

February 2023 A.D.



Bethlehem Star

Guest Pastor Richard Flath • James Hing, Organist

Thoughts From the Pastor

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

What are some things that people like about the winter season?

Some folks may say nothing!! However, some people like to go and play in the snow. Some others are just happy to see the mountains covered with snow so that we will have lots of water next summer. Some "snowbirds" use winter as an excuse to go to some place that is sunnier and warmer than around here.

One of the things that I like about the season of winter (which began this year on December 21, 2022) is that after a few days the amount of daylight we receive each day from the sun begins to increase. We are told that we start gaining a minute plus in the morning and a minute plus in the evening of day light each day. The bottom line is that the nights of darkness are getting shorter -- the sun is coming up earlier and going down later!!

I thank God for the various seasons of the year. They remind us that God keeps all His promises.

It is fitting that in the northern hemisphere the Christian church celebrates God's keeping His promise to send His Savior at the darkest time of the year -- as winter begins. The Gospel reading for January 22, 2023, (the 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany) mentioned that when Jesus began His earthly ministry, it was like a spiritual light had come on the

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Continued from first page—WINTER

scene. Matthew 4 quotes from Isaiah chapter 9 as Jesus began His public ministry around the northern end of the Sea of Galilee.

And leaving Nazareth (Jesus) went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:13-17 ESV)

Jesus brought to those people who were mired down by sin and death, and without real spiritual hope for this life or the life to come, the refreshing love of God's Word. Jesus was like those rays of sunshine that return as the days of winter move along to springtime. Jesus brought hope, and joy, and peace, and healing, and forgiveness as He urged the people that He spoke with to repent because the kingdom of God had come in the person and work of Jesus Himself.

Jesus was bringing light which was able to shine on the only spiritual pathway that leads to eternal life in heaven. This was true for those who first heard Jesus on the north side of the Sea of Galilee, and its true for you and me too today as the world around us continually showers us with doom and gloom and the darkness of sin and death in all its many forms.

Even as Bethlehem Lutheran Church moves towards its final worship service, we still have this good news about Jesus to share with others. So, let's "bloom where we're planted" in this world for Jesus now and after we close. Let's continue to share the old, old story of Jesus and His love for everyone! May Jesus always use us to burst into people's lives -- unbelievers and believers alike -- with His light of forgiveness, life, and salvation that give joy and hope and peace!

And may the love of the Lord Jesus always be in your heart!

Rev. Richard E. Flath
email: pastor_r_flath@msn.com
cell: (425) 210-1795



February



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Neal & Mary Duett
February 12, 1971
52 years

Frank & Betty Downing
February 18, 1956
67 years

*We wish you
continued happiness
and God's blessings!*

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Elliette Rogers | February 1 |
| Roman Sturgul | February 2 |
| Mark Humphrey | February 5 |
| William Jordanger | February 6 |
| Kerie McNeal | February 6 |
| Glen Koppelman | February 10 |
| Ruth Schroeder | February 11 |
| Marcy Hall | February 12 |
| Curtis Holcomb | February 13 |
| Randy Barger | February 20 |
| Cindy Starkey | February 24 |
| Wayne Hough | February 26 |
| Alissa Shapsnikoff | February 28 |

*If we don't have you listed,
please let the office know.*

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

Kerie turns a QUARTER OF A CENTURY
OLD on February 6.

Alissa officially becomes an ADULT! She
will be 18 years old on February 28.

TALK TO THE PASTOR

Pastor Flath is available to talk to members—Sundays after worship and
Wednesdays after our 11 a.m. Lenten services.

We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all. In particular, we pray for:

**Those living & working in our AbleLight home.
People impacted by the war in Ukraine including
our brothers & sisters in the Moldovan Church.**

**Jim & Sharon Buechler
Harold Carlson
Jesse Hack
Mardelle Hammond
Jeanne-K Hughes
Joel & Karen Jackman
Glen Koppelman
Bob Pankow
Juanita Reynolds
Bev West**

**Michael Bumpus
Frank & Betty Downing
Marcy Hall
Gary & Kaye Hanno
Mark Humphrey
Joanne Jordanger
Pete & Hannelore Maas
Hannelore Payne
Linda Sheets
Gil & Cathy Wooden**



**Carolyn Hough
Jenny Iles
Donna Kahn
Andrea Mangold
Debbie Porter
Ruth Schroeder**

**Brent & Karen Begalka's friend Regina S
Jim & Sharon Buechler his sister JoAnn, her brother James, his cousins Milton & Jerome,
his cousin John, her cousin Wendy
Cathy Frank's nephew Gerard
Mardelle Hammond's sister-in-law Barbara, brother Wally
Chene'e Holcomb and her mom Jocelyn
Curtis Holcomb's friends Wayne H and Crystal
LuAnne Humphrey's cousin Brenda & husband Chris, friends Chris, David B, Joyce
Gene & Donna Kahn her sister Carol
Don & Dielda Kuhlmann her sister Brenda
Pete & Hannelore Maas' friend Bill
Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives Rolf, June, Johanna & Susanna, son
Patrick, brother Frank, friend Marge
Debbie Porter's friend Ada
Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie
Dick & Ellen Taylor his cousin Bill
Carolyn Troseth's sister Viola, sister-in-law Viona, friend Anita
David Willett's sister Kelly**

**Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman's daughter, Michelle.
Pastor Arthur Werfelmann and his wife Kris**

We pray for the health & safe return home of our members and relatives serving our country in the military: **Austin Kahn (Air Force), Garrett Kahn (Air Force), Ben Boykin (Army).**

We pray for peace, love, safety, and comfort to our members who can't attend church services: **Betty Cowan, Gretchen Engum, Emma Humphrey, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Jean Shaw, and David Willett.**

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



to Jesse & Jeanne Hack on the passing of his father, Don Hack, on December 31, 2022. He was 92 years old. Don Hack served in the US Army in Texas and Japan during the Korean War. He felt it was important to believe and live a life faithful to God. He was active in Lutheran churches until health reasons made it difficult to attend. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, 3 children & their spouses, and 7 grandchildren. His funeral will be in March at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Longview, Washington.



to Bonnie Begalka and her family on the passing of her sister, Lorelei, on January 18, 2023. She was 79 years old.

THOUGHTS ON CLOSING AND JOINING

Blessings to you from God our Father,

I know that this is an emotional time for us all. God gave all mankind from the time of Adam and Eve free choice. His desire was that we love him. He knew that Adam and Eve would yield to temptation. But his LOVE is so great the he allowed them to choose.

We are now at a place when we have a choice to make on how we react to the closing of Bethlehem. We will be choosing a new place to worship God. We will be choosing how we act at our new place in the kingdom.

I pray that we all join another group and and 'really' join them. I do not believe it is God's plan to have us go and try to re-create Bethlehem at another church. God is re-planting us in the Kingdom to provide support and wisdom.

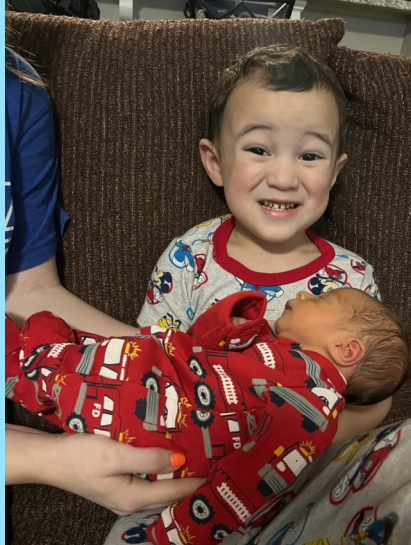
God Bless your choices as we each move forward in the Kingdom of God.

Don Kuhlmann
Congregational President

GLORIOUS BABY NEWS

Katelyn Bumpus announces that her son, **Austin**, was born in Texas on October 11, 2022.

She shares the (left) photo of big brother Michael holding the newborn and then Austin at 3 months old (on the right).



Michael with baby brother Austin, October 2022



Austin Bumpus
3 months old

Blessings continue in the family with two sons born to Donnie and Hana McNeal who live in Burien. **Miles** McNeal was born May 26, 2020 and **Aidden** McNeal born February 9, 2022.

MISSION BOARD—NEW MEMBER

At the January quarterly voters' meeting, Ellen Taylor was nominated and elected for a third term to the Mission Board. Thank you, Ellen, for your service to Bethlehem. The Mission Board now has Karen Begalka, Hannelore Payne, Art & Amber Wolf, Cathy Wooden, and Ellen Taylor.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES will be printed in February. If you have a recent photo or updates to your contact information, please let Dielda know. Call 206-972-9107.

INTRODUCING PASTOR & MRS FLATH

Rev. Richard E. Flath is a 1976 graduate of Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. He served congregations in Kansas, Oregon, and Washington before he went on emeritus status (retired from full-time parish ministry) in September 2020. He served 30 years as an Army chaplain in the National Guard and Army Reserve. He and his wife Sandra live in Snohomish, Washington. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2020. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Sandra's parents -- Kenneth and Joyce Crossman -- were members of Bethlehem from 1967 until their deaths. They were also friends with Rev. Luttmann before he became Bethlehem's pastor. Sandy's father was the choir director at Bethlehem for many years. Her cousin is the late Raymond Mortrud. Rev. Flath officiated at Ray and Pat's wedding.



NEW FACES AT BETHLEHEM

The Mount Moriah congregation has been worshipping in our building since December 4, 2022. They meet downstairs at 11 am for Christian Education time. When we are done with our service, they come in to the sanctuary and set up equipment for their noon worship. Bethlehem members are asked to respect their worship time. We are blessed to have such a faith-filled group of people share our building.



FRIENDLY VISITORS for 2023

The friendly card-making group will continue mailing monthly cards to homebound members this year, staying in contact, even after we close.

Pastor Flath and our Member Services Team (led by Ruth Ann Shimoi) can share church options to transfer your membership. Many local churches offer in-person and video options for worshipping.

Put God and Love Above All This February

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it is one of the busiest. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church we begin the month with the evening Bible Study of Ephesians. The next day is Groundhog Day that gives us hope of an early Spring. February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and it will be a very busy day: The Super Bowl and Everybody's Birthday Party following the church service. Then two days later is Valentine's Day. The next Sunday is Transfiguration Day, followed by President's Day, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday all in a row. Finally, the last Sunday of the month is the first Sunday of Lent and our Gideon speaker.

There have been four Presidents of the United States with February birthdays: Reagan, William Harrison, Lincoln and Washington, plus there are several birthdays of our church members. Additionally, February is Black History, Dental, Baking and Pizza month. Love, Hope, Faith and Unity seem to be the main theme of February. Love is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a fruit of the Spirit.

I Corinthians 13:13 - **"So now, faith, hope and love abide these three (after all other gifts have passed away) but the greatest of these is love."**

Galatians 5:22 - **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."**

Christianity was introduced to the Ephesians in the first Century AD by the Apostle Paul. He made it his headquarters as he traveled on his three missionary journeys. Paul taught at the Jewish synagogue that was over 300 years old, until the Jewish congregation refused to accept Christianity. So he contacted the Hellenized Jews and Gentiles, instead. The Apostle John with the Virgin Mary also came to Ephesus during King Agrippa I's reign. The Christian population flourished at first. They became well known for their love, hope, faith, hard work and generosity toward each other, their community and other Christians abroad (especially Jerusalem).

Revelation 2: 2 - **"I know your work, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those that are evil."**

The Ephesians endured patiently, hating the false prophets and the Nicolaitans and defending the Gospel, despite the opposition of the followers of Diana of the Ephesians (Diana's Temple was one of the 7 Wonders of the World). However, after the Apostle John and St. Paul were arrested, they lost their initial exuberant joy and love in their work, even

though both apostles wrote letters to them, telling them not to be discouraged. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Ephesians to return to what they once were; That as God's adopted children and brothers and sisters of Christ, they have been redeemed and have forgiveness of sins through grace. They were told to never lose heart as they go through tribulations and sufferings, but to stay strong, and united in the Lord, which is their glory. Paul sent Timothy and others to minister to them in their absence and later the Apostle John returned to them in his old age.

Ephesians 2:8 - **"For you are saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; It is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."**

Ephesians 2:14 - **"Jesus Christ is our peace, who has made us one and has broken down in his flesh, the dividing wall of hostility."**

This message is for the Ephesians and for us today, as well. Christ has given us the wisdom and insight into God's mysterious will, the truth of the Gospel and the promise of the Holy Spirit. The mystery is that the Gentiles (non-Jews) are fellow heirs and members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. We need to humbly serve each other as St. Paul did, strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit and love of Christ that surpasses knowledge and be united to do good works in loving service to our families, fellow Christians and community. We need to walk as children of light, with humility, gentleness, patience and love, eager to maintain the unity of all who share one Lord, one faith and one baptism as children of God. We should not sin when we are angry, but sing songs of praise to God. Our first mission is to our own families to respect and love each other.

Romans 12:2 - **"Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God."**

According to Revelation 2, which originally was a message to the 7 churches in Asia Minor, if we don't repent and change our ways from our own personal desires to the will of God, he will take away our "golden lampstand," (church), but if we conform to the will of God, we will be blessed with "the crown of life" and partake of "the tree of life."

Karen Begalka
Mission Board

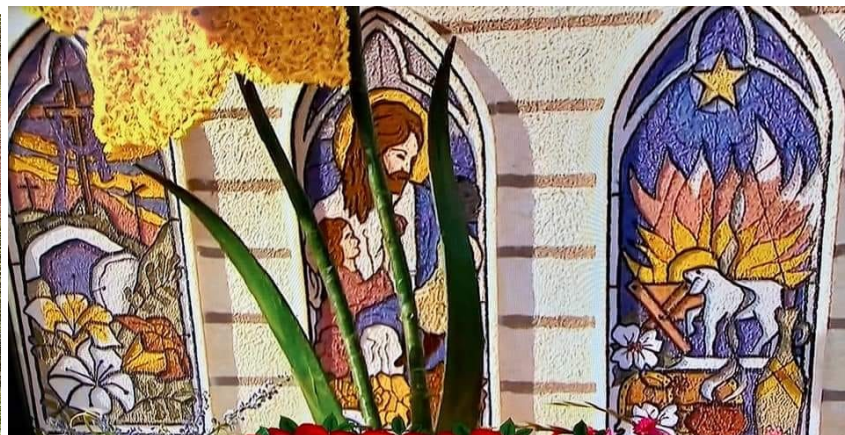


ROSE PARADE

Jan 2, 2023

Lutheran Hour Ministries

"A New Day with Jesus"



Lutheran Hour Ministries had the only Christian float in this year's parade. They describe it: A new day is dawning on the Lutheran Hour Ministries float. As the sun rises up from behind the church, families are gathering to spend a New Day with Jesus. This float is cleverly designed to draw your eye upward through the stained glass to the top of the steeple, uplifting the soul. Their church doors are open as families surround themselves with giant flowers while Jesus welcomes them with stories of God's love. Riders represent 12 modern-day disciples receiving His teachings. The front of the float features a covered bridge with a Dove of Peace. Trail markers featuring Fruits of the Spirit guide them in the float's outdoor setting. Behind Jesus is a symbolic floral waterfall flowing from a cross. No matter what the world throws at us, the LHM float represents how faith can help all of us turn the corner.

Lutheran Hour Ministries "A New Day with Jesus" float won the Director's Award for most outstanding artistic design and use of floral and non-floral materials.

The Mission of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee is "To provide a Christian witness and hope in Jesus Christ to the un-churched, who view the float in person and through the media."

NEVER ON A SUNDAY! This year the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl were on January 2, not New Year's Day as usual. This is actually part of the "Never on a Sunday" tradition. The Rose Parade faced a dilemma in 1893, as New Year's Day fell on a Sunday. Parade organizers were afraid that the parade would spook the horses located outside of churches along the parade route for Sunday services. The "Never on a Sunday" exception has been observed ever since even though people no longer use horses to get around Pasadena (or anywhere obviously). This year was the 20th time the exception has come into play.

MISSION MESSAGE

from Brent Begalka

I have been asked a few times, "Who are the Gideons?" I start out by saying, "They are the people who place the Bibles that you see in motel and hotel rooms." The Beatles gave the Gideons some publicity by mentioning a "Gideon Bible" in one of their songs. But the distribution of Bibles and Testaments is only one part of what Gideons do. Since its object is "to win others for Jesus Christ," it encourages its members to give personal testimony of their faith.

The theme of this month's Mission Sunday on February 26 is the work of Gideons International. I plan to give a short presentation after the service on that day. Pastor Flath has shared with me his experience with the Gideons, which will be included in my talk.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed |
|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | | | 1 Office Cl |
| | | | 7 pm <i>Ephesian</i> Study with Elde |
| 5 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION Rsvp due for Feb 12 party 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service | 6 7 pm New Purpose | 7 TBD Trustees Mtg | 8 Office Clos |
| | | | 7 pm <i>Ephesian</i> Study with Elde |
| 12 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath BIRTHDAY PARTY LUNCH Sandwiches & cake provided 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service | 13 6:30pm What's Next Meeting Zoom only— tentative date 7 pm New Purpose | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 Office Clo |
| | | | 9:30am What's Meeting-in per tentative date 7 pm <i>Ephesian</i> Study with Elde |
| 19 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service 1 pm Council Mtg Zoom only | 20 Newsletter Deadline 7 pm New Purpose | 21 | 22 Office Cl |
| | | | ASH WEDNESD 11 am SERVICE With Pastor Fla Soup Lunch aft |
| 26 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath and guest speaker Brent Begalka from the Gideon's 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service | 27 7 pm New Purpose | 28 | |

FEBRUARY 2023

| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|
| Church Closed <i>Evangelists Bible Elder Brent</i> | 2 6:30 pm Missions Meeting— Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose | 3 9 am All Team Meeting in person only Tentative date | 4 Deadline to submit photo for 2023 Directory. |
| Church Closed <i>Evangelists Bible Elder Brent</i> | 9 7 pm New Purpose | 10 Pinochle in social hall 10:30 am—3pm | 11 |
| Church Closed What's Next person only Tentative date <i>Evangelists Bible Elder Brent</i> | 16 3pm Mary Martha Social Time in person only 3:30pm Mary Martha business meeting 7 pm New Purpose | 17 | 18 |
| Church Closed ESDAY VICE Hybrid · Flath · after service | 23 7 pm New Purpose | 24 | 25 |

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be

Written in 1874

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:8



Frances Havergal
1836—1879
Great Britain

Although hymnist Frances Havergal, 36, had served the Lord for years, she felt something was missing in her Christian experience. Then one day in 1873, she received a little book called, "All for Jesus," which stressed the importance of making Christ the King of every corner and cubicle of one's life. Soon thereafter, she made a fresh and complete consecration of herself to Christ.

Years later when asked about it, she replied, "Yes, it was on Advent Sunday, December 2, 1873, I first saw clearly the blessedness of true consecration. I saw it as a flash of electric light, and what you see you can never un-see. There must be a full surrender before there can be full blessedness."

Not long afterward, she found herself spending several days with ten people in a house, some of them unconverted. Others were Christians, but not fully surrendered to Christ. "Lord, give me all in this house," she prayed. She went to work witnessing, and before she left, all ten were yielded Christians. On the last night of her visit, Frances—too excited to sleep—wrote this great consecration hymn, "Take My Life...."

In the years that followed, Frances frequently used this hymn in her own devotions, especially every December 2, on the anniversary of her consecration.

On one occasion, as she pondered the words, "Take my voice and let me sing / Always only for my King," she felt she should give up her secular concerts. Her beautiful voice was in demand, and she frequently sang with the Philharmonic. But from that moment, her lips were exclusively devoted to the songs of the Lord.

On another occasion she was praying over the stanza that says, "Take my silver and my gold / Not a mite would I withhold." She had accumulated a great deal of Jewelry, but she now felt she should donate it to the Church Missionary Society. Writing to a friend, she said, "I retain only a brooch for daily wear, which is a memorial so my dear parents; also a locket with the holy portrait I have of my niece in heaven. Evelyn, I had no idea I

had such a jeweler's shop; nearly fifty articles are being packed off. I don't think I need to tell you I never packed a box with such pleasure."

Have you given your whole life-everything-over to Jesus? Why not make this the date of your own complete consecration?

784 Take My Life and Let It Be

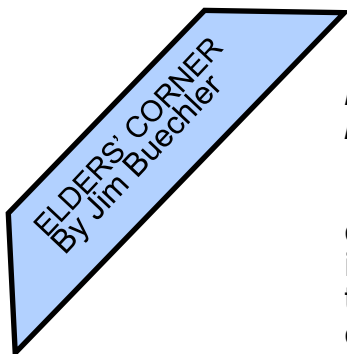
Frances R Havergal Henri A. C. Malan

1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would

Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them
of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry

flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman. Sources: Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan, hymnary.org, wikipedia



Abounding in Love

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12a).

It is not always easy to abound in love. There are days when it is not easy to abound in love. Abounding in love seems impossible when a spouse has forgotten to take out the trash or the children bicker over a toy or gadget. Yet, Christ says in John 15:12: ***This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*** We don't have a choice to love or not.

We are the redeemed children of God. We are loved by God who has given His Son for us. He is there to help us love others. He made love an action verb. He leads us to actively love others. In our families a hug and a kind word actively show love for one another. In times of stress and frustration, however, this is not easy to do. At these times, a special Bible verse can be brought to mind: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Romans 5:5b). This verse is a comfort when it seems impossible to love someone else. God pours His love into us. By His help it will overflow.

When a co-worker seems to be deliberately hurtful and obstinate instead of helpful; when a neighbor allows her dog to run loose in your garden; when a teacher at school is less than understanding to a child you love; these are times God gives us the opportunity to practice love. At times like these we can love a person as God has commanded or take vengeance as God has commanded us not to do in Leviticus 19:18: ***You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.***

The Holy Spirit works in us to give us strength to show love to those who at times are unlovable. We can show God's love to the co-worker by taking him or her a cup of coffee and by giving him or her your willing ear to listen. We can show God's love to the neighbor by taking her a plant or a bouquet of flowers from your garden. We can show God's love to the teacher by volunteering to help with a classroom project. These are ways to share the overflowing love God has poured into our hearts.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, this love can overflow into our communities through random acts of kindness. Take cookies to a business that you

patronize. Volunteer at a non-profit in your area. Keep smiling at the grocery store and invite the person with a fussy child to go in front of you in line. Christ looked at individuals and saw their need and helped them. God works in us and helps us to look at people to see what their need might be so that we can help them and show them His love.

Praying for family, friends, and strangers is also a great way to spread God's love. To pray for the drunk driver, the terrorist, the unfriendly nemesis, as well as the victim, is not easy but they too are part of the "all" our Lord commands us to love. Even when what to pray seems impossible, God takes over. God's Word promises us, ***Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words*** (Romans 8:26).

Prayer from LSB #857, Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way, verses 1&4:

Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serves the other's needs.

You bid us bend our human pride
Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task
That waits the gift of love.

Abounding in Love, written by Alice Troyke

Our Mission Statement

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
will **encourage** and **inspire** our brothers and sisters by prayer and service.

By the grace of God,
we will **reach** out with God's Word and **show** love and fellowship to all.

NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY

Fun, fellowship and food were enjoyed at the return of our first Game Night event since the pandemic! We opted for a daytime version and rang in the New Year at noon on Sunday January 1.

Attendees wrote a memory from 2022. There were no rules—it could be positive or not so pleasant memory. Here's the list:

- We had a Pastor and Service EVERY Sunday!
- COVID is not fun; found out the hard way....
- **Both kids got married!**
- A great trip to San Antonio in March. After that
- Had a very special, lovely 80th birthday celebration with friends and family!
- Didn't get COVID!
- Photo I took won the September page in the Washington state Forestry calendar.
- **Saw our granddaughter sing in a school choir for the first time.**
- Went to the Oberammergau Passion Play and Rome, the Vatican. BEAUTIFUL!
- So thankful for all the cards and flowers I received from Bethlehem friends.
- Our grandson visited from Virginia.
- None of our members slipped and broke anything during the ice storm!
- **Learned how to sew.**
- Grandson Ethan was born!
- We had Advent Services on Zoom only with great music.
- We are not singing in the choir yet.
- I jumped on a trampoline with friends.

At noon on January 1, it was midnight on the small island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean so we went a little bit tropical by having the youngest attendee (Anna Wolf) and the most senior attendee (Bev West) drop frisbees over a pineapple to ring in 2023. Photo on right.

We sang Auld Lang Syne and watched slide show of photos from the past 13 years of New Years Eve game nights.

Joel Jackman and Anna Wolf went fishing. Photo on right.

Jon Kuhlmann had a good time with Sharon & Jim's dog. Photo lower left.

There were 3 different tables of card games—Hand & foot, Uno, and Five Crowns. Photo shows the Hand & Foot table with Karen & Brent Begalka, Dick Taylor, Jim & Sharon Buechler, and Kathy Logan.

Twenty-five people and 1 dog had a great time!

Photos by Dielda





In January, there were 9 people who got together to play Pinochle. We all had a great time and had a good lunch of hot dogs with chili, chips, Caesar salad and 2 wonderful desserts. Sharon was our winner for the day when she was playing 5 people at the table and she got a double Pinochle.

We have changed to the second Friday of each month to play. Our date will be **February 10th** and a Lasagna lunch with all the trimmings, so join us for a great day.
-Sharon Buechler



TREE DAMAGES FENCE AT ABLELIGHT HOME

No one was injured when a tree uprooted and fell onto the fence at the AbleLight home in our backyard on January 9. The home is ok and repairs to the fence will be happening.

Thanks to Teresa Feltmann for the photos.



MARY MARTHA NEWS

Thoughts on closing

Mary Martha wants everyone at Bethlehem to fill their hearts with hope and joy with guidance from the Holy Spirit as we all disperse to share the Gospel wherever we go from here. (Jesus did the same for his disciples).

Birthday Party

Also, be filled with love and fellowship as we fill our stomachs with food, beginning with the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Everyone's Birthday Party Luncheon. The time will be right after the church service on February 12, 2023. All of the months of the year birthday tables will be beautifully decorated. Servers will set up a COVID safe sandwich bar including salad and birthday cupcakes. It is NOT a potluck this year. Food will be provided by Mary Martha. **PLEASE r.s.v.p. by Sunday Feb 5** as we need a headcount.

Return of Lenten Soup

Then comes Ash Wednesday and every Wednesday from March 1 through 29 with church services at 11 am followed by our old traditional SOUP SUPPERS! Ash Wednesday's soup cooks are Carolyn Troseth and Jeanne-K Hughes. Look for the full list of soups & cooks on the Bulletin Board.

Celebration Event on April 29

There will be a celebration also on April 29th as we close our church. So prepare your hearts and stomachs as you continue on your great commission!

-Karen Begalka

Treasurer's Report December 2022

Total Income \$115,689.50 67% of budget

Total Expense 70,621.68 41% of budget

Difference \$ 45,067.82

Total Assets \$137,530.24

Total Equity \$ 77,739.28 (Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer

The Way of Love Bible Quiz

By Karen Begalka

Fill in the blanks with the letters corresponding to the right words listed below:

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

"Love is _____ and _____, love does not envy or boast; it is not _____ or rude. It does not _____ on its own way: It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, _____ all things, _____ all things, and _____ all things. Love _____ ends."

2. 1 John 3:1

"_____ behold, what _____ of love the _____ has bestowed on us that we should be called _____ of God, and so we are!"

3. John 15:13

"_____ love has no _____ than this, that someone lay _____ his _____ for his friends."

CHOICES: a. arrogant b. believes c. children d. down
 e. endures f. Father g. Greater h. hopes
 i. insist j. Just k. kind l. life
 m. manner n. never o. one p. patient

ANSWERS are on next page.

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS 7pm

You can join in person or via Zoom every Wednesday evening for this Bible study. There's no book to buy; bring your Bible. Elder Brent Begalka leads the discussion. Class will continue at the same time on Wednesdays, even during Lent. Ash Wednesday & Lenten services are changed to 11am this year. This allows you to attend service in the morning, enjoy some soup for lunch, and then return at 7pm for the Bible Study!

GIVE GENEROUSLY

- ▶ **FOOD.** We continue to collect Food for the Renton Food Bank. There's a box in the narthex. Thanks to Bruce & Teresa Feltmann for delivering.
- ▶ **AMAZON** is ending its Amazon Smile program in February. Thanks to all who supported Bethlehem with this fundraising program.



Bulletin board for January by Joel & Karen Jackman.

LifeLine Screening will be in our social hall on Tuesday, March 7th.
Call 888-683-4067 or go to their website to make an appointment.
www.lifelinescreening.com

ANSWERS to quiz on previous page: 1. p, k, a, i, b, h, e, n
2. j, m, f, c
3. g, o, d, l

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1024 Monroe Ave N.E.
Renton, WA 98056

February 2023

BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

BETHLEHEM IS CLOSING

On January 15, 2023, voters chose to have our final worship service on Sunday, April 30, 2023. This will be the end of the formal activities of Bethlehem congregation, which became a recognized Lutheran church in October 1942. This is not the end of our faith or the end of God's love for us. Pastor Flath will assist with transferring your membership to another church.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday April 29 & Sunday April 30

Plans are being made for 2 worship services on our final weekend. Stay tuned as we learn the details of a Saturday service and food event, and the final Sunday worship service.

ALL MEMBER DISCUSSIONS

As a way to get your input on some of the closing issues, we will continue the Monday evening/Wednesday morning conversations. The February sessions are tentatively scheduled for

Monday February 13 at 6:30pm Zoom only
and
Wednesday February 15 at 9:30am in person only.

The same topics are covered on both days. You may attend 1 or both.