



**B e t h e s d a
Lutheran Church**

Bethesda Outlook

January, 2009

From Pastor Malcolm's Desk

HAPPY EPIPHANY

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

For all of us who are forever "Dreaming of a *White Christmas*"; we most certainly received one this year. This will certainly be a Christmas to remember. The white blanket that made our community beautiful and soft also caused many of us challenges and difficulties in getting out to our many Christmas family and church gatherings. Yet in the midst of all of this God came down the stairway of the stars with a baby in his arms and places the baby into our hands. We not only celebrated the past birth of Jesus; but also a baby was born that changed everything if we let this little baby change our hearts today in new and very different ways .

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

Epiphany, which begins on January 6th (the 12th day of Christmas), 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 groups and cultures. 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 peoples. He is revealed on the festival of Epiphany, (Epiphany Sunday is January 4th) to wise men from a different land and a different group of people, an unaccepted group. Jesus has come for all, even those who are not the same as us!

The Epiphany season of the church year celebrates the discovery that *Someone* has come, sent by God. Jesus, the Word made

flesh has come, to bring God's light into our lives, to make a difference in our lives and in our community, to heal our brokenness and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God's love for you and I and *All who come to us* 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 to share their gifts in ministry, not how we want them to be or think they should to be, but just as they are when they come with what they have to offer!

Where will your light shine?

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

Today our tribalism is and must be challenged by Jesus' fierce inclusiveness. We are called to question our defensive loyalty to family, the way we have done things and the ways we think of being the church of yesterday, 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.

In this Epiphany season may the light of the star and the glory of God be revealed to you in new and unexpected ways! May you light candles and pray for the revealing of God's light in your darkness and for the ever widening of God's love and compassion in your lives. May you share that Epiphany light with those far off from God in our world !

Pastor Malcolm

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ - *Thank You,*

I thank God for you daily and am grateful for who you are and all that you do to further God's mission to bless and heal our world. Thank you for your generous gift and your generosity of spirit. Your generosity blesses me and humbles me and for that I am very grateful. Thank You

It is a pleasure to serve with you in our mission field and to wonder with God how we are called to serve our world and community– Thank You.

With gratefulness and love,

Pastor Malcolm and Charlie Brown

On Friday December 5th the NW Washington Synod Candidacy Committee approved me for Ordination. I want to say thank you to everyone for your prayers, encouragement, proof reading of papers and support. Chris and I could not have made this journey without all of you, nor would we have wanted to. So what happens now? In February there is an assignment process in which all the newly approved candidates for ordination are assigned a region and a synod. I have

asked to be assigned to the NW Washington Synod. After assignment, the bishop will match my profile with congregations who are seeking a First Call Pastor and the interview process begins. Your continued prayers and support throughout this process are greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ,

Diana Bottin

To our "Kitchen Krew", who consistently set-up, dish-up and clean-up. These ladies were really busy in December with the many activities going on.

To Maxine for her annual Mittens and socks tree. Truly a labor of love.

To Janice and staff, who do the Community Dinners.

To All who had a hand in making Bethesda's Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall so festive as we celebrated the Holy Birth. The sharing of Christmas greens and poinsettias was appreciated.

To Dena, her assistants and **THE CHILDREN** for a delightful Christmas Pageant. Little **Sage** as Baby Jesus with her pacifier was priceless.

To our choirs and **musicians** who "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord".

To Tim for shoveling snow at 6 AM so we could have safe walking conditions.

To Pastor Malcolm, Council and **Committee members**, who help Bethesda run smoothly.

To YOU who fill our pews each Sunday, offering your love and financial support.

This is **FAITH IN ACTION**, folks.

May we continue to grow in God's Love and may He richly bless each and every one of you.

~~Peace and Love~~

Mickey

Village of Hope in Gulu, Uganda

Great News!

The children that come around looking for an outstretched hand with change for the Pennies From Heaven jar at the front of the church, have helped the orphanage, Village of Hope, in Gulu, Uganda. The Pennies From Heaven account had \$934.37 in it when Sue Rasmussen, our treasurer, wrote a check to Action International to purchase chickens so the children could have eggs. If there are extra eggs, they will sell them in the market to help with their finances. These children come to

the orphanage with the child mothers, who had been taken from their homes and raped, etc. The mothers had babies by the soldiers in opposing forces in the constant war in Uganda. They have escaped and have nothing when they arrive in Gulu. If there is enough money, they may buy a cow for milk for the children and the mothers.

Joan Minnis
Bethesda Lutheran Sunday School

Dear Joan,

I have received the money. What you wrote was fine. The orphanage is called Home of Love.

We are all holding our breath here. The governments of Uganda, Congo and Sudan are launching a joint attack to destroy the LRA Rebels. There have been a build up of troops and the people are scared. They had started going back to their villages from the camps. They are worried the rebels will try to run back to the Gulu are to hide from the government forces. We have had two years of peace, but now anything can happen.

I will be going down to Kampala the 29th to attempt to get my work permit. Last week immigration officers came to our offices looking for alien workers to check our papers. I was home sick, but praise God the papers I have are still valid. It has been a lot of work keeping my papers legal they expire Dec 31st.

Thank you for staying in touch and the care and concern you all have shown for us! It makes a huge difference in me being able to stay here and minister. This is a very hard and challenging place it can be overwhelming especially in times like these. I have very limited computer access. I will always answer as soon as I can.

Praise God for His wonderful Son!

Love,
Angie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>JANUARY 2009</h1> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;">SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING <u>SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH</u> FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE.</p> </div>				1	2	3
				OFFICE CLOSED	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM WAM Comm. 6:30 PM	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A'cappella Choir Rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Ruth/Miriam Circle @ J. Krahn's Girl Scouts - 7pm	Education Comm. 7:00 PM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	Brownies 7:00 PM Jammer's 7:15 PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
A'cappella Choir Rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Sue's Bible Study 2:00 PM	Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Esther Circle Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	Brownies 7:00 PM Jammer's 7:15 PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	Men's Fellowship 8:00-10:00 AM Family Movie Night 5:30 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A'cappella Choir Rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM		Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-15deg); font-size: 1.2em;"> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE </div>	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	Brownies 7:00 PM Jammer's 7:15 PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00 PM (at office) <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px auto;"/> POOL PARTY 6pm—swimming 7pm—pot luck dinner at church	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
A'cappella Choir Rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM <u>BI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</u> (following the worship service)	Sue's Bible Study 2:00 PM	Twins Club 5:00-9:00 PM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	Brownies 7:00 PM Jammer's 7:15 PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	

DATE		READINGS
Jan. 4	Second Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18
Jan. 6	Epiphany of our Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 11	Baptism Of Our Lord	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11
Jan. 18	Second Sunday After Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
Jan. 25	Third Sunday After Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20



- 2 - Derald Porter
Garry Swierenga
- 4 - Marie Fay
- 8 - Sue Rasmussen
- 11 - Ray Rasmussen
- 13 - Dylan Olson
- 15 - Lillian Cunningham
- 18 - Les Olsen
- 19 - Anny Glebe
- 20 - Laurie Olson (Pearson)
- 21 - Audriana Hindman
- 22 - Spencer Bueing
- 24 - Zackery Goldsmith
- 28 - Walter Smith
- 30 - Joan Minnis

Family Dinner & Movie Night

Get to know your community. Use this night as an opportunity to share fellowship with other families. Look for a sign-up sheet in the "Children's Corner."

January 17th "Chronicles of Narnia"

Come at 4:30 pm to help set up and finish preparing dinner. **Dinner is served at 5:30 pm.** All movies are rated general. Clean-up help is WONDERFUL!

Thoughts For The Month

Whoosh! Snow! Who wanted it for Christmas? Epiphany—the magi are on their way! The twelve days of Christmas to celebrate the birth of the Christ child continues on. German reformer, Martin Luther, many years ago, has written "*If We Had Been There*" - "There are some of us who think to ourselves, 'If I had only been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby. I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!' Yes, we would. We say that because we know how great Christ is, but if we had been there at that time, we would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Why don't we do it now? We have Christ as our neighbor." Will we? Can we? Selfishness makes Christmas a burden, love makes it a delight!

So many changes coming in our world, now truly is a time to believe. "To believe is to know every day is a new beginning. (Count your blessings if you can begin one.) It is a trust that miracles happen, and dreams really do come true. ☆ To believe is to see angels dancing among the clouds, to know the wonder of a stardust sky and the wisdom of the man in the moon. ♥ To believe is to

by Jeanne Krahn

embrace the value of a nurturing heart, the innocence of a child's eyes and the beauty of an aging hand, for it is through their teachings we learn how to love. ☾ To believe is to find the strength and courage that lives within us when it is time to pick up the pieces and begin again. To believe is to know that we are never alone, that life is a gift and this our time to cherish it. ☆ To believe is to know that wonderful surprises are just waiting to happen and all our hopes and dreams are within reach ... if only we believe." (*anon.*)

On the twelfth day of Christmas, January 6th, (you still have time) give your true love the gift of joy, the simple abundant gifts of Spirit, of belief. They will give you gifts of happy smiles and contented hearts. You'll never go to a mall to exchange that. Understand the true spirit of Christmas isn't just a "come and go" fleeting feeling but the belief in the Christ child's birth for us and the everlasting goodness and spirit of a kind and giving heart.

God bless you and keep you in this coming new year.



A Message From Our Council President

Greetings to all of you –

I am getting this article put together for January's newsletter on December 19th, and I cannot grasp the concept that we are rapidly moving into another year. That doesn't mean that I am not thankful that I will possibly be able to make it through another year, but, it's the increased speed with which those little salt crystals move through the Hour Glass of Life that amazes me! Where did all the boring, nothing to do times go as when I was in grade school trying to wait out summer vacation?

There are many things going on around Bethesda, as you will read in this newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins. The Council so appreciates all that all of you are doing for the Lord! It is amazing!

I want to also thank Larry Fischer and Mickey Schwald for joining the Council. We are still in need of one more member. Please prayerfully consider offering your time to join us. The Council meets once a month.

And although times are very stressful right now, what with our economy being what it is right now and such, understanding that God will move us forward for what He wants us to accomplish. As scripture states often, all that God is about, has and continues to accomplish is still a mystery to us. So often it pushes us to the point that we are actually afraid to continue to try to do His will, and are much more comfortable to figure it out ourselves. The article included here is very interesting and insightful in reference to this concern.

Please also note that the Council will soon be meeting to complete the 2009 budget proposal for the congregation to vote on. The date for that congregational meeting is not set as yet. Please watch for the announcement and notices in the bulletin as to when that will take place. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 425-678-8560, or mail me at smb1942@comcast.net.

Thank you all for your support and prayers as we continue to grow in God's glory in 2009

Sharon Boyd / Council President

God's Way to Give

READ | [2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#)

Our heavenly Father knows what our income is and how He would like us to spend it. He also desires that we demonstrate certain heart attitudes in our giving. These include faith, compassion, and generosity.

It takes faith to give before our own needs are met. The Macedonians at Philippi were experiencing deep poverty, but they still longed to contribute. Their behavior revealed a deep trust in the Lord's provision.

Compassion is also vital. This heart attitude cares about others and wants to bless them. The Philippian church saw Paul's situation and longed to help ([Phil. 4:16](#)). The Lord is pleased when we love one another and share from what we have. The Macedonian believers were also generous. Though in great need themselves, they begged for the privilege of contributing to the collection for the Jerusalem church.

Consider how greatly we have benefited from the generosity of our heavenly Father. He provided His Son Jesus to take our sins upon Himself and die in our place. He has adopted us into His family, made us co-heirs with Christ, and prepared for us a permanent home in heaven with Him. And in this life, His Holy Spirit provides everything we need for life and godliness ([2 Peter 1:3](#)). As we make our Christmas plans, let's be generous towards others, just as God has been to us.

As we study biblical principles about how to handle money, God's Holy Spirit will help us put them into practice. Obedience to the Word will bring spiritual blessing ([Luke 6:38](#)).

**Bethesda
Lutheran Church**

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Pastor: Malcolm Brown
Sno-King Cluster Intern: Coe Hutchison
Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

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