



Bethesda

Bethesda Outlook

November, 2009

Advent Begins- Sunday November 29th

November is like a season unto itself, one of transition, on the cusp of change. We frame this month with three Holy Days of the church year; November 1st is All Saints Sunday, November 22nd is Christ the King Sunday, and November 29th is the 1st Sunday of Advent. The Gospel Texts in between these Sundays will indeed challenge us. It can be an unsettling time as we focus on our fall routines and winding down the church year. November can be warm or cold. As I write this my hands are cold as our nights have become longer and colder. We have already experienced some wind and hard rains. Autumn is upon us and Advent is coming. For many of us it has been a very challenging and difficult year, with many life changes that have put our faith and trust in God to the test.

As a community of faith, and a family of faith this past year we have walked with each other, listened and held each other; we have shed tears of sorrow and of joy with each other. As the people of God in this *Mission Outpost* named Bethesda Lutheran Church we have been faithful followers and have been people of joy, grace, hope and love as we now await the season of HOPE, *Advent!*

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The Church year begins with Advent, November 29th and we begin the church year with expectant wondering and waiting as we contemplate how God has come to us in the flesh in 2009. We end the church year wondering how this infant Jesus will come alive in the flesh to us and how he will be God's love and grace to us and for us, so that we may be *salt* and *light* for our neighbors and community here at Bethesda in 2010.

The future comes to us as a gift from God and will be revealed to us if we but listen and follow. God invites us to listen, to think creatively with Him and to dream about the unimaginable possibilities which he has planned for us. God invites us into our world and to discover Jesus already there and at work in the lives of others all around us.

We know that God is faithful and will be with us, will lead us, and will call us into our future. We rest in hope because we know that endings with God are really new beginnings.

I thank God for each of you and for your love and grace as we walk journey together following and discovering Christ in our midst and in our world.

I hold you all in my prayers,

God's grace peace and blessings be with you all,

Pastor Malcolm

From our Council

A few months ago, a Bethesda Council member placed before the Executive Committee and Council a list of various matters heard from some members of the congregation. The points ranged from a feeling that too much time and energy and passion were being directed away from Bethesda to Pastor holding “office hours” at Starbucks. Instead of addressing each of the concerns individually, we thought we should address what a church should be and who is responsible for making it an effective worshipping body and servant of the community of Christ.

We **do** direct a great deal of our money and passion to organizations outside our own building. We have, on our benevolence lists, seven organizations whose work we support throughout the year, plus undirected funds that are sent to the Northwest Washington Synod and the ELCA. The funds for these benevolences come from our decision as a congregation to take 10% off the top of our income to send to such places as the local food bank, The Compass Center, LATCH, Lutherwood camp and others. We support the work they do with our donations as a congregation, just as the individual members of Bethesda support the work Bethesda does with their contributions. These organizations generate no funds outside of the support received from grants and donations from congregations like ours. And, as good stewards of what **we have received, we share our first fruits with others doing the work of Jesus Christ.** We cannot ask individuals to be good stewards to Bethesda if we are not willing, as a congregation, to practice the same kind of sharing.

In the past year, we have been privileged to share more personally with members of our community through Community Dinner on Monday evenings, and helping individual families who have faced economic and injustice problems. As the hymn says, *“We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly. We are called to serve one another. And to walk humbly with God.”* Nobody can deny that we at

Bethesda are trying to take those words to heart. We have received your calls, and we attempt to act upon them.

Pastor Malcolm has been with us for three and a half years. He is full of energy and ideas, one of which is to make Bethesda “visible” in the community. One way that has happened is to hold “office hours” at Starbucks. He kept tract over the course of a specific period of time, of the number of people who come to meet with him at Starbucks versus coming to see him at the church. The results were rather astonishing: 10-12 people at the coffee shop; NONE at the church during that time frame. The people of this area have begun to notice us, join us, and work with us. More than 30 new members were accepted on one Sunday. Baptisms, weddings and funerals among non-members have been happening in great numbers. We are being noticed and are answering our calls.

Pastor cannot know where he is needed if we do not keep him informed of our needs. It is difficult for ministers in these times to just call on people, as we, ourselves, are busy outside our homes, and, therefore, not available for impulsive calls. It is also the responsibility of ALL the members of Bethesda to keep in touch with the needs of our friends and fellow-members. I know of one man who quietly made it his mission to place a phone call to anyone he has not seen in church for a couple of weeks in a row. It is everyone’s work. And Pastor is open to being invited over to our homes. He can be reached by phone to his office or home, by cell phone and through e-mail.

Our ideas about what our church should be are many and varied. It is up to all of us to make them happen, and to share the work of the Church, the Body of Christ, here in this place today and wherever we will be tomorrow. May the love of the holy Spirit lead us in paths of righteousness!

In Christ,
Your Congregational Council

***Bethesda Lutheran Church is a Safe Haven for Children.**

We **must** remember to *be accountable for our youth at all times. Security is safety. This issue concerns all of us. *Please do not make yourself vulnerable to the unexpected. Our lives are precious and God *wants to keep us from harm. It is everyone's job to pay attention to potentially harmful *situations. (Even adults can be put at risk!) Trusting is one thing and being mindless and blind *is another.

BE AWARE!

All High School Students Welcome
9th – 12th Grade
Senior High Youth Group is forming.
Every Sunday evening from 7-8pm
in the church office building just to the south of the church at

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

Bring your friends for this time of,
fellowship, service, fun and study

For more information contact:
Kari Gray @ 206-913-3490 or
Blair Sprouse @ 425-775-5198

Join us **Sunday, December 13th** as *Bethesda youth and youth from our community* present our second annual showing of ***THE SECOND SHEPHERD'S PAGEANT***, a Renaissance Christmas play with song & dance. There will be two performances so that everyone might have an opportunity to experience this wonderful Wakefield Miracle Play! **Show times: 10:15 am and 3 pm.** The Pageant will be held in the Bethesda Sanctuary.

Monday Nights at Bethesda
Bethesda Community Dinners
continue to grow and bless us!!

ALL are Welcome – Bring your friends and neighbors. Come and enjoy a meal, fellowship and build community, every Monday evening at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

We could use your help in food preparation, set up, serving and cleanup on Monday and on Sunday evenings for food pick up and sorting. Please contact Janice Bowen to get specific information on the times help is needed on each day and let her know where you might be able to help in this incredible time of grace.
Contact Janice Bowen @ 425-239-4328

More Than Membership Ministry

On October 12th, a meeting to discuss the idea of establishing an ongoing visitation ministry was held in the church office. The purpose of the group would be to provide caring and kind support to those in our church community who desire a visit or phone call. In attendance were Pr. Malcolm, Pr. Jacquie, Pat Olson, Sharon Boyd, Joy DeGraff, Joan Minnis, Mickey Schwald and Debbie Luce. If you have a desire to be a part of this group in action, please feel welcome to come to the next meeting on **November 9th** in the church office at 10am.

Debbie Luce

Healing and Prayer Ministry
This ministry is being put on hold for a while.

We will be taking a little time off to prayerfully discern what shape and form this ministry is to take. We will let you know when it begins again.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 4:00-11:00PM High School Youth 7:00-8:30 PM	2 Ruth/Miriam Circle @ church office (C. Ahola hosting) 2:00 PM Community Dinner 5:30 PM Kid's Camp 6:00 PM Intern Comm. 7:00 PM	3 Brownies 6:30 pm Education Comm. 7:00 PM Jammers 7:15 PM	4 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM	5 Brownies 7:00 PM	6 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM WAM Comm. 6:30 PM	7 Children's Play Reh. - 1:00 PM
8 Worship - 10:15 AM Memorial Service for Travis Boyd 2:00 PM Community Dinner Prep - 4:00-11:00PM High School Youth 7:00-8:30 PM	9 More Than Mem- bership Comm. 10:00 AM Sue's Bible Study 2:00 PM Community Dinner 5:30 PM Kid's Camp 6:00 PM	10 Outreach Comm. 7:00 PM Jammers 7:15 PM	11 Esther Circle 10:00 AM Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM	12 Brownies 7:00 PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	14 Hospitality Comm. 10:00 AM Children's Play Reh. - 1:00 PM
15 Worship - 10:15 AM Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1:00 PM Community Dinner Prep - 4:00-11:00PM High School Youth 7:00-8:30 PM	16 Community Dinner 5:30 PM Kid's Camp 6:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM	17 Brownies 6:30pm Jammers 7:15 PM	18 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM	19 Brownies 7:00 PM	20 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	21 Children's Play Reh. - 1:00 PM Family Movie Night 5:00 PM <i>"Because of Winniedixie"</i>
22 Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 4:00-11:00PM High School Youth 7:00-8:30 PM	23 Sue's Bible Study 2:00 PM Community Dinner 5:30 PM Kid's Camp 6:00 PM	24 Twins Club 5:00-9:00 PM Jammers 7:15 PM	25 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Thanksgiving Eve Soup/Svc/Pie Social Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM	26  Thanksgiving (office closed)	27 AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	28  9:00 AM
29 Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 4:00-11:00PM High School Youth 7:00-8:30 PM	30 Community Dinner 5:30 PM Kid's Camp 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM	NOVEMBER 2009				

DATE		COMMUNION ORGANIZER	LAY READER	READINGS
Nov. 1	All Saint's Sunday	Judy Rasmussen	Pat Olson	Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44
Nov. 10	Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost	Judy Rasmussen	Pat Olson	1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44
Nov. 17	Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost	Judy Rasmussen	Pat Olson	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25 Mark 13:1-8
Nov. 22	Christ the King Sunday	Judy Rasmussen	Pat Olson	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent	Judy Rasmussen	Pat Olson	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36



NOVEMBER

- 1 - Morgan Mc Craney
- 3 - Donna Veveris
- 8 - Deanna Kehres
- 15 - Trina Klingensmith
Karen Rasmussen
- 18 - Larry Fischer
- 21 - Isaac Teichgrab
- 22 - Shane Zehrung
- 24 - Wolfgang Lill
- 25 - Betty Henderson
- 27 - Jay Teichgrab
Lance Anstice
- 28 - Matthew Currier
Merry Wick



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Mountlake Terrace Christian Church

5304 232nd St. SW, Mountlake Terrace,

Wednesday evening November 25th

beginning at 6:00pm

A potluck soup supper will precede the service
and a pie social will follow!

Thoughts For The Month

Author Madeleine L'Engle wrote *"It is a good thing to have all of the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand."* Think I've made some progress there during these past three years. Reached that 80th milestone rather fat and sassy, thinking "WOW! Here I am, never been in a hospital except child births, one gall bladder surgery 30 some years ago and to visit friends" – and then everything went to "hell in the proverbial hand basket" – loss of 2 oldest children, Stan's surgery and good recovery, and now these months of trying to heal a leg wound only to be told 6 months later it was cancerous. Three things I've learned through all this:

Humility – Every life has its seasons and I'm no more invincible than you. What made me think my boat was going to sail around under sunshine and blue skies with no gray clouds?

Empathy – One learns about the shifting sands all your friends and family have tried to build their castles with before one sort of "oh, gosh! I'm sorry. How can I help? Are you ok?" But now you really, really understand, as the cliché of "walking in someone else's shoes". Changes you, doesn't it? You sort of reach the point where you tell God "Ok up there, it's up to you now!" But that's another lesson you learn, how it's rather difficult admitting you're not the "big honcho in control of your life – you desperately need help!"

Third big thing we've learned: now we know why people sell their homes and move into condos – no weeds to look at. We have this sign in the front yard "Free Weeds – U – pick". No takers!

'Nuf gloom and doom. November but still October as I write. One of my Finnish families – young couple and 3 teenagers coming Thursday p.m. for 5-day visit. Last time three were here mom, dad and baby daughter – now she's 17. Uff da! But leaves are brilliant everywhere and flowers are still gasping – weather?? It'll be fun for us and what cousins we can round up!

November is another of those paradoxical months with highs and lows of emotions from November 1st All Saint's Day (and change your clocks), November 11th Veteran's Day to the 26th Thanksgiving Day. How can one possibly give any logical thought of caring when surroundings of squashed pumpkins, candy wrappers, etc., litter the streets and walk into the stores with Christmas – the consumer kind – on all sides? Much is written about people and their surroundings. All good for the economy? Sorry, I don't like it. I'm not capable of multitasking – one holiday at a time. I haven't tried lately but never was too adept at walking, patting my stomach, and chewing bubble gum at the same time.

by Jeanne Krahn

What are we thinking of and about when the golden legend of America's rise and rise now is crumbling? The distance between the "haves and the have nots" now truly is alarming. Are we our brothers keeper? "As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me." Keep praying for peace and end to the wars and do count your blessings because:

- If you have food in the "frig, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world.
- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness (Stan and I did) you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.
- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.
- If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.
- If you read this message, you have just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you (me!), and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Having read this again and reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember every day just how blessed you really are!

I know you've probably read all that before but I think every so often we need reminders of God in our lives and his help. Slow down, you can't have everything anyhow. Where would you put it?

Now it's "Supper Time" - tired from all her willing work of spring and summer's long and listful nurturing, Mother Earth sees fall as suppertime, where upon fall's harvest she will dine just before her sleep in winter's breast where after supper, finally she will rest.

Thanks to senior H. Sandersen

All Lutheran Candle Lighting for Mental Illness

Sunday November 8th

On this day we will light a candle and say a prayer for persons with mental illness and their families. Lutheran people everywhere unite in praying for persons who have mental disorders of all kinds. We pray also for their families and other caregivers. We pray for understanding and compassion for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Students and Families

Confirmation Covenant Sunday November 15th during the 10:15am service

On this Sunday during worship we will invite all Students, Parents and Teachers/Guides to come forward for a time of Blessing and commitment to walking the journey of faith with each other during this year of faith formation.

Confirmation Parents Meeting Wednesday November 18th 7-8pm in the Fellowship Hall

All parents and guardians of confirmation students please come and reflect with us how this first eight week session has gone for you and your students

The confirmation students will be gathering on this Wednesday for a time of fun and fellowship. More information will be coming soon about this last day of confirmation for this fall, until we begin our next 8 week session again in 2010

Questions or concerns contact: Dena Lee @ 206-368-9446 (home) or cdenalee@comcast.net (email)
Or Pr Malcolm @ 425-778-6390 (Church) 206-361-2542 (home) or prmalcolmb@gmail.com (email)

**Bethesda
Lutheran Church**

23406 56th Ave. W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: 425-778-6390

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

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