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**Lutheran Church**

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FOR ANYTHING!**

# Bethesda Outlook

July/August 2011

## *Welcome Statement of Bethesda Lutheran Church*

*Bethesda Lutheran Church is committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in faithfulness to the Gospel and our Lutheran heritage, and to the best of our ability, we promise to provide programs, ministries and pastoral care to all who seek God in this place.*

**Bethesda's Welcome Statement is on the lead page of our web site,  
weekly in our Sunday bulletins and often in our newsletters**

## **Why use the word 'radical'?**

*Even though this word may have negative meanings for some, it is a positive and powerful word being used more and more by the new and emerging generations who are missing from our churches.*

**Webster's' Collegiate Dictionary: *Radical- 1)-of or going to the root or***

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matt 28:18-20*

If Jesus Christ is our foundational teacher and the one we are to model by his words and actions, then it is He who is our root and origin as God's grace and guidance as we offer our welcome and hospitality to all especially the stranger in our midst.

**There is an old Benedictine saying regarding hospitality.**  
*"Treat everyone that comes into our midst as  
if they were Jesus Christ."*

## *Welcoming the Stranger*

*(The following is taken from a workshop @ Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood on welcoming & hospitality)*

**“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:34-36)**

### *Who Is The Stranger?*

- *Newcomer: a person who has recently arrived*
- *Marginalized: a person who is relegated to outer edges of importance, influence, power, and status*
- *Foreigner: a person not native to the community*
- *Unknown: a person who is unfamiliar*

### *Welcoming*

- *Welcoming is not about tolerating, it's about moving beyond to an open & grace filled welcome*
- *Welcoming is about relationship*
- *Welcoming is an act of affirmation and acceptance without judgment*
- *Welcoming is the conviction that we are all deeply related to one another because of Jesus Christ, no matter how strange we may seem to one another.*
- *Welcoming is embracing diversity in unity.*
- *Welcoming is not about syrupy overtures that feel inauthentic and intrusive, but is an invitation from the heart.*

### *Welcoming Does Not Demand Hiding*

- *People on the margins, Homeless, Addicted, Mentally Ill, Persecuted, Poor, Hungry, Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Abused, individuals are often forced to keep part of their identity hidden in Christian community ... to live as a stranger.*
- *Welcoming the stranger is about creating an intentional safe space (physical, emotional, sociological, spiritual) where all people can claim their full identity and be fully known.*

*Welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you.” (Romans 15:7)*

*Welcoming is an inherent expression of the Gospel.*

***We feel hospitable to the person who is familiar, but hostile toward the stranger. To survive as the human race in our interdependent world, we must move from hostility to hospitality, from the familiar to the unfamiliar, for this is the movement of love, this is the movement of Jesus Christ. As Paul said, ‘For Christ is our peace, who has made us one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility.’ (Eph. 2:14)” (Kosuke Koyama)***

## **Bethesda’s Mission Statement**

*ALL are welcome at Bethesda Lutheran Church.*

*We are here. . . .*

***“To proclaim, celebrate and share the Love of Christ  
With our neighbors through an accepting, caring Community.”***

## *Affirmation of Welcome*

On June 02, 2002 by a congregational vote it was passed that Bethesda Lutheran Church of Mountlake Terrace, WA of the NW Washington Synod of the ELCA would become a "Reconciling in Christ Congregation" (RIC)

### What is the Reconciling in Christ Congregation?



*"All this is from God who reconciled us through Jesus Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."*

**2 Corinthians 5:18**

As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation we welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) believers as we welcome all other believers and questioners and questioning believers.

We openly welcome all and especially those in fear of not being welcomed by any church unless they are specifically told they are welcome. We at Bethesda by being a RIC congregation welcome all as fully participating disciples who are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of the congregation, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or that of their children, siblings, and friends. We believe that God values and embraces each person as a beloved child, that the Spirit gives a diversity of gifts for the common good, and that Jesus Christ calls us to work for justice.

As a community of the people of God, we are called to minister to all people in our world, knowing that the world is often an unloving place. Our world is a place of alienation and brokenness. Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. We are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing within our society.

We affirm with the apostle Paul that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female" (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one. We acknowledge this reconciliation extends to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Freed by God's grace, the body of Christ on earth leads a joyous dance of transformation, integrating sexuality and spirituality, justice and mercy. Dedicated to radical reconciliation, the Church falls into the heart of God's passionate intent, co-creating a world without outcasts, calling all to serve as guests and hosts at God's table of blessing and power.

### A NW Washington Synod Ministry & support for RIC congregations



*Open Door Ministries is an extended ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA and a Member of Lutheran Services of America.*

Open Door Ministries provides direct pastoral care and support to persons with HIV / AIDS, their families and friends, as they deal with questions, decisions and personal needs. We offer this support through hospital visits, classes, workshops, individual appointments and counseling.

#### **Open Door Ministries Three Fold Purpose**

1. Bring the compassion of Christ and His Church to persons affected by HIV/AIDS;
2. Extend Christ's affirming, inclusive love to persons who have often felt excluded and condemned by church and society because of their sexual orientation;
3. Encourage and support the Church and its members as they address issues of human sexuality and Biblical interpretation

For Further information on *Open Door Ministries* please look them up on the web:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<h1>July 2011</h1>					<b>1</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>2</b> Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am Thrivent Exed. Bd. 10:30am Talent Show rehearsal - 5:30pm	
<b>3</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>4</b>  INDEPENDENCE Day (office closed)  BCSC Smokey Point Rest Stop Coffee Days	<b>5</b> Brownies 6:30pm	<b>6</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>8</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>9</b> Art Fest Workshop 9:30am-12:30pm @ church office  Mountlake Terrace Senior's Group Fashion & Talent Show - 7:00pm	
<b>10</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>11</b> More Than Membership 10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm	<b>14</b> Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>15</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>18</b> Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Brownies 6:30pm	<b>20</b> Mtlk. Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Art Fest Workshop 6:00-9:00pm (F.H.)	<b>21</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>22</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>23</b> Men's Fellowship 8-10am Girl Scouts 8am-Noon Art Fest Workshop 9:30am-12:30pm	
<b>24</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>25</b> Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Art Fest Workshop 6:00-9:00pm (F.H.)	<b>28</b> Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm	<b>29</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm  Tour De Terrace	<b>30</b>	
		<b>CAMP WALNUT - 9AM TO 4PM</b>					
<b>31</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	<b>JULY BIRTHDAYS</b>						
	2 - Tim Currier		12 - Thomas Klingensmith		25 - Doris Storm		
	6 - Eddie Chatfield		Shailee Kosko		Kaloafu Tonga		
	7 - Ed Hinson		14 - Robert Porter		27 - Tim Krahn		
	9 - Mimi Seale		17 - Roy Johnson		28 - Rebecca Angel		
			18 - Veronica Rhoten		30 - Melissa Bader		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<p><b>1</b> Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm @ church office Community Dinner 5:30pm WAM Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis'</p>	<p><b>2</b> Brownies 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>6</b> Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>CAMP WALNUT - 9AM TO 4PM</b> </div>							
<p><b>7</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> More Than Membership 10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>11</b> Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Eagle Scout Court of Honor Noon-4pm</i></p>	
<p><b>14</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> Brownies 6:30pm  <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u></p>	<p><b>17</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Open House (Mickey S.) Noon-5pm</i></p>	
<p><b>21</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>25</b> Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm Jammers rehearsal 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>26</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> Men's Fellowship 8:00am  <i>Bethesda Comm. Svcs. Auction &amp; Dinner 5:00pm</i></p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>CAMP WALNUT - 9AM TO 4PM</b> </div>							
<p><b>28</b> Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p><b>29</b> Community Dinner 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">August 2011</h1>			

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- |                       |                        |                                     |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4 - Albert Veveris    | 11 - Christina Bader   | 23 - Mickey Schwald                 |
| 5 - Mike Matteucci    | 13 - Kenny Pearson     | 29 - Jerry Rhoten<br>Dorothy Wilson |
| 6 - Brandy Donald     | 18 - Luke Klingensmith | 30 - Stan Krahn                     |
| 8 - Stephanie McArdle | 20 - Alix DeGraff      |                                     |

## Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

The first couple days of this week have not begun helpfully. The floating days along the usual river of our life hit a big rock, creating a whirlpool of family phone calls, visits, questions, no answers, round and round the swirling continues—our dear 100 years old Hilda Krahn, aunt, mother, sister-in law, has cancer. It is as if we've become frozen in our faith. But God calls us to always be ready for Christ's coming, calls us to pray without ceasing and to act and live each day as if it were our last. How difficult it is to answer his call casually or haphazardly. "I trust in you, O Lord... my times are in your hands." Psalm 31:14-15. That river ebbs and flows, around boulders, placidly over shallow, sandy bottoms. May we find our peace as we walk through those days ordained for us.

"Summertime and the livin' is easy, fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high." Porgy and Bess. Yes, Summer is here, sun's been coming out, a bit weakly, but it's there along with the overnight 2-foot growth of weeds and they aren't pebbles. Makes no difference where we live—muggy Huston or soggy Seattle, rugged Baja Peninsula to nostalgic Cape Cod. When it's summertime it's vacation time—a season of relaxation and rest. God even says so: "There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Let us..." Hebrews 4:9-11a. I know it's difficult for too many people beginning their summer with rivers truly overflowing, etc. Count your blessings and prayers for them.

When you come to the edge of all the light you know: change thoughts about people whose lives have been greatly changed by relationships with God's people. Hopefully many of you were able to read two newspaper articles, one in May, the other in June about two people who "walk their talk". The first article was of Tun Channareth, a Cambodian, in a wheelchair he built for himself. One of his legs ends at the knee, the other just below it. Recently at Seattle University to receive an honorary degree, he does not want you to turn away from his disquieting sight. "Some people understand my English, some people understand my body." This from a man selected to accept a 1997 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the International campaign to ban land mines. I wish I could have been there to hear him speak at S.U. as for many years land mines have been one of my big boulders of strong objections. Some of his speech "that land mines, many placed in wars and decades ago, continue to kill and maim thousands of men, women and children around the globe each year. The suffering never stops as one of every 230 people in his country is an amputee by land mines left over from decades of war. Cambodia, a country slightly smaller than our state of Washington, even today is estimated that as many as 5 million land mines and other under-detonated explosives remain in his country. Even if a field is cleared of mines once, the danger can return as plastic-encased explosive devices move

around in annual floods. His passion has led to visits with world leaders on several continents, including the prime minister of Japan, royalty in Spain, Cambodia and Belgium, the late Pope John Paul II and a telephone conversation with former President Bill Clinton. His work is far from finished although 156 nations have signed the Mine Ban Treaty on both land mines and cluster bombs, nearly 40 have not, including China, Russia and U.S, three of the super powers.

Some of the S.U. students who traveled to Cambodia have since worked on a petition campaign calling on President Obama to join the land mine effort. Hurrah for them! I have always signed and supported any land mine petitions I come into contact with. Think of what's been happening in our present day wars to our own soldiers. Channareth often tells his listeners to "grow the flower of peace in your heart. A peaceful heart creates a peaceful person, which in turn would produce a peaceful family. Community, country and world." (Amen!) A video interview with him on the web—<http://vimeo.com/10622512> or International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, <http://www.icbl.org>.

Round 2—the Peace Lady! Phong Nguyen was planting a tree at his Vietnamese school in 1985 when he dug into a land mine exploding it and killing four students and Nguyen, at 15, lost an eye and his left leg. For 10 years now he has been able to live an independent life because of a Bainbridge Island woman who lost a brother in the Vietnam War. I think there are very few of us, who at one time or another, have not had contact with Jerilyn Brusseau and her small, comfy restaurant on Edmonds' 5th avenue in sight of Main Street—until she founded a non-profit effort called Peace Trees with her now deceased husband in 1998. She has always "walked her talk". The organization is committed to removing land mines in the Quang Tri Province of Vietnam, one of the most severely devastated areas in the war, and replanting the barren countryside with trees, an area also sprayed with Agent Orange (one of my son's problems after the war). More recently, Peace Trees expanded its mission to build schools, libraries and, about 10 years ago, Peace Tree Village of 100 small homes for the disabled built on a former U.S. combat base in Dong Ha City. Next year will be the 10 years of Peace Tree Village and they are already planning several more projects and a Health Garden for Healthy Children, etc. Now, can you explain the purpose of any war in the first place—when some heart felt souls have to rebuild? Does any country win?

"When you come to the edge of all the light you know and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing one of two things will happen: there will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught how to fly." B. J. Winter

## FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings Bethesda Family,

WOW! Summer is here and there's a lot going on in our little corner of the world. I hope you will participate in some, any, or all of the activities.

The Coffee and Cookie stint up at Smokey Point rest stop, Hugs and Hot Dogs at Bethesda Square, and our booth at Evergreen Playfield in conjunction with Tour de Terrace are just a few.

The organizers of these events would really welcome your help.

The old adage, "Many hands make light work", is so true.

As a child, my Mom would admonish me to "Play nice".

This phrase covers a wide spectrum, be it passing your neighbor a bowl of soup over the fence, taking a handful of blossoms from your garden to another, running errands, lending an ear, or offering a shoulder. The opportunities are endless. Hugs and smiles work too.

When we "Play nice", I like to think our Good Lord looks down with a smile and says, "YES! That's what I'm talking about"!

We are blessed in so many ways and sharing our blessings is a very good thing. Put your **Faith in Action**.

May **YOUR** "Blessings Bucket" be filled to the very top~~

Mickey Schwald

We are working the **Smokey Point Rest Stop** again this year and would like everyone to help out in any way you can July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> for 72 hours night and day. There will be 4 hour shifts. We will be serving coffee and cookies as well as juice. We will be needing cash, or hot and cold cups, sugar, creamer, coffee, and cookies. There will be a sign up sheet in church hall.

### *Tour de Terrace at Bethesda...*

Hot dogs and hugs will be on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> and free breakfast on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, instead of the craft fair in our parking lot we will have a booth up at the playfield during Tour de Terrace. Please tell Joy Machelles or Dena how you would like to participate. We need every one to make this a great success.

## Returning to the Garden

*By Ryan Marsh, pastor of Church of the Beloved in Edmonds*

It seems as if everywhere one looks these days people are planting vegetable gardens.

Maybe it has something to do with getting closer to our food sources, or saving a few dollars on grocery bills, but I dare call it a movement of God's Spirit.

You cannot drive very far around Lynnwood or Edmonds without running into some P-patch or community garden and, for once, the church is actually leading the way.

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, on 196th Street Southwest in Lynnwood, has expanded its community garden with its recent senior housing project.

Church of the Beloved, of Edmonds, has cleared out the invading Himalayan blackberry bramble at the old Rosewood Manor on 220th Street and is inviting neighbors to help garden this reclaimed space.

The Edmonds Floretum Garden Club's P-patch, located on 84th Avenue West behind the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, is completely full for the second year in a row.

This new gardening movement of the Spirit transcends age, ethnicity, denominations and the old divisions between peoples and churches. It isn't a liberal or conservative thing; rather, as the prophet Isaiah said, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

It is difficult to not be changed by the gardening experience. As soon as you stick your hands in the soil, dangerous new questions are bound to come up. Questions like, "I wonder where my food comes from? How was it grown? With what chemicals? How were the growers treated and compensated? Is there enough for everyone?"

Not only are there new questions in the garden, but there is a new community. From the back of the garden a young person's voice erupts, "You planted a Victory Garden during World War II? How cool!" In another part of the garden a recent Sudanese immigrant shares a planting technique she learned in her home country. Each of these human connections might not have been made outside of the garden.

At the very beginning of our Garden home the Spirit was there, and that same life-giving Spirit is still here, creating, sustaining and uniting us.

So return to the garden and get dirty! You might find more than you expect there. You just might find new questions, new community and a new thing that God is doing.

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Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

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