

December 2022



Guest Pastor White • James Hing, Organist

### **CHANGES AT BETHLEHEM**

WOW! What a month.

In the past month, we have made decisions about Bethlehem's future; adopted a budget that should more closely reflect what our expenses will be; elected leadership for 2023; held our bazaar; and lots more.

With some major changes ahead, we need to remember what Bethlehem is here for, and has been for 80+ years.

We are here to serve God. We need to continue to serve Him with our hearts and talents, and give back to him a portion of the gifts he has and continues to give us.

Each of us needs to be an active and productive part of the next steps for Bethlehem. Some ideas on how you can be involved are on page 6. I pray for God to bless each of you!

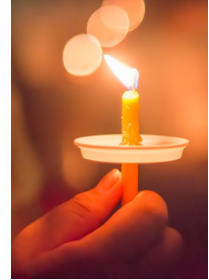
I know the decision to pursue closing the congregation is a difficult one for all of us. Please give each other room for their feelings. At the same time, we all need to be extra nice in our behavior. I know we can do this with God's help.

God Bless you during the Christmas season. Let's be the Magi and bring our gifts to the Lord, Jesus.

Don Kuhlmann  
Congregational President

## CHRISTMAS EVE ALTERNATIVES

There is no Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Bethlehem this year. This will be an opportunity for you to experience Christmas Eve at a different church. Perhaps there's a church near you that you've been curious about. Call them or check their website to learn their Christmas Eve schedule.



Here's some options that have been researched for you.

- **St Matthews Lutheran** ELCA, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton offers three Christmas Eve Candlelight services — 4pm family service, 7pm Acoustic guitar service and 9pm Traditional service.
- **Joy Lutheran**, formerly Pilgrim, 10420 SE 11TH St, Bellevue. [joylutheranwa.org/](http://joylutheranwa.org/) with Pastor Jon Mau. Christmas Eve at 7pm. They offer in person and a streaming option.
- **Redeemer Lutheran**, 6001 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island. Our previous minister, Pastor Gene Baade, leads Christmas Eve service, in person only, at 7:30pm.
- **King of Kings Lutheran**, 18207 108th Ave SE Renton, offers Christmas Eve services at 7:30pm and 10pm. In person and streamed on youtube. [king-of-kings.org](http://king-of-kings.org)
- **Renton United Methodist**, 2201 NE 4th St, Renton (425) 255-5403. Their website shows a 7pm Christmas Eve service.
- **Bellevue Presbyterian**, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue [belpres.org](http://belpres.org)  
Christmas Eve services in person & online  
3 & 5 pm (Modern)  
7:00 & 9:00 pm (Choir & Orchestra) and  
11:00 pm Bel Canto "beautiful singing" in person only
- **Highlands Community Church** nondenominational, 3031 NE 10th St, Renton. Very close to our location. Their website shows they have three Christmas Eve services: 1:30pm, 3pm and 4:30pm.

Come to **Bethlehem** on Christmas Day when we will have our hybrid service on **Sunday, December 25 at 10 am** with Pastor White. Our traditional aisleway candelabras will be lit to brighten the Christmas morning service.



## December



Linda Sheets	December 8
Deontae Mitchell	December 11
Edward Hughes	December 13
Gretchen Engum	December 15
Beatrice Myers	December 15
Bruce Feltmann	December 19

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

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

**Jackman, Joel & Karen**  
**December 6, 1969 53 years**

**Stockamp, Carl & Joni**  
**December 14, 1968 54 years**

**Taylor, Dick & Ellen**  
**December 26, 1964 58 years**

**Wooden, Gil & Cathy**  
**December 31, 1961 61 years**



Recent  
photo of  
Gretchen  
Engum

## MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

**Deontae** turns a Quarter of a Century!

**Gretchen** is our most senior person  
with a December birthday. She cele-  
brates 91 years on the 15th.



We have new contact information for Jenny Iles.

Phone: 480 528 4582

Email: [jennyiles49@gmail.com](mailto:jennyiles49@gmail.com)

Address: 15048 W Young St, Apt 209  
Surprise AZ 85374

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 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  
Jesse Hack's dad Don  
Mardelle Hammond's sister-in-law Barbara, brother Wally  
Chene'e Holcomb and her mom Jocelyn  
Curtis Holcomb's friends Wayne H and Crystal  
Jeanne-K Hughes' friend Angie  
LuAnne Humphrey's cousin Brenda & husband Chris, friends Chris, David B, John C, Joyce & Max  
Gene & Donna Kahn her sister Carol  
Don & Dielda Kuhlmann her sister Brenda & dad David  
Pete & Hannelore Maas' friend Bill  
Hannelore Payne's stepdaughter Becky, relatives Rolf, June, Johanna & Susanna, son  
Patrick, brother Frank, friend Marge, relative Brittany  
Debbie Porter's friend Ada  
Linda Sheets' daughter Corrie  
Dick & Ellen Taylor's grandchildren Landon & Caroline, his cousins Bill & Eileen  
Carolyn Troseth's sister Viola, sister-in-law Viona, friend Anita  
David Willett's sister Kelly**

**Pastor David-Paul Zimmerman's daughter, Michelle.**

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 Bob Pankow on the unexpected death of his son, Ralph, on Sunday September 26, 2022. Ralph lived in South Carolina. A gathering in his remembrance was held on Sunday Oct 30 in Renton.

King of King Lutheran Church, our daughter congregation in Renton, offers a Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday December 21 at 7pm. It is for anyone who struggles at this time, who is sad, or for whom Christmas time isn't fun but a hard time. For more information, you can call their office 425-226-1480.



## Mustard Seed DAILY DEVOTIONS

Lutheran Women in Mission

### LIVING IN PRAYER | God and I — Just the Two of Us!

*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you (Matt 6:6)*

Where do you pray? When do you pray? Do you have a specific scheduled prayer time with God? Jesus gave the best examples for teaching us how and where to pray. He went to the mountain and prayed all night before He choose “the 12 disciples.” (Luke 6:12) At the Mount of Olives He separated Himself from the others, knelt down and prayed. (Luke 22:41) He woke up early and went alone into the wilderness to pray. (Mark 1:35)

When Jesus lived on earth, He set prayer as a priority in His life. We can learn from His example. Some people set their alarm clock 10 minutes earlier than necessary and use those extra minutes as a personal prayer time with God; others set a specific time and enjoy the comfort of a favorite chair with their Bible and devotional books. Ask your family to honor your prayer time and request no interruptions. What a wonderful example for your children, to see their parents spending time in prayer to the Lord.

Dear Lord, help me to put You first in my daily schedule and make my prayer time a priority. I know when my prayer life priorities are straight, the rest of my life falls into balance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Living in Prayer. Written by LWML Christian Life Committee.

## **BETHLEHEM IS CLOSING**

At a special voters' meeting on October 30, 2022, 36 of the eligible 53 voting members (68%) met to vote whether to close our congregation next year or continue. Secret balloting was conducted in person and via a Zoom poll. Years of meetings, research, and discussion culminated in the decision to close. The vote was 83% in favor of closing with 1 abstention. The exact closing date will be voted on at a later date.

At our annual meeting on November 6, we elected officers & approved next year's budget hopeful that we will be able to call a part-time pastor to help guide us through our final year.

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

President Don Kuhlmann reports we will have frequent all-member meetings and discussion groups to keep everyone apprised of the status. While we have newly established teams to do research and identify all the steps that are required to close a church, the voting assembly will be making the major decisions.

The December all-member meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12 at 6:30pm via Zoom and Wednesday, December 14 at 9:30am in-person. You can attend either session or both. To be informed, have a chance to get your questions answered, and learn how you can help, it's recommended you attend the meeting.

## **WHAT ARE THE TEAMS?**

Teams have been created that we hope will help make things operate smoothly. The teams have met a few times, established some goals, and made some progress. They are eager to gain a few assistants. If you want to help as you can in a specific area for a short-term assignment, let the team leader know. Assistants aren't obligated to attend the team meetings but should be reliable, able to work independently, and report on their results.

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>AREA OF FOCUS</u>
Property Utilization	Curtis Holcomb	Sell the property & building
Financial Planning	Joel Jackman	Proceeds Distribution
Organization	Ruth Ann Shimoi	may be changing
Pastor Search	Ruth Ann Shimoi	Find a Pastor for Bethlehem
Legacy	Dielda Kuhlmann	What to do with our stuff

The process is evolving and subject to some changes. Some teams may dissolve, others may be formed as we continue this journey.

### **ELECTION RESULTS for 2023**

President Don Kuhlmann  
Vice President Joel Jackman  
Secretary Dielda Kuhlmann  
Trustee Curtis Holcomb  
Board of Missions Karen Begalka, Hannelore Payne, Amber Wolf  
Installation of officers will take place on Sunday, January 8.

### **OTHER NEWS**

Trustees have been talking to a church interested in renting our church for their Sunday worship services. If/when it gets finalized, they will worship in our building at noon every Sunday. More details as we learn more.

### **LEARNING FROM OTHERS**

We are in contact with several local pastors who have experienced a church closing. We are listening to their words of wisdom and sharing them as appropriate. Also, many of our own members came to Bethlehem after their church closed. We will benefit from hearing their stories.

### **REMINDER**

For pastoral support while we are waiting to call an interim, please contact the office. If the office is closed, please reach out to Head Elder Dick Taylor or President Don Kuhlmann. They will start the process of finding an available pastor for your needs. We have pastors who are available to help.

And a word about feelings. We've been through a very difficult and emotion-filled process. This was not an easy decision to make but 83% of us did feel it was the right decision. There may be times ahead when we question that decision. Our pastors with experience tell us that can happen. There will be disagreements as we move forward. We want to work together graciously, discerning God's path for us. This is an opportunity for each of us to be the Biblical "scattered seed". Do you choose to be eaten by birds, land on a rocky place with no soil, fall among thorns, or land on good soil and produce a crop?



## SERVICES AT BETHLEHEM

Since Sept 26, 2021, we have been blessed to have guest pastors leading our services every Sunday. Thanks to the Elders for arranging the pastor schedule.



On All Saints Sunday, a technical glitch was resolved with fresh batteries for Pastor White's microphone. Thanks to Don Kuhlmann for being speedy with new batteries so we could hear Pastor's sermon!



In lieu of a Thanksgiving Thursday worship service, Pastor Flath gave us a Thanksgiving **Sunday** service! On November 20, Zoomers and those in the building were invited to share what we were thankful for.

Photo of our Thanksgiving altar by Hannelore Maas



## **What are we thankful for?**

Thanks to Joel & Karen Jackman for creating a Thankfulness bulletin board for us to write our blessings on.

Here's some of your responses.

**Beautiful leaves**

**Grandchildren**

**Friends**

**Family**

**Good health**

**Warm home**

**Room over my head**

**Our son is now married**

**Flowers & gardens**

**Beautiful fall**

**Everyone at Bethlehem**

**Reliable transportation**

**Beautiful evergreen trees**

**Electricity**

**Jesus as my Savior**

**Hot running water**



## RAVE for our LANDSCAPING TEAM

Thank you to Cathy F, Dick, Pete, Curtis and Karen M. It was a cold but sunny morning in November, and later we even had to take off jackets.

We have a great team and everyone was willing and able to do their jobs!



**Hannelore Maas**

The geraniums are gone, blanket flowers are trimmed, slimy hostas are gone, burning bush trimmed, junipers are cut back, and some plants were trimmed by the sign so the light could shine better. All that and many bags of yard waste were loaded into Dick's truck!

I gave ourselves 1 and 1/2 hours. We went a little over that time but were rewarded with great coffee and pumpkin bars with cream cheese frosting and whipped cream.



**Pete Maas & Dick Taylor**

Team leader,  
Hannelore Maas



**Curtis Holcomb**



**Karen Marsyla &  
Cathy Frank**

## **The Gift of Christmas**

By Karen Begalka

The gifts of the Spirit have always existed as the Holy Spirit has always been part of the Trinity of God. Though, they were not recognized by many before Jesus came down to earth to dwell among people. God's Prophets were filled by the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testament. However, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Prophecy, Apostleship, Teaching, Wisdom, Understanding, The Word of Knowledge, Administration, Government, Operations, Miracles, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prayer, Helps, Hospitality, Healing, Faith, and Love. (1 Corinthians 12; 13:4-8; 1 Peter 4:9).

As the Holy Spirit grows in a believer, the results are the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We are to use our gifts with these fruit to serve others.

In the Bible before Christ's birth we see gifts as portrayed in many ways: Dowries, Inheritance, Gifts to Children, Taxes and Tributes to Kings, Bribes, Extortion, Rewards, Peace Offerings between Kingdoms, sometimes Prostitution, Tithes, Offerings and Sacrifices to God through the High Priests and Levites. However, were these gifts given by duty or with love?

What is love? There is sexual love (Eros), brotherly love (Philos) and God's love (Agape). Agape can only be experienced through God. He has given us Gifts of Love through the Gifts of the Spirit. We can share love by thinking of others before ourselves. This cannot happen without God's Agape. We can give back to God lovingly and to others through God's Spirit that dwells within us.

Esther 8:22 talks about celebrating Festivals in thanks to God, by giving gifts to each other and to the poor. That's what we do at Bethlehem with the Salvation Army Giving Tree. Other Gifts of God are Life, Protection, Love, Salvation, Jesus and Eternal Life.

Ecclesiastes 3:13 expresses "There is nothing better to do than to be joyful and do good as long as we live, also that everyone should eat, drink and take pleasure in the fruits of their labor for this is God's Gift to man." 1 John 4:19 states "We love because God first loved us." James 1:17 tells us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights."

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15.  
We are so Blessed by God's Gifts! **This Christmas Season shine for Jesus and spread the Good News to Everyone!**

## **Bible Quiz about The Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ**

Fill in the blanks with words from below:

Luke 1:26b, 27, 31 ....The Angel \_\_\_\_ was sent from \_\_\_\_ to a city in Galilee named \_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_ betrothed to a man whose name was \_\_\_\_ of the house of David. And the virgin's name was \_\_\_\_.

Luke 1:3 ....The angel said to her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a \_\_\_\_ and you shall call his name \_\_\_\_.

Matthew 2:20 .... As Joseph considered these things, behold the \_\_\_\_ appeared to him in a \_\_\_\_ saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your \_\_\_\_, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy \_\_\_\_.

Luke 2:1,2 .... In those days a \_\_\_\_ went out from Caesar \_\_\_\_ that all the \_\_\_\_ should be registered. This was the first \_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_.

Luke 2:4 .... And Joseph (and Mary) also went up from \_\_\_\_, from the \_\_\_\_ of Nazareth, to \_\_\_\_, to the city of \_\_\_\_ which is called \_\_\_\_, because they were of the house and \_\_\_\_ of David.

Luke 2: 6,7 .... And while they were \_\_\_\_, the time came for Mary to give \_\_\_\_\_. And she gave birth to her \_\_\_\_\_ son and wrapped him in \_\_\_\_\_ cloths and laid him in a \_\_\_\_\_ because there was no place for them in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 9:6 .... For unto us a \_\_\_\_\_ is born, unto \_\_\_\_\_ a son is given. And the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be upon his \_\_\_\_\_, and his name shall be called Wonderful \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ God, Everlasting \_\_\_\_\_, Prince of Peace.

Choices:

a. Angel	b. Augustus	c. Bethlehem	d. Birth	e. Child	f. Counselor
g. David	h. Decree	i. Dream	j. Father	k. Firstborn	l. Gabriel
m. Galilee	n. God	o. Government	p. Governor	q. Inn	r. Jesus
s. Joseph	t. Judea	u. Lineage	v. Manger	w. Mary	
x. Mighty	y. Nazareth	z. Quirinius	A. Registration	B. Shoulders	
C. Son	D. Spirit	E. Swaddling	F. Syria	G. There	
H. Town	I. Us	J. Virgin	K. Wife	L. World	

Created by Karen Begalka. Answers are in the Bible and on page 27.

## 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.



Ruth Ann Shimoi submits this photo from her Thanksgiving vacation. It's turkeys and deer at her sister's place in Columbia Falls, Montana. This doe will come to the bucket to feed.

## COMPASSIONATE AND CARING MASK POLICY CONTINUES



Masks required on left side of sanctuary.

Masks optional on right side of sanctuary.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> Monday, Tuesday, Thursday <b>10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> Closed the week after Christmas			<b>Nov 30</b> 7 pm Advent W with Brent, Zoc
<b>4</b> FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor White <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>5</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Elders Mtg TBD Trustees Mtg	<b>7</b> Office Clos 7 pm Advent W with Art, Zoom
<b>11</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor White <b>1 pm Council Mtg Zoom only</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30pm What's Next Meeting Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Office Clo 9:30am What's Meeting-in pers Deadline to return S Army Christmas gift 7 pm Advent W with Brent, Zoc
<b>18</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor White <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> Ladies, deadline to return Able Light Christmas gifts	<b>19</b> Newsletter Deadline 7 pm New Purpose	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Office Cl 7 pm Advent W with Art, Zoom
<b>25 Christmas</b> 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor White	<b>26</b> Office Closed 7 pm New Purpose	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> Office Clo No class tonigh erbs class resu January 4 at 7 p

We may have a "Welcome the New Year" Party on Sunday January 1 after the church service. Stay tuned for details.



# DECEMBER 2022

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>0</b> 11:00 am Worship Zoom only	<b>1</b> 1 pm Ladies' Christmas Party 7 pm New Purpose	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Closed 11:00 am Worship Zoom only	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Missions and Stewardship Meeting—Zoom 7 pm New Purpose	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Pinochle in social hall with Christmas lunch	<b>10</b>
Closed 11:00 am Next person only 11:00 am Salvation gifts 11:00 am Worship Zoom only	<b>15</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 3 pm Matinee via Zoom Movie To be Decided
Closed 11:00 am Worship Zoom only	<b>22</b> 7 pm New Purpose	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> No Christmas Eve Service at Bethlehem. Consider visiting a church near you!
Closed 11:00 am Provokes on 12/7 pm	<b>29</b> Office Closed 7 pm New Purpose	<b>30</b> Office Closed	<b>31</b>

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1024 Monroe Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056

[blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org](mailto: blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org) 425-255-9772

[www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org](http://www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org)



## THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN



Charles Wesley  
1707—1788 England

**Written in 1739**

*Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Luke 2:10*

Upon his conversion, Charles Wesley immediately began writing hymns, each one packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity, both beauty and theological brawn. He wrote constantly, and even on horseback his mind was flooded with new songs. He often stopped at houses along the road and ran in asking for “pen and ink.”

He wrote over 6,000 hymns during his life, and he didn’t like people tinkering with the words. In one of his hymnals, he wrote: “I beg leave to mention a thought which has been long upon my mind, and which I should long ago have inserted in the public papers, had I not been unwilling to stir up a nest of hornets. Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they are really not able. None of them is able to mend either the sense or the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them these two favors: either to let them stand just as they are, to take things for better or worse, or to add the true reading in the margin, or at the bottom of the page, that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense or for the doggerel of other men.”

But one man did the church a great favor by polishing up one of Charles’ best loved hymns. When Charles was 32, he wrote a Christmas hymn that began:

Hark, how all the welkin rings,  
“Glory to the King of kings;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;  
Universal nature say,  
"Christ the Lord is born today!"

The word "welkin" was an old English term for "the vault of heaven." It was Charles' friend, evangelist George Whitefield, who, when he published this carol in his collection of hymns in 1753, changed the words to the now-beloved, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Hymnary.org describes the hymn: Rather than simply tell the nativity story, Wesley pours theological truths into this text. The first verse tells the story of the angels proclaiming Christ's birth, and the second and third verse go on to make it very clear why the angels sang. Simply by describing Christ, Wesley tells us the entire Gospel story. We are told of Christ's nature, his birth and incarnation, his ministry, and his salvific purpose.

The Psalter Hymnal Handbook describes the hymn like this: "A curious mixture of exclamation, exhortation, and theological reflection. The focus shifts rapidly from angels, to us, to nations. The text's strength may not lie so much in any orderly sequence of thought but in its use of Scripture to teach its theology. That teaching surely produces in us a child-like response of faith; we too can sing 'Glory to the newborn King!'"

This is hymn number 380 in our Lutheran Service Book.

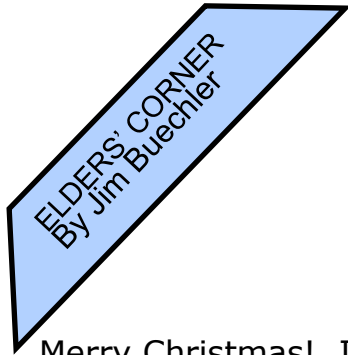
Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman.  
Sources: Then Sings My Soul by  
Robert J Morgan, hymnary.org

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
[Refrain]



## Twelve Days of Christmas

*And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

Luke 2:17-19

Merry Christmas! It's still Christmas! Whether you receive a partridge in a pear tree or not, there are twelve days in the season of Christmas before we observe the visit of the Magi on January 6. That's twelve days to continue to celebrate our Lord's birth. While the world seeks to put the Christmas items on clearance and push the Valentine's Day gear already on December 26, we, Christians can continue to belt out our Christmas carols and boldly display our exterior illumination. But continuing the celebration of our Savior's birth is about more than just twelve additional days of cookies and lights. It is about marveling at the wonder of God dwelling in the flesh. It is about treasuring the Word and promises of God and pondering them in our own hearts. It is about a life shaped and formed by Christ, where He is the center of our days and our lives.

Sadly, this type of devotion should not be limited to twelve days either. The birth of Christ forever changes the lives of Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna, shepherds and all who have been told about the birth of the Christ child. The gathering of families around the Word of God in sanctuaries and at kitchen tables should not be confined to a couple of special occasions, but, by God's grace, can become the center of our lives.

May the Good News of our Savior's birth continue to bring joy and peace to your home as you ponder the mystery of God dwelling upon the earth in human form to offer Himself on the cross in our place. May this message remain in your homes, in your ears and hearts, and on your lips as we celebrate Christ throughout all the seasons of the year and life.

*Prayer - O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Lee Hagan  
President, LCMS Missouri District



## **HAPPILY EVER AFTER**

### **Aaron Begalka + Diana Bond**

Brent & Karen Begalka are delighted to announce that the wedding of their son, Aaron, to Diana Bond, occurred on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at Calvary Community Church in Port Townsend, Washington.

It was a lovely and memorable event. A storm with wind gusts of 60 MPH the night before left the church with no electricity. A generator was located for the kitchen. The photographer worked with the available sunlight through the windows. The minister read the Bible passages with the aid of a flashlight. Karen says the low lights added a romantic touch to the royalty-themed ceremony.

And then, just when it was the bride and groom's time to share their vows, the power returned! The minister said, "And let there be light." Aaron and Diana said their vows to each other, kissed, and were pronounced husband and wife.

A photo was not available for publication but Aaron wore a black suit with pale pink tie and boutonniere. Diana wore a gorgeous long white gown while the bridesmaids wore pale pink gowns and silver shoes.

A Disneyland honeymoon is planned for later. Aaron had proposed at Disney World.

#### **Treasurer's Report October 2022      83% of year**

Total Income	\$101,843.59	59% of budgeted amount
Total Expense	- <u>58,359.21</u>	34% of budgeted amount
Difference	\$ 43,484.38	

Total Assets \$134,434.48

Total Equity \$76,155.84 (Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer



## CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

If you visit a church during your travels, you can submit a photo and favorite memory of it to Dielda, newsletter editor.

Dielda Kuhlmann visited churches in Switzerland. In the village of La Grande Béroche, I was fortunate to attend a service in French at the Protestant church. My daughter, Halley Gentil, was the guest musician that morning and led the worship service. An interesting part was that the small children were encouraged to stay in the room but were allowed to play quietly at a Lego table. The chairs formed a semi-circle so we could all see each other. It worked out really well. The church is without a pastor so a lay member led a Bible study with attendees offering their interpretations of the passage.



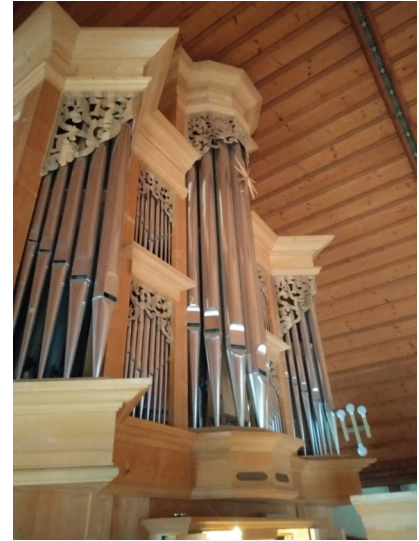
Halley & family walking to church



Halley on keyboard



On display in their sanctuary was this group art project they created during a recent meeting.



This Protestant church was built in 1873 in the village of La Côte aux Féés, Switzerland. Above the door is etched the verse from Luke 11:28 —

***Blessed are those who hear the word of God  
who put it into practice.***

Sadly, this church has no congregation. The building does house a beautiful pipe organ and is often used for funeral services. Our daughter, Halley, has been practicing on the pipe organ (upper right). The pedals are a new experience for her, as she learns to play music with her feet!

Not a church but an interesting observation. This photo comes from Dick Taylor. While relaxing at his daughter's home recently, he happened to glance at the window, which he has seen for many years, but noticed something special this time —there is a **cross** that separates the 8 panes of glass. Do you see it?



## **LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

### **Thursday December 1 at 1 PM**

Mary Martha is hosting the Ladies' Christmas Party on Thursday December 1 at 1pm. The theme is "Sweet Christmas" and will feature singing of carols, Communion served by Chaplain Arthur Werzner, refreshments and lots of fellowship. Thanks to the ladies for getting Christmas gifts for the residents of the Able Light home in our backyard. Please bring can goods for the Renton Food Bank to the party.

All ladies are invited to attend.  
If you need a ride, call the church office.

## **MARY-MARTHA BAZAAR RAISED \$1,285**

Huge thank you to all the people who worked hard to put on a successful bazaar. And thanks to all who donated items, made crafts, baked pies and breads, helped set up, and came to do your shopping. It was great to have 9 vendor tables. Thanks also to Thrivent for supplying us a Thrivent Action Card of \$250 to help with the expenses. The beautiful bright sunny day brought in a steady stream of customers. Many stayed for the delicious sandwich & pie lunch. And the leftover food was all sold on Sunday after the service!

The winner of the autumnal-color cross-themed quilted wall hanging made by Jeanne-K Hughes was an acquaintance of Jeanne-K's! Eddie was the first person to purchase chances to win the piece of art, having fallen in love with it at first glance. Thanks to members and attendees at the bazaar for buying chances to win. The money raised at this bazaar will be donated to Mary-Martha's many charities, local and international.



Karen Begalka reports that it was a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. And that the vendors were all wonderful people.

Vendor Ruth & Karen Begalka at the bake sale table. In the foreground is the wall hanging made by Jeanne-K Hughes. *Photo by Amber Wolf*





**It's beginning to look  
a lot like Christmas!**

Our Christmas Committee is getting set to decorate our sanctuary. The Advent Wreath and candles are ready for the first Sunday of Advent. And there's a hint of green and red with some poinsettias up near the altar. The big tree will be up for the second Sunday, December 4.

If anyone wants to **help** from November 30 to December 3, please let Ruth Ann Shimoi know!



PROPHECY



BETHLEHEM



SHEPHERD



ANGEL



ADVENT BANNERS

## Church Photo Directory



We hope to have a new church directory printed early in 2023. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. Please submit a recent photo of yourself or contact Dielda to arrange for her to take your picture. If you're gathered with family this Christmas, ask one of them to take your photo and email it to [dielda@comcast.net](mailto:dielda@comcast.net)

We will be including your farewell messages and/or memory in the directory. Submit those to Dielda as well!

For the more senior members, a photo of yourself from 1942 would be awesome, to coincide with Bethlehem's 1942 beginning date. Dielda can make copies if you don't have a digital copy of your 80 year old picture.

Deadline will be around January 1.

## PLAY CARDS and ENJOY CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Our Christmas Pinochle Party is set for Friday, December 9th at 10:30am. We are inviting anyone who would like to join us for a fun morning and afternoon with a Christmas luncheon. The more the merrier.

Have questions? Please see Sharon or call her at 253-631-6923.

## MOVIE MATINEE IS COMING TO AN END



In November, we watched an enjoyable film that was new to most of us - Jim Henson's Turkey Hollow. This month's matinee will be on Saturday, December 17 at 3 pm via Zoom. The movie has not been selected yet. This will be our final matinee.

lutheran bible translators  
**GOD'S WORD**  
for every language



## Botswana Sign Language



When we think of Lutheran Bible Translators, we usually recall their work in giving people around the world God's Word in their native language. And they have been doing that for 60 years.

This photo is of Rev Carl & Kelsey Grulke meeting with the Botswana Sign Language Bible Translation team. They praise God that they are able to share God's message to the Deaf community in Botswana.

## Living Water

Another language LBT is working with is music! They are recording each chapter of the New Testament with a singer and musical accompaniment. Recordings and information about it can be found at their website [lbt.org](http://lbt.org). It's the first time they have 'translated' the Bible into an English language. It gives us a chance to experience God's Word through music, which is a very powerful language. One can feel the drama and emotion of the Scripture that is proclaimed in every verse.

Lutheran Bible Translators is a mission supported by our Mary Martha Society.

-Dielda Kuhlmann



Life can be hard. For families who are experiencing homelessness, hard is an understatement. For Jane and her adult son caregiver, living in a small car while trying to navigate chronic health issues, meet their basic needs and find safe locations to park overnight in the middle of winter, life was overwhelming.

This family was exhausted, hopeless and searching for a way to survive when they reached out to our Clallam County Family Center in Port Angeles for food and personal care items.

Visiting our family center gave them a warm, comfortable place to prioritize their needs outside of their car and help accessing resources to gain some stability. Over time, our family center staff helped them gain food and critical health care benefits, access community resources and ultimately secure subsidized, permanent housing.

When you make a gift to LCS Northwest, you help people like Jane find health, justice and hope and receive what they need to thrive.

Thank you for your partnership as we build a better Puget Sound region.

Lutheran Community Services NW is one of the missions we support at Bethlehem.



## GIVE GENEROUSLY

- **FOOD.** We continue to collect Food for the Renton Food Bank. There's a box in the narthex.
- **EMPTY PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES.** You bring in your used printer ink cartridges, and we recycle them to earn discounts on office supplies.
- **AMAZON SMILES.** When you purchase online through Amazon, designate Bethlehem in Renton WA as your charity, and they give us a percentage of your purchase. There's no cost to you.
- **GIVING TREE.** Our Mission focus for December is the annual Giving Tree. We are sponsoring two families, provided by the Salvation Army, with gifts from their "Wish Lists". There are tags on the Giving Tree designating gifts in various price ranges. A few tags may have higher priced items so perhaps two people could share the cost.

Somewhere on the Tree is a tag for you. Please bring your gift item unwrapped and the tag attached. Paper and ribbon may also be furnished. **Items should be turned in by December 14.**

Please participate in making the Giving Tree a success by joining in to make those in need have a Merry Christmas.

### Answer to Bible Quiz from Page 12



Luke 1:26b, 27, 31 .... l. Gabriel, n. God, y. Nazareth, J. Virgin,  
s. Joseph, w. Mary

Luke 1:3.... C. Son, r. Jesus

Matthew 2:20.... a. Angel i. Dream K. Wife D. Spirit

Luke 2:1,2.... h. Decree b. Augustus L. World A. Registration  
z. Quirinius p. Governor F. Syria

Luke 2:4.... m. Galilee H. Town t. Judea g. David c. Bethlehem  
u. Lineage

Luke 2:6,7 .... G. There d. Birth k. Firstborn E. Swaddling  
v. Manger q. Inn

Isaiah 9:6.... e. Child l. Us o. Government B. Shoulders  
f. Counselor x. Mighty j. Father

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1024 Monroe Ave N.E.  
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December 2022

BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

## **ANGELS: THE ULTIMATE DIVINE MESSENGERS OF HOPE**

The title of this article is the theme of our Wednesday Advent services. The sermons, written by Donald V. Engebretson, pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church of Antigo, Wisconsin, will be read by Brent Begalka and Art Wolf. Here is the schedule:



November 30: The Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt, read by Brent Begalka



December 7: An Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Fear of the Unknown, read by Art Wolf.



December 14: The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible, read by Brent Begalka.



December 21: A multitude of the Heavenly Host announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope, read by Art Wolf.

All Wednesday services will be on Zoom only and will begin at 7 pm.

## **Candle Light Christmas DAY Service**

Yes, it will be light outside at 10 am but we wanted to experience the traditional candelabras one more time. Come to Bethlehem on Sunday, December 25 for a special Christmas service. Members will be emailed the Zoom link. Non-members can request the link from the office.