

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**23406 56TH AVENUE WEST**  
**MOUNTLAKE TERRACE, WA 98043**  
**425-778-6390**  
**[bethesdalcmnt.com](http://bethesdalcmnt.com)**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Mountlake Terrace, WA  
PERMIT #10

**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**

**Change Service Requested**

# BETHESDA OUTLOOK



**APRIL, 2008**

*Greetings Easter people in the name of the  
Risen Christ - "Alleluia, He is risen"*

**God is up to something here at  
Bethesda Lutheran Church!**

**As we live in God's Amazing grace,  
Expect surprises!**

The Season of Easter is about the celebration of the resurrected Jesus poured upon us to sustain us the church to rejoice, proclaim, love and serve the world.

God is on a mission to love and bless the whole world. God has gifted us at Bethesda and has called us to show and tell of this mission of God. This mission of God is our mission, *our only* mission. We have something the world needs! We have no other mission than this one!! God has given all the gifts needed by the Holy Spirit for that mission, to accomplish that mission in our own unique way, today in 2008 in Mountlake Terrace. It will mean living differently every day out there in the world. It will mean thinking differently as a church that looks outward and not inward.

Our real and hard work as a faith community will be to discern what our gifts are and how to use them in mission, God's mission to love and bless the world. This will require prayer, lots of prayer. This will dare us to take action. This will be about daring to expect surprises, to take risks, big risks, with us going into places and doing things we don't want to do and following the Holy Spirit into places we'd rather not be. There will be messes and experiences that may not seem like successes, some may call them failures, but they will be neither but great learning and growing experiences. We may and will fall

I want to thank all the thespians who cheerfully agreed to take part in the Lenten skits we performed on Wednesday nights over the past few weeks. We had a great time under the theme of "*The Games People Play*" Pastor Diana was the Voice from the Pulpit in all five plays, and she did it with great authority and aplomb. Our other players were, in order of appearance:

***Solitaire***

Sharon Boyd as the Player; Judy Rasmussen as the voice of her kid; Sue Rasmussen as the Church Member

***Hide 'n" Seek***

Pat Olson as the Hider and Ron Olson as the Seeker

***Follow the Leader***

Players were Charlie Brown, Norma Elliott & Joy Halliday led by Alex "Jumpin' Jack Flash" Colorado.

Voices from the audience were Sharon Boyd, Sue Rasmussen, Stan Krahn, Jeff Thedens & Judy Rasmussen

***King of the Hill***

Voices: Wolfgang Lill, Larry Fischer & Mimi Seale

***Twenty Questions***

Questioners: Roy Johnson, Joan Minnis, Mimi Seale, Jaye Lill & Stan Krahn

Voice of God: Pastor Malcolm & Sue Rasmussen

We had a wonderful time performing for you and we hope we were a bit inspirational along with the fun. Kudos, too, to all the Leaders of Holden Evening Prayer: Merry Wick, Pastor Malcolm, Mimi Seale, Alex Colorado, Jean Leavens, Jeff Thedens, Sue Rasmussen, Stan Krahn and especially to Lee Cronbach. Let's do it again!

*Sue Rasmussen*



Mark your calendars! Summer is on it's way (really it is) and we are getting started on VBS planning. We want your kids and you to join us for some great fun learning about God's power and some cool science surprises. Anyone interested in helping out in any way - Let me know. If you are interested in leading crafts, decorations, games, or picture/power point producer please let me know as soon as possible. Other areas of need: help with drama, Bible Adventures with Chadder, games, crafts, teachers, nursery (for those parents helping with VBS), snacks, registration, and we are in need of a Co-organizer to represent Bethesda. This looks like a lot of fun.

Pastor Diana

HOLD THE DATE!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 14-18 AND 20, 2008

and stumble, and sometimes we may even look like idiots. So what? We stand on grace! We will worry about our resources, we will be afraid to mess up. We might even forget that God is a God of abundance who promises us everything we need.

Will it be possible for us to feel at home in a congregation that expects surprise; that knows that the Holy Spirit is going to show up and mess with everything; that embraces failure and celebrates messes as we learn from the mistakes we will make as we flounder around trying to be the church in this world! We stand on grace, the work is hard, and it will take courage, to dare to take risks, and to dare to make messes as we follow God into all kinds of new places and encounter all kinds of grace in new people and there stories; into the company of strangers on paths we would have never picked ourselves. We will do this because we stand on grace.

We will do this because we are Easter people, people of hope and certainty of the future because the risen Jesus Christ stands in the gaps of our lives, the gap that is God's grace and love, the gap that our world so desperately needs filled as they encounter God's Easter people, *us*, in their lives.

We are indeed Easter People! And God is indeed up to something here! Let us dare to live in God's amazing grace? Let us dare to expect God to show up in surprising and new ways?

*"He is risen indeed"*

Pastor Malcolm

## New Ministry on the Horizon

On February 26<sup>th</sup> a group of people met to discuss ways in which we could assist the Tonga family, Taniela, Lotos, and their three children, who are facing financial and legal issues. After a great deal of discussion it was agreed upon to take up a special offering to assist them. When God is at work many miracles happen. The following is a list of what has come into the church due to your generosity and heartfelt caring to help Taniela and his family.

For the Tonga Family	\$ 3,964.00
For Rent Only	\$ 300.00
For others in need	\$ 425.00
Balance	\$ 4,689.00

Matching Funds Request from Thrivent	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$ 6,689.00

Distribution to date:

January & February Rent for the Tonga's	\$ 2,100.00
Physical for Taniela	\$ 250.00
Work Permit (filing fee)	\$ 340.00
Permanent Green Card (filing fee)	\$ 1,365.00
Total	\$ 4,055.00

Balance	\$ 2,634.00
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Through the NW Washington Synod we were able to get into contact with an attorney in Seattle who is willing to help Taniela with his legal issues. She has agreed to represent him at no charge, but is unable to pick-up the cost of filing the necessary paperwork. The filing for his permanent green card was temporarily delayed due to the lack of a qualifying sponsor. A citizen of Mountlake Terrace hearing of Taniela's need, who does not attend Bethesda, stepped up on March 14<sup>th</sup> to sponsor him. This allowed Taniela to turn in the forms to file for his permanent green card.

## MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT WITH THE BETHESDA JAMMERS! Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm.

Goodwill donations are graciously accepted. These monies help to fund our musical concerts and a portion of the collected funds will go to the Alzheimer's Association. A dessert reception will follow the concert in our church social hall. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

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**RECYCLE MOUNTLAKE TERRACE!** Bethesda's theme this year for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Arts & Crafts Festival, takes place July 25-27<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with "Tour de Terrace". Check out our website: [bethesdalcm.com](http://bethesdalcm.com) for details. More details will also appear around our church, in the Bethesda Happenings and in future newsletters. We need lots of helping hands to assist all of our guests in the many wonderful activities we have up our sleeves!

**WE NEED A POSTER FOR OUR ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL! IS IT A CONTEST? IT COULD BE! IF YOU ARTISTIC AND FEEL CALLED TO CREAT OUR FESTIVAL POSTER, LET DENA OR JOY HALLADAY KNOW! THANKS!**

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**WHO CAN MAKE THE BIGGEST BALL OF STRING? WHO CAN MAKE THE BIGGEST BALL OF RUBBERBANDS?**  
This is a contest for all ages of Bethesda Folks. What's the prize? Well, that's a surprise that will be revealed on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.!

**April 22 is Earth Day.** Join Dena in an informal study of “Awakening to God’s call to Earthkeeping.” Let us explore ways of rediscovering our place and finding our place in the universe. Let us learn to appreciate our place in time. This study is age appropriate for anyone 8 or older. We will meet at **7 pm in the church office.**

**BE PREPARED!** In an emergency situation, it is always good to know what to do. Bethesda Lutheran Church is hosting a **CPR/First Aid training seminar.** It will be on **Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am- 4:30 pm in the church office.** This two-part seminar is \$40 or \$30 for CPR or First Aid only. Some scholarship funds are available. **Reservations are a must.** Contact Dena, 206-368-9446, to register for this invaluable training. Lunch will be provided

A **FOOD HANDLER’S CLASS** scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00 PM. This class lasts about an hour and costs \$10 to participate. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Norma Elliott at 425-776-5857. Sign-up deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Camp Lutherwood** is looking for stewards of the earth to help clean up the camp ground in preparation for summer campers, **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will gather in the church parking lot at 7:30 am and caravan to Bellingham to spend the day in service to God and our community. Contact Dena, 206-368-9446, if you are interested in lending a hand. This is a great family offering, so come join us for the day, kids and parents!!

At this time everything is in the hands of the courts. Filing and paying the fees does not in any way guarantee that Taniela will receive a work permit or a permanent green card. Unfortunately our immigration system is very broken, and the laws and statues for immigrants are fluctuating almost on a weekly basis. Please keep Taniela and his family in your prayers, as well as his attorney, the judges, and our legal system. Taniela’s legal issues are now in God’s hands and our prayers are needed.

In our effort to come together and help Taniela history is repeating itself. Bethesda has always had a history of helping others and in doing so a new ministry is forming – Bethesda Community Services. This new ministry is currently looking at ways to help Taniela, but is also looking at ways in which Bethesda Lutheran Church can continue to help families in need. Anyone who is interested on being a part of this ministry is welcomed.

Finally, in the past month I have seen so many miracles and signs of God at work in the Tonga family, in the community of Bethesda Lutheran Church, and in Mountlake Terrace that at times it has been overwhelming and I am brought to tears. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this community and its love to help others.

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To: Bethesda Lutheran Church  
From: The Tonga Family

First, we would like to thank the Lord for giving us the blessings that the church has made possible. There are not enough words to explain our gratitude. Through this we have had so many miracles thrown our way. You all have made the impossible possible. It showed us that we can be hopeful for the future. From words of encouragement to the financial help we are truly grateful. Thank you to the church, our lovely pastor’s Malcolm and Diana, and to Janice Bowen for taking us under your wings.

God Bless,  
The Tonga Family

## Sno-King Cluster Brown Bag Bible Study

Were on the move! The Brown Bag Bible Study group is moving to Northlake Lutheran Church for the month of April. I would like to thank Bethel Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their facilities during March. Brown Bag Bible Study group meets every Monday at 10:30 to study the up coming Sunday lessons. Come feed your soul with the Word of God and feed your body with a brown bag lunch and fellowship. Northlake is located at 6620 NE 185<sup>th</sup> Street in Kenmore.

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### From LATCH (Lutheran Alliance To Create Housing)

Amy, a Youth Coordinator at LATCH housing courts, run's after school programs, besides homework help, health snacks, and providing arts and crafts and learning activities. Amy addresses important topics such as self esteem, goal setting, peer pressure, violence and gang issues, and civic engagement.

The youth started a fundraising program last October called Cartridges for Kids ([www.cartridgesforkids.com](http://www.cartridgesforkids.com)), an environmentally friendly program that pays cash for recyclable items - video game consoles (including accessories), video games (including case), empty ink jet cartridges, empty laser cartridges, used cell phones, digital cameras, lap tops (including power cord), PDAs/palm pilots, iPods, dvd movies (including packaging). If you have any these items the youth would deeply appreciate them. Drop them by the Church Office. We will get them to Molly Pencke (LATCH Co-op Coordinator (206) 789-1536 ext.108). Thank you,

Cliff



Our annual clean-up day turned out to be a great day! We had a wonderful turn out and God blessed us with good weather. People from age 4 to 83 were busy cleaning the inside and outside of the church, the yard and parking area. We spread lots of bark after weeding and pruning. We had a superb lunch, thanks to the kitchen crew headed by Joy Halladay.

We have more work to do and more bark left, so we will have another work party soon. It will be called *Join Hands Day* and it will be a fundraiser through Thrivent.

Thanks to Dick and Jeanette Anstice for the donation of the bark, and thank you to all the helpers. **MANY, MANY THANKS!**

Facilities & Grounds Committee