

the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

June 2013



Bishop Elect The Rev. Kirby Unti

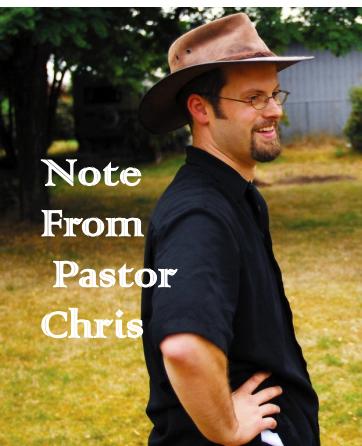
The New Bishop Of The Northwest Washington Synod

See Page 11

SAVE THE DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR
July 28 and Aug. 25



Our annual worship/picnics in the park will happen again this summer!
There will be more info in the July/August Beam.



Note From Pastor Chris

May 15, 2013

So by now I know that many of you have heard the news: Sarah and I are officially looking to buy a house! It's proven to be an interesting experience thus far: there's not a lot of inventory out there, so things seem to happen pretty fast once something comes up for sale. We've had some nibbles, but nothing super-promising just yet. The process is complicated by folks "flipping" homes: I've noticed more than one house that was sold last year returning to the market again—but with a few aesthetic improvements and a hefty price increase! Undoubtedly, some of the homes we've looked at have been purchased for similar reasons. While I know in my heart it'll work out, it's still frustrating at times.

And yet—as frustrating as it can be—I look around the community and realize how blessed we are to even be in this position.

As of last week, our neighbors at the Shoreline Free Methodist Church are hosting Tent City 3. It's a 90 day long arrangement for this roving community—where they'll go after their time at SFMC ends in August is anyone's guess. I've long noticed the people living on the streets around here, but for some reason my interactions with them have been more prominent of late (two men have stopped by the office in the past week, and a third came to worship). Odder still, none of them have any connection to Tent City, so its arrival doesn't explain their presence. I can't help but be aware of the disconnect between ministering to these men in their need during the day, then scouring the real estate listings for myself at night.

Last fall we started to talk a bit about the possibility of a hygiene center at Bethel: a place for people in need to shower and do laundry. It would be a way to make better use of existing space, reach out to the community, and meet a social need all at once. We're still a long ways from this idea becoming a reality, but I wanted to update you that it's still being explored. Several promising connections have been made along the way, including a good conversation with representatives from Seattle's Urban Rest Stop. Additionally, a Union Gospel Mission representative and I have met with people from the Shoreline Department of Community Services and other agencies to gain a better understanding of local need and local assets for such an undertaking. If you have any interest in being a part of this conversation, let me know: the time for airing hopes and concerns is earlier, not later. I don't know what form our ministry to that community will take in the future, now how it will unfold, but I have no doubts that the need for aid will remain.

And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” -Matthew 25:40

Blessings in Christ's name,
Pastor Chris

THANK YOU!

Dear Chris and members of Bethel,
At our recent gathering of NWWA Synod candidates for bishop, many of the candidates spoke of the importance of our congregations to collaborate and work together in reaching out to the community. Thank you for showing the way! We at Prince of Peace deeply appreciate the offering of \$361 that you gathered on a Lenten Wednesday evening, to further the ministry we do with the Love Fund here at Prince of Peace. We use this fund to help people in either the congregation or the community when they are facing extreme need. We have tapped it so often this year that we had spent all that we had and more...yet people in need continued to come forward.

I know that you do this same work at Bethel. Thank you for sharing of your gifts to extend this important outreach ministry through Prince of Peace Lutheran as well.

On behalf of all your sisters and brothers in Christ at Prince of Peace,
Pastor Pam Russell

You are invited

Lutheran Choral
Association of
Snohomish County

We are an ecumenical summer choir,
inviting you to join your voice with us on

Mondays from 7-9 p.m.

June-August

At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
9320 Meadow Way
Everett

In preparation for early September concerts

Register at LutheranChoralSnoco.org

Our Members and Friends

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Daily Member Prayer List

1 - Dick Schwerdtfeger
 2 - Inge Jeske
 3 - Diana Holeman
 4 - Josh DeLap
 5 - Emma Yonkman
 6 - Jennifer Yonkman
 7 - Dorothy Brown
 8 - Tekla Woldegiorgis
 9 - Tinsu Abraha
 10 - John Terrey
 11 - Beth Rudnick
 12 - Evelyn Willems
 13 - Phyllis Moll
 14 - Sarah Ode
 15 - John Vollbrecht
 16 - Travis Salmon
 17 - Karen Johnson
 18 - Donnmae Gfeller
 19 - Anna Sjong
 20 - Marlys Pickrell
 21 - Ed Anschell
 22 - Joseph Himple
 23 - Archer Ode
 24 - Shirley Pishaw
 25 - Bruce Smith
 26 - Ruth Vollbrecht
 27 - Gloria Dawson
 28 - Lila Geiszler
 29 - Judy Bashaw
 30 - Killian Rayborn

Those coping with health problems

Don Brown
 Harold Crawford
 Mona Drake
 Suzanne Hagen
 John Johns
 Harold & Joan Martinell
 Rocky Neumann
 Lynlee Ritchie
 Jim Schoeld
 Karen Schoeld

Those in Assisted Living or Care Facilities

Vera Anderson
 Myrtle Fjarlie
 Ellen Hansen
 Dick Hinea
 Iva Kjosnes
 Hank Peterson
 Donna Sjoquist
 Mary Smith
 Dorothy Storseth
 Dela Van Hoy
 Karen Schoeld

Celebrate June Anniversaries

10 - John Vollbrecht/Kathy Carrow
 17 - Tom & Mary Holman
 19 - Rance & Kelly Urdahl



1 - Mary Himple
 Carol Hovick
 Frank Nyland
 Katrina Schwerdtfeger
 Daniel Schwerdtfeger
 6 - Lynlee Ritchie
 8 - Joseph Himple
 Rick Rudnick
 19 - John Vollbrecht
 27 - Ed Anschell
 30 - Shirley Pishaw

CELEBRATE JUNE



OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF DELNA VERMILLION. Delna passed away on February 12, 2013. Her memorial service was held at Bethel on May 23rd.

DOROTHY MANNICK PASSED AWAY ON MAY 6TH at the age of 96. Many here knew her, as she was a long time member of Bethel until she moved to Olympia a few years ago to be near her sister. Her graveside service will be at Acacia Cemetery sometime in June. The family will let us know the date of this service. They are not having any other service.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

A father asked his 7-year-old son to say the mealtime prayer. "All right," the boy said. "Let's pray."

When every head was bowed, the boy prayed, "Lord, we thank you for the pancakes we're going to eat tonight. Amen."

"Jimmy," his mother said. "I think you should know we're having chicken, not pancakes, tonight."

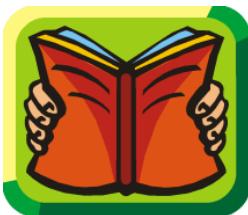
"I know," Jimmy answered. "I just wanted to see if God was paying attention."

ALWAYS!

God will always forgive us,
 No matter how often we ask.
 God will always empower us
 With strength for whatever the task.
 God will never forsake us,
 If we stumble or lose our way.
 God always is loving us dearly,
 In a glorious and wonderful way!

-Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

WHAT'S HAPPENING



JOIN OUR BETHEL BOOK CLUB NEXT MEETING JUNE 6 AT BETHEL



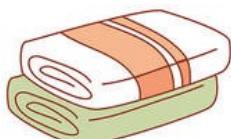
The Orchardist By Amanda Coplin

At the turn of the twentieth century, in a rural stretch of the Pacific Northwest, a reclusive orchardist, William Talmadge, tends to apples and apricots as if they were loved ones. A gentle man, he's found solace in the sweetness of the fruit he grows and the quiet, beating heart of the land he cultivates. One day, two teenage girls appear and steal his fruit at the market; they later return to the outskirts of his orchard to see the man who gave them no chase. Feral, scared, and very pregnant, the girls take up on Talmadge's land and indulge in his deep reservoir of compassion. Just as the girls begin to trust him, men arrive in the orchard with guns, and the shattering tragedy that follows will set Talmadge on an irrevocable course not only to save and protect them but also to reconcile the ghosts of his own troubled past.

Read in May - Discuss iJune 6

Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots by Deborah Feldman Read in June Discuss in July
In the tradition of Ayaan Hirsi Ali's *Infidel* and Carolyn Jessop's *Escape*, *Unorthodox* is a captivating story about a young woman determined to live her own life at any cost. The Satmar sect of Hasidic Judaism is as mysterious as it is intriguing to outsiders. In this arresting memoir, Deborah Feldman reveals what life is like trapped within a religious tradition that values silence and suffering over individual freedoms. The child of a mentally disabled father and a mother who abandoned the community while her daughter was still a toddler, Deborah was raised by her strictly religious grandparents, Bubby and Zeidy. Along with a rotating cast of aunts and uncles, they enforced customs with a relentless emphasis on rules that governed everything from what Deborah could wear and to whom she could speak, to what she was allowed to read. As she grew from an inquisitive little girl to an independent-minded young woman, stolen moments reading about the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott helped her to imagine an alternative way of life. She had no idea how to seize this dream that seemed to beckon to her from the skyscrapers of Manhattan, but she was determined to find a way. The tension between Deborah's desires and her responsibilities as a good Satmar girl grew more explosive until, at the age of seventeen, she found herself trapped in a sexually and emotionally dysfunctional marriage to a man she had met for only thirty minutes before they became engaged. As a result, she experienced debilitating anxiety that was exacerbated by the public shame of having failed to immediately consummate her marriage and thus serve her husband. But it wasn't until she had a child at nineteen that Deborah realized more than just her own future was at stake, and that, regardless of the obstacles, she would have to forge a path—for herself and her son—to happiness and freedom.

TOWELS FOR COMPASS ALLIANCE HOUSING



We will be collecting towels the month of June for Compass Alliance Housing. Towels can be brought each Sunday in June. Please bring bath & hand towels and wash cloths.

Thank you for your donations.
Outreach Ministry Team



SUMMER IS NEARLY HERE!

Summer will be here soon. That usually means a vacation or two away which may include Sundays. You can sign up for the **SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM** to ensure the vital needs of our church and its mission programs stay funded. Applications are available in the church office.

LADIES! YOU ARE INVITED!

The ladies of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Renton are extending an invitation to all women of our church to join them for a special retreat weekend!

What's THE WORD, Ladies?

A Women's Retreat Hosted by St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Date: September 27-29, 2013
Time: Friday 6:00 pm to Sunday 1:00 pm
Place: Salvation Army Camp Arnold
33712 Webster Rd E
Eatonville, WA 98328
Cost: \$150 - \$175 (varies on lodging choice)
Who should attend: Women 18 years and up

TRUST SEASONS WAIT COURAGE JOY

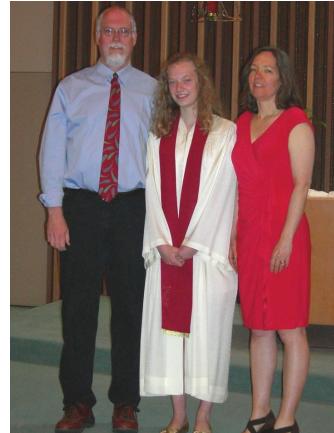
• The theme is based on Debbie Macomber's book, "One Perfect Word"
• What's included in the retreat fee?

- † Lodging for two nights
- † All meals and snacks
- † Friday night movie
- † Saturday night entertainment
- † Sunday worship by Pastor Gretchen Mertes
- † Five keynote speakers from the Northwest Christian Speakers Bureau:
Diane Schukar - Susan Robertson - Deb Kalmbach - Stacy Bigby - Christie Miller
- † Seven breakout sessions with 4 options each for ongoing discovery and reflection

Register at:
<http://smlc.cc/womensreg2013.asp>
Or Call SMLC at 425-226-2420

Congratulations

to Jane
Rudnick who
affirmed her baptism on
Pentecost Sunday,
May 19th!



LADIES! YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

The Edmonds Lutheran Church Women invite you to their fourth annual summer Bible study in three parts.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
is written by Audrey Novak Riley who works at the ELCA World Hunger Program and Appeal.

When the hungry crowd gathered, Jesus told his friends to give the people something to eat -- and then he made sure they could. He helped his friends help the people when they needed it. We modern-day friends of Jesus can still count on his help. Every one of the four gospels tells us about the crowd that follows Jesus out to the countryside and when evening comes around, they're hungry. Jesus tells the disciples: "You give them something to eat." Is Jesus talking to us? We all know the story: A crowd of people follows Jesus out to the countryside, and by the time evening rolls around they're all hungry. The disciples tell Jesus to send them away but Jesus tells them "You give them something to eat." Is Jesus talking to us as well?

**For a delightful time with sisters in Christ come
join us at
Edmonds Lutheran Church
23525 - 84th Ave. W Edmonds**

10 AM in our Fireside room on one or all of the Saturdays listed below.

Saturday, June 8

Hungry Hearts

(Matthew 14:16; Mark 6:37; Luke 9:13)

Saturday, July 13

Do We Have Enough?
(Mark 6:6-37a)

Saturday, August 10

Encounters with Christ
(Luke 9:10-13a)

An RSVP would be appreciated

Should you have any additional needs or questions please contact

Carol Swackhamer 206.794.5188

c. sxwckhammer@gmail.com

or

Doroth Holman 206.564.6486
dotholman@comcast.net



UPDATE FROM TOM AND MARY HOLMAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's the beginning of the rainy season here in Jos, Nigeria, and we're thankful for the cool weather, beautiful trees and flowers, and lots of birds around. It's like having a working holiday! Tom's team wasn't able to come to the workshop, but he's helping out another team, and the Fali team and I are going on well with checking the translation they've done.

Speaking of birds, I was assigned to cover chapter eleven in the Leviticus workshop, which gives the laws about unclean animals and birds. Matching the birds of Ghana with the birds named in Leviticus 11 was a challenge I enjoyed, even though it's not always clear exactly what bird is meant. **Please continue to pray** that we would have time to do a good job preparing our chapters for the Leviticus workshop.

Following the workshop, we will have two more weeks in Ghana to deal with our final packing and farewells. We appreciate your bearing us up in prayer so much!

Your partners in Christ,

Mary

Mary and Tom Holman

A Letter from Tom and Mary 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 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)20-078-3721

*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

Associate Members of **Lutheran Bible Translators**, Box 2050, Aurora, IL 60507-2050 Website: www.LBT.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship
2 9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service  Graduation Sunday	3	4 10:45 AM Membership Team 7:00 PM Education Team	5 1:00 PM Midday Meditation *Dela Van Hoy	6 5:00 PM Outreach Team 7:00 PM Bethel Book Club at Bethel	7 	8 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship
9 9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service 10:45 AM Breakfast	10 6:30 PM Totem Girl Scout Council	11 6:30 PM Worship Team	12 1:00 PM Mid-day Meditation	13 7:00 PM Bethel Church Council	14 	15 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship
16 9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service Father's Day	17 	18 PASTOR	19 CHRIS	20 10:00 AM Sarah Circle 1:00 PM Rebecca Pebbles Circle *Ruby Hoff *Elia Smith	21 	22 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship
23 9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service	24 PASTOR	25 CHRIS	26 VACATION	27 	28 VACATION	29 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship
30 PR. CHRIS VACATION 9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service	*Paul Grigsby		*Carolyn Starrett		*Myrtle Fjarlie	
				HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO OUR BETHEL DADS! JUNE 16		
						* Birthday

Those Who Serve

June 2013

Altar Guild	Lillian & Marlys	Judy & Carol	Anna & Diana	Ragnhild & Kelly	Donnmae & Diana
Lectors	Karen Johnson	Jordan Rayborn	Liz Terrey	Joe Himple	Chuck Vollbrecht
Liturgists	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Kids Time	Pastor Chris	Diana Holeman	Pastor Chris	Kerri Totten	Kathy Carrow
		C o m m u n i o n			
Bread	Sue Logen	Kathy Carrow	Carol Hovick	Liz Terrey	Elia Smith
Wine	Diana Holeman	Stephanie Vollbrecht	Judy Goulet	Mary Himple	Bruce Smith
Glasses	Wally Goulet Anna Sjong	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Flowers		Irene Olsen in memory of her parents	Bruce & Elis Smith in honor of Elia's birthday on the 20th	Karen Johnson in memory of Taylor Johnson	Irene Olsen in memory of Robert Olsen
Ushers	Bruce Smith John Johns Rance Urdahl	Chuck Vollbrecht Chris Pickrell Dick Scansen Dick Hinea	Sue Logen	Wally Goulet Dave Switzer	Wally Goulet Chris Pickrell Ed Anschell
Lessons	I Kings 8:22-23,41-43 Gal. 1:1-12	I Kings 17:17-24 Gal. 1:11-24	2 Sam. 11:26-12:10 Gal. 2:15-21	Isa. 65:1-9 Gal.3:23-29	I Kings 19:15-16,19-21 Gal. 5:1,13-15
Gospel	Like 7:1-10	Luke 7:11-17	Luke 7:36-8:3	Luke 8:26-39	Luke 9:51-62

Sanctuary Caretaker: Chris Pickrell

ON CALL LIST



David & Carla Salmon
 Dick Scansen
 Dick & Kristi Schwerdtfeger
 Anna Sjong
 Bruce & Elia Smith
 Carolyn Starrett
 Beth Sundquist
 John & Liz Terrey
 Kerri Totten
 Rance & Kelly Urdahl

Chuck & Ruth Vollbrecht
 John Vollbrecht/Kathy Carrow
 Ed & Karen Anschell
 Doug & Karen Bauer
 Joanne Brock
 Gloria Dawson
 Scott & Starla DeLap
 Mona Drake
 Ragnhild Eidem
 Craig Fjarlie

REPORTS FROM OUR DELEGATES TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The convention was held May 16-18 at the Lynnwood Convention Center. The big topic of the convention was "Who will be selected as our next Bishop". Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson led us in the process of reducing 15 candidates to one. The process went through 4 votes and Reverend Kirby Unti was selected. He will become Bishop in August.

Kirby Unti's present position is Pastor/Janitor (this how he put it on his Nomination Response Form) at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton WA.

During the convention we were requested to assist the new bishop by answering 3 questions:

1. What two things do you believe God is calling the synod to be and do over the next two years in the territory of Northwest Washington?
2. In light of God's calling, what are your three primary expectations of the next bishop of the synod?
3. What two things should the bishop expect of the pastors and lay leaders of this synod?

We broke down into groups of three and each group submitted their answers on a sheet of paper for the next bishop. (With 427 delegates it would be interesting to read the input.) Someone during his/her presentation asked this question, "How is your congregation writing the next chapter in the book of Acts?" (What would your input be?)

There was not really much tension over resolutions. I have seen resolutions that have been hotly debated but this convention had only two resolutions with any debate.

I personally have been a delegate to a number of conventions and this convention was a pleasure to attend.

Bruce L Smith

"Always Being Made New" was the theme of the 25th Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. I was greatly blessed to be one of Bethel's representatives this year. This was a first time experience for me and hopefully not my last! Most of the assembly time was spent in the election of a new bishop for the Northwest Washington Synod. Initially there were 15 candidates. Then it was narrowed down to 9 then 3 then 2. Before each vote the remaining candidates were given questions to respond to. Kirby Unti from St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Renton is our new bishop elect. We would have been well served by any of the women and men who agreed to be a part of this process.

A number of resolutions were voted on and passed. We learned about what Lutheran World Relief is doing throughout the world. There were several highlights for me: the electing of the bishop, the inspiring message by our national Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson who was the keynote speaker, the blessing of the spiritually uplifting worship services with communion, hearing about what LWR is doing to eradicate malaria in Africa, and the love of Jesus at the center of our time together. I could go on and on but I will spare you.

I came away from the Assembly feeling proud to be a part of the ELCA. At times in the past I have questioned the need for being a part of the larger church. To hear and see the many things our church is doing for the equality of all, to help those in need, to support our seminaries, and to work together to share the good news of Jesus made me realize how important it is to be a part of the ELCA. In the past I wasn't very supportive of increasing our giving to the Synod when our needs are so great. I'm thankful that through this experience God opened my eyes to the need of continuing to increase our financial support for the greater good of the church and to be a part of the many benevolent endeavors the ELCA takes part in. As we go forward in the coming months, let's keep our synod and all the great work they do in our prayers.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Bethel.
Karen Anschell

OPENING WORSHIP NWWA Assembly AT TRINITY LUTHERAN,LYNNWOOD

The opening worship service for the Northwest Washington Synod Assembly was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. Beginning at the baptismal font , Presiding Minister Wm Chris Boerger reminded us of the gift of our baptism and “the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.” The Assembly Choir, a collaboration of more than 60 congregants from throughout the Synod, under the direction of Michael A. Miller of Christ the King Lutheran in Snohomish, led the congregation in singing the opening hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Later in the service the choir voices soared in the anthems, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing and Beautiful Savior. The scripture readings for the evening were from Isaiah 42, Acts 2 and John 14.

We are a Pentecost church and a church of the Holy Spirit. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson served as preacher. Bishop Hanson asked, “How have you been preparing for Pentecost?” Pentecost is overshadowed by Christmas, Easter and popular culture; perhaps it is the most understated feast day after the Day of Ascension. Perhaps more preparation has gone into the calling of the next Bishop than preparing for the

Holy Spirit. (The Holy Spirit already knows who will be Bishop.) “Why do we ignore the Holy Spirit?”

Continuing, Bishop Hanson focused on the three-letter word all. He asked us to stand and look around, “Whom do you see? I don’t see the all of a Pentecost Church.” There is overwhelming evidence that all means –“the all who looks like me.” The Lutheran church is divided. Who can be part of the all of this church? The question seems to be, who are the true Lutherans and who are not? In 2017 we will celebrate 500 years of the continuing Reformation

Will we be reconciled one to another? Will the unchurched and unbaptized be our mission field and not other church bodies? Bishop Hanson said we are less than the body of Christ when we do not have others who are not like us. “All means all in one apostolic and catholic church, one Christ for all people.” Will the next Bishop be the bishop of some or the bishop of all, the not like me? We need to be a Pentecostal church for all, by all and with all. Bishop Hanson asked the question, when the Holy Spirit shows up -is it too disruptive, unsettling? As a Pentecost church we should pray that we are not calling a Bishop to a cold and settled synod. In the Pentecost story, the disciples were accused of being drunk, out of their minds. What if someone said, “Whoa Sally! Those Lutherans sound deep drunk to me!” Could we be accused of being out of our minds? A Pentecost church should challenge the structure of the Church.

We are powerless to save ourselves. A Pentecost church declares that God is not in the sin accounting work. The Gospel isn’t a rational proposition. Pentecost wasn’t a onetime event; it didn’t happen just once. Pentecost is not over. We have come to have a low expectation of the Holy Spirit. We need a high expectation of the Holy Spirit and a low anxiety of the future. Do not be afraid. The Holy Spirit is sent as an advocate, as a reminder, do not be afraid.

Bishop Hanson closed by saying the question for this Assembly is, “Where will the next Pentecost occur in the Northwest Washington Synod?” Following the Confession of our faith, the Prayers of Intercession were given. These prayers reflected the renewal and needs of the congregation and the willingness and need to be Christ in the world.

In response to Bishop Hanson’s sermon, the Peace of Christ was passed in a lively and “lived” out manner. The Assembly Offering was designated to the Synod Endowment Fund for Future Rostered Leaders, the ELCA Malaria Campaign and Companion Synods in Russia and Ethiopia.

Having heard the Word of God the congregation shared in the Sacrament of bread and wine. Following the blessing the Assembly Choir led the congregation in the spirited singing of Siyahmaba – We are Marching in the Light of God.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!





Bishop Elect The Rev. Kirby Unti

1). Every Pastor is to be a person of prayer. Describe your personal prayer life.

Those who work closely with me know that I have developed a mantra that clearly expresses my prayer life. The mantra is, "Come Holy Spirit!!!" You can hear me uttering this daily out

loud or under my breath. My prayer life and mantra help me to daily acknowledge that I am not in control and that left to my own will I can accomplish nothing. This deeply held belief in trusting what God can do when we as individuals and a community are willing to place our faith in God has driven the ministry that I have been a part of. This daily prayer invites risk taking that causes me to wrestle on the sacred ground that exists between being responsible and being faithful. This form of prayer takes seriously that one must pray without ceasing and that one must rely upon the spirit to provide the words, the communication, and the connections that allow us to hear God. Believe prayer is far more about listening than it is speaking

2). What do you see as the gifts you bring to the office of Bishop?

My gifts come from finding my way into the Lutheran church through the back door. I lack the pedigree that many Lutheran's possess. I am not German or Scandinavian. I did not attend a Lutheran College. I did not grow up knowing the liturgy by heart. My pedigree is I married right. The truth is I am more comfortable with people beyond the four walls of the church than I am with church people. My history has profoundly shaped the way I see and do ministry. I believe that we are called to be a "sent out people." While I value congregational life, I believe it is intended to prepare us to do ministry out in the community. I have spent my ministry fighting the traditional lines that are drawn between sacred and secular. I take seriously the words I first learned as a little boy from my mother that God so loved the "world" that he gave his only son. The gifts I bring are a deep love for the gospel, coupled with the ability to articulate it in a language that is accessible to many who desire to know God more intimately but who like me have never felt they possess the right credentials to be a church insider.

3). The Synod is one expression of the ministry of the ELCA. What is your vision for the Northwest Washington Synod?

NWWS is sitting on a gold mine. It is called the theology of grace. Grace transfigures the face of God from a God of mean judgment to the God of acceptance and forgiveness. We have what the Northwest so desperately needs - the ability to make sense out of a world that is increasingly complex. Our theology of law and gospel has never been an either / or posture but a both / and approach to life. Our commitment to inclusiveness along with our track record of caring for the creation gives to Lutherans a credibility that we must not be afraid to exercise. The church in Northwest Washington will demand a deep commitment to training of the laity. Our Catholic sisters and brothers have already been around this block. Many of our congregations as we know them will die BUT rising up out of the ashes will be new expressions of the

church. The church will be more deeply situated in the community. Our primary purpose will be service to the community. Our congregations will be as diverse in the way they gather and serve as are the people who make up the Northwest. "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth...."

4). How do you see the Bishop maintaining a Lutheran identity while being in relationships with other religious traditions - Christian and non-Christian?

It has been my experience that my identity as a Lutheran is strengthened NOT diluted when I enter into dialogue with other religious traditions. Christians and non-Christian alike. We don't have to go any further than Paul's explanation of the Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12. Paul makes utterly clear the importance of discovering unity in the midst of great diversity. "The eye cannot say to the hand I have no need of you." The Christian cannot say to the Jew or Muslim I have no need of you. Each gains value in the site of the other when we realize that our unity comes in being children of the one and only God. Lutherans have been a valued partner in the ecumenical history of the Northwest and we must continue to take our humble place at the table.

5). Given the enormous time demands on a Bishop what are strategies you would use to maintain a healthy personal and family life?

Kim and I have chosen a life of service. It does not lend itself easily to a lifestyle of balance. We have had to learn our own rhythms in order to have time for family and one another. It has meant establishing a day off and honoring it with few exceptions. It has meant developing friendships and participating in activities beyond the church. We own a boat named GRATITUDE which has been our own get away. We are committed to taking time away together. Most importantly we have never felt as if we are victims to the church's demands. In fact we have learned there are certain privileges of time that not all vocations offer. I was often the only dad who attended the kid's day time activities. We will have to learn new rhythms and look for the opportunities that come with the office if elected.

6.) Please make any additional comments you would like to make concerning your candidacy for the office of Bishop.

I have never considered myself "Bishop Material." I have never hoped the opportunity would come my way. I cannot imagine anybody wanting the job. For me it is about trying to discern what my calling is at this intersection in my life. My understanding of call is that it doesn't always unfold on my terms. Kim and I would have never ended up at St. Matthew if we could have chosen a congregation to serve. I would have chosen one near a salt water community. I have had numerous people whom I hold in high regard suggest I give serious consideration to being nominated expressing their belief that my gifts are what the church needs at this time while others have counseled me to run as fast as I can in the opposite direction. I have no desire to try and prop up the institution of the church. I have always been a change agent. I truly wonder if the office of Bishop can in fact bring about change. My life has been disturbed by merely contemplating the possibility.

Bethel Beam

Special dates in June

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| • Flag Day | 14 |
| • Father's Day | 16 |
| • First day of summer | 21 |



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Pastor
Chris Ode

Secretary
Judy Goulet

Organist
Karin Kajita

Bookeeper
Kathy Carrow

Security
Bruce Lemmon

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

Lunch Hour
12:30-1:30 PM

Regular Worship Schedule
Sunday 9:30 AM

Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays

Adult Bible study
Wednesdays
1:00 PM
7:15 PM

God our Father,
bless the men in our
congregation and in our
community,
that they may find strength
as fathers.
Let the example of their faith and
love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons
and daughters,
may honor them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
Amen!



**Happy
Father's
Day
to all our
Bethel dads!**

MY BANNER IS CLEAR

This was reportedly found among the papers of a young African pastor after he was martyred in Zimbabwe:

"My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough and my companions few, but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

"I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

"I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

"I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and spoken up for the cause of Christ.

"I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go until he comes, give until I drop, preach until all know and work until he stops me. And when he does come for his own, he'll have no problems recognizing me. My banner will be clear!"