



Bethesda Outlook

March 2012

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**WE ARE HERE TO
SERVE YOU! CALL US
FOR ANYTHING!**



The 5 Wednesdays of Lent!
February 29th, March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
6pm- Soup Supper
Please sign up in Fellowship Hall
7pm- Evening Prayer Service

During the season of Lent, we will be holding a special mid-week worship service as part of our Lenten journey together. This year it will again be preceded by a simple soup and bread supper at 6pm then followed by a ½ hour simple Evening Prayer Service of meditation with a short Lenten message.



Lent Anglo-Saxon: "spring"
As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and lasts for 40 days taking us through Holy Week, (April 1st-7th) to Easter Sunday (April 8th). The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

Lent is a time of simplicity and preparation.

Healing Service

On Sunday *March 18th* Bethesda Lutheran Church will be incorporated into our regular Sunday morning worship a Service of Healing. We believe that all of us need healing – physical, spiritual, emotional, etc. We focus on the healing nature of God in our music, our prayers and our worship.

This service will be for the most part and feel for the most part like any other Sunday Worship in Lent yet with this primary focus and theme centered on healing around that Sundays Gospel *John 3:14-21*



All Are Welcome

The Service of Healing as incorporated into our regular Sunday Worship is used as part of the Bethesda's ministry of care. Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive at this service the gifts of prayer, of the laying on of hands, and if desired anointing with oil.

(continued on page 2)

These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, we do not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

Images and words for the journey of Holy Week to Easter Sunday April 1st through 8th

Holy Week, (April 1st – 8th) marks the center of our entire church year. More than a time of remembering, the experience of Holy Week and Easter offers the greatest gifts of God- life and salvation, forgiveness and grace, mercy and love. I invite you to come relive and experience these saving events. This week is indeed full of jarring contradictions.

Palm Sunday (April 1st – 10:15am) is the entry into Holy Week. On that Sunday we acknowledge the success of our Lord with cheers and waving Palms. *(The palm branch is an ancient symbol of victory used by the disciples as Jesus entered Jerusalem. We too, will carry palms in our procession into that Sundays Service).* Moments later we announce His humiliating defeat as we cry, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him”, “Crucify Him” and read of His death in the readings for that day.

Maundy Thursday (7pm-April 5th) we will gather together for ‘*The Lord’s Supper*’ in the sanctuary. The Latin word Maundy means command. On this day we hear the words of Jesus’ ‘new commandment’ for us to love and serve one another. We will focus our time around Jesus’ last meal together with his disciples and end that service by stripping the altar bare as a reminder of the starkness of the day to come. We leave that service in silence and begin our Good Friday service in silence as our liturgy of God’s story of salvation continues.

Good Friday, (7pm-April 6nd), is a service of quiet and darkness as we hear readings of Jesus arrest, trial and crucifixion. The church is bare and bleak. We will hear Jesus’ last words on that evening from members of Bethesda as we read the words given to us by a great story teller, Walt Wangerin. As the night comes to a close, we leave the church in silence after we have experienced the darkness of the day and heard the sound of Christ’s tomb slammed shut. *Again we leave the church in silence.*

Then on **Easter Sunday** Morning (April 8th), we gather and we here proclaimed: “Alleluia, He is risen” and we respond, “He is risen indeed”. White is the color for Easter’s joyous celebration and we will see many other beautiful colors in church on that day. Trumpets will be playing as we sing and celebrate the risen Christ and our new life. The season of Easter lasts for 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost and in that time together we will explore and rediscover how the mystery of salvation and resurrection can be claimed and made apart of our life in the coming year.

We are indeed Easter people, people of the Risen Christ! I invite you to come and journey with Jesus from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, share in His meal with us, see the starkness of the cross, and help bring the light of Jesus back into the church as we journey together into the new light and life for us all and for the world through the risen Christ on Easter morning.



Pastor Malcolm

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings Bethesda Family,

Acknowledgement and appreciation are long over due to the **VOLUNTEERS** who offer their time, talent and resources, serving our Lord faithfully here at Bethesda.

Many have gone about their ministry for years and years.

The musicians and choir who bless us with their music and song, a piano tuner who has given 37 years of his expertise, the painters, carpenters, dirt diggers, planters, the plumbers, electrical and elevator fixers, those who wash the dishes and cook the meals, the **VOLUNTEERS** who sign up and show up to clean our church and office buildings each week, and the folks who bake the communion bread, take care of the altar linens and do other chancel and sacristy duties. There are the special days of Christmas and Easter when much **VOLUNTEER** effort is put forth

into making our sanctuary festive as we welcome the Holy Birth and celebrate the Resurrection.

Many thanks to the Stewardship team who have presented the current series so capably.

God's abundant Grace along with prayer and dedication of our **VOLUNTEERS** are what keeps the wheels of Bethesda turning.

May God richly bless you for all you have done and continue to do in this place called Bethesda.

Thank you.

In His Name,
Mickey Schwald
Council President

Stewardship Ministry Spring 2012!

CARE OF CREATION EVENT AND PLANT SALE!

**Saturday, May 5th
10 am- 3 pm**

Bethesda Fellowship Hall and Lawn

Join the fun! Invite your friends & neighbors!
Volunteer!

Next Planning & Planting Party/Meeting!

Sunday, March 18th

Fellowship Hall following Worship Service

Bring a lunch item to share.

Bring your gloves and trowels!

Bring your "gifts", your ideas and enthusiasm!

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS FUND!

Thank you Bethesda Congregation & Friends!!

Gifts of the Spirit Concert gave the musicians fund \$217 and change towards Easter musicians! To cover the cost of three professional musicians to join Bethesda in celebrating Easter, we need \$350. Check your pockets to see if there is a dollar or two to add to the coffers!

***Blessings to Bethesda for believing in the
"gift of music".***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="text-align: center;">2012</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">March</h2>				1 Brownies 6:30pm	2 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm World Day of Prayer	3
4 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	5 Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm WAM Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis' Girl Scouts - 6:45pm	6 Brownies 6:30pm	7 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Service Soup/Bread—6pm Worship—7pm	8 Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	9 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	10 Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am
11 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm Daylight Saving Time Begins	12 More Than Membership 10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	13	14 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Service Soup/Bread—6pm Worship—7pm	15 Brownies 6:30pm	16 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	17 Family Movie Night 5:30pm
18 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	19 Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	20 Brownies 6:30pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	21 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Service Soup/Bread—6pm Worship—7pm	22 Senior Center Tea & Fashion Show - Noon Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	23 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	24 Men's Fellowship 8:00am
25 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	26 Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	27	28 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Service Soup/Bread—6pm Worship—7pm	29 Brownies 6:30pm	30 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	31 WORK PARTY 9:00am



1 - Dena Lee Ashley Schwald	16 - Mark Currier	27 - Glenn Engelstad Markus Gray
2 - Sharon Boehm	17 - Molly Currier	28 - Ron Massey
7 - Gabe McArdle	22 - Shane Salsbury	29 - Kari Gray Anna Matteucci Seiloni Tonga
8 - Justin Kehres Jill Salsbury Doris Smith	23 - Viola Scoby	
	25 - Reanne Testin (Halladay)	

SHARING MY THOUGHTS

by Cliff Pearson

The other day I came across a meaning of the letters in BIBLE:

B Basic
I Information
B Before
L Leaving
E Earth

1 Timothy 4:13,14

Until I come, give your time and effort to the public reading of scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect Spiritual gifts that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying of the hands by the council of elders.

It's up to us what we do with this basic information. Most of us know the ten commandments. In Mark 12:30,31 Jesus added two more, which he said was the most important;

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and with all your strength. The second most important commandment is this: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

With all honesty I know I don't love God with that intensity every moment of every day. I do know that in spite of my failures and shortcomings, God still loves me. That reminds me of another long lyric. The artist is "Third Day" and the song is "Children of God:

We are the saints

We are the children

We've been redeemed

We've been forgiven

We are the sons and the daughters of our God.

Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

Snow in our mountains, snow covering much of Europe, floods and rain torrents out of whack and sunshine way down south. It's still mid February and Ash Wednesday is next week as I'm writing to you but next comes Lent—filling March. What gives? The older I get (85 in 2 days), thoughts occur: What's God bringing us now? Who does His calendar? Another gift book I've received (you've hear of 'junkies' - I'm a bookie - baskets filled!) "Bread and Wine—Readings for Lent and Easter" - many authors—has an interesting forward: *"Lent is a season of preparation, a time to return to the desert where Jesus spent forty trying days. But it should never be morose - an annual ordeal which we begrudgingly forgo a handful of pleasures. Instead, it ought to be approached as an opportunity! After all, it is meant to be the church's springtime, (never heard it put that way before) when, out of the darkness of sin's winter, a repentant, empowered people emerges. Lent is a time to let go of excuses for failings and shortcomings, to stop hanging on to whatever shreds of goodness we perceive in ourselves; a time to ask God to show us what we really look like. (oops!) And yet our need for repentance cannot erase the good news that Christ overcame all sin. His resurrection frees us from ourselves. His empty tomb turns our attention away from all that is wrong with us and the world, and spurs us on to experience the abundant life He promises. 'Christ must increase and I must decrease', the apostle John declares."*

Dorothy Sayers writes that to make the Easter story into something that neither startles, shocks, terrifies, nor excites is "to crucify the Son of God afresh". It all would have been unthinkable for the first following of Jesus, the first ones to experience the happenings: the hurrahs of His entry into Jerusalem, that traitorous cunning of Judas, their own cowardice, knowing the terror of his slow suffocation and finally the awareness of an empty grave, a living body resurrected from the dead. Few of his latter-day disciples could deny the magnitude or drama of these events (Doubting Thomas?). But how many of us, even at Easter =, give Christ's death and resurrection any more attention than the weather! Whoops! If we observe Lent, we must prepare a time of preparation, a time to return to the desert where Jesus spent 40 days, trying days readying for his ministry. He allowed himself to be tested. Are we serious enough about following Him and doing the same?

Lent, first popularized in the 4th century, is traditionally associated with penitence, fasting, alms giving and prayer. A time for "giving this up" balanced by "giving to" those in need. Whatever else you think, Lent should never be remorse—an annual ordeal when we inwardly grumble about giving up a handful of pleasures. It should be our big opportunity, not a requirement. It's church's springtime, out of the darkness of sin's winter, repentance, empowered

people emerges. Lent is the season in which we ought to be surprised by joy. Whoops! Joy is costly, arising from the horror of our sins, which crucified Christ. Meister Eckhart points out that those who have the hardest time with Lent are "the good people". Most of us are willing to give up a thing or two, and we may also admit our need for renewal. But to die with Christ? How to explain that? Can it be a nagging sense that we have missed something important and have been untrue—to ourselves, to others, to God? Isn't Lent a good time to confront the source of that feeling, to let go of excuses for failings and shortcomings, a time to stop hanging on to however good we think we are and ask God to show us what we really look like? Would I really find that joy in the season? I'm certain my mirror has many wrinkles. Have we a personal role in prolonging Christ's agony at Golgotha (to paraphrase poet John Donne)? Richard John Neehaus advises, "Send not to know by whom the nails were driven; they were driven by you, by me." Hey, the good news is that Christ overcame all sin and His resurrection frees us from ourselves!

'Nuf heavy, heavy! Spring and Easter are coming, joy and wonder! God brings his rhythms year after year after year. Spring follows our winters as surely as sunrise follows night. But don't we have many rhythms and seasons in our lives? Physical seasons of our age are lived only once. We will be thirty, forty, or even 85 only once. Quit 'diddle daddling' around and use your years wisely, then once is enough. Seasons of your heart—those perpetual times of blossoms, joy and sorrow come always. They, also, are to be lived and important in our lives. When we live fully attuned to the seasons of our lives given to us by God, let us rejoice and begin the day with a cheerful, thankful soul! Go for the gold!

More children's letters to God:

Dear God,

Who invented Christmas? It is so beautiful. Did you? I like the angels with gold wings on our tree every time. I hope I will be pretty when I grow up. Please write me a letter soon because I told every body you would.

Love and kisses, Natalie

Dear God,

You would see our grass. Did you do it? Lou

Dear God,

Do you let your children stay up for Get Smart? I have to know. Linda

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY 2011-2012

Spiritual Stewardship Survey Writings: Part One of Three

*(Remember: there are no right or wrong answers!
How does your spirit guide you?)*

1. What are your gifts?

*An (untrained) musician, steadiness, organizational skills, ability to find humor (or at least irony) in almost everything. I am an awesome hugger! *Gardening.
* Myself. *Concerns for others, esp. those with illness, death, gardening and quilting. * Humor, music, listener.
* Being considerate. Painting. Music. Writing poems.
* Humor. My daughter & grandson. * Listening.
Marriage skills. * Sincere, compassion, entertaining personality. * Good listener. * Artistic, a good listener. *

2. What do you have to be thankful for?

*Everything! * Family, friends, church. * Lots. * My family-home, church. The church has no mortgage! * My friends, Family, Job, Faith. * My family. * Being born in America, where you don't have to walk 3 weeks for rice porridge. * Friends, church, hope. * Good friends, family, good job. * My strength, "optimism", friends and loved ones. * Freedom, family, friends, health. * Many blessings. * Health. *

3. What are your basic assets?

*See #1 above. * Reasonable health, good place to live, my church, my friends and my family. *God. * Um...
* Getting along with people. * Me. * Fortitude, humor, integrity. *

4. What are some physical things that you value?

*A hug, a smile, tears, laughter. * Pictures, my home.
* To be alive from a stroke. * Good health. * My new car!
* My home & family. * Nature. * Home, car. *Athletic abilities, dance, choreography. * Home. * Eyesight, health. *

5. What are you good at?

* See #1 above. * Gardening, working with paperwork and filing. * I treat everyone the way I would want to be

treated. * Being a Sounding board-Providing a calm place (my office), for people to relax a bit. * Listening, seeing God in everyday things. * Communication. *
*Communication, writing, singing, dancing, problem solving. * Listening, meditating. *Still looking for it. *

6. What is/are your passion/s?

* Animals, music, natural world. * Raising flowers, especially lilies. * Life. * Family. *Music.
* Encouraging kids to be all they can be. * Weather/storms. * Animals, art, creativity. * Fitness, my students. * To live life simply with grace & spiritual well-being. *Don't like conflict. God loves everyone.
*Passions supporting Pastor Malcolm, dinners, new kitchen. Getting the horrible negative, nitpicking, damaging, meanness hateful power out of POWER. I have a passion to fix things but don't know how. *

7. Who are the people you know or care about?

* Family, friends, co-workers. * My children, friends, brothers and sisters. * Eddie (boyfriend). * My family, my church (Bethesda). *Everyone! * Wife, 3 daughters & 1 son-grandkids. *Minnis family, Smith & Swanson Family. * Wonderful friends. * Family, close friends. *

Difficult?—all children of God. * I have 2 families: my children & grandchild and the members of BLC. Members of BLC have taken care of me for many years. They have seen me through many illnesses, many exciting times and ups & downs. *

8. What groups of people do you belong to?

*God's people. * Germans from Russia. * MLT seniors.
* Quilters, Hospitality, church, lunch group. * Retired fire fighters union. * Bethesda Lutheran, SEIU health care union. * Volleyball team, Bethesda Lutheran Church. * Church, Democrats, Friends of the Earth.
* Eagles, senior citizens, friends or library. * Church, circle, book club, birthday group, lunch bunch. * Many different groups—each with different agendas. Groups I belong to: There are 3 groups here in church. Each is different. I belong to my family of children. I belong to an artistic group that is very different from all those above. I also belong to a small group that is made up of many different religious and no one talks about it. *

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Church**

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