

January 2023 A.D.



Guest Pastors Flath & White • James Hing, Organist

Thoughts From the Pastor

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday in 2022, we will miss the Gospel readings for the 1st and 2nd Sundays after Christmas. However, because January 1st is a Sunday in 2023, we will celebrate the Circumcision and Name of Jesus that day (something we usually don't celebrate because it doesn't often fall on a Sunday!).

The Holy Spirit only moved Luke to record one event in Jesus' life (the 12 year old Jesus in the temple) from the time Joseph, Mary, and the child Jesus returned from Egypt and settled in Nazareth to Jesus' baptism. In those first 30 years of His life, **"Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man"** (Luke 2:52 ESV).

Jesus physically grew up as a boy and then as a young man in such a way that He wasn't a trouble maker. He was a model citizen who was very smart. Jesus spiritually grew up during those 30 years as well as He learned the scriptures of the Old Testament. This was pleasing to His heavenly Father who had sent His only Son -- Christ the Lord -- to be the Savior of all people.

For most of us who are reading this, our physical growing days are behind us -- we are in the maintaining stage of life now. Even so, we ask God our heavenly Father to continue to watch over us and care for our physical well-being according to His good and gracious will. However, there are still many "things" in the universe which God created that we all can continue to learn and become more knowledgeable about.

Continued on next page

Continued from first page—CHRISTMAS

Yet when it comes to spiritual things, no matter what our age or our condition in life might be, God the Father through His Word directs His children, those who are disciples of His Son Jesus Christ, to keep on growing. The Word of God in 2 Peter 3:18 encourages us to **"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."** (ESV)

This spiritual growing is our challenge for the new church year which began on November 27, 2022 A.D. and for the new calendar year that begins on January 1, 2023 A.D. Therefore, us disciples of Jesus Christ ask the Holy Spirit to assist us, to help us, to move us, and to bless us in our spiritual growth when it comes to Jesus.

Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will help all His disciples to glow spiritually. For that reason, the Spirit will continue to help us spiritually grow in our Lord and Savior through such things like reading our Bible; worshipping together with other disciples of Jesus; having devotions; receiving Holy Communion often; talking to other people about our faith; visiting folks who are homebound or recuperating; studying God's Word by ourself and with others; and in other ways.

This time of the year can get pretty busy for most of us as Christmas is fast approaching. (I'm writing this on December 8, 2022.) But this is also a very good time for us to grow some more spiritually. Take a few moments to reflect on the reason for the season -- it's the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord.

Without Jesus Christ in Christmas, there is no hope! With Jesus Christ in Christmas, there is life and salvation for all those who believe!! The Son of God came and did what He was sent to do through His life, suffering, and death. Then Jesus Christ rose from the dead in victory over sin, death, all the forces of evil, and the grave so that all who believe in Him might one day celebrate eternally in heaven with Him!

Remembering the Christ of Christmas brings us joy, peace, and hope no matter how we are doing in life, or where we might be, or what lies ahead in the new year of 2023.

A blessed new year to all in the name of Jesus Christ!

May the love of the Lord Jesus always be in your heart!

Rev. Richard E. Flath



January



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!*

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

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



With no Christmas Eve service, we blended the traditions of the evening Candlelight service into our Christmas morning service. The pew torch candles were lit, and photo shows those in the building lighting each other's candles. Photo taken 19 miles away via the Zoom screen.

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**

**Bonnie Begalka's sister Lorelei
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, 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**

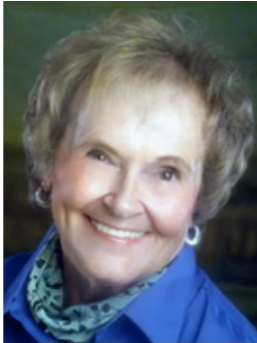
We pray for the health & safe return home of our members and relatives serving our country in the military: **Austin Kahn (Air Force), Garrett Kahn (Air Force), Ben Boykin (Army).**

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 Larry Brester jr. on the unexpected passing of his sister, Sharon Brester, in December 2022. She lived in Renton, Washington. We offer condolences to Larry and his family. Sharon is the daughter of deceased members Larry & Laura Brester.



PREVIOUS MEMBER PASSED AWAY

We have been notified that Betty Lou Croft, member of Bethlehem in the 70's and 80's died on November 8, 2022 at the age of 93. She is survived by her son, Ronald, 2 grandsons, 3 great grandchildren, sister and many nieces and nephews. Her funeral was December 3 at Holy Cross Lutheran in Bellevue.

CANDLES ON CHRISTMAS MORNING AT BETHLEHEM



Before service started. Photo by Dick Taylor



Elder Brent Begalka lighting the advent candles. Taken via Zoom by Dielda

23 words or less. In honor of **2023**, contributors were asked to sum up their reports in **23** words. Here are their submissions!

MARY MARTHA SAYS THANK YOU

Our November 12th Bazaar raised enough money to help support: Rotary Food Bank, REACH, Vision House, AbleLight, Lutheran Bible Translators, LWML Scholarship Fund.
-Karen Begalka

Elder's Message from Brent Begalka:

"Forgetting what lies behind...I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3: 13f



LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Candy posters and carols told the Nativity story and the "Riesen" for the Season. Pastor Werzner concluded the Sweet Christmas Party with communion.

-Karen Begalka

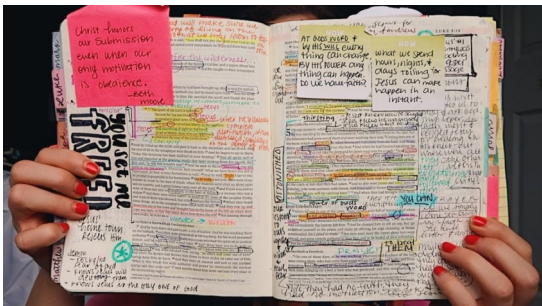
Synod President Election

January Voters' will elect our Synod Convention elector. We are allowed one lay voter. Curtis & Ruth Ann have volunteered. Any other volunteers?

-Don Kuhlmann

WHAT'S NEXT?: Establishing a Closing Date

We are starting to discuss a meaningful closing date. Please attend the January 9 and 11 meetings to add to this vital discussion.



BIBLE STUDY WITH BRENT

Proverbs Bible study will continue on January 4 and 11. **Ephesians** study will begin Wednesday, January 18. NO work-books and NO difficult questions.

-Brent Begalka



GROUP PHOTO JANUARY 8

This could be our last group photo at the altar. Come for the service; stay for the pictures. Peggy Hanson is the photographer!

NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY

First Game Day of the year, January 1, after the service. We celebrate midnight at noon. Please bring your favorite games and snacks.

-Dielda Kuhlmann



Masks are
**strongly
encouraged.**
Thank you!

MASK UPDATE

The Health professionals recommend we return to wearing masks indoors during flu season. Let's protect each other and wear our masks in church.

-Don Kuhlmann

COVID TESTS AVAILABLE

[COVID.GOV](https://www.covid.gov) gives you 4 free test kits per month. Expiration dates on the kits you have are extended by at least a year.

TEAM MESSAGE

The closing teams are working together as we transition to closing our doors with grace. -Pastor Search, Property, Financial Planning, & Legacy Teams

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. postage rates are increasing on January 22. The price to mail a first class envelope will be 63 cents, a three-cent increase.

Synod President Nominations: If you want to nominate someone for Synod President, please let Don Kuhlmann know for Voters' to approve in January.

What Stands out?: We are collecting information about the most meaningful events/services to each of us. Provide Dielda@comcast.net your stories and photos.

23 word reports—from previous page



AbleLight's tree
overflowing
with our gifts!

MARY-MARTHA GIVES

Thank you, ladies, for your generous gifts to residents and staff at AbleLight. You cheered up many people with your joy-filled Christmas spirit.

-Marjie & Dielda

PHOTO DIRECTORY 2023

Need your help. Dielda can take current photos or you can email your favorite to dielda@comcast.net.

Seniors, submit photo of you from 1942.

BETHLEHEM'S WILL

We are starting to write a 'will' for Bethlehem. I would like volunteers to assist with this work. Please see Don to volunteer.

BETHLEHEM MEMORIES?

Weddings
Births
Baptisms
Deaths
Birthday Potlucks
Picnics
Talent Shows
Bazaars
VBS
Singing
Visiting choirs
Road trips
Clowns
Food Bank donations
What are yours?

MISSION MESSAGE

The Mission of God's Church and Bethlehem are the same and easy. Invite people to church and when they get there, welcome them! -Art Wolf

OFFICERS FOR 2023

Installation of newly elected officers will take place on Sunday, January 8.

President **Don Kuhlmann**

Vice President **Joel Jackman**

Secretary **Dielda Kuhlmann**

Trustee **Curtis Holcomb**

Board of Missions—**Karen Begalka, Hannelore Payne, Amber Wolf**

Board members continuing in 2023 are:

- TREASURER **Kathy Logan**
- ELDERS—**Brent Begalka, Jim Buechler, Dick Taylor**
- TRUSTEES—**Pete Maas**
- EDUCATION—**Joanne Jordanger**
- MISSIONS—**Art Wolf, Cathy Wooden**

Thank you to those who served during 2022 and are retiring from Board duties at the end of the year. **Sharon Buechler, Karen Marsyla & Debbie Porter** (Board of Education), **Ellen Taylor** (Missions), **Carolyn Troseth** (Stewardship).

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.

CLOSING TEAMS

To aid in a smooth closing, we have created teams to identify and work on the tasks that need to be done in each category. Team leaders and members have been identified. Assistant roles are available; ask the team.

- FINANCIAL PLANNING TEAM
Joel Jackman, Marjie Boydston, Dielda Kuhlmann, Kathy Logan
- LEGACY TEAM
Marjie Boydston, Dielda Kuhlmann, Teresa Feltmann, Gary Jordanger
- PASTOR SEARCH TEAM
Ruth Ann Shimoi, Sharon Buechler, Don Kuhlmann, Kathy Logan, Ellen Taylor
- PROPERTY SELL TEAM
Curtis Holcomb, Marjie Boydston, Pete Maas, Dick Taylor

Footprints in the Snow by Karen Begalka

*inspired by
Mary Severson's Footprints
in the Sand 1922-1999*



Early one Saturday morning in winter after the snow had freshly fallen, I put on my hiking boots and warm coat and gloves to walk to the Post Office. It had stopped snowing and not a single car or person was in sight. All was quiet. Just me and my Lord, as we talked and walked across a beautiful white blanket of pristine snow. Passing a neighborhood we saw a dad pulling his small daughter on a sled, leaving 2 blade tracks and one set of footprints; reminiscent of how I used to enjoy sledding when I was a child. Years later I would pull my children and then my grandchildren down the same street. Another parallel blade track that I saw was made by Dennis Ashford (a fellow Gideon) who after his stroke gets around in a power-charged wheelchair. Similarly, two skis leave parallel tracks, bringing to my mind of how as an older child I enjoyed snowshoeing, downhill and cross country skiing, as my children did also.

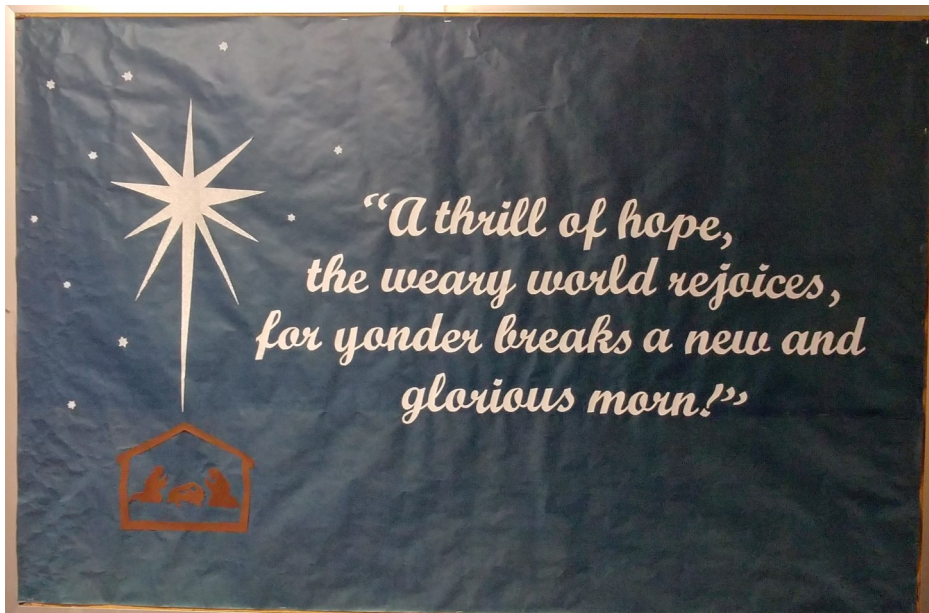
Throughout the various stages of my life, the Lord walked, sledded, skied, snowshoed, drove and traveled with me.

1. The Lord was with me through the heart of an elderly neighbor who walked with me to her home and gave me chili and hot cocoa after I had fallen off my sled, tumbling to the bottom of the hill.
2. He also was present as my ski instructor walked me to the lodge to warm up with chili and hot cocoa after falling at Ski Acres where I was learning how to downhill ski.
3. The Lord was with me when I got lost while cross country skiing and a man led me to the parking lot where my car waited.
4. With the help of the Lord and our flashlights, my fiancée and I were led through an evening blizzard at Snow Lakes, safely back down the trail to the car and down the road to a cafe still opened at 3 am where we ate breakfast.

5. An angel of the Lord went with me in my fiancée's car down a steep canyon road in the winter where I slipped on black ice and drove off a cliff, landing up-side-down. I climbed out the window without a scratch and noticed that the top of the car was completely smashed except right above my head where the angel sat protecting me. A nice couple drove by and took me to my fiancée's home (who was more concerned about me than his car), as he fed me chili and hot cocoa. (And later, he still married me).
6. The Lord was with me one very wintery Sunday when I was on my way to the sidewalk of the church and slipped and fell on the curb with my entire body landing on my right leg. So my husband took me to the hospital.

In all of these cases God worked through caring people (or angels) who offered their help. That's how God works; through his people to help others. Jesus took my fears away and walks or carries me through times of trials and suffering most of the time.

We might not be aware of it, but the Lord is always with us through good times and hard times. He is with us even today as we may often feel troubled during this last year of life for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He will gather us up and carry us through it all.



Thanks to Joel and Karen Jackman for creating our Christmas Day bulletin board in the hallway with its hope-filled message.

BEV'S CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE!



Bev giving a 'thumbs up' sign. She sorted ornaments and tested lights.



Logan adorned the top of the tree with his great artistic style and a smile.

Bev West was the first volunteer this year for the decorating team. Her helpful crew is in photo on the lower left: Bev West, Hannelore Payne, Dielida & Don Kuhlmann, Ruth Ann Shimoi, Bella, Logan & Ella Browning, Kathy Logan. *Photo taken by Jon Kuhlmann.*



Jon & Curtis up on the roof. A neighbor called the office to say how much joy they get out of seeing the manger scene up there.

No photo available of the team who set up the Christmas tree and hung up the greenery around the sanctuary. Thanks to Gary & Joanne Jordanger, Jesse & Jeannie Hack for their work. And thanks to Bruce & Teresa Feltmann, Dick & Ellen Taylor and anyone else who helped set up the pew torches for Christmas.



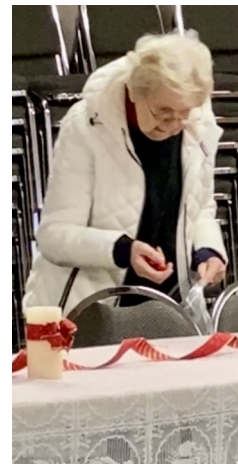
Festive office wreath



Kathy decorated



Ella and friend Bella graciously accomplished whatever they were asked to do.



Ellen Taylor set up the social hall for the ladies' Christmas party. It was beautiful.



Decorating the tree near the playground: Elizabeth Werzner, Ruth Ann Shimoi, Hannelore & Pete Maas.



Rylan Gunn helped with the outdoor lights and other tasks!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION NEW YEAR PARTY after service	2 7 pm New Purpose	3 6:30 pm Elders Mtg TBD Trustees Mtg	4 Office Cl 7 pm <i>Proverbs</i> <i>Study with Elders</i>
8 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath Installation of Officers GROUP PHOTO ~11:50 Council IN PERSON	9 6:30pm What's Next Meeting Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose	10	11 Office Cl 9:30am What's Meeting-in person 7 pm <i>Proverbs</i> <i>Study with Elders</i>
15 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor White HOLY COMMUNION ~11:25 VOTERS' QUARTERLY MEETING—Hybrid	16 7 pm New Purpose	17	18 Office Cl 7 pm <i>Ephesians</i> <i>Study with Elders</i>
22 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath	23 Newsletter Deadline 7 pm New Purpose	24	25 Office Cl 7 pm <i>Ephesians</i> <i>Study with Elders</i>
28 10 Hybrid Worship Service Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION	30 7 pm New Purpose	31	

IMPORTANT ALL MEMBER MEETINGS regarding the next closing steps on January 9 (Zoom) and January 11 (in-person). Same meeting topics on both days. You may attend 1 or both.

JANUARY 2023

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Church Closed</p> <p>1</p> <p><i>Scripture Bible</i> Elder Brent</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm Missions Meeting— Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>Church Closed</p> <p>8</p> <p><i>Scripture Bible</i> Elder Brent</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>Church Closed</p> <p>15</p> <p><i>Scripture Bible</i> Elder Brent</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3pm Mary Martha Social Time in person only 3:30pm Mary Martha business meeting 7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30 am Pinochle in social hall</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>Church Closed</p> <p>22</p> <p><i>Scripture Bible</i> Elder Brent</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
		<p>OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>	

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1024 Monroe Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056

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

www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

This Is My Father's World Written in 1901

For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. Psalm 50:12b

Maltbie Babcock was arguably the most remarkable student Syracuse University had ever seen. He was a brilliant scholar with a winning personality. Tall and steel-muscled, he was an outstanding athlete, expert swimmer, & captain of the baseball team. He also directed the university's orchestra, played several instruments, and composed original compositions. A proficient vocalist, he directed the university glee club. He entertained other students by drawing and doing impersonations. On the side, he was an avid fisherman.



Maltbie Babcock
1858 - 1901

He would have been successful in any profession, but God called him to the ministry; and he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lockport, New York. It was a beautiful area, near Niagara Falls—and Maltbie enjoyed hiking and running in the hills outside town. Telling his secretary, "I'm going out to see my Father's world," he would run or hike a couple of miles into the countryside where he'd lose himself in nature.

It was during his pastorate at Lockport that he wrote a sixteen-stanza poem, each verse beginning with the words, "This is My Father's World."

In 1886, Maltbie was called to the Brown Memorial Church in Baltimore. While there, he traveled widely and was in great demand on college campuses. He was a fresh, engaging speaker who never failed to stimulate students. In 1899, he moved to the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. Here he found it more difficult to take off on his hikes. The work load was enormous, but Maltbie faced it stoically, writing:

*Be strong! We are not here to play, to dream, to drift,
We have hard work to do and loads to lift;
Shun not the struggle. Face it. 'Tis God's gift. Be strong!*

When he was 42, his church presented him with a special gift—a pilgrimage to the "Holy Land." With great excitement, Maltbie departed by ship. While enroute at Naples, Italy, he was seized with a deadly bacterial fever and died at the International Hospital on May 18, 1901.

After his death, his wife compiled his writings into a book titled *Thoughts for Everyday Living*, published in 1901. Included was Maltbie's "This Is My Father's World."

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Franklin Sheppard, 1915

Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1926

1. This_ is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears, all
 2. This_ is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise, the
 3. This_ is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres. This
 morn-ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Mak - er's praise. This
 thought the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet. This

is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought of
 is my Fa - ther's world: he sines in all that's fair; in the
 is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - ery where.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth, and heav'n be one.

Public Domain

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

MISSION MESSAGE from Art Wolf

As we have been moving through this time where we as a church have decided to close the doors at Bethlehem, in ways, it reminds me of Jesus and of the parable of planting seeds. For Jesus Christ, Bethlehem was the place of his birth, his starting point, where he would start to grow and be what he was supposed to be, according to God's plan. It also reminds me of the seed parable in that as we are no longer going to Bethlehem, we are seeds being spread out. It is up to us to take what we have learned at Bethlehem and use it to give the churches that we spread out to, to help them to grow and continue to grow. That we and the churches that we go to are on the fertile soil, and produce a crop that is thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! We need to push them and ourselves to not only make better Christians, but to make more Christians. We need to share the word and couple that with prayer, so that our seeds may grow!

I pulled this devotion from the website adailydevotional.com and it sums it up very well.



The Seeds Of Salvation

Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots it died. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain.

*Still other seed fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! **Mark 4:3-8***

According to this parable, when we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, when we share His words with others, it is like we are scattering seeds of truth. Those seeds fall on one of four places; a footpath, shallow soil, among thorns and lastly on fertile soil. These analogies represent our recipients hearts.

The seed that falls on the footpath *'represents those who hear the message, only to have satan come at once and take it away'* (v15). The seed that falls on the shallow soil *'represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots... they fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word'* (v16-17). Furthermore the seeds that fall among thorns *'represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced'* (18-19). Finally, the seed that falls on fertile soil *'represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest'* (20).

Although God is in control of making the seeds grow that we plant, we must also know that our sharing of God's word, must always be coupled with prayer, so that every seed we sow, may fall on fertile and ready hearts. The increase is God's work, the sharing and praying is ours! We too can also go through seasons in our lives, where we can journey through each of these stages in our own hearts. When we receive the word of God, sometimes we allow the pressures of life to suffocate what we have received. If that is you, then know God's grace is new every morning. Give your 'thorns and weeds' to God. Let Him dig out the roots that are hindering your growth and enrich your hearts with His grace and His Spirit. Maybe it is time to call the Gardener in...

Treasurer's Report November 2022 92% of year

Total Income	\$108,294.04	63%
Total Expense	<u>- 64,639.75</u>	38%
Difference	\$ 43,654.29	

Total Assets \$135,891.95

Total Equity \$ 76,325.75 (Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer



WEDDING NEWS!

LaRell Singleton-Troseth and Steve "Leo" Miles were married in a small ceremony on November 13, 2022. The officiant was Leo's brother. LaRell's son, CeJae, was the ring bearer, and her daughter, KaLyla, was the flower girl. The photo shows the happy couple at their reception which includes a wee bit of cake frosting on Leo's nose.



Mr & Mrs Leo Miles

MORE WEDDING NEWS!



Beach Wedding for Patrick & Teddi

Hannelore Payne attended the wedding of her son, Patrick Banasky to Teddi Blades on September 23, 2022 in Carmel, California. Photo of the wedding party includes Hannelore and her grandson on the left.

EVEN MORE WEDDING NEWS!



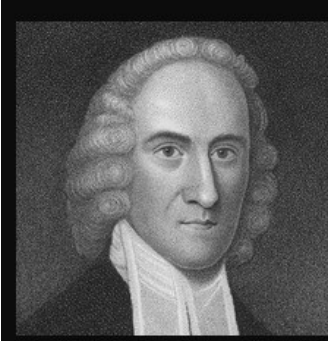
Mr & Mrs Austin Williamson



Ringbearer Rylan

This couple knows how to make lemonade out of lemons! When snow closed the road to Makayla Boydston & Austin Williamson's wedding venue, they got as far as North Bend, and held their wedding ceremony outside at Rattlesnake Ledge, in the snow. The photo shows Makayla in a long white gown and her grandmother Pat Boydston's favorite winter coat. The officiant was Austin's boss. Makayla's son, Rylan Gunn, age 6 1/2, was the ringbearer.

23 SENTENCES TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH!



Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.

~ Jonathan Edwards

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man. *Benjamin Franklin*

Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given; While angels sing with tender mirth, A glad new year to all the earth. *Martin Luther*

January 1 is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one. *Brad Paisley*

Let's make one resolution this year: to anchor ourselves to God's grace. *Chuck Swindoll*

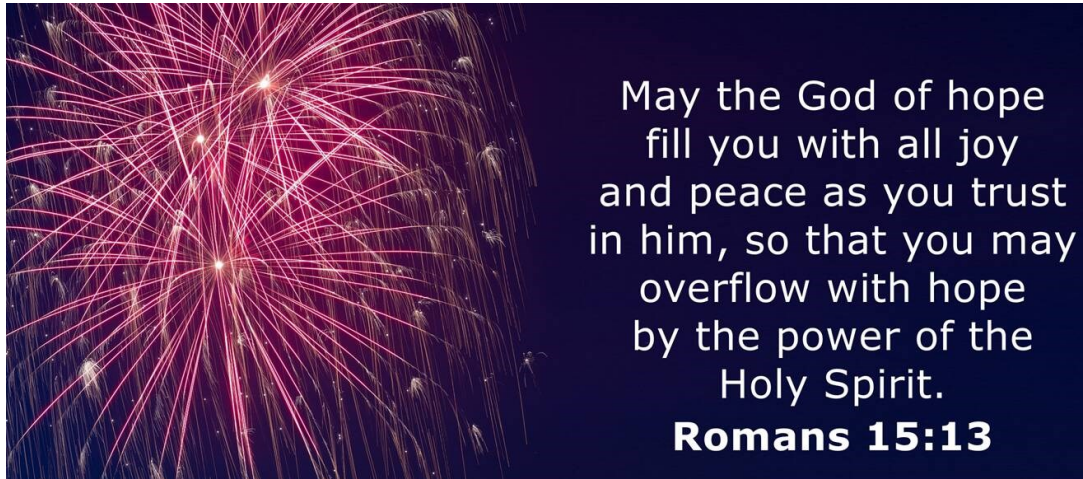
May God be with you
through New Year,
And fill your life with
Comfort, Love and Cheer.

New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold. *Elisabeth Elliot*

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true. *Alfred Lord Tennyson*

God specializes in giving people a fresh start. Rick Warren

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. *Oswald Chambers*



Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. *Bill Vaughan*

It's time to begin "righting" the story of your life. How will you be remembered? *David Jeremiah*

Time—seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years—is a gift to us from a good God. *Daniel Darling*

Enter the coming year with renewed hope in the power of God to do through you what you cannot. *John MacArthur*

Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail. *Charles Stanley*

Start each day with God's Word. This one simple act of beginning each day with God sets each day on the path of wisdom. *Elizabeth George*

May you shine the light of Christ in the New Year.



On Dec. 16, 12 of us got together for a great time playing Pinochle and having a delicious Christmas dinner and desserts to Christmas music. Cathy Frank was our top winner of the event. There was lots of laughs and fun had by all.

So, mark your calendars now for our next day to play Pinochle on January 20, starting at 10:30am. See you there! -Sharon Buechler



Sharon Buechler, Carolyn Troseth, Hannelore Payne, Jeanne-K Hughes, Kathy Logan, Marlene Holcomb, back row: Karen Marsyla, Karen & Brent Begalka, Edward Hughes, Cathy Frank, Jim Buechler. Photo by Larry Holcomb

LAST MOVIE MATINEE



In December, we watched the Laurel and Hardy version of "Babes In Toyland" as our final matinee. The club began back in December 2017 with "It's A Wonderful Life". It was 5 wonderful years of movie watching with much laughter, several songs, adventures, fellowship, and a few tears along the way.

TEST YOUR BIBLE MEMORY

Fill in the blanks from the choices listed below. Some words may be used more than once. Written by Karen Begalka

1. Arise, shine, for your _____ has come and the _____ of the Lord rises upon you *Isaiah 60:1*
2. The people walking in darkness have seen a great _____. *Isaiah 9:2a*
3. (The Magi) asked, "Where is he who has been born _____ of the Jews? We have followed his _____ and have come to worship him. *Matthew 2:2*
4. The _____ Spirit descended on him (Jesus) like a dove and a _____ from Heaven said, "This is my _____ whom I _____. With him I am well pleased." *Luke 3:22*
5. Wash me and I shall be whiter than _____. *Psalms 51:7b*
6. Though your sins are scarlet, they shall be white as _____. *Isaiah 1:18b*
7. No _____ has seen, nor _____ heard, nor _____ has conceived what God has prepared for those who _____ him. *1 Corinthians 2:9*
8. _____, _____, _____ is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of his _____. *Isaiah 6:3b*

Choices:

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| A. ear | B. eye | C. glory | D. Holy |
| E. king | F. light | G. love | H. mind |
| I. Son | J. snow | K. star | L. voice |

Answers: 1 F,C; 2 F; 3 E,K; 4 D,L,I,G; 5 J; 6 J; 7 B,A,H,G;
8 D,D,D,C

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



New Year, New Life with Amazing Grace

"Amazing Grace" was written by John Newton for a New Year's Day sermon, January 1, 1773. This January 1 marks the 250th anniversary of this beloved hymn.

It is estimated that "Amazing Grace" is performed about 10 million times annually, and it has been translated into more than 50 languages.

**We welcome in 2023 with a Game Day.
Sunday, January 1, after the service.
Bring your favorite game and snacks; drinks provided.
Members or not, all are invited.**



GIVE GENEROUSLY

- ▶ **FOOD.** We continue to collect Food for the Renton Food Bank. There's a box in the narthex.
- ▶ **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. We have received \$843.11 since we began this program. THANK YOU!



What a wonderful surprise with our Giving Tree! We were able to fulfill all the tags on the tree, even when there are fewer of us, many donated money to go towards gifts. Then, there was the help of wonderful Thrivent who helped us make our goal. It was truly a GIVING tree and I want to thank all those of you that so graciously helped make two families have a very Merry Christmas! Thank you, thank you!

From the Mission Board

GIVING in 2022

You gave of your time, your talents, and your treasures last year. Thanks to your generosity, we donated:

3,413 pounds of clothing

650 pounds of food

120 used ink cartridges which were recycled/traded for office supplies

48 Christmas gifts to 17 needy people in Renton

14 poinsettias to homebound members

And you gave countless hours to help others.

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35

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

January 2023

We'd love for you to be in our group photo. It will be taken at the altar after the service on January 8.



Our Christmas Altar