

January 2020



Dear members and friends of Bethlehem,



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!  
2020

Wow ... it does not seem that long ago we were expectantly looking to turn the page on not only a new year, not only a new decade, not only a new century, but also a new millennium!!! Do you remember? The year was 1999. The mini-debate was: when does the new millennium begin? Many (incorrectly) stated that it would begin on January 1, 2001. The new (and 3<sup>rd</sup>) millennium following the birth of our Savior would begin on January 1, 2000. The larger debate was will Y2K bring the END OF THE WORLD? There was a lot of fear for what the future would bring when the clock struck midnight and the calendar turned to January 1, 2000. People were stocking up on survival supplies. Now here we are 20 years later ... time marches on ...!

The future, it seems, is never quite what we expect it to be. In fact, when you really stop to think about it ... the future (and the past) simply DO NOT EXIST! We are always only able to live in the PRESENT moment. We cannot live in the past nor can we live in the future. We are bound by time.

Our God, however, we know, is timeless. He is not bound by time; he created it! The past, present and future are all the same to him! God is present for all time!

Because our God lives in all time, including the future, we do not need to fear the future! Whatever details are in the future, we know that our Savior is present in them.

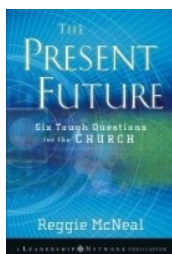
In John 4:1-42 we hear the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. In verses 31-38 we hear Jesus speaking about the human tendency to procrastinate; to put off to tomorrow or next month or next year, what we could do TODAY. His point is that we really only have TODAY, the present moment in which to work. None of us knows how many tomorrows we will have. We are called to work in God's kingdom, NOW, while it is still day.

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On December 22 the Call Team held an informational meeting following worship ... Should We Call a Pastor Candidate from the Seminary or from the Field? The Call Team will meet to discuss the results to prayerfully discern the direction that the Holy Spirit appears to be leading Bethlehem.

To help us as individual disciples and as fellow members of God's kingdom here at Bethlehem prepare for that future, we will be studying a DVD series entitled "*The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church.*" A number of fellow LC-MS congregations have used this resource successfully to help prepare them for the changing future that is facing us all.



Beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 a.m. the ABC (Adult Bible Class) will be studying this resource. **Plan on attending and asking fellow members to attend as well.** Let us fill the Social Hall and begin the New Year looking forward to the future with great expectancy and joy as it becomes our present!

*Pastor David*

Rev. David W. Blair  
Intentional Interim Pastor

## As We Begin

By Carl Stockamp  
Congregational President

As we begin a new year, I think it's appropriate that we reflect on God's words. "***For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.***" -

Jer. 29:11. At times it's hard to understand those plans as we face the challenges of daily life. We do face challenges in discerning God's plans for our future. If I were asked to define those plans, I would suggest they might include finding a new shepherd, exploring new partnership ministries and expanding our community outreach through the use of our assets. But, I am not the one to define these plans. Rather, God is.

It is a privilege to serve as president and I pray for God's wisdom as I act in that capacity during the coming year. I believe it is important that we thank God for the leaders He has provided for us during the past year. I am continually impressed by the love and dedication shown by members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We need one another and your dedication will be important as we move forward.

Needless to say, trusting God is essential in discerning His plans for us. I believe God has given each of us work to do. As we move forward we need to ask ourselves what work and what path has God chosen for us – both corporately and individually?

When we place our trust in God, we can be reassured by St. Paul's words: "***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as your trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit***"

– Romans 15:13

## JANUARY



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



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We have no anniversaries for January.

Jessica Rogers	January 13
Nancy Rogers	January 17
Joel Jackman	January 18
David Willett	January 18
Hana McNeal	January 19
Art Wolf	January 19
Bob Murphy	January 24
Gene Kahn	January 25
Jonas Gentil	January 27
Pat Mortrud	January 28

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH:

Don & Dielda Kuhlmann's grandson Jonas turns 2 this month.



**We celebrated Aggie Brown's 90th birthday with cake, roses and singing!  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

We pray for God's ongoing mercy to all, including our members and friends and relatives with medical concerns, financial worries, unemployment, housing crises, emotional distress, family strife, and other issues that burden our hearts.

In particular, we pray for:

Ray & Gretchen Engum

Pat Eskam's daughter Lori

Marcy Hall

Mardelle Hammond's friend Lynette, sister-in-law Barbara

Jenny Ile's daughter Kathy

Hannelore Maas

Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie & niece Heidi

Dick & Ellen Taylor's grandchildren Landon & Caroline, his cousins Bill & Eileen

Carolyn Warn's daughter Debbie

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

We pray for peace, love, and comfort to our members who can't attend church services:

Pat Boydston, Wanda Brooks, Betty Cowan, Jenny Iles, Evelyn Lundstrom-Weiss, Virginia Preston, Jean Shaw, Marie Teel, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.

We are thankful for all we have been given. We pray for our friends and family members who are not yet Christians that they will be moved to accept Christ as their savior and follow Jesus.



## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



to Emma Humphrey on the passing of her only remaining sibling, Violet Twerberg on December 9, 2019 at the age of 90. Violet lived in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. She loved sewing, gardening, baking, and teaching Sunday School.



to Renton Bethesda residents and staff and the family of Jody Sparks. Jody was a member of Bethesda. She had a lovely voice and would sing at the funerals of Bethesda members. She died on December 9, 2019 at the age of 55.



to Mardelle Hammond on the death of her brother-in-law, Cliff McClelland, on December 16, 2019. He lived in Renton and was 85 years old. He was the last of their generation and was a very good friend. They ate breakfast together often, and he will be missed.

## GLORIOUS BABY NEWS

Matilda Louise Gentil was born on December 19, 2019 at 19:19 (7:19 pm) in Switzerland. Her parents are David and Halley (Kuhlmann) Gentil. Halley says she is a very cooperative blessing. She weighed 7 lb, 1 oz and was 20 inches long.

Siblings Daniel, Eleonore, and Jonas take turns petting her head and sharing their toys with her. She is loved. Don & Dielda Kuhlmann are the joy-filled grandparents.



**Matilda Gentil**

### **SHOUT OUTS from those who can't be at Bethlehem**

**Wanda Brooks** thanks everyone for the cards and prayers, and says Happy New Year!

**Betty Cowan** wishes everyone a happy new year. She also says she misses everyone and hopes that the new year brings us all health, happiness, a sandwich and a cookie.

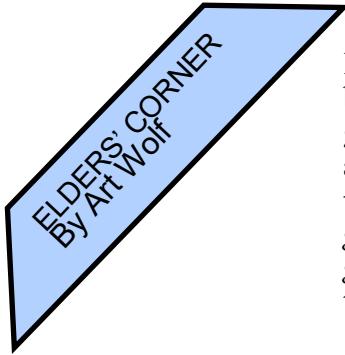
**Ray & Gretchen Engum** are adjusting to their new home in Kent and would love company of their friends from church. Please call them (253) 246-7335.

**Jenny Iles** I wish everyone at Bethlehem a blessed Merry Christmas. And a wonderful New year. I have everyone in my prayers. In the love of Jesus, Jenny

**Sabine Muller** is rehabbing in Des Moines and wishes everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and prayers that everyone stays well!

**Linda Sheets** sends the following RAVE: to the loving, caring people of Bethlehem for remembering me with a beautiful thanksgiving card, and continuing to keep me in the family through your great newsletter each month. Love and hugs all around.

**Carolyn Warns** I really miss not being at church. Thanks to everybody for the prayers and cards.



It is Christmas time as I am writing the Elders Corner article, and like so many others, I have been out Christmas shopping. I have been trying to get gifts that Amber and Anna will like and put to good use. I have stood in line in stores and have heard people around me that have voiced the same concerns. *“I hope that they will like the gift that I have gotten them”* or *“I really hope that they get me the gift that I wanted, I can really use that, or it will look great on me.”* Insert whichever gift you like or are thinking of getting for someone.

As I was standing in line, it really hit me, that we have been given the greatest gift of all.

**John 3:16-17 (KJV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”** We have been given the greatest gift of all. God gave his only Son, that we might be saved.

Now, I am assuming that you are reading this Elders Corner contribution after the Christmas Season is over. All the gifts have been given and opened. The strange Christmas sweater from the relative that you hardly ever see has been put away, only to be brought out if they come to your house again, or if you are going to see them around Christmas again. Or you have it in the pile that will go to Goodwill, or the soft goods drive in the basement of the church.

Now, what are you doing with the gift that God has given to you? Are you hiding that gift in the closet as well, only to be brought out Sunday morning when you go to church, then you get home, it is put away again until next Sunday, when you need it again? Or are you wearing that gift proudly, not hiding your light under a bushel, so that the world can see the gift that God has given to you? I say wear it proudly, let everyone know the gift that God has given to you! Be a true witness to your gift from God, so that others may partake of the gift as well!

### **GLUTEN FREE OPTION FOR COMMUNION**

If you follow a gluten free diet, we have gluten free communion wafers available. When you are at the altar, tell the elder you would like a gluten free wafer.



Stephanie with hand-knitted sweater  
*Photo by Dielda Kuhlmann*

## VISITOR SHARES HER STORY

By Stephanie

This past summer I went to a rummage sale at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, up the street from me. There were two big tables covered with fabric and sewing supplies stacked about two feet deep. When I asked if there was any yarn a couple of the ladies showed me a box that had to have been from the 1960's or early 70's. Inside were all the knitted pieces of an Irish sweater. The sleeves were started and worked for about 6 inches, but still on the needles. I shopped around the rest of the sale but came back to that box a couple of times. I ended up making an offer that was accepted. The box sat for a few months while I procrastinated on starting. The pattern was with the sweater, but written in an older style and more intricate than my usual projects. I finally

finished it in November then procrastinated some more about sewing it together. So much finishing work, knitted in plackets and button holes! It had 3 small moth holes that I patched; I don't think you can see them from the outside. I finally finished it and added modern bamboo buttons. I was stuck with the size the original knitter started with. It will be a gift for my sister's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday which is perfectly appropriate because The Queen is wearing one just (well sorta) like it in season three of The Crown.

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*Stephanie attended worship with us on December 8 and shared her story.*

## The Story Behind The Hymn

# The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Written in FOURTEENTH CENTURY B.C.

*The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.*  
Numbers 6:24-26

The Dead Sea Scrolls were, until recently, our oldest copies of biblical text. But in 1979, Villanova professor, Judith Hadley, was assisting archaeologist, Gabriel Barkay, in excavating a site in Jerusalem's Hinnom Valley. In a burial cave, she saw something resembling the metal cap of a pencil. It was a sensational find, a tiny silver scroll of great antiquity. Another was found nearby. These tiny amulets, dating to the Hebrew monarchy seven centuries before Christ, were so small and fragile they took several years to painstakingly clean and open.

In 1994, scientists were finally able to unroll and study the scrolls. They found the world's oldest extant copy of a biblical text, the words of Numbers 6:24-26: *The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

While the amulets date from the seventh century B.C., the original words are far older, coming 1,400 years before Christ. As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, the Lord commanded the priests to bless the people with this three-fold blessing. These words are often referred to as the Priestly Blessing.



PETER CHRISTIAN LUTKIN  
1858—1931

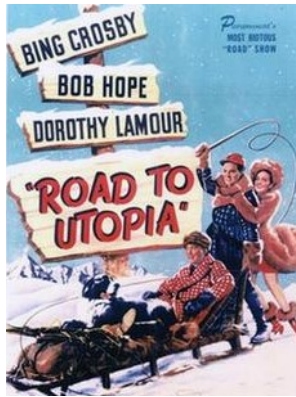
These ancient lyrics have been set to music many times but the most popular in hymnals is Peter Christian Lutkin's anthem called *Benediction*, which he composed in 1900. It is often sung a cappella, a favorite style of Professor Lutkin.

Lutkin was born in Wisconsin in 1858, and devoted his life to church music, studying the masters in Europe, excelling on the organ, and founding the School of Music at Northwestern Illinois. He helped start the American Guild of Organists. He died in 1931.

In his *Notes from My Bible*, D. L. Moody said about the priestly blessing of Numbers 6: *"Here is a benediction that can give all the time without being impoverished. Every heart may utter it, every letter may conclude with it, every day may begin with it, every night may be sanctified by it. Here is blessing—keeping—shining—the uplifting upon our poor life of all heaven's glad morning. It is the Lord Himself who (gives us) this bar of music from heaven's infinite anthem."*



Information for the article *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* on the previous page was found in Robert J Morgan's book *Then Sings My Soul* and various internet sources.



## MOVIE MATINEE

January 18 is Joel Jackman's birthday. In his honor, we will be showing a film released in his birth year, 1946. After much deliberation, the winning movie is *ROAD TO UTOPIA*. The fourth in the hilarious Road series is a blizzard of laughs with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby playing vaudevillians searching for Klondike gold--and finding beautiful Dorothy Lamour instead. It's described as a zany laugh-getter.



The short to be shown is *THE MUSIC BOX*. This most famous of Laurel and Hardy shorts won an Oscar for "Best Comedy Short Subject." Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy play characters who run a transfer company and are hired to deliver a player piano to an address which turns out to be up a very long flight of steps. It was produced in 1932!

If you're in the mood for some old-fashioned comedy, come to the movies on Saturday January 18 at 3 pm and wish Joel a happy birthday!

## REVIEW OF THE DECEMBER MOVIES

By Dielda Kuhlmann

We watched *Miracle on 34th Street* in December. At least 2 people in the audience had never seen it! We enjoyed popcorn and a special treat — pie!

We also saw our first silent film, the 1907 version of *Ben Hur*. None of us had ever seen it before. This film is 102 years old! A lot has changed in movie production in the past century.

Many of us were scratching our heads at the end of the film, a bit confused at what had taken place. A ship was mentioned on a Scene Card but we never saw a boat or water. There were no close-ups so we couldn't see any facial features. The riot scenes were pretty mild and tame by today's standards. But the chariot race?! MY. OH. MY. I'm pretty sure they kept filming the same 2 horses over and over again as they came around the corner, and we had no idea who won, but the 15-minute film was over, and we clapped!

If you want to check it out, it's available for free online at <https://archive.org/details/SidneyOlcottsBen-hur1905>

## INTRODUCING OUR CHOIR MEMBERS

*First in a series of articles about our choir  
By Dielda Kuhlmann*



**Mark Humphrey**  
BLC Choir Member

Mark Humphrey has sung tenor in our choir for 30 years. He was our hand bell director and has done the chanting during our worship service. Music has been a passion all his life.

He can't remember a time in his life when he wasn't immersed in music. It started with his parent's organ. On his 3rd birthday, he played the happy birthday song on it. He didn't want to bang on it like most toddlers, Mark wanted to play the correct notes. At the age of 4, he began taking lessons. In elementary school he played trumpet and moved up to baritone in the 6th grade, and then a full-size Miraphone tuba in junior high.



**Miraphone**

Playing in the band gave him the opportunity to travel around the world. Mark and his tuba were in a Bicentennial celebration in Washington D.C. In 1978 he played in Japan and Hawaii. He had 2 European tours in 1979 and 1980. He spent an entire summer traveling in a bus with a 16-part harmony 80-piece Black Watch Drum & Bugle Corps. It was a lot of fun being on the road. He remembers his mom, Emma Humphrey, made a lot of the costumes for the tours. He sang in a choir and played tuba in the Renton River Days summer festivals. Another claim to fame is that Mark played the pipe organ at the old Bellevue Pizza and Pipes restaurant! His most recent performance was at Benaroya Concert Hall in Seattle, where he sang in a mass choir, directed by James Hing. It was a fundraiser for the homeless in Seattle.

When he isn't performing, Mark likes to listen to music. The Seattle Symphony, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Straight No Chaser, and Mannheim Steamroller were some of his favorite concerts. He's also attended a variety of concerts at St James Cathedral in Seattle.

Mark enjoys choir and feels music ministry is very important. He would love to have us sing a few more contemporary songs and hopes that we can get a recording made of our Bethlehem choir singing.

There is one item on Mark's bucket list. He hopes to sing with Josh Groban.

We are blessed with Mark and his gift of music.

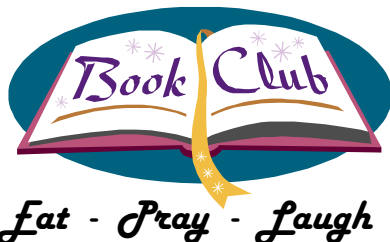
### **MISSION BOARD REPORT**

We wish to thank all who brought gifts for the Giving Tree this year. We had two families, each with four children. All tags were filled and returned to church! We were given a very short time to gather all the gifts, and we thank you for working with us to make it all happen. You have made two families very happy. Thank you.

### **SOFT GOODS DRIVE**

Many of you dropped off bags and bags and bags of unwanted clothing for our clothing drive. We have a report on those who were able to be here Thursday evening November 21 to help load the U-Haul truck: Dick Taylor, Gil Wooden, Ruth Ann Shimoi and her grandsons, Bruce Feltmann, Ron Muller, and Curtis Holcomb. They carried over a ton of clothes and 200 pounds of books upstairs and into the truck! In the last newsletter, we reported on the strong folks who helped unload the truck.

We are waiting to hear how many dollars were raised, and will let you know soon!



### **LADIES SACK LUNCH & BOOK CLUB**

**RESUMES JANUARY 23 at NOON**

We will discuss *Voice in the Wind*, the first book in the trilogy by Francine Rivers. Get the book read before we discuss it!

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



December 22 was our Christmas Pageant. Not limited to just children, this year's event had multi-generational actors, a live baby Jesus and exuberant sheep! A car seat became an impromptu manger. The celebration continued upstairs with a birthday cake for Jesus.



Sheep Anna Wolf and Judah Chhom kneel before baby Jesus, portrayed by KaLyla Troseth in her acting debut.



Angels (above) portrayed by Kathy Logan and her granddaughter Ella Browning, and Marjie Boydston.

Cast photo without the sheep and baby Jesus.  
Narrator: Sharon Buechler  
Angels: Ella Browning, Kathy Logan, Marjie Boydston  
Shepherds: Logan Browning, Karen Marsyla  
Joseph: Jim Buechler  
Mary: Carolyn Troseth  
Sheep: Anna Wolf age 4 1/2, Judah Chhom age 3 3/4  
Jesus: KaLyla Troseth



Judah Chhom doing a great sheep imitation.

Stewardship Message  
**RESOLUTIONS**  
Submitted by Karen Begalka

Individuals are making New Year's Resolutions for 2020 such as reading the Bible daily, going on a diet, exercising more and investing money wisely. However, the best goal for Christians should be to combat greed, accept God's will and to be content. As God's stewards, we need to give the teachings of Jesus our top priority; accept that God owns everything and that He is in control; we need to share God's blessings and be satisfied with what we have.

First of all, we need to believe that Jesus Christ is our only Savior from sin and apply His teachings to our lives. 1 John 1:9 ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** John 8:31 ***"If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples."***

Secondly, we must accept that God is the owner of everything: our talents, our property and money all belong to Him. God has loaned us everything we need to make our journey from this life on into eternal life. 1 Corinthians 4:2 ***"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."*** We are merely managers of what God has given us.

The third principle of stewardship is to let God be in control. It is so natural for us to try to control everything, but it is unnecessary. John 6:27 ***"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."***

The fourth principle of stewardship is organization and generosity. We need to give and share what God has blessed us with, whether it is money, kindness to others or serving by using our talents. Luke 6:28 ***"Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."***

Finally, be content. It is more fulfilling to be content than greedy. Greed can never be satisfied. It only makes a person want more.

*adapted from LWML 5 Stewardship Principles, by Rev. John Heckmann*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW Office Hours</b>  <b>Monday through Thursday</b>  <b>9 a.m. to 12 noon</b></p>			<p><b>1</b> NEW YEARS D  Rose Bowl Parade  Lutheran Hour Mir  tries Float</p>
<p><b>5</b> FOOD BANK SUNDAY  8:30 choir rehearsal  8:45 Adult Bible Class  10 Worship with Holy Communion  11:15 Mission Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b>  6 pm Trustees' Meeting  7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p><b>7</b>  6:30 Elders Meeting</p>	<p><b>8</b> 14 year annivers  of James Hing at our  gan  <b>7 pm Bible Study v</b>  <b>Brent Begalka</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> 8:30 choir rehearsal  8:45 Adult Bible Class  10 Worship with Installation of Officers  11:15 Council meeting  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!!!!! EARLY</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>  7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>7 pm Bible Study v</b>  <b>Brent Begalka</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> 8:30 choir rehearsal  8:45 Adult Bible Class  10 Worship with Holy Communion  <b>11:15 Quarterly Voters' Meeting AND</b>  <b>DIVINE CALL SERVICE</b>  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p><b>20</b>  7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>7 pm Bible Study v</b>  <b>Brent Begalka</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> LWML MITE BOX SUNDAY  8:30 choir rehearsal  8:45 Adult Bible Class  10 Worship  <b>11:15 Worship Team Meeting</b>  11:15 Board of Ed Meeting  11:15 Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b>  7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>7 pm Bible Study v</b>  <b>Brent Begalka</b></p>

### SPECIAL EVENT SUNDAY JANUARY 19

We will be having our regularly scheduled Quarterly Voters' Meeting after worship. After that meeting, we will hold a Divine Call Service for the purpose of calling a seminary graduate as our new pastor. The candidate's name is known only to God at this point. More details are on the back page.

# JANUARY 2020

	Thu	Fri	Sat
RS DAY ade with Minis-	<b>2</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>3</b> 10 a.m. a Bethesda Memorial Service	<b>4</b>
iversary t our or- idy with	<b>9</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Plum Delicious. 9:30 am-1 pm Lutheran Hour Min- istries Symposium @ Christ the King, Bellevue
idy with	<b>16</b> Pastor's Circuit Meeting 3:30 Mary Martha meeting 7 pm New Purpose	<b>17</b> 10:00 Pinochle Game & Lunch	<b>18</b> 8:30—1 Private use Social Hall  3 pm Movie Matinee The Music Box & Road to Utopia
idy with	<b>23</b> Noon ladies' book club and sack lunch 7 pm New Purpose	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
idy with	<b>30</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>31</b>	

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

Pastor Blair email: Pastor@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org  
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## 10 YEARS OF NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES

We started our parties back on December 31, 2009, celebrating 'midnight' at New York time. At 9 pm our time, we lit up a 2010 sign and sang Auld Lang Syne. Halley Kuhlmann hosted that event.

Since then we've celebrated with a variety of themes including Florida, Bahamas, Germany, and Greenwich Mean Time. We had an international theme one year where we learned the New Year customs from many different countries. We play card games and board games, laugh, eat good food, and have a chance to talk to friends.

There is often a quiet time for reflection and prayer as we recall the old year and have hope for the new year.

This year's event starts December 31 at 2 pm and we will celebrate 'midnight' at 4:27 pm, the time the sun sets that day in Seattle. Come join the fun.

### Treasurer Report As of November 30, 2019

Total Income	\$ 143,526.77
Expenses	<u>\$ 147,340.04</u>
Net Loss	- \$ 3,813.27
Total cash available \$55,234.22.	
Submitted by Kathy Logan, Treasurer	

**THANK YOU** to the Brester family for their generous donation to Mary-Martha Society and for giving leftover food from Laura's memorial service reception to the Bethesda Home. Residents of the home enjoyed a fine meal of fried chicken, lasagna, garlic bread, and salad.

**RAVE** to everyone who gave gifts to the men of Bethesda. Their Christmas morning was made brighter by many gifts of clothing, music, and snacks. We were able to give the home on Olympia a new coffee pot and a bunch of pens.

**RAVE & THANK YOU** to Thrivent Financial for granting us the funds to purchase the material for our next quilt raffle! Jeanne-K Hughes has selected the fabric.



## MARY MARTHA SOCIETY

We ended the year with a wonderful Christmas party! The decorations were beautiful! The attendance was great!

We sang songs and had a Candy Cane Skit! Our "live" candy cane was a little "belligerent" but did her job with a little bit of an attitude! If you were there, you would understand, but if you weren't, you missed out!!

We are looking forward to starting the new year with our next meeting scheduled January 16th at 3:30. We welcome all visitors to attend and see what is in store for the New Year.

Carolyn Troseth, Secretary



*Candy cane Hannelore Payne, heart helpers Marjie Boydston & Karen Begalka.*



**RAVE.** We were so happy to be at the Christmas party. Thank you for including us. It was a fun program, lovely decor, yummy pie and best of all loving, caring Christian fellowship.  
—Linda Cowan

*photo by Pastor Blair*

**2019 in Review**  
By Dielda Kuhlmann

**NATURE INDOORS:** 2019 was our year of God's nature decorating our social hall! It started with snowflakes back in December 2018 hanging from our ceiling. Then hearts were added to the snowflakes in February. Hearts were replaced with 4-leaf clovers in March. Then the snow melted into balloon clouds and silver raindrops for the spring. The April showers changed into May flowers the next month. By the 4th of July, we were festooned with red, white and blue stars! In the fall, autumn colored leaves hung from the ceiling. This December brought the return of the beautiful hand-made snowflakes.

**PRAYER GUIDES:** We were given frequent reminders of how important prayer is in our lives. Our Transition Team held our 3rd and final Cottage meeting back in January and ended their meetings. The Call Team was formed soon after that. Along with the Call Team came Daily Prayer Guides. On this late December printing date, we are on prayer day #287 of asking God to send the right pastor to Bethlehem.

**SNOW STORM:** Back on Snow Sunday February 10, 2019 many Highland churches were closed. Bethlehem stayed open and 23 of us were able to attend services that Sunday! Unfortunately, 2 of our members slipped on ice and broke their legs.

**OPPORTUNITIES AT OTHER CHURCHES:** Many of us attended the Spiritual Warfare Seminar in Bothell. Even more of us attended the Educational Forum at All Saints in Bellevue with other churches in our circuit. Pilgrim hosted a dinner and musical entertainment as a fundraiser for Lutheran Ministry Services NW in the spring. Lutheran Community Services NW offered lunch and an opportunity to donate to their worthy cause in Lynnwood. Oktoberfest was enjoyed at Pilgrim to support Lutheran Ministry Services NW. We attended the Christmas concert in the church across the street from us.

**HELPING OTHERS:** We collected personal hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief, donated 2,513 pounds of clothing, held a garage sale & spaghetti dinner to raise money for missions, removed vines and sticker bushes that were invading a neighbor's yard, brought in 539 pounds of food for the Food Bank, cooked and served a meal to the needy of Renton, walked and donated money for the annual Crop Walk, gave backpacks to Vision House residents, donated turkeys and other food items for the REACH Christmas Day dinner served at Luther's Table, gave Christmas presents to 2 needy families, brightened the lives of Bethesda residents with Christmas gifts, made fleece blankets for those in need of the extra warmth, and VBS attendees donated money for wells in Tanzania.

**GIFTS TO BETHLEHEM:** We were blessed with your financial donations to support the ministry of Bethlehem. We were given a new palm tree for our altar. We were given a nativity set. We were given 50 nice chairs with armrests and 12 deluxe chairs that swivel. We were given a big screen TV which we are learning how to operate and install. Our farming members gave fresh produce and eggs to anyone who wanted them.

**CELEBRATIONS:** We had many reasons to celebrate this year. Four baptisms were held at Bethlehem: Michael Bumpus, Kiera Saline, KaLyla Troseth, and Melanie Hammond. We had a baby shower for KaLyla and several members celebrated their 90th birthday this year. We welcomed four new members: Melanie Hammond, Beverly West, and Ruth & Fred Schroeder. One Spirit singing group worshipped with us. At least 4 of us had successful knee replacement surgeries.

**GOOD-BYES:** We said good-bye to too many friends this year. Six of our members passed away: Lucille Logan, Ray Mortrud, Lige Brown, Grace Hanson, Jim Boydston, and Laura Brester. Long time members Pat Boydston and Pat Mortrud moved to be closer to their children. Scott van Atta graduated from the Vocational College and moved back to Oregon. Michael & Cheryl Bumpus and their family moved out of state.

**WE ARE BLESSED:** While our members were busy recovering from various surgeries and bouts of flu, or taking long exotic vacation trips, we were able to keep things running smoothly at Bethlehem. Cherished traditions were continued. Our group photo was taken at the altar, Adult and Children's Sunday schools happened, Vacation Bible School had plenty of volunteers, hymns of praise were sung, flowers were planted and cared for, trees trimmed, the back door was repaired and painted, the playground was repaired, our veterans were honored, our shut-in members were remembered. There were many opportunities to talk with each other at our coffee hour after church, our olde-fashioned summer picnic complete with croquet, Easter breakfast, men's Saturday breakfast, field trips to Victoria BC and Puyallup's Victorian Christmas. The ladies got to have a stay-cation retreat instead of driving to a far off hotel. We enjoyed card games, book clubs, Easter egg hunts, hymn sings, and a Christmas pageant.

We give thanks for 2019 and look forward to what's in store for 2020!

I hope you are taking advantage of Amazon's free gift to Bethlehem. They donate 0.5% of your purchase to our church every time you shop online at Amazon.



To sign up, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

In the box where it asks you to type your charitable organization, just enter **91-0850984** and click on the Search button. Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington will appear. Click on select. You only need to do this the first time. Be sure to order through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) so we receive the bonus!



A gift to Bethlehem

### **NATIVITY SET Another God Wink Coincidence**

This year, we couldn't find our traditional nativity set that we always display in the social hall.

Without knowing this, the Seventh Day Adventist Church across the street gave us a gift of a similar – sized nativity set.

God is good. And we send a big thank you to their congregation!

A Message from Church World Services, who we support through our Crop Walk donations:



This Christmas brings a powerful message. It reminds us to mourn that things are not as they should be. And it reminds us to rejoice because Hope is on the horizon... and it comes to make the wounded whole.

You are part of that healing message.

In our journey together, you've brought comfort to those who grieve.

You've covered a multitude with love.

You've shared your peace and joy so that others may find life.

You have challenged us all to faithfully help one another in our darkest times.

**You move us towards Hope.**



## O CHRISTMAS TREE, O CHRISTMAS TREE

On the left, cheerful Christmas committee members pose while decorating the tree in our sanctuary. Jim Buechler & Ron Muller hold the ladder for Melanie Hammond. Photo by Sharon Buechler.

After Pastor Blair and the congregation count down, Roman Sturgul turned on the Christmas tree lights on the first Sunday in Advent. Photo on the lower left by Dielda Kuhlmann.

Four very joyful kids decorated the social hall tree and themselves. In the bottom right photo are Roman Sturgul, Anna Wolf, Zeke & Lucy Sturgul. Photo taken by Dielda Kuhlmann.



## THANKS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATORS

I would like to give a special thank you to the Christmas Committee and others who helped make our church beautiful for Christmas.

Jim & Sharon Buechler, Bruce & Teresa Feltmann, Jesse Hack, Melanie Hammond, Curtis Holcomb, LuAnne and Michael Humphrey, Gary Jordanger, Pete & Hannelore Maas, Ron Muller, Hannelore Payne, Joni & Carl Stockamp, Dick & Ellen Taylor. Apologies if I left off your name!

-Sharon Buechler

**Wellness Corner**  
By Jeanie Hack

I wasn't sure what I wanted my first message of the New Year to be to you. I thought of a recipe or a Bible verse but, this quote spoke to me. It is from Judy Garland and so many of us have loved her singing or her movies. She was quite sensitive... hope you enjoy this.

*“Well we have a whole New Year ahead of us. And wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all be a little more gentle with each other, and a little more loving, have a little more empathy and maybe next year at this time, we'd like each other a little more.”* –Judy Garland

I think that is a sweet message to send out to the world in 2020. Happy New Year. May you have peace and joy.

**CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD**



**Moku'aikaua Church**  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

**Karen and Joel Jackman** share this photo of a church they visited on the Big Island of Hawai'i. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last month in Hawai'i!

Boston Missionaries brought Christianity to Hawai'i when they arrived in Kailua in 1820. Moku'aikaua is Hawai'i's oldest Christian Church and a sacred symbol of the influence and dedication of many throughout its nearly 200-year history. When asked what denomination they were, they just said, "Protestant." Preceded by two thatched hale (traditional Hawai'ian structures), it was transformed from 1835 to 1837 with exterior walls of lava rock masonry and crushed coral mortar. Hewn stones were used to construct the foundation. The interior features 'ohi'a timbers and koa wood paneling.

**Ka Pule a ka Haku**  
***The Lord's Prayer***  
**In Hawaiian and English**

Mataio Mokuna 6:9-13  
*Matthew Chapter 6:9-13*

E ko makou makua i loko o ka lani,  
*Our Father which art in heaven,*  
E ho'ano 'ia kou inoa  
*Hallowed be thy name*  
E hiki mai kou aupuni;  
*Thy kingdom come;*  
E malama 'ia kou makemake ma ke honua nei  
*Thy will be done on earth*  
E like me ia i malama 'ia ma ka lani la.  
*As it is in heaven.*  
E ha'awi mai ia makou i keia la, i 'ai na makou no neia la.  
*Give us this day our daily bread.*  
E kala mai ho'I ia makou i ka makou lawehala 'ana,  
*And forgive us our debts,*  
Me makou e kala nei i ka po'e i lawehala i ka makou.  
*As we forgive our debtors.*  
Mai ho'oku'u 'oe ia makou I ka ho'owalewale 'ia mai,  
*And lead us not into temptation,*  
E ho'opakele no na'e ia makou i ka 'ino;  
*But deliver us from evil;*  
No ka mea, nou ke aupuni,  
*For thine is the kingdom.*  
A me ka mana, a me ka ho'onani 'ia a mau loa aku.  
*And the power, And the glory forever and ever.*  
'Amene.  
*Amen.*

**Our Vision:**

***Bethlehem Lutheran Church dreams to be a place of prayer in our community where the love of God is embraced, the Word of God is proclaimed, relationships with Jesus Christ are transforming, and the Holy Spirit guides us to shine to our neighbors and friends.***



## DING DONG

*Rain, snow, or shine, we've been ringing our bell on Sundays at 10 am since Palm Sunday 2017.*

The Humphrey family sings together AND rings together. On December 1, **Mark Humphrey** and son **Michael** rang the hand bells to start our worship service. And then **LuAnne Humphrey** pulled the rope to our exterior bell.



They are all choir members. Mark was the director of our hand bell choir. LuAnne says she really likes the sound of bells. Michael is working 2 jobs so he can't get here on Sundays as often as he used to.

Our set of hand bells were a gift from Marilyn Mortrud's family.



The rain stopped just before 10 a.m. so the bell ringers were able to go up on the roof December 8 to call us to worship.

**Addison "Addy" Rogers** (photo left) is 8 years old and in the 2nd grade. She's very good at math, and is torn between math and recess as her favorite subject. Addy did double duty by ringing the bell and enjoying a blue lollipop at the same time.

**Dylan Rogers** is 13 years old and in the 8th grade. When asked his favorite subject, "*Probably P.E. if I had to pick but Humanities is good because I really like the teacher.*" Dylan had never rung a bell before nor had he ever been up on a roof. A day of new adventures for him!

**Natalie Rogers** (photo right) is 10 years old and in 4th grade. Without a doubt, science is her favorite class.

Their enthusiasm and cooperation were greatly appreciated!



**Bruce Feltmann** called us to worship on December 15.

He celebrates his birthday this week. He graciously agreed to ring the bell when asked. He was also an usher that Sunday. We appreciate his service.



On December 22, **Jesse and Jeanie Hack** both rang our bell because they enjoy doing things together. Her dad's birthday is in December, as well as a dear friend Laura who died of breast cancer in 2006. This month also marks Jeanie's 8th year as a cancer survivor.



### **You're never too young or old to evangelize!**

Carolyn Warns tells us the time when she was explaining all the pieces in her nativity set to then 6-year grandson Kenny. She shared a lot of information and wasn't sure how much actually soaked in. A year later at age 7, students were to share what they had asked Santa to bring them. Kenny said he asked for 3 gifts. A boy told him, *"You're stupid. Santa has a lot more presents than that. I asked him for 15 things."* Carolyn's grandson replied, *"You're the stupid one, thinking you're better than Jesus. He only got 3 presents."*



**EVANGELISM SYMPOSIUM**  
**Christ the King, Bellevue**  
**Saturday January 11 9:30 am—1 pm**

All are welcome to attend this free gathering. Christ the King would like an accurate head-count so they can prepare the right amount of food for lunch. Please contact Betty at the CTK office by Tuesday January 7 if you plan on attending. [office@christtheking-bellevue.org](mailto:office@christtheking-bellevue.org) 425-746-1711. Address is 3730 148th Ave SE, Bellevue, Washington.

The logo for the Center for Prayer & Renewal features the words "Center for Prayer & Renewal" in a stylized, layered font. "Center" is large and black, "for" is smaller and grey, "Prayer" is in a script font with a heart, and "Renewal" is in a bold, black font.	<p><b>CENTER FOR PRAYER &amp; RENEWAL RETREAT</b> <b>January 27 1 pm to January 29 noon</b></p> <p>Northwest District LCMS invites you to a prayer retreat at the Cannon Beach Conference Center in Oregon. If you have not attended before, scholarships are available making the fee only \$50. The theme is the Holy Spirit and Prayer. More information, contact Shirley Bentson 503-288-8383. Register online at <a href="http://nowlcms.org/">nowlcms.org/</a></p>
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**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**  
**& GAME NIGHT**  
**Tuesday December 31**  
**2—6 pm**

Join us as we celebrate the end of 2019 and welcome in 2020. Bring a favorite card or board game, or just come to chat with friends.

It's a western theme this year. Chili and biscuits are provided. You can bring in other food or snacks to supplement.

We'll toast the New Year at 4:27 pm, the time of sunset in Seattle.

Any questions, ask Dielda Kuhlmann.



I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas filled with lots of good memories.

It's time to start up for 2020. Please plan now to join us on Friday, January 17th at our new time, 10 a.m. We stop for lunch at 11:30. Our play day ends at approximately 2:30.

If you don't know how to play we will gladly teach you. It's a fun time had by everyone.

Happy New Year!  
Sharon

## PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO



**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1 Rose Parade.** See Lutheran Hour Ministries' Christian float.



**SATURDAY JANUARY 11 Breakfast.** Men meet at 8:30 a.m. at Plum Delicious for fellowship and food.



**THURSDAY JANUARY 16 Mary Martha Society meeting 3:30 pm.** Page 17.



**FRIDAY JANUARY 17 Pinochle Game 10 a.m.** Break for lunch at 11:30. See page 26.



**SATURDAY JANUARY 18 Matinee 3 pm** It's a comedy double feature. Laurel & Hardy's *The Music Box* and *Road to Utopia* starring Bob Hope & Bing Crosby. Page 9 for more details. Popcorn provided!



**THURSDAY JANUARY 23 noon Ladies' Sack Lunch and Book Club.** See page 11



**KEEP PRAYING! PRAYER GUIDE** 10 on gray paper was distributed to Bethlehem members. It contains a different Bible verse and prayer suggestions for every day from December 12 to January 10. Volume 11 was an audience participation edition. Those in attendance at a December church meeting wrote and submitted the prayers!

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

January 2020

## **Call Team Update**

Joel Jackman

How do you know when your prayers have been answered?

We may feel like our prayer is answered when something comes about just as we requested. But what if God's answer is not what we expect? Do we keep praying for an answer that meets our expectations?

When our members met before Christmas, we prayed for the Holy Spirit to make it clear to us whether to call a seminary graduate, or to request a new list of experienced pastors from the District. We did not receive a strong message; our members were pretty evenly split on the decision. Was our prayer answered? We need to have faith that it was, but maybe not the way we expected or hoped.

Some felt that if God has chosen a seminary graduate to be our next pastor, then we should not close the door on the opportunity. There are many congregations seeking only a few seminary grads, but if God has chosen one of them to be our next pastor, He will make that happen.

So, the Call Team has decided to place a call for a seminary graduate. We will hold a divine call service following the Voters' Assembly on January 19. We can expect to hear by mid-April whether we will receive a seminary graduate.

Please continue to use the Pastor Call Team Prayer Guide or send up prayers in your own words.

### **Updates to our Photo Directory**

Pat Boydston's new phone number (360) 539-7751. She loves phone calls.

Ray & Gretchen Engum new phone number (253) 246-7335. They love visitors.

Mike & Cheryl Bumpus moved to Lubbock, Texas but daughter Katelyn and her son Michael are still here in Washington.

Virginia Preston has moved closer to her daughter. 14905 Bothell Everett Hwy, #207, Mill Creek, WA 98912. She enjoys cards.

Marie Teel's address is Kennydale Golden Age Home, 1806 Jones Ave NE, Renton WA 98056. She loves visitors.