

the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

June 2015



May 20, 2015

I've heard a lot of rumors in the months since we made the decision to relocate our congregation – a decision centered on our desire to refocus ourselves on “building ministry” instead of “building maintenance”. I've heard far-off theories on why we're doing it, what our timeline looks like, and what we intend to do with

the proceeds from a sale. I've heard outside opinions – sometimes loud, always ignorant – as to what a “better” decision would have been. But throughout all of that I have found comfort in the knowledge that (1) We made this decision openly, as a community and (2) following through with this change will allow us to live more freely and fully into our call as followers of Christ.

As I write this, we have recently heard back on our first round of offers from potential buyers of our current site. Candidly, several other congregations have expressed interest thus far, but the same problems have appeared with all of their offers: they have been well below fair value, and they have all attempted to negotiate a sale that ignores the lower parking lot. Beyond the obvious – namely, that we would be poor stewards to accept an offer ~50% the value of the site – their desire to avoid the lower lot is also a problem: per city code, the large size of our sanctuary dictates parking requirements which wouldn't be met without including the lower lot.

In the other direction, we have also been approached by at least two developers – one of whom has submitted an initial offer. Their offer is substantial – nearly \$3 million above that of those from the churches – and could be increased. Negotiating with numbers in this range, whether with this group or another one, would allow us the financial flexibility to purchase a new site for the congregation in cash (with a strong possible location already available).

Additionally, we would have enough capital left over to develop some amazing ministerial opportunities. It is because of this wide gap in the offers from churches and developers that your Council and I have made the hard decision to primarily pursue options around development, and during worship on May 17 the congregants who were present expressed their unanimous support for this decision.

In regards to a new home for Bethel, we have looked into several options. The current front-runner is the purchase of a building quite close to our current site. The layout of the location is intriguing: it has the space and flexibility to allow us to continue to work with several of our current community partners (e.g. Aaron's Place, the Lutheran Counseling Network) as well as inviting new organizations into relationship (e.g. there is space for a daycare). Conversations with the current owner are ongoing, and still in the early stages, but it looks promising. Sometime in the next month or so, we will be setting up a congregational tour of the site following worship: I invite you to be a part of that. Additionally, there are blueprints of the site at the church which can be looked over and discussed – many exciting possibilities have already been found by looking them over.

The path we are on right now is unfamiliar: I have found few, if any, models to learn from directly. But it continues to become increasingly clear that it is a gospel-driven path, a route by which we will be able to reinvent ourselves and further the ministry of Christ in the community. I thank you for your patience, your hope, and your willingness to walk in faith: working with you is truly inspirational.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about things at Bethel feel free to call, email, drop-by, etc: it is vital that we be willing to communicate about the future and approach it through mature conversation. Through God, all things are possible!

“So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight.”

OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Daily Member Prayer List

- 1 - Stephanie Vollbrecht
- 2 - Ed Anshchell
- 3 - Vera Anderson
- 4 - Audrey Anderson
- 5 - Aaron Salmon
- 6 - Mona Drake
- 7 - Darlene Hilling
- 8 - Lila Geiszler
- 9 - Don Brown
- 10 - Lorna Neumann
- 11 - John Johns
- 12 - Chuck Vollbrecht
- 13 - Ruth Locke
- 14 - Donna Sjoquist
- 15 - Beth Sundquist
- 16 - Tavin Ode
- 17 - Lizzie Peters
- 18 - Judy Bashaw
- 19 - Liz Rayborn
- 20 - Michael Vollbrecht
- 21 - Chris Pickrell
- 22 - Rance Urdahl
- 23 - Leukos Jones
- 24 - Elias Rayborn
- 25 - Rick Rudnick
- 26 - Dorothy Storseth
- 27 - Judy Goulet
- 28 - Joan Martinell
- 29 - Virgil Baarstad
- 30 - Jordan Rayborn

Those coping with health problems

- Don Brown
Harold Crawford
Mona Drake
Craig Fjarlie
John Johns
Olive Kohanik
Harold Martinell
Joan Martinell
Shirley Pishaw
Lynlee Ritchie
Jim Schoeld
Karen Schoeld

Those in Assisted Living or Care Facilities

- Vera Anderson
Donnamae Gfeller
Ellen Hansen
Dick Hinea
Donna Sjoquist
Dorothy Storseth
Mary Smith
Dela Van Hoy
Bev Werts



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHIES TO the family and friends of Frank Moll who died May 5 and to the friends and family of Iva Kjosnes who died April 30. Services were held at Bethel.

Celebrate June Anniversaries

- 10 - Kathy Carrow
John Vollbrecht
19 - Kelly & Rance Urdahl



- 5 - Dela VanHoy
20 - Ruby Hoff
Elia Smith
24 - Paul Grigsby
26 - Carolyn Starrett



HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH GENERAL FUND

Root beer floats will be served after worship service Sunday June 7, July 12, and August 9. Please join us in the narthex. Donations will be put towards the general fund.



Thanks for your support.

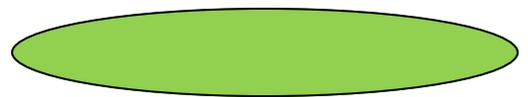
Outreach Ministry

VACATION TIME!

Judy will be on vacation from June 25 - July 10. The church office will be closed. If you need anything call , text or email Pastor Chris.
Phone: 206-719-5221
Email- pastor.ode@gmail.com
Pastor.ode@bethellutheranchurch.org
Text - 206-719-5221

2ND SUNDAY BREAKFASTS

Sunday, June 14, will be the last 2nd Sunday breakfast until October. Hope you can attend. Once again, we would like to thank all those who dig in and help us clean up and put the tables away. Many hands make shorter work!



- 1 - Mary Himple
Carol Hovick
Daniel
Schwerdtfeger
6 - Lynlee Ritchie
8 - Joe Himple
Rick Rudnick
19 - John Vollbrecht
27 - Ed Anshell

CELEBRATE
JUNE



BETHEL SPRING LUNCHEON 2015

A great time was had by all who attended our spring luncheon in May. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church joined us to make about 75 people attending. Everything turned out perfect for a fun morning.



The food was great!



We loved listening to and joining in song with the Total Experience Gospel Choir.



FELLOWSHIP



FUN!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS A WONDERFUL EVENT INCLUDING PREPARATION, PARTICIPATION, AND ATTENDING. THANK YOU, SUE, FOR TAKING PICTURES.



UPDATE FROM TOM AND MARY HOLMAN

Helping the Church fulfill the Great Commission by making God's Word accessible for every people group and nation

After a slow start with the Waja team I'm happy to report that we went on to complete the first six chapters of Acts! They have realized that they need to do much more intensive work on their translation before I check it. If they don't, they will not be able to complete all their goals before the end of this phase of their project in September 2016. We're all grateful for your prayers and ask you to **pray** that they would finish Acts in time for me to be able to go through it and send them my feedback before we meet again in September.

Tom and I will be going on vacation/retreat in Northern Minnesota for two weeks in June. This is the first long one in a couple of years. **Please pray** for "times of refreshing from the Lord". Mom will be staying with Tom's sister Cathy again, so **pray** that they would have a great time together.

We're praying for you, too, during this time of transition.

Yours in Christ,

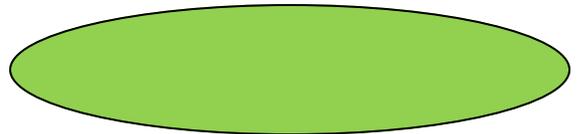
Mary

Mary (and Tom) Holman

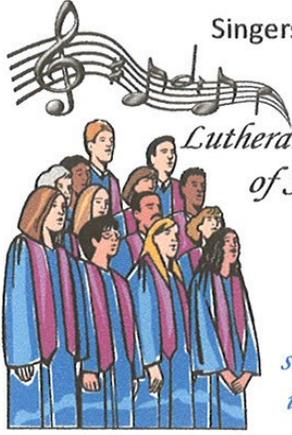
E-mail addresses: mary_holman@sil.org,
tom_holman@sil.org

Mailing Address: 7611 36th Ave. North #215, New Hope, MN 55427

Phones: Tom: 651-726-4581, Mary: 262-497-4085



Singers are Invited to Join



*Lutheran Choral Association
of Snohomish County*

*We are an
ecumenical summer
choir, inviting you to
share your voice with us
in preparation for early
September concert(s).*

"Lutheran Choral Association of Snohomish County invites singers to join in the fun for our 3rd season beginning Monday, June 8. Members of your choir or congregation may register at LutheranChoralSnoco.org, or call Jean DeWitt at 425-357-0605, or just come to a rehearsal. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 9320 Meadow Way, Everett 98208. The concert will be in early September.



VISION HOUSE
Building Hope.
Restoring Lives.

Current Opening:
Substitute Child Care
Teacher Before & After
School Program
"On Call" Hourly, Non-
Exempt Position

Hours vary based on needs of the program
Children's Village Child Care Center is in Shoreline, WA and is a program of Vision House.

(See flyer on kiosk in narthex for more information)

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Being Made New by Kate Sprutta Elliott

Have you heard? **Gather** is changing the format of its Bible studies. Instead of a nine-month study and a three-month summer study, we will run several studies during the year. And we will no longer publish a separate leader guide and companion Bible. Over the years, many readers have asked that the leader information be contained right in the magazine, and now we will do that.

Traditionally, we have asked a scholar, often retired, to write the nine-month study. Typically this person has the time, experience, and academic background to write a study and leader book - as well as the freedom to travel to Bible study introductory events. However, **Gather** is finding it increasingly difficult to identify new writers who are able to commit to such a large project. We hope that by shortening the studies, we can get new authors who could not make a commitment to write a longer study. And we think readers will enjoy hearing the perspectives of a larger more diverse group of writers.

Also, we hope that shorter Bible studies will be more appealing for new people who might want to join your study group.

Check our website to learn more about upcoming writers. You can download a brochure from the website about the new study.

THE SHAPE OF THE YEAR

SUMMER

Three sessions (June, July, August)

FALL

Three sessions (September through November)

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Shorter seasonal devotional

WINTER

4 sessions, probably on a book of the Bible (January/February through April)

SPRING:

One session, an intergenerational lesson (May)





Nepal Area Earthquake

The Situation:

An earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.8 shook Nepal April 25 near its capital, Kathmandu. Sections of the city's historic center lie in rubble. More than 7,000 people died and thousands more are injured. It is estimated that 2.8 million Nepalese are displaced and 190,000 houses destroyed.

Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to walking with our brothers and sisters in Nepal, as rescue efforts and assessments continue. Working with The Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, the ACT Alliance, United Mission to Nepal and other partners, our church is responding to immediate and long-term needs.

As of May 7, gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response totaling \$500,000 have been allocated to support these partners.

Active in Nepal since 1984, The Lutheran World Federation began an immediate large-scale emergency response in and around Kathmandu on the day of the quake. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response will support the communion's establishment of shelters and camps and the distribution of clean water, food, sanitation supplies and more in several districts in the Kathmandu Valley. The Lutheran World Federation is the lead agency for ACT Alliance and has been asked by the Nepalese government to take a seat on its emergency coordination group, a note of appreciation for their rapid response to the earthquake.

Active in Nepal since 2009, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response will also support Lutheran World Relief is distributing quilts, water filtration systems and other emergency relief supplies. In addition, your support is helping the United Mission in Nepal oversee health care services with special medical, surgical and orthopedic care to those affected.

What Can You Do?

Pray:

Pray for people affected by the earthquake and its aftershocks, especially as they grieve the loss of loved ones and property. Pray for the LWF and Lutheran World Relief emergency teams on the ground, who are standing with people and communities affected.

Give:

Your gifts designated for the **"Nepal Area Earthquake"** will be used in full (**100 percent**) to assist those directly impacted. Gifts from people like you allow us to continue our response.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE --- How We Work

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need.



The Spirit

June 2015



Grace Always?

by the
Rev. Kirby Unti,
Bishop

It has always been important to me that the words I use align with my own sense of sincerity.

This is particularly important to me when it comes to the use of religious language. I have been struggling since I entered the Office of Bishop to come up with a closing for the letters that I write that passes the sincerity test.

“Sincerely yours,” meets the test but it is a bit too bland and formal for me.

The one that I have been leaning towards is, “Grace always.” I used it a number of times before becoming aware of some inner resistance. How could I resist grace? It is at the heart and center of what I believe and most adequately defines for me the heart of God. The more I poked around in the resistance I began to realize that it might sound too Pollyannaish or worst yet it might appear as “cheap grace.” Cheap grace is defined as grace without the cross. This caused me to wrestle more deeply about what do I believe about grace?

I remember hearing Mike Breen talk about grace as an umbrella implying that one could fall outside of the umbrella of grace. This just doesn't work for me. Grace is either grace or it isn't. It seems to me when

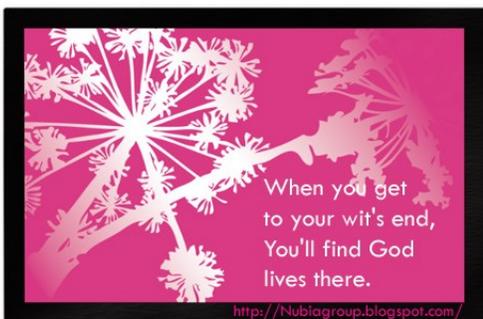
one needs it the most is precisely when one falls outside the acceptable boundaries of forgiveness and acceptance. While we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous person – though perhaps for good person one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

This for me places the cross right in the center of grace – all grace. Yes, even cheap grace. I would rather err on the side of cheap grace than turn grace into something that one must be worthy of. Yet the tension in me still questions my sincerity in claiming, “Grace Always.” I thank God as a Lutheran that this tension is affirmed. In fact I am confident the tension lies somewhere in between my being at one and the same time a Saint and a Sinner.

What I do know for certain is the joy that I experience when I watch someone discovering grace for the first time. I was with a friend recently and every time she tried to explain why she was becoming a Lutheran all she could do was cry. She had spent far too much of her life striving to do right and live according to the impossible expectations of her faith community. Her life embraced by grace instead of guilt and shame has overwhelmed her with a flood of tears. She is drowning daily in the Grace Waters of baptism.

I will continue to struggle with the tension. Meanwhile, don't be surprised if you receive a letter from me signed, “Grace always!” Or on days when I am not as confident in my convictions, “May Grace Abound.”

A publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement New knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, Take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. have bouts with dementia .. have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. I can't remember if I'm 89 or 98. have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY WRAP UP

All Resolutions Passed

Five resolutions were passed by the assembly. The first welcomed our newest congregation, Church of Steadfast Love. Two resolutions encouraged seeking peace in the Holy Land. These were approved as amended. The final two encouraged care of creation. You may read the full text on the synod assembly webpage: www.lutheransnw.org/2015-Synod-Assembly. Briefly, here is what passed:

- to welcome the Church of Steadfast Love as a congregation of our synod. (Welcome & congratulations!)
- to memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to ask for Congressional action requiring that future U.S. aid to Israel be contingent on Israel's halt to all settlement-building in the West Bank and that the US in coordination with the UN security council launch a more determined effort for a negotiated agreement that ends the occupation, achieves an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel and provides security and peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.
- that synod congregations ask for Congressional action applying these conditions to future aid to Israel by advocating such action to their district's U.S. House Member and both of Washington State's U.S. Senators; and that the Bishop make this resolution's call known to the members of Washington State's Congressional delegation who serve citizens living in our synod and to the public at large.
- to memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to make climate change and ecological justice major themes in ELCA planning and activities leading up to and following the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- to find ways to enact the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to "support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use, and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church's commitment to address climate change and to care for God's creation" and "to reexamine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and

to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God's creation;" and that the synod commit itself to participate with the ELCA in becoming even more faithfully a denomination that embraces and practices creation care throughout its life and mission.

Election Results

MANY thanks to all who allowed their names to come forward as nominees for various positions. The following were elected:

Synod Consultation Committee

Pastor Bob Lewis
Pastor Tim Wolbrecht
David Swartling
Stacy Kitahata

Synod Committee on Discipline

Pastor Penelope Guntermann
Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse
Paul A. Anderson
Joanne Hinkle

2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Tyler Bates
Hannah Berg
Pastor Tor Berg
Franklin Chu
Sister Liz Colver
Pastor Ivar Hillesland
Pastor Jennifer Schultz
Sojin Thompson
Bishop Kirby Unti and Synod Vice President Georganne Robertson will also attend, by virtue of their positions in the synod.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who worked tirelessly to make the assembly a success: serving on the planning team & various assembly committees; our fabulous volunteers who helped out prior to & during the assembly, those who graciously gave presentations & led discussions; our friends who shared about their ministries at the display tables; and all the gracious voting members, observers and visitors who joined together in worship, business and conversation. "Can We Talk" - yes, we can!



Bethel Beam



Happy
Father's
Day
to all our
Bethel dads!

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!

Bethel Lutheran Church

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

Pastor
Chris Ode

Secretary
Judy Goulet

Accompanist
Ben Dobyns

Bookkeeper
Kathy Carrow

Security
Bruce Lemmon

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

Worship Schedule
9:30 AM

Adult Education
8:45 AM Sunday
11:00 AM Sunday

Communion
Every Sunday

The Northwest Washington Synod Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

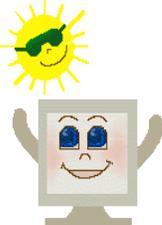
Every day members of congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod are living out the good news. In far reaches of the globe, and right here in our communities, we join with our neighbors for the sake of abundant life. Locally our members help the homeless and the hungry by offering lunch and dinner, donating to food banks, hosting Tent City, and by providing transitional housing and personalized support. The Synod Hunger Team encourages congregations to support the ELCA Hunger Appeal. Globally we walk with our friends in Russia and Tanzania (Masai Girls School). We also support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) vision to end malaria (ELCA Malaria Campaign) raising \$150,000 in one year, as well as the ELCA Disaster Response and the Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us, as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. We welcome you to join this community of faith — the ELCA — regardless of your age, race, gender, sexual orientation, life experience, complexities and questions. You have a unique story that can only add to the richness of the larger story that makes up the ELCA. There is a place for you here!

The ELCA is one church body organized in three expressions — **congregations, synods and the churchwide organization**. Each expression has its particular functions but all three together share a common mission of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

 <p>I Love Summer</p>	<p>1 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (109)</p>	<p>2 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (109)</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Aaron's Place 9:00 AM Bethel Quilters 1:00 PM Iva Kjosnes Memorial Service</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (109)</p> 	<p>5 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (FH)</p>	<p>6 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>	
<p>7 8:15 AM Wired Word Study 9:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>8 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>	<p>9 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p> 	<p>10 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (109) 6:30 PM Worship team</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Aaron's Place 7:00 PM Bethel Church Council</p>	<p>12 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (1090 (FH)</p> 	<p>13 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>	
<p>14 8:15 AM Wired Word Study 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Breakfast</p>	<p>15 9:00 AM Aaron's Place)</p>	<p>16 9:00 AM Aaron's Place)</p> 	<p>17 9:00 AM Aaron's Place (109) 10:00 AM Sarah Circle</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Aaron's Place 7:00 PM Ruth Circle at Karen Barber's</p>	<p>19 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>	<p>20 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>	
<p>21 8:15 AM Wired Word Study 9:30 AM Worship</p> 	<p>22 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>	<p>23 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>  <p>Summer Fun</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>  <p>Summer Fun</p>	<p>26 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>	<p>27 9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>	
<p>28 8:15 AM Wired Word Study 9:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>29 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>	<p>30 9:00 AM Aaron's Place</p>				 <p>First Day of Summer June 21</p>	

	7	14	21	28
Altar Guild	Marlys	Sue & Joanne	Carol & Judy	Karen & Diana
Worship Assistants	Karen Johnson	Elia Smith	Karen Anschell	Joe Himple
Kids Time	Pastor Chris	Marlys Pickrell	Pastor Chris	Kathy Carrow
Communion				
Bread	Sue Logen	Bruce Smith	Carol Hovick	Mary Himple
Wine	Diana Holeman	Liz Terrey	Judy Goulet	Dorothy Brown
Glasses	Beth Sundquist Joanne Brock	XXXXXXXXXXXX	Dorothy Brown Bruce Smith	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Flowers		Joanne Brock in memory of Dean and Greg		Irene Olsen in memory of Robert Olsen
Ushers	Bruce Smith Rance Urdahl John Johns	Chuck Vollbrecht Chris Pickrell Dick Scansen	Sue Logen	Dave Switzer
Ushers Needed ! How About You?!! Call the church office!				
Preaching Text	(Praise) Psalm 113	(Lament) Psalm 69:1-16	(Trust) Psalm 27:1-6	(Thanksgiving) Psalm 40:1-10

ON CALL LIST



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dick Scansen | Chuck & Ruth Vollbrecht |
| Dick & Kristi | Doug & Karen Bauer |
| Schwerdtfeger | Joanne Brock |
| Ruce & Elia Smith | Don & Dorothy Brown |
| Carolyn Starrett | Kathy Carrow |
| Beth Sundquist | Scott & Starla DeLap |
| John & Liz Terrey | Ragnhild Eidem |
| Rance & Kelly Urdahl | Lila Geiszler |

Sanctuary
Caretaker
Chris Pickrell