



March 2023 A.D.

Guest Pastor Richard Flath • James Hing, Organist

Thoughts From the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Lenten Season began this year on Ash Wednesday, February 22. This will be the last Lenten season for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington. Over the past 80 years there have been many themes that were looked at during the Lenten season. I thought it wise to close our midweek Lenten services by reviewing again the 7 last statements that Jesus Christ made as He suffered on the cross before He died.

One of the other things that is often mentioned during Lent is pain – the pain that our Lord and Savior went through on our behalf as He suffered on the cross. A familiar reading during Lent that speaks about the pain that Jesus Christ went through is Isaiah 53. We read in Isaiah 53 verses 4 and 5 the following:

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. (ESV)

Then we read or hear the accounts of Jesus Christ's crucifixion from the 4 Gospels. It's more about His pain, and finally His death on the cross. We need to hear and read about Jesus Christ's pain and what He

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page—Pastor Flath

went through to remind us that sin is no joking matter. At times we may think that sinning is nothing, but God doesn't. God laid all our sins (and the sins of everyone else) on His dear Son, Jesus Christ so that we would never have to face the holy wrath of God.

Why did Jesus go through all that pain?

In Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) we read this: **"... Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, ..."**. Jesus endured all that pain for the joy that would come through His suffering and death. Jesus' joy is in the fact that you and I believe that He died for us and that He paid the price for our sins. By faith we believe in Him as our Savior, and that we are now His forgiven and redeemed brothers and sisters.

Jesus went through all those pains because He loves all people. Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me. And Jesus is gracious and forgiving to all.

Therefore, we join with believers of all times and places to thank Jesus Christ for enduring all that pain so that we might live with Him eternally in heaven. As a hymn writer put it: *"Thousand, thousand, thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee"* (LSB 420 refrain).

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

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

TALK TO THE PASTOR

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



March

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Mark & LuAnne Humphrey
March 2, 1985 38 years

Gene & Donna Kahn
March 4, 1963 60 years

Robert & Janet Lee
March 15, 1993 30 years

Tracy & Daryl Brown
March 26, 1997 26 years

Wayne & Carolyn Hough
March 27, 2010 13 years

Mikayla Bumpus	March 3
Michael Bumpus	March 4
Frank Downing	March 5
Sarah Logan	March 9
Irene Lingat	March 10
Julia McNeal	March 13
Stephanie Myers	March 13
Curtis Boydston	March 14
Rylan Gunn	March 17
John Muller	March 23
Brenda Begalka	March 24
Karen Fritsvold	March 31
Cathy Wooden	March 31

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

Mikayla Bumpus becomes an adult on March 3. She turns 18 years old.

Frank celebrates 9 DECADES this month.

Julie and Rylan are 7 years old.

John Muller is a half-century old.

Cathy Wooden celebrates birthday #80

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

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

Mardelle Hammond has moved and is comfortably ensconced in her apartment at Stafford Suites! She has the same phone number.

Mardelle Hammond
112 Kennebeck Ave N, Apt 205
Kent WA 98030

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

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

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

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



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

**Brent & Karen Begalka's friend Regina S
Jim & Sharon Buechler his sister JoAnn, her brother James, his cousins Milton & Jerome,
his cousin John, her cousin Wendy
Cathy Frank's nephew Gerard
Mardelle Hammond's sister-in-law Barbara
Chene'e Holcomb and her mom Jocelyn
Curtis Holcomb's friends Wayne H and Crystal
LuAnne Humphrey's mom Delores, 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 Mardelle Hammond on the death of her only remaining sibling, Wallace Huff. He passed away after a brief illness on January 31, 2023, just 4 days before his 84th birthday. He was snowbirding in Arizona. Wally served in the US Air Force. He is survived by his wife of 70+ years, Barbara. He is missed.



to Dielda Kuhlmann on the unexpected death of her father, David Dannenberg, on February 20, 2023. They had a good visit with each other just a couple days earlier. He was 88 years old. David served in the US Army. He instilled a strong work ethic in his children. One of his goals was to be the oldest real estate broker in the state. He was a man of strong faith, and a good guy. He is survived by wife, Tamara.

UBUNTU

An anthropologist showed a game to the children of an African tribe. He placed a basket of delicious fruits near a tree trunk and told them: "The first child to reach the tree will get the basket."

When he gave them the start signal, he was surprised that they walked together, holding hands until they reached the tree and shared the fruit!

When he asked them why they did that when any one of them could have had the basket only for themselves! They answered with astonishment: "Ubuntu"...that is, how can one of us be happy while the rest are miserable? "Ubuntu" in their language means: "I am because we are". That tribe knows the secret of happiness that has been lost in societies that consider themselves "civilized societies"...!!

At a recent council meeting, we reviewed this document from Synod. It gave us assurance that the decision to close, while painful, is the best decision for the Kingdom. Excerpt of the article is below:

How to Decide When A Church Should Close

The viability of a particular congregation's organization and its property may come to a time when it becomes necessary to consider closure. However, this in no way communicates a lack of God's care for His church or the failure of His people.

The closure of a congregation needs to receive careful consideration. Congregations can discuss the following questions.

- Is our congregation's worship attendance in severe decline?
- Is the average age of our congregation increasing?
- Is there a complete absence of infants and small children?
- Is there is absence of baptisms of children and adults?
- Is there an absence of youth confirmations?
- Is there is absence of adult confirmations?
- Is there an absence of an organized effort to engage the community and include new people into the life of the congregation?
- Is the number of people available to fill roles of leadership less than the number of needs roles to be filled?
- Is there a significant loss of financial giving?
- Are there important property issues failing to receive needed attention in our congregation due to lack of funding and/or interest?
- Has the local community changed and our congregation is unable or unwilling to engage the changes with needed ministry?
- Is our congregation more focused on surviving as an organization or institution than it is on growing in faith and knowledge in Christ and finding ways to engage people in the community with Christ?
- Will sharing a pastor with neighboring congregation truly engage our congregation in mission and ministry or is it only a way to share costs and postpone closure?
- Will being served by a part-time pastor truly engage our congregation in mission and ministry or is it only a way to share costs and postpone closure?

Consideration of these questions and others like them can generate conversation that must occur if closure is to be pondered. The decision to look toward a closure should be based on what is best for the Kingdom, not just on emotions over the loss of an institution. However, the recognition of such emotions and spiritually addressing them must occur.

Emotions

The potential closure of a church is a matter which fosters a great deal of emotion and sadness. In the midst of these emotions, it should be stressed that the closure is being undertaken with a spirit of thanksgiving to God for His blessings to and through the congregation during its years of life and service.

The members should be encouraged to recognize that although organizations change, His grace does not, and the ministry of Word and Sacrament can be provided for them through other congregations nearby.

From "Being Smart About Congregational Change," page 46, "The end, while sad, is also a time for acknowledging God's work in the life of the congregation and God's continuing work through the congregation's legacy. However, while a good death is a laudable goal, it is also a radical goal. Many congregations won't consider this option since it seems to be admitting defeat. In actuality it is recognizing reality and acting as a faithful steward of the gifts God has given the congregation."

Legacy: from the book "The God of the How and When" by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel, "Abraham left a great legacy. He wasn't perfect, but he obeyed God when it mattered most.... Because God had a plan for Abraham, we can celebrate him and his legacy today." "Sarah's legacy is that she journeyed faithfully with God. She endured hardship. She made mistakes. And she experienced God's grace. This is a legacy that we can all share – simply journeying with God as we experience ups and downs. The rock bottoms and mountain tops, all the while feeling His presence and hearing His voice."

GOD IS HERE; GOD IS THERE

As we are about to leave Bethlehem soon, here's some scriptures, hopefully, to help us on our journey to serve God elsewhere:

Jesus said, "Behold the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. Yet, I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you might have peace." John 16:32

Genesis 28:15 - **Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.**

Joshua 1:9 **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

Adam and Eve were commanded to go and so was Noah, Abraham, Ruth, the Prophets and Disciples. Although these people had a rough time of it, they went where God wanted them to go. As they went, God was beside them, and may you rely on God wherever you go. He will be there with you.

-Karen Begalka

From "Ending with Hope" page 136, in these uncharted waters of closing Bethlehem and finding a new church home, we are encouraged to

"... find courage to look forward and back and to believe in a new future as God's people in another expression or place."



Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

I Receive Diverse Gifts

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4, 7).

The Scriptures are filled with examples of godly men and women who used their gifts in God's service.

Bezalel was a specially-gifted craftsman who could work with metals, wood, and precious stones. (Exodus 31:1–5) Aged Anna served faithfully in the Temple, worshipping, fasting, and praying. (Luke 2:36–38) When Jesus visited in Bethany, His good friends Mary and Martha graciously opened their home to Him. (Luke 10:38–42) What a diversity of gifts — and all for use in God's kingdom!

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us (Romans 12:6a).

What are your gifts? Are you a greeter, a cook, a seamstress, a gardener, a plumber, a flower arranger, a painter, a listener, a prayer warrior? No matter what the gift, it is from God and it is meant for giving Him glory.

Dear Lord, Giver of all good gifts, thank You for making me and blessing me with gifts and abilities. Forgive me for ignoring them or misusing them. Make me more aware of being a good steward of all You have given me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Living in the Spirit. Authors: Marcia Gomulka, Dcs Betty Knapp, Myrna Lou Meyer.



ANCESTORS IN THE BIBLE

By Karen Begalka

What is in a name? Here are the meanings of the names of the first 10 ancestors of every person on earth today.

Match up their names with their meanings:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| ___ 1. ADAM | a. begotten |
| ___ 2. SETH (Adam's son after Cain and Abel) | b. descending |
| ___ 3. ENOS | c. flattery |
| ___ 4. KENON (Cainan) | d. God is splendor |
| ___ 5. MAHALALEEL | e. man of the dart |
| ___ 6. JARED | f. mortal |
| ___ 7. ENOCK | g. of the ground |
| ___ 8. METHUSELAH | h. overthrower |
| ___ 9. LAMECH | i. sprout |
| ___ 10. NOAH | j. tuition |

Answers on page 23. Names in the Bible part 2 is on the next page.

COMING SOON!

PHOTO DIRECTORIES will be printed in March.

Stay tuned for **SPRING CLEANING DATES!!**

MORE BIBLE NAMES & THEIR MEANINGS

Here are a few ancestors of Jesus since Noah:

___ 11. SHEM	k. beloved
___ 12. ABRAHAM	l. bitter
___ 13. ISAAC	m. father of a multitude
___ 14. JACOB (Israel)	n. fleetness and strength
___ 15. BOAZ	o. friendship
___ 16. RUTH	p. increaser
___ 17. DAVID	q. laughter
___ 18. SOLOMON	r. peace
___ 19. JOSEPH	s. renown
___ 20. MARY	t. Savior
___ 21. JESUS	u. supplanter; following after

What is your name and what does it mean? Are you living up to it?

Answers on page 23.



The Pinochle group got together in February and had a great time. Brent Begalka had the highest score.



On March 10th we will gather together for a day of cards and fellowship. The menu for the day will be fried chicken and potato salad. We will be happy to teach anyone how to play, so come join us.

If you are coming, please let **Sharon Buechler** know so we know how much chicken to get.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH 1024 Monroe Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056 blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org 425-255-9772 www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org			1 Office Cl 11 am Lenten Chicken Noodle 7 pm Ephesian Study with Elde
5 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION ~11:30 Elder Meeting 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service	6 9:30am What's Next Meeting-in person only 6:30pm What's Next Meeting Zoom only	7 LIFELINE SCREENING In Social Hall TBD Trustees Mtg	8 Office Clos 11 am Lenten Ham & Bean S 7 pm Philippiian Study with Elde
12 Daylight Saving Time 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath 1 pm Council Mtg Zoom only 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service	13 7 pm New Purpose	14	15 Office Clo 11 am Lenten Chili w/cornbre 7 pm Philippiian Study with Elde
19 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION ~11:30 Special Voters' Meeting Tentatively scheduled 11-2 Mount Moriah	20 SPRING Newsletter Deadline 7 pm New Purpose	21	22 Office Cl 11 am Lenten Stone Soup Lu 7 pm Philippiian Study with Elde
26 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath 11-2 Mount Moriah Education Hour & Service	27 7 pm New Purpose	28	29 Office Clo 11 am Lenten Baked Potato S 7 pm Philippiian Study with Elde

MARCH 2023

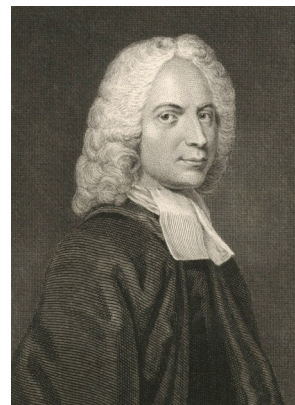
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Closed</p> <p>ten Service</p> <p>oodle Soup</p> <p>sians Bible</p> <p>Elder Brent</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Missions Meeting— Zoom only</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 am All Team Meet- ing in person only</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Closed</p> <p>ten Service</p> <p>n Soup</p> <p>sians Bible</p> <p>Elder Brent</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pinochle in social hall 10:30 am—3pm</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>Closed</p> <p>ten Service</p> <p>nbread</p> <p>sians Bible</p> <p>Elder Brent</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3pm Mary Martha Social Time in person only</p> <p>3:30pm Mary Martha busi- ness meeting</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>Closed</p> <p>ten Service</p> <p>o Lunch</p> <p>sians Bible</p> <p>Elder Brent</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>LWML JoyShop at Bethlehem</p> <p>9 am registration</p> <p>9:15 breakfast</p> <p>See page 21</p>
<p>Closed</p> <p>ten Service</p> <p>to Soup</p> <p>sians Bible</p> <p>Elder Brent</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 pm New Purpose</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

Written in 1707

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Galatians 6:14



Isaac Watts
1674 – 1748
England

After his graduation from college, Isaac Watts returned to Southampton, England, and spent two years writing hymns for Above Bar Congregational Church. He then moved to London to tutor children in a wealthy family. While there he joined Mark Lane Independent Chapel. Soon he was asked to be a teacher in the church, and in 1698, he was hired as associate pastor. There, on his twenty-fourth birthday, he preached his first sermon. In 1702, he became senior pastor of the church. He was a brilliant Bible student, and his sermons brought the church to life. Poor health forced him to retire in 1712 but he continued writing. He never married.

In 1707, his *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* was published. Isaac had written most of these hymns in Southampton while in his late teens and early twenties. Included was a hymn now considered the finest hymn ever written in the English language, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". It was based on Galatians 6:14: "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." In an enlarged 1709 edition, Watts rewrote the lines to say:

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

Another hymn in the book was "**Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed.**" This hymn later played a major role in the conversion of a great American hymnist. In 1851, Fanny Crosby, 31, attended a revival service at John Street Methodist Church in New York. "After a prayer was offered," she recalled, "they began to sing the grand old consecration hymn, 'Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed' and when they reached the third line of the fifth stanza, 'Here, Lord, I give myself away,' my very soul was flooded with celestial light."

How right that Watts should, long after his death, play a part in winning to Christ the author of a new generation of hymns and gospel songs!

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

Isaac Watts

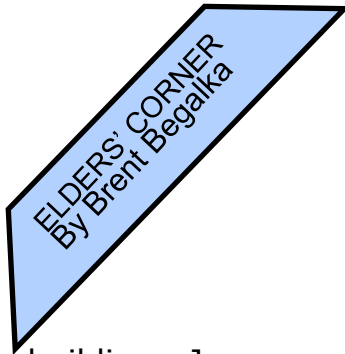
Hugh Wilson

1. A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed And
 2. Was it for crimes that I have done, He
 3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
 4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
 5. But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay, The

did my Sov - ereign die? Would He de - vote that
 suf - fered on the tree? A - maz - ing pi - ty,
 shut His glo - ries in; When Christ the might - y
 His dear cross ap - pears; Dis - solve my heart in
 debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -

sa - cred head, For such a worm as I.
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 Ma - ker died For man, the crea - ture's sin.
 thank - ful - ness And melt mine eyes to tears.
 self a - way, 'Tis all that I can do.

Submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman. Sources: Then Sings My Soul by Robert J Morgan, hymnary.org, Wikipedia. This is Hymn #437 in the Lent section of our LSB Hymnal.



Can you remember what happened three years ago this month?

My wife, Karen, was clearing our home recently of materials that belonged to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She discovered our choir notebooks, and also found among the sheet music Bethlehem's March 15, 2020 bulletin. Because we were told that because of the pandemic we could no longer gather as a group, this was our last worship service in our building. James, our choir director, told us to take our music home until we could return. Our congregation eventually came back to the building, but the choir never sang again.

A lot has happened since March 2020. We had an interim pastor, Pastor Blair, and began the process to call a pastor, but after a while decided that we could not afford a full-time one. On the same month that we celebrated the 80th birthday of our congregation, we voted to close our church.

Of course, you know all this. Now we are asking ourselves, where do we go now? Here is an opportunity to really start trusting the Lord that he will work it out for all of us. Jesus' followers had given up hope when their Lord was crucified, but their hope was renewed on the first Easter when the resurrected Christ met them. One of our last services will be an Easter service. This will remind us to keep our faith strong.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Mary Martha supplied the sandwiches, salad, chips, and cupcakes; hostesses decorated the birthday tables; and we all celebrated getting older! Thanks to Amber Wolf & Hannelore & Pete Maas for taking pictures.



OUR MISSIONS

By Amber Wolf

Dear Bethlehem Family,
Here is a quick review of the missions we support through the Missions Board:



LCMS Disaster Response: *"We love because he first loved us."*
(1 John 4:19). Helping the hurting amid disaster

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters.

Working through LCMS districts and congregations as well as with international Lutheran churches and other partners, LCMS Disaster Response builds capacity of the church's partners to respond to needs with Christian care.

The ministry reaches out to LCMS congregations and their communities with services that include on-site assessment, emergency relief and development grants, pastoral care for LCMS church workers and members, and other resources.



LUTHERAN
**Community
Services**
NORTHWEST

Lutheran Communities Services Northwest

(LCSNW): This mission has many wonderful programs that they do! We will be having a Missions Sunday in April to hear more about them and how our financial support funds the program that are listed here.

Refugee and Immigrant Services: They believe in the American dream. That's why LCSNW helps people who've endured the unimaginable to pursue it. This is one of the programs they do that I heard a webinar

of Zoom sessions just on this topic. They work with refugees at least 3 years and even up to five years. LCSNW makes sure their refugees are settled and established well into the community. They will start helping people from the Ukraine soon. They use all of the following services to help the refugees and many other people too.

Behavioral Health Services: They partner with thousands of people to help the people that they service to journey from addiction, trauma and mental health issues to recovery, hope and happiness.

Family and Community Support: They are working to break generational cycles of poverty and trauma to make a powerful positive impact on people and communities.

Child Welfare Program: They believe all children deserve homes where they feel safe and loved. That's why LCSNW works to ensure that neglected,

abused, parentless and other at-risk children are surrounded by loving families.

Aging and Independent Living: They believe our communities are richer when seniors and people with disabilities are part of the social fabric.

Crime Victim Services: LCSNW stands with victims of crimes to offer personal support, connections to services that aid with healing and recovery, and assistance through investigative and legal processes.



Lutheran Hour Ministries: Lutheran Hour Ministries began at the grassroots level as the Lutheran Laymen's League, a group of 12 laypeople who came together to support the church in word and deed. What began as 12 has become a movement of tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters around the globe. In 1930, "There is a God" were the first words spoken to The Lutheran Hour radio program Gospel message with people around the world more than 163 million times each week through ministry efforts such as Bible Correspondence Courses, Outreach Training, Bible Studies, Daily Devotions and, of course, The Lutheran Hour. I like the free online daily devotional app.



Lutheran Ministry Services

N O R T H W E S T

Lutheran Ministries Services Northwest: "I was sick and you visited Me." Matthew 25:36. Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest (LMSN) is a non-profit organization that provides pastoral and spiritual care to individuals and their families in Seattle area hospitals, nursing homes, and jails / prisons. LMSN also serves as the Coordinator for Prison Ministry for the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This is the ministry that Ruth Ann Shimoi works with.



REACH: REACH works to provide everyone in our community a sustainable, healthy, and full life, with special care directed to the marginalized. They seek to embody the belief that every life has innate worth by providing shelter, hot meals, clothing, supplies & other re-

Continued from previous page—Our Missions

sources. Bethlehem is one of the founders of REACH. REACH stands for **R**enton **E**cumenical **A**ssociation of **C**hurches. Our donated funds go to help provide meals, special activities like celebrating Christmas, maintaining the Center of Hope facilities, and help pay for folks getting in an apartment. Fenice Fregoso came to our church last May for Mission Sunday on REACH. Their address is 300 Rainier Ave. N, near the Renton airport.



Renton Prep Academy: Renton Prep is no ordinary school. With multiple awards and recognitions, our Micro-School is the pioneer in private, Christian education. Renton Prep opens the door for families to provide the best foundation for their children's future. They teach students

K-12 in a very personalized environment. David Paul Zimmerman was a guest pastor and missions Sunday presenter of Renton Prep Academy at Bethlehem this past summer.



Valley Camp: Ellen Taylor says that Valley Camp has given us a wish list which includes improving overnight accommodations, general maintenance...done by volunteers, playground equipment and campground improvements. Valley Camp is a Lutheran Retreat Center where families can enjoy the Great Outdoors. We have members that have memorable experiences at Valley Camp! It is with the help of many volunteers and donations, that this Camp has been able to continue and we have long been a supporter of it since it's beginning.



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

MARY MARTHA NEWS

Be filled with the Spirit and with Food

Beginning in March we are in the season of Lent, yet there are many Spiritual and food opportunities. Since Ash Wednesday, we have been serving Soup Lunches after every 11 o'clock Worship Service.

<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>SOUP</u>	<u>HOSTESS</u>
Ash Wednesday was Minnestrone		Jeanne-K Hughes & Carolyn Troseth
March 1	Chicken Noodle Soup	Ellen Taylor
March 8	Ham & Bean Soup	Sharon Buechler
March 15	Chili & Cornbread	Karen Begalka
March 22	Stone Soup	Pat Eskam & Cathy Wooden
March 20	Baked Potato Soup	Marlene Holcomb

All the ladies of Bethlehem are invited to the LWML Joy Shop on March 25. If interested you need to RSVP to Sharon Buechler by March 20. Breakfast will be provided with a breakfast casserole, quiche and beverages. A woman who was in Israel will show pictures with Bible verses in the order of events that happened there. As "Gifts From the Heart" we will give donations to Vision House.

Once-member of Bethlehem congregation, Betty Rich, will help us with our Mary Martha archives and closing procedures.

In God's Care,
Karen Begalka

Treasurer's Report January 2023 8% of the year

Total Income	\$8,350.09	5% of annual budget
Total Expense -	<u>9,944.56</u>	6% of annual budget
Difference	-\$1,594.47	

Total Assets	\$135,473.34	
Total Equity	\$ 76,144.81	(Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer



LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

A simple message.

We welcome back the tradition of soup after our midweek services.

Our last soup supper was in March during Lent of 2020 when we closed due to the pandemic.

From “Being Smart About Congregational Change,” Page 126: “Yet no matter how challenging the times are, God is present. At times it can be hard to see what God is doing and how God is building the Church, especially when many congregations are in decline or struggling in other ways. It’s good to remember that before the new can spring forth, the old must die. God is active in the living, the dying, and the rebuilding of the Church. God is always faithful.”

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY—last class March 1 **PHILIPPIANS BIBLE STUDY — starts March 8** **Wednesdays 7 pm**

You can join the Bible study in person or via Zoom every Wednesday evening in March. There’s no book to buy; bring your Bible. Elder Brent Begalka leads the discussion.

Ash Wednesday & Lenten services are changed to 11am this year. This allows you to attend worship service in the morning, enjoy some soup for lunch, and then return at **7 pm for the Bible Study!**

GIVE GENEROUSLY

- **FOOD.** We continue to collect Food for the Renton Food Bank. There's a box in the narthex. Thanks to Bruce & Teresa Feltmann for delivering.



Tracy Brown will be leading the annual CROP Walk drive. The Renton Walk is scheduled for Sunday, April 30, which is our final worship day. The walkers have agreed to walk on a different day, and we are asking for donations to this worthy cause.

Church World Services (CWS) believes ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. You can make it happen. Our donations and our walking take us one step closer to ending hunger in Renton and around the world. 25% of money collected stays in Renton with organizations like Salvation Army Food Bank, St Vincent De Paul Food Program, and REACH.

The impact of your CROP Walk gift:

\$30 equips a home with a water filter for safe water.



\$17 provides chickens for a family. A constant supply of eggs (protein).

\$11 allows a child in Indonesia to have a doctor's visit.

\$18 provides a garden starter kit in Nicaragua, a sustainable source of food for those facing hunger.

\$60 is the cost of a sheep in Haiti, to help a shepherd recover their livelihood after disaster hits.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CROP WALK

Answers from page 10: **1 g, 2 i, 3 f, 4 a, 5 d, 6 b, 7 f, 8 e, 9 h, 10 c**

page 11: **11 s, 12 m, 13 q, 14 u, 15 n, 16 o, 17 k, 18 r, 19 p, 20 l, 21 t**

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

March 2023

BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

Bethlehem will be closing on Sunday, April 30th and



YOU ARE INVITED
To a Time of Remembrance
for the family and friends of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Saturday
April 29, 2023
at 11 am



A reception will follow the remembrance.

R.S.V.P. by April 15. Please call 425-255-9772

Email: blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

Contact the office if you want the Zoom link.

Zoom link will be sent to all who receive this newsletter electronically.