



# BETHEL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

17529 15th Ave NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155

206.362.4334  
BETHEL4ALL.ORG

## Bethel Lutheran Church

## October 2020



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator!

Do you notice the so many things going on lately? So many, that I can't even pick where to begin. The pandemic reaches more than 205,000 lives of our siblings in the United States and the contraction number is creeping back up, so far the fire in California has burned more than 6,000 square miles – that almost the entire islands of Hawaii! Then in our neck of the wood three people were shot in Edmonds the same day our nation held the first presidential debate! So many troubling things happening around us and I just can't pick any of those to begin my message to you.

What also happened was our first in-person gathering to bless the Holy Food Pantry on Tuesday, September 29. We gathered outside with our masks, physically distanced, and individually traced. I saw your heart for Jesus, for our neighbors.

You were there when our neighbors are threatened by hunger. I saw Chris, Gwen, Marlys, Judy, Carol, Liz, Nancy and many others came to share their abundance to the pantry, some even long before we bless the pantry. You were there when we shared food at our Thursday luncheons, and now you are out there with the Holy Food Pantry.

I hear your voice when Nancy spoke about her experience needing extra food as she raised her four daughters and how our Holy Food Pantry would help our neighbors not only in fighting their hunger but also in keeping their dignity up, taking away shame from them.

That evening Carol read the sixth chapter of the gospel of Matthew where the disciples came to Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." My siblings, I know you are listening to Jesus.

So, in the midst of all these chaotic things happening around us let us keep looking, listening, and speaking for Jesus through the people who are even more marginalized in this time. After I read some reports about the presidential debate, I urge you to look, listen and speak for Jesus in the platforms of both candidates. I urge you to pray so that your heart will be filled with hope that would turn into compassion.

You are God's beloveds. You are enough, and you are God's answers for the sake of the world. Vote my siblings, vote for compassion.

Blessings to 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**

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## **Congregational Meeting coming up in November!**

November is typically when we would have a congregational meeting to discuss items like the constitution and the church budget. However, this is not a typical time!

In order to have our meeting we may have to utilize more technology and remote communication than in previous years. While we're still several weeks out from our meeting, know that we will be putting as much information as possible on our website; [bethellutehranchruch.org](http://bethellutehranchruch.org) under a tab titled "Congregation Meeting"

There you will be able to find a copy of Bethel's constitution as well as other documents for the meeting as they become available. We will also give more details about when and how the meeting will be held.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the meeting please get in touch with the office or a council member: Lynlee Ritchie—President, Carol Hovick—Vice President, Marlys Pickrell—Treasurer, Judy Goulet—At Large, Elia Smith—At Large, Phyllis Moll—At Large, & David Salmon—At Large

# Bethel News Continued

## Stationery Donations

Thanks to everyone who was able to donate blank stationery to Nancy Phillips! She said she appreciates it very much.

If you have stationery you'd like to donate to be used to send notes to the Bethel community you can always bring donations by the church office or contact Nancy directly!



## The Blessing of the Holy Food Pantry

Our service blessing our new Holy Food Pantry took place Tuesday evening September 29 in Bethel's front parking lot. Attendees were spread out across several parking spaces and were able to enjoy a short service led by Pastor Diakonda. Both Scott Lozano who helped build the pantry and Nancy Phillips who will be acting as the Holy Food Pantry's angel by checking on the pantry and reporting on its greatest needs spoke at the service.

The food pantry is for the Bethel community and our North City neighbors so everyone is invited to put food in the pantry and also take food when needed! You can also drop food off in the office!



# Update from Tom & Mary Holman

September 15, 2020

We have some good news from Nigeria! The Waja team has received a new generator through their partner organization there. Also, a church with Waja members is going to buy them a voltage regulator. I haven't done any consultant checking with them since April, so pray that we could resume checking soon. And pray for Tom who has resumed checking Matthew with the Lala team by phone



Last week we learned that the oldest son of Stephen Moniga has died from cirrhosis of the liver, probably caused by Hepatitis B. Stephen is the Anufo translator in Ghana who suffered a stroke earlier this year. Please pray for God's comfort and peace for him and his family. This is the second son that has died this way.

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"



Dear Beloveds of Christ,

There are stories in this world that we will never know. Stories that beg to be told and yet they will never be heard because they have been forgotten, covered up, never told or intentionally destroyed.



A few weeks ago, I was floating down the Wenatchee River on an inner tube. It was a beautiful day – perfect weather – no sign of humanity anywhere. Rounding a bend, I suddenly saw a strange site: An old skinny white man wearing only a loin cloth flying a rainbow-colored kite. This man camping/living in an old RV on the banks of the Wenatchee, basically naked, long full beard and hair, arms outstretched towards the heavens and flying a beautiful multi-colored kite. What story does he have to share?

A few Sundays ago, the New York Times ran a photo essay about hunger in America. The author writes, “In the pandemic economy, nearly one in eight households doesn’t have enough to eat. The lockdown, with its epic lines at food banks, has revealed what was hidden in plain sight: that the struggle to make food last long enough, and to get food that’s healthful – what experts call ‘food insecurity’ – is a persistent one for millions of Americans ... Like many hardships, this burden falls disproportionately on Black and Hispanic families, who are almost twice as likely to experience food insecurity as white families.” ([www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/02/magazine/food-insecurityhunger-us.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/02/magazine/food-insecurityhunger-us.html)) Through the photo gallery in this New York Times photo essay, we

catch glimpses of the lives of Kandice, Brayden, Doris, Armani and many others. What other stories are held in this story?

As I write this article, large swaths of California, Oregon and Washington are on fire. Houses burned to the ground. People missing. People killed. Treasured items gone. Lives disrupted and forever changed. What stories are lost in the raging fires?

When you read this article, there is a very good chance that over 200,000 people in the United States will have died from COVID-19. Over 6 million will have been infected. Common sense measures to mitigate the spread of COVID have been politicized. Suicide, depression, hunger, loneliness, domestic violence, joblessness, and other hardships have increased in these last six months. What story is no longer possible?

Today I am more and more aware of the stories that have disappeared, been forgotten, or pushed underground. And I am ever mindful that as people who follow Jesus, we have the responsibility, the obligation – maybe it is a calling – to listen to the stories in the gaps of other stories. And to understand that the biggest voice might not be the place where the story is happening.

In Matthew 18, Jesus says, ‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.’ A few verses later Jesus says, “It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.”

You see, we are the people of the book – we are the people who claim the Holy Story. We are the people who believe that the story of God and humanity did not end with the cross but continues in, with and under all of us today.

Continued...

# News from our Synod

The Holy Spirit is alive and active among us. And the Holy Spirit is calling us through the stories we remember, the stories we share, the stories we hear, and the stories we notice.

Let us listen to one another's story. Let us be mindful of the stories that exist on the margins. Let those of us who have had big voices quiet ourselves to hear other stories. And let us be mindful that listening to stories is not the end. For those of us who are white, let us take to heart these words from Austin Channing Brown, "In too many churches and organizations, listening to the hurt and pain of people of color is the end of the road, rather than the

beginning." (from I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness)

I would love to hear your story. How are you doing? Where is God working in your life and in the life of the Church? Where do you see God? What stories need to be told? What pain needs to be shared? What stories do you want to hear?

May the One - whose story we live in - provide care, comfort, love, and justice for you and for this world. Let us live, move, and be in God's Holy Story.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

## EXAMINING WHITENESS IN THE ELCA

Thursdays in October (1, 8, 15, 22, 29) 9:30-11am (come to one or all five)

A new series brought you to by the Office of Congregational Relations at California Lutheran University. This is a brave space to uncover our whiteness and process racism in ourselves. We will do the personal work, in community, necessary to show up as more effective co-conspirators and change agents for racial justice in our church.

Anti-Racist work for:

ELCA Regions 1 & 2

White people

Those who benefit from White privilege

those who want to explore whiteness with others

RSVP to [Leblanc@CalLutheran.edu](mailto:Leblanc@CalLutheran.edu) for pre-registration and zoom link.

Check out this website for more details.

For other synod events and opportunities visit: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update>

# Remember in Prayer



## October

12—Elizabeth Pickrell

16—Rick Rudnick

23—Judy Goulet

### 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. Dan Ritchie

6. Lynlee Ritchie

7. Oliva 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. Liz Terrey

20. Chris Tracy

21. Jayne Tracy

22. Chuck Vollbrecht

23. Ruth Vollbrecht

24. The city of Shoreline

25. Our ministry partners

26. Recovery groups

27. Those affected by wildfires

28. Nurses, Doctors, and all healthcare workers

29. Essential Workers

30. All those affected by the on going pandemic.

31. Advocates for justice

### Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Vera Anderson

Lila Geisler

Shirley Pishaw

Donna Sjoquist



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**Worship Service (Online)**

Sunday

9:30 AM

**Community Lunch (currently postponed)**

Thursday 12:00– 1:00 PM

**Pastor**

Diakonda Gurning

**Office Hours**

Tuesday-Thursday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

9:00 AM to Noon

Congregation of the



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.