



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

17529 15th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

206.362.4334
BETHEL4ALL.ORG

Bethel Lutheran Church

December 2019



Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ to you all!

It is December first and it is also the first day of our Church New Year calendar. It means we are entering the season of Advent.

Advent summons us to the beginning where every time is a time of waiting, expecting for that which is eternal.

During Advent you'll find out a little bit information about Advent from our "Red Board" by the front office. The information will guide you toward things to watch for throughout this season.

Throughout Advent we'll be celebrating the 300 years of "Joy to the World" which includes the "Wreath Drama" where we learn a new style of worship. Today, please remember to take a tag home with you from the Giving Tree and to bring the gift to the church on or before December 8.

Next Saturday, we're celebrating Holly Berry where we can spend time during Advent, listening music and sharing meal together. Lastly, I'll be joining the Bell Choir and for more details please contact Marlys Pickrell.

Finally, our Christmas Eve worship service will be December 24th at 10:30 p.m. Please join us.

So, have a blessed Advent my Siblings in Christ.



Holly Berry Brunch

December 7, 2019 at 11:00 am

Join us for food, community, and entertainment!



Bethel News

Christmas Giving Tree

Every year Bethel partners with the Co-op Preschool that operates in the downstairs of our building to help a few families have an amazing Christmas.

The Christmas Giving Tree will be out November 24 and December 1. To participate pick up a tag and purchase a gift.

All gifts must be returned no later then December 8th.

If you have questions come by the office or connect with Carol Hovick.



Remember to return gifts unwrapped to the church by December 8! Gifts can be left in the office during the week or collected on Sunday morning before or after worship!

With your help we will provide Christmas gifts for four families this year!

Update from Tom & Mary Holman

November 15, 2019

We're thankful to God for answering your prayers for a successful checking session in Nigeria! I finished checking 1 Corinthians with the Waja team, and Tom and the Lala team are more than halfway through checking Matthew.

It has been a blessing to us to renew friendships and make some new ones during our visits in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. We look forward to visiting Bethel on March 15!

May God give you a joyous Advent and Christmas season.

Mary

Mary and Tom Holman



SAVE THE DATE

Tom and Mary Holman will be in Washington and they plan to visit Bethel on Sunday, March 15, to talk about their work!

Mailing Address: 7611 36th Ave. North #215, New Hope, MN 55427

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*Members of **Wycliffe Bible Translators, Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200** Website: www.wycliffe.org

Associate Members of **Lutheran Bible Translators, PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020, 1-800-532-4253**, Website: www.lbt.org

Wycliffe accepts tax-deductible contributions by mail or at <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/898518>. If by mail, please include a separate note indicating, "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Tom and Mary Holman, Account # 213988". Lutheran Bible Translators accepts tax-deductible contributions by mail or at <http://us.lbt.org/project/tom-mary-holman/>. If by mail, please include a separate note indicating, "Preference for the Ministry of Tom and Mary Holman".

The Spirit

December 2019

Recently I had a meeting at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. As I walked on campus I had to take a deep breath. You see, I had to prepare myself for how much different Luther Seminary is now then when I was a student almost thirty years ago. When I attended Luther, there were 800 students on campus. Lots of faculty. Almost everyone lived on campus. The cafeteria was stuffed full with people. On Wednesdays you had to arrive early for chapel or you wouldn't be able to find a seat.



This is not what Luther is like now.

And so I take a breath. And I miss what used to be.

I have the same experience when I drive past a soccer field and see kids playing. I have an urge to stop and watch the game. (I need to tell you, this is very strange for me to WANT to watch youth soccer.) Back when I had kids playing soccer I often complained that I was too hot or too cold or too wet or I had laundry to do or ... whatever ... and now when I drive by I think, "Oh, I just want to watch kids play soccer."

Obviously, it is not that I want to watch youth soccer. It is that I miss having younger kids at home.

And so I take a breath. And I miss what used to be.

So often we look backwards and hold something

up as "the best time" and wonder how to get back to that place. And this is understandable. As humans we need to acknowledge the grief that we are carrying. If we don't do this careful and important work, grief can fester and come out as anger or apathy or just become so deeply imbedded we are unable to live in the present or into the future.

We in the synod office have been wondering how to acknowledge this grief about "what once was" in order to move forward into the future. We're wondering if some sort of get-together or some holding space would be helpful to talk about this. One suggestion is to collectively read Bishop Michael Girlinghouse's book, *Embracing God's Future Without Forgetting the Past*. I have started reading it and find it a useful and lovely book. I would be interested in hearing if you would be interested in reading this book together and discussing it.

Going back to that visit to Luther Seminary, while I took a deep breath and prepared myself for things "not as they once were," when I arrived on campus and listened to students, after I talked with administration and professors, after worshipping together in chapel, I realized that God is acting and moving in the life of Luther. Through the new webtools at Faith+Life, through the correct sizing of their campus, through their new pathways towards MDivs, through their emphasis on student formation and, especially, through their listening, they are dancing with the Spirit in this new day.

Dear Beloveds of God, I encourage you to have deep, sometimes hard, conversations about who you have been and who you are called to be. I encourage you to tell the stories of your life and

Bishops Letter continued:

your congregation. Record them. Remember them. And I encourage you to dream into the next stories of your place. What is next?

For this is what we trust and hold: *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

In God's Peace and Joy,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Taproot Theatre

Sometimes It Takes An Angel

The trappings of Christmas are everywhere... and they have been since before Halloween this year. By the time December arrives, many of us are already worn out by the Christmas Season. We're weary and ready for a reminder of the actual meaning of the day.

Enter *The Bishop's Wife: A Live Radio Play*, Taproot Theatre's 2019 Christmas production.

There's nothing like a good story to remind us of what's important in life. Think of the biblical parables you love. God's heart as an old woman searching for a lost coin or a father waiting for the prodigal to return home. If you're anything like me, when you attend this year's Christmas play at Taproot I think you'll find a great deal of God's heart in this charming tale of his very fallible human children.



Reading the script this morning, I was struck by the fact that we are all living some form of *The Bishop's Wife* in our contemporary world. Pastor Henry is exhausted by the pace he must keep up with to build the new cathedral with the committee meetings, lunch appointments and the barrage of phone calls. Simply change the gender and profession and you may find your own life. Are the demands on Henry's life the demands on your wife who is a CPA, doctor, PTA president, stay-at-home mom? Or the demands on your husband who is the CEO, banker, teacher, stay-at-home dad? Are we all too rushed and exhausted to pay attention to the people that really matter at times? Sometimes it takes an Angel, like Dudley in the play, to open our eyes and see us through.

Continued...

Taproot article continued:

In real life, those angels are our friends who give us their time and their love. They are the ones who see a need and respond by carrying some of the weight of the day, just like the Angel Dudley does in the play. Sometimes it's even the "still small voice" of God.

In the play, Dudley restores a husband to his wife, a wealthy woman to her true self, a sense of purpose to a professor who has lost faith in himself. Finally he restores a pastor to his spiritual home just in time to share a beautiful story of the true meaning of Christmas and God's greatest gift.

The Bishop's Wife: A Live Radio Play tells it's story in the style of a 1940's radio show. The stellar cast and a fabulous set design will make you feel right at home as the listening audience surrounding the radio sound stage. Add beautiful original music along with traditional carols and I'm feeling confident your December will hold more of the joy and beauty of the season. I know it will for me.

Pam Nolte, Co-Founder

Drawing Near

A Blessing to Begin Advent

It is difficult to see it from here,
I know,
but trust me when I say
this blessing is inscribed
on the horizon.
Is written on
that far point
you can hardly see.
Is etched into
a landscape
whose contours you cannot know
from here.
All you know
is that it calls you,
draws you,
pulls you toward
what you have perceived
only in pieces,
in fragments that came to you
in dreaming
or in prayer.
I cannot account for how,
as you draw near,
the blessing embedded in the horizon
begins to blossom
upon the soles of your feet,
shimmers in your two hands.
It is one of the mysteries
of the road,

how the blessing
you have traveled toward,
waited for,
ached for
suddenly appears
as if it had been with you
all this time,
as if it simply
needed to know
how far you were willing
to walk
to find the lines
that were traced upon you
before the day
that you were born.
—Jan Richardson



Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays throughout Advent. Our worship series focuses on Joy during this time of waiting.

Those Who Serve - December 2019

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Altar Guild	Sue	Marlys & Lillian	Judy & Carol	Sue	Marlys & Lillian
Worship Asst.	Siobhan	Joe Himple			Chuck Vollbrecht
Communion					
Bread	Carol Hovick	Carol Hovick			
Wine	Judy Goulet	Dorothy Brown	Elia Smith		Dorothy Brown
Glasses					

If you are interested in helping serve there are sign up sheets on the Bethel bulletin board located in the gathering space. You can also inquire about other ways to get involved by emailing info@bethel4all.org or by calling our office at (206) 362-4334.

Remember in Prayer



December

- 3- Nancy Phillips
- 5- Diana Holeman
- 10- Kaye Lysen
- 20- Dorothy Brown
- 25- Richard Hinea

Those Coping with Health Problems

- Don Brown
- Walt Himple
- Michael Klingensmith
- Tom Logen
- Kelly Moll
- Joan Martinell
- Shirley Pishaw
- Karen Schoeld

- 11. Delores Linvog
- 12. Gwen Loeffler
- 13. Sue Logen
- 14. Cary Magill
- 15. Phyllis Moll
- 16. Linda Mears
- 17. Evie Nanninga
- 18. Lorna Neumann
- 19. Nancy Phillips
- 20. Marlys Pickrell
- 21. Shirley Pishaw
- 22. Dan Ritchie
- 23. Lynlee Ritchie
- 24. Olivia Robbins
- 25. Those who are alone or lonely this Christmas
- 26. This congregation
- 27. The Northwest Washington Synod
- 28. Our North city neighbors
- 29. Those experiencing homelessness
- 30. Those separated from loved ones
- 31. First Responders and others who work through holidays

Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

- Vera Anderson
- Dick Hinea
- Shirley Pishaw
- Dick Scansen
- Donna Sjoquist
- Lindy Bergen

Daily Prayer List

- 1. Richard Hinea
- 2. John Johns
- 3. Donna Johns
- 4. Pr. Yonsu Kim
- 5. Jung Kim
- 6. Kuwon Kim
- 7. Carol Hovick
- 8. Michael Klingensmith
- 9. Caryl Klingensmith
- 10. Theresa Linvog-Wood

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:30	2	3 Retired Pastors	4 11:00 am bible study	5 Lunch 12pm	6	7 Holly Berry Brunch
8 Worship 9:30 (giving tree gifts due)	9	10 Retired Pastor Luncheon	11 11:00 am bible study	12 Lunch 12pm Council Meeting 7pm	13	14
15 Worship 9:30 Bethel Breakfast	16	17	18 11:00 am bible study	19 Lunch 12pm	20	21
22 Worship 9:30	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 10:30 p.m.	25 Christmas (office closed)	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:30	30	31				

*Council Meetings are the second Thursday of the month and they are open meetings meaning anyone can attend. If you cannot attend you can always read the minutes on the Bethel bulletin board in the gathering space.

For other events and updates be sure to follow the Bethel Lutheran Church facebook page at [Facebook.com/BethelShoreline/](https://www.facebook.com/BethelShoreline/) or visit our website at Bethel4all.org



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Pastor

Diakonda Gurning

Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

9:00 AM to Noon

Worship Service

Sunday

9:30 AM

Bible Study

Wednesday 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Community Lunch

Thursday 12:00– 1:00 PM

Communion

Every Sunday

Congregation of the



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.