



Bethesda Lutheran Church

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Bethesda Outlook

November, 2010

November can be warm or cold. As I write this my hands are cold as our nights have become longer and colder. We have not experienced much rain as of yet. 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.

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 7th is All Saints Sunday, November 21st is Christ the King Sunday, and November 28th is the 1st Sunday of Advent. Each Sunday has a different focus, and yet throughout these weeks we hear scripture texts that will challenge us and articulate ideas of "what is to come." As the weeks unfold there is a continuous theme spreading throughout the season. Discussions on death, endings, beginnings and future show us what it is like to live as God's saints within God's reign in the past, present and future.

November gives us space to pull out our church's family album, to remember where we came from and where we are going. We will add a new saint on November 14th as a new beginning to help lead us into the future with a baptism when Jack Johnson, son of Jamie and Scott Johnson is welcomed into the community of faith here at Bethesda through baptism. (Jamie is Bill Brown's granddaughter- Bill was a long time saint here at Bethesda).

Saints (from the Latin *sanctus*, meaning 'holy'), rather than being viewed as martyrs or famous Christians who have died, are God's holy people, living or dead, who are God's beloved, baptized into Christ. The saints of the past and present are the ones who gave birth to our faith; who have given us words to describe our faith, by example help us to live out our faith; who have shown us how to express our faith to others and ourselves by our lives, actions and words; who have taught us how to fight for our beliefs and to care for others. There is indeed certainly strength in knowing that there have been saints before us -that we can learn from the stories and lives of those who have walked this path-and we discover yet again that our God is the same God they experienced. This inspires us to live out our lives in holiness and to get outside of our selves and our self concerns for a moment to catch a glimpse of God's plan for the world.

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!* The Church year begins with Advent, November 28th and we begin the church year with expectant wondering and waiting as we contemplate how God has come to us in the flesh in 2010 and will call us to new beginnings in 2011.

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 here 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.

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

Pastor Malcolm

All Saints Sunday- November 7th, 2010

All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the Church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints.

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day (Nov. 7th) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ.

During the 10:15am worship service on Sunday November 7th there will be a special reading of the names of those who have died since All Saints' Sunday last year. If there is a name you want to include on this list, please contact the church office:

E-Mail: jean@bethesdalcm.com or call and leave a message@: 425-778-6390

Let us all be very grateful for the church ground fairies that work untiringly to keep our ground looking neat and tidy!! You are truly disciples of Christ and great examples of what it means to be good stewards!

Pastor Parks and his congregation, **All Nations Harvest Church**, are grateful to be welcomed at Bethesda. If anyone would like to be a host for them on Sundays, please speak up! It is an easy and gracious job. It is a very positive way to share our hospitality. Contact Dena for more information. 206-368-9446.

SAD, BUT TRUE! We have decided to shorten the **Children's Christmas Program** to the last scene of The Second Shepherd's Pageant! We will have the shepherds traveling to Bethlehem to encounter the Angel delivering the Announcement and proceed to the stable to welcome the Baby Jesus. We'll sing lots of carols and drum!

Please take a look at our practice schedule. All and any children are encouraged to participate. Any one under the age of 5 does not have to attend rehearsals until December 11th.

Saturday, November 13, 1-3 pm.

Saturday, November 20, 1-3 pm.

Saturday, December 4, 1-3 pm. In addition to practicing our scenes and singing and drumming, we will choose our costumes...

Saturday, December 11, 12:30-3:30 pm. ALL LITTLE ANGELS, SINGERS, MUSICIANS, ACTORS, DRUMMERS, please attend this rehearsal!!

Sunday, December 12, 9:30 am. Please come in time to change into your costumes. We will present our program as part of this Sunday's worship. **Worship begins at 10:15 am.**

From Your Council President

Once upon a time, an elderly couple was getting ready to share dinner with their relatives when a flying saucer landed in their yard.

The husband was quite taken aback while the wife thought the new bbq was just too big.

Just then, a little door opened on the flying saucer and out jumped to little aliens. They greeted their hosts in English and then requested the use of their bathroom. The wife told them where it was and looks of grateful relief was on the faces of the foreigners.

The husband was quite unnerved at his wife's open hospitality and was sure the little guys meant them harm.

The strangers commented on the beauty of their home and told the couple a little about themselves. The wife, thinking the spacemen might be hungry, invited them to stay for dinner. They accepted with gratitude and said they had some shopping to do but would be back at 6 o'clock.

Well, the husband was beside himself and began to rant and rave convinced these guests were pinko-commies. He called his family. He called the FBI. The FBI called the Pentagon. The Pentagon called the Army, the Air Force and the Marines.

All of those strangers surrounded the house in anticipation of the spacemen's return.

The wife tried to make their family and her husband feel comfortable and safe. She agreed the strangers looked different but felt that they were nice boys anyway. She passed out beverages and appetizers.

Just then, the doorbell rang! Everyone in the house froze. The military had their weapons ready. One person fainted.

The wife opened the door to greet their guests and saw that the spacemen were carrying a box. The husband tried to close the door on the strangers but the wife let their visitors into the house and sat them down next to her goofy nephew who engaged the spacemen in polite conversation.

The wife called everyone to dinner. The spacemen asked her to open their gift. As the spacemen passed the box to their hostess, everyone panicked and decided the spacemen were passing out a bomb! The soldiers burst into the house and the tanks had their guns pointed on the spacemen!

The wife gingerly opened the present and lo and behold, it was a..... BLENDER!

The wife was thrilled as she did not have a blender. The spacemen were beaming with pleasure at giving pleasure. They were sure she would like it and the blender had been on sale taboot!

Everyone started laughing. They all shared a wonderful meal together with old and new friends.

The End or The Beginning

*Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and fail to see? Do you have ears and fail to hear? And do you not remember? **Mark 8:17b-18 (NIV)***

Remember to receive a hospitality opportunity everyday.

Abundant Blessings for us All

Dena Lee

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ruth/Miriam Circle @ Church Office (M. Seale) - 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm WAM Comm. 5:30pm Facilities Comm. @ J. Minnis' 6:30pm Girl Scouts - 6:45pm	2 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Brownies - 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	3 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	4 Brownies - 6:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	5 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6:00pm	6 Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am Exec. Comm. Mtg. Noon
7 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest worship - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	8 MTM Mtg. 10:00am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm	9 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	10 Esther Circle 10:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	11 VETERANS DAY Life Group - 6:00pm Brownies - 6:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	12 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6:00pm	13 Xmas Pageant reh. 1:00pm
14 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest worship - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	15 Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	16 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Brownies - 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>	17 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	18 Brownies - 6:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	19 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. - 6:00pm	20 Xmas Pageant reh. 1:00pm Family Movie Night 5:00pm
21 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest worship - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	22 Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	23 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	24 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Community Thanksgiving Eve Service @Terrace View Presbyterian 6pm—soup supper 7:15pm—worship	25  (OFFICE CLOSED)	26 AA Mtg. - 6:00pm	27 Men's Fellowship 8:00am HANGING OF THE GREENS
28 ADVENT 1 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest worship - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	29 Community Dinner 5:30pm	30 ESL Tutoring 9:00am Twins Club 5:00pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	NOVEMBER 2010			

The **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE** will be held this year at Terrace View Presbyterian Church on Wednesday evening November 24th. At 6pm a potluck soup supper with bread and pie will precede the service at 7:15pm. *We have been asked to bring pies this year.*

Help Bethesda reduce its printing and mailing expense by receiving Bethesda's newsletter via e-mail!! The newsletter is also available on our website. If you are interested in being removed from the mailing list, contact Jean Leavens, our office administrator: 425-778-6390

Remembering the saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints."

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling in them. Because God has saved us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

Thanksgiving

They went to church that day in Plymouth town,
To thank God for his goodness.
For they had known hunger, pain and want, gone thinly clad
Through iron winter, thrown the gauntlet down
To death himself, and let him take his toll,
And now they had won through ...
And so they prayed
Their word of thanks, and stood up unafraid
And faced the future with undaunted soul.

—Bruce Catton



NOVEMBER

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

Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

Sometimes I wonder why, of all the seasons with all the "goodies" they offer, that autumn is my favorite. Nope, not necessarily a sports freak. Fall seems to have a feel about it, an aura surrounding it. It's a time of changing patterns, geese flying south, honking in the sky. Crisp, frosty mornings—oops, are all the plants somewhere away from that frost. But the leaves are part of it—splashes of reds, oranges and yellows, maybe a small change in greens, all before they fall to the ground. Stan always says "God's turned the thermostat down." The firewood is cut and stacked. One notices it more in our country area with friends over the mountains. Germs or no germs, I still enjoy a smell of wood smoke. Pumpkins are getting bigger, waiting for eager hands to cut and embellish. Squirrels finish storing their nuts but they certainly don't stay out of the bird feeders. And along comes Thanksgiving, a nostalgic reminder that God has indeed "shed His grace on thee". Let's think of autumn as a season of reflection—a time for reviewing the patchwork of our lives. Maybe yours has been uncomfortable—unemployment, a broken romance or marriage or grieving over a loss of family or friends. Are you lonely or hungry or cold? Disappointments and pleasures, sorrows and joys? C. Swindoll asks, "Has autumn arrived in your life? Think before you answer. Close your eyes for a minute or so and consider what God has been doing deep within your heart. The one who started the good work within you won't leave the task unfinished. At the end of the course, God won't get an "incomplete". For sure, He won't fail! Remember it takes 4 seasons to make a year." Absorb the light of life before winter descends. The leaves are brilliant red, enjoy all of it.

Do you ever get "sidetracked" while doing something—story of my life seemingly? I can head for the shop to get a can of something or freezer something for dinner, noticing the bird feeder's empty and they're sure trying to tell me, or else I notice some weeds nearby—or a plant needing water, etc., etc. And so be it with this writing nothing now on our water foot prints. Blame it on a cold that can be a diversion and some extra reading time after our 5 days of European company (we hosted English Sarah and French husband Jean-Louis '66 to '71 while at the UW) returned to England—browsing book "Reaching for Rainbows" by Ann Weems (a keeper book for me). I read her "Touch In Church".

Thinking of our recent disagreements or should I say differences within our church, I'd like to share this with you. "What is all this touching in church? It used to be a person could come to church and sit in a pew and not be bothered by all this friendliness and certainly not by touching. I used to come to church and leave untouched. Now I have to be nervous about what's expected of me. I have to worry about responding to the person sitting next to me. Oh, I wish it could be the way it used to be; I could just ask the person next to me: "How are you"? And the person could answer: "'Oh, just fine". And we'd both go home ... strangers who have known each other for twenty years. But now the minister asks us to look at each other. I'm worried about that hurt look I saw in that woman's eyes. Now I'm concerned because when the minister asks us to pass the peace, the man next to me held my hand so tightly as if he had not been touched in years. Now I'm upset because the lady next to me cried and then apologized and said it was because I was so kind and that she needed a friend right now. Now I have to get involved. Now I have to suffer when this community suffers. Now I have to be more than a per-

son coming to observe a service. That man last week told me I'd never know how much I'd touched his life. All I did was smile and tell him I understood what it was to be lonely. Lord, I'm not big enough to touch and be touched! The stretching scares me. What if I disappoint somebody? What if I'm too pushy? What if I cling too much? What if somebody ignores me? "Pass The Peace." "The peace of God be with you." "And with you." And I mean it. Lord, I can't resist meaning it! I'm touched by it! I find I do care about that person next to me! I find I am involved! And I'm scared, O Lord, be here beside me. You touch me, Lord, so that I can touch and be touched! So that I can care and be cared for! So that I can share my life with all those others that belong to you! All this touching in church—Lord, it's changing me." What do you think about it?

Yep, more than any other human problem, loneliness, the absence of meaningful human connection drains the joy and sense of purpose in many lives. Many people often go to the mall or other shopping centers who have no intention of buying anything. They just want to be somewhere where other people are hoping maybe they'll find a familiar face—often turning the TV or radio on as soon as they're home—just to hear the sound of a voice. Even married people can find themselves lonely and unconnected. What has happened making these last many decades one of individualism? Past human history, a person was part of a family, part of a clan or tribe or neighborhood. How many of you know 3 neighbors around you? Time ago people defined themselves on their relationships to other people, not on the basis of their achievements. This attitude still prevails in Finland, maybe other countries also. It has taken me many get-togethers, letters, or coffee breaks to discover among many of my Finnish families, one is an author of 3 books and a school principal, many teachers, one is a minister and wife is a deaconess, many others prominent in their fields of sales, steel mill owner, chemist, many involved in country or local politics. No big deal to them. They don't live by competitiveness. It seems today that we have a lot of people who have learned to grab what they believe they have coming to them but are bind to the needs of other people. They haven't learned to touch either. "To be an American is to be raised on the myth that a real American is ready to leave family and security behind, to set out on his own in search of fame and fortune. Results: some very impressive results, but also leads to a lot of rootless, lonely detached people. Society's unwitting conspiracy to leave us lonely is the competitiveness with which we conduct our lives but life is not a race with prizes for who finishes first.

'Nuf brain drain—all people are not as written above—the miracle of the Chilean miners and their supporters belie that. Count your own blessings and prayers for our own Thanksgivings and Veterans Day remembrances.





The Spirit

Volume 27, Number 9

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November 2010

Words of Grace And Blessing For All

by The Rev. Nancy Winder (ret.), Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 4:4-7***

In this month of Thanksgiving, these words from Philippians are words of grace and blessing for all of us. And they are very good words for those of us in our synod who work with candidates for the public ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Our synod has one of the highest numbers of candidates and applicants. The people and congregations here in Northwest Washington are being attentive to the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst in lifting up women and men for ministry in the whole church.

Candidacy in the ELCA is a special process of formation. When someone begins discerning the call of God for public ministry, they enter this pathway of learning and spiritual growth. The process begins with an application. There is then an initial interview with a member of the synod candidacy committee. Along with the application, their home congregation affirms the applicant by registering them for candidacy. There is a significant psychological evaluation. When all the initial steps are complete, the applicant meets with the candidacy committee for an entrance interview. Here the committee has a conversation with the applicant based on an autobiographical essay. The goal here is readiness for learning and formation. Once the candidate is entranced, she or he can begin their education and preparation for public ministry. A member of the candidacy committee is appointed to walk with each candidate throughout the process.

At the next step - endorsement, usually in the second year - the candidate officially declares which roster, which

form of leadership, they want to be on: ordained ministry, Associate in Ministry, Diaconal ministry, or Deaconess. (Our synod is also unique in having candidates for each of the four rosters.) The final step is approval, at the end of the educational process. Once approved, a candidate is available for call to the roster for which they have prepared.

It is a real gift and joy to work with these candidates. They are women and men who, having heard God's call to proclamation and service, commit their lives to learning, growth in faith, and the love and care for God's people in the congregations of the ELCA. The Candidacy Committee is a hard-working, committed group from around our synod who meet for a full day every month in this ministry. Besides the monthly meeting, the committee prepares in various way for interviews with candidates and each stays in contact with and works on the needs of the individuals assigned to them.

As a congregation leader you can help by being informed about the process. Read more about it at the link below. Invite me, Pastor Nancy Winder, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, to speak at an Adult Forum in your congregation, or to preach at Sunday worship.

If you have a candidate in your congregation, make sure the whole community knows about what they're doing and their progress in their preparation, and support them financially by paying all or part of their tuition.

If you don't have a candidate, pay attention to those people in your congregation who just might have a call to public ministry. Sometimes it just takes a word from someone else to open a heart to this call.

So in this month of thanksgiving, offer prayers of rejoicing and thanks to God for all the people in our synod who are hearing God's call to follow Christ as public leaders in our church. Pray for them, and for our Candidacy Committee, that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless us with all the gifts of all God's people.

You can learn more about candidacy in the ELCA at www.elca.org/candidacy

**Bethesda
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Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

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