



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

17529 15th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

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BETHEL4ALL.ORG

Bethel Lutheran Church

February 2021



*"How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain."
[ELW #315 - Joseph A. Robinson]*

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator!

Since 2006, the year Stacy and I married each other I moved to live in Stacy's condo in West Seattle. It took me almost a year to know who my neighbors were and I thought to myself that it was good to be here, in West Seattle a place where everything is within walking distance and I know all my neighbors!

I grew up in a community called Kavling POLRI, a designated location that the Indonesian government took for police officers to live but my dad who was in the Army heard about the place and immediately purchased a plot from a police officer and build our home there. I grew up in this kind of close-knit community until I left for the United States. Looking back, I can say that I liked the people more than the location and only here, in the United States I learned that finding a home is all about location, location, location.

Let's go back to West Seattle, where we live with 22 neighbors. Within the first two years living in this condominium, called "The Diplomat" I was surprised when some of our neighbors had to leave their homes because they were only renters from the owners that I've never met, to this day! As time goes by, more neighbors were leaving because they can no longer afford to live in the city, or selling their home to a double or even triple the amount of money from when they purchased their units, and more new neighbors are coming. I said was surprised because I thought our neighbors were like us, I thought we love our neighborhood so much that we wouldn't leave... that was then, more than a decade ago!

Today, my neighborhood is growing but not in the sense of population. My neighborhood is now larger, wider than the West Seattle's Junction, my neighborhood is the whole city of Chief Seattle, is the whole county of Martin Luther King Junior, is the whole state of George Washington, is the whole country of the United States of America, is the whole world, the whole universe that God so loved! My heart is no longer captive by the people where I'm physically connected. My heart goes freely to everyone everywhere, to you and your families, and your neighbors. How about you?

We are living here, in the place that God has created for us. We are living because of the life God has given us, and since God bid us we are calling Go to leave the mount, and to come with us to the plain. Let us pray. Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit us, come and look upon us in our commitment to serve you in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor D.

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

February Worship Service Schedule:

2/4/21—Thursday Evening Epiphany Prayer service—7:00pm

2/7/21—Sunday Worship Service—9:30am

2/14/21—Sunday Worship Service—9:30am

(Drive thru communion will be available after the service from 10:30am—12:00pm)

2/17/21—Ash Wednesday Service—10:00am

2/21/21—Sunday Worship Service—9:30am

2/24/21—Midweek Lenten Service—10:00am

2/28/21—Sunday Worship Service—9:30am

All Worship Services can be found on our Facebook page and will premiere on the days and at the times listed above! If you miss a service you can always watch it after the premiere by visiting the videos tab on our Facebook page or by checking out our YouTube channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxGrTvJ4s1z-i6LJaMa6SEg/featured>

<https://www.facebook.com/BethelShoreline>

Bethel News

Food Pantry Update:

We are not in need of donations at this time as our food pantry is in need of some repairs before we will be able to distribute food from it again.

We hope to get the pantry up and running again soon and will keep you posted! Thanks!

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.

Our Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021 - ONLINE!

In addition to worshipping together, hearing reports, voting on our budget, discussing resolutions that are brought forward, and electing leaders to various positions, we will be voting on constitutional and bylaw changes.

As congregations prepare to elect voting members, please keep in mind that due to the online nature of this Assembly, it will be necessary for each voting member to have access to their own computer and smart phone to participate in the meeting and our voting process. Bethel is allotted 4 lay voters and the synod recommends: 1 male identified, 1 female identified, 1 young adult and 1 youth voter.

Fee is \$25/person. Registration will open the week of February 1st and close March 31st. Visitors are free – while not part of the zoom meeting, will be invited to participate by following the livestream of the event.

Update from Tom & Mary Holman

January 22, 2021

Forty years ago, Tom and I departed from Minnesota to begin work in the ministry of Bible translation. One of the goals of a missionary, including Bible translation consultants, is to “work yourself out of a job” by training and mentoring others. That’s why I’ve been mentoring Angela. Mentoring new consultants has also been taking place in countries all over the world, including Ghana and Nigeria. Starting this week, Suleiman, a Nigerian consultant-in-training, is doing the first check for accuracy of Galatians and Ephesians with the Waja team. Pray that he would help the team to dig deep into the meaning and pay attention to detail. This will help to speed the process when I do the final consultant check, and it will give Suleiman more experience in consulting.



Thank you for your prayers!

Mary

Mary and Tom Holman

Contact us:

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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

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,

There were many images that horrified me during the Washington DC riots. The violence, cruelty, anger, and destruction were terrible.

One image that made me both angry and almost nauseous was the photograph of the person holding up a bright yellow sign with the words, “Jesus Saves.” To be clear, it is not that I object to these words. I strongly believe that Jesus saves. But in this particular case, when one holds up a sign bearing these beautiful words but participating in mob violence, it becomes a mockery. Horrifically, there were other Christian symbols present that day. There was a giant wooden cross outside the Capitol. One man carried a Christian flag into an evacuated legislative chamber. Christian music blared all day from loudspeakers. It was disgusting to see sacred words and items suddenly used to foment violence. It was sickening, reckless, and horrifying. It was profane. The insurrection on the Capitol broke the first, second, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth commandments. Any action that breaks one commandment is wrong. An action that breaks the majority of the commandments is beyond alarming. (And I could actually make an argument that this insurrection also broke the third and fourth commandments, too. This only leaves the sixth unbroken.)



In the ELCA social message on **Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy** we read,

ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. (Read the full message here: www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government.)

This social message states that as residents of the United States and as followers of Jesus, we all have a responsibility for government to function well. We are called to be a part of civic society. We are called to vote. We are called to be civil servants. We are called to speak out against injustice. We are called to march against hatred. We are called to peacefully protest when those in power act in ways that promote prejudice or bigotry or discrimination. We are called to speak truth. For those of us with privilege, we are especially called to examine ourselves, to listen to others, and to speak for those without voice. We are called to act in ways where God’s love is paramount – moving towards true peace, true equity, and true reconciliation. In short, we are called to live into our baptismal identity of forgiven and beloved children of God by loving and caring for God, our neighbor, and our world.

I encourage congregations and ministry sites to study the social message mentioned above. There are also other social messages and social statements found on the ELCA website to further conversation and action as we continue to learn how to be disciples of Jesus by engaging in the world. Perhaps this could be something that you and others do during Lent. But please don’t stop at reading, studying, and talking about it. Let us move forward with action. Our faith calls us to stand next to the oppressed and forgotten in faith, knowing that, as we are loved by God, we are called to love our neighbor.

I am appalled at what happened on January 6, 2021. As a citizen of the United States and, even more so, as a Christian, I am devastated. But I have hope. I have hope that out of this hatred, love will emerge. I have hope that those who have been fearful will gain courage. I have hope that we, siblings, beloveds in Christ, will join together and reclaim the words, “Jesus saves.” I have hope that we as a nation will form a more perfect union. I have hope – not because I’m an idealist but because I’m a follower of Jesus – that out of this death resurrection will come.

In God’s Spirit of Hope,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Black History Month Events

So often, Black people are invited to teach others through the lens of their pain. This Black History Month, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, LSTC Antiracism Team, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and the African Descent Lutheran Association - Metro Chicago Chapter will collaborate to explore the resilience of Black people through the intricacy of Black joy.

Learn more and register: lstc.edu/new-events/bhm

Week 1: Celebrating Black Joy

Black Joy Worship Services

Monday, February 1 and Wednesday, February 3

Both begin at 11:15 a.m. CST

Guest Preachers: Nikkeya Berryhill (1) and

Rev. Robert Biekman (3)



Celebrating Black Joy: Perspective from a Panel

Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. CST

Panelists: Rev. Lamont Wells, Dr. Shaunna Payne Gold, Rozella White,

& Dr. Nicole Anderson Cobb; Moderator: Denise Rector, LSTC PhD student



Week 2: Black Joy in Faith

Black Joy Worship Service

Wednesday, February 10 at 11:15 a.m. CST

Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles M. Straight

Sitting with a Beloved Ancestor: James Cone and the Complexity of Black Joy

Wednesday, February 10 at 7 p.m. CST

Presenter: Dr. Marvin Wickware

Week 3: Black Joy through Art

Black Joy through Art Lunch and Learn

Monday, February 15 at Noon CST

Black Voices of Transformation: A Spoken Word Event

Thursday, February 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. CST

Featuring: Tasleem Jamila, Preacher Moss, Maggie Brown

Obbie West, J.Kwest, Adarah Hale, Jason Williams, & K-Love



Week 4: Black Joy in Community

Special Community Symposium

Tuesday, February 23 at 7 p.m. CST

Culminating Revival

Friday, February 26 at 7 p.m. CST



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago

Remember in Prayer

Those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Vera Anderson

Lila Geisler

Shirley Pishaw

Those Coping with Health Problems

Joanne Brock

Don Brown

Walt Himple

Michael Klingensmith

Caryl Klingensmith

Tom Logen

Kelly Moll

Joan Martinell

Nancy Phillips

Shirley Pishaw

Daily Prayer List

1. Healthcare workers
2. Researchers creating vaccines and cures.
3. Those who are ill
4. Vera Anderson
5. Rebecca Antoncich
6. Elleeana Atonchich
7. Karen Bauer
8. Doug Bauer
9. Joanna Brock
10. Don Brown
11. Dorothy Brown
12. Scott DeLap
13. Starla DeLap
14. Craig Fjarlie
15. Lila Geiszler
16. Judy Goulet
17. Norma Grigsby
18. Roger Hilling
19. Darlene Hiling
20. Walt Himple
21. Mary Himple
22. Joe Himple
23. All who speak against injustices
24. All those in need of reparations
25. Educators
26. Volunteers
27. First Responders
28. All who grieve



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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.