOW TO COME

COME WORSHIP WITH US
COME ZOOM WITH US
COME AND SEE
COME AND HEAR
COME AND BE FILLED
COME AND THEN FILL OTHERS WITH THE LOVE AND JOY AND PEACE
YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM JESUS ... HE TRULY DOES SATISFY
FOREVER AND EVER! AMEN.

President Carl Stockamp made a brief State of the Church announcement. We have missed 2 voters' meeting this year, PPE supplies have been purchased to help with a safe return to the building, our internet has been

upgraded so we can Zoom from the building, guidelines have been established for what to expect in the reopening, and a letter is being sent to attendees with more details. The grounds have been well-maintained during the building closure.

And this was the day we celebrated Bud Reynold's 90th birthday with a toe-tapping head-bopping peppy version of the Happy Birthday song.

On **AUGUST 9** we sang the Lord's Prayer.



We had a water-themed sermon today. The title of Pastor Blair's sermon was "Set Your Eyes on Jesus". It was based on Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on Water.

His virtual background (shown on the left) was a harbor of boats, with Mt Baker in the background. It was taken by Pastor Blair earlier this year.

James Hing shared the history of our closing hymn #763 "When Peace, Like A River". It's a tragic tale that the author, Harold Spafford, suffered the death of his young son, financial ruin during the Chicago Fire of 1871, and the death of his 4 daughters in a shipwreck on the Atlantic Ocean. His wife survived the accident and sent him a telegram. Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write the words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died. The refrain is

It is well, (it is well),
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

August 16 was the hottest day of the summer; temperature reached 99 at Sea-Tac. We had 69 people worshipping with us via Zoom. 78% are able to use a computer and can see the slide show photos. The other 22% dial in on their telephone and can hear the service. The service on August

Zoom Services Continued from previous page

16 began with the now familiar sounds of the zimblestern. Then the prelude was performed by Cameron Carpenter, one of James' favorites. In 2009, Cameron became the first organist to ever be nominated for a Grammy Award for his solo album.

Pastor Blair pre-recorded his sermon for this eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, as he was out of town with family this weekend. His message was based on Matthew 15:21-28 and was titled "Lord, Teach Us." Copies of his sermons are emailed to all members earlier in the week, and hand delivered or mailed to those without a computer.



Ron Muller & Joel Jackman served as elders on August 16. Pastor Blair's dog made it into the slide show!

August 23 marked our 24th Zoom Zervice! Several people comment that they continue to get better each and every week! Zoom Master James Hing proclaimed that today was a high church music day with a special emphasis on traditional-styled hymns like How Great is Thy Faithfulness, The Church's One Foundation, and How Firm a Foundation. At the beginning of the service, Pastor Blair shared some words of eulogy for Ray Engum who passed away on August 19. The sermon title was "What Kind of Jesus Do You Confess & Worship" based on Matthew 16:13-20.



Art Wolf served as elder today. James' virtual background makes it look like he's singing from the balcony but he's really home, just like the rest of us!



FUN FACT ABOUT OUR ZOOMING AT BETHLEHEM

This Sunday, **August 30**, will be our 25th Zoom Zervice. We began on **April 1** with a Lent Wednesday, and then Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the next 21 Sundays after that! We are blessed to have technical members who have been able to make this happen!

Other Zoom events that have taken place are Bible Class, council & call team meetings, elder meetings, movie matinee, and various LCMS sponsored conferences.

Tips for zooming. While it's great to see everyone on Sunday morning in their little Zoom squares, it can be distracting while listening to the sermon. It's recommended that you switch to 'speaker view' so you just see the elder or Pastor talking. If you are in 'galley view', you can see everyone who is logged on.

If your device's camera is on, we can see you. You do have the option of turning off your camera in the Zoom app. To avoid distractions, you will be muted as you enter the Zervice. That way we won't hear your microwave buzzing, dog barking, or papers rattling.

Enter the Zoom service a few minutes before 10 o'clock, and you can hear the prayer and praise requests.

Remember, ANYONE can host free 40 minute Zoom meetings. You can 'meet' with friends any time, see familiar faces, and catch up on news!

YOU CAN ZOOM WITH JUST A TELEPHONE

Several members enjoy listening to the Zervice each Sunday. They can't see the screen photos but can hear the music and Pastor's sermon. Here's some of their comments.



I talked to Mardelle Hammond in August as she was driving to South Dakota to visit a dear friend. She misses seeing everyone in her church family. She misses being in church but she has called in to hear the familiar voices and hymns every Sunday morning.

Telephone Continued from previous page



Wayne & Carolyn Hough listen regularly to the Zervice on their phone. They are, however, considering getting a computer, and may be able to see all the slides soon. They appreciate Hannelore Payne hand delivering the sermon and bulletin each week. Wayne is keeping busy working on his car.



Sabine Muller recently began listening in on Sunday mornings on her phone. She enjoys it very much! It is comforting to hear the familiar voices of Pastor Blair, the elders and James Hing. Life in her care facility has improved since her husband is now allowed to visit her twice a week! She spends her free time in physical therapy and playing Bingo.



Hannelore Payne reports that she likes the Zoom service. It is easy to dial in and listen, and she likes to participate. During the pandemic shut down, she is keeping busy with phone calls to church members and family. Her yard and housework never quite get done. Walking every day keeps her busy, and she has no time to be bored.



Fred & Ruth Schroeder are usually a few minutes late to the Zoom Zervice. Their assigned breakfast time at their care facility is just a little too late on Sundays but they always get on in time to hear the sermon! They are thankful that Ruth Ann Shimoi and Hannelore Payne deliver the bulletin and sermon to them. With the facility in a major lockdown for several months, Ruth is developing a case of cabin fever, and is looking forward to being able to get out and about again.



Gil & Cathy Wooden usually sign in about 5 to 10 minutes before 10 am. They print the bulletin, power point screens and Pastor's sermon which they try to read before hand. Since they use the phone, they do not get to see everyone. They are Thankful that this tool has been available during this pandemic.

Cathy is going to be disappointed when she can't sing for a time when we return to church in the future! Pastor, James, and the Elders have been real PROs.



Beverly West is keeping busy during this time by putting together her lifetime of photographs into albums. She would like to thank the Friendly Visitors and others who have been mailing cards to her, and a special thank you to the office and Ruth Ann Shimoi for making sure she receives the printed sermon and bulletin each week since we have been closed. Bev is able to attend our Zoom zervices on her telephone, and enjoys hearing the sermon and the music.

Message from Mission Board

So many things happening in our world!

The Beirut explosion, destroying Lutheran World Relief warehouse filled with goods ready to be shipped to other countries, our own situation with the virus, leaving families with little or nothing to sustain them, and right here in Renton, the needs are plentiful.

We are all struggling with these situations.

And, God is with us whenever or whatever befalls us. So, the Mission board will continue with distributing funds here, REACH is desperately helping and we will help them, as well as our other mission, LWR. We will have a special Mission Sunday, whether by Zoom or on site worship. We are still collecting 'soft goods' to add to our funds. Any other fund raisers are on hold until we see how this virus plays out.

God is with us and will guide us.

Ellen Taylor

What I Believe & What You Believe

With all the negative news we're bombarded with these days, I believe it is important to keep God's role in our lives in perspective. While we may sometimes feel that God has deserted or forgotten about us, we need to remember that He is in control of EVERYTHING. I believe God uses people and events to achieve His ultimate goal of restoring a saving relationship between Himself and the human beings He created. Sometimes the people and events He uses don't make sense to us. At the time, who would have thought that Joseph being sold into slavery would result in the opportunity for the Israelites to be freed from slavery in Egypt? The Bible is full of stories of God's use of imperfect, perhaps even evil people, and disastrous events to achieve His plan. Yes, that means I believe what we are experiencing today with the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest are part of God's plan. While God withholds all the details of His plan, He has given us free will so we ask questions such as "When will we be able to reopen for corporate worship?" and "What is the future of Bethlehem Lutheran Church?". Let's talk about these questions.

The guidelines for reopening were published in last month's newsletter. The guidelines were current at the time they were published, but since the pandemic is everchanging they will need to be revised before we reopen. Nonetheless, many of you responded to calls from your Elder to determine your comfort level in returning to church for worship services. The overwhelming response was that we should not reopen until either late Phase 3 or even Phase 4. This means a reopening may not happen until the October time frame at the earliest. While this is discouraging, I am heartened to see the response you've given to our virtual (Zoom) worship services. I can't help but think that the opportunity to extend our worship services to those who would otherwise be unable to attend isn't part of God's plan. As we await reopening, steps are being taken to ensure we have the technology that will enable us to continue offering virtual worship opportunities on an ongoing basis. While we will have the technical tools, we will still need someone to use the tools. Here's an opportunity to volunteer!

Now, for the second part of this article's title. By this time, members should have received a letter in the mail from me and the Council. If you did not receive the letter dated July 31, you may request a copy from the church office. The letter's purpose was to address where we are at this point in our church's history. A number of questions were posed in the letter and at some point during the next two weeks you will be contacted by your Elder to listen to your comments, or hear what you believe, in response to the following questions:

- What were your impressions of the letter (too pessimistic/too optimistic)?
- How do you think we could more effectively witness to the community surrounding our church?
- Why do you think we exist as a church?
- The letter referred to "emptying out". What would "emptying out" look like to you? Please be specific.

- What would help you in sharing your faith with others?
- Where do you see our church five years from now?

I pray that you will respond when your Elder calls. I will share the information we receive in a future meeting during the October time frame. The meeting will either be in person or via Zoom.

Blessings, Carl Stockamp

MARY-MARTHA MEETING SEPTEMBER 17 3 pm

Ladies, plan to meet on Thursday, Sept 17, at 3 pm for our usual Mary Martha meeting. We can assure you, it will be anything but usual!!

Due to restrictions, we will meet outside, so if it's raining, we will decide on a rain-check date. You bring your own coffee and snack. Bring your own chair if that's easy, otherwise we can bring some down from the social hall. You must wear a mask, and we will be socially distanced. Karen Begalka is designing a devotion appropriate for the conditions. We will start the business portion at 3:30 pm.

Come prepared for something different. Consider it an adventure. And bring your mite coins that you've been collecting these past 6 months. We will be sending them to the convention which is at the end of September.

- Dielda, Hannelore P, Marjie, Carolyn T & Ellen, Executive Board 2020-2021

MARY MARTHA SPECIAL FUNDRAISER THIS FALL

Our November bazaar is cancelled and with that, the usual \$1,500 to \$2,000 that we raise each year to support many worthwhile organizations disappeared.

YOU CAN HELP

The ladies regrouped and thought of a solution but need your help to pull it off. We are putting all our eggs into 1 basket, so to speak. Jeanne-K Hughes made a beautiful red and green Christmas quilt and it's been decided that the quilt will be our fundraiser this year.

BUY A LOT OF TICKETS..... PLEASE

We did the math and if every member buys 20 raffle tickets, our goal will be accomplished. You can gift your tickets to friends or keep them for yourself. In November, one person will walk away with the warm quilt but EVERYONE will have worked together to make the world a better place. Tickets go on sale September 8, and it's ok to purchase more than 20 tickets!



Luke & grandpa Dick Taylor pose with their Tiny Home.

UPDATE ON TINY HOME

Luke Taylor's tiny home that he built this summer was hauled away. It is in storage until it is needed in a tiny home village for the homeless. The organization he worked with is Low Income Housing Institute which has been helping people for 19 years to find affordable housing.

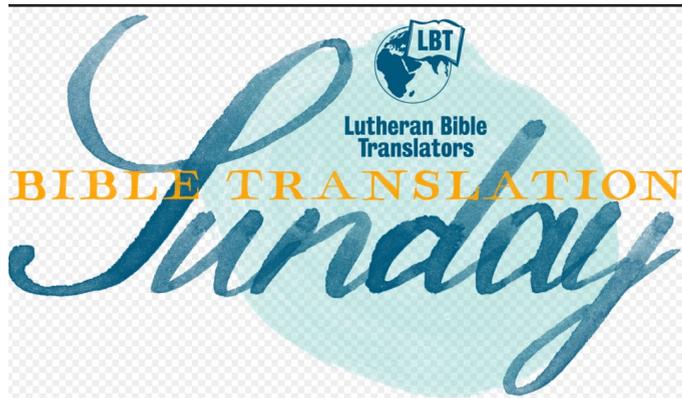
What's this you say?



It's a mobile organ pavilion in the era of a global pandemic!

Yes, it's real! Conceived by the extraordinary, spectacular, Liberace of the organ, the one and only, graduate of New York's famed Juilliard and only organist ever nominated for a Grammy, Cameron Carpenter. He sets the bar high. The mobile organ is used in and around German cities, to entertain everyone under quarantine especially those in nursing homes & hospitals.

-James Hing



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

**Rob & Eshinee Veith
Will join us via Zoom**

What would our congregations look like without God's Word? How can you involve your congregation in Bible translation? Bible Translation Sunday is a time to join congregations across the world in this life-changing mission. This year, we will be joined on Bible Translation Sunday by Rob and Eshinee Veith of Lutheran Bible Translators. Bethlehem's Mary and Martha Society has been a ministry partner with the Veiths since 2006.

Rob and Eshinee Veith have served with Lutheran Bible Translators since 2004. Rob assists in the development of print and non-print materials used for encouraging more indigenous forms of worship, evangelism, and discipleship. He also does audio recordings of translated Scripture for local use in oral preference language communities and for distribution in digital media. Since 2006, he has assisted with the development of Scripture and worship materials in 14 languages in six countries. Eshinee was a linguist and exegete for the Wayeyi Bible Translation Project in Botswana from its formation in 2011 until the Veiths returned to the US in 2017. At that time, she became the training coordinator for all of Lutheran Bible Translators global work, identifying and implementing training needs for missionaries, international partners, and office staff.

The link to our LBT ministry page:
<https://lbt.org/project/eshinee-rob-veith/>



Rob & Eshinee Veith



Ron Muller 2018 photo

SEPTEMBER'S PERSON IN THE CHOIR RON MULLER

Ron has been at Bethlehem his entire life. Baptized at 1 month old by Pastor Luttmann in 1971 and confirmed by Pastor Grauer in 1985, he is the third generation of his family to worship with us. His parents, Gerhard and Sabine, are members, as were his maternal grandparents Wilhelm & Erika Heisinger.

His earliest memories of church were the Christmas Eve services when he stayed up for the 11 pm Candle Light Service. He would then spend Christmas Eve at grandma's house where they would have to sing carols before being allowed to open presents. He remembers singing in the Sunday School Christmas programs.

His enjoyment of singing continued through middle school but in high school he opted for computer science classes as electives instead of choir. While attending Lutheran Laymen League conventions, he noticed that he could always hear a very loud singer, Art Frietag, and it encouraged him to sing louder. Someone asked him to join our choir, and he has been part of choir whenever his work schedule allows.

Ron feels that music is important. Hymns bring back a lot of memories. "There are some songs I can't get through without crying."



Ron Muller (3rd from left) and family sing at Wil & Erika Heisinger's 50th anniversary celebration in 1991, in Bethlehem's social hall. Left to right are Hans (Willi) Heisinger, Jesse Suko, Ron, Sabine, Gerhard, Joseph, Linda, Rachel, Jacob and Hans Heisinger, Pamela Suko, and brother John Muller.

He was also part of our hand bell choir. “It was a lot of work and a lot of fun too. It was a good workout.” Nowadays he gets his workouts by walking. His goal is at least 10,000 steps a day. In good weather, he walks to his parent’s home, 4 miles round trip.

While he appreciates a wide variety of musical genres, his personal favorite is 70’s rock, like Queen and The Who. He has also attended several Broadway shows and plays in London. His all time favorite production is Billy Elliott.

Ron is also quite the world traveler. Besides several trips to London, he’s been to New York multiple times, Italy twice, and he participated in a Lutheran Hour tour to China. A highlight of that trip was visiting the Lutheran Church in Hong Kong that is part of our LCMS Northwest District.

He is active in not only choir but in every other part of church. He’s been a member of every council board, performed the duties of every elected officer position, provides support for almost every social event, participates in almost every fundraising event, and works in the kitchen on pancake Tuesdays and Ladies’ lunches. He operates the computer up in the balcony so we can see the Bible readings each Sunday and the slide show presentations on the sanctuary screen. We are blessed to have Ron be part of our church family.



Young Ron composing on a typewriter while sister Bea plays piano. Possibly a sign that he was destined for a career in computers.

Call Team Update

By Joel Jackman

Why do congregations exist? What is their purpose?

Generally speaking, any congregation will:

- Be a place for people to support one another in their spiritual growth;
- Take the Gospel to people who don't already know it;
- Serve the needs of others in their community and beyond.

Generally, that's the purpose of any congregation. But in carrying out this basic purpose, each congregation has a unique set of circumstances that define how it carries out its ministry; every congregation has a unique role to play in God's plan, and it's a role that evolves as God reveals new opportunities.

God provides all the resources a congregation needs in order to carry out His plan. Consider Bethlehem. Almost 80 years ago His Spirit moved a group of people to come together to begin our congregation. He provided locations for us to gather, from a feed store to a small church on Sunset, and eventually to our current church on Monroe – a big step which many at the time thought we could not afford. He provided! And then He provided several acres of land, some of which is being used by Bethesda, and the rest is waiting for a purpose yet to be identified. He has given us pastors and lay people gifted with skills and talents to carry out our ministry.

Over the years, the world has changed, the needs of our community have changed, and the make-up of our membership has changed. We still have a unique role to play in God's plan; however, it may look different than it did in the past.

This is important to keep in mind as we call our next pastor. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be working with him as partners to discern how Bethlehem's ministry is evolving to adapt to our unique circumstances. This will be an important topic of discussion as we interview pastoral candidates.

As our Call Team prepares for these interviews, it will be important for you, our members, to be engaged in the process as well. Our President, Carl Stockamp, and the Council recently sent you a letter addressing where we are at this point in our church's history. And you received a set of seven questions to consider and discuss with your elder. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, your clear, honest and direct input will help our leaders and Call Team to prepare for interviews with pastoral candidates.

One job of a pastor is to equip the laity to carry out the congregation's unique ministry. With your input, we plan to share with candidates some realistic examples of things our members would like to do to enhance our ministry, say, over the next 5 years. There might be some limitations too; we might not be able to do all the things we did in the past. We plan to discuss some ideas on how to make use of our vacant property to more fully serve God's plan. And before placing a call, we will need to be confident in the level of financial support we can offer a pastor and his family. As we carry out HIS congregation's unique purpose, we confidently pray that God will continue to bless us and provide the people and resources that will be needed.

Thanks in advance for your input.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- ▶ **Bring in metal nail clippers** so we can finish the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Now through October.
- ▶ **Donate new backpack** or school supplies to Vision House. Go to website visionhouse.org and click on Ways to Give on how to use Amazon for contactless shopping & delivery.
- ▶ **Bring in your clothing** & other soft good donations to the church for our clothing drive. Date of pickup to be determined.
- ▶ **Complete your 2020 Census** either online, on the phone, in the mail or in person when a census worker knocks on your door. Accurate numbers translates to \$ funding for the community.
- ▶ **Make face masks** & give them to friends. Lutheran World Relief would like at least 75,000 more masks by October 1. lwr.org/masks
- ▶ **Walk or ride a bike** September 1-15. Send your total number of miles to the office by Sept 16. Mary Martha will convert your miles to dollars for their September Mite Donation. The money will help local organizations and places around the world. No expense to you; Mary Martha dollars will make the mite donation.
- ▶ **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** for members and friends who aren't yet Christians.
- ▶ **Contribute to Lutheran Bible Translators.** They will be speaking to us on Sunday, September 27.
- ▶ **BUY QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS.** They will be available in the office September 8. Drawing will be held in November. Dollars raised go to the various charities supported by Mary Martha Society.



Get your appointment set up for Tuesday, September 15 by calling 1-888-653-6441 or online at lifelinescreening.com/

Five vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. Health screenings will be in our social hall.

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



A familiar sight! The front yard and tall cross of Bethlehem and our altar with the eternal candle on the left, the Christus Rex on the rock wall, and a banner hanging on the right. James Hing combined Peggy Hanson's outdoor shot with Dielda's indoor photo for this slide so we can see our building at the start of each Zoom service on Sunday mornings.



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