

April 2023 A.D.

A graphic of a star composed of many small blue dots, with a single white dot in the center. The words "Bethlehem Star" are written in a yellow, outlined font across the middle of the star.

Bethlehem Star

Guest Pastor Richard Flath • James Hing, Organist

Thoughts From the Pastor

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed -- hallelujah!

Many people in the greater Puget Sound area are loving that it is now springtime once again! Most of us have put winter in the past. As I write this (3-20-2023) on the first day of Spring, day light savings time is also back giving us more daylight in the evening hours.

There is "new" life all around us too. Many of the trees that have been dormant for 3 or 4 months are coming to life once again. The bulbs planted last fall, or that we forgot to dig up, are sending up little green shoots. Can beautiful flowers be far behind?

It has often been said by many people who live in the northern hemisphere that springtime is a wonderful time of the year for Easter with so many things coming back to life after a long winter. Disciples of Jesus can point to the new life that God the Father offers to all people through His Son Jesus Christ. The Savior, Jesus Christ, who was "planted" in the earth after His death of Good Friday, "sprang" to life 3 days later on Easter morning through His resurrection from the dead.

No matter where a follower of Jesus Christ lives on earth, or on the space-station circling the earth, we share many things in common. Chief among them is that Jesus shares His victory over sin, the devil, hell, death, and damnation with us. This victory for all people came through Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and through His resurrection to life on the 3rd day.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page—hallelujah!

Jesus' living is the good news that all us followers of Jesus Christ can share any time of the year in winsome ways with family members, friends, neighbors, and even strangers as opportunities come our way. But this is often challenging for us to do.

One of the reasons for this challenge we face is that God has blessed many people with numerous things. Often those people don't think that they need anything else in life like Jesus. However, if something is missing in their life, they often attempt to fill that void with stuff that usually doesn't bring them any lasting joy or peace. Never-the-less, may the Holy Spirit assist us to be ready to share the love of Jesus with people who are searching and in need of lasting hope.

Even though you and I love Jesus and believe in Him, often we are hurting individuals. There are many reasons why we hurt. Often we hurt and suffer from illness and pain and have sorrow at the death of loved ones. But in these days many of us are mourning the coming end of worship services after April 30th and the eventual selling and closing of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. In spite of that, our salvation through faith in the risen lord and Savior Jesus Christ is secure!

On top of that, let's remember that many of God's other children who are our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ are praying for us, helping us, and encouraging us in these difficult times. And with the Holy Spirit help, we will guide us in finding a new church home where we can continue to worship our crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ. May our loving God help us to always remember that all of Jesus' disciples, wherever they gather together to worship Jesus, share the hope that one day we will be with our living Lord and Savior in heaven!

The good news that "Christ is risen!" has been proclaimed at Easter here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington, for 80 plus years. As you have opportunity this year, either live in church or via zoom, let's celebrate together the joys we have through Jesus' resurrection again at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed -- hallelujah!

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



April

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Tom & Kimberli Clayton
April 2, 2011 12 years

Art & Amber Wolf
April 2, 2011 12 years

Jesse & Jeanie Hack
April 9, 1989 34 years

Brent & Karen Begalka
April 10, 1976 47 years

Joshua & Julie Dennis
April 16, 2005 18 years

Ellen Taylor	April 2
Melanie Myers	April 4
Todd Myers	April 6
Hannah Townley	April 7
Oliver Hudson	April 8
Gary Jackman	April 8
Lucy Sturgul	April 8
Melanie Hammond	April 9
Dick Taylor	April 10
Jesse Hack	April 14
Crystal Jordanger	April 16
Kimberli Townley-Clayton	April 19
Holden Jackman	April 26
Bonnie Begalka	April 28
Diane Begalka	April 30

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

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS:

Holden is 9 years old.

Bonnie Begalka is 3/4 of a century this month!!

Diane Begalka celebrates a quarter of a century on April 30!

THEY MOVED! Aaron & Diana Begalka (son of Karen & Brent) have moved to Port Townsend. Godspeed!

TALK TO THE PASTOR

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

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
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 and son-in-law Brian
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.**

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 1 Thessalonians 3:16



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Klaus Called to Glory

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour died unexpectedly at his home in Texas on March 23, 2023. He was 74 years old. Our Bible Class used his DVD series when we studied Revelation. He was Brent Begalka's favorite Lutheran Hour speaker. Brent & Karen were fortunate to hear him in person at an event in Seattle. They report he was an all around good guy; funny and folksy and knowledgeable.

UPDATE ON SEATTLE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL Sept 1978—June 2022

Dear Alumni and Friends of Seattle Lutheran High School,

As we continue marching toward a sale of the facilities to Hope, I wanted to provide you with a short update on our progress.

Our remaining staff have completed most of the work needed to wind-down the school's administration, including digitization of transcripts to Hope Lutheran School, as the new custodian. This means that we will be closing down our office operations as of March 31st. Starting April 1st, the remaining work of completing the sale to Hope, and closing the Corporation, will be carried-out by the remaining volunteer board members.

We will continue to lease the gym facility to various organizations, including Hope Lutheran School, until the sale is completed. We will continue to receive emails at info@seattlelutheran.org. All mail will be forwarded. We will also continue to make routine security checks of the facility, and repairs, as needed.

This also means we will be saying farewell to our two remaining staff: Jeanne Davis, and Shirley Vradenburgh. I am so grateful to Jeanne, Shirley, and also Jennifer Lulow, for all of their work over the past year.

Blessings in Christ,
Patrick Gehring

April is National Poetry Month

Thanks to the submitters
Who were not quitters
And made their words rhyme
This one last time.

MEMORIES

By Marjie Boydston

We gathered together to hear God's word,
Some families had many and needed 2 or 3 pews.
One morning we had a different visitor - a bird.
God's word hasn't changed, so continue to share the good news!

MARY MARTHA NEWS

By Karen Begalka

Mary Martha supports missions, giving to each:
Food Bank, Vision House, AbleLight and REACH,
MITES, LWML scholarships and LBT,
Funded by blanket raffles and BAZAAR money.

Ash Wednesday through March after morning Lent worship,
Our members served soup lunches and had fellowship.

We also had LWML Joy Shop Breakfast;
As ladies gathered we learned about Israel's past;
Donating to Vision House as "Gifts From The Heart."
Betty Rich helped us plan closure as we depart.
March winds blew joy into April's sunshine and rain.
We shall share Easter Breakfast to serve once again.

Doug & Wilma Gardner left our church in 2005. Wilma had been our organist and choir leader for 26 years and was active in our Mary Martha Society. Doug held many leadership positions (elder, treasurer, and more), and he sang in the choir.

Photo below is when we celebrated her 25th anniversary as our music leader in April 2004.

For their going away party, Doug & Wilma wrote this song, which I think you will find especially meaningful now, 18 years later. And it rhymes!

Dielda Kuhlmann

(To tune "Red River Valley")

From this Bethlehem family we are going
We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smiles
as we go we'll be taking the memories
that have brightened our path for awhile.

We will miss all those bright Sunday mornings
When we sang songs and worshipped as one
But we won't miss the meetings that followed
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
so on...

We will always remember Praise Singers
And we thank you for your dedication there
We enjoyed being elder, usher, treasurer
Teaching children, playing bells and janitor.

We'll remember children's plays and their music
And the kids who grew up to be our friends
There's been some tears and plenty of laughter
In this church where your love never ends.

Come and visit us over the mountains
Where the sun shines and it doesn't rain
There will always be a place at our table
For you dear friends we want to see again.



Wilma Gardner's 25th anniversary of music

Blessed be the tie that bind
Our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Blessed be the tie that binds!

Doug and Wilma Gardner
September 25, 2005

Poems Continued on next page

Continued from previous page— April rhymes

Cleanup Time

By Pete Maas

This isn't a meeting,
The flowers need weeding.
And the sidewalks need to be swept.
'Cause our friends from the past time,
will be coming one last time.
And we want it to look well kept.

Then cleaning indoors,
the windows and floors.
There's a sign-up sheet on the wall.
So I'll make this all rhyme,
for the very last time.
So come join us and we'll have a ball. (bawl?)

The last week in March is cleanup time.



Hannelore Maas, leader of the Landscaping Team, pictured with newly planted primroses.
Photo by Pete Maas

TWO WOLVES

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a "battle" that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between 2 "wolves" inside us all.

One is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

The grandson thought about it for a moment and then asked his grandfather, "Which one wins?"

The grandfather replied, "The one you feed."

THE UNKNOWN & REPLANTING

A Message from Mission Board

We hope all of you received your little pot with seeds to grow, symbolizing our lives as we transfer to another 'spot' to grow and begin a new life away from Bethlehem. Every hour, day, year is a new beginning for us... yes, many times unknown ventures, but we do know who is in charge, who knows what is best for us, who loves and cares for us. We can go out and find this new adventure, as He directs us and guides us. We can become 'planted' happily, remaining in His word and His sacraments in a new church, with forever lingering memories of Bethlehem.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened"... that's Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Ellen Taylor

Pastors' advice on how to find a new church home

The Pastors at the local circuit March meeting held a discussion about Bethlehem members coming to their churches. Based on that discussion, this is how I propose we all look at a new church:

1. Attend a service with a new congregation
 - a. During the week think how you might add to that congregation
2. Attend for a second time and ask the Pastor for a meeting
 - a. The purpose is to better get to know him
 - b. And for him to get to know you
3. Decide if you want to join this church or wait and try others

If you choose to look further, repeat the process with the next congregation you visit.

God has a plan and a place for each of us. Go in Peace and listen to His guidance.

Don Kuhlmann

Carl & Joni Stockamp moved to Leavenworth over a year ago. They were asked for their words of wisdom on transitioning to a new church. Here is Carl's reply.



ON FINDING A NEW CHURCH HOME

As much as I wish I could offer some profound advice, I'm afraid I can't. We still haven't fully engaged in a new church home. I say "fully" because we've been worshipping virtually with several congregations. These congregations include Plain Community Church, Joy Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Jackson Hole Presbyterian Church as well as Bethlehem. While it is a blessing to be able to worship virtually, we recognize the need to connect with a church family. So, after almost two years, why haven't we found a church home? For us, the answers can be identified as finding a church:

- 1) whose core beliefs are in harmony with ours;
- 2) where our faith will be inspired as a result of the worship experience;
- 3) whose members demonstrate love and care for each other; and,
- 4) that is in a relatively convenient location.

There is undoubtedly a fifth category, i.e. procrastination.

Joni and I are Missouri Synod Lutherans by birth and we would prefer to remain in that denomination. However, living in the small community of Plain, the closest LCMS congregation is 45 miles away in Wenatchee. I know many BLC members commuted significant distances to get to the church, but 45 miles is a bit too much. As mentioned above, there is a community church about seven miles from our house in Plain, called quite naturally, Plain Community Church (PCC). Here is their website if anyone wants to learn more about them: www.plaincommunitychurch.org PCC is non-denominational and as a membership that is comprised of both working families and retirees living in the area on a full time basis. They also have members who have vacation homes in the area. This creates some significant fluctuations in Sunday morning worship attendance. They do face challenges much like many churches these days. They have active children and youth programs, but they are experiencing reduced enrollments. Nonetheless, they are able to draw about 120 children to their

Vacation Bible School each summer. We have attended PCC in prior years when we were only “part-timers”, but they have a new pastor who we are getting to know him through our virtual worship experience.

There are other small, non-denominational churches in our area but we haven’t looked into them. I suspect that we will request a transfer to Joy Lutheran Church when Bethlehem closes. God willing, they will accept us.

It wouldn’t be prudent to end this article without mentioning the fifth category, procrastination. As our country comes to the end of the COVID pandemic, we need to learn how to return to “normal”. In the secular world, businesses are facing the challenges associated with bringing workers back into the office. In the religious world, churches are facing the challenges of bringing people back into their sanctuaries. This is not to say that technology has not provided significant benefits in remote work and virtual worship. But for me, corporate worship is in keeping with the words of Hebrews 10:24 & 25 - *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching”*.

I pray that everyone at Bethlehem will be able to find new church homes.

Blessings,
Carl

What a wonderful and great time we had at our March’s game day. We ate Fried Chicken and all the fixen’ that would go with it. We also all got to learn how to play 5 people at a table. Our winner for the day was Brent Begalka.



Our next game day will be April 14th, starting at 10:30am. We will play also on Friday, May 12th. In the meantime we will be looking for a new home to play. So join us even if you might not know how to play, we’ll teach you.

HAPPY EASTER!
Sharon Buechler

.....
April 30 is the day of our last service at Bethlehem. The April 30 Portals of Prayer seems especially poignant and appropriate to share with you this month.
-Dielda Kuhlmann
.....

PORTALS OF PRAYER for SUNDAY APRIL 30

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

GOOD GRIEF

Those who grew up reading or watching Charlie Brown remember him saying, " Good grief!" Is there really such a thing as good grief? There is when there is hope in the middle of grief and when grief does not end in eternal despair.

Death causes great grief and sadness. Yet the Holy Spirit gives us great comfort and peace concerning Jesus Christ and His victory over death, grief, and the grave.

Even in death, Christians have hope, comfort, and peace. Death is not the same as sleep, but in the power of His resurrection, Jesus awakens the dead as though they were merely sleeping. Jesus will gloriously return on the Last Day with trumpets and angels. He will then raise all the dead and join their bodies to their souls. Those who believed in Him will have everlasting life. Those who did not believe in Him will have everlasting death (see Daniel 12:2-3).

It will be a day of great rejoicing for all believers in Christ. This is why we do not grieve like those who do not believe in Him. We grieve with hope and expectation of the resurrection of the body to life everlasting, and we encourage one another with these words.

**Lord Jesus, thank You for turning my grief
into resurrection joy. Amen.**

.....
PORTALS OF PRAYERS. Members and friends of Bethlehem who wish to receive the July Portals of Prayers should check with their new church. If you don't have a church yet, subscription information can be found at cph.org/portals. The book comes in 3 sizes: pocket, digest, and large-print. Digital subscriptions are an option. There is also a Portals of Prayer App for your phone which gives you access to the past 10 years of the devotions.
.....

You are a seed that still needs to Grow!

Thanks for submitting photos of your mission flowers. What I've noticed is that right now, our little pots of flowers look pretty much the same. See the 2 on the right.

The seeds were a reminder for us to bloom and grow in Christ wherever we are planted.

Today we are members of Bethlehem. Soon we will be uprooted and transplanted into a different church.

We are preparing for this move.

- ♦ Some people are talking about getting ready to move their flowers to a bigger pot, anticipating great bouquets of blooms.
- ♦ Some are questioning if they should remove the lid from their flowerpot yet.
- ♦ A few are asking how much water should they give the seedlings. There are concerns about watering too much and drowning them, or ignoring them and having them wilt.
- ♦ We were told the seeds like warmth to germinate. How do we know how much heat they can withstand?
- ♦ At least 1 person is fertilizing his little pot in hopes of a healthier crop.
- ♦ Some are curious when they can plant them outside and let them grow on their own.
- ♦ A few people realized they could not take care of the plants and asked a relative to tend to their flowers.
- ♦ Perhaps you left your flowerpot in the car and it spilled out. Or Perhaps the cat dug into it, and you have no seedlings.

Of course, the growth of your seeds does not truly represent your Christian journey. It's not predicting your future. They are a gentle reminder to nurture your spiritual life. A reminder to assist others in their journey. And a reminder to vacuum your car and keep some things out of your cat's reach.

-Dielda Kuhlmann



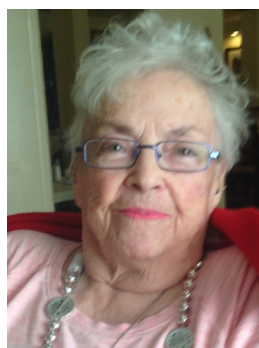
**Pete & Hannelore Maas's
Dianthus seedlings.
Photo by Hannelore**

YOUNGEST & MOST SENIOR MEMBERS



Anna Wolf

Anna Wolf is our youngest member attending Bethlehem. She will be 8 years old this summer and has been with us her whole life! In the photo she is holding her pot of dianthus seedlings from the Mission Board. Her parents are both on the Mission Board. Anna's favorite seat is in the back pew, left side. She also frequently Zooms with us.



Betty Cowan

Betty Cowan is our most senior member. She was born in Tennessee and came to Washington during WWII with her mom and dad. She married, raised a family, and began her career as an elementary school teacher later in life. She has the distinction of being the first person in her care facility to be quarantined with COVID in 2020. She survived 2 rounds of COVID and a recent bout of norovirus. She is one tough cookie! Betty faithfully attended church but isn't able to participate now, either in person or Zoom. She is with us in spirit, joyfully reading the church newsletters & Portals of Prayer. Betty will be 98 this August.



Emma Humphrey

Our second oldest member is **Emma Humphrey** who turned 95 last November. She is a lifelong Lutheran and recalls that sometimes the services were in German. She was born in Wisconsin and moved to Washington in 1959. She and her family joined Bethlehem in 1989. Emma was an elementary school teacher for 38 1/4 years, usually walking to school each day! Emma was usually the first person in the pew on Sunday morning, as she arrived early to listen to the choir rehearsals. She does Zoom with us every Sunday and appreciates being able to receive Communion at home.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. Revelation 22:21

Mount Moriah's last Sunday with us was March 26. The congregation that has been worshipping on Sunday afternoons for a few months will be relocating to a different facility. They wish to express their gratitude and thankfulness for the opportunity to worship in our building. They appreciated the kindness from the trustees who made the arrangements, and the nice welcome they received from the members.

Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Ephesians 6:23-24



The LWML Lake Washington Zone Joyshop was held at Bethlehem on Saturday morning, March 25, bringing joy to a gathering of ladies from all around the area. There was plenty of fun, food, fellowship and activities that brought joy to all involved.

Julia Sinclair of All Saints Lutheran Church shared pictures of her trip to the places where Jesus walked, accompanied by Bible verses.

To spread the joy to Vision House, Welcome Basket items for new families were assembled as Gifts from the Heart. They contained a variety of personal hygiene items plus water bottles, fingernail polish and remover, small first aid kits, chocolates and planners for moms.

Karen Begalka



JOYSHOP attendees & Welcome Basket items. Photo by Ruth Ann Shimoi

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
2 FOOD BANK SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION Council Meeting in person	3 7 pm New Purpose	4 9 am ALL TEAM MEETING in person Noon Elder Meeting TBD Trustees Mtg	5 Office Closed 7 pm 1 John E <i>Study with Elder Begalka</i>
9 EASTER 9 am Breakfast is served 9-9:30 bring in white flowers for altar 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath	10 6:30pm What's Next Meeting Zoom only 7 pm New Purpose	11	12 Office Closed 9:30am What's Meeting-in person 7 pm 1 John B. <i>Study with Elder</i>
16 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Koss HOLY COMMUNION ~11:30 Voters' Meeting	17 7 pm New Purpose	18 Martin Luther's "Here I Stand" speech at Diet of Worms—1521 See page 21.	19 Office Closed 7 pm 1 John E <i>Study with Elder</i>
23 10 Hybrid Worship Service With Pastor Flath & LCSNW Guest Speaker see page 31	24 7 pm New Purpose	25	26 Office Closed 7 pm final 1 John <i>Study with Elder</i>
30 10 Our Final Worship Service with Pastor Flath HOLY COMMUNION We say good-bye	Newsletter Deadline is May 2.		
OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.			

APRIL 2023

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Spring Cleaning
Closed <i>John Bible Elder Brent</i>	6 11 am Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm New Purpose	7 11 am Good Friday Service	8 10 AM Decorate the cross. 10 AM—noon Bring white flowers to church See page 31
Closed <i>John's Next person John Bible Elder Brent</i>	13 7 pm New Purpose	14 Pinochle in social hall 10:30 am—3pm	15 R.s.v.p.'s due today for April 29 service
Closed <i>John Bible Elder Brent</i>	20 3 pm Mary Martha Social Time in person only 3:30 pm Mary Martha business meeting 7 pm New Purpose	21	22
Closed <i>1 John Bible Elder Brent</i>	27 7 pm New Purpose	28 Set up social hall for reception	29 11 am Remembrance Service with Pastors Flath, Baade & Linnemann. Reception following.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1024 Monroe Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056

blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org 425-255-9772

www.BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Beautiful Savior
Also called Fairest Lord Jesus
German: Schönster Herr Jesu

Written in 1677

You are fairer than the sons of men Psalm 45:2

This hymn came from Roman Catholic Jesuits in Germany and originally had six verses. It first appeared in 1677 in a Jesuit hymnbook titled Münster Gesangbuch. Yet the origin of the words remains a mystery.

Who translated it into English? That, too, is largely a mystery. The first three stanzas are the work of an anonymous translator. The fourth stanza was by Joseph A. Seiss, and it first appeared in a Lutheran Sunday School book in 1873.

How appropriate that no human author draws attention from the great theme of this song. There's no source to distract from the subject, no story to detract from the Savior.

This hymn emphasizes the beauty and wonder of Christ, and it alludes to His dual nature, that He was both human and divine, God made flesh, the God-Man: O Thou of God and man the Son.... Son of God and Son of Man.

It brings to mind one of the greatest observations ever made about Christ, uttered by the preacher of Antioch, John Chrysostom, in a fourth-century sermon: "I do not think of Christ as God alone, or man alone, but both together. For I know He was hungry, and I know that with five loaves He fed five thousand. I know He was thirsty, and I know that He turned the water into wine. I know He was carried in a ship, and I know that He walked on the sea. I know that He died, and I know that He raised the dead. I know that He was set before Pilate, and I know that He sits with the Father on His throne. I know that He was worshiped by angels, and I know that He was stoned by the Jews. And truly some of these I ascribe to the human, and others to the divine nature. For by reason of this He is said to have been both God and man."

Beautiful Savior is #537 in our Lutheran Service Book, in the Redeemer section.

Article submitted by Joel & Karen Jackman. Source: Then Sings My Soul by Robert Morgan.

Beautiful Savior

Anonymous German Hymn

Tune: Schlesische Volkslieder arr. by Richard S Willis

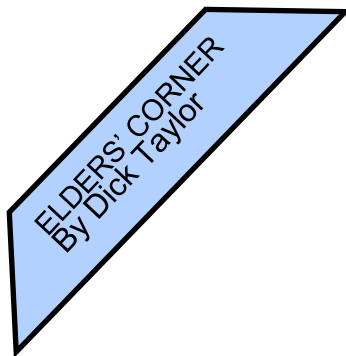
1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky..

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!





This is the last Elder Corner for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We are closing on April 30, 2023. We will have a follow-up Bethlehem Star after closing.

We give thanks to God for the gifts that have come to us and to others through this ministry, to acknowledge our sadness at the close of this ministry, and to affirm again our faith in Jesus Christ. Let us be grateful for God's gifts, honest about our sorrow, open in our love, trusting in Jesus Christ, the only head of the church.

This last Elder Corner marks a passage for this congregation. A ministry is coming to a close; something new is about to be born. God is calling the members of this congregation to a new ministry.

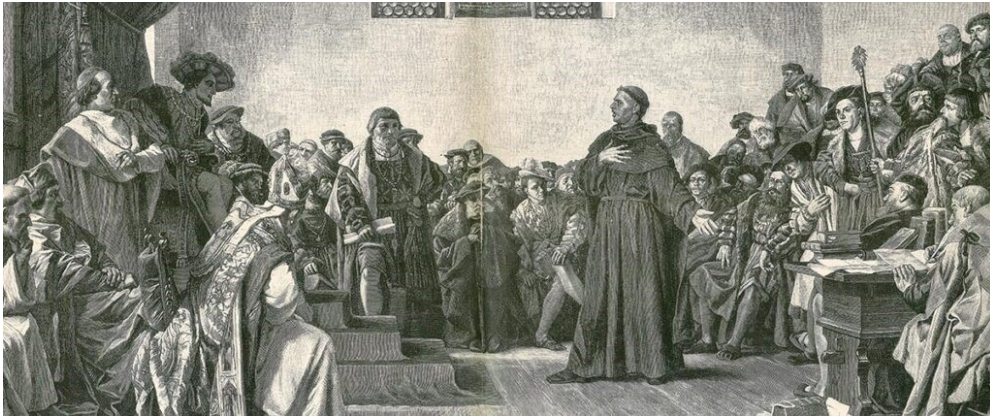
"Congregations are formed, and congregations are disbanded, but the Lord our God reigns forever." Author unknown.

Treasurer's Report February 2023 16% of the year

Total Income	\$14,819.50	9% of annual budget
Total Expense -	<u>18,205.73</u>	10% of annual budget
Difference	-\$ 3,386.23	
Total Assets	\$133,998.92	
Total Equity	\$ 74,353.05	(Assets not in memorials or designated funds)

—Kathy Logan, Treasurer

April 18, 1521 - A day in history



Martin Luther appeared before the Diet of Worms on April 17, 1521. He was informed that he had been called to the meeting to acknowledge as his own, the books that had been published in his name and to repudiate them. He briefly acknowledged the books but requested time to ponder his second answer, which was granted.

When Luther came back the next day, on April 18, 1521, he spoke much more confidently, and his demeanor was said to be that of a changed man from the day before. He spoke in German first and then in Latin. His voice was loud and clear. It was six o'clock in the evening by this time, and the room was lit with torches. The room was crowded and very hot. Luther was literally pressed in from all sides with people straining to hear his every word. The proceedings were held in a larger room from the previous day. It was wall-to-wall with people. The richest, most powerful, and most influential leaders of Luther's world were all there waiting to hear his answer: do you recant or not?

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures and by clear reason (for I do not trust in the pope or councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

But then come the words that are even more famous, **"Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."** These words Luther spoke in German, *"Hier stehe ich. Ich kann nicht anders. Gott helfe mir. Amen."*

Excerpted from Concordia Publishing House & The Lutheran Witness.



Frank Downing celebrated a milestone birthday last month. He's pictured showing off his new hat "**Not everyone looks this good at 90**"

Bev West writes this message to all:

Dear Bethlehem,

I wish a very happy spring to the happiest people I know.

May the work you've been doing this past 80 years never cease.

*Peace & Blessings
Bev W*



Jean Shaw is living at The Cottages at Mill Creek, Rainier Building C, Room 6, 13200 10 Dr SE Mill Creek WA 98012



David Willett has moved to a care facility in Renton! Much easier for his mom to visit now!

Arcadia, 4430 Talbot Rd S, Room 104A, Renton WA 98055

Attention Book Lovers & Readers

The books in the church library are available for you to take home and enjoy. You'll find some have been displayed on tables in the social hall and hallway, with signs that say

FREE BOOKS

WONDERING WHERE TO TRANSFER TO?

Check out the bulletin board near the office. It has information on many of the Lutheran churches in and around Renton.

For even more information, talk to Ruth Ann Shimoï and read Don's advice from the pastors on page 9.

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](mailto: blessings@BethlehemLutheranRenton.org)

Contact the office if you want the Zoom link.

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

Join us on Saturday April 29 as we remember and celebrate a lifetime of prayers, hymns, worship, joyful and sad memories, and faith.

Spring is Springing

The signs around my house are buds and new leaves. Soon the cherry blossoms and tulips will be out.

The farmers in North Dakota are waiting and watching the snows melt so they can plant. Then their seed will burst from the ground in new growth.

This year God is planting each of us in a new place (new soil if you will). He has a plan for you in this change.



Pray and listen for his answer.

Be GLAD we have a God that takes care of His people always.

I know with His plan, He will use a gentle hand to guide us where He wants us to blossom.

God Bless you,
Don Kuhlmann, Congregational President

**Well done,
good & faithful servants!**

FRIENDLY VISITOR TEAM

Marjie Boydston	Dielda Kuhlmann
Pat Eskam	Hannelore Payne
Bruce Feltmann	Ruth Ann Shimoi
Teresa Feltmann	Ellen Taylor
Marlene Holcomb	Carolyn Troseth
Karen Jackman	Bev West
Joel Jackman	Cathy Wooden

LANDSCAPING CREW

Cathy Frank	Pete Maas
Karen Fritsvold	Karen Marsyla
Curtis Holcomb	Dick Taylor
Hannelore Maas	

TECH TEAM

Brent Begalka	James Hing
Karen Begalka	Curtis Holcomb
Sharon Buechler	Don Kuhlmann

USHERS

Karen Begalka	Pete Maas
Sharon Buechler	Carl Stockamp
Gary Jordanger	Carolyn Troseth

ALTAR GUILD

Gary Jordanger	Carolyn Troseth
Ellen Taylor	Cathy Wooden

BULLETIN DELIVERY TEAM

Marjie Boydston	Hannelore Payne
Dielda Kuhlmann	Ruth Ann Shimoi

Officers

President	Don Kuhlmann
Vice President	Joel Jackman
Secretary	Dielda Kuhlmann
Treasurer	Kathy Logan

TRUSTEES

Curtis Holcomb
Pete Maas

MISSION BOARD

Karen Begalka	Amber Wolf
Hannelore Payne	Art Wolf
Ellen Taylor	Cathy Wooden

BOARD of EDUCATION

Joanne Jordanger

BOARD of ELDERS

Brent Begalka
Jim Buechler
Dick Taylor

Mary Martha Society

President	Sharon Buechler
Vice President	Joanne Jordanger
Secretary	Karen Begalka
Treasurer	Amber Wolf
Christian Growth	Ellen Taylor

And thanks to all the prior volunteers who are taking a break this year, and the people who volunteer where they saw a need to help like Wayne Hough and Jon Kuhlmann as custodian assistants, Bruce & Teresa Feltmann who deliver the food bank donations, newsletter editor Dielda Kuhlmann, and our cantor Curtis Holcomb.

Apologies to anyone we missed. You are appreciated, even if unnamed!

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

As we are near the end of the season of Lent, here is a review of our main topic we have been following:

Match the phrases of the "Last Words of Jesus" on the cross to the letters next to the weekly Theme Titles and scripture references:

_____ 1. "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Referring to all mankind, as well as the people present at his crucifixion).

_____ 2. (to the believing thief on the cross) "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

_____ 3. (to his mother Mary) "Woman, behold your son!" (and to the disciple John) "Behold your mother!"

_____ 4. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

_____ 5. "I thirst." (Compare to John 4:14 "The Woman at the Well in Samaria").

_____ 6. "It is finished." (Jesus completed what he came to do, overturning what Adam and Eve brought into the world).

_____ 7. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

a. SALVATION, Luke 23:43

b. REUNION, Luke 23:46

c. FORGIVENESS, Luke 23:34

d. ABANDONMENT, Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34

e. RELATIONSHIP, John 19:26-27

f. DISTRESS, John 19:28

g. TRIUMPH, John 19:30

Answers on page 28.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 40 IN THE BIBLE

Match the Events with its scriptures:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ 8. THE GREAT FLOOD of the time of Noah's Ark was for 40 days & 40 nights. | h. Jonah 3:5 |
| ___ 9. Moses' life was divided into 3 sets of 40 years. | i. Acts 1:3 |
| ___ 10. Moses fasted on Mt. Sinai for 40 days. | j. Acts 7:23, 30, 43 |
| ___ 11. Elijah fasted on Mt. Horeb for 40 days. | k. Deuteronomy 9:9 & Exodus 34:28 |
| ___ 12. Jonah gave Ninevah 40 days to repent or be destroyed. | l. Genesis 8:6 |
| ___ 13. Jesus fasted in the Wilderness for 40 days, tempted by the Devil | m. 1 Kings 19:8 |
| ___ 14. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, there are 40 days, excluding Sundays | n. Matthew 4 & Luke 4 |
| ___ 15. There are 40 days from Easter to Ascension. | o. Lutheran Service Book, Lectionaries |

WORDS OF JOY FROM PHILIPPIANS

MATCH THE VERSES WITH THEIR SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| ____16. Paul said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." | p. PHILIPPIANS vs. 4:19 |
| ____17. "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father." | q. PHILIPPIANS vs. 4:4 |
| ____18. "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." | r. PHILIPPIANS vs. 1:21 |
| ____19. "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice!" | s. PHILIPPIANS vs. 4:6 |
| ____20. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." | t. PHILIPPIANS vs. 3:14 |
| ____21. "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." | u. PHILIPPIANS 2: 10,11 |
| ____22. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." | v. PHILIPPIANS 4:7 |

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZZES

Thanks to Karen Begalka
for the Bible questions and
answers.

1c; 2a; 3e; 4d; 5f; 6g; 7b
8 l; 9j; 10k; 11m; 12h; 13n; 14 o; 15i
16r; 17u; 18t; 19q; 20 s; 21v; 22p

SOME CLOSING UPDATES

On May 1, please be advised that the building will be open to authorized personnel only. This includes the groups who are currently renting our building, our staff, landscaping team, and the people helping with the closing tasks. Office hours will likely be changing. If you will no longer need your church key, please return it to the office. Thank you!

Closing Teams

The following people will be working on different aspects of our Closing.

Administration Team—ensure we follow the guidelines in the Will, to be approved by voters in April.

Current president	Don Kuhlmann
Current treasurer	Kathy Logan
Current trustees	Curtis Holcomb, Pete Maas
Team leaders	Marjie Boydston, Joel Jackman, Dielda Kuhlmann, Ruth Ann Shimoi

Property Team—work on selling the building and land.

Marjie Boydston, Curtis Holcomb, Kathy Logan, Dick Taylor

Legacy Team—find good homes for all other church items.

Marjie Boydston, Pat Eskam, Teresa Feltmann, Karen Jackman,
Gary Jordanger, Dielda Kuhlmann

Membership Services Team—plan the April 29th event & assist members to find a new church home.

Ellen Taylor, Kathy Logan, Ruth Ann Shimoi

Financial Management Team—monitor finances, help with legal documents.

Marjie Boydston, Joel Jackman, Kathy Logan, Dielda Kuhlmann

VOTERS' MEETING Sunday April 16

Our final voters' meeting will be held after the Sunday service. You may attend in person or via Zoom.



YOU ARE SELECTING THE APRIL HYMNS!!

On Palm & Easter Sundays, you will have the opportunity to write the title of your favorite hymn on the poster in the narthex (type it in chat if you are on Zoom).

James will tally the songs and play the MOST REQUESTED hymns during our last 3 Sundays.

There are a few guidelines to follow:

1. Hymn can be from ANY HYMNAL, not just our current LSB.
2. The season doesn't matter. Even Christmas songs can be nominated.
3. We are voting on 2 Sundays so you can write the same hymn both Sundays or 2 different songs.

During James' announcement about this, he gave us a hint on how you can rig the system. If you have an absolute must-sing favorite hymn, talk to your friends and have them vote for it too.

Fine print: Your favorite hymn may not win this popularity contest. Do not take it personally. There are a limited number of songs we can sing each Sunday. With your votes, we plan on singing Bethlehem's Top Ten Hymns this month.

Mary-Martha will be **serving breakfast** on EASTER SUNDAY before the service. Food will be ready at 9 AM. Ham is on the menu and also hard-boiled eggs. There's a sign up sheet if you can donate some muffins.

So come early to our Easter Celebration, and you will be fed.

MAY's MEMORIAL EDITION Reader Participation Required!

Our next church newsletter will focus on you and your memories of Bethlehem. Please send dielda@comcast.net stories and/or favorite photo from your time here. When did you become a member? Where and how will you spread your seeds of faith post-Bethlehem? Stories are due Tuesday, May 2.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

- **FOOD.** April is the last month we will be collecting food for the Food Bank. THANK YOU.



Team BLC will be walking in the 40th anniversary of the Renton **Crop Walk**. You can register to walk by talking to Tracy Brown or sign up online. The actual walk is Sunday April 30 at 1:15pm. Since that is the same date as our final service, we decided to walk on a different day, likely in May.

Tracy will collect your donations to this worthwhile cause beginning the Sunday after Easter. You have the option of donating online to Team BLC- We walk in memory of Ron.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/blc>

25% of the money donated remains in Renton helping organizations like Salvation Army Food Bank, St Vincent De Paul Food Program, and REACH.

MISSION GUEST SPEAKER

We welcome **Lutheran Community Services Northwest** to Bethlehem on our penultimate Sunday Service April 23. Expect to hear how they've been serving vulnerable populations since 1921 in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. LCSNW is a nonprofit Bethlehem has supported for 34 years. Our support offers those in need access to health, justice and hope. LCSNW serves a broad group of vulnerable people including isolated seniors, families in need, refugees and immigrants, and victims of crimes.



BRING IN WHITE FLOWERS for EASTER ALTAR

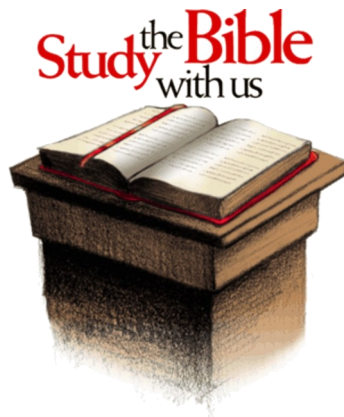
Saturday morning April 8 between 10 am & noon.
Or Easter morning before 9:30 am

You can bring in traditional Easter lilies or ANY WHITE flower. It can be cut flowers or potted. You could even bring in your dianthus plants which may not be blooming yet (with your name on the pot). Please take your flowers home with you after the Easter service.

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

BethlehemLutheranRenton.org

April 2023



Wednesday evening Bible classes continue through April 26. They are led by elder Brent Begalka. You may attend in person or via Zoom. Class starts at 7 PM.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



April 2 Palm Sunday Service 10 AM



April 6 Maundy Thursday Service 11 AM



April 7 Good Friday Service 11 AM



April 9 Easter Breakfast 9 AM
Easter Service 10 AM

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.

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 11