

November 2022

# Bethlehem Star



Guest Pastors Flath & White • James Hing, Organist

**Thoughts From The Pastor** -- November 2022 A.D.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*Come, you thankful people come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in  
Ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our Maker, does provide  
For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.*

[Text and music: Public domain]

May these words of the hymn writer, Henry Alford, be a call to thanksgiving worship on Sunday, November 20, 2022 -- the Sunday before our national day of thanksgiving on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Psalms 106, 107, 118, and 136 all begin in a similar way:

**"O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD,  
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."**

You and I are reminded here (and in many other places in the scriptures) that it is indeed right and proper for God's people to give thanks to God our Savior.

Why?

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from first page—THANKFUL*

In the midst of all the ups and downs of our lives, in spite of all the broken promises that people give us, there is one thing that stands out before our eyes: the LORD's goodness and His mercy towards us human beings is **always** there no matter how we feel, what is happening, or where we are. I'm talking about the love that sent Christ Jesus into the world to be our salvation winner. I'm talking about that love that is ours in the forgiveness of all our sins and in that peace from God that passes all understanding.

Make this November a special month-long celebration of Thanksgiving to the LORD!!

*Bring to this sacred altar  
The gifts His goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest,  
The souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him  
When at His feet you fall.  
And with your lives adore Him  
Who gave His life for all.*

[Text and music: Public domain]

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

With a very thankful heart,  
Rev. Richard E. Flath





## November



|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Jurgen Feltmann        | November 1  |
| Jayda Feltmann         | November 1  |
| Nathan Feltmann        | November 1  |
| Andrew McNeal          | November 1  |
| Pete Maas              | November 2  |
| Sarah Zable            | November 5  |
| David Blair            | November 6  |
| Nathan Bumpus          | November 6  |
| Michael Garner         | November 11 |
| Earl Rogers            | November 11 |
| Julie Dennis           | November 16 |
| Andrea Mangold         | November 21 |
| Emma Humphrey          | November 23 |
| CeJae Troseth Tompkins | November 24 |
| Doug Gardner           | November 27 |
| Hannelore Payne        | November 29 |

### CORRECTION

**Bev West's** birthday was accidentally omitted in the last newsletter. She joyfully celebrated her big day on October 13.

I apologize for the error, Dielda.

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

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

**Myers, Todd & Beatrice**  
November 1, 1992 30 years

**Begalka, Bonnie & Jay**  
November 7, 2020 2 years

**Buechler, Jim & Sharon**  
November 10, 1973 49 years

**Pieczynski, Richard & Kristy**  
November 20, 1999 23 years

**Hughes, Edward & Jeanne-K**  
November 24, 1971 51 years

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

**Jurgen** is a half-century old!

**Andrew** turns 8.

Our little **Sarah Z** turns 21 this month!

**Andrea** rejoices in living 8 decades and still going strong.

Person with the oldest birthday this month is **Emma** who turns 95.

**CeJae** turns 9 years old on Thanksgiving Day

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

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  
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**

**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.**



# THE DASH

By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on her casket from beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash,

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; Are there things you would like to change?

For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what is true and real

And always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more

And love the people in our lives like we have never loved before.

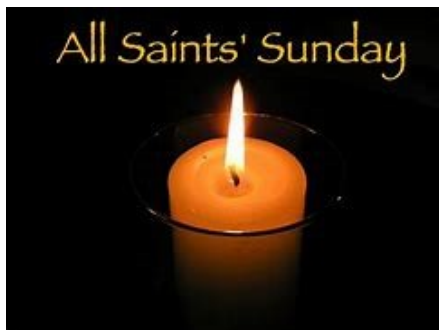
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,

Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

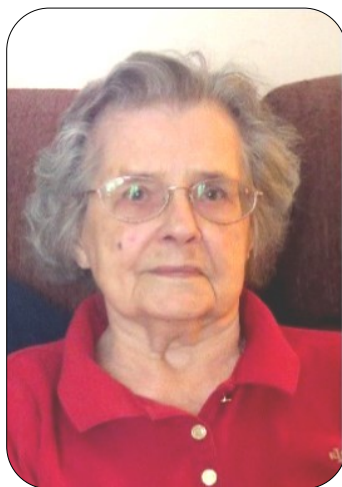
So when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash...

Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

*Thanks to Bob Pankow's daughter, Doris, for sharing this on Facebook.*



*Members who passed away in the last 12 months will be honored at our All Saints' Service on November 6, 2022.*



**Wanda Brooks** was our most senior member. She passed away at the age of 102 1/2 at home on September 22, 2022. Wanda was born in Chicago on February 4, 1920. After her mother died, she was raised in an orphanage. Her first husband, Ken Johnson, died in 1949. Three years later, she married Berle Brooks. They were married for 66 years until he passed away in 2018. Wanda & Berle joined Bethlehem in 1966.

Wanda's funeral was held at Greenwood Memorial on October 12. She had selected the songs for her service: Ave Maria, Amazing Grace and Abide With Me.

Wanda lived a life of service and love.



**Agnes Brown** was 92 years old when she passed away on May 7, 2022. She & her husband, Joe, joined Bethlehem in 1978. Joe died on March 26, 1983. Generations of Browns have worshipped with us at Bethlehem. Her funeral was held on May 21 and led by Pastor Grauer. Pastor Grauer was also the minister who confirmed Aggie as an adult.

Aggie leaves a legacy of love.

**Gerhard Muller** passed away on November 10, 2021 at the age of 88. He was born in eastern Germany, in what is now Poland. Gerhard and his mother were able to leave Germany in 1946.

**Sabine (Heisinger) Muller** passed away on July 7, 2022 at the age of 80. She was born in Berlin, Germany during WWII. Unbeknownst to either of them, they left their war-torn country on the same refugee boat. They discovered this after they met in Renton, 2 decades later.

They were married on November 30, 1968 at Bethlehem and spent the rest of their lives worshipping and sharing fellowship here. Their memorial services were held at Bethlehem and conducted by Pastor Baade.



Gerhard & Sabine Muller  
celebrating their 50th anniversary



**Ron Muller** died unexpectedly on February 17, 2022. He was 50 years old. Ron was baptized at Bethlehem when he was 1 month old by Pastor Luttmann. He was very active on our boards and committees, and served in every elected position. He was an avid walker and participated in the Renton Crop Walks for decades. He is missed. Pastor Baade conducted his memorial service at Bethlehem in April.

**Fred Schroeder** passed away on February 21, 2022 at the age of 92. He is survived by wife, Ruth. They were married for almost 70 years. Fred & Ruth joined Bethlehem in December 2019. He had a strong Christian faith. Ruth is comforted knowing that he is in heaven, and that Fred knew that's where he was going. His family held a private gathering to celebrate his life.



## OUR 80th ANNIVERSARY

Our church birthdate is October 15, 1942, and we celebrated our 80th on Sunday October 16. Altar guild adorned the sanctuary with the festival red paraments! Flowers on the altar were given by Karen Marsyla as she was born on the exact same day as Bethlehem! Another bouquet of flowers were given by Lutheran Ministry Services NW in honor of our anniversary.



Pastor Flath led the service and gave us a special sermon, reminding us that we are messengers of God and to remain faithful in Jesus.

Pastor Richard Flath at Bethlehem  
Photo by Dielda Kuhlmann

During the announcements, James Hing awarded a pound of Starbucks coffee to the person who correctly answered the trivia question. Pat Mortrud gave a partial answer but the prize went to Hannelore Maas for figuring out that the music we sang had references to 1942 and 80.

For folks who like details, we sang from The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH), a red-covered hymnal, printed in 1941. We sang these hymns:  
#**19** All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above  
#**42** O Thou Love Unbounded  
#**80** All Praise to Thee, Eternal God



Altar Flowers  
Photo by Hannelore Maas



James Hing with TLH & Coffee  
Photo by Dielda Kuhlmann



## PARTY TIME



**Helperextraordinaire Lucy Sturgul with the 80th cupcake display. Photo by Roman Sturgul.**

Ellen writes:

A BIG thank you to Thrivent who supported our 80th celebration! Good food, beautiful Fall decorations, and wonderful pictures from years past were shown, from early development, the move to the New Church clear up on Monroe, weddings, celebrations, baptisms, confirmations...all memorable events of Bethlehem's history.

The sun lent a beautiful glow to room...full of warmth and love for the many blessings we have all received throughout the years in Bethlehem.

Upstairs, after the service, Ellen Taylor & Sharon Buechler were our hosts for brunch. Savory aromas and yummy food greeted the celebrants. Special recognition goes to our young helper, Lucy Sturgul, who worked tirelessly hanging banners, setting the tables, making punch and serving sausages.



**Roman Sturgul shares a photo of his family: Grandma Sharon & Grandpa Jim Buechler, siblings Ezekiel & Lucy.**

**What if God's plan is to prune churches that are no longer fruitful?  
What if God's plan is to replant the members into a church that is fruitful?**

A thought-provoking message discovered by Don Kuhlmann.

### **Benefits of Pruning**

By Jock Ficken

It's no secret that the Church in the U.S. is struggling and declining; it's been well-documented in many places. And it's no secret that this places enormous pressures on pastors and their families and their congregations. But...



**What if much of what is happening in the church is a season of pruning?**

And it's a season of pruning for many of us as leaders and individuals within the community?

And what if...

God is cutting back branch after branch that bears no fruit in order to drive us—me—back to the Vine for provision and protection?

This pruning season is a season of character building for so many of us and for the Church as a whole?

This pruning kicks prop after prop out from under us so that we only have one Source to rely on?

We can discard so many things that have consumed energy and attention so that we can bear much fruit?

Concentrations of believers gathering in our church buildings are complemented by vibrant communities of believers who represent the Gospel outside our sanctuaries?

A season of pruning leads toward greater fruitfulness and wider influence and not less?

Furthermore, what if God is stirring in the hearts of both an old and a new generation of people? Stirring us to trust Him and listen to Him... To follow Him and participate in His work of carrying the Gospel to a deeply disoriented culture needing to experience the compassion of Christ through us...



## **Pruning is a hard season!**

I understand it to be a gift...if I can see it that way!  
Pruning builds character of faith. It brings humility and deals with pride. It leads to perseverance. It brings clarity and focus. It drives us to our knees. It makes us fit for God's purpose.

Finally, pruning brings realism. We clearly realize that the vision God places in our hearts is impossible to accomplish on our own. We can't do it.

***I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)***

A wonderful, godly leader couple with their own small vineyard brought some enlightenment to my Midwest farm boy roots of corn and soybeans. There's no pruning on the farm, but there is on a vineyard.

Pruning was never part of my vision frame in leading a congregation! I always wanted to see the graphs pointing up and to the right! Growth... more... better... new... And if we weren't? Something was wrong and we needed to fix it.

It never occurred to me that we needed a season for pruning and that what needed to be fixed was in me and not in a program or ministry area. I'm not sure I'd know how to lead a church or organization through a season of pruning other than starting with, "Maybe we should look more closely at John 15." And, "What if this is a season of pruning so that God can more deeply draw us into the vine for greater fruitfulness?"

And, my best shot at leading would be to embrace the season of pruning for myself.

**More and more I see that whatever I lead, it all starts with me, and me living and embracing it.**

...even when I'd rather just preach a sermon about it instead!

I don't quickly recognize my own seasons of pruning. My natural reflex is to work harder, longer, call for greater commitment from the crowd, wrestle with my own sense of failing and even pull away from the Vine. It seems counter intuitive that we would be preparing for a season of fruitfulness by embracing a season of clipping and cutting back! However...

***...apart from me you can do nothing...***

From PLI ([Benefits of Pruning - PLI - Christian Leadership Training \(plileadership.org\)](http://plileadership.org))  
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## **THE JOY OF GIVING** by Lutheran Hour Ministries **3 Ways to Blossom in Every Season of Life**

A man wanted to teach his four sons an important lesson, so he sent each one to observe a pear tree. The first son went during winter and discovered the tree was ugly and twisted. The second found the tree full of fresh spring buds. The third son observed the tree in summer, laden with blossoms. The final son visited in fall and found the pear tree ripe with fruit. The father explained no tree can be judged on one season alone.



We all go through challenging times, but it's important not to let the discomfort of one season destroy the joy of the rest. Are you in a new season? Perhaps you're recently retired, empty nesting, or widowed. Maybe you're starting a new career or raising children. No matter your season or circumstance, you always have at least one of the following three things to offer.

**TIME.** When kids are young, a parent's time is broken into small increments. There's very little capacity and a million demands. But as we age, we settle into a slower, more manageable pace where we can volunteer or serve in unique ways. Do you have time you can give to someone in need, or to an organization you care about?

**TALENT.** Whether you're in the process of building a career or preparing to retire, you have talents and skills you've developed - designed by God to benefit others. Is this a season where your talents can help bring advancement or attention to a cause you're passionate about? 1 Peter says we're called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace.

**TREASURE.** It's often said, "Those who can no longer go, send." Many elder adults find themselves less physically equipped to volunteer, but more focused on the legacy they'll leave behind. These individuals carry a deep treasure - a legacy of values they want to pass along to loved ones, or financial gifts for organizations like Lutheran Hour Ministries or Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Every day, more people decide to turn their estate plan into a legacy of love.

Submitted by Karen Begalka, 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.



## PROVERBS BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS 7 pm

Class is led by elder Brent Begalka and is available in person or via Zoom. The last class for this year is Wednesday, November 16.

**RAVE** for Curtis Holcomb leading our singing as cantor.

**RAVE** for our congregation in the pews singing louder when Curtis was on vacation so the Zoomers could follow along better.

**RAVE** for rain. After a summer and fall with very little moisture, it was refreshing to have the rain start again on October 21.

## 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><br><b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</b><br><b>10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      | <b>1</b><br>6:30 pm Elders Mtg<br>TBD Trustees Mtg | <b>2</b> Office Clo<br>7 pm Proverbs<br>Study– hybrid                                        |
| <b>6</b> FOOD BANK SUNDAY<br>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY<br>Daylight Savings Ends-Fall back<br>10 Hybrid Worship Service<br>Pastor White<br>HOLY COMMUNION<br>Quilted Cross Chances for sale<br>VOTERS' MEETING—Hybrid | <b>7</b><br>7 pm New Purpose                                                         | <b>8</b>                                           | <b>9</b> Office Clos<br>7 pm Proverbs<br>Study– hybrid                                       |
| <b>13</b><br>10 Hybrid Worship Service with<br>Veteran Recognition<br>Pastor Flath<br>1 pm Council Mtg Zoom only                                                                                             | <b>14</b><br>6:30pm What's Next<br>Property Meeting<br>Zoom only<br>7 pm New Purpose | <b>15</b>                                          | <b>16</b> Office Clo<br>9:30am What's<br>Property Mtg-ir<br>7 pm Proverbs<br>Study–last clas |
| <b>20</b><br>10 Hybrid Worship Thanksgiving<br>Service with Pastor Flath<br>HOLY COMMUNION                                                                                                                   | <b>21</b><br>Newsletter Deadline<br>7 pm New Purpose                                 | <b>22</b>                                          | <b>23</b> Office Cl<br>No Bible Class                                                        |
| <b>27</b> 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT<br>10 Hybrid Worship Service<br>Pastor Flath                                                                                                                                  | <b>28</b><br>7 pm New Purpose                                                        | <b>29</b>                                          | <b>30</b> Office Clo<br>7 pm ADVENT W<br>SHIP led by Eld                                     |

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET happens at our November 6 Voters' Meeting. You may attend in person or via Zoom.

# NOVEMBER 2022

| Wed                                                                 | Thu                                                                                                                                                                               | Fri                                                                                                                       | Sat                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Closed                                                              | <b>3</b><br>7 pm New Purpose                                                                                                                                                      | <b>4</b><br>LWML Event Nov 4 & 5 here. Service, meals.<br>Hosted by Mary Martha Society.                                  | <b>5</b>                                                                              |
| <i>erbs Bible<br/>rid class</i>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |
| Closed                                                              | <b>10</b><br>6:30 pm Missions and Stewardship Meeting—Zoom<br>7 pm New Purpose                                                                                                    | <b>11</b><br>VETERANS DAY<br>Baking day in kitchen<br>Set up for Bazaar.<br>Last chance to bring in donations 4:30-6:30pm | <b>12</b><br>10am—3pm BAZAAR and lunch<br>~3pm Drawing for Quilted Cross Wall Hanging |
| <i>erbs Bible<br/>rid class</i>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |
| Closed                                                              | <b>17</b><br>3 pm MM social time<br>3:30 MM Business Meeting<br>7 pm New Purpose                                                                                                  | <b>18</b><br>11 am Pinochle in social hall                                                                                | <b>19</b><br>3 pm Matinee via Zoom<br>Movie To be Decided                             |
| <i>at's Next<br/>tg-in person<br/>erbs Bible<br/>class for year</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |
| Closed                                                              | <b>24</b><br>THANKSGIVING DAY<br>No worship service<br>7 pm New Purpose                                                                                                           | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>26</b>                                                                             |
| <i>ass</i>                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |
| Closed                                                              | <b>BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>1024 Monroe Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056<br><b> blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org 425-255-9772</b><br><b> www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org</b> |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |
| <i>VT WOR-<br/>Elder Brent</i>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |

## THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

### For the Beauty of the Earth 1864

*Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none  
like You, nor is there any God besides You,  
according to all that we have heard with our ears.  
2 Samuel 7:22*



Folliot Sandford Pierpoint  
1835—1917 England

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint—that's the unlikely name of the author of this great hymn. Folliot was born October 7, 1835, in Bath, England. After graduating from Cambridge, he taught at Somersetshire College in his home area of Bath.

One day when he was 29, Folliot found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful Spring day. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding Avon River cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance, he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for Communion services in the Anglican Church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it quickly became associated with the American Thanksgiving holiday.

Because he had received an inheritance, he did not need a regular teaching position and could afford the leisure of personal study and writing. He wrote three volumes of poetry and several hymns. "For the Beauty of the Earth" is the only Pierpont hymn still sung today.

This hymn is not in our hymnals but the same melody is used in LSB #397 "As With Gladness Men of Old". The music was written by Conrad Kocher.

"For the Beauty of the Earth" is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. One of the strange things about the "attitude of gratitude" is that we tend to exhibit it in reverse proportion to the number of blessings received. The more we have, the less thankful we are.

Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that if the constellations appeared only once in a thousand years, imagine what an exciting event it would be. But because they're there every night, we barely give them a look.

One of the evidences of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a gradual reversal of that pattern. God wants to make us people who exhibit a thankfulness in proper proportion to the gifts and blessings we've received.

Why not take time to sing this hymn to the Lord right now?



# For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliott S. Pierpoint

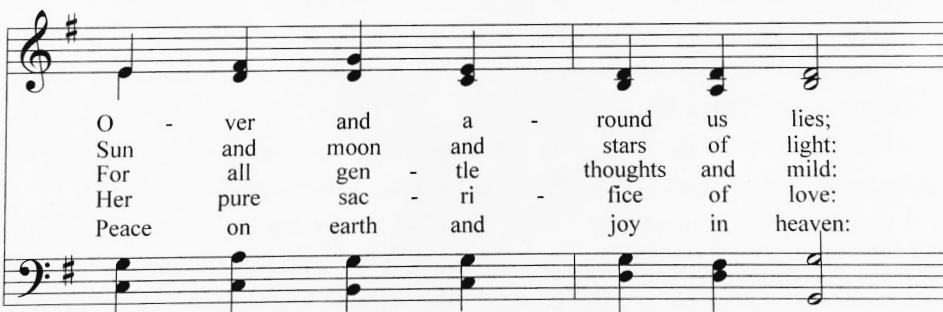
Conrad Kocher



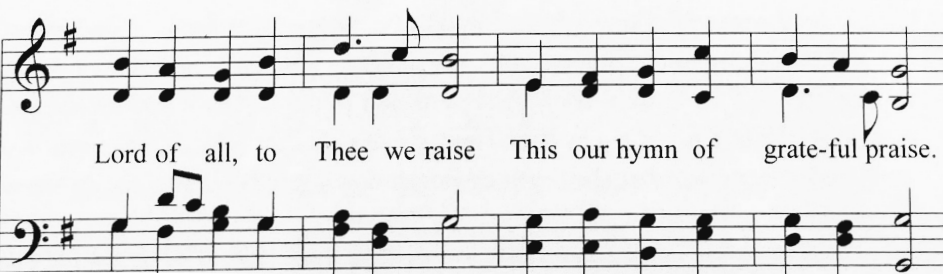
1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry  
 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and  
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sist - er,  
 4. For Thy Church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly  
 5. For Thy - self, best gift di - vine, To our race so



of the skies, For the love which from our birth  
 of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
 par - ent, child; Friends on earth and friends a - bove;  
 hands a - bove, Of - fering up on ev - ery shore  
 free - ly given; For that great, great love of Thine,



O - ver and a - round us lies;  
 Sun and moon and stars of light:  
 For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:  
 Peace on earth and joy in heaven:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

## Remembering Thanksgiving and Others

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have no  
home at all;

When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,

And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

*- Samuel F. Pugh*

And finally for those things for which we are most thankful:  
the sweet comfort of Your Gospel,  
the forgiveness of all our sins by the blood of our Lord Jesus,  
the promise of our resurrection to eternal life; for  
the joyful companionship afforded by the Church; for  
Your Word that is a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for  
the gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion; for  
our pastors and everyone who faithfully serve to us Your best and  
highest gifts:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Anonymous

In the Elders' Article on the previous page was a novel word. Quite possibly the first time it has been used in this newsletter. Elder Dick Taylor shares the definition.

*"Bestir my compassion"  
to rouse to action : get going*

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.



Thanks to Dick Taylor for submitting this take on the Ten Commandments.

#### Treasurer's Report September 2022 75% of year

|               |                   |               |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Total Income  | \$91,747.41       | 53% of budget |
| Total Expense | <u>-50,529.84</u> | 29% of budget |
| Difference    | \$41,217.57       |               |

Total Assets \$118,820.44

Total Equity \$ 73,889.03 (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.



From their recent trip, **Hannelore & Pete Maas**, share this photo of Our Lady of Sorrow, Catholic Church in Santa Barbara, California. Their congregation was formed in 1782 to serve the parish of the Spanish army. Their first building was destroyed by fire in 1865. Their second building was destroyed by a 6.8 Richter earthquake in 1925. This current building was built in 1929 and is a designated landmark of Santa Barbara.

**Jeanne-K & Edward Hughes** were married in Memorial Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington in 1971. Memorial became an official church in 1943 so they will be celebrating their 80th anniversary next year.

Coincidentally this church worshipped in a surplus Army chapel like we did in the 1940's & 50's.





The people who participated in the September **Valley Camp** walk in North Bend got a look inside the chapel. It is kept clean and was surprisingly light inside.

Photo by Dielda Kuhlmann



**Curtis & Cindy Holcomb** share these photos of churches they saw on their recent trip to Melbourne, Australia. They say the buildings are much



bigger than they appear in the photos. St Michael's Uniting Church is on the left. They have been served by guest pastors for the past 5 years. Their pipe organ has 2,500 pipes. The Scots' Church is on the right. It is a Presbyterian church and offers 3 services on Sunday, with one being in the Indonesian language. The Scots' also operate a food pantry. Queen Elizabeth II visited in 1961.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **By Don Kuhlmann**

Please take time to read the Pruning article I submitted on page 10. It gives a new perspective of a church when it is in decline. It also made me think of my own life experience with crops.

I grew up on a farm. Our main crop was wheat. In the fall, the wheat would turn yellow. This indicated it was ripe and was time to harvest. At this time of year there was no green in the field. There were no additional heads of grain coming along. The only way to have more wheat was to harvest the yellow grain and replant in the spring to grow another crop. It strikes me that analogy could apply to Bethlehem. While we are not yellow, we are gray and ripe. We have no upcoming generation to take over. We are much like that field of ripe wheat.

God may be harvesting us, the ripe seeds at Bethlehem, and waiting to see these replanted seeds encourage others and help to grow His kingdom in a new place. I am eager to see all the good work growing his Kingdom that can come from His pruning.

## **Calling all Pinochle Players! And those who want to learn!**



Please join us Friday November 18 at 11am to play Pinochle at the Church.

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

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## **MOVIE MATINEE**



This month's matinee will be shown on Saturday November 19. At press time, the movie hadn't been decided yet.



## WORDS OF THANKS

Where are these scriptures found in the Bible? Match the numbers with the letters corresponding to the answers. ESV edition:

- |                                                                                             |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___1. O give thanks to the Lord,<br>for He is good,                                         | <b>a.</b> and His courts with praise!<br><i>Psalms 100:4</i>                                     |
| ___2. Do everything in the name<br>of the Lord Jesus                                        | <b>b.</b> for His inexpressible gift.<br><i>2 Corinthians 9:15</i>                               |
| ___3. Give thanks for everything<br>to God the Father                                       | <b>c.</b> for His steadfast love<br>endures forever. <i>Psalms 107:1</i>                         |
| ___4. Give thanks in all circumstances                                                      | <b>d.</b> with Thanksgiving let your<br>requests be known to God.<br><i>Philippians 4:6</i>      |
| ___5. Enter His gates with thanksgiving                                                     | <b>e.</b> in the name of our Lord<br>Jesus Christ. <i>Ephesians 5:20</i>                         |
| ___6. Thanks be to God                                                                      | <b>f.</b> giving thanks to God the<br>Father through Him.<br><i>Colossians 3:17</i>              |
| ___7. Don't be anxious about<br>anything, but in everything<br>with prayer and supplication | <b>g.</b> for this is the will of God in<br>Christ Jesus for you.<br><i>1 Thessalonians 5:18</i> |

**THANKS** to Karen Begalka for supplying these important scripture messages. Answers can be found on page 27.

**THE BAZAAR IS BACK!**  
**Saturday November 12**  
**10 am to 3 pm**

After 2 years off, Mary Martha is looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the annual Christmas Bazaar.

Come eat lunch, shop and mingle with the vendors.

We are accepting donations of crafts, gently used items, baked goodies and pies. We would love your help in setting and cleaning up. Contact Ellen Taylor for times during the week she will be there setting up the Granny's Closet of used items for sale.

The last chance to bring in items is Friday between 4:30pm and 6:30pm.

At the November 12th Bazaar, we will draw the winner for this 21"x31" quilted wall hanging crafted by Jeanne-K Hughes. It features a cross in the center. From 10am to 3pm, sandwiches & pie will be available, along with baked goods and crafts created by Bethlehem members. There will also be a Granny's Closet and several independent vendors.



Jeanne-K Hughes displays her quilted wall hanging.

**MARY MARTHA**  
**Other Happenings**

Mary Martha meets every 3rd Thursday of the month with a Social time at 3 PM and Business time at 3:30 PM. This month it is November 17.

Ladies' Christmas Party is Thursday December 1 at 1pm. Chaplain Werzner will join us. The theme is "Sweet Christmas". All ladies are invited to attend.

## DRAWING FOR THE AFGHAN

And the winner is ...

**CATHY FRANK!!!**



Mary Martha President, Sharon Buechler, watches as Anna Wolf draws the winning ticket from the bowl on our LWML Sunday, October 9. Amber Wolf, Mary Martha Treasurer, (on the right) announced the winner was Cathy Frank. Cathy was delighted to win the Seahawk-colored football-patterned afghan that was crocheted by Karen Marsyla. Cathy says, "I feel so blessed."



**Winner Cathy Frank**  
**Crocheter Karen Marsyla**  
**Photo by Amber Wolf**

**RAVE & THANKS** for contributing \$368 towards chances to win the afghan. Your donations will be sent on to charities to help those in need and to spread God's message of love.

### **Mary Martha** **Merrily Makes Money for Missions**

LWML MITES contribute millions of dollars, one penny at a time to district and national mission grants, scholarships for those entering the ministry, plus LWML operational costs.

### **MARY & MARTHA** **FACTS**

The name Mary is mentioned in the Bible 55 times to 7 different Marys. Jesus' mother was mentioned 19 times, Mary Magdalene 14 times, but Martha's sister only 3 times.

Martha is mentioned in the Bible 12 times.

Mites are mentioned 3 times.

## **LWML SUNDAY October 9, 2022**

On LWML Sunday, our Mary Martha officers were installed by Chaplain Werzner.



L-R: Treasurer Amber Wolf, Secretary Karen Begalka, Vice President Joanne Jordanger, President Sharon Buechler, Pastor Werzner.

Women serving today were Sharon Buechler (top left) handling the elder duties and lay reader Carolyn Troseth (top right).



Joanne Jordanger (lower left) and Hannelore Payne (lower right) performed a skit written by Karen Begalka. Hannelore in the role of Katharina Martin (Mrs Luther Martin) finding out if she qualified to be an LWML member. Spoiler alert: She did!





## 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. We received \$56.11 for second quarter sales. Thank you, shoppers.
- **BAZAAR NOVEMBER 12.** 10am to 3pm. Sponsored by Mary Martha. There will be vendors, crafts, gently used items, baked goodies and lunch. Bring a neighbor along to enjoy it. We are accepting your used items for Granny's Closet. The drawing for the quilted wall hanging made by Jeanne-K will happen at the end of the bazaar.
- **GIVING TREE** will be up again this year. Be sure to pull a tag and help brighten someone's Christmas.

**SUNBEAMS LUTHERAN SCHOOL** (Church of the Cross in Kent, WA) is taking orders for Noble fir swags, wreaths, and cross-shaped wreaths, centerpieces, and Western Cedar garland in 15' and 75' lengths.



SWAG—Noble Fir Door Swag is made of fir boughs from the Pacific Northwest.

Size 20"x24"

**\$24**



MIXED WREATH- Noble Fir Christmas Wreath is mixed with a variety of ever-green boughs and pine cones.

**24" \$35**

**30" \$53**



CROSS WREATH is made from Noble Fir & decorated with natural cones and a beautiful red velvet bow.

**\$37**



CENTERPIECE is made from Noble Fir, Cedar & Blue Berried Juniper and decorated with cones, bows & 12" candle.

**\$21**

Contact Ruth Ann Shimoi for more information & to order!

Answers to Bible Quiz (Page 23) 5a, 6b, 1c, 7d, 3e, 2f, 4g

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

BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

November 2022

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

**10:00AM TO 3:00PM**

**LUNCH SERVED ALL DAY**

Featuring pies by the slice,  
sandwiches & beverages

**INDEPENDENT VENDORS,**

**HANDCRAFTED ITEMS,**

**BAKE SALE,**

**WHITE ELEPHANT SALE,**

**AND TAKE A CHANCE TO WIN**

**THE WALL HANGING**



Sponsored by the Mary & Martha  
Society, Women's Mission Group

