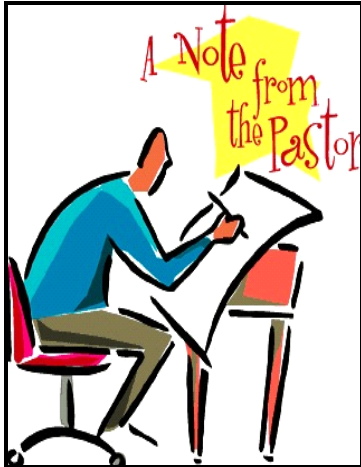


# the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

January 2012



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We now find ourselves in the Twelve Days of Christmas. We have just completed our celebrations of the birth of Christ and what celebrations they were. A grateful word of thanks to our staff, council, committees, choirs and various musicians and other volunteers who helped make this a memorable Christmas season. Our services were well attended and most everyone expressed their appreciation for the quality of the music and meaningfulness of the services. Congratulations one and all.

Now we prepare for celebrations of the naming of Jesus, the baptism of Jesus, and Epiphany, which marks the visit of the Magi. In the midst of these special services we will conduct two congregational meetings, one on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January to review our 2012 budget and to vote to call our next permanent pastor, and the other, a week later, to approve our budget. These services and meeting must be soaked in prayer and discernment

as they will set the course of ministry for Bethel Lutheran Church for years to come.

The cat is out of the bag so to speak. It is no secret Bethel Lutheran Church is considering the possibility of calling Pastor Christopher Ode of Chinook, Washington. He will be coming to meet our staff, council, and congregation on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark that date on your calendars. On that afternoon you will have an opportunity to visit with Pastor Ode and his wife. These are exciting times as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance regarding God's plans for our congregation.

I am very much impressed with Bethel's staff, council, and those who serve in specific ministries. You are way ahead of many congregations, in that you are already doing many of the ministry requirements that qualify you as a congregation ready for transformational ministry. I think you can look forward to many years of challenging and exciting change and new ministry opportunities. Praise the Lord!

I have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of your life and look forward to watching you grow. I am certain that, by the grace of God, there are great things in store for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Take care and God bless!  
Pastor Wendt

## JANUARY MEETINGS

January 14

**Pastor Chris Ode will meet with the congregation from  
2:30 – 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

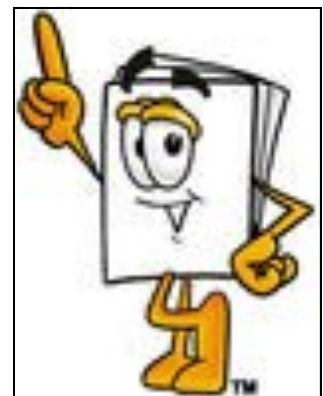
January 15

**This is our budget review meeting and then we will vote on  
the Call Committee's recommendation to call  
Pastor Ode and to affirm the salary package for him.**

January 22

***Our January bi-annual meeting***

**Please plan to attend all of these meetings!**



# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Continue to pray for those living in nursing homes

## 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 Hagen  
Ellen Hansen  
Iva Kjosnes  
Harold & Joan Martinell  
Hank Peterson  
Marjorie Romero  
Jim Schoeld  
Karen Schoeld  
Dorothy Storseth



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES TO the family and friends of Wilma Hagen who passed away on Dec. 13th.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES TO the family and friends of Olivia Cole who passed away on Dec. 23rd. Her memorial service will be at Bethel on January 21 at 2:00 PM.



- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Tinsu Abraha        | 19 - Albert Neumann |
| 2 - Jack Hagen          | John Terrey         |
| 11 - Kaydee McGillivray | 22 - Kyle Bauer     |
| 12 - Karen Schoeld      | Pam Sowell          |
| 13 - Skylar Schmidt     | 23 - Maria Carlson  |
| 18 - Donna Sowler       | 28 - Jim Schoeld    |

## PRAY DAILY FOR OUR MEMBERS JANUARY LIST

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Carol Hovick          | 21 - Ed Anshell       |
| 2 - Jane Asmann           | 22 - Nick Rudnick     |
| 3 - Vera Anderson         | 23 - Shirley Pishaw   |
| 4 - Joseph Himple         | 24 - Joe Himple       |
| 5 - Ila Mae Mattingley    | 25 - Janet Jurgensen  |
| 6 - Kristi Schwerdtfeger  | 26 - Craig Fjarlie    |
| 7 - Sarah Vogel           | 27 - Carolyn Starrett |
| 8 - Tinsu Abraha          | 28 - Jeremy DeLap     |
| 9 - Jack Hagen            | 29 - Bob Anderson     |
| 10 - Maria Carlson        | 30 - Dela Van Hoy     |
| 11 - Liz Terrey           | 31 - David Salmon     |
| 12 - Allie Biddle         |                       |
| 13 - Rocky Neumann        | February              |
| 14 - Evelyn Willems       | 1 - Roger Hilling     |
| 15 - Karen Johnson        | 2 - Mona Drake        |
| 16 - Isabelle Bertges     | 3 - Rachel Miller     |
| 17 - Travis Salmon        | 4 - Sue Logen         |
| 18 - Stephanie Vollbrecht | 5 - Donna Sjoquist    |
| 19 - Jesse Grigsby        |                       |
| 20 - Ila Mae mattingley   |                       |

## Celebrate January Anniversaries

- 12 - Dan & Lynlee Ritchie  
15 - Wally & Judy Goulet  
25 - Tekle Woldegiorgis & Tinsu Abraha



## CELEBRATE JANUARY

- 1 - Maria Carlson  
Suzanne Hagen  
Beth Rudnick  
John Terrey  
24 - Karen Schoeld



# What's Happening



**Next gathering will be  
January 5 at Wally & Judy  
Goulet's  
Welcome all!**

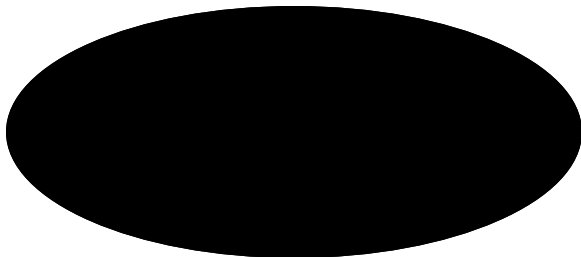
## **Our January Book (December Reading)**

**Book to be discussed in January is  
*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

## **January reading - February discussion *Oxygen* by Carol Cassella**

In this riveting new novel by a real-life anesthesiologist, and intimate story of relationships and family collides with a high stakes medical drama.



**UPDATE FROM  
TOM AND MARY  
HOLMAN**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The first Gwoza Hills Workshop is drawing to a close. Last month we asked you to pray for the ability to hear the sounds of the languages well and to understand what we're hearing, so I guess we shouldn't be amazed that God has helped us to do that! Tom is working with two men from the Sukur language. He's been able to help them figure out that their language has 30 consonants and only four vowels. Six of the consonant sounds are not found in English!

Your prayers have also been answered for our travel, protection, and fellowship at this workshop. We had a safe trip here from the capital, Abuja, where we landed when we flew in from Ghana. It took three days to get here to the workshop, however, because we went the long way around to avoid areas where there have been disturbances lately. The place we're staying is quite pleasant -- it's a large former missions compound, with trees, and the weather is cool.

The year 2011 is also drawing to a close. As we reflect on the last year, we are awed by all the blessings God showered on us, and how He healed us. We're grateful for the work He has given us to do, and we're grateful for your prayers which are a vital part of God's work. God hears and answers!

God's Blessings in the New Year  
Mary and Tom Holman

*Working with Christians in Ghana and Nigeria to give people access to the Bible in their heart language*

**E-mail addresses:** [Mary\\_Holman@sil.org](mailto:Mary_Holman@sil.org) [Tom\\_Holman@sil.org](mailto:Tom_Holman@sil.org)

**Mailing Address:** GILLBT Box TL 378, Tamale, N/R, GHANA, W. Africa

**Phones in Ghana:** Mary: (233)(0)24-938-8108

Tom: (233)(0)20-767-2986

\*Gifts with a note indicating that they are "For the Ministry of Tom and Mary Holman" may be sent to either address: Members of **Wycliffe Bible Translators, Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200**

Website: [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org)

Associate Members of **Lutheran Bible Translators, Box 2050, Aurora, IL 60507-2050** Website: [www.LBT.org](http://www.LBT.org)

# Message from Tim Ault - Missionary Pilot MAF

Tim has been emailing updates regularly on his trip to the states to pick up a new plane for Missionary Aviation Fellowship. This is his last email before returning to Brazil.

My Dear Family and Praying Friends,

Praise God for a safe landing in Manaus, Brazil, our final destination. The paperwork for the importation process has already begun, and will take much longer than the 15 days spent to fetch the airplane from Coshocton, Ohio to Brazil.

Our last leg direct from Georgetown to Manaus went well. We were expecting 5 hours and 25 minutes of flight, but favorable winds cut our flight time down to 5 hours and 15 minutes. Only 10 minutes less than expected, but our bladders were grateful!

This leg put us within radio range of our base in Boa Vista, Roraima, and was our first chance to use our long range HF frequency radio. It worked great! Boa Vista was able to follow our flight via HF radio for the entire flight. What a blessing it was to have constant reliable radio contact with someone on the ground who could provide us with weather updates and to whom we could report immediately if we had any trouble.

If we had had any doubt about being over the Amazon jungles of Brazil before, those doubts were quickly dispersed as soon as we crossed the equator heading south. Although the cloud buildup had begun soon after departing Georgetown the foul weather and light turbulence south of the equator let us know we were really home! But, our Lord kept the route to Manaus open for us; we never had to detour more than a mile to get around weather.

After landing at the international airport in Manaus we were able to proceed to our hangar on Lake Puraquequara on the eastern outskirts of Manaus.

I have attached several photos that summarize our trip.

Once again we praise our God and thank all of you that have been following our adventure and praying with us.

God's Blessings and I love you all, Tim



Checking out our 3 seat center row before departure



Take-off from Coshocton, Ohio



Landing at JAARS Headquarters in Waxhaw, N.C.



JAARS Headquarters



Stop for oil change in Ft. Pierce



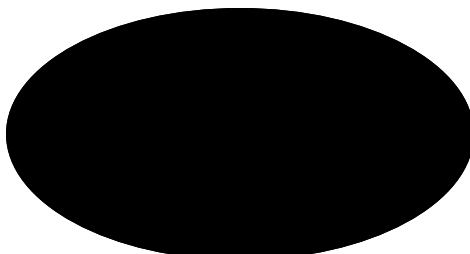
First leg in the Caribbean - Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



Last stop in the Caribbean St. Georges, Grenada



Reception at our hangar, Lake Purauequara, Manaus, Amazonas,



## Here 'n There

**THANKS TO ALL** who helped to make our Christmas season at Bethel. It took many of us! The church was decorated beautifully and we enjoyed much fine music and worship services.

### Thanksgiving and Christmas Giving Tree....



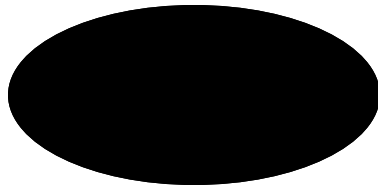
Outreach would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone for their willingness to fill 5 Thanksgiving baskets with lots of food. You also gave generously to the Compass Center and two LATCH family's. You put smiles on the faces of a lot of people.

We hope and pray you all have a wonderful 2012! -Outreach Ministry



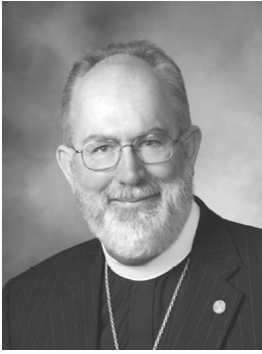
### Shoreline Christian School Faculty and Staff Sponsor "Great Annual Chili Feed"

Here's an opportunity for you, your family, and friends to enjoy a night out, eating delicious chili and pie and all the other trimmings. Come to the 'Great Annual Chili Feed' which will take place Tuesday, January 17, from 4:30 - 7:30 pm in the Seattle 1st CRC basement (located across the parking lot from the school). This event is sponsored by the staff at Shoreline Christian School, with the proceeds used to help with the costs of continuing education for the staff during in-service days. Cost for the event is by DONATION. You are also invited to attend exciting basketball action that evening as the SCS Crusaders will be taking on our friends from LaConner in important league games starting at 4:30 pm.



**Thank you for the Christmas wishes that were sent to Bethel by:**  
**Lillian Routledge,**  
**Donna Sowler, and**  
**our custodians,**  
**Ralph & Mrs. Mac**





# The Spirit

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## A Good Creation Of God

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop

*In short, we confessed that legitimate civil ordinances are good creations of God and divine ordinances in which a Christian may safely take part.*<sup>1</sup>

Last November participated in the annual visit of ELCA bishops with members of Congress and the White House staff in Washington D.C. This year I began my conversation with them by referencing Article 16 of the Augsburg Confession. I reminded them that Lutherans see government to be a “good creation of God” and as such working for the good of all creation and its creatures. Frankly that introduction seemed to catch those involved in government by surprise. In the middle of the partisan posturing that is occurring in halls of government this belief that those who are called to the vocation of leader are a gift from God is not part of our political dialog.

As we begin a year that will be dominated by political campaigns and advertising, I pray that we might bring this understanding to our body politic. Understanding that good order and the common good is in fact a gift from God does change the way we talk about government. This does not mean that one side in our political debates can claim theirs is the God given position. Rather it sees the whole process and all of those we elect as stewards of a call from God

for the good of all. I am convinced that we need to be reminded that as we think about the problems facing the world, our country, state or local community, we are part of something far beyond ourselves. God is at work in the world and we are called to share in that work. Luther defines the creative activity of God as not just calling the world into being, but also “daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing,

*food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.*<sup>48</sup> *God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this*

*is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!”*<sup>1</sup>

The work of government is God’s work. Government does not have the task of preaching the gospel. That is still the task of the church. Caring for the creation and for all people is the reason that God calls leaders to serve in government. So, as you exercise your political vocation this year, listen to how those running for office will exercise this call from God for the good of God’s world.

<sup>1</sup>Kolb, R. 2000. *The Book of Concord : The confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.* Fortress Press: Minneapolis

## Here ‘n There

□ On Thanksgiving Day volunteers from Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) Hosted their annual Thanksgiving Dinner at **Luther’s Table**. The 15 volunteers served more than 175 people and the meal included the standard Thanksgiving fixings. They plan on opening up their doors again on Christmas Day from 1 to 3 p.m. to serve food to guests and family members. Have you visited Luther’s Table? They are located at 419 S. 2nd St. Suite 1, Renton, WA 98057; 425-970-3157; www.lutherstable.com. Luther’s Table is a mission start of the Northwest Washington Synod.

□ “Every time the bold men rose up, they rose up with guns,” says **Liberian Lutheran Leymah Roberta Gbowee**, winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. Read Leymah’s story by visiting [www.elca.org](http://www.livinglutheran.com/stories/a-nonviolent-warrior-for-peace.html) and clicking on “Living Lutheran.” (<http://www.livinglutheran.com/stories/a-nonviolent-warrior-for-peace.html>.)

□ **Members at Mount Si Lutheran in North Bend** are sharing Jesus Christ with needy children through Operation Christmas Child. This program brings joy and happiness to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God’s love.

□ **Members at Faith Lutheran in Redmond** collected more than 42 Thanksgiving Bags that were sent to men and women currently serving in the armed forces.

# HAPPENINGS AT BETHEL IN 2011



# Bethel Beam



## Special dates in January

- New Year's Day 1
- Epiphany 6
- Baptism of the Lord 8
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance 16
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25

Bethel Lutheran Church  
17418 8th Ave NE  
P.O. Box 55518  
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

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

Communion  
1st & 3rd Sundays

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT IN THIS NEW YEAR

May I work on my attitude when things don't go right.  
May I practice accepting God's plan when it doesn't match mine.  
May I learn to treasure and ponder instead of whine and complain.  
May I grow in my love and appreciation of Jesus, just as Mary did.  
May I marvel at His coming and revel in His glory.  
And most of all, may I search for Him everywhere, just as Mary did -  
and never lose sight of Him again.

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Your Son into this world. Help me to focus on who He is and why He came here. Help me to be the kind of servant to you that Mary was and for my attitude to reflect that each day. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

(Excerpts from "Pondering and Peaceful" by Marybeth Whalen)

