



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

17529 15th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

206.362.4334
BETHEL4ALL.ORG

Bethel Lutheran Church

November 2020



Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I remember the first time I hold an infant in my arms. It was a powerful moment, holding a new child remind me that the safety and well-being of another human depends completely upon you.

About 2000 years ago, fear of persecution and death, coupled with parental instincts to protect, drove the holy family to escape to Egypt. We know this story, and today, a similar fears and instincts especially within the community of colors drive tens of millions of people across our nation to vote.

We know that the so-called king Herod ended up killing all of the other children in Bethlehem, and remembering that story as I held an infant in my arms strengthened me, making me a protector of that precious life and at the time I forgot that the infant will be one day turn into a person who may have different view of life than me.

Do you know anyone who has different views on anything from you? I have been watching closely the widening of partisanship in our country and it is bringing anxieties, concerns, even fear to so many people and at times makes me wonder where is God in this deep partisanship, deep divide in our communities.

My siblings, even amid such danger and despair, God is there. God accompanied the holy family as they journey to Egypt and to the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to destroy death through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In so doing, God has also promised to accompany us, and all people, on our journeys wherever they may lead.

In this election time we are called to be peacemakers, standing firm on compassion. In this election time we are called to remember God even more in our words and deeds to our families, friends, neighbors and enemies.

Jesus says, "but you are not to be called rabbi" because we are God's disciples, working together in God's ministry and central to this ministry of sharing in both Word and deed, the good news found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All of you are part of the priesthood of believers, you are God's peace for the people around you.

Let us share this peace!

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

Congregational Meeting coming up!

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 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

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.

Update from Tom & Mary Holman

October 22, 2020

Thank you for your prayers! I've been able to resume checking with the Waja team, but now we are hampered by a poor network connection. We've only been able to work by phone, so I can't even see what they're doing. **Pray** for the network in their rural area to be restored. **Pray** also that the team might be able to go to a nearby city to work for a few weeks. The internet is good there.



Tom completed the checking of Matthew with the Lala team. **Pray** that it can be printed and distributed soon.

Please also pray for peace in Nigeria.

We're so grateful for your faithful prayers and your gift in July. We're praying for you, too.

With love 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 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 Ones,

In this month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, I give thanks for you. May God's Spirit continue to lead and guide us in these times.



This last week my mom called to tell me that they would not be hosting a big family celebration for Thanksgiving this year because of COVID-19. I already knew that we wouldn't be able to have the raucous, crowded party that we have had in the past (and will have in the future), but it still is hard when the decision is voiced. Unfortunately, we are still in COVID-19 times. And because of this, I want to emphasize a few things for all of you.

In the last few weeks, I have been asked when the synod would have new, updated guidelines. As the guidelines were a few months old, I thought I should review and give new guidelines for where we are now. However, as I started working on updated guidelines, I realized pretty quickly that old guidelines are today's guidelines ... because we are still in COVID -19 times. Therefore, the updated recommendations sound remarkably like the old recommendations.

The NWWA Synod continues to encourage care and thoughtful preparation for your community. A carefilled response is much more than unlocking the church doors and inviting all to come. Please keep in mind the Washington State guidelines and CDC guidelines and the population of your congregation. While we are all in different phases, depending on your county, here are some guidelines that we all should keep in mind.

1. Please continue to avoid large gatherings, maintain physical distance when with others, use face coverings, and regularly wash hands and surfaces.
2. To maintain ultimate safety, the NWWA Synod continues to recommend that congregations and ministry sites continue to utilize corporate worship on an online or digital platform until February 2021 – and further into 2021 depending on the availability of vaccines or other positive markers.
3. If there is an in-person worship experience, please consider meeting outside while masked and physical distanced and following the protocols for a corporate gathering. While this is not completely safe, this is the next safest option to meeting online.
4. If there is an in-person worship experience indoors, please understand that there is high-risk involved, and care must be taken for the safety of all. Please consider this carefully and thoroughly before implementing. Please see the synod website for further guidance.
5. If you are going to meet in-person, small gatherings are the safest option. Below are some ideas that are meant to meet spiritual, emotional, and physical needs as we continue to navigate this pandemic. (These ideas are meant to be a supplement to online worship and are only to be implemented after careful reflection and planning).
 - Small group Bible studies
 - One-on-one pastoral care conversations
 - Bringing a meal or a card to a homebound person
 - Participating in a food drive

Continued on next page...

News from our Synod

- Having a “bring your own food” potluck gathering in a backyard.
- Sitting around a bonfire listening to a guitar
- Book Study
- I’m sure you all have many others.

If you have ideas in your congregation or ministry site on how to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people during this time, please share with others so we may safely and meaningfully meet with one another during this time. We would be happy to post these ideas on our website.

As we enter into winter, it is easy to let our guards down. We long to be together. We miss

each other. And we are tired. I get it. I’m with you. I want nothing more than to be able to be with you in-person. But as we love God and neighbor, let us continue to be church in the world. Let us thoughtfully and prayerfully prepare. And let us continue to be Holy Community. And remember, dear Beloveds, we are still gathered and we are still sent – to live into the love of Jesus with all we meet.

Grace & Peace,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Upcoming Synod Events:

IN MEMORIAM (We Remember): All Saints Concert by National Lutheran Choir

Sunday, November 1 at 2pm online

We come to All Saints Day in 2020 saddened by the losses of an extremely difficult year and challenged to remember, persevere, and hope. With the breath of so many silenced by illness and injustice, NLC commissioned composer Paul Rudoj to compose a new setting of "Breathe on Me, Oh Breath of God." Remember those you have loved and lost and be comforted by the song of NLC in this world premiere FREE program here: <https://fb.me/e/2RSu2r8nx>

WALKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

November 3, 4pm-7pm at Green Lake in Seattle

Join others for a prayerful walk around Green Lake. Learn more about this event, hosted by our mission start Emaus Table at 7400 Woodlawn on the synod website <https://www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update>

FAITH ACTION NETWORK ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday, November 15 online

Join us for our first virtual Annual Dinner. While the food served will be in your own homes, our program will be energizing and interactive. We have lived through a year that required so much of our individual strength and collective creativity. We want to take this time to celebrate with you the ways our vision of a just world keeps us going and helps sustain our courage to Rise Up Together in 2021. Your partnership (and financial support!) helps us keep advocating for inclusion, racial equity, and justice. The Annual Dinner is free to all this year! Please RSVP by Friday, November 13 to let us know you will be there and to get the link to participate in the program: bit.ly/FANDinner2020.

For more info and events visit: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update>

From Taproot Theatre's Church Newsletter

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE THEATRE?

In March, Taproot halted all live performances, As the pandemic continued we suspended the remaining shows from the 2020 season awaiting the ability to reopen when the county reaches Phase 4 of the reopening plan issued by the State. Our 2020 Season remains suspended until we are allowed to reopen.

Once we are able to safely and legally resume performances we are still planning (and excited!) to share *Babette's Feast, See How They Run* and *The Spitfire Grill* with you. Anyone who currently has tickets to one of these performances will receive new performance dates once we have a new performance schedule. In the meantime we are looking ahead to offering digital performances this holiday season.

REFLECTING ON ADVENT

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29 but I would like to propose that Advent started early this year. My church describes the season of Advent as a "time of waiting" so it seems to me that this year Advent must have begun in the middle of March, when we all came to understand what it means to collectively wait. First, we waited two weeks, then two more, then "just until summer" and now ...

Now, we know that waiting is not for the faint of heart. Waiting makes it obvious to us that we are not in control of the future. As the illusion of control has been stripped away fear has entered through every possible channel; not the least of which are a deadly virus, the effects of a legacy of racism and inequality, an incomprehensible political landscape fraught with landmines, and massive forest fires consuming swaths of land. With nowhere to run and hide, we have done our best to fight against the fear, to fight FOR the coming future, but despite our best intentions we've been forced to wait. To wait patiently or (more often, in my case) impatiently.

Henri Nouwen wrote:

"The word patience means the willingness to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in the belief that something hidden there will manifest itself to us."

I can't say much for my own willingness; this has been a time of staying where I am whether I like it or not, but during this unusual and irregular time of advent a few small, hidden things have become manifest to me.

Waiting is active. It's different than "doing" but it's also not passive. Waiting requires

diligence, watchfulness, courage and endurance. SO MUCH ENDURANCE. Waiting involves loss. The last 7 months have been filled with loss. The loss of routine, the loss of stability, the loss of jobs, the loss of homes to wildfires, the loss of people we love.

Waiting is better with rituals. Whether it's the lighting of a candle or a weekly socially-distanced walk with a friend, rituals become sacred because they bring us into the present moment. And the present moment is where God meets us.

Waiting requires hope. Hoping is different than wishing in that it involves trust. We trust that greater good is imminent. We trust that God is here, and that God is working through us to create a fuller, deeper and more just world. Waiting changes us. I will spare you the small epiphanies about my own life, but no doubt you've had your own.

When the actual Advent season begins at the end of November, we will enter it having had a long rehearsal period. We have a fresh perspective on waiting; what it means and what it demands of us. I would love to hear how the last many months have prepared you for the coming Advent season. You can reach me at nikki@taproottheatre.org. I'll be waiting patiently for your email.

"But those who wait upon God get fresh strength.

They spread their wings and soar like eagles,

They run and don't get tired,

They walk and don't lag behind."

-Isaiah 40:31, The Message

-Nikki Visel

Marketing Director

Remember in Prayer



November

- 4- Josh Rudnick
- 9- Lynlee Ritchie
- 9- Siobhan Flanagan
- 16- Colin Rudnick
- 21- Cary Magill
- 26- Lillian Routledge

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

Daily Prayer List

1. All the Saints
2. Poll workers and volunteers
3. All Voters!
4. Vera Anderson
5. Ed Anshell
6. Karen Anshell
7. Rebecca Antoncich
8. Elleeana Antoncich
9. Doug Bauer
10. Karen Bauer
11. Joanne Brock

12. Don Brown
13. Dorothy Brown
14. Starla DeLap
15. Scott DeLap
16. Craig Fjarlie
17. Lila Geiszler
18. Judy Goulet
19. Norma Grigsby
20. Darlene Hilling
21. Roger Hilling
22. Walt Himple
23. Mary Himple
24. Joe Himple
25. Carol Hovick
26. The Reborn Church
27. The Seattle Covenant Church
28. Iglesia Evangelical
29. Aaron's Place
30. Co-op Preschool



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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.