



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

17529 15th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155

206.362.4334
BETHEL4ALL.ORG

Bethel Lutheran Church

January 2021



*"Don't be discouraged with trouble in your life;
[Jesus] will bear your burdens,
and move all the discord and strife.
Oh! can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.
We've come this far by faith." [ELW # 633—Albert A. Goodson]*

My siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you from God our Creator!

We made it. We are in the year of 2021, happy New Year to you and your loved ones.

I grew up within two large families. My dad had six siblings and my mom has eight siblings and between these families alone I have twenty three cousins and today all of them are married and have their own children... yes, the family grew *fast* even as I, as we lost eight of our uncles and aunties to COVID-19.

When I was in Indonesia, our family always gathered around on December 31 evening to share meal, singing and praying, and when the clock struck midnight we made a circular seating and for the children we usually seated on the floor. The oldest amongst us usually started the "talk" by offering a thanksgiving prayer and then we're invited to share everything in our lives that weren't resolved. This talk was my favorite thing to do all year long because I got to learn the mistakes that my uncles and aunties, and my parents made at the previous year.

Usually, we ended up asking for forgiveness from each other after blames, it's like a mashed up between Thanksgiving dinner and Easter breakfast. Tears shed and laughters shared, followed by the best thing... we sing the *Auld Lang Syne* together... in parts, marking the closure of our previous year.

Last year, on December 31st, I looked at the lyrics on the song closely and I realized that we don't really "made it" yet, we don't really have a closure in our society of the challenges we had in 2020. Medically, politically, economically, racially, and so many challenges are pouring into this new 2021 year and a question whispered to my ear. What's new?

As we are entering the Epiphany season I ask that you ponder the same question, "what's new" to you in these challenging time? One thing for sure we "can't turn around, we've come this far by faith."

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

Food Pantry Update:

Our Food Pantry is a big hit. If you are not aware Bethel has a lovely cupboard right outside the door of the church which is open 24/7 to anyone that might need food. We need donations on an ongoing basis. Mainly foods that can be used with just hot water or by themselves. Here are a few ideas: Bottled water, individual packets of instant potatoes, oatmeal, top ramen, knorr sides, pop top cans of soups. Hygiene items such as tooth brushes, travel toothpaste, bars of soap.

The church is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays so items could be dropped off there or if that is a problem call me at 206-362-2053 and I will arrange a pick up. Thank you So much for your support and give feedback as it will be needed and appreciated.

-Nancy Phillips

At this time as Nancy is recovering, please contact Carol Hovick (206-499-9821) or Judy Goulet (206-334-8397) if you need to arrange a time to bring pantry donation to the church or if you have questions or concerns!

Bethel News

For Those Who Have Far to Travel

A Blessing for Epiphany

If you could see
the journey whole,
you might never
undertake it,
might never dare
the first step
that propels you
from the place
you have known
toward the place
you know not.

Call it
one of the mercies
of the road:
that we see it
only by stages
as it opens
before us,
as it comes into
our keeping,
step by
single step.

There is nothing
for it
but to go,
and by our going
take the vows
the pilgrim takes:

to be faithful to
the next step;
to rely on more
than the map;
to heed the signposts
of intuition and dream;
to follow the star
that only you
will recognize;

to keep an open eye
for the wonders that
attend the path;
to press on
beyond distractions,
beyond fatigue,
beyond what would
tempt you
from the way.

There are vows
that only you
will know:
the secret promises
for your particular path
and the new ones
you will need to make
when the road
is revealed
by turns
you could not
have foreseen.

Keep them, break them,
make them again;
each promise becomes
part of the path,
each choice creates
the road
that will take you
to the place
where at last
you will kneel

to offer the gift
most needed—
the gift that only you
can give—
before turning to go
home by
another way.

—Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace: A Book
of Blessings for the Seasons*

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.



You might be a Lutheran if
your house is a mess because
you're saved by grace
not by works.

Update from Tom & Mary Holman

December 16, 2020

Happy New Year and a Blessed Epiphany! What a tumultuous year 2020 was. We're so thankful for Bethel's prayer support. God has protected Tom and me, our families, and the families of the translation teams we work with in Ghana and Nigeria from COVID-19. And in spite of some hiccups along the way, we've been able to make



progress in translating the Bible into these languages. Please pray that our health would continue to be good, and that the work would go well in 2021.

We pray that Bethel Lutheran Church would continue to proclaim Jesus as “a light to reveal God to the nations.” *Luke 1:32a*

In Christ, the light of the world,

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 Beloveds,

For this new year, the synod staff has adopted a working statement. We are excited to share it with you and we hope that you may use it and adapt it in your context and community:

“Trusting in the Spirit, we are walking together as God’s people so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus.” “Trusting in the Spirit...”

Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism regarding the third article of the Apostles’ Creed,

“I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel ...” As people of God, we know that doubts, concerns, worry, frustration and so many other things get in the way of following Jesus. But even when we do not have the strength or even the faith to carry on, God still calls us through the Spirit. As we hear and live into the good news that God comes to us – daily – hourly – every minute of every day, we are carried through the Spirit.

...we are walking together as God’s people
...

As I have said before, the word “synod” comes from two Greek words: sun- ‘together’ + hodos ‘way’. I love the image of walking together – of helping someone

up when they stumble, of holding hands when it is difficult to see the way forward, of cheering on those who are in the front and encouraging those who are in the back – one



huge Jesus-following gathering. This, of course, does not mean that we always agree. And it does not mean that we won’t have hard conversations. All of this is part of being in relationship (if you don’t have conversation anymore, you don’t have much of a relationship). But together, we, as the people of God, walk together, knowing that we are on a journey with Christ, knowing that we are Holy Community together.

...so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus.”

Have you ever seen a baby discover their hands for the first time? Suddenly they are moving them around and laughing, curling their fingers, inspecting their palms, sticking them in their mouths. The gift of hands was something they never even comprehended before and suddenly – there they are. Right in front of their eyes.

Have you ever heard someone who recently heard the good news of Jesus express their wonder and amazement at

(continued on next page)

News from our Synod

who God is and who they are in God's eyes? They suddenly see the world, themselves, each other, and God in a totally new way.

Sometimes those of us who have been around for a while, we forget. We forget the wonder, the beauty, the sheer joy of experiencing and participating in what God through Jesus is doing in this world of ours. As people of God, we are called to open our hearts, open our very beings, to see and hear and feel and experience and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus. We are called to laugh, to

inspect, to taste what God is doing in this amazing world we have been given. And we are called to share the good news of what we see God is up to among us and the communities that surround us so that all may discover and participate.

Dear Beloveds, all of us on the synod staff are thankful for you as we live and dance in the Spirit, walk with you, and continue to live into the amazing grace of God through Jesus Christ our Savior.

In the Amazement of Epiphany,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



*A Worship service led by the
ELCA bishops elected in 2019*

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

5:00 pm Pacific time

**LIVE on synodical Facebook pages
and websites across the ELCA**

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

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. Those who are lonely
5. Voters
6. All who journey
7. All who work for justice
8. Rick Rudnick
9. Beth Rudnick
10. Jayne Rudnick
11. David Salmon
12. Carla Salmon
13. Richard Schwerdtfeger
14. Kristi Schwerdtfeger
15. Anna Sjong
16. Elia Smith
17. Carolyn Starrett
18. Liz Terrey
19. Chris Tracey
20. Jayne Tracy
21. Chuck Vollbrecht
22. Ruth Vollbrecht
23. Our Congregation
24. The Northwest Washington Synod
25. Our North City Neighborhood
26. All who give to and use our food pantry
27. Aaron's Place
28. Co-op Preschool
29. The Lutheran Counseling Network
30. Recovery Meetings
31. All those who are struggling



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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.