



Bethesda Outlook

August 2015

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“AMEN” is the word of the people.

You may have noticed that there are a lot of places in the worship service where the word “amen” is spoken or sung. Christians often use it as a way to conclude prayers and hymns. But what does it really mean?

“Amen” comes from Hebrew. It’s used after a blessing and to affirm a declaration. The word also is used in the New Testament. Someone who had lots of time once counted 77 uses of the word in the gospel accounts. You might be most familiar with Jesus using the word to begin some sayings, as in, “Truly, truly, I tell you. . .” The word used in those sayings of Jesus is the Greek word for “amen” and is translated as “truly.” In the Bible, anything that is repeated this way means that it’s *really* whatever it’s saying (think of the cherubim in Isaiah singing “holy, holy, holy”; God really is really holy). So when Jesus says, “truly, truly,” he really means it and what he is about to say is truly true. Look for these sayings and then be sure to pay particular attention to what follows.

So—the word “amen” is used in Hebrew to affirm a blessing and to affirm a declaration, usually a declaration concerning faith and God, although I’m sure most of us have heard someone declare at some point something like, “Amen to that!” This person is declaring that she or he emphatically agrees with what she or he just heard; it’s an affirmation of the truth of that just-heard statement. This is what we use the word for in worship, too.

At the end of a prayer, we say “Amen!” and it means, “Yes! So be it! I affirm the true truth of that!” Remember the days when we used to sing “amen” at the end of every hymn? The word functioned in the same way there. A hymn tells a story and makes a declaration of faith, in the same way that a Bible reading or a sermon can tell a story or make a declaration of faith. A prayer is a line of communication to

God, and when we say “amen” at the end of a prayer, we are telling God that what was just prayed is true and we affirm its truth. “Let it be” might be another way to interpret “amen”, as in “let it be to me according to your word.” Truly, Paul McCartney was ahead of his time.

The other place where the word “amen” is appropriate is at the table. When you receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the person who offers the elements to you usually will say something like, “This is the body of Christ, given for you.” That is an excellent time to respond with “Amen!” When you say “amen” to the body and blood, you are saying, “I affirm this as truly true, let it be to me according to God’s word.” Say it loud and clear; Luther would be proud. He wrote that we should come to the table joyfully to celebrate God’s plan of salvation, God’s freely-given grace and forgiveness that is for us. For you.

During worship, listen for clues of when to declare the truth of what has been said. Often, prayers will end with a phrase like, “through Jesus Christ our Lord,” or “one God, now and forever.” These are aural cues for you, the assembly, to declare your faith in God in one word: “AMEN!” This is your word, the people’s word. It is not the word of the one praying or of the presider. This word belongs to the assembly, and is your cue to declare the truth of what has been said, to declare what your faith tells you is true.

“Amen!” is your word, the peoples’ word; be sure to use it! Don’t leave it up to the presider or the one praying. It belongs to you, the people, and is your chance to confirm again and again to God your gratitude for the faith, and everything else, that God gives you.

Peace,
Pastor Kathleen Anderson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 Worship 10:15am Bethesda Presbyterian Church 1:30pm—4:00pm Comm. Table prep. 4:00pm—7:00pm</p>	<p>3 Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm—4:00pm Bethesda Community Table 8:30am—8:00pm Facilities Committee @ J. Minnis' 6:45pm</p>	<p>4 Comm. Table clean up 8:30am—12:00pm</p>	<p>5 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 7:30pm—8:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Wedding reh. 4:30—5:30pm</p>	<p>1 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 6:00am—7:00am Thrivent Meeting 8:30am—10:30am</p>
<p>SMOKEY POINT REST STOP (northbound) Aug 5, 2:00pm through Aug 7, 1:00pm</p>						
<p>9 Worship 10:15am Bethesda Presbyterian Church 1:30pm—4:00pm Comm. Table prep. 4:00pm—7:00pm</p>	<p>10 Bethesda Community Table 8:30am—8:00pm Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm—3:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm—9:00pm</p>	<p>11 Comm. Table clean up 8:30am—12:00pm</p>	<p>12 Care & Concern Ministry 10:00—Noon Foodie Book Group 6:30pm—8:30pm Bethesda Presbyterian Church 7:30pm—8:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>13 Finance Meeting @ Bldg. 3 7:00pm—9:00pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 6:00am—7:00am Wedding - 11:00am Movie Night 6:30pm—10:30pm</p>
<p>16 Worship 10:15am Bethesda Presbyterian Church 1:30pm—4:00pm Comm. Table prep. 4:00pm—7:00pm</p>	<p>17 Bethesda Community Table 8:30am—8:00pm</p>	<p>18 Comm. Table clean up 8:30am—12:00pm</p>	<p>19 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 7:30pm—8:30pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 6:00am—7:00am Men's Fellowship 8:00am—10:00am Movie Night 6:30pm—10:30pm</p>
<p>23 Worship 10:15am Picnic Fellowship with Terrace View Presbyterian Bethesda Presbyterian Church 1:30pm—4:00pm Comm. Table prep. 4:00pm—7:00pm</p>	<p>24 Bethesda Community Table 8:30am—8:00pm Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm—3:30pm</p>	<p>25 Comm. Table clean up 8:30am—12:00pm</p>	<p>26 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 7:30pm—8:30pm Community Table Team meeting 11:00am—1:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Bethesda Presbyterian Church 6:00am—7:00am</p>
<p>30 Worship 10:15am Bethesda Presbyterian Church 1:30pm—4:00pm Comm. Table prep. 4:00pm—7:00pm</p>	<p>31 Bethesda Community Table 8:30am—8:00pm Girl Scout Leaders 6:30pm—9:00pm</p>					



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|------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 - Albert Veveris | 23 - Mickey Schwald |
| 11 - Christina Bader | 25 - Shelly Corber |
| 13 - Kenny Pearson | 29 - Dorothy Wilson |
| 18 - Luke Klingensmith | 30 - Stan Krahn |
| 20 - Alix DeGraff | |



BETHESDA
at

SMOKEY POINT REST STOP

Bethesda Community Services August Fundraiser

Bethesda Community Services provides people with help in many ways. It might be with a payment for utilities or for gas to help someone get to work. The assistance is paid directly to the business.

Bethesda Community Services will be hosting the Interstate 5 rest stop at Smokey Point **beginning at 2:00pm Wednesday, August 5th**. Our shift will continue until 2:00pm on Friday, August 7th. Hosts will be scheduled by Cliff Pearson. Each shift lasts 4 hours. To sign up to host a shift or two or for more information contact Cliff Pearson.

Donations of: cookies, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate, napkins and powdered creamer are needed and appreciated. You can drop off your donations in the church office. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for BCS so please plan to help.

**Joint Fellowship with
Terrace View
Presbyterian Church**
Sunday August 23rd - Post Worship
11:30am @

Bethesda Lutheran Church

23406 56th Ave. W · Mountlake Terrace

We will be worshipping in our own churches on
this Sunday and joining after worship @ Bethesda Lutheran Church for Fellowship

Interim Pastor
Pr. Kathleen Anderson

Office Administrator
Jean Leavens
425-778-6390

Treasurer:
Sue Rasmussen
425-357-6272

Choir Director
Judy Rasmussen
425-357-6272

Musician:
Vic Peters
206-789-1699

Altar Care:
Joy DeGraff
425-778-5040

Council ~ 2014-15

President:
Joy DeGraff
425-778-5040

Vice President:
Sharon Boyd
425-610-4588

Secretary
Katherine Dedrick
425-672-9080

Jeanette Anstice
425-742-4216

Bill Johnson
206-300-2440

Darlene Johnston
425-673-5168

Caryl Klingensmith
425-775-0478

Joan Minnis
425-778-0309

Cliff Pearson
425-275-3590

Penny Candy

By Kirby Unti, NWWA Bishop

(From *The Spirit*, August 2015)



One of the fond memories of my childhood was visiting the Unti grandparents in Anaconda, Montana. My grandfather was a machinist who worked in the Anaconda smelter and in the world's largest open mine in Butte. Right around the corner from their house was a mom & pop grocery store. We could hardly wait to get a hot quarter in our hand and make our way to Hunthausen's Grocery. It was there that we would buy licorice pinwheels that wrapped themselves around a hard candy in the middle. We also could buy jaw breakers and fake cigarettes. We were cool.

What we didn't know then was that little grocery store would prove to be a life saver when my grandfather died and my grandmother's blindness made it more challenging for her to move about town. It was the Hunthausens that saw to it that my grandmother's groceries were delivered. It meant more than her daily bread - it meant there was another family keeping an eye out for her.

Grandmother was a stubborn woman who fought hard to keep her dignity in tack. She refused to use a cane or a walker and instead when she went to town to pay her bills she took a broom with her. It was more than a walking aid. It allowed her to sweep the sidewalks as she made her way. After all she didn't need any help. It must have been difficult for her to accept the Hunthausen's gracious offer to deliver her groceries.

It is this same Hunthausen family that raised up a son named Raymond who would become the Archbishop of Seattle. A son who was formed in a faithful Roman Catholic family that taught him the value of caring for the community. It would have been one thing if my grandmother were a member of the Catholic Church. She wasn't. She was a Presbyterian. It didn't matter to the Hunthausens. She was a neighbor whom they could care for. Archbishop Hunthausen went on to become one of the people I most admire because of the way he lived out his faith. He was an exceedingly humble man who could not help but act on his beliefs.

Hunthausen fits to a tee a definition of power that I have been musing about. "Power is the capacity to act on one's deepest held convictions." You can also substitute the word "courage" and the definition works equally well. Archbishop Hunthausen was courageous in his willingness to stand up for non-violence, to speak out against nuclear proliferation, to support priests who married, to advocate for women in positions of authority and the rightful place of laity in the whole life of the church.

It was with great joy (and sadness) that I read a recently released book about his life. *A Still And Quiet Conscience: The Archbishop Who Challenged A Pope, A President and A Church* by John A McCoy. I commend it to your reading. I have wondered often since reading this book what would have happened had Hunthausen served under Pope Francis. Two peas from the same pod. Two leaders of great conviction and action.

I pray that I might be a person of courage who has the capacity to act on my deepest held convictions. For now I am going to step outside and have a candy cigarette.

Bishop Unti will be our guest preacher at Bethesda on Sunday, August 23rd