



# BETHEL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

17529 15th Ave NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155

206.362.4334  
BETHEL4ALL.ORG

Bethel Lutheran Church

July 2020



Dear Blessed Ones,

2020 has been a remarkably challenging year and we are barely passing halfway through. We have a pandemic that has been poorly managed, that the United States has a really high infection and death rates. We are now in a recession, and our Black sisters and brothers are being killed by the police and others extra-judicially. We are no longer admitting refugees. In fact, we now deport refugees back to the country they fled from because of credible fear for their lives.

Recently, I had an opportunity to visit the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ) or Capitol Hill Occupied Protest (CHOP), a two blocks area of the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Seattle. What I learned from my interactions with people at CHAZ is that we are not that great, we're a mess because we are *still* dwelling in fear of each other based on political

views, racial differences – to name a few – while at the same time everyone shares food, clothing, stories, and dreams.

There were foods, lots of them and no one hoards, lots of arts and no one critiques, lots of conversations and no one dominates, and yet I felt something is missing. There was no vision on how the protest would end and although there was vision that the community will someday changed into something new, my question remains the same, what's new? A community led not by fear but by trust and respect of each other? Hopefully, because too often after a protest stops we continue on our very way as our siblings are trampled under the greater good of a healthy economy.

This week someone called the church and asked to speak to the minister and after I talked to her for a while she said, "all of these are too much." She's right, and yet God is mindful of little old us, and not just God's chosen people, either. Every day God renews us and we remember that we are part of the whole world God so loved and we are called to believe in it.

My Siblings, I commend to you your sisters and brothers in Christ so that you may remember each other in this trying time, and help each other in whatever they may require from you. Call each other, write to each other, and greet one another in compassion. All the churches of Christ greet you.

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**

## **Next Year's Council**

At the end of May, ballots were mailed to Bethel members to vote on next years council! We're pleased to announce ballots have been returned and counted and we will be trusting the same council members to continue their ministry for another year.

### **Bethel's 2020–2021 Council:**

President: Lynlee Ritchie

Vice President: Carol Hovick

Treasurer: Marlys Pickrell

At Large: Judy Goulet

At Large: Phyllis Moll

At Large: David Salmon

At Large: Elia Smith

## **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

## Northwest Washington Synod LDR Grants

In late April 2020 the synod was able to request a block grant from Lutheran Disaster Response to distribute to ministries on our territory for the purchase of personal protective equipment and costs associated with changes in how we interact with people as we provide services.

Bethel has been given a \$500 grant to build a food pantry in front of our building to help provide shelf stable food to those in need in our community. We are not accepting food donations at this time but once the pantry is up and running we'd love your help and support!



Bethel is hoping to be one of several places in the community where people can receive face masks and hand sanitizer as we continue to battle the pandemic in our community and around the country. This picture of our presiding bishop, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton is pictured with Martin Luther with the caption "Be like Martin Luther - wear a mask."

More information on when/where PPE is being distributed to come!

## Siobhan's Letter the community regarding re-opening

June 12, 2020

Dear Bethel Community,

After a long council meeting last night where we discussed State and County requirements for re-opening and also our own ability to keep the building clean and safe we have decided that Bethel Lutheran Church will not open until King County has reached phase 3. Prior to phase 3, gatherings of more than 5 people outside of the household are not permitted. We recognize that Bethel is not only a Lutheran church, but also a community space. On a typical Sunday we have three services held by three separate congregations. We also host a pre-school, a day center for adults with special needs, and recovery meetings throughout the week. Because so many groups use the building it would be nearly impossible for us to ensure that groups are appropriately social distancing. We also lack the janitorial resources needed to sanitize spaces between each group at this time. When we reach Phase 3 gatherings of up to 50 people will be permitted as long as social distancing is maintained and everyone wears a properly fitting face mask or covering indoors. Like many of you, we wish we could gather together again, it has been an awfully long time since we've had the pleasure of an in person Sunday morning worship service, but in order to keep one another and our community safe, we cannot open the church building at this time.

If you haven't already heard this from me: please feel free to contact the office regarding monthly rent payments. If your group keeps items stored at Bethel and is able to help contribute we certainly appreciate it. While the building is not in use, it is still secure, our parking lot is lit at night, and fire monitoring and building maintenance costs continue. We also understand that this has been a hard time for so many people especially economically so if your group needs to cancel rent payments we understand.

If you have any questions or suggestions about how we might prepare the building to re-open please don't hesitate to email ([info@bethel4all.org](mailto:info@bethel4all.org)) or call the office ((206) 362-4334). We are navigating this as best we can and we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

I'm also happy to announce that we are working on creating a little free pantry. You might be aware we have a little free library in front of our building. To try and serve the community further, we are working on putting together a free pantry of shelf stable food for folx to pick up as needed. When that pantry is up and running an announcement will be made on our facebook page and website. Thank you for your cooperation and support. We so appreciate it!

Sincerely,  
Siobhan Flanagan  
Director of Community Engagement  
[siobhan@bethel4all.org](mailto:siobhan@bethel4all.org)

# Update from Tom & Mary Holman

June 18, 2020

Thank you for your prayers for the Waja and Lala teams in Nigeria and the Anufo team in Ghana. They are all well, and there has been no COVID-19 in their areas. Tom and I and Tom's mom are all well, too. More businesses and recreation areas are opening in Minnesota, so Tom and I spent a day canoeing to celebrate our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We have some sore muscles!



An order has been placed for the Waja team's computer power cords that were fried by a faulty generator, but because of travel restrictions, it may be some time before they get them. Pray for a good short-term solution, and that they would be able to get a new generator and voltage regulator also. In the meantime, I'm doing final checking on books that have been completed, so that they will be ready for printing and audio recording.

Tom has been going through the Anufo translation of 2 Samuel in preparation for the consultant to check it.

Peace 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

**E-mail addresses:** [Tom\\_Holman@wycliffe.org](mailto:Tom_Holman@wycliffe.org) [Mary\\_Holman@wycliffe.org](mailto:Mary_Holman@wycliffe.org)

\*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

July 2020

## Dear Beloveds of the Northwest Washington Synod,

Growing up close to an Indian reservation, I saw families living without electricity or plumbing. In the last year I have seen children crying, alone, without parents, because they were forcibly separated at the border. In March and April and May I saw families lined up to receive food at pantries because they had no other choice due to lack of work during the COVID crisis. In the last few weeks I have watched the video of George Floyd being murdered too many times. This last weekend I watched people carefully keep their masks on their faces while they lifted their fists to the sky marching for justice. And I have seen violence where there should have been unity. I am sad and tired and heavy hearted. I am reminded of Jesus' words in the gospel of Matthew, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

Dear Beloveds, in the Northwest Washington Synod we tell ourselves that we are open to all people, love all people, care for all people, and are church for everyone. But Beloveds, as a community, we have failed. We have been complicit in our silence. We have been cowardly instead of courageous. We have lived in our privilege without acknowledging the systemic racism that we swim in every day of our life. Today we are called to confess that we have fallen far short of God's call to love and



care for those whose lives are sacred in this world, whose brown and black bodies were made in the image of God, whose very lives are in danger because those of us with privilege and power ignore or decide that "they" are too much trouble for "us."

This is our confession.

But let us not move too quickly to absolution. While I am all for forgiveness, sometimes I think forgiveness becomes a way to pretend that the injury never happened. So, let us sit in this time for a while – even if it makes us uncomfortable. Even as we lament. You see, we cannot jump from an easy "I'm sorry" to a halfhearted "we're now all back together again." If we do this, we are offering forgiveness without discipleship, grace without the cross.

The COVID-19 pandemic has ripped open the wounds that we have had in this country since before its inception. Black and brown bodies – slaves and immigrants and native peoples – have all been abused by those in power. And, we must confess, for most of this history, those in power have been white.

There is no place in this world for anyone to brutally murder another without care and without consequence. There is no place in this world where bystanders cannot intervene because they are afraid they might receive the same treatment as the one being hurt or murdered before them. Many of us as children learned the story of the Good Samaritan. How many times are we going to walk on the other side of the road?

My Beloveds in Christ, we are called to work towards God's true peace and justice in our

# Bishops Letter continued:

ministry sites, our church, and our society by first, confessing our own sin, and then mindfully acting against racism and violence of all kinds. I encourage you to confess and to act. Here are some ideas as we walk forward, towards reconciliation:

- Take the Intercultural Development Inventory to understand and build cultural competence. <https://idiinventory.com/>
- • Participate in anti-racism training.
- • Assist the members of your congregation or ministry site in accessing resources about racism, white privilege, and ensuring God's vision of justice for all.
- Encourage people to vote, and vote yourself, keeping in mind Jesus' commandment of loving God and loving people.
- Accompany and empower those who are already thought leaders in your community.
- Financially support organizations that are working in the field of anti-racism.
- Financially support businesses owned by people of color.
- Wear a mask to protect people of all races, especially protecting those most vulnerable.
- Work towards economic justice for all.

Discover other ways that lead to God's kingdom of real peace and justice. As we continue to be patient in entering church buildings, let us be church in the world. May we live into the words of 1 John 3:18, "*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.*" And may we pray for true reconciliation and God's wholeness and peace.

In the Hope and Love of Christ,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

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## ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

In 2019, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a resolution designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices. We invite you to read the pledge and commit to one or more of the actions listed. The Pledge can be found here: <https://www.elca.org/racialjusticepledge>

# Remember in Prayer



## July

- 2—Karen Bauer
- 4—Roger Hilling
- 8—Kristi Schwerdtfeger
- 12—Jeremy DeLap
- 14—David Salmon
- 16—Ruth Vollbrecht
- 25—Darlene Hilling
- 28—Kari Pickrell
- 29—Jayne Rudnick

### Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

- Vera Anderson
- Lila Geisler
- Shirley Pishaw
- Donna Sjoquist

### Those Coping with Health Problems

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

### Daily Prayer List

1. Lorna Neumann
2. Nancy Phillips
3. Marlys Pickrell
4. Shirley Pishaw
5. Lynlee Ritchie
6. Dan Ritchie
7. Olivia Robbins
8. Lillian Routledge
9. Rick Rudnick
10. Beth Rudnick
11. Jayne Rudnick
12. Carla Salmon

13. David Salmon
14. Richard Schwerdtfeger
15. Kristi Schwerdtfeger
16. Anna Sjong
17. Donna Sjoquist
18. Elia Smith
19. Carolyn Starrett
20. Liz Terrey
21. Co-op preschool
22. Lutheran Counseling Network
23. Aaron's Place
24. Our church council
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
31. Congregations who share space at Bethel





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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.