

July
2022

Bethlehem Star



Guest Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman • James Hing, Organist

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR ZIMMERMAN: AS WE BEGIN OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER JULY 2022

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Jeremiah 29:11: ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope."***

As the members of Bethlehem and I start this July 2022 pastor-parishioner journey, it is my prayer, hope and commitment to be as straight-forward and no nonsense about the opportunities and challenges we face, as a congregation and as individual followers of Jesus Christ. I am old enough to know that what I thought I knew at 19 turned out to be some knowledge but lacking the wisdom that comes from experiencing the good and bad of daily life for close to 70 years. Some of you have lived longer and some shorter than have I BUT we are all still here, still breathing, still gathering, still dreaming, hoping and praying. Ultimately, how we choose to engage with daily life will differ for each of us BUT there is ONE who is the PROVIDER of our deepest need: to love and be loved.

I would not even dare to think that I could fully understand where each and everyone of the members of Bethlehem are in their relationship to God through Jesus Christ and even toward one another. The world we live in is incredibly complex and the control we thought we exerted in our lives and the lives of others sooner or later comes back to remind us, often quite unexpectedly, how little we control anything. Ask anyone who has many years of living under their belt and some will acknowledge they are thankful and blessed to have walked upon the face of this incredible planet and hope for future days to come, while others ask: "Why am I still here?"

Continued from first page

What do I have to offer anyone at my age?"

I trust most of us would agree that this a remarkably intriguing and adventuresome world. It would be even better IF it weren't for the people who refuse to let us control them or for those of us who refuse to let others control us. IF people just did what we said they should do, life would be great. NOT REALLY!

And so the dance of a broken humanity continues day in and day out.

God's beautifully created world had become a broken world. That is why Jesus Christ was born. He lived, suffered, died and, thankfully rose from the dead to offer us hope. As long as our identity is in HIM, we can celebrate daily life, even while we live in damaged relationships with others and especially after we walk away from the gravesite of a loved one we just buried. That is where the rubber meets the road.

I will do my best to study God's Word and bring you a very clear message, week after week BUT I ask for you to demonstrate God's Amazing Grace by not expecting perfect sermons (whatever that means) from a charismatic, dynamic, professionally polished preacher (which I am not). But I am committed to guide all of us to celebrate the love of God. My goal is for all of us together, at the foot of the Cross, at the Altar and at the Baptismal Font to encounter the LOVE of God through the Means of Grace in a meaningful way.

It's **not** about

- your personality
- or my personality,
- your worship style or mine (yes, I can chant and I typically wear vestments but I can also easily wear blue jeans and tennis shoes)
- or which hymns you like
- or which music I prefer.
- It is not about you
- or the Rev. Dr. David-Paul Zimmerman

but **it is** about the TRUTH of JESUS CHRIST. IF we stay focused on Him and Him alone, then our time together in worship will be fun! Yes, I said FUN! Maybe that can be our first relationship challenge: Can LCMS Lutherans have FUN Worship! Cajun Lutherans do! I'll leave it at that.

Blessings and Peace,
David-Paul



July



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

David & Halley Gentil
July 23, 2011 11 years

Earl & Nancy Rogers
July 26, 1975 47 years

Ryan Feltmann	July 1
Debbie Porter	July 5
Juanita Reynolds	July 7
Sharon Buechler	July 15
Gary Hanno	July 15
Cindy Blair	July 16
Aaron Begalka	July 18
Sara McNeal	July 19
Norman Hudson	July 22
Jackie TeGantvoort	July 22
Ruth Ann Shimoi	July 24
Jim Buechler	July 25
Anna Wolf	July 26
Jenny Iles	July 28

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

Sharon enthusiastically celebrates
7 decades this month!



Sara is a whole handful on July 19

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

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

Norman turns 6 years old.

Our little Anna will be 7 years old on
July 26. Wow, that was fast!

Mardelle Hammond will be spending the summer at her son, Steve's, home in eastern Washington. She thanks everyone for their prayers, calls and cards. She has the same cell phone number. Mardelle's summer address is

205 Fairway Place SW
Desert Aire, WA 99349



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

**Those living & working in our AbleLight home.
People impacted by the war in Ukraine including
our brothers & sisters in the Moldovan Church.**

Sharon Buechler

Harold Carlson

Jesse Hack

Mardelle Hammond

Jeanne-K Hughes

Joel & Karen Jackman

Glen Koppelman

Hannelore Payne

Ruth Schroeder

Michael Bumpus

Frank & Betty Downing

Marcy Hall

Gary & Kaye Hanno

Mark Humphrey

Joanne Jordanger

Andrea Mangold

Debbie Porter

Bev West



Carolyn Hough

Jenny Iles

Donna Kahn

Bob Pankow

Linda Sheets

David Willett

Brent & Karen Begalka's friend Regina S

**Jim & Sharon Buechler his sister JoAnn, her brother James, his cousins Milton & Jerome,
his cousin John, her cousin Wendy**

Gretchen Engum's brother-in-law Joel

Cathy Frank's nephew Gerard

Jesse Hack's dad Don

Mardelle Hammond's sister-in-law Barbara

Chene' Holcomb and her mom Jocelyn

Curtis Holcomb's friends Wayne H and Crystal

Jeanne-K Hughes' sister Dawna, friend Angie

**LuAnne Humphrey's cousin Brenda & husband Chris, friends Chris, David B, John C, Joyce
& Max**

Gene & Donna Kahn her sister Carol

Don & Diolda Kuhlmann her sister Brenda & friends Lynn & Dan

Pete & Hannelore Maas' friend Bill

**Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives Rolf & Elvi, June, Johanna & Susanna,
son Patrick, brother Frank, friend Marge**

Debbie Porter's friend Ada

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

Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman's daughter, Michelle.

Pastor Douglas & Carol Iben's daughter, Becky.

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

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

Wanda Brooks, Betty Cowan, Gretchen Engum, Emma Humphrey, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Sabine Muller, Jean Shaw, and David Willett.

OUR SISTER IN CHRIST

Kathy Zable passed away 18 months ago. Her Memorial Service will be held Saturday, July 9 at 11 am, officiated by Pastor Gene Baade.

Kathy and her family joined Bethlehem in 1983. She felt God led her to this church. We were blessed to have her with us for 37 years. Kathy assisted with the preschool program for 12 years, sang in the choir, volunteered with the Vacation Bible School every summer, served on the Stewardship and Mission Boards, and helped with landscaping projects. She was also very active with our LWML Mary Martha Society and with our social events.



KATHY ZABLE
April 25, 1943

December 22, 2020

She married Gale on September 8, 1962. He passed away on June 7, 2004. They raised four Children: Margo, twins James & John, and Kim. John built the brick planter for the sign in the front yard and James made the podium that is now used in the narthex. James died in 2006. Margo and Kim were with Kathy when she was removed from life support while her favorite song "In the Garden" was being played. John was with them via video. Kathy died of complications due to COVID. She was 77 years old.

Kathy was a loving part of Bethlehem. The joy she had bubbled out in her interactions with people. She is missed. You are invited to her Service on July 9 at Bethlehem. You may attend in person or via Zoom. Lunch will be served afterwards in the social hall and will feature foods that are near and dear to the family's heart.



MARK H is asking for help. He has surgery scheduled in mid-August and will need to rehab for 2 weeks. If anyone is available to help him feed his 2 dogs and chickens, and help with the garden, he would really appreciate it. Also, if you have a ground-level room available for him, with NO STAIRS, please talk to Mark.

The office has his contact information.





LANDSCAPERS

In late spring, our Landscapers trimmed the Japanese Maple, deadheaded the daisies and photographed 2 deer that visited our yard.



Photo credits: Hannelore & Pete Maas

On the first day of summer, the team pruned the rhodies & azaleas, weeded by the parking lot, trimmed the maple tree by the front door, mowed and picked up grass, installed 2 posts by the driveway equipped with warning lights, cut big branches on trees in the upper fields, and Cleaned the parking lot.

Whew!

After all that work, the group enjoyed a rhubarb/strawberry crisp with whipping cream, coffee and lemonade, on the warm and sunny day.



In the bottom photo are Pete Maas, Dick & Ellen Taylor, Cathy Frank, Karen Marsyla, Karen Fritsvold, Curtis Holcomb, and Hannelore Maas. It was taken by Marjie Boydston.

Today, what is God whispering for you to do?

Last month I started discussing the 'Bethlehem Gets Real' series we had. But before I start, go and read the title again. What am I referring to? What is God whispering for you to do?

In the discussions, the team identified seven (7) most important areas to focus on.

Conduct Sunday Services – all who are currently doing this
(Pastor, elders, tech team, secretary, musician, custodian)

Pay the bills and properly account for all the money – Treasurer

Obtain a Pastor. Pastor Hulvey is our circuit visitor.

VOLUNTEERS—Sharon Buechler, Marcy Hall, Kathy Logan, Ruth Ann Shimoi, Ellen Taylor

Missions VOLUNTEERS – Karen Begalka, Art Wolf, Amber Wolf

Maintain Facilities

VOLUNTEERS FOR YARD—Hannelore Maas, Pete Maas, Karen Marsyla,
Dick Taylor

VOLUNTEER FOR INTERIOR – Pete Maas

Elders. More than just a Sunday worship person. Need someone to tend to members.

VOLUNTEERS – Dick Taylor, Cathy Wooden

Property Utilization. Discern God's call for our property

VOLUNTEERS – Marjie Boydston, Curtis Holcomb, Don Kuhlmann

Accomplishing these actions will be a challenge for sure but they are vital. I can report that five of the seven are in process, and the teams are meeting. I asked each group to share when they have met and who their leader is, what their written goal statement is, the steps they plan to use to accomplish the goal, and the communication plan to keep everyone at Bethlehem informed about what they are doing.

I expect there will be some discussion from the teams at the July Voters' meeting.

God is whispering to each of us the work He wants us to do at this time of our life to promote His kingdom with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

God Bless – Don Kuhlmann, Congregational President

INTRODUCING DAVID-PAUL ZIMMERMAN

Our July Pastor

Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman traces his Lutheran roots back to a 1540 baptism entry in a congregation in Bern, Switzerland. His wife, Gloria (Merz) traces her Lutheran roots back to the same city and timeframe. He was born on Kodiak Island, Alaska in 1953 to a Louisiana Cajun father and mother, who stationed there for his Navy military duty. Pastor was raised in a huge Southwest Louisiana family, as a devout Roman Catholic surrounded by faithful and fun loving Cajuns. He cooks a mean chicken-sausage gumbo.

Pastor left Louisiana at age 14 to attend a private academy in Virginia, and upon graduation entered the US Navy, serving in the nuclear submarine force and with the US Marine Corps during the Viet Nam War Era. The Marines is where he grew up and learned how to accomplish any given mission come "hell or high water". This training served him well in helping to accomplish the mission entrusted into his care working offshore in oil rig fabrication in the Gulf of Mexico, and later in his family's care as ministry leaders in Amazing Grace's congregation and school ministry.

He met Gloria in 1980, while they both worked as therapists in a locked facility for suicidal children. It was Gloria, who is always ready to introduce people to the Gospel and to the LCMS that introduced David-Paul to the theology that would change his life. Pastor joined Amazing Grace, Seattle in 1981 as a new member, the same year he and Gloria were married. In 1984, with 2 small babies, they moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana so he could attend Concordia Seminary. In 1988, he received and accepted the call to serve as pastor in his home congregation of Amazing Grace, which he is still serving 34 years later, now as its vacancy pastor. He, Gloria (an LCMS Commissioned Minister) and their daughter, Michelle have worked side by side in the Lutheran school started by Gloria's mother in the 1960's. He retired in 2019 but continues to serve Amazing Grace as the Chief Operations Officer of the congregation's globally recognized K-Prep-10th grade: Renton Preparatory Christian School: Microsoft Showcase School.

Their son, Matthew is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and is presently stationed as a Command Pilot at Joint Base Andrews flying some of our country's top military officers, is married to Megan, a pediatric oncologist, and their daughter, Eliana is turning 1 this month.

Their daughter, Dr. Michelle Zimmerman is a globally recognized Artificial Intelligence expert, world traveler, author, noted researcher, global speaker and Executive Director of Renton Prep. She earned her Ph.D. from the

University of Washington, Department of Education. Michelle has been fully disabled since March 14, 2021 having been required to be vaccinated to keep her teaching career. She had immediate adverse reaction to a contaminated vial of Johnson and Johnson vaccine resulting in traumatic brain injury and is in daily therapy trying to regain her health.

Pastor Zimmerman looks forward to sharing Sunday worship with Bethlehem in July and hopes the congregation likes to be blessed with laughter, joy and thankfulness. He intends to bring messages from God's word that reassure Bethlehem that they, as a congregation and as individuals, are deeply loved and appreciated by God. God has graciously called us HIS sons and daughters while the world calls us other names. Who do we listen to?

July messages will focus on our reimagining and restoring our Biblical Identity in Christ which allows us to openly and enthusiastically engage change as inevitable: BUT it's our choice to experience change as an opportunity or a curse! It will be a fast-paced, thought-provoking and hopefully joyful journey into evaluating God's Word in light of daily congregational and personal challenges.

Blessings

Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman

We are blessed to have Pastor Zimmerman lead us in worship services this month. On July 24, he will also be our Mission Speaker, sharing information about Renton Preparatory Christian School, an organization that we prayerfully and financially support. Welcome to Bethlehem!



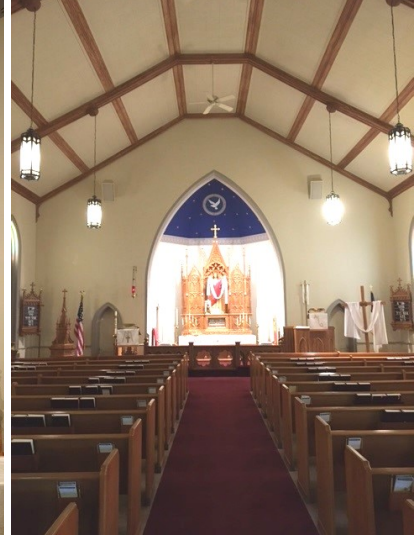
IT'S SUMMER—A GARDEN REMINDER

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another



CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

There are 20 churches in Ottawa, Illinois. Their population is 18,800. **Dick & Ellen Taylor** toured through the town in May. Here are some of the photos they took. They noted that many of the buildings are huge.



Above are 3 pictures of Zion Lutheran LCMS, where they had a great visit with the Pastor and secretary. Zion offers Saturday evening & Sunday morning worship services.



First United Methodist, Ottawa Illinois has 4 impressive spires.



Church of St Patrick, Ottawa IL. Their website shows they have 15 lit Christmas trees in their sanctuary in December!



First Congregational United Church, Ottawa Illinois



Christ Episcopal, Ottawa Illinois



A church not made of brick or stone, and with a blue door in Ottawa, Illinois



Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church Ottawa, Illinois was founded in 1938.



Dick spotted this 7 foot tall banner posted on the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois.



Jim & Sharon Buechler share this photo of the Anacortes Lutheran Church. It's the church that daughter Tammy and her family attend. Grandson Ezekiel goes to their Pre-School.

If you visit a church during your travels this summer, you can submit a photo and favorite memory of it to Dielda, newsletter editor.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Battle Hymn of the Republic **November 19, 1861**

Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Psalm 24:8

After the September 11, 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, a national service of prayer and remembrance was conducted at Washington's National Cathedral. America's most powerful leaders prayed together, listened to brief sermons by evangelist Billy Graham and others, then joined voices to sing the defiant anthem, "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Its words seemed to perfectly signal America's intention to battle the forces of terror in the world.



Julia Ward Howe
1819 New York
—
1910 Rhode Island

"Battle Hymn of the Republic" was written by Julia Ward Howe, a leader in women's rights and an ardent foe of slavery. Julia, who came from a wealthy New York family, was married to prominent Boston philanthropist and humanitarian, Dr. S. G. Howe. They were both crusaders for progressive political and moral issues of the day.

In 1861, during the darkest days of the Civil War, the Howes visited Washington, and Julia toured a nearby Union Army Camp on the Potomac in Virginia. There she heard soldiers singing a tribute to John Brown, who had been hanged in 1859 for attempting to lead an insurrection of slaves at Harper's Ferry: "John Brown's Body Lies a-mold'ring in the Grave." The music was rousing, but the words needed improvement. Julia's pastor, who accompanied her, asked her to consider writing new and better verses. That night, after the Howes retired to their room at the Willard Hotel, the words came.

I went to bed and slept as usual, but awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately. I searched for an old sheet of paper and an old stub of a pen which I had had the night before, and began to scrawl the lines almost without looking, as I learned to do by often scratching down verses in the darkened room when my little children were sleeping. Having completed this, I lay down again and

fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me.

Julia gave her song to a friend who worked at *The Atlantic Monthly*. The magazine published it in February 1862, sending her a check for five dollars.

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.**

**Refrain:
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.**

**I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on. [Refrain]**


**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]**

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make us holy, let us die that all be free!
While God is marching on. [Refrain]**

This patriotic song quickly became one of the most popular songs of the Union during the Civil War. It is not in our Lutheran Service Book but it is published in 520 hymnals.

Julia had a deeply religious and philosophical spirit and great passion for social justice. In the 1800's, many of her ideas on abolition, woman's suffrage, education, prison reform, & world peace were considered very progressive. She was well-educated, and spoke 7 languages! Her fame and wealth allowed her to travel the world and lecture on these topics. She married and raised 6 children. She wrote poetry, essays, and books. At her funeral, 4,000 people sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as a sign of respect.

Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman, Dielda Kuhlmann. Sources: Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan, hymnary.org, Wikipedia.com, juliawardhowe.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.			
3 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman HOLY COMMUNION *Walking with Jesus begins	4  Office Closed 7 pm New Purpose	5 9:30 am Board Chairpeople & ORG 11 am Board of Ed TBD Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	6 Office Clos
10 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman 1pm Council Mtg Zoom only	11 7 pm New Purpose	12 9 am ORG TEAM via Zoom	13 Office Clk
17 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman HOLY COMMUNION ~11:20 VOTERS' Mtg Hybrid	18 7 pm New Purpose	19 LifeLine Screening in Social Hall— appointment needed	20 Office Cl
24 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman Mission Speaker: Renton Prep NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25 7 pm New Purpose	26	27 Office Cl
31 10 Hybrid Worship Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman HOLY COMMUNION			

*Page 16 provides details on the summer opportunity to follow in Jesus' footsteps, an informal Bible study/devotion/walking program. The kick off to it is July 3.

JULY 2022

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2
Closed	7 6:30 pm Missions—Zoom 7 pm New Purpose	8 July 8-10 LWML District Convention, Wenatchee	9 11 am Kathy Zable Memorial Service and luncheon Pastor Baade HYBRID
Church Closed	14 7 pm New Purpose	15	16 3 pm Matinee probably Yankee Doodle Dandy via Zoom
Church Closed	21 Bring bags of Soft Goods Upstairs-Volunteers needed 7 pm New Purpose	22	23 Load vehicles with soft goods. Need volunteers to load at church; unload at 10:30am in Tukwila
Church Closed	28 7 pm New Purpose	29	30

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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[blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org](mailto: blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org) 425-255-9772

www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org



WALKING WHERE JESUS WALKED

**Do you want to
Learn more about Jesus & His Ministry near Galilee
AND
Get some Physical Exercise this summer?**

Then, read on!

Participants: Open to all (member or not, young or not)

Time: July through September

Place: Wherever you are. You can walk, ride a bicycle, use a treadmill, swim, paddle a kayak, even ride a donkey or a horse!

Material: Study/Devotional guide will be provided. A Bible will provide more insights.

Goal: Walk in prayer: pray for the beauty around you, the neighborhood, the businesses, total strangers.

Share: Tell us what you discover each week. What ideas are sparked as you read and walk intentionally? Did you gain a new insight? Keep track of your miles walked as we move from village to village in the Study Guide.

You can participate in this adventure at your own pace. If your opportunity for exercise is to move from the living room into the kitchen, that's perfectly fine. Each step you take, God is with you.

This is not your traditional format for a Bible study; there are no weekly meetings. This is not a contest or a race; this is a journey for you to do independently or with friends. Periodically throughout the summer, you will be given information about where Jesus walked and what He said. A map will be available for you to see where these places are.

Jesus' ministry lasted for 3 years, and it's estimated he walked 3,125 miles during those 3 years, and performed 37 miracles that we are aware of. Countless number of people heard His message. How many lives did He touch? This Walk with Jesus is 3 months long. You can travel as many miles as you choose. The number of lives you touch this summer is up to you.

Follow in Jesus' footsteps this summer.

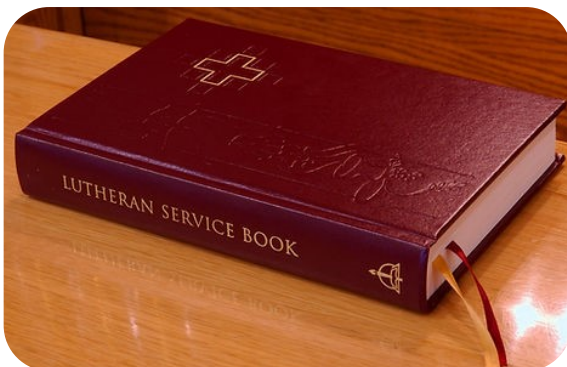
The first Study Guide should be handed out and emailed on July 3rd. Any questions, contact Ruth Ann Shimoi or Dielda Kuhlmann.

MEN WELL TREATED



Curtis Holcomb photographed with his Dad's Root Beer and pie. Karen Jackman & Ellen Taylor on the right. Photo by Amber Wolf.

The men who attended church in the building on Father's day were treated to a bottle of Dad's Root Beer, an individual-sized pie and a thoughtful message tied together with a blue ribbon. The pandemic has never stopped the ladies from honoring our men every Father's Day.



ARE WE THERE YET?

Not quite! Attendees are aware that we have a goal of singing every hymn in the Lutheran Service Book. James reports we are on target for accomplishing this goal in early 2023. While many worshippers have their traditional favorite hymns, some have discovered that unfamiliar lyrics also have powerful messages in them.



Liberty and Freedom in the Bible

Match the letters to the numbers to show which references go with the Bible passages.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ___1. If you abide in my word... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. | a. Leviticus 25:10a |
| ___2. And you, having been set free from sin, are now slaves of righteousness. | b. Isaiah 61:1 |
| ___3. For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. | c. John 8:31b-32 |
| ___4. And you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. | d. Romans 6:18 |
| ___5. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captives. | e. 2 Corinthians 3:17 |
| ___6. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. | f. Galatians 5:1 |
| ___7. Look into the perfect law of liberty, persevere, not being hearers only who forget, but a doer of the Word who acts and you will be blessed. | g. James 1:25 |

Answers on page 27

MOVIE MATINEE



The July 16 matinee will likely be Yankee Doodle Dandy, a 1942 musical starring James Cagney based on the life of George M Cohan. Zoom invitation will be sent out later in the month.

What patriotic movie do you like to watch? Members of our movie club offer these recommendations, ranging from musicals to action and war films. Some patriotic musical suggestions are Stars and Stripes Forever based on the life of John Phillip Sousa, 1776 about the creation of the Declaration of Independence, and Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton with its modern singing style. Some of us feel that Top Gun is a must see for action lovers. Sci-fi fans would probably enjoy Independence Day. Glory is an excellent movie about black soldiers in the Civil War and stars Denzel Washington. Paths to Glory is set in WWI and stars Kirk Douglas. Saving Private Ryan is based on a true story during WWII and stars Tom Hanks.

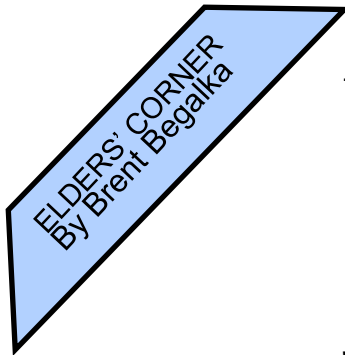
And as one movie aficionado reminds us, patriotic does not have to be an expression of military might. NASA related films like Apollo 13 and The Right Stuff and Hidden Figures are worth watching. Sports fans consider Disney's Miracle about the USA hockey victory and the baseball movie A League of Their Own as patriotic. Other significant US historical events are portrayed in Harriet (filmed in 2019) and Selma about the civil rights movement. There are a lot of movies about our history to choose from.

June's movie was Father Goose starring Cary Grant. It received a thumbs up from all the attendees!

Our Mission Statement

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
will **encourage** and **inspire** our brothers and sisters by prayer and service.

By the grace of God,
we will **reach** out with God's Word and **show** love and fellowship to all.



A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

This month America will celebrate its 246th birthday. We usually sing at least one patriotic hymn this month. We have three of them in our present hymnal:

"Lift Every Voice and Sing,"
"God Bless Our Native Land," and
"Before You, Lord, We Bow."

None of our hymnals in the past have included "America the Beautiful," although we may have sung it when it was printed in the bulletin.

Did you know that the second half of each stanza in this hymn is a prayer? The first stanza prays,

"America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!"

I think all of you will agree with me that this country needs more brotherhood, not more division and hostility.

The second stanza prays,

"God mend thy every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law!"

Our liberty is not limitless, but must be subject to the laws that guarantee liberty and justice for every one.

The third stanza prays,

"May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness
and every gain divine!"

America has not always been true to its ideals, but when you look at its progress in civil rights in the last 246 years, you will see a gradual improvement. But we still have a long way to go.

The fourth stanza has the same prayer as the first.

As Christians, we have another kind of freedom. Jesus promises us in John 8: 31 and 32, ***"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."***

Reflections on the 2022 LCMS Northwest District Convention

By Curtis Holcomb



Curtis Holcomb and Ruth Ann Shimoï enjoyed 3 days of worship, fellowship and business at the Northwest District Convention in Portland, Oregon. this past June. The theme of the convention was "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". (Hebrews 13:8)

The convention was opened with a welcome by President Paul Linnemann. Election of officers followed with Rev. Linnemann being re-elected to serve another term as well as election of six Vice Presidents, a secretary and members to the Board of Directors & District committees. You can view the slate of elected officials at the district website nowlcms.org/resources#679 and click on [2022 NOW District Convention Election Results](#).

Our Keynote speaker for the three days was David Kinnaman, owner and CEO of the Barna Group. The Barna Group works mainly with churches across the U.S. conducting research and surveys on many topics which are currently confronting all of us. An example he presented to us was where and how the younger generation access and uses information i.e., the internet and social media. A very poignant thought he brought up, based on Mark 7:8 **"Do we love our traditions more than our children or more than spreading the Gospel"**. Another example of their research showed us was that approximately 45% of pastors in the 25 to 45 age range considered leaving the ministry. A lot of his data was disheartening when you see it in numbers and graphs, however not all of it is doom and gloom. He mentioned that a good percentage of the younger generation want to know the gospel, we just have to change the way we deliver it. We have to change our traditional way of spreading the Gospel.

Friday morning began with a wonderful Divine Service 1 worship service. The basic theme of all the readings involved some form of water. The sermon

Convention from Curtis —continued from previous page

was given by Rev. Dr. Scott Murray, the Third Vice President of LCMS. The highlight of the service, at least for me, was a dramatic presentation of the Old Testament reading from Exodus which was given by Rev. Michael Von Behren, District First Vice Pres. He pantomimed the story of Moses and the Red Sea. Friday evening ended with a remembrance video for Concordia Univ. Portland which included pictures, video and personal testimonies celebrating the 115 years of the school.

The majority of Friday and Saturday involved various presentations and floor committee work. The floor committee work involved the reading of, amending to and voting on the resolutions which will be presented at the LCMS convention in 2023. A sampling of the approximately 13 resolutions which were voted on to send to LCMS Conv. are:

- To support Lutheran Latino Ministries
- To consider the use of Deacons in Word and Sacrament Ministry
- To increase opportunities to train General Ordained Ministers by distance education
- To encourage district staff and boards to include ethnic representation
- To identify and support regionally unique ministry opportunities
- To delay the process of restructuring the Concordia university system

I was initially hesitant to attend the convention never having attended anything like it before. So, through prayer and the help of Ruth Ann, who by the way I think knew most of the people there, it was an educational and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

May 2022 Treasurer's Report (42% of the year done)

Total Income	\$59,673.27	(35% of budget)
Total Expense	<u>\$32,424.93</u>	(19% of budget)
Difference	\$27,248.34	

Total Assets \$106,039.60

Total Equity \$ 59,919.80 (Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer

Fourth of July Word Scramble

Unscramble the words, then use the letters in (parentheses) to write out the scrambled secret message.

ASTSET	_ _ (_) _ (_) _
ENDDEEEPNICN	_ _ _ (_) _ _ _ _ _ _ (_)
DEARAP	_ (_) _ (_) _ _
LUEB	_ (_) (_) (_)
TENIUD	_ (_) _ _ _ (_)
TWEHI	_ _ _ (_) _
AEQTIULY	_ (_) _ (_) _ _ _ _
ERIRFKWOS	_ _ _ _ _ _ (_) _ _
ARLANCDITEO	_ _ (_) (_) _ _ _ _ _ _
FDREOME	_ _ (_) _ _ _ (_)
DER	(_) _ _
ILBEYTR	(_) _ _ _ _ _

Secret Message:

Answers:

ST(A)T(E)S, IND(E)PENDENCE, P(A)R(A)DE, B(L)(U)(E), U(N)ITE(D), WHI(T)E, E(Q)U(A)LITY,
FIREWO(R)KS, DE(C)(L)ARATION, FRE(E)DO(M), (R)ED, (L)IBERTY
ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life -- everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: ***"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."*** (Romans 12:1-2).

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful to zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13).

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching, Let us present our bodies -- everything that we have and everything that we are -- as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints -- for the church and the world.

Submitted by Karen Begalka, Stewardship Board
Source: LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

TIMBER!



Photo by Hannelore Maas



Photo by Ruth Ann Shimoi.

The cherry tree in the parsonage yard was removed in June. Photograph show Pete Maas, Curtis Holcomb, Gil Wooden, and Don Kuhlmann giving the rotted tree the ol' heave ho!



Pastor Arthur Werzner was our guest Pastor on Father's day. He set up this display to share about the work that is done at Lutheran Ministry Services NW. Their ministries serve those in jails, hospitals and care centers.

Bethlehem prayerfully and financially supports LMSNW.

Photo by Amber Wolf

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday is July 24th with guest speaker, Dr. Zimmerman from Renton Prep Christian School, an offspring of former Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, LCMS, and one of our missions. This school, in downtown Renton, equips its students with a good ethical, moral, and Christian foundation, which is so badly needed in our world today!

Dr. Zimmerman will also be our guest pastor for that Sunday. Donations for the school will be accepted at the door.



**LifeLine
Screening**
The Power of Prevention

Tuesday July 19 at Bethlehem.
You can make an appointment
for their health screening at
www.lifelinescreening.com/
or call 888-683-4067.

HELP NEEDED: The accumulation of soft goods will be taken to Value Village Saturday, July 23rd. We will be hauling them up the stairs to the back hallway on Thursday night, and will load any conveyance vehicle available on Saturday. Yes, we will need help both **Thursday night** and **Saturday morning**. Questions? Ask Ellen. Volunteers: tell Ellen.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: The US Postal Service is planning to increase the price of Forever Stamps from their current cost of 58¢ to 60¢ on July 10th.

For pastoral support while we are waiting to call an interim, please contact the office. If the office is closed, please reach out to Head Elder Dick Taylor or President Don Kuhlmann. They will start the process of finding an available pastor for your needs.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

- ▶ **SOFT GOODS.** Used clothing, towels, bedding, suitcases, shoes, backpacks, belts, etc. The more pounds we collect, the more dollars Bethlehem receives! Bring in your bags of clean items by July 22! We are loading up the trucks and delivering to Tukwila Saturday morning July 23.
- ▶ **FOOD.** We continue to collect Food for the Renton Food Bank. There's a box in the narthex.
- ▶ **USED INK CARTRIDGES** earn us discounts on our paper and ink purchases. Box is in the narthex.
- ▶ **BAZAAR** New Date **NOVEMBER 12.** Sponsored by Mary Martha. There will be vendors, crafts, gently used items, food, and chances to win an afghan made by Karen Marsyla.



Thanks to generous contributors, Team BLC In Memory of Ron raised \$890 for this year's Crop Walk. Renton donations totaled \$16,030.55.

Paper products for the women's shelter and dozens of eyeglasses will be taken to the LWML Convention this month, courtesy of folks at Bethlehem. Thank you.

RAVE for all of you who donate to the Food Bank and **EXTRA RAVE** for Bruce and Teresa Feltmann for transporting all those cans and boxes to the Food Bank each month! So far this year we have contributed 312 pounds of food items.

Answers to Bible Trivia from page 18: 1c, 2d, 3f, 4a, 5b, 6e, 7g

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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July 2022

Our Bulletin Board Team crafted a spring-themed message with butterflies based on Psalm 118.

