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SERVE YOU! CALL US  
FOR ANYTHING!**

# Bethesda Outlook

May 2011

*Greetings Easter people in the name of the Risen Christ,*

*"Alleluia! Christ is Risen!*

*Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!*

One of my favorite Easter Hymns and one which we sing here at Bethesda on Easter morning, is *"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"*. The text comes from an old carol of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. On Easter Sunday as we belted out the Alleluia's we heard the sounds of the many instruments that accompanied Lee as he played the organ with all the stops pulled out. What a glorious sound of celebration of the Risen Christ this was and is each year.

This song is written in such a way that it reminds us of something that has happened in the past and as we remember it in that way it also moves us to understand that it is happening again right now in the present, in this time and place. So on Easter Sunday we sang, *"Jesus Christ is risen today, our triumphant holy day."* It is not that we pretend that every Easter Jesus rises again, because we still sing *"today."* We do not sing, *"Jesus Christ was raised almost 2000 years ago."* The past is never just the past because we make it our own now, today, right here in Mountlake Terrace, in May of 2011.

When we gather at the table on Sunday mornings and receive the 'Lord's Supper', we remember the night in which Jesus was betrayed, and we are reminded that this is not a historical reenactment of the Last Supper. It is about us hearing Jesus saying to each of us personally, *"This is my body; this is my blood."* This too is the past breaking into and becoming the present for us today.

We are indeed Easter People! So we sing boldly and with gusto, *"Jesus Christ is Risen Today,"* and the past is no longer just a prologue, but the present. God is indeed breaking into our world and wants to break into our lives and is indeed up to something here at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Mountlake Terrace! Will we dare to live in God's amazing grace? Will we dare to expect God to show in surprising and new ways?

*"He is risen indeed"*

*Pastor Malcolm*

(This newsletter article is based on one I read from Pr Kegel who serves at Central Lutheran in Eugene, Oregon)

What is the More Than Membership Committee? In the Fall of 2009, the More Than Membership Committee gathered and held their first meeting. We hold the meetings on the second Monday of each month in the church office at 10am.

Please feel free to join us at any time. We are still finding our way and



welcome new thoughts and ideas.

The purpose of this group is to provide support to our church congregation as we hear about various needs within the church family here. We send cards of encour-

agement, make phone calls to those that might like a call, visit those that might desire a visit, take food to those

that are in need and as we become aware of the various needs and concerns, we attempt to fill those needs. Together we continue to pray for those in difficult circumstances. So, it can be called a sort of "In Reach" group.

We also participate in special events here such as New Member Sunday and Confirmation Sunday. We try and make the day special by acknowledging the special time in the congregant's spiritual journey.

## Faith and Everyday Life

### **Eccl 3:2 A Time to Die**

We might think that the Time to Die is on a timer that will go off at its appointed moment and that's it! But maybe it's more complex than we imagine. Maybe even God is flexible about when that might be!

What would be the implications of staying flexible about the time of our death, so that you could either extend or shorten the time of your death?

This isn't such a foreign concept. We

probably have all said of someone, "That person just got tired, gave up and wanted to be with the Lord." Or, "They bravely fought cancer for years before succumbing to death."

What if we imagined the determining of the time of our death as a dialogue between us and God? What might it be like to be able either to ask God for our death or to ask God for more life? Is there a possibility that, like Jonah, we could influence God's decisions? Is it possible that God might be flexible

### *Lutheran Counseling Network*

enough to decide this in dialogue with us?

It seems that we have to think this way or there would be no point in prayer!

Could this help us surrender if death came sooner than we hoped for? Could this help us carry on if life lasted longer than we wished?

There just might be times when God says, "Let me know when you are ready, We'll figure this out together!"

## Who Are You?

**You are brave...**when you overcome your fear and help others to do the same.

**You are happy...**when you see a flower and are thankful for the blessing.

**You are loving...**when your own pain does not blind you to the pain of others.

**You are wise...**when you know the limits of your wisdom.

**You are true...**when you admit there are times you fool yourself.

**You are alive...**when tomorrow's hope means more to you than yesterday's mistake.

**You are growing...**when you know what you are but not what you will become.

**You are free...**when you are in control of yourself and do not wish to control others.

**You are honorable...**when you find your honor is to honor others.

**You are generous...**when you can take as sweetly as you can give.

**You are humble...**when you do not know how humble you are.

**You are merciful...**when you forgive in others the faults you condemn in yourself.

**You are beautiful...**when you don't need a mirror to tell you.

**You are rich...**when you never need more than what you have.

**You are you...**when you are at peace with who you are and are not.

## A Letter From Our Treasurer

My Dear Friends;

I am taking this opportunity, as congregational treasurer, to inform you all of a difficult and touchy problem. We have finished the first quarter of 2011 in deficit by almost \$6200.00. The Finance Committee is working diligently to find enough to meet our current needs, but our resources are dwindling. At this time, we are only able to address this matter by closing one of our investment accounts.

We are an active and vital presence in our community, and our neighbors have come to rely upon our outreach and benevolences. We share the Gospel through worship, meals, meeting space and friendship with all who enter our doors. We do these things very well, indeed!

I write to encourage all of us in our dreams. At the same time, we need to remember certain practicalities. We cannot serve hot meals without paying the electric bill. We owe our employees their well-deserved wages in full and on time. We, as the Family of God, must, like families everywhere, meet our financial obligations. Being a Christian Community does not permit us to be careless or wasteful, nor to take advantage of others' generosity. We are committed to living fairly, lovingly, and generously as individuals and as a congregation doing the work of Christ's Body.

I ask all of you to pray about our needs as a congregation, and what your personal part can be in seeing

those needs fulfilled. I hope we can be inspired to new ideas for reaching our goals. Pray to be Spirit-filled and open to whatever God calls you to do, to give, to work for. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 8 that generous giving glorifies the Lord!

May God continue to bless each and every one!

*Sue Rasmussen*

For the Finance Committee

*2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

The Apostle Paul  
tells us in  
2 Corinthians 8  
that generous  
giving glorifies  
the Lord!



## Debbie Luce

*I started attending Bethesda in February 2008. I visited a couple of times then feeling the spirit of "welcome", decided to attend church here ongoing.*

*I was born and raised in Seattle, on the north side of Queen Anne Hill, near Seattle Pacific College, and the Fremont bridge was just two blocks away. I come from a family of 7 children, and am #6. I attended Queen Anne High School, and St. Anne's Catholic Church was a very big part of our lives. We had very little materially, but we found many ways*

*to have a lot of fun, using our imaginations. To this day, I can say my brothers and sisters are my very good friends and I'm grateful for this.*

*My husband Bob and I were married in 1974, so this summer we will celebrate 37 years of marriage. We have been blessed with our two children, Daniel, age 32, and April, age 23 (recently moved to Alaska). They are out on their own now, but we see them as often as possible.*

*I worked for Pacific NW Bell, US West, Qwest for 34 years and I really*


*enjoyed the years there. I was able to retire in 2008 and start doing some volunteer work that is very meaningful to me, working with vulnerable adults through the State Ombudsman program, as well as senior services in the peer counseling program.*

*I am grateful for my family members and all the special people God has placed in my path. How very blessed I am!*

*Peace is wished for each and every one of you,*

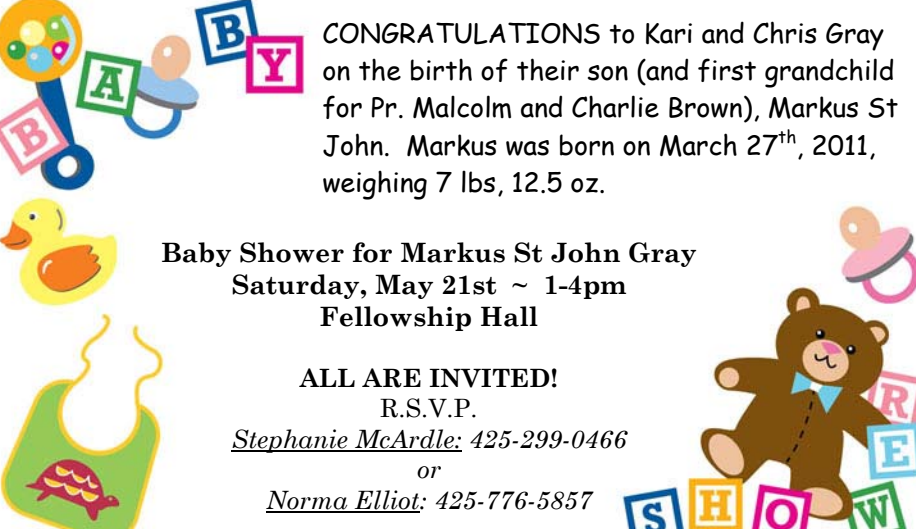
*Debbie*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>2</b> Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm @ church office Community Dinner 5:30pm WAM Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis' Girl Scouts - 6:45pm	<b>3</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	<b>5</b> Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>6</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>7</b> Girl Scouts First Aid Class 8:30am—3:30pm Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am
<b>8</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>9</b> More Than Membership 10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm	<b>10</b> Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>11</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	<b>12</b> Synod Council Meeting Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>13</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>16</b> Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	<b>17</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm  <b><u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u></b>	<b>18</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>20</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>21</b> <i>Baby Shower For Marcus Gray 2-4pm</i>  Family Movie Night - 5:00pm
<b>22</b> Worship - 10:15am <i>Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting</i>  All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>23</b> Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	<b>24</b> Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>25</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	<b>26</b> Brownies 6:30pm	<b>27</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>28</b> Men's Fellowship 8:00 am Craft Workshop 9:30am-12:30pm
<b>29</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>30</b> Community Dinner 5:30pm   <i>(office closed)</i>	<b>31</b> Twins Club 5:00pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<h1>MAY 2011</h1>			



**BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY**

1 - Cory Henderson	18 - Amy Goldsmith Chloe McArdle
6 - Ruby Engelstad Taniela Tonga	24 - Sheri Fifield-Maahs
11 - Sarah Van Deren	25 - Kristine Van Deren
14 - Florence Carlson	27 - Emmalee Donald
	30 - Katherine Dedrick



CONGRATULATIONS to Kari and Chris Gray on the birth of their son (and first grandchild for Pr. Malcolm and Charlie Brown), Markus St John. Markus was born on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, weighing 7 lbs, 12.5 oz.


**Baby Shower for Markus St John Gray**  
**Saturday, May 21st ~ 1-4pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**ALL ARE INVITED!**  
 R.S.V.P.  
Stephanie McArdle: 425-299-0466  
 or  
Norma Elliot: 425-776-5857

**Outreach is hosting a booth at the Tour de Terrace, July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.** We are making our own crafts to sell at this event. Please join us for our first craft workshop on

**Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am-12:30 pm.**

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm! The workshop will be held in the church office meeting room! Watch for details!



Thanks to all of you who brought aluminum cans to recycle. We were able to raise \$80.00 from your aluminum cans and cat food cans. Please separate the two types of cans. You can bring the cans to church or drop them by my house. Please let me know if you bring them to church so I can put them in my car.

The money was put in the fund for the youth. We are planning to send two people to confirmation camp at Lutherwood and this money helps to pay their way.

Joan Minnis, 425-778-0309

**AUCTION DATE FOR BCSC HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM SATURDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> TO SATURDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>. WATCH FOR DETAILS.**

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:

Phone: 425-778-6390  
 E-mail: jean@bethesdalcm.com



## Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

“Spring has sprung, the grass has riz—I wonder where the flowers iz!” So goes that ancient whatever of many years. More truth than fiction these last few months for all of us, near and far. If I didn’t know better I’d vouch for aliens far above us sprinkling germs, catastrophes, crummy weather, wars, etc., over our world. But it isn’t truly our world, is it? It’s God’s world for us and it’s ugly how we’re wrecking it. Scott Peck’s best selling book, “The Road Less Traveled”, begins with an unwelcome truth—“Life is difficult!” Wouldn’t we like to believe that everything will always be ok, that war or life-changing loss or serious illness will never touch us? Often one will hear, “Well, that’s God’s plan for us”, our ideas of serving God. But the Easter story always reminds us, walking the road of obedience to God does not guarantee an easy or pleasant journey at all times. Truly the road of discipleship is a road of sacrificial love given away for the good of others. It’s not necessarily the one projected in many books and movies as a warm and fuzzy (transitory) emotion. The love to which God calls us is steady and enduring, one surviving the tests of our years to live faithfully when we really don’t want to do what God asks. Sometimes doing what love asks is tough, possibly a sacrifice that doesn’t feel good at all. But that doesn’t mean we can’t or won’t do it. Jesus showed us that. Still wondering where those “flowers iz”? Thought for the day: God brings abundant fruit from the seeds of caring we plant, sown with a purpose. Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” What have you given to life lately—a smile, laughter, a hug? Have you paid someone a compliment lately, telling a friend how special he or she is? We received a very heart warming note a week ago, coming at a very “down” time with all these medical problems we can’t seem to get rid of. Yes, we’ve been grumbling, whining, grouching, etc., for some time. Bless you and thank you, dear Ruby, for opening our eyes and hearts to the sunshine. She knew we were hurting and went out her way to be kind. Have you been willing to share your time and your life for someone who’s hurting? People should be cherished. When we pass up that opportunity, we pass up life. Isn’t giving to people what life is all about? Karen Armstrong’s book “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” asks “you might think you’re a compassionate person: maybe you give time and money to charity, routinely make sacrifices for the well-being of your family and friends and try to avoid unfairly judging others. But when asked to send kind thoughts and follow up with acts of friendship, compassion, joy and fair-mindedness to your enemies, you may realize you’re as self-centered as anyone else in our “me first” modern world.” Her key to making the world more caring and more whole is found in religion. Whoa! Which also happens to contribute to too many of the world’s divisions. Using the universality of the Golden Rule following its course from Confucius and the Buddha to modern day monotheism to create a program thought provoking is far beyond her book for spreading compassion. “We are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us and loving our neighbors as ourselves.” But how often do we practice it? She

writes that the Golden Rule is not just an ideal but a 21st century necessity. The global economy is so interconnected that everyone is a neighbor. National boundaries are meaningless essentially, as war affects financial markets around the world and one group’s suffering is likely to provoke vengeance and more harm. But not always when one thinks of the suffering in Japan or by tornadoes in our own country. Armstrong asks us to listen. To make space for the other in their minds and speech, using Socratic compassionate discourse rather than speech trying to persuade others to agree with us. Seemingly we don’t do enough of this today—it is not enough for us to seek the truth; we also want to defeat and even humiliate our opponents. Armstrong lays out a pluralistic, and ultimately, secular way to spread compassion that’s easy to believe in. But the challenge—anyone actually following it?

Whoosh—’nuf heavy, heavy! May, it’s May, the merry month of May! (Ah Camelot) A thinking month always for us besides the usual tasks of gardening, weeds, etc., it’s a “wow” with so many family birthdays, graduations, weddings and the remembering day—Cinco De Mayo (5th), Mother’s Day (8th), Law Enforcement Memorial Day (15th), Armed Forces Day (21st), and Memorial Day (30th) - all strong reminders that those we honor are more than simply names. They were living people who loved and were loved—and are still loved.

Of course, there is always spring house cleaning, no matter what mood you’re in or what needs to be done! Did your mom have special days to clean—during those days when there were less “electric items” to help? Did you have brothers or sisters to help? What was your job? Still do it? Who likes to “do windows”? You know to clean your pipes, put 3 Alka Seltzer down the kitchen sink, followed by a cup of white vinegar. Leave for a few minutes, then run hot water. “Nuf hand work—have a smile or two. It’s not whether you win or lose, but how you place the blame. A fool and his money can throw one heck of a party. We are born naked, wet and hungry—then things get worse! Why is a banana like a politician? When he first comes in he is green, then he turns yellow and then he’s rotten. Good friends are like stars—you don’t always see them, but you know they are always there. Life isn’t about waiting for the storms to pass—it’s about learning to dance with the rain. Only in America do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their RX while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front. Only in America do people order a double cheeseburger, large fries, and a diet coke.

Remember this: Thank God for your dirty dishes.

They have a tale to tell  
While others may go hungry  
We’re eating very well.  
With home, health and happiness  
We shouldn’t want to fuss  
By the stacks of evidence  
God’s been good to us.

Enjoy this wild, blustery, confusing springtime so soon gone.

## From Your Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us take a look at Luke 14:25-35: *The Cost of Being a Disciple.*

We read that large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Jesus asks the crowd if they are ready to give up their families, even themselves, so that they might be truly open to receive God's love, grace and mercy. He asks them to each to carry their own cross, to remember that the one each of is accountable to is God.

No one, not even our brothers, can

replace God's calling. It is to God that we must be faithful and true. God alone prepares our hearts with a firm foundation so that we might build a life of fulfillment. God wants us to succeed. It is His plan that all our dreams come to fruition.

It is our responsibility to pray that we might always be able to find the possibilities for the peace of success. God is the primary source of our life's wealth. He alone transfers His love to us. Be open to His will. Listen to his call for He is the preserver of life.

God calls us to be good stewards. Let us be open to receiving His grace and mercy. If we are each true to ourselves, we will find God in Jesus is alive and well in our hearts. All of us our inside God's love.

Let us be good Disciples of Christ. Life is a joy-filled musical.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.

*Dena Lee*

## New Committee

A new committee was formed to look at what can be done to save money in the church and cut down on the expenses and make improvements. The committee members are Dena Lee, Joy Halladay, Michael and Caryl Klingensmith, Cliff Pearson, and Penny Thedens.

At our first meeting we looked at the Waste Management bills. These bills were the first concern for use as they were just outrageous. Joy called the Waste Management department and along with Mickey talked to Stephen Jones about the problem.

1. We will clean up your tote situation and get you new totes.

2. Make sure the color coordination is good and get you EXTRA totes for recycling.

3. In addition, if you go onto a WEEKLY recycle route, there is no extra charge for that.

We now have 5 new colored totes of 2-RECYCLE containers, 1-SW container, 2-Yard Waste/Food Waste. The quote from Steven at Waste Management looks like \$99 against \$400 and every week pickup. We did a follow up to review with Waste Management our new bill and it has been lowered down to what we should be paying \$184.00 for a two month bill, that's \$92.00 a month. Do to the

help of the congregation and all the work in the kitchen we have made a big step in the right direction.

Also Joann is collecting the aluminum cans and selling them to a recycler and putting the money to funds that are needed. Pull tab from cans are being collected to raise money and Joy Halladay is looking at plastic bottle caps. All this good work is paying off.

More labeling on totes and inside garbage cans are coming to make things easier for everyone to do their part.

Thank you for all!!

*Michael Klingensmith*

## Report on Donated Greeting Cards

Yes, one of Bethesda's mission programs is still active—27 pounds of new and used greeting cards, all kinds, all special days, were mailed (\$32.41) to Lakeland Village at Medical Lake for use by patients there. A big bag of cards and blank note cards with envelopes were for Veteran's Hospital and servicemen's waiting

room at Sea Tac were distributed by Terrace Legion. Thanks for helping!

~~~~~  
Ouch! Postage goes up. No weekly specials! If you're not listed on our church roster but receive our monthly newsletter—suppose you could skip a latte or ? and occasionally mail a few dollars to help us with postage (we'll

share our coffee). Want it emailed instead? Contact Jean Leavens in the office (*see page 5 for contact information*). Want to "bag" the whole thing? Understandable, but we might cry ourselves to sleep missing you! Thank you for whatever caring and help you can offer.

*Jeanne Krahn*

**Bethesda  
Lutheran Church**

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Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

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