

October 2022



# Bethlehem Star

Guest Pastors Flath, Werzner & White • James Hing, Organist

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has been a member of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod since October 15, 1942. We celebrate 80 years this month.

**The Beginning:** According to the records in our archive, we first gathered in 1936 to worship in people's homes. See page 2 for information about our earliest times.

**80+ Years of Buildings:** We have worshipped in places prior to this building on Monroe. Page 8 has the details.

**80+ years of Memories:** We've had hundreds of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, and indoor & outdoor services. And many fellowship gatherings that included potlucks, pancakes, celebrations, and bus trips. Page 11.

**80+ years of Service:** LWML also celebrates their 80th anniversary this year. A partial list of how we've helped make the world a better place is on page 15.

**The Present:** What are we doing now? See page 16.

**The Future:** We trust that God knows what the future holds for the congregation of Bethlehem. We pray about our future. We prepare for our future.

*Continued from first page—THE BEGINNING*

*Selected journal entries of 1941:*

The work of the Lord in the neighborhood of Renton was begun in 1936 when Rev W Janssen of Trinity, Seattle, began to preach for a number of people in a store building near Kennydale. Later the Methodist Church was rented. This was continued till 1940.

Boeing had started construction of a large plant on edge of Lake Washington for the manufacture of large planes. The Pacific Car & Foundry was working around the clock.

Arrangements for the rental of the SDA Chapel on Factory and Marion was arranged for and more interested people were found. Some faces fail to return; other new ones come in.

Dec 7, 1941—Japan struck at Pearl Harbor. It will be a year of war and bloodshed. The future looks black but we carry on. Looks as tho Renton will be a real defense center.

*Selected journal entries of 1942:*

July we introduced the envelope system—result after a bit of coaching—our proceeds immediately had a marked increase. From an average of around \$55 per month to around an average of \$95 per month. The pastor was drawing \$70 per month, no parsonage.

The congregation had its first organization meeting in October. 15 men were present for the meeting as were a goodly bunch of women. Officers were elected. A potluck lunch was served at Mrs. G Johnson's.

*Journal entries of 1943:*

In the spring of 1943 a lot was purchased. The lot, 90x220, fronting on N. 10, cost \$700.

We received orders to move out of our place of worship, the SDA Chapel when we asked for permission to have daily Vacation Bible School, so we rented the Grange Hall on Burnett St above the Lande Feed Store and after a bit of renovating, we had our first services there on July 4, 1943.

Our subsidy for 1943 from Synod was \$600 for the year.

We applied for a portable chapel. The first application was refused. After spending six hours with a representative of the War Labor Board in my office one Saturday evening, he promised favorable action if at all possible. A week later news came that we had been granted a priority. Oct 17, 1943 the building committee had a basement bulldozed. Chapel arrived on truck Dec 5, 1943 at 2:00pm.



## October



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

**Hanson, Jim & Peggy**  
**October 6, 1973 49 years**

**Kuhlmann, Don & Dielda**  
**October 17, 1981 41 years**

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

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
Chene Holcomb	October 25
Marjie Boydston	October 26
Adam Brown	October 26
Cathy Frank	October 26
Mac Barger	October 27
Ezekiel Sturgul	October 27
Suzanne Adams	October 30
Amber Wolf	October 31

## MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

Mardelle is the most senior person with a September birthday. She celebrates her 93rd this month.

Karen Marsyla celebrates 8 decades on October 15.

Ezekiel is 6 this month.

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



**Jenny Iles** has a new address. Please update your directory with her new apartment number.

15048 W Young St, Apt 209  
 Surprise AZ 85374

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.**

**Jim & Sharon Buechler  
Harold Carlson  
Jesse Hack  
Mardelle Hammond  
Jeanne-K Hughes  
Joel & Karen Jackman  
Glen Koppelman  
Bob Pankow  
Juanita Reynolds  
Bev West**

**Michael Bumpus  
Frank & Betty Downing  
Marcy Hall  
Gary & Kaye Hanno  
Mark Humphrey  
Joanne Jordanger  
Pete Maas  
Hannelore Payne  
Linda Sheets  
Gil & Cathy Wooden**



**Carolyn Hough  
Jenny Iles  
Donna Kahn  
Andrea Mangold  
Debbie Porter  
Ruth Schroeder**

**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  
Cathy Frank's nephew Gerard  
Jesse Hack's dad Don  
Mardelle Hammond's sister-in-law Barbara  
Chene'e Holcomb and her mom Jocelyn  
Curtis Holcomb's friends Wayne H and Crystal  
Jeanne-K Hughes' friend Angie  
LuAnne Humphrey's cousin Brenda & husband Chris, friends Chris, David B, John C, Joyce & Max  
Gene & Donna Kahn her sister Carol  
Pete & Hannelore Maas' friend Bill  
Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives Rolf, 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.**

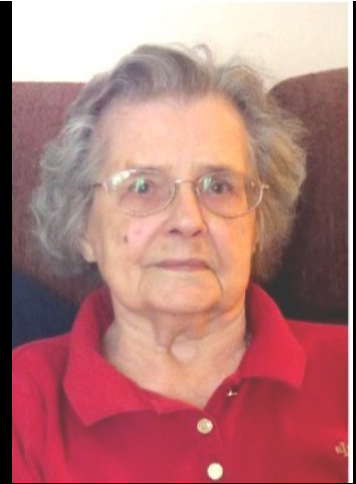
We pray for the health & safe return home of our members and relatives serving our country in the military: **Austin Kahn (Air Force), Garrett Kahn (Air Force), Ben Boykin (Army).**

We pray for peace, love, safety, and comfort to our members who can't attend church services: **Betty Cowan, Gretchen Engum, Emma Humphrey, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Jean Shaw, and David Willett.**



## ENTERED INTO GOD'S KINGDOM

Wanda Louise Brooks passed away at her home on Thursday, September 22, 2022. She was 102 years old. She and her husband, Berle, joined Bethlehem in 1959 when they moved to Renton. She has fond memories of all our pastors and appreciated that each one brought a different personality to the pulpit. Wanda marveled at the differences in the congregation members' attitudes and clothing styles over the past 63 years but always felt they had a love of God in their hearts. She appreciated the opportunity to have Holy Communion at home when it got difficult for her to get to church.



**WANDA BROOKS**

Feb 4, 1920

September 22, 2022

Wanda was born in Chicago on February 4, 1920 to Louise and Felix Zawadski. Her father had emigrated from Poland and was a tailor. When her mother died of TB 4 years later, she was placed in a Catholic-run orphanage. She remembers getting to roller skate and owning her own pair of skates. At the age of 11, she moved in with an aunt in Minnesota.

In 1937, she married Ken Johnson, a carpenter. They moved to Issaquah when the population was 611, and had 3 children. December 7, 1941 was a memorable day. As she crossed the bridge to Seattle, the radio announced that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. Ken passed away in 1949.

She married Berle on September 6, 1952 in Seattle and were together for 66 years until he passed in 2018. They had 2 children together. Wanda retired from Paccar in 1984. They enjoyed their retirement years with lots of traveling and crossing places off their 'bucket list'. Sewing and reading were her favorite hobbies, which got challenging with diminishing eyesight.

Wanda was predeceased by her husband Berle, daughter Donna, son Duane Johnson, and granddaughter Christina. She is survived by daughters JoAnn Spires, Debbie Brooks and Connie (Mike) White, 10 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 3 great-great children.

Wanda was our most senior member at Bethlehem. Her funeral service is Wednesday, October 12 at 12:30 Greenwood Memorial, 350 Monroe Ave NE, Renton.

## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



to Hannelore Payne on the passing of her cousin Elvi Elsaesser in Germany on September 18, 2022. She was 77 years old. A fond memory Hannelore has is Elvi baking Zwiebelkuchen (onion cake). Hannelore says, "We were last together in 2018. She has a special place in my heart because my aunt (her mother), Elvi, and I escaped from East Germany together in 1958."



In honor of Queen Elizabeth II, James Hing played a British prelude and postlude on September 18, the day before her funeral. The prelude was "Nimrod", an orchestral work by Sir Edward Elgar, an English composer. It was performed at Princess Diana and Prince Philip's funerals. It can invoke tears through its swelling dynamics and undulating melody, and builds slowly to an emotional climax.

The postlude was "God Save the King", which has the same melody as our "My country, 'Tis of Thee". This song was sung at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral the next day.

---

## SAFETY CHECK

Several church members attended a neighborhood seminar on Surviving Mass Violence. It was held at the SDA Church across the street and led by Renton Police Commander, Tracy Wilkinson. Many of the things he said could also help when dealing with any crisis in a public setting, such as fire, earthquake or medical emergency. Training, drills and practice is necessary in order to be able for your learned responses to override one's natural instinct of panic.

Specifically for a violent attacker, it was emphasized that lights and noises can temporarily distract the perpetrator. If you are ever in a dangerous situation, here were the options recommended:

1. **RUN** away from the danger. Get out safely, taking others with you, and then call 911.
2. **HIDE** and barricade a door if you can't escape. Stay quiet.
3. **DISARM** the aggressor and fight, using a heavy object. Keep fighting until first responders arrive.

We hope to have a Safety Talk after the service on a future Sunday. In the meantime, be sure to look around the public rooms you are in and learn the exits.

–thanks to Brent Begalka for supplying the information.



Our autumnal reader board. Thanks to Ellen Taylor & Gary Jordanger!

In our season of guest pastors, we welcomed Pastor V Roy White for his first time in our building on September 18, 2022. He graciously posed with our elders: Dick Taylor, Jim Buechler and Brent Begalka.



**RAVE** to the people who had the foresight to purchase the extra lot in our backyard in the 1980's. Over the years, it has been a welcoming spot for the neighbors to play, teach kids to ride their bikes, walk their dogs and even train their falcon! Members have benefitted from the space with games of softball, frisbee, chariot races during VBS, and fruit from the fruit trees. The lot was perfect for AbleLight (was Bethesda) to build a safe and loving home for adults with disabilities to thrive. The acreage has multiplied in value over the decades, a benefit for the future!

*The Beginning - continued from page 2*

Selected journal entries of 1944:

June 25, 1944 Dedication Day [of our chapel], after one postponement. Crowd between 200-250.

Attendance at Sunday School and service picked up, because of the convenience of location. At end of '44, enrollment in Sunday School 125, Communion 100. Our Xmas program, with about 90 children present, drew a crowd that filled the church to overflowing.

Journal entries of 1945:

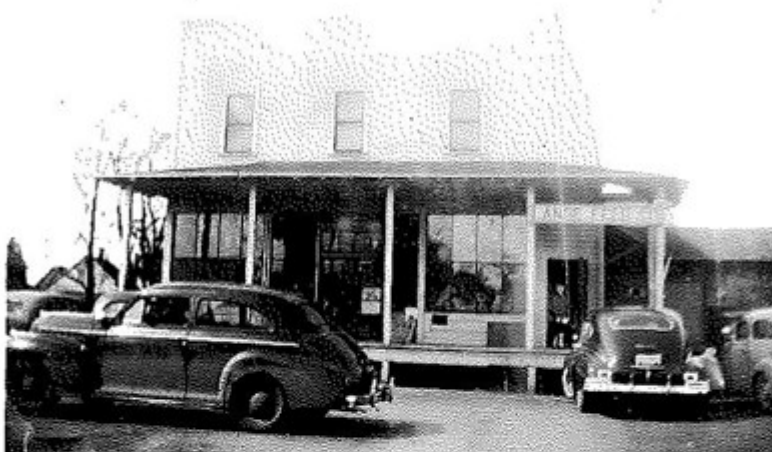
Summer school was held from July 16-22 with 159 enrolled.

On Sept 2, 1945 Rev Norbert Heins preached his last sermon in the morning and in the afternoon at a Vesper Service. The mortgage having been paid in full was burnt. After the service there was a farewell party in the basement for the Heins—Rev, Mrs and the two daughters Arlene & Priscilla. A small cash gift was given to the pastor. The pastor and wife presented a set of offering plates, made of myrtlewood to the congregation. Next Sunday, Sept 9, Rev Weert Janssen is to be installed.

---

**OUR BUILDINGS** *(from page 1)*

God's message to us has been preached from parishioners' homes, Art Berend's store in Kennydale, a Methodist Church, a Seventh Day Adventist Church on Factory & Marion, the Grange Hall on Burnett above a feed store, a WWII surplus pre-fab building transported to Sunset & 10th and converted into a church, and our current building on Monroe Ave.



Lande Feed Store and  
Grange Hall  
1943

*Continued on next page*

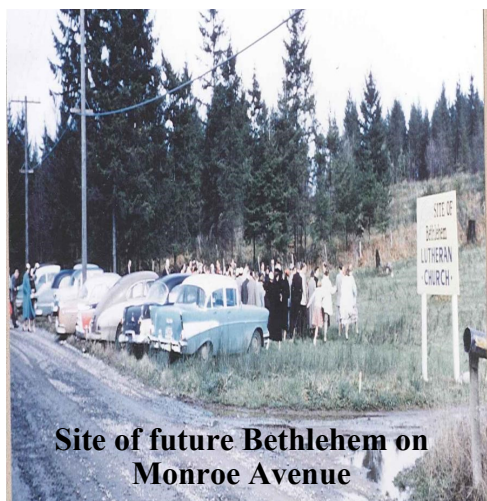


*Our Buildings - from previous page*

Many of our current members remember worshipping in the 'old white chapel' on Sunset. It was built from Oct 17, 1943 to June 25, 1944 which was much longer than anyone anticipated. Members volunteered to do a lot of the work to save costs but the men were working six and seven days a week during the war. A basement was built for the Sunday School classrooms. When we moved out in 1958, it was sold to St Matthews Lutheran Church for \$20,000. They worshipped in it until 1964.



Interior of white chapel



Site of future Bethlehem on Monroe Avenue



Bethlehem's white chapel 1944—1958

Shortly after Rev. Luther Russert was installed in 1956, the congregation decided to purchase a 2-1/2 acre plat on M Street, and our current building was dedicated on Sept 21, 1958. 350 people attended the dedication ceremonies.

The parsonage was built and dedicated in May 1959 at a cost of \$18,000. On March 27, 1977, we dedicated our new educational & fellowship additions. This included classrooms, larger social hall/kitchen/narthex, and a new Pastor's office, secretary office and workroom. Carl Stockamp was a member of the building committee responsible for the addition. Glen Koppelman was our president, Ray Mortrud our vice president, and Betty Downing was treasurer.

*OUR BUILDINGS Continued from previous page*

Our current building has endured a lot in its 64 years: fire, car crash, burglaries, and flood. But there were blessings with each incident. The fire of 1980 was arson but no one was injured, the fire did not enter the sanctuary, and all the sheet music survived. Lenten service was held the same night as the fire. Flashlights were used as there was no electricity. Churches offered their facilities as repair work was being done. Neighbors came and helped us sort through the debris for anything that could be salvaged. The SDA church across the street let us use their classrooms for Sunday School.



Our building on Monroe Avenue  
before it was painted gray.

When a car crashed into our women's restroom, no one was injured. The result was a redesign to give us a handicapped-accessible restroom!

Our first attempted burglar was chased by Pastor Grauer and caught! In later burglaries, no one was in the building at the time of the event, and everything stolen was replaceable with insurance money. A set of our communion goblets were found outside in the backyard a few days later.

The flood happened after months of worshipping online only during the COVID pandemic in 2020. A hose connection in the kitchen became dried out from non-use, leaked and caused a lot of water damage to the kitchen and downstairs. Members came in, with masks on, and helped rescue items. With insurance, a contractor, our trustees, and volunteer help, everything was replaced and repaired better than the original.

Since 1959, the parsonage has had many residents. The first family was Pastor Russert and his family, followed by Pastor Luttmann & family, and then Pastor Grauer & family. Our interims and Pastor Baade did not require the parsonage so members Maynard & Rose Svor rented the home. After Rose and their son Randy passed away, Maynard lived there alone until he eventually moved in with his daughter. The house underwent a major renovation in 2018. The current resident is Deaconess Ruth Ann Shimoi.

## **OUR MEMORIES** *(from page 1)*

- Arlene Heins (widow of Rev Heins) recalled a wedding held in the Grange Hall above the feed store where the aroma of grain from the store wafted up to the ceremony. Almost 70 years later, it was a fond memory for her.
- We used electric candles on the altar, a gift in memory of Ellen Taylor & Karen Jackman's uncle George Maulsby.
- Karen Jackman remembers there was an alcove in the white chapel that was a good place for kids to hide and goof off during the service, not that she ever went there....
- A piano was used in the white chapel, and we had a pump organ that was played by Rev Janssen's son, Robert. We eventually obtained an electric organ.
- Karen (Weigelt) Jackman remember singing in the children's program on Easter morning in the white chapel with her sister Ellen. It was led by their older sister, Betty.
- In the early days, ladies wore dresses, hats and gloves to church.
- We held fundraising fellowship dinners. The charge was 10 cents a spoonful; you could bring whatever size spoon you wanted!
- Our Christus Rex was installed in 1962; a gift from the William Weigelt family.
- We expanded to two Sunday morning services in 1965.
- We had Sunday School classrooms and teachers for every grade level and lots of children!
- Some of our parents were part of the original membership. Pete Maas and Karen Marsyla's father, John Peter Maas, is listed as a voting member in 1942. Ellen Taylor & Karen Jackman's father, William Weigelt, is listed as a voting member in 1942. Gretchen Engum's father-in-law, Art Berend, was a Charter Member.
- We had a men's bowling team.
- A Boy Scout built our outdoor altar in the back yard. We used to have annual outdoor services at it, sitting outside on our lawn chairs.

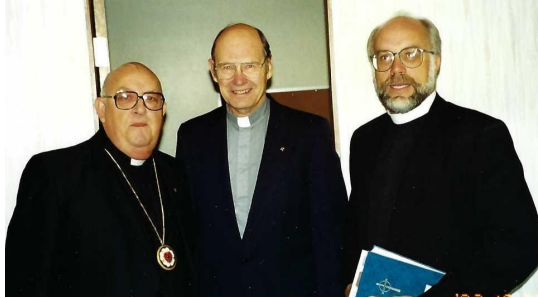


Photo taken the month of our 50th anniversary in October 1992.

Pastor Luther Russert 1956-1963  
Interim Pastor Walter Reese 1992-1993  
Pastor Randy Grauer 1975-1992

- Pastor Russert's son, Paul, remembers watching the big cross in the front yard be installed.
- Ushers wore boutonnieres on Sunday mornings!
- We ran a preschool from 1969 to 2013. Karen Begalka was the teacher from 1997. She recalled have up to 22 students some years. At its peak, we had morning and after-noon classes.
- We shared our building with a Moldovan congregation. They decorated the altar with a fall harvest theme every year. They were very helpful during our spring cleanups.
- Our bell choir played beautiful music, and members didn't even need to know how to read music to participate.
- Our first female congregational president was Shirley Eliason.
- We took bus trips to many wonderful destinations like Holden Village, Victoria & Vancouver Canada, and Leavenworth.
- The wedding vow renewal ceremony with 16 couples.
- Veteran services where a member would speak about his time in the military. A tradition started by Pastor Baade.
- Weekends and picnics at Valley Camp!
- Gerhard Muller portraying Martin Luther on Reformation Sundays.
- Vacation Bible School!





## THE FIRE

By Doug Gardner

I was on my way to work that morning in March 1980, when I heard about the fire on Monroe Avenue. I immediately turned around and headed up the hill. The fire was extinguished by the time I arrived at Bethlehem and everything outside the building indicated somewhat the extent of the Damage - windows were blown out spreading glass everywhere, some parts of the building were blackened, and it was obvious that most of the fire affected the interior.

The questions that arose in our minds as we surveyed the building. Who would do this? and Why? Did we (as a church, a youth group, any group) do something that really ticked someone off? How will we recover? Who? Who? Who?

Only after the firemen cleared all of their equipment and left the scene, did we all venture into the now blackened halls, rooms, scorched carpeting in the Fellowship Hall, the smoke damage to the sanctuary and foyer did the true extent of the damage unfold to us.

During the remainder of the day, many phone calls went out. We arranged for the youth group Joy In Him to meet after school. We all were appalled at the damage, but thankful that the structure didn't burn down. As we gathered in the sanctuary, we all broke into one of our songs: We Are One In The Spirit.

In the days following, everyone pulled together. A smoke damage company was contacted to restore the sanctuary and the foyer and bathrooms. Repair contracts reviewed and let. Alternate plans were made for meetings and classrooms, especially the Pre-School. God is good all the time and it was time to get back to worshipping Him.

It seemed such a short time until all was restored and rededicated to use. We were all thankful for the blessings that sustained us and helped us move forward.



Ellen Taylor may have spent more hours in the church building(s) than any other person at Bethlehem. Her father, William Wiegelt, was a voting member in 1942 when Ellen was 1 year old. She has served in many areas including Altar Guild, Mary Martha, Missions, Clown Ministry, Sunday School, Bake Sales, Vacation Bible School, and many many more. She was confirmed with Pete Maas on June 6, 1954 by Rev Weert Janssen.

Ellen was asked to share some of her memories at Bethlehem. –Dielda



**Ellen Taylor**

**M**emories:

The Christmas program in the Little White Church was a memorable event! New dresses, new shoes, verses had to be memorized along with carols. Though very intimidating, it was a very glorious night with a church full of parents and relatives.

Big, new church up the hill was an experience that was both challenging and fulfilling. To save money, it was started by church volunteers who came to help on it every evening after work ... that is until it became too much for volunteers and had to be completed by skilled workmen. We all wondered how it could possibly be filled after using the small White Church on Sunset, but it did indeed become quickly filled ... wonderfully attended by new visitors, families, and neighbors. The Olden Day, indeed.

The purchase of the adjoining property was an immense undertaking, but we were filled with hope and promise of building a Christian school and gym for neighborhood gatherings. Times quickly changed and the property soon just stood there, awaiting another hope.

Prayer has also brought us together in uncertain times ... calling of pastors, split understandings of Synod, decisions to be made as to our future, "Up Times", and "Down Times", we have persevered because we knew God was with us! As He still is today! We must listen ...

## **80+ YEARS OF SERVICE** *(from page 1)*

It's impossible to state how many souls God has saved through the work done at Bethlehem. It's impossible to know how many lives have been touched. But we do know that people of Bethlehem have always had a heart for sharing their time, treasure and talents.

Bethlehem members have been blessed to be able to serve meals to the homeless, donate food to the Renton Food Bank, provide financial support to many local and world-wide charities and Lutheran Recognized Service Organizations, contribute to a playground in Uganda and clean drinking water in other parts of Africa, donate toothbrushes/towels/soap for emergency situations around the world, deliver Christmas gifts to needy families and the residents of our AbleLight home, do landscaping work at the AbleLight home, offer educational and fun Vacation Bible School experiences free of charge, sew walker caddies and adult clothing protectors for nursing homes, sponsor a refugee family from Vietnam, donate our hymnals to a church in need, participate in the Crop Walk for decades, give diapers and other baby items to a local organization that helps families in crisis, give donations to our Good Samaritan Fund to help members and neighbors in their times of need, construct a playground which the neighborhood gets to enjoy, give school supplies to local children and around the world. We provide meeting space for an AA group. We shared our building with the Moldovan congregation so they could worship together on Sundays. Our clown ministry cheered people in nursing homes and spread their message of God's love to children in classrooms. Our preschool nurtured and educated children and gave them a Christian foundation. We leased part of our land to AbleLight (formerly Bethesda) so they could build a home for disabled adults. We have donated tons of used clothing which has earned us thousands of dollars which we donated to various mission projects. This is just a small fraction of the positive things we have been able to accomplish. Our members are generous as we know everything we have is a gift from God to be shared.

A bulletin board was created this month that features the organizations we are currently supporting.

## **THE PRESENT** (continued from page 1)

While we love our traditions, we are learning to adapt and make changes. The COVID pandemic of 2020 forced us and all surrounding churches to close our doors for 1 Sunday in March. Then with the help of James Hing and Pastor David Blair, we went high tech and learned how to Zoom worship services. It was so successful that attendance actually increased during the pandemic with out-of-state members and new neighbors joining our Services. After 13 months, we learned another skill — how to conduct a hybrid worship service. On May 2, 2021 with social distancing, reservations and masks required, the doors were opened to those who wanted to attend in person and the service was Zoomed at the same time to those who remained in their homes. It was successful. It was historic. We continue today with hybrid worship services, Bible classes, funerals, and voters' meetings.

We acknowledge that things are not 'the same'. We lost some members from COVID and other illnesses. Their passing leaves a hole in our hearts. Our choir is still on hiatus until it's felt that they can safely sing close together. The Pastor and Elder wear masks and gloves for safety during the distribution of Communion. Coffee hour just returned March 2022 and isn't available every Sunday. Our first holiday bazaar since Nov 2019 is being cautiously planned for this November 12, with health protocols in place.

We have not had a settled pastor since December 2017. We have a team formed to identify the type of minister that would best serve Bethlehem.

We are now what is gently referred to as an 'aging congregation' where a large majority of us are above 70 years old. Yet, we keep going! Our Board of Education has suspended due to lack of children. Elections are in November and many leadership positions are yet to be filled. All these issues have made us aware that more changes will be coming to Bethlehem. We are holding meetings to discuss options for our property and building.

As part of our legacy, we note that God has blessed our church many times over. We have a daughter church, King of Kings in Renton, that was established in 1960 with the help of several families from Bethlehem. Our granddaughter church began in 1968, Church of the Cross in Kent. And we have a great-granddaughter church, Peace in Covington that was established in 1983. God is good.

The 80th articles in this edition were compiled and written by Dielda Kuhlmann.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THE PROPERTY?

Some people are curious about the plans for our backyard. The short answer is, there's been no decision. We are in the discussion and learning phase. Don Kuhlmann offers this recap of the summer's property meetings and an invitation to join the fall discussions.

First in this recap, let's acknowledge the topic being discussed is an emotional one and while we all love Bethlehem, we are all at different places emotionally. Let's keep this in mind in our discussions with others.

ALSO, let's acknowledge that any result of the property decision will not meet with everyone's approval.

1. We talked about the BUSINESS aspects of our Bethlehem. These include:
  - A. Running the Services
  - B. Functioning as a non-Profit & paying the bills
2. We talked about the FAMILY aspects of our Bethlehem. These include:
  - A. Our friends and relationships here
  - B. Our activities together
3. PROPERTY – The question was discussed, should we sell?  
The answer was unanimous of those attending (Yes) in favor of selling.

It boils down to three scenarios.

- ▶ Bethlehem continues to function as a congregation in our existing building
- ▶ Bethlehem continues to function as a congregation in a different location/building
- ▶ Bethlehem ceases to function as a congregation

Our fall series of discussions began Sept 26. See the calendar for the Monday & Wednesday meeting times.

God Bless, Don Kuhlmann

### COMPASSIONATE AND CARING MASK POLICY CONTINUES



Masks required on  
left side of  
sanctuary.

Masks optional  
on right side of  
sanctuary.



## **OCTOBER 15, 1942**

### **Another Event Happened that Day**

On the same day that Bethlehem became a recognized LCMS church, two members were otherwise occupied. Sophie Maas was at St Luke Hospital in Seattle giving birth to **Karen Irene Allegría Maas** (now Marsyla). Sophie's husband, John Peter, was working at Paccar. Karen and Bethlehem are the exact same age. Although, let it be known, that her older brother, Pete, was baptized at Bethlehem earlier in 1942, when we were gathering to worship but not yet an "official" congregation.

Karen's childhood had some traumatic moments! She survived rheumatic fever which left her with a heart condition. She survived a kidnapping thanks to the efforts of a good Samaritan and the Renton Police Chief. She was rescued from a car dangling over a cliff. She also endured years of teasing by that same brother mentioned above, Pete.



Pete & Karen Maas  
Inseparable ~1946

She also has lots of positive memories. As a youngster, she remembers waving at the military convoys going down Sunset, and the soldiers waving back to her. She attended Honeydew Elementary, a 2-room school, on the corner of Sunset and Union. She taught herself how to swim and was a crosswalk guard at school. She had several foster siblings growing up which taught her about caring for others. She played outdoors on their 10-acres off of Union before the family moved to a home with modern indoor plumbing on Monroe Avenue.

Karen attended services and Sunday School in our white chapel on Sunset. On May 20, 1956, she was confirmed by Rev Janssen. Some classmates that may be familiar to readers were Bill Berend, Carole & Ken Te-Gantvoort, and Doug Weigelt. On March 11, 1961 she married Mike Marsyla in our current building on Monroe. Rev Russert officiated. Her brother Pete was the best man and sister-in-law Hannelore Maas was matron of honor.

After the wedding, they moved out of the area so she attended different Lutheran Churches. She experienced that churches have different styles and personalities but the important thing is they all share the same message of God's Word. Then came the divorce in 1997, and moving back to Renton. The memory of being married in this building was very emotional. She couldn't bring herself to worship at Bethlehem so she joined St Matthews Lutheran Church.



And in 2015, life changed when her significant other, Jim, passed away. Karen felt the need to return to her roots. In January 2018, she officially returned to her home church.

God has blessed Karen Marsyla with many talents and a generous heart. She's an artist, preferring acrylics. She sews and gifted members with cloth face masks early in the pandemic when they were impossible to find in stores. She knits and crochets and has generously donated a crocheted afghan for raffle this fall. She played the bass drum in the Civil Air Patrol; was almost in a parade but the bus broke down on the way to Bremerton. She took accordion lessons! And she was a goalie and full back on several soccer teams from 1980-1997. A claim to fame is she played in a senior Olympics soccer tournament in Chula Vista, California.

She is blessed with a daughter and son, 6 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

During the COVID pandemic, the daycare she worked at closed, and she had to take an earlier than expected retirement. She misses working with the children. While she's enjoying retirement, she still keeps her eyes open for opportunities to get back with children.

We are blessed to have Karen as part of our church family.



Bethlehem Confirmation Class May 1956 with Rev Janssen



Wedding of Karen (Maas) and Mike Marsyla. Hannelore Maas (2nd on left), Pete Maas next to groom. March 11, 1961 at Bethlehem.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.			
<b>2 FOOD BANK SUNDAY</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> Afghan Chances for sale	<b>3</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>4</b> TBD Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	<b>5</b> Office Clos 7 pm <i>Proverbs Study– hybrid</i>
<b>9 LWML SUNDAY</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Werzner Drawing for Seahawk afghan 1 pm Council Mtg Zoom only	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Property Utilization Meeting Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Office Cl 9:30am Properization Mtg-in p 7 pm <i>Proverbs Study– hybrid</i>
<b>16</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> Chances available for quilted wall hanging—Mary Martha <b>80th Anniversary Celebration</b> <b>VOTERS’ MEETING—Hybrid</b>	<b>17</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Office Cl 7 pm <i>Proverbs Study with Brei</i>
<b>23</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath Wall hanging chances for sale Newsletter Deadline	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Property Utilization Meeting Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Office Clo 9:30am Properization Mtg-in p 7 pm <i>Proverbs Study</i>
<b>30 REFORMATION</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Pastor White <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> Wall hanging chances for sale	<b>31</b> Deadline to return Voters’ Registration Update form 7 pm New Purpose	<b>ANNUAL VOTERS’ MEETING for ELECTIONS &amp; BUDGET is <b>Sunday Nov 6</b></b>	



# OCTOBER 2022

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1
Closed  rbs Bible rid class	6 6:30 pm Missions and Stewardship Meeting—Zoom 7 pm New Purpose	7	8 2-4 pm Karen Marsyla's 80th birthday party
Closed Property Util- in person rbs Bible rid class	13 7 pm New Purpose	14	15 Bethlehem was founded Oct 15, 1942
Closed  rbs Bible Brent	20 3 pm MM social time 3:30 MM Business Meeting 7 pm New Purpose	21 11 am Pinochle in social hall	22 9:30 LWML Lk Washington Zone Fall Rally at All Saints, Bellevue page 37
Closed Property Util- in person rbs Bible	27 7 pm New Purpose	28	29 3 pm Matinee via Zoom “Monster Trucks”

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1024 Monroe Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056

blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org 425-255-9772

www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

## THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

### **My Jesus, I Love Thee 1864**

*We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19*

"The young people of today are utterly dissolute and disorderly," fumed grumpy old Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. The philosopher Plato agreed. "The youth are rebellious, pleasure-seeking, and irresponsible," he wrote. "They have no respect for their elders." Socrates complained, "Children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority. They show disrespect for elders, and love chatter."



William R Featherston  
1846—1873 Montreal

A 6000-year-old Egyptian tomb bears this inscription: "We live in a decadent age. Young people no longer respect their parents. They are rude and impatient. They inhabit taverns and have no self-control."

The next time you think the "modern generation" is going from bad to worse, remember that God always has a rich handful of teenage heroes ready to change the world. In Bible times, we read of Joseph the dreamer, Daniel in Babylon, David the giant-killer, and the virgin Mary.

As a teenager, Charles Spurgeon preached to great crowds, but when they referred to his youthfulness, he replied, "*Never mind my age. Think of the Lord Jesus Christ and His preciousness.*"

In our own day, we've been deeply moved by young people like the 17-year-old girl of Littleton, Colorado, who was shot for her faith during the Columbine tragedy.

Some of our greatest hymns were also written by young adults. Isaac Watts wrote most of his most memorable hymns at about the age of nineteen. When poet John Milton was fifteen, he wrote the well-known, "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind." The hymn, "Work for the Night Is Coming," was written by an eighteen-year-old. And this hymn of deep devotion, "My Jesus, I Love Thee," was written by William Ralph Featherston at age sixteen. Sixteen!

Featherston's family attended the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and it seems likely that William wrote this hymn as a poem celebrating his conversion to Christ. Reportedly, he sent it to an aunt living in California, and

somehow it was published as an anonymous hymn in a British hymnal in 1864.

It's believed to be the only hymn he wrote. Little else is known about the origin of the hymn or its author, but that's all right. It's enough just to know that God can change the world through anyone — regardless of age—who will say, "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.

This hymn is #144 in The Other Song Book.

# My Jesus, I Love Thee

William R. Featherston

Adoniram J. Gordon

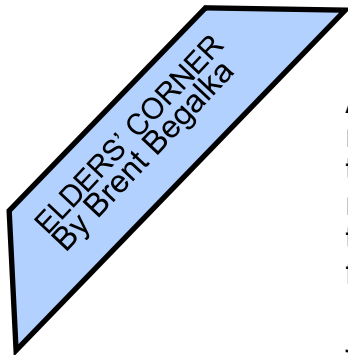
1. My Je - sus I love Thee; I know Thou art mine.  
 2. I love Thee, Be - cause Thou hast first lov - ed me,  
 3. I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,  
 4. In man - sions of glo - ry And end - less de - light,

For Thee all the fol - lies Of sin I re - sign.  
 And pur - chased my par - don On Cal - va - ry's tree.  
 And praise Thee As long as Thou lend - est me breath;  
 I'll ev - er a - dore Thee In heav - en so bright.

My gra - cious Re - deem - er, My Sa - vior art Thou.  
 I love Thee For wear - ing the thorns On Thy brow,  
 And say when the death dew Lies cold on my brow,  
 I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown On my brow,

If ev - er I loved Thee, My Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 If ev - er I loved Thee, My Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 "If ev - er I loved Thee, My Je - sus, 'tis now."  
 "If ev - er I loved Thee, My Je - sus, 'tis now."

Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman. Sources: Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan, wikipedia



## YOU COUNT

As we celebrate our congregation's 80th birthday this month, we are tempted to look at the past as a better time. One long time member told me that he remembers when the church had so many members that it had to have two services. Now we are facing a falling attendance.

Jesus was not concerned about numbers, as so many churches are concerned today. The Gospel for Sunday, September 11, contained His parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. Both teach the same lesson: **"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over ONE sinner who repents."**

Whether we are many or few, we are a congregation of individuals, each of whom matters to the Lord and his angels.

## FLOWER POTLUCKS



**Thanks to all** who brought in their flowers for our summer "Bring a flower to church Sundays."

This photo shows Carolyn Troseth peeking through the petals of the September 18 potluck! It was taken by Hannelore Maas.

## CALLING ALL LEADERS

We are looking to fill the Board positions for the 2023 calendar year. You can see the blank spaces on the chart in the narthex.

We need leaders for these positions rather than just names to fill the roster. I searched on the internet for church leadership traits. The article that describes the type of leaders Carl Stockamp and I talked about last year is from [www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com). The article is entitled "10 Characteristics of Christian Leadership". The characteristics we need are:

1. Recognizes the value in other people
2. Shares information with those in the organization
3. High character
4. Uses their influence for the good of others
5. Is skillful and competent
6. Not afraid for others to succeed (above their success)
7. Serves others expecting nothing in return
8. Continues to learn
9. Is accessible, approachable, and accountable to others
10. Has a Vision for the organization - thinks for the organization beyond today

Prayerfully consider your measure on these characteristics and your willingness to serve Bethlehem.

God Bless,  
Don Kuhlmann  
Congregational President

### August 2022 Treasurer's Report (67% of the year done)

Total Income	\$ 84,850.75	49% of budgeted amount
Total Expense	- <u>46,837.75</u>	27% of budgeted amount
Net Income	\$ 38,013.00	

Total Assets \$ 115,659.09

Total Equity \$ 70,684.46 (Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer



## CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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



**Jeanne-K Hughes** was baptized on October 3 just before her 2nd birthday at Zion Lutheran in Klamath Falls, Oregon. This photo is from their website. Note the Jesus on the stained glass window on the right. Zion has been sharing God's message for 98 years.



**James Hing** in the audience for the Oberammergau Passion Play

### Guten Morgen from Oberammergau!

Following in my grandparents footsteps (circa 1980) finally getting to see this in person after the pandemic delayed it by 2 years! Thankful it's NOT 16 hours long over two days like in 1980 but 5.5 hours over a full day! One show seats 5,000 and there's 1,800 in the production.

I got to spend about 30 minutes with the executive director to hear more about the production.

The hotel I stayed at was actually a recommendation from Ron Muller, may he rest in peace! He stayed here too at the 2010 production.

I stopped by their local church too!



**St Peter and Paul Church** in Oberammergau, Germany.

The church has existed here since the 9th century. Current building erected between 1735-1749.



**James Hing** was pleasantly surprised to see a smiling Jesus above a doorway at a church in Italy on his recent trip.

**Tracy Brown** took these photos and many more during the Susan G Komen 3-Day 60-mile walk in September in Chicago. She walked past a lot of churches in 3 days!

Grace Lutheran is across the street from the historical home of Abraham Lincoln! Mr Lincoln pledged money for the construction fund of the congregation's first building in 1855.

Their building (on the left) was built in 1892. Another claim to fame they have is that their steeple has been struck by lightning 4 times! The most recent being this August. Repairs were made and the church was able to reopen in September.



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran,  
Springfield, Illinois**



**St Edmunds Catholic Church,  
Oak Park, Ill is uniting with  
another congregation this year.**



## INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SELECTIONS

By Dielda Kuhlmann

What a joy it is to worship right here in Renton (or from our homes if we are Zooming), and enjoy music from around the world. On September 25, we had an exceptionally rich experience starting with the prelude with James Hing on organ playing one of the most famous opera arias, "Nessum dorma". Translated from Italian, it means "Let no one sleep" and was written by Giacomo Puccini in 1924.

The music for our opening hymn "Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken" was written by Dr Carl Schalk, music professor at Concordia University Chicago. The lyrics were written by Rev Peter Prange, a Lutheran pastor.

Our sermon hymn "Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise" was written by a leader of the German Reformation, Philipp Melanchthon, in 1534 in Latin. The music was composed by a French man, Louis Bourgeois in 1551.

Our closing hymn "Ye Watchers & Ye Holy Ones" was written in 1906 by English lyricist John Riley but the music was composed in Germany almost 300 years earlier.

Our postlude was a new song composed in Uganda by Peter Kins. It was shared by our guest Rob Veith (page 34). The title is "Nabbi" and was written in 4 languages: English, Lumasaba, Luganda, and Lusoga. The English parts are "What kind of Love is this? Unconditional love" and "Amazing grace, indeed: the guilty ones go free". Translation of words in the other languages are "I'm a friend of God" or "I'm a friend of Jesus."

Bethlehem: our music is varied and praises God every Sunday.

## Calling all Pinochle Players! And those who want to learn!



Please join us Friday October 21 at 11am  
to play Pinochle at the Church.

Have questions? Please see Sharon or call her at 253-631-6923.



## MOVIE MATINEE

We plan on Zooming Monster Trucks on Saturday,  
October 29 at 3pm. It's one of Anna's favorite films!



## Wise Words From Proverbs

By Karen Begalka

God is OMNISCIENT : He sees and knows all, which is INCOMMUNICABLE, in that humans do not share this attribute. God is COMPASSIONATE with wisdom, knowledge and UNDERSTANDING beyond our human comprehension. God is over all things and has SOVEREIGNTY and divine PROVIDENCE over everything including ants, locust, lizards, birds and our salvation. He uses human actions and choices to fulfill what he has ordained. This should be a comfort and assurance to us that in the end evil will not win. God is the King of Kings! Earthly kings are subject to God and he has chosen them to be rulers as part of his big plan. It is an ABOMINATION for kings to do evil, for the throne is established by RIGHTEOUSNESS.

UNSCRAMBLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS FOUND IN THE PARAGRAPH ABOVE:

1. B A I M A I N O N O T      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. S E S E S G H I N O T U R      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. A C E I O M N O P S S T A      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. A D E G I U N D N R S T N A      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. E G I N O E R S T V Y      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. I E N C D E O P V R      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. C E I O N E I M N C S      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

How many words can you make from the word: I N C O M M U N I C A B L E

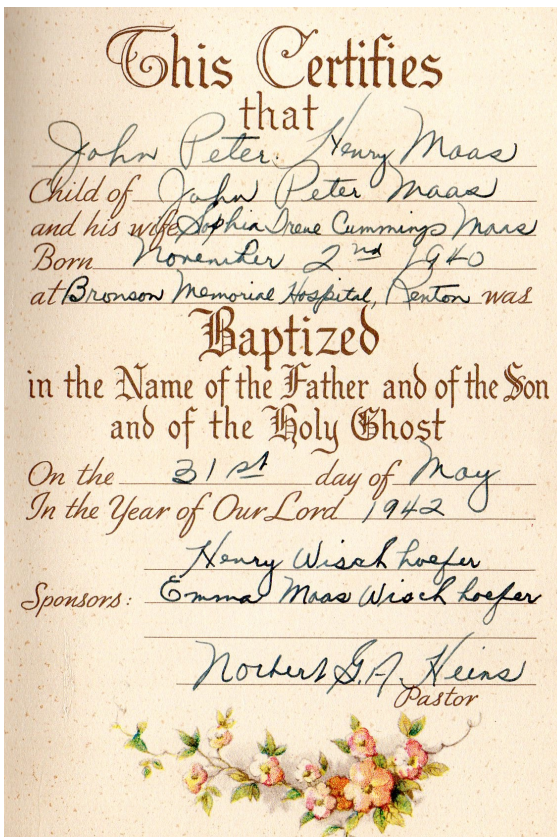


**Pete and Hannelore Maas**  
**After climbing Coit Tower, San Francisco**  
**September 2022**

## THE TREASURES THAT ARE PETE & HANNELORE MAAS

Pete has many claims to fame but one that is especially appropriate for this 80th Anniversary Edition is that he was baptized at Bethlehem by Rev Norbert Heins on May 31, 1942 five months BEFORE we became a formally recognized LCMS church. We were worshipping in the SDA church on Factory and Main. Pete's dad was a voting member in 1942.

Pete and Hannelore were introduced to each other through her friend, Karen Maas (Marsyla), who happens to be Pete's sister.



**Pete Maas' baptism certificate**  
**from 1942**

We know them as an invaluable part of our Landscaping Team. They love working outdoors with plants. They are also avid bicycle enthusiasts having led bike tours throughout the state since 1965. On their 50th anniversary, they participated in a Bike & Barge along the Rhein River in Germany. Pete rode his bike to work at the Boeing Plants in Renton and Kent. An accident with an inattentive golf cart driver gave Hannelore a broken shoulder & ribs but it didn't dampen her enthusiasm for riding.

What you may not know is they have other sport claims to fame! They both won gold medals in the senior division of a Triathlon. They have climbed up the Columbia Tower's 76 flights of stairs THREE different times, in honor of a friend who died of leukemia. Pete managed the climb in under 20 minutes! Pete was also a volleyball champion, winning gold in 2001 in the Huntsman Senior Games in St George, Utah.

Hannelore was born in Germany and was confirmed in Andernach am Rhein in

1955 in the same Protestant church that Napoleon had stabled his horses during the war between 1803 and 1815. The girls wore black dresses, and she was given a cross necklace which she still wears. She emigrated to Renton in 1957. She and her family were sponsored by the Renton Lutheran Church and lived in their parsonage. She graduated Renton High in 1960 and became a US citizen on May 14, 1962.

Pete grew up in the Bethlehem church and was confirmed on June 6, 1954 by Rev Weert Janssen in the white chapel. He usually walked or ran to confirmation classes. He graduated Renton High in 1958. Pete asked Hannelore to marry him early in their relationship. It took a few times of him popping the question before she said yes. They were married on August 5, 1961 by Pastor Russert. That's them in the VW bug with the words "Just married" "Hanna's car now" "Too late now" "Yippee!" written on the car.



August 5, 1961 Married at Bethlehem

Their 2 children, Brian and Heidi, were baptized at Bethlehem.

Life got busy with work, correspondent classes, and 2 kids and they quit attending Bethlehem. They tried other churches but never quite felt right. With the events on 9-11, they felt the need to return to Bethlehem. It was also the time they were praying for a medical miracle, and God answered their prayer. We are blessed to have them with us. They have kept busy with the landscaping, building a playground bench, painting, spring clean-ups, remodeling the parsonage, designing and laying the bricks of the back patio, improving the front flower beds, decorating the backyard Christmas tree in December, installing the big screen in the social hall, ushering on Sunday mornings, cooking Wednesday night soups, making desserts for auction and bake sales, and much more! They help the newsletter by submitting wonderful photos.



Another talent of Pete's wood carving!

Pete and Hannelore are friendly, fun, helpful, informal and outdoorsy people whose faith has seen them through good times and challenging times. They love their 3 grandchildren Adam, Josie and Cody, and are so proud of them and their accomplishments.

Pete & Hannelore are a wonderful part of our Bethlehem family.

## WALKING INSPIRATIONS

Many people were inspired to walk this summer and take notice of the gifts God puts in their path. Bev West rolled her wheelchair out to her care facility's deck and was inspired to purchase new plants to replace the weeds that were growing in the flower planters. Others used their gym workout time to pray for the health of other people in the gym. Karen Begalka shares some of her thoughts from a recent walk with Brent in their neighborhood.

"Our friend around the corner had all these colorful plants. I took pictures and told her how we were walking with Jesus to admire his creations." Karen then found a Bible verse to accompany each photo!



**The grass withers,  
the flower fades,  
but the word of  
our God will stand  
forever.** Isaiah 40:8



**As an apple tree among  
the trees of the forest,  
so is my beloved  
among the young men.  
With great delight I  
saw in his shadow, and  
his fruit was sweet to  
my taste.**  
Song of Solomon 2:3



**Therefore, I will  
hedge up her way  
with thorns.**  
Hosea 2:6a

Before carriages and automobiles, people were much more in touch with nature. Karen writes, "Jesus walked everywhere on a daily basis, much more than our one hour walks."





## WALKING WHERE JESUS WALKED

A few closing remarks for our Walking Where Jesus Walked. I pray your summer walks or bike rides were enhanced by thoughts of the presence of God and all He did, is doing, and will continue to do till He returns.

From our September 9th devotion at Valley Camp, we heard "Walk with Me along paths of trust. The most direct route between point A and point B on your life journey is the path of unwavering trust in Me."

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"** Proverbs 3:5

The following is a response from a participant to an online Bible Study I am doing. "My favorite line in Psalm 23 is '**He leads me beside the still waters**'. It reminds me that with all the hard things I may be going through and the crazy going on around me, when I take the time to walk and talk with Him He creates a beautiful stillness. The calmness that stillness of water can bring you... it's a peace that only God can give. Such a beautiful thing amongst so much ugly."

Prayers for your "walk" through the Fall as the church year continues in the Propers then into Thanksgiving and Advent.

Blessings, Ruth Ann Shimoi



Trinity cross  
near the creek  
(left).

Don Kuhlmann  
& Gil Wooden  
walking on a  
trail.

Photos taken at  
our Valley Camp  
walk by Dielda  
Kuhlmann.



## THOUGHTS ON WALKING THIS SUMMER

By Ellen Taylor

I walked with Jesus but not on a certain path, road, or passage. *I walked in the garden with Him ... And the voice I heard, falling on my ear ... told me ... I was His own.*

I remember so many of my Bible passages from Sunday school and Confirmation class. *Oh, the joy we shared as we tarried there (in the garden)...*

I remembered the Bible stories about water into wine, Jesus' baptism, etc and yes, the importance of water that He provides for the garden shows His wondrous works daily! *He speaks, and the sound of His voice ... within my heart is ringing ... as I hand over to Him troubles, yes, temptations, and always celebrations.*

Thinking and working the garden with all its wonder and beauty engenders thanksgiving for all His blessings and gifts He so abundantly gives us. *I'd stay in the garden with Him because I know He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

## BIBLE TRANSLATION SUNDAY

By Amber Wolf

On September 25, Missions-Stewardship and our Mary Martha Society hosted our annual Fall Missions Sunday. Rob and Eshinee Veith joined us for our Sunday morning service, and Rob told us about his part time work with Lutheran Bible



**Eshinee & Rob Veith**  
at Bethlehem

Photo by Marjie Boydston

Translators (LBT). Rob works with Scripture Support to find the best mediums to share God's Word with different language groups. The medium he has regularly found with people in Africa is music. (See the picture of the musical instruments Rob uses.) Rob also helps train people to do the work he does.

Rob and Eshinee joined LBT in 2004 and worked in Botswana, Africa until 2017. They have continued to work in Africa. Just a few weeks ago Rob returned to their home in Bellingham, WA from working with LBT in Tanzania and Uganda. While there, Rob taught twelve students how to record music. He selected four students to continue working on learning this important skill. The students will be working with pastors and other church people to continue learning and using their new skills.



Instruments Rob brought to Bethlehem. The one with the metal keys is called mbira. Various mbira are found throughout Africa. This one is called *mbira nyunga nyunga* and it comes from Zimbabwe.

The one-string fiddle is called orutu. It is more common in Kenya, but it still features in Ugandan music. The shaker is called kayamba. I've seen those all over east Africa.

Photo by Amber wolf

In Uganda, it is common for church attendees to sing foreign-language Christian songs accompanied with a synthesizer. The songwriter with whom Rob worked, Peter Kins, mentors students in worship and arts at a Christian college in Jinja, Uganda. His goal was to show how the cultural music styles and language of Uganda could be used for effective worship music. Ugandans could bring their own creativity to church, rather than relying on imported music. In Rob's recent trip, he worked with a band comprised of people that Peter had known for a long time, but they had never actually played together before. They worked hard to record their songs. Sadly, it didn't go very well. They rented a studio to record their music but that didn't work out. They recorded very few songs in a church with a metal roof while it was raining! Then the hard drive in Rob's computer crashed! He was able to borrow a computer, but that didn't help either. Hundreds of people were praying for Rob and the band.

Rob wondered if God's protection had left him. However, on a layover on Rob's trip home to Washington, USA, Rob turned on his computer and all was well!!! Rob was able to save all the music mixes he had recorded in Uganda! What a miracle! What a miracle! God heard the prayers for Rob and answered in His time.

Rob and Eshinee appreciate Bethlehem's support for their work with LBT in Africa. They enjoyed reconnecting with Bethlehem in person! Rob and Eshinee led a Sunday morning Zoom-only service for Bethlehem about two years ago. Before that, it had been about seven years since they had been to Bethlehem. Their visit was superb to get reacquainted with them. Let's watch to see what other adventures in Africa Rob and Eshinee encounter as they work with LBT. Thank you for your visit, Rob and Eshinee!

God bless you as you work for Him!



## MARY MARTHA HAPPENINGS & HISTORY

Karen Begalka, Mary Martha Secretary

Although October is Harvest Time, Bethlehem's Mary Martha (LWML) is beginning to Spring into action, again.



Since Sunday September 4, we have been taking chances to win the beautiful Sea Hawks-colored football-patterned afghan which was crocheted by Karen Marsyla. The drawing for the winner will be on Sunday, October 9th, following the LWML Church Service. Like last year, we are writing down names and dollar amounts and keeping track of it, instead of handing out physical tickets. All proceeds go to supporting all of the missions of Mary Martha.



At the November 12th Bazaar, we will draw the winner for this 25"x36" quilted wall hanging crafted by Jeanne-K Hughes. (Chances go on sale October 16 with names written on paper tickets for this raffle.) From 10am to 3pm, lunch & pie will be available for a small price, along with baked goods and crafts created by Mary Martha members. In addition to this there will be a Granny's Closet and many independent vendors. You can donate gently used items. The theme is Christmas and the Holiday Season!

Mary Martha meets every 3rd Thursday of the month with a Social time at 3 PM and Business time at 3:30 PM. (October 20th for this month).

Who were **Mary** and **Martha** of the Bible? They lived together with their brother, Lazarus, in Bethany, a small town near Jerusalem. They were hostesses to people passing through town and faithful followers and friends to Jesus. Martha was a doer and Mary was a listener. We all need to follow their example to be doers and listeners. When their brother, Lazarus, died and was in the tomb for 4 days, there was much weeping. Finally Jesus arrived and the ladies told him that he was too late to heal him. Jesus wept, then commanded Lazarus to come out, so he came back to life and left the tomb. This was similar to how Jesus later died and rose from the grave 3 days later.

On October 25 three ladies are to be commemorated for their service to the early church: Dorcas, Lydia & Phoebe.





**Dorcas** was renowned for her charity work in the church in Joppa. When she died, two members were sent to find Peter, who was in the nearby town of Lydda. When he arrived, he asked mourners to cease crying and leave her presence, following Jesus' earlier example. (Mark 5:41). Peter knelt and prayed and she came back to life. She was the only woman mentioned in the New Testament to be a Disciple of Christ.

**Lydia** was a wealthy lady of Thyatira and dealer of purple cloth. (Acts 16). She was St. Paul's first European convert, and she and her whole household were baptized, including servants and family members. She opened a Christian Center in her home in Philippi, where St. Paul and Silas stayed from time to time.

**Phebe (Phoebe)** was called Lady Bountiful of Cenchreae (Eastern Port of Corinth) because of her great hospitality & service. She is the only woman mentioned to be a Deaconess in the Bible. Because there wasn't an established Postal Service back then, she became a letter carrier for St. Paul and others. Because of her, the Epistles of Paul were distributed widely as she traveled far and near to spread the Gospel of Jesus.

Don't all of these ladies mentioned above sound a lot like our ladies of Mary Martha, our Friendly Visitors, and Deaconess RuthAnn Shimoi?

## LWML Lake Washington Zone Fall Rally

**Saturday, October 22**

**Registration 9:30 am; Brunch 10 am; Rally 10:30 am**

**All Saints Lutheran Church—5501 148th Ave NE, Bellevue**

**Ladies, bring a friend and a new or gently used bath hand towel as we continue to learn more on being at a table with Jesus. We hope to bring in 80 towels to celebrate the 80th anniversary of LWML! The towels will be used as clothing protectors for Lutheran Ministry Services NW volunteers at care centers.**

**Registration fee is \$5.**

## WHY DO WE GIVE?

What is our motivation to give? Is it simply because God commands us to do it? There must be more to giving than simply fulfilling the obligations to help support the operational costs of the church. When donating money to a mission organization, is our goal merely to help support the overhead costs of operations? We either need to give more, or support a charity with little overhead to insure that our dollar reaches those who need it. Hopefully, our giving will benefit the people of whom we are trying to reach. As Christians, we're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. As we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, we want to help others. By working hard we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord:

**Acts 20:35b "It is more blessed to give than to receive."**

**1 Corinthians 16:2**  
**"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper."**

When we give of the first fruits of our income, we are bearing the fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Heavenly Father, and we also are emulating what He has done through His Son Jesus Christ. Like our Father, we desire to be generous with our Time, Talents and Treasures with Integrity of the moral principles of righteousness, honesty and sincerity.

We are born again - born from above, born of water and the Spirit - to a new life in Christ as God's children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son Jesus Christ to save us for all eternity. God has not only given each of us Spiritual gifts, but also temporal and earthly gifts, as well. It is because we have received these gifts that we desire to give to others, as well, and lovingly emulate His generosity in our own lives. God's generosity knows no bounds. He has given us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. So we should strive to do the same towards others.

**Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."**

Submitted by Karen Begalka  
-from the LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter article from October 2021

## GIVE GENEROUSLY

- ▶ **FOOD.** We continue to collect Food for the Renton Food Bank. There's a box in the narthex. Bruce & Teresa Feltmann delivered 71 pounds of our donations in August & September.
- ▶ **BAZAAR NOVEMBER 12.** 10am to 3pm. Sponsored by Mary Martha. There will be vendors, crafts, gently used items, and food. You may bring in your Granny's Closet items, and we will store them downstairs for now. The drawing for the quilted wall hanging made by Jeanne-K will happen at the end of the bazaar. Photo on page 36.
- ▶ **Baby hats** made by Debbie Dey Chinn were donated to Child Haven. They loved the assortment of colors! Thank you very much for your generosity, Debbie. Thank you, Marjie, for delivering them.



**RAVE** to all the home gardeners who brought a flower or two for the pot-luck flower Sundays. It's been a tough year to get the flowers blooming.

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.

## PROVERBS BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS 7 pm

Class is led by elder Brent Begalka and is available in person or via Zoom.

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

October 2022

BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

**Saturday Oct 8** 2pm—4 pm We celebrate Karen Marsyla's 80th birthday in the social hall. Please r.s.v.p. to help with the headcount.

**Sunday Oct 9** during the service, we will install the Mary Martha Society officers and recognize LWML's 80th anniversary.

**Sunday Oct 16** after worship, join us for lunch as we reminisce about Bethlehem's 80 years.

**Sunday Oct 30** is Reformation Sunday. Reformation begins the Festival part of the church year. The liturgical color for the day is red!

### 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.