



Bethesda Outlook

December 2022

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: officemanager@bethesdalcm.com

Musician: Vic Peters.. 206-789-1699

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday
9:00am—1:00pm

www.bethesdalcm.com

Christmas Worship

Once again members and friends of Bethesda will gather on Saturday, December 24th at **5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve**, to worship our God and celebrate the mystery of the incarnation with scripture, prayers, carols and candlelight. This tender and joyful service is the perfect time for you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to come and experience the wonder of gathered community joined in song and prayer in the Presence of the Holy One. A special invitation to families with young children. Bring your children and grandchildren to experience Christian worship and hear the ancient and living story of the birth of Jesus. Students, come and see for yourself the authentic center of Christmas, stripped of the trappings of commercialism.

On Sunday, December 25th, Christmas morning, we will gather at 10:15 a.m. to sing out our joy and share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Rumor has it that Duo Resonance (Jeanne and Nick) will be with us to ring out the good news with their amazing handbell artistry. Talk to your family members and tell them that the best gift that they can give you on Christmas morning is to come with you to Bethesda!

Lessons and Carols on New Year's Day!

January 1st is a Sunday in 2023! Once again Sue Rasmussen will be leading worship, preaching and presiding as she does so well.



Grace Notes

Dear Ones,

This time it was at the Club Q in Colorado Springs, CO. Five people were killed and many others wounded before other patrons subdued the shooter and get the long gun and handgun away from him.

This time.

In the morning I'm changing the readerboard message to convey our love to the LGBTQ+ community and call upon our community to face hatred with strong love and compassion. We cannot allow our sisters, brothers, and cousins to be vilified, slandered, attacked, and killed. We need to do more than we've been doing. The problems of division, polarization, hatred and violence cannot be solved by more division, polarization, hatred and violence. College students were killed in Idaho. College athletes were shot and killed on a bus returning from a football game in Virginia.

The only way I can manage this onslaught is to be reminded every day that it is God "in whom we live and move and have our being." No matter. No matter what. No matter what happens. God is with us.

Whew.

God will strengthen us and guide us into responses that promote healing and peace. We have tools. And we have the Spirit stirring us up out of apathy and complacency into loving action.

Soon I hope to be able to announce seeds that are being planted in South Snohomish County that could sprout into a tree of Life that will help our community bridge the divides and reduce the incidents of violence and the scourge of addiction that is devastating the physical and mental health of our children and youth. We need to be there for them in powerful ways. We need to announce not just hope, but genuine healing.

God, make it so. And hurry!

--Pastor Heidi

From the Bishop:

I took the quilt to the cleaners to get washed. They looked at it and handed it back. If we touch this, they said, it will fall apart.

To most eyes, the quilt is nothing to look at. The bright yellow ducklings have long faded to muted colors. The binding is frayed. Happy, my dog from childhood, chewed holes in the fabric where stuffing came out and repair was never finished. (Happy did this to many sheets and blankets in my growing up years. My sisters and I called them “Happy holes.” My mom did not.)

From the time I was a toddler, this quilt has held my laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger. In darkness, this quilt surrounded me in warmth. Years later, my children were wrapped in this same quilt.

Long before my grandma quilted my “duckie” blanket and gave it to me, there was a young family without permanent shelter and a baby soon to be born. The village midwives came into the night to help birth a baby for a family unknown. They came to an unhoused couple, a foreign couple, a poor couple with no prospects or power. And yet, these midwives left their warm houses and their own families, bringing their own handmade blankets and strips of cloth as they participated in this baby’s birth. And, when he was born, they wrapped this child and his mom in warmth.

We know this because we hear the angels’ words to the shepherds, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ Surely if the baby was wrapped in bands of cloth, the child was also wrapped in blankets.

What a difference it would have been without these blankets, without these swaddling cloths, without these midwives. Without the skills and the gifts God gave to them. The vocation of midwife brought Jesus into the world. The hands and wisdom of these women wrapped him in swaddling cloths.

It is such an amazing story ... through God’s invitation, and from Mary saying yes and Joseph saying yes and the innkeeper saying yes and the midwives saying yes – Jesus came.

Two thousand years ago, in a way no one could have imagined, God was with us in human form. Wrapped in blankets. Held in love.

What love, what grace, what beauty. Amazingly and almost inconceivably, in this little baby, God’s love came and God’s love continues to be among us through Jesus – Immanuel, Incarnate, God-in-the-flesh love. Embodied love ... for you and for me. Always.

I know that life is messy. Life is sometimes hard. Sometimes the world seems out of control and we are so small against so much of what is out there. And yet ... through something as small and vulnerable as a new-born baby, we are promised that God is here. Amongst us. And God’s love is for everyone. Absolutely everyone. Regardless of your job or your political party, your anxiety or your income. Your ethnicity, your language, your gender, your situation in life. God’s love is for you who celebrate this holy day and God’s love is for those who don’t. God’s love is for those you are estranged from and those you embrace.

This Christmas and this year, may you feel surrounded by God’s love and presence. In your laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger - in darkness and in light may you feel God wrapping you into God’s embrace ... like a worn, faded blanket that is covered in ducks and Happy holes.

Have a Blessed Christmas,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Council Hi-lights

- There will be two congregational meetings in December. 12/11 will discuss the budget and on 12/18 we will discuss constitutional changes.
- There will be a Thanksgiving morning ZOOM service at 10:15am.

Council
President:
Jeff Molitor

Vice President:
Jaye Lill

Secretary:
Kate Kurfess

Treasurer:
Sue Rasmussen

Paul Larmore

MONTH END FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 2022

Balance Forward	\$(4705.29)
Offerings	\$6529.71
Other Income	\$6075.61
Total	\$12,605.32
Total Expenses.....	\$12,522.51
New Balance.....	\$(4998.97)



Happy Birthday.....

12/04—Frances Hinson

12/10—Jeanette Anstice

12/11—Cliff Pearson

12/29—Karen Carroll

!UPDATES & DOINGS!

UPDATED OFFICE HOURS (again)

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—2:00pm

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Friends, you have worked SO hard for SO long. You may prefer to keep your volunteer efforts quiet and somewhat anonymous. Well, it's time that you are treated with the honor and grace you deserve! A small team headed by Jessica Cottrill, Jeff Molitor, Pastor Heidi and Dave, and their friend Patty Halverson are planning a beautiful event to recognize and celebrate the work and the workers without whom Bethesda doesn't exist. Please mark your calendars now for the afternoon of Saturday, January 7th. This will be a very special day: think live entertainment, elegant tables, gorgeous appetizers, delicious grilled salmon (we've heard), even a tuxedo or two ! If you want to bling out, **BLING OUT!!** If you want to dress up, go ahead and do so. If you want to come as you are, you are absolutely perfect **exactly as you are!** Jeans and T-shirts are fully welcomed, too. We'll be looking for RSVPs to aid our planning process; email jessicarosecottrill@gmail.com . And if you haven't volunteered yet, please do plan on coming to help us say "Thank You"! This is a great opportunity to step in with some time and energy. Let's not let those who've been working the hardest even TRY to clear a table on January 7th! (Yeah, we know. There is simply NO stopping Jeff!!)

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WE LIFT IN PRAYER:

ANDERSON, DIANE (Rasmussen cousin)
ANDERSON, JULIA
BALL, TAMMY (friend of M. Schwald) Cancer
BLEVENS, DEAH (friend of Mickey S.)
BRUNO, BERNADETTE (neighbor of Rod Schwald)
BUMSTEAD, GARY (Joy H. cousin)
CARROLL, KAREN
CHRISTOFFERSON, DEBBIE (Cancer)
CRONBACH, LEE (Parkinson's)
FAMILY OF RONNIE DANIELIAS (Joy H cousin)
FAMILY OF CHELSEA HOFFMAN
FAMILY OF KRISTI WHITAKER (Steve W. cousin)
GATER, DANIELLE
HALLADAY, JOY
HALVERSON, ROY (Lung Cancer) (Joy H. brother)
HAMRE, JUDITH (recovery after knee surgery)
HANDLE, JERRY (Steve W. Family member)
HARPER, MARTI
HAUMAN, SUE
HEDLUND, DANNA
HILLERMAN, TIM
HINSON, FRANCES
JOHNSON, BILL
JUAN, ANTOINETTE
JUPITER, PAT
LEASE, CHRISTINA (Valerie G. Granddaughter)
MARKES, FRANK (friend of Mickey S.)
MASSEY, RON
MOLIHAN, RUTHANN (Richard Smith's sister)
PFIFER, JANET & BILL (neighbor – Rod Schwald)
RICE, PATTY (Karen C. daughter)
SHORE, DIANA
SCHWALD, MICKEY
SMITH, ELLEN
SPENCER, NATHAN
STANTON, PATRICK (cancer)
WILLS, PAT (friend of Joy H.)
WILSON, DOROTHY



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CARE GIVERS.

Please help me keep this list up to date by notifying me of any changes.

Thank you – Judy Rasmussen

December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
S=Sanctuary FH=Fellowship Hall O=Office Bldg B3=Building 3				Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)	Girl Scouts (50529) 5:30-8:30pm (FH)	Girl Scouts (46885) 10:30am-12 pm (FH) GS (50529) Red Cross & Babysitting course 1pm – 8:pm (FH)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10:15am (S) Westway Church 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)	Handbell Rehearsal 3-5 (S) CPR class 7:30-9:30pm (FH)		Al-Anon 6:30pm(O)	Handbell Rehearsal 2-4 (S) Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)	Girl Scouts (50529) 5:30-8:30pm (FH)	GenZus Youth Group 1-2pm (O)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10:15am (S) Council Meeting 12:00pm (O) Westway Church 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)	Handbell Rehearsal 3-5 (S) Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm (O)		Foodie Book Group 6:30pm (FH) Al-Anon 6:30pm(O)	Handbell Rehearsal 2-4 (S) Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:15am (S) Westway Church 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)	Handbell Rehearsal 3-5 (S)		Al-Anon 6:30pm(O)	Handbell Rehearsal 2-4 (S) Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)		GenZus Youth Group 1-2pm (O)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 10:15am (S) Westway Church 12:30pm (S) Gleaning 4:00pm (FH)	OFFICE CLOSED Handbell Rehearsal 3-5 (S)	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Al-Anon 6:30pm(O)	Handbell Rehearsal 2-4 (S) Al-Anon 7:00pm (O)		Community Breakfast 8-11:30am (FH)

Puzzle Page



WINTER



WORD SEARCH

BOOTS	HOT COCOA
MITTENS	HAT
ICICLE	SCARF
SNOWMAN	SNOWFLAKE
JACKET	FROZEN
PENGUIN	WINTER
SKIING	FIREPLACE
SLEDDING	SWEATER

Search the puzzle below to find the 16 winter related words.

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



WORD SCRAMBLE

Try and unscramble the 5 winter related words below.

RADIBZZL _____

OWROSSNTM _____

GNIEREFZ _____

OHT ETOCCOHAL _____

ODLC _____

!UPDATES & DOINGS!

Continued from Page 5

Stewardship Studio

Friends, we need financial support to keep going here on 56th Ave in Mountlake Terrace. We aren't making our budget: not our skeletal budget, not even the amputated budget. We zeroed out many line items, saying to each other that we would fund those expenses with "donations". We haven't. Yet. Not fully. We planned as if we would be averaging over \$8,500/month in regular offerings. We haven't hit that number once. Through October we have averaged \$4,988/month. We have had to spend monies that were designated for capital improvements, and have radically spent down our savings. And we're still behind on payroll.

In the Church Council we've heard this phrase many times: "The facts are friendly." There have been deaths among the saints at Bethesda. Others have moved away. Financial situations have changed in all of our households. And Covid has slowed down our outreach efforts for three years.

We need to pray together. We need to brainstorm openly. We need everyone's best ideas and participation. We are not without options. And there is something that each of us can do.

Homecoming

During the holiday season the pull of home is strong. We decorate our dwellings, prepare special foods, play special music, host traditional parties, give and receive gifts that convey lasting love. Hospitality is full and free.

This is a time to invite friends and family to come home to Bethesda. Good things are happening here, despite our financial challenges. Our energy is good. Our music is fabulous. The message we proclaim is genuinely Good News. Folks catch the aroma of Holy Presence when we gather in worship.

In a small congregation like Bethesda, especially one with part-time pastoral ministry, we know that if something is going to get done, we'll likely need to do it ourselves, or really step up to lead other volunteers on larger projects. Outreach requires every one of us. If you've encountered something good here, tell someone else. Invite them to your church home during the holidays. Invite them to come Home.



Bethesda Lutheran Church
23406 56th Ave. W.
Mountlake Terrace WA 98043

Join us for worship Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
either in person (masked) or by Zoom.



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WWW.Bethesdalcmnt.com

