

# the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

April 2013



March 25, 2013

Before I could graduate seminary and seek ordination as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I first had to spend a year serving as a full-time pastoral intern under the oversight of a mentor. In my case, this internship took place in a "two-point" congrega-

tion (i.e. two congregations served by one pastor) in rural, central Ohio. Serving out there was a wonder-

ful experience, and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to do so.

Just like any other worshipping community, the congregations were filled with people who held to a wide range of beliefs when it came to their preferred way to worship. If there's one thing you can guarantee about the church it's this: there is no single worship form which will satisfy everyone. Pretty much everyone has an opinion on what worship should look like, and pretty much everyone prefers that their preferences win out!

(cont. on p.2)



## HATS GALORE

May 4, 2012 11:30 AM

**LADIES! Our annual spring luncheon is coming up the first Saturday in May (May 4th). Plans are under way for a great day!**

**Dig out your hats!**

**Come wearing your best hat!**

**Prizes!!!**

**We will be preparing a meal this year rather than having people bring salads. Therefore tickets will be on sale for \$5.00 to cover the cost.**

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I remember one woman in particular with whom I was having a conversation about our form of worship (or, more accurately, she was making sure I knew what was wrong with a recent service which omitted the Apostle's Creed...) when I noticed something worth mentioning (for simplicity's sake, read the following with "W" as the congregant and "PC" as me).

PC: "You know, [Name], I just noticed something interesting."

W: "What's that, Vicar Chris?"

PC: "Well, if I am hearing you correctly, you feel that the Apostle's Creed is so special, so foundational to worship, that we absolutely must do it every Sunday. Is that correct?"

W: "Absolutely! It just isn't worship unless we include the Creed!"

PC: "And—from what you've told me in the past—you feel that Communion is so special, so foundational to worship, that we absolutely cannot do it every Sunday. Is that correct?"

W: "...I...well...hmmm...I'll have to think about that one for a bit..."

Some of you may have noticed that we have begun celebrating communion weekly here at Bethel. From the lack of direct pushback I am assuming that most people are comfortable with the change (or haven't noticed!), but I still wanted to take a moment to talk about it. For what it's worth, I actually grew up in a congregation that celebrated communion twice a month, just as we were doing at Bethel when I arrived, so this is semi-new for me as well.

There are several reasons for celebrating communion weekly, some big and some small. History is certainly on the side of doing so: our earliest post-Biblical Christian writings refer to communion as taking place at the vast majority of worship gatherings, sometimes even daily! The movement away from weekly communion began in the Middle Ages as priests began to assume the role of "presenter of the sacrifice" during worship and congregants increasingly served as observers of the priests' actions. Thus, communion became something the priests shared amongst themselves regularly, but the congregation only partook of occasionally. This trend was momentarily curbed during the Reformation (Luther himself believed and taught that communion should be celebrated whenever the community gathered for worship), but started up again in the United States as frontier churches struggled with a lack of clergy (i.e. they would wait until the circuit preacher returned before sharing the sacrament). This frontier practice then spread through missionaries before (ironically) reflecting

back to established congregations. Over the past few decades, though, there has been a growing wave of worship communities reclaiming the ancient pattern of weekly communion, and our decision to do similarly can be connected to it.

Probably the simplest reason I can offer as why this change has been made is this: why not? The role in which you have called me is literally described as "the ministry of Word and Sacrament." It is my job to do my best at presenting these twinned experiences of God's grace with you, to provide opportunities for you to connect to the divine and catch a glimpse of something bigger than ourselves. The woman I spoke with in Ohio was right: communion is special—though I do not believe we are capable of sullying it by doing it "too much." If anything, and as a good friend once told me, "We can never get enough of God's grace!"

Pragmatically, offering communion every week serves another purpose: being deliberately welcoming of the stranger. While people "on the inside" have known about Bethel's previous communion schedule, it was less-known (or unknown) by visitors and newcomers. I know this for a fact as, on non-communion Sundays this past year, I experienced several such people asking me about communion and/or expressing disappointment that it hadn't been offered that day. If we are going to be deliberate about the ways in which we welcome—which we must do if we truly intend to be a growing congregation—than we must include the needs and perspectives of those "on the outside" in our decision-making, and I view this change as an appropriate example of such thinking.

Hopefully this answers any questions you might have had about the change, but please know that—as always—I am willing to find time to talk with anyone who wants to. It continues to be a joy to serve here as your pastor, and I look forward to whatever awaits us!

*For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes*

- 1

Corinthians 11:26  
Blessings in Christ's name,  
Pastor Chris



# OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# THANK YOU

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### Daily Member Prayer List

- 1 - Elia Smith
- 2 - Paul Grigsby
- 3 - Karen Bauer
- 4 - John Carlson
- 5 - Kristi Schwerdtfeger
- 6 - Jeremy DeLap
- 7 - Ruth Vollbrecht
- 8 - David Salmon
- 9 - Irene Olsen
- 10 - Dona Pederson
- 11 - Mona Drake
- 12 - Darlene Hilling
- 13 - Kari Pickrell
- 14 - Norma Grigsby
- 15 - Rachel Miller
- 16 - Bev Werts
- 17 - Lila Geiszler
- 18 - Suzanne Hagen
- 19 - Mona Quammen
- 20 - Don Brown
- 21 - Donna Johns
- 22 - Lorna Neumann
- 23 - Daniel Schwerdtfeger
- 24 - John Johns
- 25 - Chuck Vollbrecht
- 26 - Ruth Locke
- 27 - Donna Sjoquist
- 28 - Tavin Ode
- 29 - Lizzie Peters
- 30 - Judy Bashaw

### Those coping with health problems

- Audrey Anderson  
 Bev Baarstad  
 Don Brown  
 Harold Crawford  
 Mona Drake  
 Suzanne Hagen  
 John Johns  
 Harold & Joan Martinell  
 Lynlee Ritchie  
 Jim Schoeld

### Those in Assisted Living or Care Facilities

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



### Pray for those living in nursing homes or adult family homes

- Myrtle Fjarlie  
 Iva Kjosnes  
 Vera Anderson  
 Mary Smith

- 4 - Ila Mae Mattingley
- 5 - Carla Salmon
- 12 - Marlys Pickrell
- 15 - Richard Scansen
- 16 - Ed Anshell
- 17 - Ellen Hansen
- 20 - Doug Bauer  
Carol Hovick
- 21 - Vera Anderson
- 22 - Audrey Anderson  
Evie Nanninga
- 25 - Joanne Brock
- 26 - Nick Rudnick  
Aaron Salmon
- 27 - Joseph Himple

## Compass Housing

Feb. 8, 2013

Dear Members of Bethel Lutheran Church, You are invaluable to all of us here at Compass Housing Alliance. Your donation of \$536 has made a critical impact, especially during the time of year that can be the most emotionally and physically difficult for the people we serve. The dim grey days, cold snaps, and unpredictable weather conditions are especially hard on those who don't have reliable shelter.

Your support allows us to bring some joy and warmth back into the cruelest days of winter. Over the holidays, volunteers and staff worked diligently to provide gifts and hot meals for more than a thousand men, women, and children who use our services. We were able to keep our emergency shelters open all day on Christmas. Our clients were able to stay warm and enjoy a hot meal and rest, a luxury that everyone should be able to enjoy during the holiday season.

None of this would have been possible without your support. Thank you for your gift and for supporting our vision of a world where everyone lives in a safe, caring community.

Cindy Jackson,  
 Director of Development  
 Compass Housing Alliance.



## BOOK CLUB



# JOIN

# US!

April 4  
at Judy's  
at 7:00 PM.

### Everyone Welcome!

Do you think you don't have the time to read? Take time. I have read some good books I probably would never have read had I not joined the book club. You just don't know what you are

### APRIL READING - MAY DISCUSSION

#### **The Wurst is Yet to Come**

By Mary Daheim

"Daheim writes with wit, wisdom, and a big heart."--Carolyn Hart, bestselling author of the Death on Demand series

The Wurst is Yet to Come The wacky title alone tells you that you are once again in the uproarious realm of "the reigning queen of the cozies" (Portland Oregonian), the inimitable Mary Daheim! In this, the twenty-seventh glorious installment of Daheim's Bed-and-Breakfast mystery series, harried hostess Judith McMonigle Flynn and her irrepressible Cousin Renie find themselves in Little Bavaria, where the inconvenient discovery of a nonagenarian corpse threatens to put the kibosh on the local Oktoberfest. No one does cozy mystery better than the delightful Daheim--and if you're a fan of Lillian Jackson Braun, Diane Mott Davidson, or Jill Churchill, you'll definitely want to take a big bite out of this mouth-watering Wurst.

**"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."**

**-Dr. Seuss**

## OUTREACH GIFTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

April is the month of Bethel's Outreach to the Church of Mary Magdalene. We will be collecting \$5 gift cards to Starbucks, McDonalds and Subway.

The Church of Mary Magdalene in turn will give the cards to the homeless and previously homeless women for whom they provide services in a faith-based, safe environment.

Please help if you are able to do so, by bringing the gift cards any Sunday in April.

Thank You  
Outreach Ministry

## ONE MINUTE MINISTRY

### The Lords viewpoint about money.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:10 AMS

God knew how money would occupy our minds; more than one half of Jesus Parables use money as an object lesson. His word tells us about giving and the attitude He wants us to have.

Give generously. Many who have abundance give in to the temptation to hoard it and want more. We must honor God first, then bless others with our abundance in all its forms.

Give cheerfully, not out of guilt or for power or control or pride. He knows your heart and your motives; you can hide nothing from Him.

Give confidently, because when we give to support the Lord's work He will give you all that you need and will impact every area of your life. When He sees you being faithful in small ways, He will trust you with greater things, responsibilities and blessings.

Bring the whole tithe into the store house so that there may be food in My house, and test me now in this, says the Lord of hosts "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows".

Malachi 3: 10 AMS

Adapted from Dr. C Stanley In Touch Ministries

## COMPASS HOUSING ALLIANCE NEWS

THE 33RD Annual One Night Count of homeless people in King County took place in the early hours of January 25, 2013. More than 800 volunteers fanned out across the county to count the number of men, women and children who were homeless and sleeping outdoors.

2,736 men, women, and children were found sleeping on cold sidewalks, curled up in blankets under bridges or in doorways, hunkered down in their cars, riding late night buses, or taking shelter in temporary structures and makeshift campsites.

There is a 5% increase over the number counted in 2012. This means 142 more people were without shelter.

Because many people take great care not to be visible, the true number of people surviving on our streets is certainly higher than reported.

19 of the people counted were children under the age of 18.

Compass Housing Alliance believes we don't have to accept homelessness as an unsolvable problem. We believe everyone deserves a safe place to be at night,

We provide

- Emergency shelter to 220 people each night
- Transitional housing to 187 men and women each night
- A home for 44 families each night
- Permanent low-income affordable housing.

In the next three years, we will be building 200 more homes for families and individuals.

If you care to donate to this cause make checks to "Compass Housing alliance and mail to 77 S. Washington St, Seattle 98104

## SHORELINE MEETING

On Tuesday, April 16th at the Shoreline Sr. Center there will be a meeting on the **Light Rail Station coming to Shoreline**. This is a Citizen's Forum in which you can get answers to any questions you may have. Questions? Call Renee at 206.306.1021.



## WOMEN OF REGION GATHERING



**Women of Region 1 Gathering at Heathman Lodge, Vancouver WA-ELCA**

Women from Alaska,

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana will be gathered together for a weekend of fun, fellowship and learning. Keynote Speaker is author, Jane Kirkpatrick. Introduction to the fall "Gather" magazine Bible Study by author Bishop Kay Ward. **Registration begins at 3 p.m. on June 21, with dinner at 6 p.m. The event ends at noon on Sunday, June 23.** The location is: Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Dr., Vancouver, WA. Need more information? Nancy Quale at 425-746-6559 or email her at [nquale@comcast.net](mailto:nquale@comcast.net).

**The opening worship service for the 2013 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place on Thursday, May 16, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will participate in the worship. Everyone in our synod is invited to join assembly voting members in this worship service. Time to be determined. More details will be available on the synod's website at [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org).**

**The installation of the newly elected bishop (elected at the 2013 Northwest Washington Synod, May 16-18) will take place on Sunday, September 15. Time and location to be determined.**

## ELCA World Hunger

**Thank you!**

Thanks to people like you ELCA World Hunger achieved its goal of raising \$18.5 million in fiscal year 2012. The ELCA Malaria Campaign also achieved its goal of raising \$4 million in fiscal year 2012 and Lutheran Disaster Response received over \$7 million in fiscal year 2012. You are reaching out and helping neighbors around the corner and around the world in many ways, making a difference in the lives of others – thank you.

## ELECTING A BISHOP

Electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod and a key responsibility of the Synod Assembly. As an election, it is a process governed by the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the synod; however, it is also a call process. As such, it involves discernment, from the perspective both of individual nominees and of the synod as a whole. We are engaged in prayerful reflection and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue in the process of nomination and election. Additional information about this process, including upcoming forums with the nominees, is available on the ELCA Website.

**See page 11 for a list of the nominees.**

## THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your contribution of 3/5/2013 for \$150 to the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County given in recognition of this year's Hunger Action Week. Your donation will go directly to work helping local individuals and families who are struggling to keep adequate nutritious food on the family table.

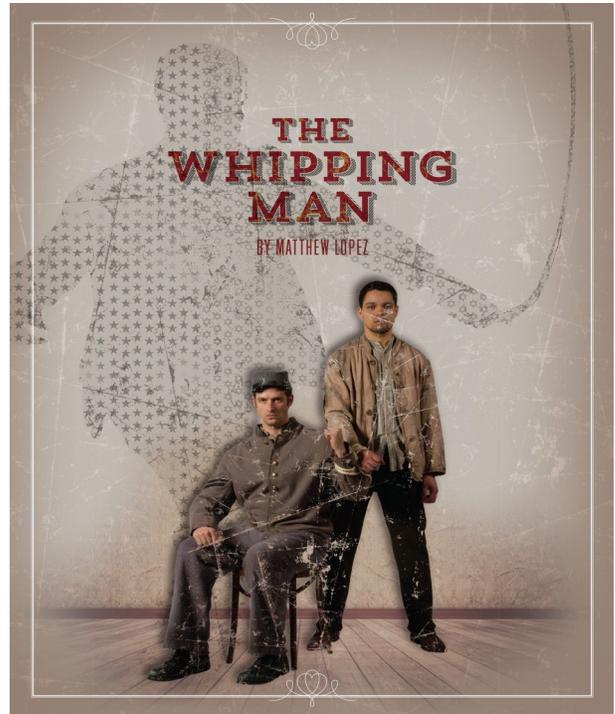
The sad fact is that an estimated 250,000 of our neighbors right here in King County face the daily risk of going hungry. Over 86,000 of them are children. That's an incredible 22 percent of all the children in our county.

I was at an interfaith prayer service the other day and the rabbi said, "We cannot ask you, God, to feed the hungry, for you have already given us everything we need to ensure that all are fed."

Your caring and generosity gives action to these words and will provide both food and hope for struggling local families. On behalf of all those who, because of your generosity, will now have the healthy nutrition they need and deserve, I sincerely thank you.

With warm regards  
Brian Anderson, Operations Director

## TAPROOT THEATER PRODUCTION



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [TAPROOTTHEATRE.ORG](http://TAPROOTTHEATRE.ORG)  
OR CALL 206.781.9707 | 204 N. 85TH STREET, SEATTLE, WA

MAR. 29  
THROUGH  
APR. 27

DIRECTED BY  
SCOTT NOLTE

SUPPORTED IN PART BY:

Charles G. Brown  
Fund for Arts  
and Sciences

CULTURE

ARTS COUNCIL



March 29 thru April 7

A Passover narrative set at the close of the American Civil War, *The Whipping Man* asks soul searching questions about faith, justice and family. Opening March 27<sup>th</sup>-April 27<sup>th</sup>.

*"Can loyalty and freedom coexist? A Jewish Confederate soldier returns from war to his house in shambles. Two former slaves greet him, one who stayed and one who is returning. As they observe Passover and remember the Jewish exodus from Egypt, their shared pasts and secrets threaten the freedom of all three men."*

*Note: This play is set within the reality of war-time suffering. It contains profane language and vivid descriptions of war and slavery. Recommended for ages 16+*

"Haunting, striking, and powerful" – The New York Times



## A Letter from Tom and Mary Holman

*Working with Christians in Ghana and Nigeria to give people access to the Bible in the language they understand best*

March 1, 2013

Dear Family and Friends,  
Before we began our ministry in Ghana in 1981, God gave Psalm 121 to Tom as a promise. God has been faithful to us, and we were reminded of this as I checked this Psalm with the Waja team in Nigeria recently. I look up to the mountains - does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! . . . The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever., Psalm 121:1-2, 7-8. My dad passed away in September, and while staying with Tom's mom during that time, we realized that we needed to relocate to the US to provide support for her soon. As we move into a new phase in our lives, we continue to trust God to help us, and we count on your prayers.

We are planning to move back to the US at the end of June. We will continue to have the same work assignments, but we will do our preparations for checking the translations in the US, and we will share our comments with the Anufo Project in Ghana and the teams we work with in Nigeria via the internet and mobile phone. The teams will then make adjustments to the translations as necessary before we actually travel to meet with them. We have already been doing this while we're still here in Ghana, and it makes the face-to-face checking time more effective. Thank God with us for computers, the internet, and mobile phones!

The time we spent with the Waja team in Nigeria in January was very productive. Besides five Psalms, I also checked the story of David, comparing the weapons used by David and Goliath to the weapons that the Waja



used to use for warfare. Baba (Father) Doka, surprised us by bringing several of those weapons from his house for us to see!

In addition, the Waja Translation Committee requested a meeting to enlighten them about their responsibilities for the translation project. Their response was very encouraging. **Pray** that they will soon be ready to launch a full-scale translation project. We were happy to be able to leave them with a booklet of the story of David translated from 1 and 2 Samuel and 5 Psalms.



Your prayers were answered for the Gwoza Hills Workshop, too. New translators joined both the Fali and Sukur teams. Tom and I were both able to do a consultant check of all of Luke 2 and prepare a booklet for them to take back for testing. Pray that each team would be able to get together to check the other chapters that have been drafted so far.

Here in Ghana, we don't know whether we're coming or going! We're trying to finish checking Genesis and Ruth with the Anufo team, as well as packing up our houses in Tamale and Chereponi. We only have one-and-a-half chapters to check in Genesis, but there have been a lot of hindrances to our finishing it. **Pray** that the Anufo translation team (including us) would find a block of time to finish this checking and other discussions we need to have before we leave. **Pray also** that the proposal for the Anufo Old Testament Project would be approved. King David's weapons for warfare were a slingshot and a rock – not very impressive from a worldly perspective. Our weapons are the Word of God and prayer, and we ask you to use them on our behalf.

**Pray** also for God's provision for all

we need as we leave Ghana and move to the US. Our financial status will remain the same. We will still depend on gifts from our partners – the individuals and churches who believe that everyone should have access to the Word of God in the language they understand best. According to the budget that Wycliffe has set for members who live in the US but are "field assigned", we will need an increase of about 50% over our current support level. This is really daunting, but we trust in God, that He will provide for us as we carry out the tasks He has given us - caring for Mom while carrying on with the task of Bible translation for the Anufo in Ghana and the four projects in Nigeria.

Another one of our tasks in the US will be to share about what God is doing through our partnership with you. **Pray** that God will give us opportunities to do that and also to help us find additional individuals and churches who would join us with prayer and financial support.

We are so grateful for you, for the faithful prayer support that you provide for us and for the teams that we work with in Ghana and Nigeria. May God provide for all your needs in Christ Jesus.



In the Lord, our Provider,  
*Mary,*  
Mary and Tom

**E-mail addresses:** Tom\_Holman@sil.org  
Mary\_Holman@sil.org

Gifts with a note indicating that they are "For the Ministry of Tom and Mary Holman" may be sent to either address below: 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**

## [A Letter from the Jim and Carol Sack](#)

March 6, 2013

Dear Sponsoring Congregations:

A newsletter from the Sacks is long overdue and we apologize for the delay. The beginning of each year is extremely busy with numerous entrance exams and thesis defenses for both undergraduates and graduate students, as well as graduations and ordinations. On Sunday we had an ordination service for four graduates from the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary and we would like to share a little about that event.

In America where you have so many seminary students graduating, you are having numerous ordinations. However here in Japan the Lutheran Church is very small and having 4 new pastors in the church is a very exciting event. Nationally we have 120 churches with 95 pastors and a total membership of around 22,000 people. The graduates ranged from age 24 to 59. The national church is comprised of 5 districts. The ordination of all 4 pastors took place at the same time at Tokyo Lutheran Church, the biggest church in Tokyo that acts as the location of all major meetings and events. It was a very festive event with a few hundred people in attendance. It was so uplifting to have that many voices singing with vigor the hymns for the service. An average sized congregation is only about 20-30 members, so having such a large "choir" was really inspiring to all who were in attendance.

After the ordination we had a communion service where the newly ordained pastors were involved in distributing the elements. Family members as well as members from the both the churches where the pastors are being sent and those churches that helped in their training (internship) are able to receive communion from "their new pastor." After the service all gathered in the fellowship hall where family members of the newly ordained were introduced and light snacks were served.

Many years ago in the States pastors often got married right after graduation and before starting their ministries. Two of the four pastors are getting married right away, so it kind of feels similar to the situation back in the States a number of decades ago. In fact Rev. Miyakawa got married the day before his ordination. Of course his wife was introduced and received a roaring reception by those in attendance. We think it would be interesting for you to meet some of these pastors and learn how they became Christian and decided to become pastors. In the near future we would like to interview some of these new pastors and tell you their stories. We think you will find the stories meaningful and inspiring. Please look forward to that.

Please pray for the new pastors: Rev. Ito, Rev. Okamura, Rev. Nagayoshi and Rev. Miyakawa, and their families and the churches they are being sent to serve.

On a personal note, our daughter Emily will transfer to International Christian University as of September, which is just next door to us. It will be great to have her in Tokyo for her last two years of college.

For those interested please go to : <http://www.jelc.or.jp/e/index.htm>

This is the English website for the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Grace and peace to you,  
Jim and Carol Sack, Tokyo





**Pastoral Letter on Violence adopted by the ELCA Conference of Bishops, March 4, 2013**

*"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."*

Jeremiah 31.15 and Matthew 2: 18

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Every faithful caregiver who sits with victims of violence knows what we know - as God's church, we are called to reduce violence and should, in most cases, restrain ourselves from using violence. Whether or not statistics show that overall violence has declined in recent years, every person wounded or killed is a precious child of God.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we lament the tragedy of gun violence in our country. We are grieved by the way violence threatens and destroys life. We affirm the current soul searching and shared striving to find a way to a better future.

While the church grapples with this call to reduce violence and make our communities safer, we recognize that before God we are neither more righteous because we have guns nor are we more righteous when we favor significant restrictions. Brokenness and sin are not somehow outside of us. Even the best of us are capable of great evil. As people of God we begin by confessing our own brokenness - revealed in both our actions and our failure to act. We trust that God will set us free and renew us in our life's work to love our neighbors.

In this time of public attention to gun violence, local communities of faith have a

unique opportunity to engage this work. As bishops, we were thankful to recognize the many resources our church has already developed (see below). We begin by listening: listening to God, to Scripture, and to each other. Providing a safe place for people to share their own stories, together we discern courses of action. Together we act. And together we return to listening - to assess the effectiveness of our efforts to reduce violence.

In the Large Catechism Luther says, "We must not kill, either by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting." Violence begins in the human heart. Words can harm or heal. To focus only on guns is to miss the depth of our vocation. Yet, guns and access are keys to the challenges we face.

We recognize that we serve in different contexts and have different perspectives regarding what can and should be done. But as we live out our common vocations, knowing that the work will take many forms, we are committed to the work of reducing and restraining violence. This shared work is a sign of our unity in Christ.

We invite you, our sisters and brothers, to join us in this work:

- **The work of lament** - creating safe space for naming, praying, grieving, caring for one another, and sharing the hope of God's promise of faithfulness
- **The work of moral formation and discernment** - listening to scripture, repenting, modeling conflict resolution in daily life, addressing bullying,

conducting respectful conversations, and discerning constructive strategies to reduce violence

**The work of advocacy** - acting to address the causes and effects of violence

Knowing that we are not saved by this work, we undertake it trusting in Christ Jesus, who laid down his life for the world and who calls us to be peacemakers, to pursue justice, and to protect the vulnerable.

In this, as in all things, Christ is with us. Thanks be to God.

**Important Resources:**

Video: ["We have Work to Do"](#) by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

["Community Violence"](#) a social message

["The Body of Christ and Mental Illness"](#) a social message in process

["Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice"](#) a proposed social statement

["Peace: God's Gift, Our Calling"](#) a 1995 social statement

["Ban of Military-Style Semi-Automatic Weapons"](#) 1989 social policy resolution

["Community Violence - Gun Control"](#) 1993 social policy resolution

**For Bishop Wm Chris Boerger**

Margaret Spatafore

Synod Office Administrator

# The Spirit



## Hearing the Power of God's Good News By The Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, Bishop

Robert Bertram, a seminary professor of mine, once said, "You can only know how bad it is once you know how good it is." By that he meant that we can only really see the true reality of sin and its destructive

power after you know the power of forgiveness and God's grace. I find that to be true. People seem to want to live in the depression of sin or in the triumphalism of Easter.

Connecting the two is often forgotten. One of the great gifts we have as Lutheran Christians is that we hold both the Law and the Gospel as honest words of God. To truly deal with the condemning word of the Law I need to hear the power of God's good news in my life. I am not hung up with my sin. I am freed by the power of the gospel to repent and to respond to the consequences of evil that surround me. Good works do not save us. Good works do follow from our faith. It is not a condition, but a response to the grace of God that does heal the world. That is a tricky part of the Christian life. We will act in the face of evil. That action comes out of the Easter message that Christ

is risen and death has been defeated for us. Our action does not conquer death. Christ does that.

Our anxious culture wants a triumphant church that is a respite from the anxiety of the world. It is tempting to say that the church is the place where the problems of the world are simply set aside in the victory of Jesus over the grave. The fact is that Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow. We will

walk with the poor and the ignored. We will act on the grace of God in those places that we really would not want to be.

The Easter message is not about a pastoral picture of peace. It is about God's victory which empowers and calls us to greater clarity about what is going on in the world. Our world can be a beautiful place. It also can be a place of evil and pain. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be in the world as it really is. We do not deny the pain in ourselves or in the creation because we know the good news of Jesus, we can face the news of the world and of our lives and proclaim Christ is Risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

### You Are Invited

#### A Thank You Celebration For Bishop Chris Boerger

Trinity Lutheran Church,  
6215 196th St SW, Lynnwood

**Thursday, May 16, 2013**

5 pm — Hors d'Oeuvres Buffet

6 pm — Thank You Program

7 pm — Worship

ELCA Presiding Bishop  
Mark Hanson Preaching;

## Joining With God In Our Neighborhoods And Communities

Don't miss out on this one day, interactive event that will show you how to experiment in discovering God's mission in your neighborhoods and communities. Alan Roxburgh\* will be at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue on Saturday, June 1, 2013. Alan has dedicated his life to helping churches find their way in a time of great disorientation and disruption. He will help your congregation begin a process of discovery and engagement with what God is doing in the neighborhoods where you live.

This day will introduce you to mission habits and practices, not to strategic plans and procedures. Alan's resource *Moving Back into the Neighborhood* will be available as a tool for your congregation. Alan's description of the day is as follows:

Local churches are looking for ways to engage their changed communities with the gospel. They know once successful programs no longer work and wonder how to be God's people in this new context. They need ways to imaginatively be God's people in their communities. This event shows churches how to effectively engage their contexts in the mission of God by:

- Asking such questions as: What type of church are we? What does that mean for how and where we begin to engage our community?
- Discovering how to begin where your people are, not where you want them to be.

- Engaging in your stories as the key to listening and discerning the activities of God.
- Learning to dwell in Scripture as an essential capacity for local mission.
- Creating experiments for discerning God's actions in the neighborhood.
- Learning together with other congregations.
- Discovering how to take a journey in engaging your neighborhood.
- Registration materials will be sent to your congregation via email in the near future. The cost will be \$20 per person, lunch included.
- Individuals welcome, teams encouraged. If you have questions, contact the synod office at 206-783-9292

Evangelical Outreach Team, NWWA Synod

\*In addition to being the author of many books related to the missional church and a member of The Missional Network team ([www.themissionalnetwork.com](http://www.themissionalnetwork.com)), Alan is a pastor and teacher with more than 30 years of experience in church leadership, consulting and seminary education. Alan has been a pastor to congregations in a small town and in the suburbs, a re-developer of a downtown urban church and the planter of new congregations. He has directed an urban training center and served as the director of a center for mission and evangelism. Alan teaches as an adjunct professor in seminaries in the USA, Australia and Europe.

**Sixteen men and women have been nominated for Bishop of the synod:**

**Kathleen Anderson, Wayne Bacus, Chris Berry, Karen Bloomquist, Ruben Duran, Eric Finsand, Julie Hutson, Rick Jaech, Marvin Jonasen, Ron Moe-Lobeda, David Parks, Jane Prestbye, Jeff Russell, Paul Sundberg, Kirby Unti, and Deanna Wildermuth.**

**For information about these nominees please visit [www.lutheransnw.org/bishopselection](http://www.lutheransnw.org/bishopselection).**

### **Save the date**

**The installation for the new bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2013. Time and location still to be determined.**

Bethel Lutheran Church  
17418 8th Ave NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155  
Phone: 206-362-4334  
Fax: 206-362-6019

Pastor  
Chris Ode

Secretary  
Judy Goulet

Organist  
Karin Kajita

Bookkeeper  
Kathy Carrow

Security  
Bruce Lemmon

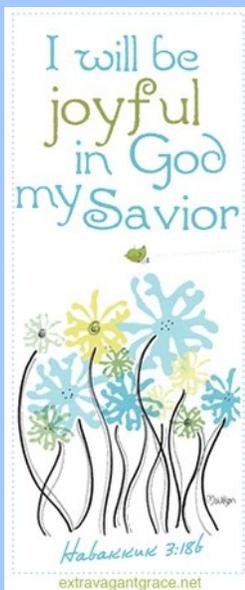
Office Hours  
Tuesday-Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Lunch Hour  
12:30-1:30 PM

Regular Worship  
Schedule  
9:30 AM

Education  
Adult - 8:15 AM  
Adult - 11:00 AM

Communion  
1st & 3rd Sundays



# Bethel Beam



## Pray At All Times

When we're in need of guidance  
Through times we cannot see  
Just where we are heading  
Or where we ought to be

When we need more faith  
Through times that we doubt,  
For those times when we question  
What life is all about

When we're in need of comfort  
Through times of so much grief,  
Those times when our hearts ache  
And we have so many needs

When we need a friend  
Through times when we're lonely,  
Those times when there's no one,  
Just God and us only

When we need more power  
For those times we're attacked  
The struggle with temptation  
Is one of Satan's traps

When we have His blessings  
Abundant in our lives  
When things are going well  
And doors open wide

Through all of these times  
In life that we go through,  
One thing is very certain  
In what we all should do

That we should never cease  
From a lifetime of prayer,  
For praying opens heaven's doors  
And causes us to hear

What God wants to say to us  
And the things He longs to show  
So we can walk in His perfect will  
Wherever we shall go.

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