

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
23406 56TH AVENUE WEST
MOUNTLAKE TERRACE, WA 98043
425-778-6390**

**EDUCATION HOUR - 9:00 AM
WORSHIP - 10:15 AM**

**Pastor: Malcolm Brown
Sno-King Cluster Intern: Diana Bottin
Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed**

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BETHESDA OUTLOOK



JANUARY, 2008

Shine! Shine for all to see!!

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” Isaiah 9:2

Throughout Advent light has been a focus as we lit Advent wreaths, as we decorated and lit candles in our homes, as our neighborhoods and the world around us became so bright that it was hard to see the true light come to us in the baby Jesus. This light found in a humble manger has come into the world whether we recognize it or not, or accept it or not; to love all and make the world whole again.

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

Epiphany, which begins on Sunday January 6th, is also a season of light in the dark seasonal days of our world. Throughout this season of light Jesus is revealed to us as repeatedly stepping beyond the accepted tribe, (those like us). We hear and learn in this season of Epiphany that this Jesus, who is revealed during the days of Christmas to Jewish parents, Jewish shepherds, and Jewish elders in the temple, is now revealed in a much widened sphere of tribes, to all!

He is revealed on the festival of Epiphany, to wise men, gentile wise men from the east traveling to honor the King who has been born, whose star has appeared in the night sky. ***See Pastor Diana’s article on our Epiphany Sunday Celebration and happenings during the season of Epiphany.***

“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

The Epiphany season of the church year celebrates the discovery that *Someone* has come, sent by God. Come, to bring God’s light into our lives, to make a difference in our lives and our

Time! Do you know I’ve been rambling to you on what is supposed to be about stewardship of God’s resources instead of, as my family says “mom’s personal soap box to the world”, anyhow, for over 15 years? Is anyone still out there? Have you considered or accomplished a life change because of my aging?

‘Nuf of that heavy, heavy! It’s January. Let’s have a birthday party for Martin Luther’s beloved Katie. Katherine Van Bora, pioneer woman of the reformation, born January 29, 1499. Katherine fled, with Luther’s help, from her convent with 11 of her other sisters (an act punishable by death) on Easter Sunday, 1523. She was a feisty one, risking being burned as a heretic with that notorious monk Luther. Katherine agreed to a rushed betrothal on June 13, 1525, with a wedding to Martin Luther 2 weeks later. Luther wrote often of her, complimenting her many talents— “doctor, preacher, brewer, pig breeder, gardener, his rib, his chain, confidant and dearly beloved wife”. A pioneer of the new Reformation with understanding of Christian life and marriage, a model for women today. She was quite a gal. Read a book of their life adventures, and marriage—quite a story.

‘Nuf said—except if ignorance is bliss, why aren’t more people happy? Happiness comes through doors you didn’t even know you left open. Some mistakes were too much fun to only do once. If the shoe fits, its ugly! Remember getting service at the service station? What good is a nest egg if you’re only sitting on it? The older some people get, the farther they had to walk to school. I remember when bacon, eggs and sunshine were good for you! P.S. Enterprise correction: I am not the talented Jean, the put-together, knows where or what anything of Bethesda, plus a person with a very melodious singing voice in local opera, madrigal, etc., our very multi-talented secretary! See—obviously not me doing the Bethesda newsletter as they had written.

been so unhappy. We have over-whelmed, over-worked, over-scheduled and over-spent.” Remind you of anyone you know? It was written before the words “multi tasking” became a buzz. Doesn’t work very effectively as people are finding. Still we squirm because the more we cram into our lives, the less we feel in control. Someone has written “Time—life’s great denominator? King or peasant—rich or poor; each son of Adam and daughter of Eve has the same ration of hours and minutes, 60 minutes an hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The years add up to a lifetime.”

Ephesians 5:15-16 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of time.” Do we not belong to God? Ephesians 2:10 “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” What counts for us is not what we are able to accomplish, but what God is able to do through us. Our lives are too busy, changing daily, and no one can do everything—priorities are a must. If we can’t do everything at once, we can at least do something at once. The important thing is to begin—now. Our memories are on overload—comes with age, that’s why someone invented sticky notes. We decorate kitchen cupboards, telephone (our black dial ancient one) “frig, bathroom mirror, etc. Does it help?”

A few thoughts on time in our lives—spend at least 10 minutes reflecting and praying about what you were able or not able to do this week to practice tithing, alms giving, time giving, self giving, rather than buying, possessing, accumulating, owning. In our own lives of over-consumption, list 10 ways in your life to practice conservation, forgiveness and welcoming. Give \$1.00 for each example. We all have basic physical needs—food, clothing, shelter, etc. Resist the temptation to call “wants” “needs”. If you’re shopping think and say “I like that” rather than “I want that”.

community, to heal our brokenness and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God’s love for you and I and *ALL* through this light of Christ.

We are called to be not just a place of healing and grace, but also a beacon of light for our world and our community, and a place of radical hospitality where all are welcome. A Place where *all* are welcome not how we want them to be or think they should to be, but just as they are when they come!

Where will your light shine?

Where will our light Shine and upon who in our community?

In the readings of this season before Lent Jesus is consistently breaking down walls between tribes: between women and men, between powerful and marginalized, between Gentiles and Jews, family and stranger, clean and unclean, between all of us.

Today our tribalism is and must be challenged by Jesus’ fierce inclusiveness. We are called to question our defensive loyalty to family, school, denomination, neighborhood, class, religion, church and buildings, country or any other tribes of exclusion in the face of Jesus’ life, teachings and actions. The Glory and love of the LORD was, is, and shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Shine! Shine for all to see!!

May you share that Epiphany light with those far off from God in our world!

Pastor Malcolm



For so many people Christmas is long gone and forgotten, but in the life of the church Christmas is about to climax. Epiphany (January 6th) is the climax of the Advent and

Christmas season. It is the time in which the three kings, who represent all gentiles, arrive to at the stable to bear gifts to Jesus. Epiphany is derived from the Greek word *ἐπιφάνεια*, which is translated as appearance or manifestation. We have waited with great anticipation for the birth of Jesus, we have celebrated that birth, and now we celebrate God being shown, made known, or revealed to all human kind through the Three Magi's.

This year is special. This year Epiphany falls on a Sunday. The last time Epiphany fell on a Sunday was in 2003. On January 6th Bethesda will celebrate the revelation of God to mankind in human form in a special way. The service will reflect the arrival of the Three Magi's. We will also be gathering non-perishable food items during the offering and placing them next to the altar, and we will gather with joy for a Christmas potluck after worship.

Because Epiphany is not just one day out of the year, but it is a season that lasts through the month of January, we will be gathering non-perishable food each Sunday in January as we worship with our offerings. The food that is gathered will be given to the Mountlake Terrace Food Bank. As the Three Magi's came bearing gifts of importance and making Christ know, we also will be bearing gifts of importance and making Christ known through our actions.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Jeanne Krahn

Bet there is not one of you reading this (hopefully) who did not receive a Christmas letter or written note on the card whining "Where did the year go? What happened to time?" Yep! Wait until you're in your 80s and you really can grumble. So—Tim's query to us is "Want some cheese and crackers with your whine?" No, no repeat of the year of 2007 in our lives! The great American time crunch, when we think there's never enough time to get everything accomplished—or is there? Time for making money, time for buying whatever, life in nano-seconds! Being busy, busy does not convey our self worth. Will Rogers once said "Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save." The distinction blurs when we're wondering when it's what has to be done, how fast it has to be done, and what is worth sacrificing to get it done. Nothing stays the same (and have we had too many changes in our lives in 2007) except the God we worship is the same at the beginning of time and to the end of time. Re-read Ecclesiastes 3—"There is a time for every purpose and for every work..." Isn't time really what Christmas is all about, Epiphany, the journey of the Magi? An anonymous poem "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princesses are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people, to make music with the heart."

Rather a jumpstart for those New Year's resolutions. I'm sure you must have a page filled by now. Remember life is a journey not a parking lot. In C. Leslie Charles' book, "Why is Everyone So Cranky? The Ten Trends That Are Making Us Angry and How We Can Find Peace of Mind Instead", she writes "Never have so many, with so much,



RECIPE PAGE

Peanut Butter Puppy Poppers

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|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 c whole wheat flour | 1 c peanut butter |
| 1 T baking powder | 1 c milk |

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. In a bowl, combine flour and baking pwd. In another bowl, mix milk and peanut butter, then add to dry ingredients and mix well. Place dough on a lightly floured surface and knead. Roll dough to ¼ “ and use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes. Bake for 20 minutes on a greased baking sheet until lightly brown. Cool on a rack, then store in an airtight container.

Low Fat Dog Biscuits

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 c whole wheat flour | 2 T vegetable oil |
| ½ c all purpose flour | 2 egg whites |
| ¼ c cornmeal | ¼ c molasses |
| ¼ c quick oats | ¼ c milk |
| 1 ½ tsp. garlic powder | 2 T cold water |

In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, oats and garlic pwd. In a small bowl, whisk oil, egg whites, molasses, milk & water. Make a well in the flour mixture and gradually stir in egg mix until well blended. Divide dough into 2 balls. Knead each dough ball on a well floured surface about 2 minutes. Using a rolling pin, roll ½”. Cut into shapes and place on a lightly oiled baking sheet. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees F. Turn oven off and leave biscuits to harden for 1 hour. Cool on a rack. Store at room temperature in a container.

AROUND BETHESDA

CHRISTMAS MEAL

Sunday, January 6th

We will have a Christmas Meal potluck following worship service on Epiphany Sunday, January 6th. Turkey will be provided. We ask that you please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

Remember! January is “**Heifer International Month**”! Let's see if we can go for the gift of an Ark! Our Sunday Schoolers will be working on a beautiful collage as we work towards our goal of \$1000.

Outreach would like to invite everyone to their next meeting, **January 8th, 7 pm**, church office. Our guest speaker will be Mabelle Hoffman from Terrace Parks School. She will be speaking about her special program, **The Toy Shop**. This program will be a great way for our children to be actively involved in an outreach ministry. For more info, contact Dena at 206-368-9446 or Jeanne at 425-776-2085.



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27th
Following worship service

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 2nd: 2 pm. ***The Red Tent Book Club*** gathering (*moved from January 26th*) - Bring your desserts to share and let's hear what we learned about the culture and times of this wonderful story of powerful women of our Biblical past. Call Dena for more information at 206-368-9446.

Feb. 2nd: 10a.m.-1p.m. ***Stepping Out - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Shoreline, Washington*** - An event for women. Women play all sorts of roles in life: spouse, parent, caregiver, planner, professional etc. Come spend the day to learn how to rejoice in those roles. For more information, contact Becky Bunke at becky.bunke@josephinenet.com.

Feb. 5th: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Christmas Caroling at Tall Firs!

Thank you everyone for joining together with the residents of Tall Firs for a great time! We all sang beautifully and had a good laugh trying to remember all the lines for The Twelve Days of Christmas! Alex and Jessica, you were perfect angels! I know we made a lot of folks happy. Let's do it again next year!!

We sold 67 ***Junior Art Contest Winner 2008 Calendars!*** In addition to the calendar sales, we also sold lots of miscellaneous items netting us \$ 527! It looks like we can give away lots of hot dogs for our Arts Festival ala Tour de Terrace in July! Thank you everyone!

2007 HAT & MITTEN TREE

67 PAIRS OF SOX
72 HATS
41 PAIRS OF MITTENS
5 SETS OF HATS & GLOVES
12 SCARVES
10 UNDERWEAR

Thank you everyone who donated. All clothing donated have been sent to ***Clothes For Kids*** in Lynnwood.

Maxine Helms