

the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

December 2013



Christmas

DECEMBER 7
HOLLY BERRY CELEBRATION

December 22
BETHEL4ALL: CHRISTMAS
AROUND THE WORLD
(SEE P.5)

DECEMBER 24
10:30 PM CANDLELIGHT
AND CAROLS

Christmas Is the Story of a Gift

Christmas is the story of a Gift.

Love enjoys giving gifts!
Love doesn't give out of obligation
or selfish motives.

Love gives out of joy.
Love gives because it is kind
and longs to bless everyone
within its reach.

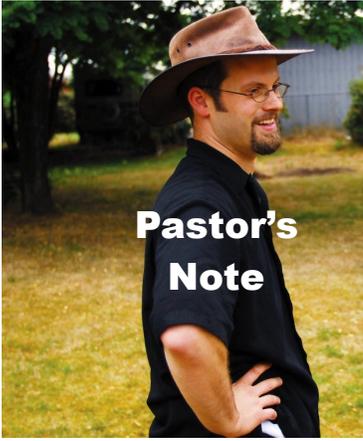
God is love.
He is the giver of every good gift.
He doesn't give out of need—
He has no need.

God gives because He is full and overflows.
He gives because He longs to bless
each and every one of us.

At Christmas God gives the greatest gift
that can be given.
He gives us *Himself*.
To we who are so selfish
He is love—
pure, boundless, unconditional love.
To all who are fearful and despairing
He is hope.
In our worries and anxieties
He is joy and peace.
He is deep, unshakable well-being,
And to all of us who are slaves to death
He is life—
rich, full ever-growing life.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!
Thanks be to God for
Jesus.

Ken Bible ©2009 by LNWhymns.com



November 13, 2013

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven..."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1

I enjoy following the Seattle Seahawks. I remember watching Dave Krieg, Steve Largent, and Curt Warner as a kid in the 80s (I was too young to appreciate Jim Zorn—sorry about that!), suffered through the awful teams of the 90s (and an under-appreciated Cortez Kennedy), and thrilled at the Mike Holmgren-led teams of the 00s (though we won't talk about Super Bowl XL...). The success of the team these last few years, with young quarterback Russell Wilson and the Legion of Boom defense, has certainly been a kick to watch as well! But I've noticed of late that my fandom has taken a different form: it's less about the results on the field, and more

about the process undergirding those results.

With rare exception, outside observers have cast doubts on most every transaction the team has made: the roster is filled with players who have been labeled too short, too tall, too big, too small, or too slow to make a difference at their position. With rare exception, they are an "Island of Misfit Toys," a group of young men whose deficits were supposed to prevent them from ever succeeding in professional football. And yet, by creatively identifying and encouraging the positive qualities of their players—rather than focusing on each player's limitations—Coach Pete Carroll and General Manager John Schneider have built a Super Bowl-contending team—arguably one of the best in the NFL!

I think about that process often when pondering the ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church: in the eyes of some, we shouldn't still be here. The church membership isn't the size it once was. The church budget isn't as flush as it used to be. The church building carries a wealth of need with it. And yet, despite the hurdles we have faced (or perhaps, because of them?), we have continued to build upon a foundation of faith in God which has allowed us to emphasize the positives of our ministry and find ways to squeeze more out of it than might have been imagined. We've gained new members. We've explored new possibilities. We've found new life in existing ministries. We've transformed renters into ministerial partners. We've reclaimed our role as a community focal point. We've begun to serve as an example of "what can be" for other churches instead of "what once was."

The work we have engaged in over these past few years has not been easy—nor has it always been pleasant. But it has been worth it. It has produced fruit. As I interact with community leaders I regularly hear that Bethel is known as a place where things "are happening," where the work of the Spirit is becoming increasingly apparent.

I know that it can be hard at times to imagine what the future of Bethel holds, but I am increasingly convinced that it is a positive future. A life-filled and life-giving future. A future in which God's blessings are lifted up as a means to tackle life's hard times. We might have a few "misfits" in our midst, but together with Christ, we can do more than we ever imagined.

Blessings to you in Christ,
Pastor Chris



Remember in Prayer

Daily Member Prayer List

- 1 - Evelyn Willems
- 2 - Audrey Anderson
- 3 - Evie Nanninga
- 4 - Joanne Brock
- 5 - Nick Rudnick
- 6 - Aaron Salmon
- 7 - Joe Himple
- 8 - Archer Ode
- 9 - Karen Anschell
- 10 - Mary Himple
- 11 - Nicole Swenson
- 12 - Floyd Squires
- 13 - Shirley Pishaw
- 14 - Kelly Urdahl
- 15 - Bruce Smith
- 16 - Craig Fjarlie
- 17 - Nathan Urdahl
- 18 - Sue Logen
- 19 - Ruby Hoff
- 20 - Elia Smith
- 21 - Paul Grigsby
- 22 - Carolyn Starrett
- 23 - Karen Bauer
- 24 - Roger Hilling
- 25 - Kristi Schwerdtfeger
- 26 - Jeremy DeLap
- 27 - David Salmon
- 28 - Ruth Vollbrecht
- 29 - Irene Olsen
- 30 - Mona Drake
- 31 - Gloria Dawson

Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

- Vera Anderson
- Ellen Hansen
- Dick Hinea
- Iva Kjosnes
- Hank Peterson
- Donna Sjoquist
- Dorothy Storseth
- Mary Smith
- Dela Van Hoy

Those Coping with Health Problems

- Don Brown
- Harold Crawford
- Mona Drake
- John Johns
- Olive Kohanik
- Harold & Joan Martinell
- Kathy Moll
- Dona Pederson
- Lynlee Ritchie
- Jim Schoeld
- Karen Schoeld
- Alice Urdahl

DECEMBER MONTHLY BREAKFAST WILL BE ON THE 3RD SUNDAY IN DECEMBER INSTEAD OF THE 2ND SUNDAY.



**BIBLE STUDY
COLOSSIANS
Confident Christianity
December 8,22,29
January 5**

Paul is in prison. From there he writes to the Christian church in Colossi in Asia Minor. He has never visited them, but he feels responsible for them. The church was founded by one of Paul's converts from Ephesus.

Paul has heard good reports of the Colossian Christians, and he praises God for them. He also warns them against some misleading teaching. There are people who say that the way to heaven can be discovered through mystical worship, strict legalism and self denial. Paul says that these are not what the gospel is about!

The theme is the fruitful and effective power of the gospel message, a message that heralds the supremacy of preeminence, headship, and the sole sufficiency of Christ to the church, which is His body. In this little book, we see Paul's "full-length portrait of Christ." Christ is the object of the Christian's faith, but why? Because He is God's Son, the Redeemer, the very image of God, the Lord of creation, the head of the church, the fullness of salvation, the reconciler of the universe, the one who contains all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the standard by which all religious teaching is judged, the fullness of God, undiminished deity, the one under whom all power and authority is subject, the victor over all the cosmic powers, the reality of the truth foreshadowed in the Old testament types and figures, the
(continued on p. 6)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 9 - David & Carla Salmon
- 27 - Gil & Lindsay Aegerter



- Diana Holeman 5
- Joshua DeLap 8
- Dorothy Brown 20
- Richard Hinea 25
- Leah Aegerter 31



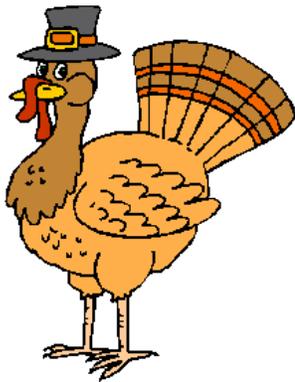
- Maria Carlson
- Chris Ode
- Beth Rudnick
- Karen Schoeld
- John Terrey



WOMEN'S THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

On November 17th we celebrated Women's Thankoffering Sunday. Thank you to all who contributed. Your contributions came to \$209. This money will be sent to WELCA to carry on their work for women of the ELCA.

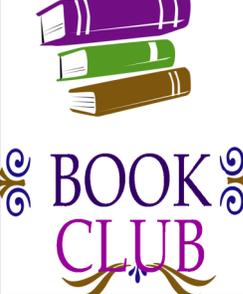
CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Thank you all for helping a lot of families have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.

Once again you have come thru with Outreach Team Ministry's requests. Thank you again!

Outreach Team Ministry

<p>Our January gathering will be January 2nd. Read the book listed below and join us at Diana's</p>	
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The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier Read in December-Discuss in January

In *New York Times* bestselling author Tracy Chevalier's newest historical saga, she introduces Honor Bright, a modest English Quaker who moves to Ohio in 1850, only to find herself alienated and alone in a strange land. Sick from the moment she leaves England, and fleeing personal disappointment, she is forced by family tragedy to rely on strangers in a harsh, unfamiliar landscape.

Nineteenth-century America is practical, precarious, and unsentimental, and scarred by the continuing injustice of slavery. In her new home Honor discovers that principles count for little, even within a religious community meant to be committed to human equality.

However, drawn into the clandestine activities of the Underground Railroad, a network helping runaway slaves escape to freedom, Honor befriends two surprising women who embody the remarkable power of defiance. Eventually she must decide if she too can act on what she believes in, whatever the personal costs.

A powerful journey brimming with color and drama, *The Last Runaway* is Tracy Chevalier's vivid engagement with an iconic part of American history.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members received November 24th

- Corliss Calaway
- Kerri McGill, Riley McGill,
- Beth Sundquist
- Nancy Phillips (re-activating)

**BETHEL4ALL: CHRISTMAS AROUND
THE WORLD
DECEMBER 22 - 6 PM**

Worship with us on December 22nd at 6 PM.

The United Ministries of Bethel4All invite you to worship and a "potluck of sweets." Join them for this celebration of diversity in Christ! Bethel4All is the combined effort of Bethel Lutheran Church, Bethel Ethiopian Church of Seattle, Church of Good News for all Nations, Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Seattle: Ambassadors, Iglesia Evangelica Lirios de Los Valles, and the Reborn Church.

YOU ARE INVITED

Please join with Bethel Seniors for our monthly "First Tuesday" fellowship and lunch:
Tuesday December 3rd at 10:45 AM
Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Senior Center,
18560 1st Ave. NE
(South wing of Shoreline School District Center)
Telephone (206) 365-1536
10:45 AM -- Coffee & fellowship with
Bethel-lites in Room G-133
11:45 AM -- Full lunch with dessert for
\$3.00 in dining room
(You do not need to be a Senior Center member
to attend or eat.)

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY



This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Bethel this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make

contributions. Contact the church office for more information.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS

A PLU CHRISTMAS

**Benaroya Hall
"Hallelujah!"**

Monday, December 4- 7:30 PM

Featuring:

The program features the 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.

Tickets

www.plu.edu/christmas - 253.535.7787

**WARM BEACH
LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS**

**Dec. 5-8, 12-15, 18-23, 26-29 -
5:00 - 10:00 PM**

General admission tickets provides access to all of the shows and rides except separately ticketed dinner and dessert theatre. Free Parking.

www.WarmBeachLights.com

Tickets on arrival

See brochure on bulletin board in hall.

**CHRISTMAS 'ROUND THE TABLE -
A BENEFIT CONCERT**

Saturday December 14

7:00pm at St. Matthew's, Renton

All are invited to this concert to benefit the ministry and outreach of Luther's Table featuring 7 of our most popular bands, and heartwarming speakers, it's an excellent night of music and fellowship on behalf of Luther's Table. Bring your whole congregation! Tickets are \$10/person, with a \$40 cap for family units. Refreshments will be served, and merriment will be had!

NO-COST CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

On Dec. 25 from 12-3pm, a no-cost dinner will be served at Luther's Table for anyone who wants to come. Don't be lonely on Christmas - spend it with your LT family.

BRONN AND KATHERINE JOURNEY

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 20 - 7:30 PM

Shorecrest Performing Arts Center

Tickets:

Brown Paper Tickets (800)838-3006

www.BrownPaperTickets.com

(cont. p.6)

Bible Study (cont. from p.3)

regulations and rituals, the One exalted and enthroned at the right hand of God in heaven, the One in Whom we are complete and in whom our life is hidden, protected, and kept, the One by whom our new life will be gloriously manifested at His coming again, and it is through Him and because of our new life in Him that we ought to put away our old manner of life from which we have been marvelously saved.

The purpose of writing Colossians was threefold: (1) to express Paul's personal interest in the Colossians, (2) to warn them against reverting to their old pagan vices and (3) to counteract both the theological heresy and its practice within the church at Colossae. Paul counters the false theology with sound Christology and then spells out the practical outworking of this in the everyday life of the believer.

Come and study Paul's letter to the Colossians. **Class starts on December 15th at 11:00 AM.**
Then continues on the 22nd.

Community Programs(cont. from p.5)

WITH THE ANGELS SING GLORIA

Trinity Lutheran church - Lynnwood
December 7 - 7:30 PM

Featuring Vivaldi's Gloria, and backed by an orchestral ensemble, our Christmas program this year will tell of the angels and their prominent role in the story of Christ's birth.

JULEBORD

Norse Home Annual Fundraiser Dinner
December 8
(see kiosk in narthex for more info)

TAPROOT THEATRE

Le Club Noel
Thru December 28
Step into a 1930's Parisian Cabaret and fall under the spell of Le Club Noel.
(see kiosk in narthex for more info)

MISSIONARY NEWS



UPDATE FROM TOM AND MARY HOLMAN

November 17, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanksgiving is almost here, and we have much to be thankful for -- especially you! We can identify with what the apostle Paul said to the Philippians, "[We] thank God every time [we] remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of [our] prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel."

Our visits to several churches and friends in November were joyful -- it was so good to see them again! We will continue to visit other partners and seek new ones during the rest of this month and December. We will also make preparations for doing consultant checking for the workshop in Nigeria scheduled for January. **Please pray** that we would be able to attend this workshop.

May your Christmas be filled with Joy in Jesus!

With thanks,

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 8:15 AM Wired Word 9:30 AM Bethel Worship	2 	3 	4 9:00 AM Bethel Quilters 1:00 PM Midday Meditation	5 7:00 PM Around the Sound Band 7:00 PM Bethel Book Club at Judy's	6	7 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship 11:30 AM Holly Berry Celebration	
8 8:15 AM Wired Word 9:30 AM Bethel Worship 11:00 AM Adult Class	9 	10 10:45 AM Membership Team 6:30 PM Worship Team	11 1:00 PM Midday Meditation  <i>'Tis the Season</i>	12 	13	14 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship	
15 8:15 AM Wired Word 9:30 AM Bethel Worship 10:45 AM Breakfast	16	17	18 10:00 AM Sarah Circle 1:00 PM Midday Meditation 1:00 PM Rebecca Pebbles Circle	19 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	20	21 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship	
22 9:30 AM Bethel Worship 6:00 PM Bethel4All Christmas Service 11:00 AM Adult Class	23	24 10:30 PM CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS	25  Christmas Day	26	27	28 	
29 9:30 AM Bethel Worship 11:00 AM Adult Class	30  The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. ISAIAH 12:1-2	31					

	1	8	15	22	29
Altar Guild	Ragnhild & Kelly	Judy & Carol	Donnamae & Diana	Sue & Joanne	Lillian & Marlys
Worship Assistants	Karen Johnson	Craig Fjarlie	Joe Himple	Liz Terrey	Bruce Smith
Liturgists	Marlys Pickrell				
Kids Time	Pastor Chris	Marlys Pickrell	Pastor Chris	Diana Holeman	Kerri Totten
Communion					
Bread	Sue Logen	Carol Hovick	Elia Smith	Mary Himple	
Wine	XXXXXXXXXX	Judy Goulet	Bruce Smity		Elia Smith
Glasses	Anna Sjong Liz Terrey				
Flowers	Lynnlee Ritchie in memory or mother's birthday	Scott & Starla DeLap in honor of Josh's birthday	No FLOWERS	No FLOWERS	Karen Johnson in memory of Philip Sakewitz
Ushers	Bruce Smith John Johns Rance Urdahl	Chuck Vollbrecht Chris Pickrell Dick Scansen Dick Hinea	Sue Logen (Sign up to usher)	Wally Goulet Dave Switzer (Sign up to usher)	Wally Goulet Chris Pickrell Ed Anshell
Lessons	John 18:36-37 Daniel 3:1,8-30	John 11:25-26 Ezekiel; 37:1-14	John 4:13-14 Isaiah 55:1-11	Psalms 130:5-8 John 1:1-18	Psalms 32:1-2 John 1:19-34



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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Irene Olsen | Rick & Beth Rudnick |
| Dona Pederson | David & Carla Salmon |
| Lizzy Peters | Dick Scansen |
| Chris & Marlys Pickrell | Dick & Kristi Schwerdtfeger |
| Shirley Pishaw | Anna Sjong |
| Mona Quammen | Bruce & Elia Smith |
| Dan & Lynnlee Ritchie | Carolyn Starrett |
| David Robbins | |
| Lillian Routledge | |

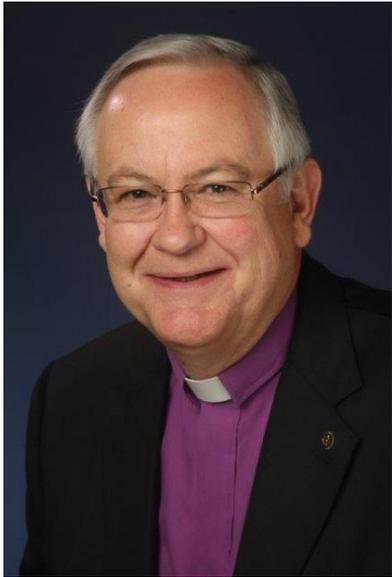
ON CALL LIST

SANCTUARY CARETAKER

Chris Pickrell

The Spirit

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



Come Lord Jesus

by the Rev. Kirby
Unti, Bishop

LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I

have come down to rescue them..." Exodus 3:7-8 NIV

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

I have made it my own personal practice to use the Season of Advent as a time to imagine more fully what it means that God has taken up residency in our world. Preparing for the birth of Christ, for the coming of Christ is for me a deep desire to know Jesus in the flesh.

God coming to us is at the center of what the good news is all about. This action of drawing near reveals the depth of God's love for us. I know having four children how important it is for me to try to be there for them, especially if I think they are hurting. No doubt I have been an overly protective father but it is in my bones. I felt the same way when my

parents were dying. I wanted to be with them even though I was helpless in being able to do anything for them.

It is one thing for God to come, it is quite another that God would come in the flesh. Taking on flesh is - in and of itself - full of grace. I so admire people who know how to get down on the same level as others. Two of my heroes are Craig Rennebohm and Dick Lutz. These two pastors devoted their lives to working with the mentally ill on the streets of Seattle and South King County. I watched them patiently, painfully and with great love learn the language of those whom others only viewed as crazy. They began to find meaning in the images, themes, dramas, and hallucinations of those who make so little sense to most of us. Craig and Dick knew what it means to enter into another's world.

How powerful is the might of one who empties the self and becomes one with us and one of us.

Friends, may this advent season be a time when you experience more fully God's great love for you and God's presence in the world where you are living your life. In turn, may you be drawn into the care of others in ways in which you more fully enter their world.

Come Lord Jesus!

Pacific Typhoon Response

The most powerful storm ever recorded, Super Typhoon Haiyan, crashed the central islands of the Philippines. Through Lutheran World Relief and as a member of ACT Alliance, [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) is responding by committing \$1 million to urgent needs of food, water, clothing, shelter, sleeping material and medicine. Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to work, assessing the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by the typhoon.

[Learn more](#) | [Resources](#) | [Donate now](#)

ALL are invited to the Synod Advent Open House Gathering

December 3, 1pm-5pm at the Synod Office, St. John United, Seattle

Bethel Lutheran Church
17418 8th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155
Phone: 206.362.4334



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

Special dates in December

- First Sunday of Advent 1
- Holly Berry Brunch 7
- Second Sunday of Advent 8
- Third Sunday of Advent 15
- First Day of Winter 21
- Fourth Sunday of Advent 22
- Bethel4All 22
- Christmas Eve Worship 24
- Christmas Day 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night 31

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

Worship Schedule
9:30 AM

Sunday School
9:45 AM Sunday

Bible Study
Wednesday 1:00 PM
Midday Meditation
Wednesday 7:00 PM
Text Messages

Adult Education
Sunday
8:15 AM & 11 AM

Communion
Every Sunday

EMAIL: bethel@bethellutheranchurch.org

A Christmas Creed

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun
in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit
still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both
large and small.**

**I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,
and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude
Christ from my life today.**

**I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and
the proud could never understand; whose life was among common
people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.**

**I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:
I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose
modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth,
who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them,
who by love brought sinners back to purity and lifted human weakness
up to meet the strength of God.**

**I confess my ever-lasting need of God: the need of forgiveness for our
selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls,
the need of love for hearts grown cold.**

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

**I believe in Jesus, the son of the living
God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.**

WEB: bethellutheranchurch.org FACEBOOK: facebook.com/bethelshoreline