

the Bethel Beam

Bethel Lutheran Church

December 2015

Christmas

DECEMBER 5

11:30 AM

HOLLY BERRY CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY SERVICE**

Experience a family-friendly, kid-oriented worship service filled with song and story.

DECEMBER 24

10:30 PM

CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS

Our traditional candlelight service: a time of scripture, music, and prayer filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas*

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.

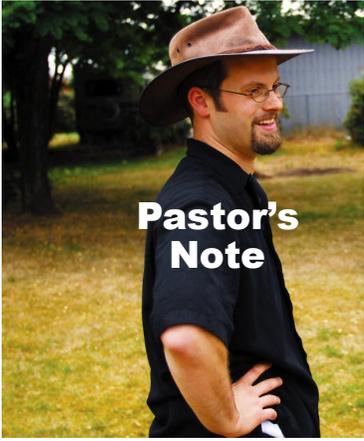
He is deep, unshakable well-being,
And to all of us who are slaves to death

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 20, 2015

Greetings in the name of the risen Christ!

Is it really time for Advent? Already?!

What a fitting season for us to enter as a community: a time of watchful, hopeful waiting – a time when we anticipate the promised blessings of God. As Christians, we embrace this time of transition and preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth and eventual return – as Bethelites we add to this the expectations we all have for a positive resolution to the process of selling the current site and investing ourselves in a new way of “being Bethel”. In both identities we find ourselves living simultaneously “now” and “then”: mindful of the present, but aware of future blessings to come.

Aware of those blessings – and confident in their arrival!

For this year’s Advent services (Nov 29 – Dec 20) I am excited to announce that we will be using a setting composed by our own talented accompanist, Ben Dobyns. Ben began working on this liturgy several years ago, and the two of us have partnered over the past months to craft lyrics and music reflective of the Advent season. I believe it will be a well-received experience for all of us, and I am excited that we can share in this musical expression together!

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!

“A voice cries out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God!’” Isaiah 40:3

Blessings to you in Christ,
Pastor Chris



DO YOU HAVE YOUR HOLLY BERRY CEELEBRATION TICKETS?.
(November 29th sold at church or call the church office by December 2.)

Date: Saturday, December 5
11:30 AM

\$10.00 - Adult \$5.00 - Children 5-12 Free - Under 5

All are welcome. A program for everyone!

Program

Bronn Journey

(Not just your regular harpist....a great harpist and entertainer!)

Don’t miss this fun entertainment and great lunch! Start your Christmas season off on December 5 at Bethel!

Remember in Prayer

Daily Member Prayer List

- 1 - Beth Rudnick
- 2 - Phyllis Moll
- 3 - Sarah Ode
- 4 - Dick Schwerdtfeger
- 5 - John Vollbrecht
- 6 - Karen Johnson
- 7 - Mary Smith
- 8 - Donnamae Gfeller
- 9 - Stephanie Vollbrecht
- 10 - Anna Sjong
- 11 - Ellen Bergesen
- 12 - Kathy Carrow
- 13 - Carla Salmon
- 14 - Marlys Pickrell
- 15 - Dick Scansen
- 16 - Ed Anschell
- 17 - Ellen Hansen
- 18 - Doug Bauer
- 19 - Carol Hovick
- 20 - Vera Anderson
- 21 - Audrey Anderson
- 22 - Evie Nanninga
- 23 - Joanne Brock
- 24 - Nick Rudnick
- 25 - Joe Himple
- 26 - Archer Ode
- 27 - Karen Anschell
- 28 - Mary Himple
- 29 - Nicole Swenson
- 30 - Walt Himple
- 31 - Shirley Pishaw

Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Vera Anderson
 Donnamae Gfeller
 Dick Scansen
 Karen Schoeld
 Mary Smith
 Dela Van Hoy

Those Coping with Health Problems

Don Brown
 Mona Drake
 Craig Fjarlie
 John Johns
 Olive Kohanik
 Harold & Joan Martinell
 Shirley Pishaw
 Dick Scansen
 Karen Schoeld
 Elia Smith
 Rance Urdahl

December Monthly Breakfast



Our monthly breakfast in December will be on December 13th following the worship service.

Please come and join us.
 Cost is \$3 per person with kids under 5 free.



WOMEN'S THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

Women of the **ELCA** 

On November 22nd we celebrated Women's Thankoffering Sunday. Thank you to all who contributed A TOTAL OF \$272.00. This money will be sent to WELCA to carry on their programs for the Women of the ELCA.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 9
 David & Carla
 Salmon



Happy Birthday!

Tukwila Jones	2
Nancy Phillips	3
Diana Holeman	5
Joshua DeLap	8
Dorothy Brown	20
Stephanie Bertges	22
Richard Hinea	25
Tekla Woldegiorgis	31

CELEBRATE DECEMBER



25 - Elizabeth Pickrell
25 - Colin Rudnick
28 - Tukwila Jones
28 - Leukos Jones

CHRISTMAS GIVING

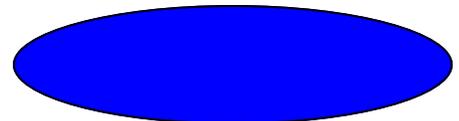


We will be giving gifts again this year to Compass Housing Alliance.

Gloves, hats, socks and \$5.00 gift cards for Starbucks and McDonalds for Compass and then a mother with 2-3 children.

The giving tree will be on a table in the narthex Sunday, November 22nd and 29th and December 6th.

All gifts need to be returned unwrapped with gift tag attached no later than Sunday, December 13th.



Reformation Sunday Presentation



On Reformation Sunday, October 25, Irene Olsen presented a stole to Pastor Chris that she hand embroidered. The cross is embroidered with "gold" thread. Beth Sundquist finished the stole after Irene completed the stitching. (It was a project many years in the making!)

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet
ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling
and puzzling, how could it be so?
It came without ribbons. It came with-
out tags. It came without packages,
boxes or bags. And he puzzled and
puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of some-
thing he hadn't before. What if Christ-
mas, he thought, doesn't come from a
store. What if Christmas, perhaps,
means a little bit more. - Dr. Seuss

For Those Who Remember Pastor Joe



Pastor Joe Kutzke was installed as Pastor at Vashon Island Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 22. Carol and Judy attended and were graciously welcomed by both Joe and Diane. Joe is there Wednesday-Sunday and Diane joins him on Thursday and stays thru Sunday. They have a lovely parsonage home and a beautiful little church with a congregation of about 30. The service was very inspiring, with Pastor Katherine Buffum, assistant to Bishop Unti, speaking. The service was followed by a lovely meal of ham, scalloped potatoes and salads.



Missionary News

UPDATE FROM TOM AND MARY HOLMAN



November 14, 2015

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."
Matthew 1:23, NRSV

"God is with us." What a precious promise, fulfilled for us in Jesus. We are so grateful that you also stand with us in prayer. We are praying for you, too.

Thanks to your prayers and good care, I haven't had a re-occurrence of a TIA. However, both Tom and I are having some health concerns. **Please pray for our health at this time.**

May Jesus' presence in your lives bring you joy this Christmas season.
Merry Christmas!

Mary
Mary (and Tom) Holman

Please note LBT's new postal address. Our international office has moved to Concordia, Missouri! E-mail, website, and phone numbers are the same.

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

Synod Advent Gatherings

December 1, 1pm-5pm at St. John United, Seattle
December 2, 1pm-5pm at Camano Lutheran Church

Your synod office staff is delighted to host TWO Advent Gatherings again this year. All members & friends of the synod are invited to stop by for warm drinks and sweet & savory treats either day.



Some Upcoming Events in Our Synod

Choral Evensong, Procession, and Te Deum for the Feast of Nicholas Ferrar

Tuesday, December 1, 7pm at Prince of Peace, Seatac

Join them for worship services of prayer and meditation based on the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and the 1894 Ritual Notes on the Order of Divine Service with readings, hymns, and choral settings by Hitel, Smart, Bairstow, Tallis, and Ireland; the Preces and Responses by Jamie Hitel, Master of the Choristers at Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, will be a west-coast première. An optional Community Dinner precedes the services at 6pm.

Hark the Harold - Presented by Taproot Theatre

Sunday, December 6, 7pm-8pm at Maple Leaf, Seattle

All are invited to the FREE event to kick off the holiday season.

"There's no way they'd give me a mission that important!" Harold is not the brightest angel in the heavenly host, and Harold's enthusiastic shenanigans are really trying the patience of his new partner, Gabriel. As the two carry messages to Zechariah, Joseph and Mary, will they realize God's plan for redemption? Find out while watching the Nativity unfold from a heavenly perspective in Taproot Theatre's hilarious production of Hark the Harold this Christmas.

A Computer Christmas



T'was the night before Christmas,
and all through the shop,
The computers were whirring; they never do stop.
The power was on and the temperature right,
In hopes that the input would feed back that night.

The system was ready, the program was coded,
And memory drums had been carefully loaded;
While adding a Christmasy glow to the scene,
The lights on the console, flashed red, white and green.

When out in the hall there arose such a clatter,
The programmer ran to see what was the matter.
Away to the hallway he flew like a flash,
Forgetting his key in his curious dash.
He stood in the hallway and looked all about,
When the door slammed behind him,
and he was locked out.

Then, in the computer room what should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer;
And a little old man, who with scarcely a pause,
Chuckled: "My name is Santa...
the last name is Claus."

The computer was startled,
confused by the name,
Then it buzzed as it heard the old fellow exclaim:
"This is Dasher and Dancer and Prancer
And Vixen,
And Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen."
With all these odd names, it was puzzled anew;
It hummed and it clanked, and a main circuit blew.

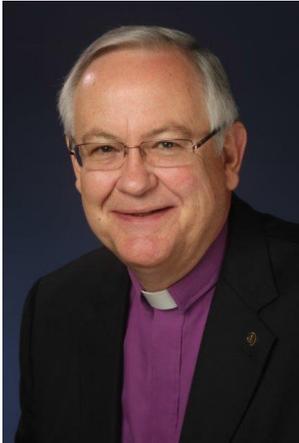
It searched in its
memory core, trying
"think";
Then the multi-line printer went out on the blink.
Unable to do its electronic job,
It said in a voice that was almost a sob:
"Your eyes - how they twinkle -
your dimples so merry,
Your cheeks so like roses,
your nose like a cherry,
Your smile - all these things,
I've been programmed to know,
And at data - recall, I am more than so - so;
But your name and your address
(computers can't lie),
Are things that I just cannot identify.
You've a jolly old face and a little round belly,
That shakes when you laugh
like a bowlful of jelly;
My scanners can see you, but still I insist,
Since you're not in my program,
you cannot exist!"
Old Santa just chuckled a merry "ho, ho",
And sat down to type out a quick word or so.
The keyboard clack-clattered,
its sound sharp and clean,
As Santa fed this "data" to the machine:
"Kids everywhere know me; I come every year;
The presents I bring add to everyone's cheer;
But you won't get anything - that's plain to see;
Too bad your programmers forgot about me."

Then he faced the machine and said with a shrug,
" Merry Christmas to All " as he pulled out the plug



The Spirit

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



No Room at the Inn?

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Matt 8:20

One of my fond memories of Christmas at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Renton was the child-sized nativity

scene that was set up in the narthex. The children of the congregation were utterly fascinated by it and could often be found playing amongst Mary & Joseph, the Wisemen and Shepherds. In fact, one year a child made off with the Baby Jesus.

The nativity scene stirs up the child in me. The child who is captured by the incredibly sad news, "That there was no room for them in the Inn."

This sad news has now become a reality in every town of this Synod. We have families and individuals who are rebuffed with the same message. "There is no room for you in the Inn." So, we find people sleeping in cars, in tents, on bus shelter benches, and any place that they can find a barrier from the cold and damp Northwest nights.

I cannot imagine trying to survive out of doors night after night. I so easily become cold – even while living indoors. It would be my worst nightmare.

I am grateful that so many of our congregations and ministry sites are committed to trying to provide housing for those who go without. I don't think it is

any accident that the Christmas Story includes lodging the Holy Family in a stable. This is the God I know. The God who hears the cry of God's people and comes down to be with us. This is the Jesus I know who enters into the forsaken, rejected, brokenness of the world. This is the Spirit I know who when everyone else is absent comes to counsel and comfort.

What would it mean if the community could see every family without a home as the Holy Family? What would it mean if every person who has to seek some form of flimsy shelter in the cold would be seen as the Baby Jesus?

Is it possible we might treat our sisters and brothers with greater kindness? Is it possible that we would have the political and moral will to put an end to the reality that there are those who go without shelter?

I invite you during this Advent / Christmas season to see those who struggle the most in our community through the eyes of a child - the child who cannot wait to pick up the Baby Jesus from the crèche, wrap them in warm blankets and hold them tightly in love.

+ + + +

P.S. You will note that I did not use the phrase, "homeless people." For me, it has become a demeaning term. Homelessness describes their lack of shelter. It should never define who a person is. They are persons without a home.

Stay in touch and in the know!

Synod Website Calendar - www.lutheransnw.org/calendar

Do you receive the Weekly Update eNews? www.lutheransnw.org/subscribe

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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.



EMAIL: bethel@bethellutheranchurch.org

The spirit of Christmas takes flight
Neath the star of Bethlehem's light
Filling hearts and minds with delight,
Joyfully we await Christmas Eve night.

Tis the season of good will and mirth,
Joy and love will encircle the Earth,
As we feel the Christmas spirit perform
Remember the beloved brave in uniform.

They're in the mountains of Afghanistan
And on the high seas of China and Japan,
From the bloodied desert sands of Iraq
They've served well thru hell and back.
In steaming jungles and burning sands
They stand up gallant for foreign lands
But this Christmas, many will be alone
Over this big blue marble we call home.

Whether in a crowd or at a lone outpost
They will recall past Christmas ghosts,
Calling back memories around the tree
Of mother and father and loving family.

No matter the distant shores they roam,
Hearts will yearn for family and home
And when Christmas bells begin to chime
For many brave warriors it'll be crying time.

When we are seated for a dinner grand
Let us in reverence clasp grateful hands,
Let us pray beneath the Bethlehem star
For our military, no matter where they are.

When we gather around the Christmas tree
And chorus carols our hearts full of glee,
Remember our lonely soldiers so far away
Who long for family and home this holiday.
Let us send a message borne by the wind
To proud warriors who protect and defend,
We salute you brave soldiers of the world
Wherever your flags are raised unfurled.
We Americans of the red, white and blue
Stand shoulder to shoulder beside you,
We love and respect you for duties done,
Merry Christmas to each and everyone.

*Christmas
Remembrance Poem,
written by:
Kenneth J. Ellison.
10-10-06*



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

Those Who Serve This Month

	6	13	20	24	27
ALTAR GUILD	Ragnhild & Marlys	Sue & Joanne	Judy & Carol		Karen & Diana
WORSHIP ASST.	Elia Smith	Liz Terrey	Stephanie Bertges		Craig Fjarlie
CHILDREN'S TIME	Pastor Chris	Marlys Pickrell	Pastor Chris		Kathy Carrow
BREAD SERVER	Sue Logen	COMMUNION			Elia smith
WINE SERVER	Diana Holeman	Joe Himple	Judy Goulet		Bruce Smith
GLASSES	Joanne Brock Mary Himple	xxxxxxxxxxxxx	Don Brown Bjorn Bertges		xxxxxxxxxxxxx
FLOWERS	Scott & Starla DeLap in honor of Josh's Birthday		Norma Grigsby in memory of Jess		Shoreline Community Care thank you to Bethel
USHERS	Bruce Smith Rance Urdahl	Chuck Vollbrecht Chris Pickrell	Sue Logen		USHERS NEEDED
READING	Mark 1:1- 4	Luke 2:25-27	Psalm 113		Psalm 91:9-12
PREACHING TEXT	Isaiah 40:1-11	Ezra 1:1-3;3:1-4, 10-13	Luke 1:5-13,57-80	Luke 2:1- 14(15-20)	Mark 1:1-20
SANCTUARY CARETAKER	Chris Pickrell				

ON CALL LIST

Rance & Kelly Urdahl	Don & Dorothy Brown	Judy Goulet
Chuck & Ruth Vollbrecht	Kathy Carrow	Norma Grigsby
Doug & Karen Bauer	Scott & Starla DeLap	Joe Himple
Stephanie Bertges	Ragnhild Eidem	Mary Himple
Joanne Brock	Craig Fjarlie	Diana Holeman



DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>10:45 AM Membership Team</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>1:15 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM Holly Berry Celebration</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service</p> <p>11:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship team</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:15 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Bethel Church Council</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service</p> <p>10:45 AM Breakfast</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 AM Sarah Circle</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:15 PM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Ruth Circle</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service</p> <p>11:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00 PM Family Christmas Service</p> <p>10:30 PM Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 AM Anderson Plaza Worship</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:30 AM Bethel Worship Service</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Happy New Year</p> 		