



*In gratitude, Bethel Lutheran Church amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out, and builds community.*

- We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
- Bethel Children, Youth and Family Ministry bridges generations to model, equip, and encourage a foundation of trust in God's story.

# BETHEL HERALD

Volume 85

Number 1

January 2021



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## Blessed to be loved and to love

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Blessed Epiphany Season

I am writing this article between the taping of our Advent Four worship service and our Christmas Eve and Day services ... and I find myself stuck on a quote from this Sunday's sermon. The quote is actually from Dr. David Lose of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (which I failed to mention in my sermon):

*"God comes to us **in love** to tell us that **we are loved** and to send us out **to love others** - always equipped by the **life-giving power of God's love**. We are, in fact, both favored and accompanied by God. Always."*

As I asked in my sermon, "Do you believe this?" Do you believe this about YOU? **Do you realize and accept that YOU are a favored one of God?**

This is the very reason God sent Jesus to live among us. To repair a broken relationship between God and God's people. To repair that broken relationship between the Creator and the created. This is, indeed, what the manger and the cross are all about. God doing whatever it takes to right our relationship, and reclaim us as whole, enough, and beloved.

*Dr. Lose went on to say, "What difference might it make for your folks to hear that word - just a week shy of the most different and in some ways dismal Christmas any of us can remember. Economic hardship, political strife, attempts to undermine the very foundation of our democracy, a new and sharper awareness of longstanding racial injustice, the promise of a vaccine even as hospitalizations and deaths surge to new and devastating highs...The list goes on and all of it contributes to having a hard time believing the announcement of the angel and the promise of Christmas."*

That promise is this:

***YOU are favored and accompanied in life by God! Always!***

And. And, counter to the culture in which we live, God does NOT do all this as something self-serving. God does not do all this in order to get us to do something for God. But God does it out of love and a desire to repair what is broken. God does this to reconcile God's very intent of creation itself - to be in right relationship with the created! To show us what love actually looks like and share an intimacy with us, the created ones, that we can actually understand.



(continues on pg. 2)

Jesus came to this earth as a newborn baby, just like all of us did! Jesus lived life here on earth, just like all of us do. Jesus taught us, showed us, and empowered us to truly love all others, just as God loves us.

Not that this is easy - to love all others, just as God loves us. To be honest, 'others' can be very frustrating. Most especially when we find ourselves at odds with one another around politics, life decisions, and injustices of the world. Yet, we are empowered by the Spirit of God in, around, and between us - in every single moment of life. Accompanied by the God who has done whatever it takes to reconcile us with God and with one another.

It is my hope and my prayer that we can all claim this promise of being favored and accompanied by God. And that we are able to utilize this promise in all our relationships - both peaceful and unpeaceful ones. God help us all.

With you, for Jesus,

*Pastor Brenda*

## **Racial Justice Initiative and Sabbatical work update**

**Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) update:** Most of our elected leadership has now taken their own IDI and are waiting to hear results. Dr Jen and Pr Brenda have both become qualified administrators of this product. In January, we will host an initial small group meeting with group results and plans on how to respond. Then we will follow up with each person individually. We will also offer opportunity to take the IDI for those of you waiting for your chance to learn about and respond to your own intercultural competence. Thank you for waiting out this process. It is a little bigger project than we initially imagined!

**Book Club:** Thank you to everyone who has chosen to participate in our book club discussion every other month. All are welcome to one, or all, of our times together. For 2021, I took a look at the book list we originally included in the sabbatical application for last summer. (If the vaccines work, this sabbatical may still happen in 2021.) So, here is a list of books we have not yet read - assigned to months of 2021. If you have other suggestions, please let me know.

- January 31 - Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor
- March 21- Woke Church: An Urgent Call for Christians in America to Confront Racism and Injustice by Eric Mason
- May 23 - Dear Church: Letters from a Disillusioned Generation by Sarah Raymond Cunningham

With or without me going on sabbatical this year, I think we should spend the rest of the year working on books like White Fragility, My Grandmother's Hands, and Caste. These are books that will need more than one meeting. So, let's wait into the year to see how we will address these books.

**Podcast Group:** In an effort to give folks some more options as we respond to our personal Intercultural Development Inventory results, I would like to start a Podcast group that will watch and discuss particular (and shorter) podcasts that address cultural differences and similarities. Watch for this option to begin in February.

**Movie Nights:** These opportunities continue every two weeks. Look in this newsletter and in your emails for links to these meaningful movies and group discussions.

**More to come - so please share your ideas!**



**From the desk of Dr. Jen Kilps, Engagement Coordinator**

## ***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

It's finally 2021! And, globally, I think we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief as hope abounds. Hope for a viable vaccine, for the restoration of incomes and jobs and for the possibility of seeing friends and family once again (plus much, much more). People have hope! At least I do. I currently live in dread of not seeing my mom again before she dies. So to say I have hope is an understatement.

As I think about hope, and reflect on it, I get a twinge-y feeling. Something is not sitting right. Yes, it looks like we can have some hope. And, yes, we need it desperately. And there is something amiss in putting our hope in what the world may be promising us. A vaccine. Jobs. An end to our isolation. Those things may, indeed, happen. And maybe not.

What if we don't get those things? What if a vaccine is delayed, or the virus mutates, or businesses stay closed? What does that mean for our hopes? Are they dashed? I would like to suggest that putting our hopes in what may or may not happen may not be in our best interest or the best use of our energy. I am reminded of a Chinese proverb:

*Once upon a time there was a farmer whose horse ran away. That evening, his neighbors came around to commiserate. They said, "We are so sorry to hear your horse has run away. This is most unfortunate." The farmer said, "Maybe." The next day the horse came back bringing with it seven wild horses. That evening his neighbors gathered and said, "Oh, isn't that lucky. What a great turn of events. You now have eight horses!" The farmer again said, "Maybe." The following day his only son tried to break one of the horses, and while riding it, he was thrown and broke his leg. The neighbors then said, "Oh dear, that's too bad," and the farmer responded, "Maybe." The next day army officers came around to conscript people for the war. They rejected the son because he had a broken leg. Again all the neighbors came around and said, "Isn't that great!" Again, the old man said, "Maybe."*

As you can gather, the moral of the story is to not assume something is good or bad, because life is ever-changing and a mystery. We can never know if something is truly "good" or "bad", only God does. Only God can know the what's and how's and why's of life. We can only try to understand. And like the old man's neighbors, our understanding is often way off the mark.

Getting back to the question, what if our specific hopes are not answered the way we think they should be? What if we place all our hopes in a basket that SEEMS obvious? What if we predetermine the outcome of a situation as good or bad? And what happens if our perceptions translate into disaster? We hope for a horse and receive a broken leg.

I am afraid that when we place our hopes on what "we think should happen," those hopes can be dashed. And if this happens often enough, we can become despondent and susceptible to falling into a real depression.

So as much as 2021 brings such high hopes, let's think about where our hopes lie. I suggest we not throw all our eggs into one hope or another. For as you know, our REAL hope lies in the reality of the Gospel. Our hope lies in a Christ who came to share our human hopes, dreams, losses and regrets with us. God knows how frail human hope is and PROMISES that we are loved, that love has conquered death and that our hopes have ALREADY been fulfilled.

Hope for 2021? Absolutely! I know I need it! But I pray that my hope is God's hope and that my heart is God's heart. And I pray the same for you! Peace to you all!



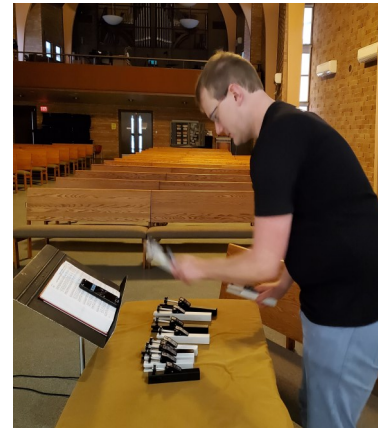


One Phil ringing bells



Phil on the organ

**What would we do without our Phil?!**



Another Phil with chimes



The Phil Quartet



21 Phils Salute!

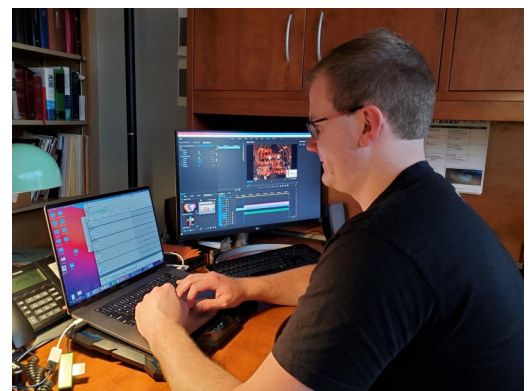


Phil being Phil!



**Here's Phil making it all come together!**

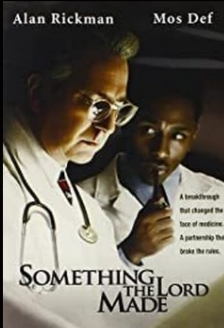
**THANK YOU PHIL!**





BETHEL'S RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE PRESENTS

**ZOOM MOVIE NIGHT**



Although Vivien Thomas, a black man in the 1930s, is originally hired as a janitor, he proves himself adept at assisting the "Blue Baby doctor" with his medical research. When Blalock insists that Thomas follow him to Johns Hopkins University, they must find a way to skirt a racist system to continue their study of infant heart disease. Thomas is indispensable to Blalock's progress, but Blalock is the only one who is allowed to receive the acclaim.

Friday, January 8th @ 7pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83550463168>



## Bethel Survey

At this time of the global pandemic, Bethel leadership is interested in how we are doing in

- \* meeting your needs,
- \* providing worship options,
- \* and keeping in touch.

You will receive a paper survey (some received it in this newsletter) or a survey online very soon.

**Please fill out the survey as soon as possible so that your leadership and staff teams are able to respond in a timely fashion.**

Thank you for your help on this important matter.

**God blesses you!**

BETHEL'S RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE PRESENTS

**ZOOM MOVIE NIGHT**



The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.

Friday, January 22nd @ 7pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88228677018>

## Live As A Steward

This quote is one of many items on my refrigerator.

Paul tells us that we each have been given gifts. These gifts may include being a good listener, seeing a need, finding a solution, being a thankful receiver, teaching, giving a sack of groceries, a smile or a wave to a stranger as you walk.

The list is long. Sometimes we are unaware of our gifts.

Has someone told you of a gift they see in you? Were you surprised?

As we enter 2021, we have an opportunity to look at ourselves, our neighbors. What do you see? What in your life has prepared you for 2021?

~Sharon Rodi, Stewardship Committee

*"Do all the good you can,  
 By all the means you can,  
 In all the ways you can,  
 In all the places you can,  
 At all the times you can,  
 To all the people you can,  
 As long as ever you can."*

~ John Wesley

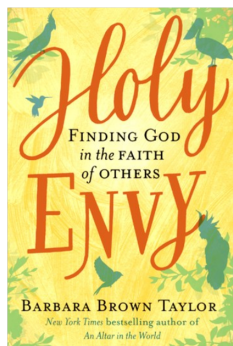
**Do you know you can find many virtual links on our website?  
 Just go to: [www.bethel-mpls.org](http://www.bethel-mpls.org)**

Feel free to call Pr B  
directly anytime!  
651-270-4960



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Online Sunday School (Link is in email) <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Bethel Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship Time <b>1:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Worship <b>1:30 PM</b> MN CASA Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Virtual Text Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Virtual Mental Health Small Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Music Practice	<b>6</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <a href="http://us.02.zo">http://us.02.zo</a> <b>6:30 PM</b> Conf
<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Online Sunday School (Link is in email) <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Bethel Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship Time <b>1:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Worship <b>1:30 PM</b> MN CASA Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Virtual Text Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Virtual Mission Council <b>7:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Music Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <a href="http://us.02.zo">http://us.02.zo</a> <b>7:00 PM</b> Initial <a href="https://us02we">https://us02we</a>
<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Online Sunday School (Link is in email) <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Bethel Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship Time <b>1:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Worship <b>1:30 PM</b> MN CASA Worship <b>5:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Gathering	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Virtual Text Study <b>6:45 PM</b> Virtual Board of Administrators <b>7:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Music Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>20</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <a href="http://us.02.zo">http://us.02.zo</a> <b>12:00 PM</b> HEF <b>6:30 PM</b> Conf
<b>24</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Online Sunday School (Link is in email) <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Bethel Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship Time <b>1:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Worship <b>1:30 PM</b> MN CASA Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Virtual Text Study <b>6:30 PM</b> IDI Virtual Group Mtg on results With Leadership <b>7:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Music Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>27</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Virtual Staff Meeting <a href="http://us.02.zo">http://us.02.zo</a> <b>7:00 PM</b> Initial <a href="https://us02we">https://us02we</a>
<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Online Sunday School (Link is in email) <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Bethel Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship Time <b>12:30 PM</b> Virtual Book Group <b>Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others</b> (Link is in email) <b>1:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Casa Worship <b>1:30 PM</b> MN CASA Worship <b>5:00 PM</b> Pentecostal Gathering	<div> <div> <b>Virtual BOOK CLUB Sunday, Jan. 31st 12:30 PM</b>  <b><u>Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others</u></b>                      Barbara Brown Taylor asks us to look again, to see with new understanding other ways of approaching a mysterious divine that none can know fully, to embrace "the God just beyond our understanding." The title of the book comes from biblical scholar Krister Stendahl, who proposed three rules of religious understanding                      1. <i>When trying to understand another religion, you should ask the adherents about their religion and not its enemies.</i>                      2. <i>Don't compare your best to their worst.</i>                      3. <i>Leave room for "holy envy."</i>                      "The first time I heard the phrase 'holy envy,' I knew it was an improvement over the plain old envy I felt while studying other faiths," writes Taylor. "With plain old envy," she continues, "my own tradition always comes up wanting. The grass is greener in the tradition next door....[but] when I look longingly at my neighbor's faith, am I really looking for greener pastures, or am I simply trying to make peace with the realities of my own?"                 </div> </div>		



# 2021



Please call us  
if you need anything  
612-724-3693

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	<b>2</b>
Actual Bible Study <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485</a> Confirmation Class	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM MN CASA Worship	<b>8</b> 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship <b>7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT:</b> <b>Something the Lord Made</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83550463168">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83550463168</a>	<b>9</b>
Actual Bible Study <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485</a> <b>al IDI take Mtg</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383</a>	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM MN CASA Worship	<b>15</b> 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	<b>16</b>
Actual Bible Study <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485</a> <b>AL IDI take Mtg</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383</a>	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM MN CASA Worship	<b>22</b> 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship <b>7:00 PM MOVIE NIGHT:</b> <b>Hidden Figures</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88228677018">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88228677018</a>	<b>23</b>
Actual Bible Study <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032958485</a> <b>al IDI take Mtg</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383</a>	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM MN CASA Worship	<b>29</b> 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	<b>30</b>
<b>Please take the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)</b>			

As you know, part of our sabbatical year includes our congregation's opportunity to become more culturally competent. One way we do this is by individually taking the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), receiving group and individual results, and then working together to become more culturally competent as a faith community.

Here is your chance to join the process. If you would like to take the IDI soon, and jump in on this personal development opportunity, come to ONE of these two meetings in January:

Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383> OR

Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654710383>

At these meetings you will learn more about this process, get your questions answered, and - should you choose to take the IDI - be given access to the inventory free of charge. Once several folks take the IDI, we will form small groups, give group results, and start working on becoming more culturally competent together. You will also receive your individual results, so you can work on your own as well.

Want to learn more? Come to one of the meetings. If you do not have access to Zoom, please call the office, and we will find another way to include you in this important process and ministry. **Thank you!**



# January



## Anniversaries

Cheri & Jim Olausen

Jan. 2

Matewos Beraki & Guenet Haile

Jan. 20

## Birthdays

Brock Hanson	January 1
Peter Laursen	January 1
Jaiden Lindgren-Mudek	January 1
Jade Talbot	January 1
Jay Lovstuen	January 4
Pat Gramentz	January 5
Joan Dahlman	January 8
Karen Ramerth	January 9
Doug Psick	January 10
Grace Simons	January 10
Alana Young	January 12
Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers	January 17
Jalen Jaspers	January 17
Sheila Nelson	January 17
Kristina Lair	January 19
Kamden Riley	January 20
Barb Wandberg	January 21
Kingston Smedstad	January 22
Jeff Kevelin	January 24
Mario Rolack, Jr.	January 24
Bree Rice	January 26
Noreen Greer	January 27
Beverly Berg	January 29
Eric Soderberg	January 29
Cole Bresina	January 30
Jon Melson	January 30

## Prayers of Sympathy For the family and friends of *Elaine Vogel*

longtime and loved member of this congregation.  
Elaine died on Monday, December 14, 2020.

There will be a celebration of life  
after we are able to get together in-person in 2021.

*Eternal peace grant Elaine, dear Lord!*

## Prayers of Sympathy For the family and friends of *Shirley Elavsky*

longtime and loved member of this congregation.  
Shirley died on Thursday, December 17, 2020.

There will be a celebration of life  
after we are able to get together in-person in 2021.

*Eternal peace grant Shirley, dear Lord!*



# BOLD and Bethel Lutheran Churches: Forming Relationship

During the Epiphany Season in 2021, we will be re-igniting our relationship with members of Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church. You may remember that we were dining and worshiping together during Lent in March of 2020, when both congregations closed their buildings in response to the international pandemic. Although both buildings remain closed, we would like to take the time to rekindle relationships, joint worship, and shared ministry. How will we do this digitally? We will do this by sharing the pulpit, having Deacon Dorothy share our Gospel readings each week, and work to learn more American Sign Language - most especially the Lord's Prayer. Would you like to join us? Watch for information about our worship, as well as some videos to learn more ASL.

***This information may be helpful for our Wednesday, 11:00 AM Zoom Bible Study too!***

Date	BOLD text and preacher	Bethel text and preacher	<b><i>Bible Study Readings for Bethel - Zoom on Wednesdays, 11:00 AM</i></b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542792093">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542792093</a>
Jan 3	Christmas 2	Christmas 2	<b><i>Luke 2:22-40 Wed., Dec. 30</i></b>
Jan 10	Michelle - Baptism of Jesus Luke 3:1-22	Kids Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12	<b><i>Matthew 2:1-12 Wed., Jan. 6</i></b>
Jan 17	Brenda - Sermon from Nazareth Luke 4:14-30	Michelle - Baptism of Jesus <b>Luke 3:1-22</b>	<b><i>Luke 3:1-22 Wed., Jan.13</i></b>
Jan 24	Dorothy - Great Catch Luke 5:1-11	Brenda - Sermon from Nazareth <b>Luke 4:14-30</b>	<b><i>Luke 4:14-30 Wed., Jan. 20</i></b>
Jan 31	Lori - Call of Disciples Luke 6:1-16	Dorothy - Great Catch <b>Luke 5:1-11</b>	<b><i>Luke 5:1-11 Wed., Jan. 27</i></b>
Feb 7	Jen - Miracles Luke 7:1-17	Lori - Call of Disciples <b>Luke 6:1-16</b>	<b><i>Luke 6:1-16 Wed., Feb. 3</i></b>
Feb 14	Transfiguration	Jen - Miracles <b>Luke 7:1-17</b>	<b><i>Luke 7:1-17 Wed., Feb. 16</i></b>

## Coats/Mittens/Hats and the Little Free Pantry

You might already guess from the article last month that our **Little Free Pantry and collection of winter outerwear continues to be popular for our neighbors in need.**

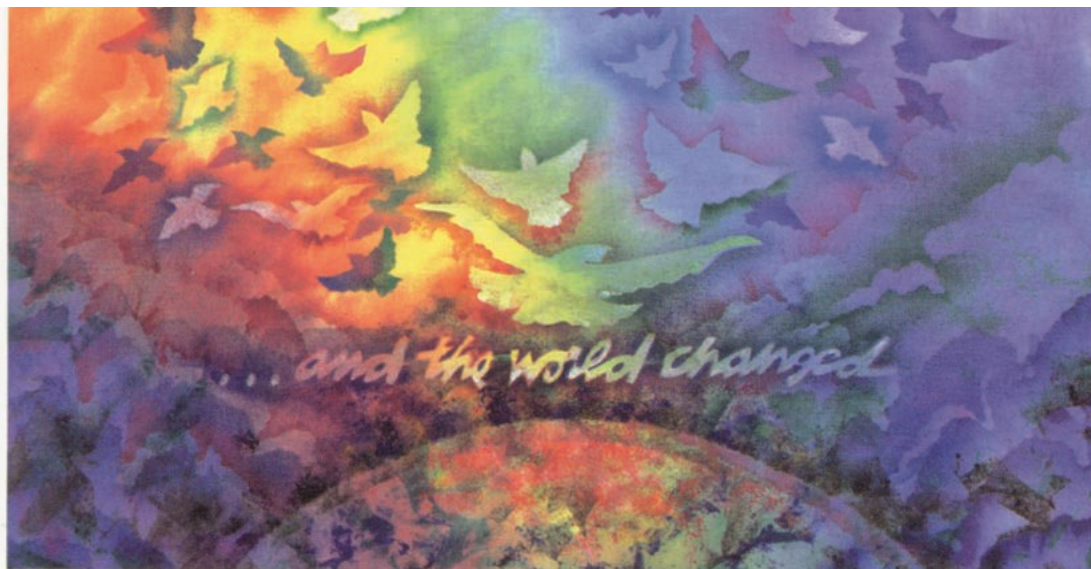
We even have a new look with some new benches Gene Rodi made. Thank you Gene!

Please know that we are **still collecting for both of these ministries** and appreciate your participation. The only thing we ask: If you are bringing things that might freeze and break in the cold, please drop them off during our office hours.

We are typically open Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM, and Friday 9 AM - Noon.

**Thank you!**





## PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Sheila Nelson  
Dr. Jen's family  
Warwick Family  
Audrey Campbell  
Mark & Jan Walker  
Judy Day  
Anna Olsen  
Pikkarainen Family  
Laurel Jorgensen  
Sharon Rodi  
Mike Simons  
Sue Dorumsgaard  
Ayers  
Rosie Smith & Family  
Gloria Condon  
Paige Best

Trudy (Gert) Carlson  
Larissa Hoover  
Marjorie Hauge  
Hundt Family  
Marilyn Romsaas  
Tom Keating  
Sharon Warwick  
Bresina Family  
Teondre Martinez  
Crystal Vaughn  
Lynn Vaughn  
Jeff Fossum  
Mel Olson  
Joan Dahlman  
Puckett Family  
Andy Martinson  
Doris Christianson

## MEMBERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE

Robert Hundt  
Karel Bishop (Pr Brenda's nephew)  
Adam Froisland (Pr Brenda's nephew)  
Dwana Froisland (Pr Brenda's niece)  
Brian Hansen (Kaka Day's husband)  
Aaron Larson (Rosie Smith's grandson)  
Sean Young (Pr Brenda's godson)

## OUR MISSION PARTNERS

- ❖ Bancroft Neighborhood Association
- ❖ Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church BOLD
  - ❖ Casa de Oracion - MN
  - ❖ Casa de Oracion - Pentecostal
- ❖ Every Meal ❖ Mpls Area Synod
- ❖ Nokomis Healthy Seniors
- ❖ ReconcilingWorks

## RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Gretchen (Larissa Hoover's mom)  
Kristian (Pr B's bestie)  
Bob (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' uncle)  
Ray (AnnE Keating's brother)  
Darlene (Jeff Alberts' mom)  
Dennis Houde (Gloria Condon's friend)  
Susan (Mike Condon's sister)  
Steve (Pr B's brother)  
Cherril (Candy Hickenbotham's friend)  
Susan & Dale (Wendy Ledesma's parents)  
Sue & Wayne (Karen Warwick's parents)  
Rhonda (Sheila Nelson's friend)  
Joni (Sheila Nelson's cousin)  
Rosy Fieker (Libby Krogh's sister)  
Rev. Ron Schuette (Dave's father)  
Steve Elavsky (Shirley Elavsky's son)  
Denann Karels (Jan & Mark Walker's friend)  
Joanne Wilberg (Marge Hauge's sister)  
Gabe Ness (Julie Hundt's husband)  
John Hundt (Kathy Hundt's brother-in-law)  
Ann Baskett (Crystal Vaughn's grandmother)  
Andrea (Mona Falk's daughter)

## MORE PEOPLE OF GOD

All of Us regarding COVID-19  
Indigenous Lives  
Black and Brown Lives  
Medical Workers, Essential Workers  
Government Leaders, Supply Drivers  
Migrants & Asylum seekers  
Victims and survivors of fires, floods,  
hurricanes, and division



# Board of Administrators

Greetings Bethel congregation!

It seems ages since we were worshiping together inside the church. But, I know we will be doing so in 2021 - A new year which holds such promise with a vaccine for COVID actually here!

Meanwhile, your Board of Administrators continue to address the business of the church. We set a date for our annual meeting. A committee has started budget planning for 2021.

In January, we will talk about how and when to safely open the church again so we can worship and meet in person. It may not be as it was, at least not initially, but we hope to be together again soon.

Until then, my fervent hopes and prayers are that you all are healthy in mind, body and spirit.

*Yours in Christ, our hope and light of the world,*  
Ann Allison, Chair

## Mission Council

The Mission Council has two more movies on the docket for our Racial Justice Movie and Discussion in January. We have a pairing of two movies based on real-life people dealing with prejudice and finding success in STEM fields. On January 8th we will be watching Something the Lord Made and on January 22 we will watch Hidden Figures. Please join us.

Our main focus for December was on our special Advent projects. We put together a fun Christmas care package for our home-bound members. We really enjoyed brainstorming for this package and pulling together to get the items to fill it. It was great to see what we can accomplish in a short amount of time with a really good idea.

In the new year we will be looking forward to digging into the report that we received from Sarah Joy of the Proximity Project after she did the walk through of our building and grounds in November. Dr. Jen gave us a sneak peek and it looked like there are some pretty exciting ideas from Sarah. We will also be planning a relaunch of our phone-calling network that we started at the beginning of the pandemic. If phone calling and conversations are a skill of yours, we would love for you to take part.

Here's wishing you a  
*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*  
Stephanie Johnson - Mission Council Chair

## **Bethel Lutheran Church**

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Anna Olsen

Visitation Committee:  
Sharon Rodi, Coordinator

C Y & F Committee:  
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Michael Hall  
Tom Keating  
Wendy Krogh  
Katie Simons  
Anna Wohnoutka, Chair

**FEBRUARY**  
**Publication Deadline:**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**Jan. 20th—12:00 PM**

# BETHEL HERALD

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