



# BETHEL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Shoreline, WA 98155

206.362.4334  
BETHEL4ALL.ORG

Bethel Lutheran Church

June 2020



Happy Pentecost!

As part of my theological education I had to attend several classes at Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota and throughout my study there I develop some friendships with the people in the area. There are so many differences between these friends but there is one similarity between them. They are all Lutherans!

Last Wednesday evening I was sitting at my dining table when I heard about the protest following the death of Mr. George Floyd in the hand of the Minnesota's police officer and the story brought back a memory when I participated in organizing a protest in Seattle following the death of Mr. John T. Williams in the hand of the Seattle police officer.

Right after the shooting of Mr. John T. Williams, my spouse and I received a phone call from pastor Paul Benz asking us if we would join the organizing effort to bring justice for the Williams' family. We said, yes and we started by attending the first meeting. From that meeting it was clear to me that all of the people sitting around the table were people of color.

In the beginning my spouse and I were the only Lutherans, then we expanded table and that was a moment when I got to hear a Christian prayer raised by a Native American Lutheran who was a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC) in Seattle. The organizing work eventually moved to the ILC, which was only three blocks away from the corner of Boren Ave. and Howell St.

At the end the Seattle Police Department was put under Consent Decree Sustainment Plan since 2011.

Now, I said earlier that there were only people of color sitting around the table. So, where were the White people? They marched with us on the streets of Seattle, signed our petitions, show up at the City Hall. Most importantly, they prayed with us.

In this time of Pandemic, our prayers are even more important. We can be there, standing with the people of color in the Minneapolis, marching, and protesting the injustice. We do all these things in our prayers. In this season of Pentecost we receive God's gift of Spirit to listen to the different languages, cultures, economic status, and treatments by the powerful.

Friday morning, I received a Facebook live report from pastor Rasmussen. She is the pastor of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis that is in the heart of the chaotic protest. In the video she walked around the church's neighborhood and I can see the burning marks and the police officers on guard. I think the destruction of the properties around the church will be temporary but the re-building of neighborly love should never end.

My siblings, when we listen to the Spirit In Christ, we'll say "no more" to the power of domination. We are called to be the peacemakers and making peace is what we'll do.

Peace be with you.

# Bethel News

While we hope we will soon be able to gather together and worship at Bethel with one another, we are still unsure of when we will be able to do so. In the meantime we will continue with our remote worship services which can be found on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/BethelShoreline/>

**Morning Common Prayer Tuesday–Friday at 10:00 am**

**Afternoon Common Prayer Tuesday–Thursday at 3:00 pm**

**Sunday Worship service–Sundays at 9:30 am**

## Council Ballots Sent Out

In May we typically have a congregational meeting where we vote on next year's council. Unfortunately, due to the Pandemic we were unable to meet in person in May. During the May council meeting it was decided we would send out ballots in the mail and ask members to vote and return their ballots by June 12.



Ballots were mailed at the end of May. If you are a member and you haven't received your ballot please call the office and Siobhan will check to make sure she has the correct information and send you a ballot right away.

We will plan to have our next congregational meeting, hopefully in person, in the fall when we will discuss some changes to Bethel's constitution.

## COVID-19 Relief

If you, or someone you know, is in need of assistance because of hardships caused by the Pandemic, we encourage you to reach out to the office or Pastor Diakonda directly. The council has discussed setting up some emergency relief funds for those who need it. Bethel also works with a variety of organizations throughout the year and we are happy to share other community resources that may be able to help!

If you would like to donate you can ask that funds be designated to emergency relief.

# Bethel in Quarantine

## Bethel in Quarantine!

What have you been up to during these last several weeks of Quarantine? I'd love for us to share about our different experiences while staying home. Did you accomplish a project? Try something new? Where have you seen God working? What has given you hope?

Feel free to send in pictures, stories, prayers, etc. by calling or emailing the office and they will be featured in next months Beam.

-Siobhan

Nancy Phillips is displaying "Signs of Support" created by neighbors and piano students in her window. Nancy's window was also featured in Shoreline area news. Check out these words of encouragement:



Lynlee and her granddaughter, Izzy have been painting encouragement rocks which can be left in neighbors yards and parks to offer words of encouragement and hope during this challenging time.

# Update from Tom & Mary Holman

May 21, 2020

This morning I called the Waja team in Nigeria to talk about a way for us to work together at this time. Rev. Habila told me that they had been checking the book of Ephesians today, and while they were working, the chargers for both of the computers they were using burned out. It was probably because of a fault with their generator. It's going



to take some major effort to rectify this situation, and it's discouraging for all of us. Pray that we would remember that God works all things together for good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28). And pray that God would provide all we need for this work to move forward!

Please continue to pray that God would protect all our translation colleagues in Nigeria and Ghana from the COVID-19 virus. And pray for peace for me and Tom as we continue to work and "shelter in place".

Thank you for your prayers! We're praying for you, too.

Blessings in Christ,

*Mary*

Mary and Tom Holman

**Contact us:**

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

**Phones:** Mary: 763-218-0506; Tom: 651-726-4581

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\*Members of **Wycliffe Bible Translators, Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862, 1-800-Wycliffe. Visit our Wycliffe Page: [Wycliffe.org/partner/Holmans](http://Wycliffe.org/partner/Holmans)**

Associate Members of **Lutheran Bible Translators, PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020, 1-800-532-4253. Visit our LBT Page: <http://us.lbt.org/project/tom-mary-holman>**

To give by check, please include a separate note stating: "Preference for the Wycliffe/LBT ministry of Tom and Mary Holman"

# The Spirit

May 2020

## The Bishop's Article from the May 2020 edition of *The Spirit*

Dear Beloveds of  
Northwest  
Washington Synod,

By the rivers of  
Babylon – there we  
sat down and there  
we wept when we



remembered Zion. Psalm 137 When the people were exiled in Babylon, they grieved for what they once had. The practices and comfort of what they'd known through worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem were not available to them in that foreign land. In that time of exile, they were challenged by prophets and re-formed as God's people. When they returned to Jerusalem, the temple they longed to gather in did not exist anymore. Their homes were gone. Much had to be rebuilt.

This scripture speaks of our time right now. Truthfully, we are not going to go back to what we had before. And I am grieving this as I am sure you are. The verse from Psalm 137 speaks so clearly to me as we all weep for what was. The longing to be with all of you continues and I hope for the day when we can gather bodily again.

But let me also say this: While we long for what was, we also are living now. We are in worship now. We are in community now. Yes, it feels different. Yes, it is not the same. But rostered ministers are preaching God's word, people are gathering together, the gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed and prayers, singing, community and fellowship have never stopped.

As a faithful people, we trust that God is with us, even in this time that we are physically separated and we are still Holy Community – joined together by Jesus. As your rostered minister and your leadership teams begin to make plans for re-opening church buildings, please keep in mind safety, vulnerable populations, and guidelines issued. I highly recommend listening to this online presentation hosted by the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod in which Dr. Michael Osterholm, a Lutheran, an epidemiologist and the Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, presented and answered questions about COVID-19. You can find the video here.

I also strongly urge congregations and ministry sites to follow the guidelines of the CDC, the state, and each local municipality as well as recommendation from the ELCA the synod. (You can find links here: [www.lutheransnw.org/covid-19](http://www.lutheransnw.org/covid-19).) When we all follow these guidelines, we all benefit. Remember to be in conversation with your insurance provider about their recommendations for the use of your facility. Many insurance carriers are refusing to cover churches if they are going against state or local recommendations. *Please know that the Northwest Washington Synod highly recommends following CDC, Washington state, and local guidelines as well as the guidelines set out by this synod and the ELCA.*

I close this letter with another Psalm. While we hear the despair in Psalm 137 above, we also hear the hope in Psalm 121: *I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?*

*Continued...*

## Bishops Letter continued:

*My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

Dear people of God, remember that we are people of faith, trusting in God's grace and providence, informed by science, who desire to respect, protect, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

Take care. Be safe. Trust in God. Be community for one another.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

## News from the ELCA

### ELCA presiding bishop calls on church to observe national day of mourning

05/29/2020

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has called on the church to join with faith communities across the United States in lament and remembrance, and on our elected leaders to observe Monday, June 1, as a day of mourning to honor the more than 100,000 people who have died from COVID-19.

### ELCA reaffirms commitment to combat racism and white supremacy

5/29/2020

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reaffirms its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy following the recent murders of Black Americans. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, and George Floyd were our neighbors. Ahmaud Arbery was chased down, shot, and killed by a retired police officer and his son while jogging in Brunswick, Ga. (Feb. 23, 2020). Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020). Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis died after being shot at least eight times by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer (May 6, 2020). George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis while begging for his life, a block away from Calvary Lutheran, an ELCA congregation (May 25, 2020). As the Conference of Bishops, we condemn the white supremacy that has led to the deaths of so many unarmed Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color in our country. We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy.

To read more updates from the ELCA and Bishop Eaton visit <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events>

# Remember in Prayer



## June

20—Elia Smith

24—Paul Grigsby

26—Carolyn Starrett

### Those Coping with Health Problems

Don Brown

Walt Himple

Michael Klingensmith

Tom Logen

Kelly Moll

Joan Martinell

Shirley Pishaw

Karen Schoeld

### Daily Prayer List

1. Scott DeLap

2. Starla DeLap

3. Craig Fjarlie

4. Lila Geiszler

5. Judy Goulet

6. Norma Grigsby

7. Darlene Hilling

8. Roger Hilling

9. Mary Himple

10. Walt Himple

11. Joe Himple

12. Carol Hovick

13. Michael Klingensmith

14. Caryl Klingensmith

15. Theresa Linvog-Wood

16. Gwen Loeffler

17. Sue Logen

18. Cary Magill

19. Phyllis Moll

20. Linda Mears

21. Co-op preschool

22. Lutheran Counseling Network

23. Aaron's Place

24. The Northwest Washington Synod

25. All those who are unemployed

26. Health care providers

27. Scientist and researchers committed to developing cures and vaccines

28. Community organizers and advocates

29. Emergency responders

30. King county and its leaders

### Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Vera Anderson

Lila Geisler

Shirley Pishaw

Donna Sjoquist



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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

### Community Lunch

Thursday 12:00– 1:00 PM

### Communion

Every Sunday

Congregation of the



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.