



the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

December 2011

CHRISTMAS AT BETHEL

 DECEMBER 3 - HOLLY BERRY CELEBRATION 
11:30 AM - LUNCH 12:00 - "CHRISTMAS AT UNCLE PHIL'S
NO ROOM AT THE DINER"

DECEMBER 11 - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DURING THE 9:30 SERVICE

DECEMBER 18
CAROLING

DECEMBER 24
10:30 PM CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS

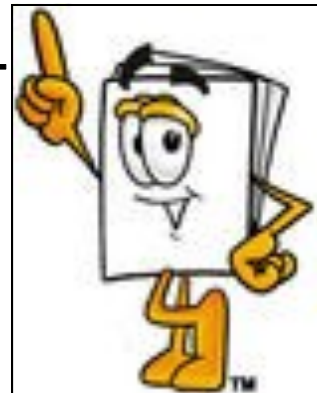
DECEMBER 25 (SUNDAY)
9:30 AM

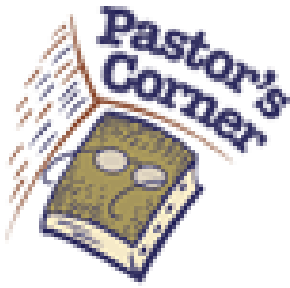
JANUARY BI-ANNUAL MEETING

Our January bi-annual meeting will be on January 22
Immediately following our worship service.

Our budget Sunday will be the week before - January 15
Immediately following our worship service.

Please plan to attend both meetings as it is important
to get your input.





.Christmas Letter - 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

We have been on a whirlwind journey as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Before the month is out we will have conducted our first interview for our next pastor. We are preparing outstanding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services with special music, a phenomenal soloist, and our own bell choir. Thank you Karin, choir, and worship team. Invite your friends for Christmas Eve Candlelight service (10:30 PM) and Christmas Day communion service (9:30 AM). But we are not done, we will have two congregational meetings (4th and 11th), during which time we will present our Ministry Site Profile and a report from Pastor Jerry Buss, Director for Evangelical Mission, regarding our progress to date, our call process and our leadership

report. Pastor Buss has been instrumental in expediting our call process and assisting us in our Ministry Site Profile. These are indeed excitingly challenging times.

This is a holy time as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Your Council, Ministry Site Profile preparers, Call committee, and Staff have been working very diligently to assimilate all of this data and keeping our ministry and purpose foremost in everything we do. Our main objective is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with literally everybody, and we mean everybody. God has called us to get out of our pews and into our community with the story of Christmas and God's invitation to join Jesus on our journey of Faith.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your part-time interim pastor. You have been most gracious and your leadership and staff have been most willing to give of their spiritual gifts, abilities, and time, as we embark on this journey of discernment of what, indeed God is calling us to become. Pray for all that we are doing, ask the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us as we proceed and invite all of your friends and neighbors to join us.

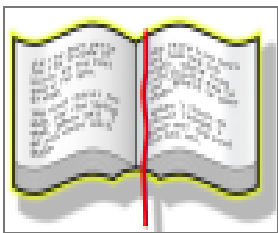
Let me commend you to read and reflect upon two Scriptures, John 20:21 and Matthew 1:18-25.

This is a busy time. In the midst of our busyness let's carve out space to be about our Lord's work as we plan and prepare of our future.

Take care and God bless.
Pastor Wendt

**Philippians
4:8-9**

**from
The Message
By
Eugene H.
Peterson**



Summing it all up, friends,

**I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds
and meditating on things**

**true, noble, reputable,
authentic, compelling, gracious**

**the best, not the worst;
the beautiful, not the ugly;
things to praise, not things to curse.**

**Put into practice what you learned from me,
what you heard and saw and realized.**

**Do that, and God,
who makes everything work together;
will work you into his
most excellent harmonies.**

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Continue to pray for those living in nursing homes

Olivia Cole
% Candy Hoeschen
3883 Roche Harbor Rd
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Iva Kjosnes
% Foss Home & Village
13023 Greenwood Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98133-7308

Myrtle Fjarlie
15928 NE 8th St
Bellevue, WA 98008

Audrey & Bob Anderson
Vera Anderson
Bev Baarstad
Don Brown
Harold & Dorothy Crawford
Myrtle Fjarlie
Jack & Wilma Hagen
Ellen Hansen
Iva Kjosnes
Harold & Joan Martinell
Hank Peterson
Marjorie Romero
Jim Schoeld
Karen Schoeld
Dorothy Storseth



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE KUDER FAMILY IN CAROLE'S DEATH AND THE MEBUST FAMILY IN CHRIS'S DEATH.

Services were held at Bethel for Carole on November 11th and for Chris on November 22nd.



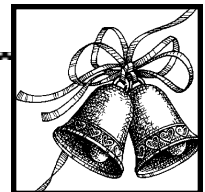
- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 5 - Diana Holeman | 20 - Dorothy Brown |
| 6 - Henry Peterson | 21 - Rita Ramstead |
| 8 - Joshua DeLap | 22 - Stephanie Bertges |
| 10 - Emma Yonkman | 25 - Richard Hinea |
| 15 - Jennifer Yonkman | 31 - Leah Aegerter |
| 18 - Iva Kjosnes | Dorothy Crawford |
| Sarah Vogel | Tekle Woldegiorgis |
| Joel Vogel | |

PRAY DAILY FOR OUR MEMBERS DECEMBER LIST

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Bruce Smith | 21 - Leah Aegerter |
| 2 - Savannah Schmidt | 22 - Jennifer Yonkman |
| 3 - Paul Grigsby | 23 - Daniel Schwerdtfeger |
| 4 - Elia Smith | 21 - Gil Aegerter |
| 5 - Evie Nanninga | 22 - Karen Schoeld |
| 6 - Stephanie Vollbrecht | 23 - John Terrey |
| 7 - Mary Himple | 24 - Phyllis Moll |
| 8 - Nicole Swenson | 25 - Jack Hagen |
| 9 - David Salmon | 26 - Maria Carlson |
| 10 - Ruth Vollbrecht | 27 - Travis Salmon |
| 11 - Diana Holeman | 28 - John Vollbrecht |
| 12 - Dorothy Crawford | 29 - Edna Greising |
| 13 - Richard Hinea | 30 - Janet Jurgensen |
| 14 - Dorothy Brown | 31 - Marlys Pickrell |
| 15 - Tekla Woldegiorgis | January |
| 16 - Rita Ramstead | 1 - Carol Hovick |
| 17 - Emma Yonkman | 2 - Jane Asmann |
| 18 - Joshua DeLap | 3 - Vera Anderson |
| 19 - Henry Peterson | 4 - Joseph Himple |
| 20 - Joel Vogel | 5 - Ila Mae Mattingley |

Celebrate December Anniversaries

- 4 - Jesse & Norma Grigsby
- 9 - David & Carla Salmon
- 19 - Bob & Audrey Anderson
- 27 - Gil & Lindsay Aegerter



CELEBRATE DECEMBER



- 10 - Wally Goulet
- 25 - Elizabeth Pickrell
- Colin Rudnick

What's Happening

Next
gathering will
be December
1 at
Karen's
Welcome all!



December Reading Discuss in January

House Rules by Jodi Picoult

They tell me I'm lucky to have a son who's so verbal, who is blisteringly intelligent, who can take apart the busted microwave and have it working again an hour later. They think there is no greater hell than having a son who is locked in his own world, unaware that there's a wider one to explore. But try having a son who is locked in his own world, and still wants to make a connection. A son who tries to be like everyone else, but truly doesn't know how.

Jacob Hunt is a teenage boy with Asperger's Syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, and like many kids with AS, Jacob has a special focus on one subject—in his case, forensic analysis. He's always showing up at crime scenes, thanks to the police scanner he keeps in his room, and telling the cops what they need to do and he's usually right. But then one day his tutor is found dead, and the police come to question him. All of the hallmark behaviors of Asperger's - not looking someone in the eye, stimulatory tics and twitches - can look a lot like guilt to law enforcement personnel. Suddenly, Jacob finds himself accused of murder. Emotionally powerful from beginning to end,

House Rules looks at what it means to be different in our society, how autism affects a family, and how our legal system works well for people who communicate a certain way—and fails those who don't.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS



Outreach Ministry would like to say thank you for your support in making the Thanksgiving baskets possible again this year. You donated lots of food and money for these baskets and put smiles on the faces of a lot of families. We gave out 5 baskets.

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly...

Romans 12: 1,6

The Lord has given us many blessings, and because of this, we are to serve God with our whole beings as a sacrifice to Him. We are to give him our all, not the left over time or money--but the first fruits. We are to use our gifts for His glory, the gifts He has given us, so we may fulfill our role in the Body of Christ.

John MacArthur of Grace to You Ministries says in his Bible commentary, that you may not identify your gifts perfectly from the lists in 1 Co 12:4-11 and Romans 12: 6-8. These lists are different and implies "that gifts are like a palette of basic colors, from which God selects to blend a unique hue for each disciple's life". What beautiful language to say that we are each uniquely made to serve Him.

Bethel needs your gifts and service. Take some time to identify your gifts and talents to use in service to our Lord. What a privilege we have been given, to serve Him.

Ministry of Generosity



WE HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS

THANK YOU!

A thank you note to our Bethel Family for all your prayers, phone calls, notes and flowers received during the last 3 months. Life brought sudden changes to both Jack and I but God has worked miracles and sustained us through life transitions. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bethel

In Christian love,
Jack and Wilma Hagen

NOTE FROM ANNETHA SCHMITT

Dear Judy & friends at Bethel,
Please change my address to: Annetha Schmitt - 77
Aeroview Lane - Eastsound, WA 98256-9729.

I am happy to be near my daughter and son here on Orcas Island. I shall miss all of you as you have been good friends. There are Lutheran services here and I will take advantage of them. Keep me in your prayers as I keep you all in mine.

Love,
Annetha

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY, December 4
North Helpline Food Bank
12736 33rd Ave NE, Seattle

Bring your family and build a gingerbread house. Live holiday music and a chance to have your photo taken with Santa or your finished gingerbread house!

Advanced tickets available for \$35 at brownpapertickets.com or RSVP via email at events@norhthelpline.org.

Questions? Call 206-367-3477.



THANK YOU!

Dear People of God at Bethel Lutheran Church, As Lutheran Counseling Network begins its 30th year of service and ministry to the church, its members and the community as a whole, please allow us the opportunity to thank you for your partnership in our mutual work of caring for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus.

As you know, LCN is committed to the practice of providing healing and wholeness to all who come through its doors. This happens, in large part, through your generous providing of office space and congregational representation. Through your gifts, the therapists of LCN are able to care for those who come to the, offering them the gifts of hope, renewal and "grace for their journey."

On behalf of the board and staff, I would like to thank you again for your partnership with us and to let you know how truly valued your gifts are to the ministry that we provide. May God continue to bless your congregation as we work together for the healing and wholeness of all God's people.

God's peace to you,

Rev. Thomas J. Rohde
Chari, Board of Directors

UNEXPECTED & MYSTERIOUS

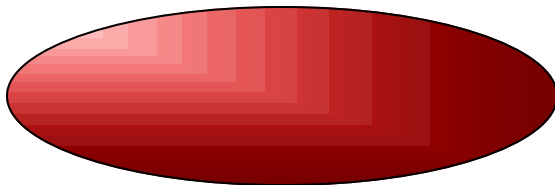
A Musical Celebration of the Christmas Story
Trinity Lutheran College Choral Music Ensembles
December 4 at 3 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood

A PLU CHRISTMAS MAGNIFICAT

PLU's inspirational Christmas Concerts feature Choir of the West, University Chorale and members of the University Symphony Orchestra performing hymns, carols and a choral orchestral masterwork, all in the great tradition of Lutheran choral music.

December 5 at 7:30 PM
Benaroya Hall

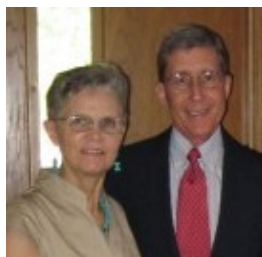
Ticket info: 253/535-7787 or
www.plu.edu/christmas



**UPDATE
FROM
JIM &
CAROL
SACK**



**UPDATE FROM
TOM AND MARY
HOLMAN**



Dear Supporting
Congregations:

It has been a few months since our last contact with you and we wanted to update you in regard to our lives.

We are doing pretty well these days in Tokyo, though with the contrasting reports of the nuclear situation we do live with unseen and unknown anxieties. We can't help being a bit concerned about what it means to have Jon's Miho ten weeks pregnant when the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster took place, and also what it means to have a wee little one come into life in this city at this time. Please see the picture above of our new granddaughter, Kaya Evelyn who was born on October 21.

We hear conflicting reports about Tokyo's safety. And we can't fathom what it all means for tens of thousands displaced from their entire existences up north. WHAT A MESS. Even though we are nine months past the earthquake and tsunami the consequences of that huge act of nature continues to affect all of us living in Japan.

However, on the surface things seem to be pretty much back to "business as usual." In the past half year we did see many good things, like people truly taking care to conserve electrical energy, even through the hottest summer months, and a huge increase in volunteer helping spirit~ also an increased consciousness to not take our food and water and gasoline etc for granted. It is curious and a bit unfortunate that as we get more complacent, we also lose those senses of gratitude and meaning. What is it about humans that does that we wonder? Why are "comfort" and "ease" generally so blanding to the soul?

Well, one other factor we must mention is that we do almost always keep in mind the fact that the earthen plates under our feet have shifted in epic proportions. So the thought of the possibility of a big quake in Tokyo is never too far from our minds. We keep supplies in my car and always wear good walking shoes when any distance from home. Carol carries a backpack with energy bars, water, flashlight and Swiss Army knife etc; a bit inconvenient, unless of course they are needed some day.

Nevertheless, we would say that we are mostly back to normal here. We went up to Sendai again in August, and we were surprised at how much had been cleaned up since we were previously there in April. Still mountains of mangled things like cars and gas stations and so on. At least much of the debris had been put into piles, whereas before it had just been scattered willy-nilly over miles and miles of land. So there is progress. We were actually amazed at how much had been accomplished.

Yet, needless to say, the scars in the hearts cannot be so clearly put into piles and cleaned up. After the functional life-support lines of infrastructure have been restored, lost memories, lost communities, lost jobs, lost meaning, lost hopes and lost family members may take years or lifetimes~ and indeed may never be restored. Only through loving care can the losses even hope to be transformed into new depth of purpose. We cannot lose faith that this is possible even in the seemingly worst of scenarios. (That is the power of the Cross.) March 11 was one of the worst scenarios anyone could imagine (though we know there are examples more horrendous going on in unnamed places as we speak.) But we choose to hold onto blessing!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Bethel,

We send you Advent and Christmas greetings! Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry of Bible translation. We're so glad that you're on our team

The Gwoza Hills Luke Partnership Project will begin on November 28, 2011. Tom and I will arrive in Nigeria on the 25th, and, along with the other seven or eight staff, we will be driven out to the town of Gava in the northeast part of Nigeria, near the Cameroon border. The translators for these eight languages will also meet us there. **Please pray** for this workshop -- for safe travel, good health, protection, good times of prayer and fellowship together, and wisdom and insight as we begin. **Pray** also for peace in Nigeria

Since this is the first workshop for the Gwoza Hills group of languages, we will be helping the translators to understand how their languages work -- that is, how to represent the sounds of their languages with the symbols that should be used in their alphabet. These languages all have some sounds that we don't have in English! Try sucking **in** air (instead of blowing out) as you say the "b" in "bat", and it will give you some idea of what that's like. That symbol is usually written with a forward "hook" on the top line of the b. **We will definitely need your prayers** for ears to hear clearly and a mind to understand what sounds we're hearing

Rejoice with us that the many thousands of people in the Gwoza Hills area will soon be able to hear about Jesus' birth in the language they understand best.

Merry Christmas!

Mary

Mary and Tom Holman

(Jim & Carol Sack - continued)

Fall brings the busiest part of the year for us as we continue our ministries in music, counseling and teaching. It is such a privilege to be allowed to do God's work in a culture other than our own. Not only do we sense we are making a contribution, but we are also being stimulated by the Japanese and their own understanding of God and how God works in this culture.

May the Grace of Christ accompany you each day this Advent,

Jim and Carol Sack

Tokyo, Japan

The Spirit

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

God Is Among Us Through Jesus by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop

I am sitting in the airport after attending the fall meeting of the Church Council in Chicago. I am now serving as the Liaison Bishop from Region One to the council.



At this meeting Mark Johnson, member of Magnolia Lutheran in Seattle and a member of the Churchwide Council, was elected chair of the Constitution and Legal Review Committee of the council and by that office to the Executive Committee. This committee is responsible for reviewing the Churchwide constitution

and the model constitutions for synods and congregations. It is also responsible for the standing rules for the Churchwide Assembly. I am writing about this not because of the business of the council, but because of two Dwelling in the Word presentations that two members of the council presented. Four times during the council meeting members were invited to share their reflections on a favorite Bible verse or story. In these two presentations Ephesians 2:8-10 was the basis of the reflection.

I have pointed out before that Ephesians 2:8-9 was the verse assigned to me at my confirmation. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

This verse challenges us to remember that we live by the grace of God. As much as we would like to put conditions on God or on our relationship with God, it is by grace that we live in this relationship. I did nothing and neither did you. God is always the actor in the question of salvation. The Lutheran note in the Christian symphony is always grace. Too often we forget verse 10. "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." We live by grace so that we might live as God has created us. We are to be good stewards of creation because we have been saved by grace. We are to care for the widow, orphan and immigrant because we have been saved by grace. We carry one another's burdens because we have been saved by grace.

God is among us through Jesus. This Jesus calls his followers to pick up the cross and follow him. Follow him into the messy places in our world where he is already doing his work of grace.

Too often our debates are not about how we have been living in God's grace so that we might serve. We like the grace, but we shy away from the service. We have been saved for a purpose. In Jesus God is reconciling the world to God. That is now our work too. orphan and immigrant because we have been saved by grace. We carry one another's burdens because we have been saved by grace. God is among us through Jesus. This Jesus calls his followers to pick up the cross and follow him. Follow him into the messy places in our world where he is already doing his work of grace.

Too often our debates are not about how we have been living in God's grace so that we might serve. We like the grace, but we shy away from the service. We have been saved for a purpose. In Jesus God is reconciling the world to God. That is now our work too. ELCA Good Gifts is a creative way for you to support the work we are called to do in the world. You can choose from more than 50 gifts that will change at least three lives: the life of the person helped by your gift, the life of your friend or loved one, and your own. Visit www.elca.org/goodgifts to learn more.

downloaded from the Synod website.

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

THE COATRACK IS EMPTY!

The coat rack at Mary's Place is empty! Women and children need warm coats and rain jackets (all sizes, but larger coats are especially helpful for layering).

Perhaps you already have cleaned your closets and have no coat to spare. Would you be able to volunteer an hour or two at Mary's Place? Share coffee and stories with the women, or volunteer to help with a mailing.

Mary's Place Day Center is a weekday program that provides a welcoming and accepting environment where homeless women and their children can build community, enrich their days and find resources to restore their lives.

Donations can be made between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mary's Place is located at 314 Bell Street, Seattle, WA 98121; phone 206-621-8474; email office@marysplaceseattle.org.



Bethel Beam

Special dates in December

- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| • Second Sunday of Advent | 4 |
| • Third Sunday of Advent | 11 |
| • Fourth Sunday of Advent | 18 |
| • First day of winter | 22 |
| • Christmas Eve | 24 |
| • Christmas Day | 25 |
| • New Year's Eve/Watch Night | 31 |



Pastor Wendt

Karin

Judy

Your Bethel Staff wishes you a Merry Christmas! May this joyous season and your coming year be filled with the blessings of His peace.

Bethel Lutheran Church
17418 8th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

Phone: 206-362-4334
Fax: 206-362-6019

Interim Pastor
Dick Wendt

Secretary
Judy Goulet

Organist
Karin Kajita

Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Worship Service
9:30 AM

Kids Kamp
9:30 AM

Education
Adult Ed
8:15 AM & 11:00 AM

Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays

Christmas prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

—Robert Louis Stevenson

