



# Bethesda Outlook

December 2021

*Our Mission is to Proclaim, celebrate and share the love of Christ with our neighbors in an accepting, caring community.*

## Bethesda Staff

Pastor: Rev. Heidi Fish.....360-393-2977

Office Administrator: Judy Rasmussen  
425-778-6390 email: [officeadministrator@bethesdalcm.com](mailto:officeadministrator@bethesdalcm.com)

Musician: Vic Peters.. 206-789-1699

## OFFICE HOURS

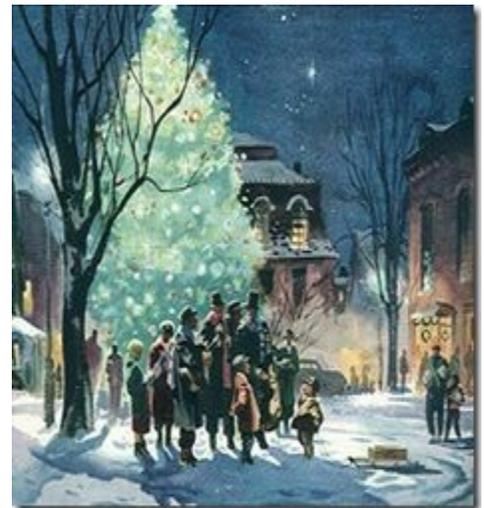
Monday—Thursday  
9:00am—2:00pm

[www.bethesdalcm.com](http://www.bethesdalcm.com)

## Christmas Gift Wrapping and Caroling with Kids

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 p.m.**

On this Saturday we will have gift wrap stations set up all around the fellowship hall. Yes, Dave did pick up a LOT of gift wrap supplies at an auction! Again, an adult needs to accompany the child. We will spend a couple of hours wrapping, and then go Christmas caroling at nearby homes or businesses. We'll see if we can set something up with the Plaza and Vineyard.



## Grace Notes --- from Pastor Heidi



There is so much happening at Bethesda that it's hard to keep up with it – what a great problem to have! Here is a quickie list of things your pastor has been doing:

**YOUTH MINISTRY!** Yes, believe it or not, God DOES answer prayers!

On November 7<sup>th</sup> four teenaged boys met with me over pizza and shared some of what their lives are like today and how a church might be helpful to them. At the end of that meeting they told me that “Yeah, it was kind of cool to have someone with some life experience...” listen to them. (I heard, ‘someone with graying hair!’). Two weeks later one of them wrote to me offering to help organize other teenagers to let them know more about Bethesda. “I felt happier after leaving the church that night than I had felt in a long time.” Last night we had an organizing meeting with parental involvement and will be starting to put the word out. Keep praying! God is faithful.

**PASTORAL CARE!** On November 15<sup>th</sup> we held our first “Grief Tea” with 8 in attendance. Coming together to remember those whom we have loved and lost as we approach the holiday season is an important gift of Christian community. Everyone left with a china tea cup and an ornament with the names of their beloved dead as a remembrance. (I’m still doing clean-up at home – it was SOOOO worth it!) Visits to members who cannot get to church or who are in crisis are precious, sacred times. Phone calls help us stay connected.

**FACILITIES!** We had a first meeting of a Facilities Team on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and it was productive. Simply gathering lists of needed repairs, maintenance, and necessary upgrades was helpful as we categorized their urgency. Okay. LOTS of it is urgent. But we knew that. Steve has now wrapped the play structure in red “DANGER” tape – it needs to come down. I’ve walked through the buildings with our cleaning service and identified....standards. (Let me know if you see something that isn’t being cleaned regularly.) I’ve worked with Kelly Kazcmerick who is undertaking a deep clean on the kitchen. Dave replaced the ancient microwave off the kitchen with a significantly newer model, one that at least HAS a turntable!

**INSURANCE!** “Blessed insurance, Church Mutual is mine....” Jeff and I met with Holly from Church Mutual to assess facilities issues and ways we can minimize risks of injury or loss. Today (December 6<sup>th</sup>) I met with Janessa, our agent, to go over the details of our coverages. Not fun or inspiring, but distinctly necessary! More to come on that matter....

**CONSTITUTION!** Oh, the delight. Governing documents are also un-sexy, but really important. A close examination is highlighting some areas where we are not operating in keeping with our constitution. In some of those places we need to change our practices. In others, we probably need to change our constitution.

**WORSHIP!** Planning, prepping, and delighting together in the presence of God – that’s my joy!

**VAN GO?** I prepared and submitted an application on behalf of Bethesda to receive one of the vans that Community Transit will be giving away in January. It is fun to dream and imagine what we might be able to do if we receive one of those vehicles; writing it all up and then re-working it to fit into little dialogue boxes is less fun. But we’ll know before the end of this month. **(Continued)**

*(continued from Page 2)*

**RESPONDING TO NEEDS!** And there are a lot of them. Dave has been watching auctions and bidding on lots of jackets and warm clothing. It's very satisfying to be able to give someone a jacket, hats, socks (really – SOCKS) when they don't have what they need to stay warm and dry. Gathering items for Larry's support of the American Legion's clothing drive has been great, even when it temporarily inundated my office space! It's good to have food available to provide when the knock on the door comes after hours at the office building. What those folks need even more is the listening ear. I'm not a social worker, and I can't solve their problems. But because of God's calling and your support, I can honor their circumstances and help them think toward their own solutions.

**WEBSITE!** Yeah, it's been pretty out of date. But at least now it no longer screams in a red banner across the calendar page that Bethesda is worshipping ONLY online by Zoom!! I've added a page on Worship Stuff to help visitors understand what worship is like at Bethesda.

**STUDY!** I participated in a webinar recently about hospitality and addressing systemic racism in the church. It was an eye opener.

**SNEEZING!** I did come down with a cold just before Thanksgiving. Two home Covid tests reassured us that it was NOT Covid, but we still cancelled our T-Day hosting plans. Fortunately I was much better by the next Sunday, but opted not to serve you communion myself. Better safe than Sneezy!

**HALF-TIME?** Well.... After I recovered sufficiently from the spinal surgery, I increased my hours voluntarily to make up for what I had been unable to do leading up to and following the fusion. From July through November I was working 30-40 hours a week, with some of those weeks drifting up into the high 50's. It's time to scale back to half-time to be faithful to our ministry covenants. That's hard. I will need your profound and expansive patience and understanding as I have less time available for even pressing ministry needs. There WILL be gatherings that I cannot attend. There WILL be emails I will miss. There WILL be deadlines for newsletters missed, and I'm still going to want to get articles and blurbs to you, so if your newsletter is late, it's on me, not Judy!!

**COUNCIL & EXEC!** It does take time to prepare for and follow up after these meetings. Supporting the leaders of Bethesda so that together we can guide the congregation forward – pretty important stuff. We're making increased use of the Executive Committee in between Council meetings, because there are decisions to be made that are time-sensitive. We are learning new ways of leading as we grow in trust and mutual understanding. It is an honor to work with such dedicated Christians. We make better decisions together than separately.

'Nuff for now. It's been a busy month, with a busy one to come. I'm so grateful that I get to do this all with you.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Heidi



## From the Bishop:

Miriam sings, “Sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously!” Exodus 15:21 Hannah sings, “My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God!” 1 Samuel 2:1 Mary sings, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!” Luke 1:46

I am so grateful for the stories of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. I love their spirit. I love their faith. I love their songs. I love that even with the great adversity, sorrow, and difficulty each of them endured, Miriam, Hannah, and Mary defiantly sang.

Each of these women’s stories unfolded in a world that seemed bleak. A world of systemic injustice and no safety nets. A world where people upheld their own power to the detriment of others. A world where people refused to see another person made in God’s image before them. A world where people threw away people because they were perceived as “less than.” A world where people threw away people because they could not bear children. A world where people threw away people because they became pregnant without being married.

And while their experiences are not our experiences, for many still today, the world feels desperate.

Today, so many people are living in dire conditions. So many who are hungry, houseless, voiceless. We have injustice and violence, racism and hatred. We have anger and acrimony. We have the spreading of lies and misinformation. As I write this, our world is grieving the deaths of over 5 million people who have died of COVID. Over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States this past year. And so many other deaths and losses. There are still people that society throws away. There are still people that other people don’t even look at as human.

And yet ... And yet ...

We have Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. We have their defiant voices lifted up singing not only to their world in their time – but beyond their time – to us – and to future generations beyond us.

In this Advent time, let us turn to the stories and the songs of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. Let us remember their prophetic voices. Let us remember their perseverance, their faith, and their grit. For even as the reality around them was difficult, they continued to sing of a new day, a new promise, a new reality.

May these amazing prophet women bring hope to us in this time. May we remember that new life is coming. May we trust that the world now is not how the world will be. May we hold before us that, through Christ, a new day is being born.

In this Advent time, we live in anticipation and in faith. And we sing. We sing.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;  
She conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth  
Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.  
ELW #266, All Earth is Hopeful vs. 3

In Advent Hope,  
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
bishop@lutheransnw.org

# Council Hi-lights

- Offerings are approximately \$3000 per month short of meeting expenses.
- There will be a Congregational Meeting on December 19 for the proposed budget.
- Reviewed Insurance policies, specifically for Directors and Officers coverage.

You are always invited to sit in on a council meeting to see what we do. We meet the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm in the Church Office Building. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2021

The council is available if you have issues, concerns, compliments or complaints. We are committed to work for you.

**Council**  
**President:**  
**Jeff Molitor**

**Vice President:**  
**Jaye Lill**

**Secretary:**  
**Kate Kurfess**

**Treasurer:**  
**Sue Rasmussen**

**Wolfgang Lill**  
**Paul Larmore**

## MONTH END FINANCIAL REPORT

### As of October 2021

Balance forward.....	\$1,048.53
Offerings.....	\$8,873.00
Other income.....	\$5,945.31 (includes Transferred funds)
Total.....	\$14,818.31
Total Expenses.....	\$11,143.79
New Balance.....	\$4,221.30

# *Sue's Bible Study*

The parables of Jesus are sometimes straightforward and often obscure to modern readers of the Bible.

At 2:00 in the Church Office, I will teach a series of classes on the Parables of Jesus. The classes are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, and I will give repeat lessons on Saturdays of the same weeks at 10 am for anyone who misses or cannot attend the Monday classes.

I would appreciate a call from anyone who wishes to attend either of the lessons; **ALL ARE WELCOME** to any of the classes. Bring a friend and join us in Study. Please phone me at 425-582-8110 or phone Judy in the church office at 425-778-6390 and let either of us know when you wish to come. I will be delighted to pick up anyone who needs a ride.

God Continues to Bless,

Sue Rasmussen

I Peter 1:25

## **SAVE THE DATE**

December 18, 2021: Gift Wrap and Caroling 1—4pm

December 19, 2021: Congregational meeting (after service—to vote on 2022 budget)

December 24, 2021: Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm

December 25, 2021: Christmas Day Service 10:15am

December 26, 2021: Worship-Lessons and Carols  
10:15am



*Happy Birthday.....*

12/04—Frances Hinson

12/10—Jeanette Anstice

12/11—Cliff Pearson

12/29—Karen Carroll



**WE LIFT IN PRAYER:**

ANDERSON, JULIA  
BALL, TAMMY (friend of M. Schwald) Cancer  
BARRERA, CARMEN (friend of Rod Schwald) Cancer  
BRADY, MARK (Wounded Warrior)  
BRUNO, BERNADETTE (neighbor of Rod Schwald)  
CARROLL, KAREN  
CHRISTOFFERSON, DEBBIE (Cancer)  
ESCOBAR, KEYRI (Wounded Warrior)  
FISCHER, CURTIS  
FISCHER, MICHAEL  
HALLADAY, JOY  
HALVERSON, ROY (Lung Cancer) (Joy H. brother)  
HAMRE, JUDITH  
HARPER, MARTI  
HAUMAN, SUE  
HEDLUND, DANNA  
HINSON, FRANCES  
HOFFMAN, CHELSEA  
JOHNSON, BILL  
JOHNSON, ROY  
JUAN, ANTOINETTE  
JUPITER, PAT  
LEASE, CHRISTINA (Valerie G. Granddaughter)  
MARKES, FRANK (friend of Mickey S.)  
MASSEY, RON  
NICHOLS, ANDY (Wounded Warrior – Mickey S.)  
NORTON, LYNN  
PFIFER, JANET & BILL (neighbor – Rod Schwald)  
RICE, PATTY (Karen C. daughter)  
SCHERETTE, TAMMEY (friend of Judy R.)  
SEALE, MIMI  
SNYDER, KIM (Joan M. daughter)  
SPENCER, NATHAN  
THOMPSON, TARA (friend of Rod Schwald)  
VALEZ, CARRIE (friend of Mickey S.)  
WILLS, PAT (friend of Joy H,)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS  
AND CARE GIVERS.**

# December 2021

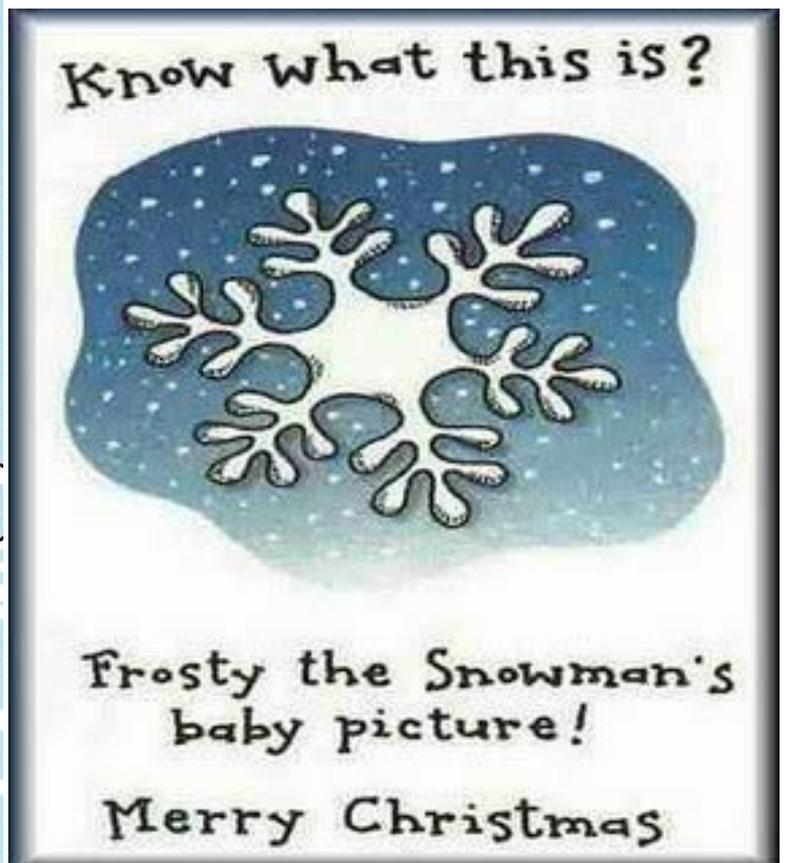
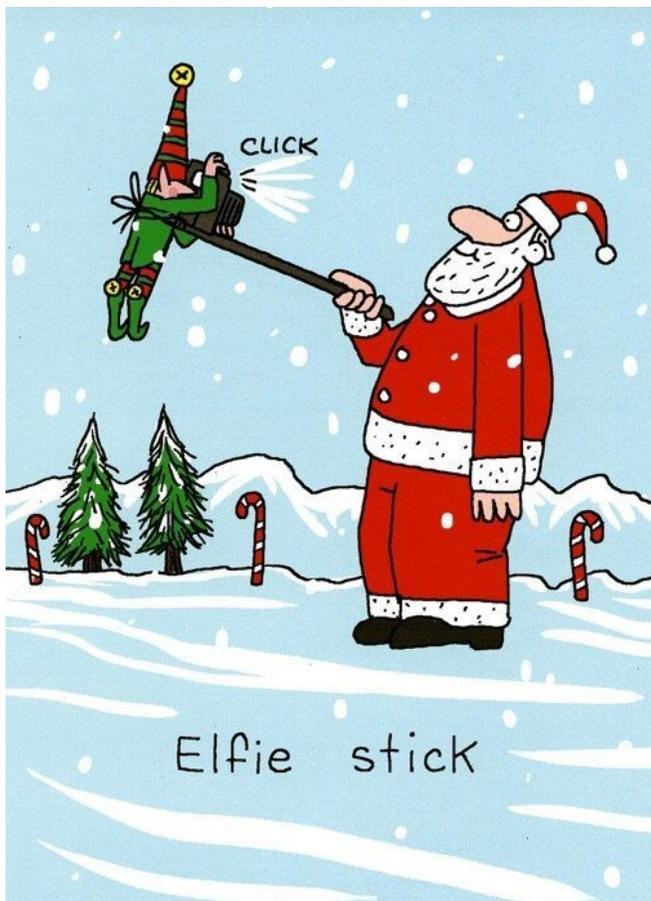


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>S=Sanctuary</b> <b>FH=Fellowship</b> <b>Hall</b> <b>O=Office Bldg</b> <b>B3=Building 3</b>			Al-Anon 6:30pm (O)	Al-Anon (Hispanic) 7:00pm (O)		
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Worship 10:15am (S) WAM 12:00pm (O) Westway CC 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)			Al-Anon 6:30pm (O)	Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)		
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Worship 10:15am (S) Westway CC 12:30pm (S) Council Meeting 12:30pm (O) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)	Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm (O)		Al-Anon 6:30pm (O) Foodie Book Group 6:30pm (FH)	Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)		Sue's Bible Study 10:00am (O) Gift Wrap and Caroling 1- 4pm (FH)
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Worship 10:15am (S) Westway CC 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)			Al-Anon 6:30pm (O)	Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)	Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm (S)	Christmas Day Service 10:15am
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
Worship 10:15am (S) Westway CC 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)	<b>NEWSLET- TER DEAD- LINE</b>		Al-Anon 6:30pm (O)	Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)		

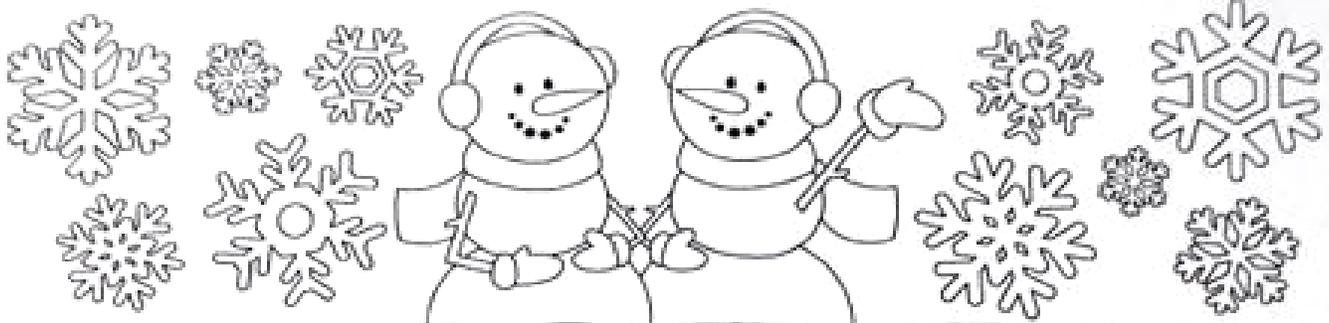


Now Mama, you don't have to go to church to go to heaven.

Well, you don't have to wear a parachute to jump out of an airplane either, but it certainly helps.



# Puzzle Page



# WINTER

W O R D S E A R C H

M I X P B E D Z Q T D D W M R Z R L T F  
 S N V O L U X K N E V N E Q T N S P E N  
 N K O C M E L T K Z B O N C F Y Q B K S  
 P T I J V L G A U P M K U N E C V G N W  
 S C D I N B L I Z Z A R D E B M P H A I  
 I X Q P N F P G U S Q A Q A R B B O L N  
 T U V L W G L R I J L M X U U S O E B T  
 E Q F O L Z L E D W A E V F A S M W R E  
 G C N M X A U H F D U F D T R X R I S R  
 M S A A S H B O B Z M H F H Y W H T E S  
 F U X L S N O W I N G T O V C J G W T W  
 S I S L P E F W O D M T S H O V E L A E  
 R N W E V E Y R L N C L I I Z P X V K A  
 E I O Y V R R O A O S L N E Z O R F S T  
 T C U W A O C I C C L P G Q A Z A P E E  
 A E O U M O L O F Y S T X I D N G U C R  
 E T N C N A A G G A V A F Z N D W E I P  
 H A L O P F N C F E W O O J W N J A G U  
 J L E P M O Q G V Z F C E E T S S X X S  
 Y R E P P I L S T S O R F M K C B P S M

BLANKET  
 BLIZZARD  
 BOOTS  
 CHILLY  
 COAT  
 COLD  
 DECEMBER  
 FEBRUARY  
 FIREPLACE  
 FROST  
 FROZEN  
 GLOVES  
 HEATER  
 HOT COCOA  
 ICE  
 ICE SKATES  
 ICICLE  
 JANUARY  
 MELT  
 SCARF  
 SHOVEL  
 SKIING  
 SLED  
 SLIPPERY  
 SNOWING  
 SNOW BALL  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 SNOWMAN  
 SWEATER  
 WINTER



## *Angelic News for the Shepherds.*

Night—and a dog barked far away, barked and kept on barking. But it must have been a private matter between him and the stars for no one else was disturbed. The shepherd's own guard dog raised his head once and twisted his ears, then lay down again. The sheep themselves were sleeping. The

fields near Bethlehem were still, dark outlines against a deep blue and starry sky—all signs of peace. And the shepherds were concerned only to keep away to keep a watch over their flocks till morning. They were lying on the ground, leaning on their elbows, and talking of common forgettable things—

When suddenly the whole night lit up with a furious light. The bright glory of God blazed all around them, and an angel of the Lord stepped forward, and the animals were stunned cold, and the shepherds threw up their arms in fear and shouted, “Oh!”

“No, do not be afraid,” said the angel, but none of the shepherds lowered his arms. “Good news!” said the angel. “Behold, I bring you good news of great joy, and joy it shall be for all the people! For to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord! And this shall be a sign for you -”

“You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

All at once the deep sky was filled with angels—as many as there had been stars before. They were praising God in a thrilling voice, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to the people with whom he is pleased!”

*From : The Bible for Children*

*By Walter Wangerin, Jr.*



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