

# the Bethel Beacon

Vol. 81 No. 1

Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church

September 2017

Su	M	T	W	Th	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**September 2017**

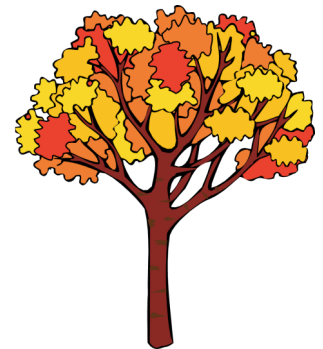
## September Birthdays!

- 4 Brady Burdick
- 4 Karen Carpenter
- 10 Hale Eusebio
- 13 Ray Bard
- 14 Cate Milburn
- 14 Skye
- 15 Emily Noll
- 17 Brezdan Dunnigan
- 25 Miriam Moody Burghard



## Events in September:

Sat. 9	Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-12 Bethel Block Party 9-2
Sunday 10	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Sat. 16	Soul Collage 9-12 Faith and Family Fun-Day 12-3
Sunday 17	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Tue. 19	Council 7pm
Sat. 23	Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-12
Sunday 24	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am



*The Bethel Beacon* is published by Bethel Lutheran Church. You can find our members and friends scattered throughout North Portland, the metro area, and beyond. As a community, we worship God together, proclaim the Good News of grace, and show hospitality to all people.  
Join us as we live out Christ's command to love each other.

## From the Pasture: The Violence of Modern Life

It has been twelve hour days since Tuesday accompanying eight mission developers and leaders in Denver for the Developer Training. Good stuff, extraordinary worship, at least seven different languages and spending most of my time with post-modern practitioners...I was clearly three decades older than all but a few others. There was a lot of honesty in the room and in the presentations. No denying what congregations are facing or how hard this work can be.

On our last day, the reflection time shared a quote from George Bernard Shaw and the one below:

“There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence to which the idealist most easily succumbs: activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.”  
 — Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

I was struck in the heart by the underlined section above.

Martin Luther had a word for this “struck in the heart” moment: convicted. He talked about it in relation to how the Law—full of all its expectations, pressures, compromises, and buying in to what the “Man” wants—cannot bring life, it can only bring conviction and death. Yet the goal here is not more guilt, feelings of failure, or as Merton states, violence. The goal here in the Gospel; the good news is this inability to meet all the expectations, demands and projects frees us to let go of the impossible and give it over to the One for whom the impossible is just daily work.

Remember the story of the rich young man walking away because he cannot fulfill the Law demands Jesus has stated. Peter challenges Jesus that if One who has been blessed by God with all these riches is not saved by his works then who can be saved, Jesus says “*What is impossible for mortals is possible with God.*”

Maybe the “conflicting concerns,” “too many demands,” “too many projects,” and the desire “to help everyone in everything” is not my job or yours either. Maybe the myth of modern 21<sup>st</sup> Century life that we can or have to do it all is just not true. Maybe the good news is that we have been given a reprieve and the old saying is true “stop and smell the roses.”

Jesus tries to remind his listeners then and now that life is to be lived fully with more joy, more hope, more capacity to love. What if...

*Pastor Mike*

My Pledge to Myself: I recognize myself in the highlighted text and that I must change. I would ask for your prayers.



Dear Friends –

as I sit writing, I can't help but be aware that we are living in a very fragile time, in a very fragile environment. Miles of I-84 are closed as fire crews battle the out of control wildfire in the Gorge. Hundreds have been evacuated from their homes and the fire has sparked blazes across the Columbia River into Washington State. Ash is flying everywhere in Portland and schools are closed. Hundreds of wildfires, many barely contained, burn throughout the western US. Some have been caused by lightning, a few others by irresponsible human activity. Hurricane Harvey has devastated south Texas and potentially catastrophic Hurricane Irma is threatening the Caribbean and will hit Florida by the weekend.

The lives of millions of people have been impacted and I imagine most will never be the same. People will likely lose their lives. What to make of these natural disasters? For centuries, people have struggled to reconcile the idea of a loving and omniscient God, who treats God's creation with lovingkindness and justice, and the simultaneous existence of evil and suffering.

The Bible is filled with stories of natural disaster meant to demonstrate God's divine power sent to punish human sinfulness. Biblical literalists today, errantly I believe, use the same thinking to blame, for example, hurricanes on the sinfulness of the people in the locale devastated. Some may also say that God uses these natural disasters to carry out some greater good. As a child, I was taught suffering and distress provided a learning experience and "built character"; that rough times taught me about the love of God and taught me compassion and the importance of giving of myself for others.

How does a loving God allow these terrible natural disasters destroy people's lives and cause such harm? I'm sorry to say that I sit with this question still and I do not have any easy answers. The fact that no one else has easy answers is of some comfort – this is simply a question that will be a mystery of our lives and part of those things that we may never, in this earthly life, understand.

But I do what my faith teaches me: while these disasters may be part of our natural world, we as people of God are called to do at least two things: We are called to pray for the victims. God walks alongside each and every part of God's creation in distress and God hears the cries of our distress. We are not alone as we are held in God's embrace. And second, the tradition of charity and alms giving has a long history for all of us, the People of the Book. We are called to love each other. When we see the shattered lives of disaster victims, we are called to give of our time and treasure to assist in recovery efforts.

Pray with me, will you? *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

John 14:27

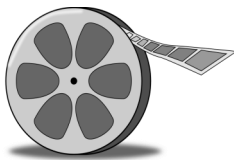
*Blessings, Pastor Christine*

## Update on Friends:

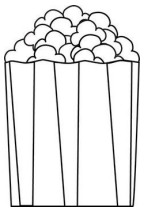
### Sue Ruth:

Glenn, Greg and Karen Anderson got to visit with Sue over breakfast. She and her cat (Crooked) have a very nice apartment in the Central Point Retirement Center. She looks great (rocking a new haircut) and keeps busy with church and senior center activities as well as looking after David's two aunts who still live in the area. And in case you were wondering, she is the new Bingo Queen at the senior center! She'd love to hear from old friends or to see you if you're in the area. We miss you Sue (but are so glad you are doing well!)

Sue Ruth  
410 Richardson Dr Apt. 124  
Central Point OR 97502  
541-664-2090



## FREE MOVIE NIGHT



St. Andrew Lutheran in Beaverton is hosting a screening of "An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story" on Thursday, September 14, at 7:00 pm. We are delighted to announce that one of the producers of the film, Andrew Finstuen, will be here for the screening. Finstuen is the dean of the Honors College at Boise State, Associate Professor in the Department of History, and a producer of *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*. He co-directed the *Worlds of Billy Graham* project and is the author of the award-winning book *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants* (University of North Carolina, 2009).

### **An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story**

Although he may be best remembered today as the author of the famed "Serenity Prayer," Reinhold Niebuhr — an outspoken American-born pastor, writer, and political activist — remains one of the most influential public theologians of our time. Presidents from Barack Obama to Jimmy Carter have credited his impact on their thinking, as well as John McCain, countless historians, theologians, political thinkers, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who cited Niebuhr in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail".

Niebuhr's career spanned some of the most tumultuous decades in American history, from World War I through Vietnam, from the Great Depression through the Civil Rights Movement. An early pacifist and socialist, he was closely monitored by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI throughout his life, but would later serve as a consultant to the State Department during the Cold War.

Niebuhr rose from a small Midwest church pulpit to become the nation's moral voice — an American conscience — during some of the most defining moments in recent history. His books, *Moral Man and Immoral Society* (1932), *The Nature and Destiny of Man* (1941–43) and *The Irony of American History* (1952), continue to influence theological and political thinking. An American original, his unique insights into human nature and its relationship to political movements and social justice propelled him to speak openly, and often critically, to an America consumed by moral certainty. For Niebuhr the priority was always justice, his guiding principle was hope in a redeemer God, and his weapon was an extraordinary gift for clarity of thought that made him a leading voice of conscience for his time.

# YDIC Summer Program

Bethel Youth Neighborhood Youth Drop In Center (YDIC) would like to thank all who helped make this summer program a success.

## **All those who:**

- donated their time, talents and put money in those little blue envelopes in the Bethel Play
- working on, attending and purchasing auction items at the Cab and Cab
- collecting containers and styrafoam for our summer workshops
- checking out books for our 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders morning storytime.

## **You all helped us raise funds so that we could offer:**

- six weeks of camp for 40, 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- 10 families with full scholarships
- 9 families with some form of scholarship
- 8 Summer Staff
- 5 Intern Volunteers (7<sup>th</sup> graders – 9<sup>th</sup> graders)
- 18 (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders) attending the University of Portland's 5-week Summer Tutoring Program
- Field Trips to: the Oregon Zoo, OMSI, Paul Mitchell Beauty School for Mani Pedi's, Ultra Zone Laser Tag, Oaks Park and trips on Trimet to different parks through out Portland.
- Swimming at Peninsula and Pier Park, and Don Hufschmid's favorite pool, Mt. Scott.

Again, thank you we all had a great time and we could not have done it without you!!!

**Tammy Gover**



# BETHEL PLAYERS

This year sees a return of a classic -- 'Desperate Churchwives'. The ELCA (Evil Lyin' Cowboys Association) is coming to town and buying up all the real estate. What will the townspeople save? The Church or the Saloon?

First read through is Sept. 5 at church at 7 (come try out for a part or volunteer for some other job).

We will be asking for volunteer help sooner than later: cooks, dessert bakers, servers, table setters, clean-uppers, set builders, costumers, propsters, backstage helpers, box office. Watch for sign up sheets and a Sign Up Genius in the near future.

We have a schedule of performances! Tickets go on sale Oct. 1

Dress rehearsal -- Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:30 PM, free will admission

Friday Nov 3; 7 PM-- "Informal" \$15

Saturday Nov 4, 1:30 PM -- "Just the Play" matinee \$10

Saturday Nov. 4, 7 PM -- dinner \$20

Sunday Nov 5; 3 PM -- dessert \$15

Friday Nov 10; 7 PM-- "Informal" \$15

Saturday Nov 11, 1:30 PM -- "Just the Play" matinee \$10

Saturday Nov. 11, 7 PM -- dinner \$20

Sunday Nov 12; 3 PM -- dessert \$15





## BETHEL CHOIR

The choir had a great kick-off rehearsal last Sunday, getting started with all the music for September through December. We'll be singing in Spanish, Swahili, and English, including familiar hymn tunes and Christmas carols as well as music by Handel and folk styles from Africa and Central America. We look forward to having some guest instrumentalists join us to enhance our music as well! It's not too late to join - come Sundays at 8:50am before worship to rehearse, or contact director Sarah Allan at [sarahcgallan@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcgallan@gmail.com).

### Fall Family Dinners with our Bethel Community!

We will be gathering together after a fun and busy summer to reconnect with our Bethel community. Join your Bethel neighbors for a *POTLUCK DINNER* on **Saturday September 23rd, 5-7pm**. There will be 3 simultaneous locations for dinner in N, SE, and SW Portland:

8032 N Oswego Ave, Portland (hosted by the Delcambre family)

300 W Dartmouth St, Gladstone (hosted by Svea Erickson and Blake Spencer)

11930 SW Burnett Ln, Beaverton (hosted by the Burdick family)

Sign up by emailing Sharon @ [sharonclarejaffe@gmail.com](mailto:sharonclarejaffe@gmail.com) or calling 224-361-9290.

Please join us even if you didn't sign up!

2 more dinners in November & December - dates coming soon!



# Fellowship Meal



# Hurricane Harvey Relief

## The situation:

Please stand by our neighbors as we begin the long road to recovering from Hurricane Harvey, one of the most catastrophic storms to hit the country in more than a decade.

## Our response:

Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. Together, we have a strong history of working with disasters in the Gulf Coast area. Recovery efforts are expected to take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those affected through every phase of this disaster.

We invite you to stand by our neighbors on the Gulf Coast during this time. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by this disaster for years to come.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete.** Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support the needs in this response and others like it.

## What you can do:

### Pray

Please pray for the people who have been affected and are in the path of Hurricane Harvey. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

### Give

Gifts to ["US Hurricane Relief"](#) will be used to assist those affected by the hurricane until the response is complete.

## Bethel Lutheran Church

*What we are...*

*Who we are...*

*Why we're here*



### **Inquiry/New Members Class**

**September 17 & 24 from 11:45 – 1:30 pm**

**Lunch Provided**

**.....Childcare available upon request.**

*For more information give Pastor Mike a call.*

*503-285-4919 or*

*pasture.mike@gmail.com*

## **HELP NEEDED:**

### **BREAKFAST SOUS CHEFS**



Two of our faithful sous chefs for Sunday morning breakfast will be out of town September 10, and then again for every Sunday in October.

Paul and Nash make a great team, but we need another couple of folk to help with food prep – Could you crack eggs? Mix pancake batter? “Bake” bacon? Sauté vegetables? Pare potatoes? Then this job is for you!

Sign up for a morning of laughter in the larder... use the calendar just to the left of the kitchen door.

Many thanks.



## There's an App for That!

Want to make giving extremely convenient? Get out that iPhone (or iPad) or Android and go to your respective app stores. Search for 'Give Plus Church'. Find the Give+ app by Vanco Solutions and install it. Hurrah! you can now give via your favorite mobile device.

There is a minor amount of set up -- you'll need to identify Bethel as the church to receive your funds (searching by zip code is easy -- 97217 -- (just don't specify Holy Redeemer unless you really mean to :).)

You can set up an account or you can give one time gifts. If you set up an account you can set up recurring gifts (NOTE: if you already are set up on Simply Giving the app won't tie your choices to your existing account. Let Karen know if you want to use the mobile giving account you've set up or stay with the one you have)

You have a choice of funds to contribute to. If you think we need a fund or funds other than those listed, let Karen know and they can be added.

So hey, are we electric now or what!

### SYNOD LISTENING TRAINING

The Oregon Synod is beginning its own listening season across the entire Synod. Our aim to listen and learn from leaders in other congregations and the congregations themselves – we are also looking to build relationships among our local Lutheran congregations – in our case those congregations located on the east side of Portland. What is God's Spirit up to in our Lutheran churches?

We are looking for one or two more members of Bethel to become trained listeners to make these visits (in Portland!)

This is a short-term commitment:

1. A two hour training session
2. Four to six conversations of approximately 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes each with members of another congregation that will take place at a time of your choosing between mid-September and October.
3. A debrief meeting tentatively scheduled for the evening of December 14.

This is certainly an excellent way to express our appreciation for the support the Synod has given Bethel in the past six years. If you'd like to participate and need the dates of the Portland trainings, please call Pastor C.

# Prayer Requests

<u>Prayer Requested for:</u>	<u>Prayer Concern:</u>	<u>Prayer Contact:</u>
Bertha Anderson	Prayers for healing	Karen Anderson
All those beloved children of God who live on the margins	We continue to practice welcome and hospitality to all	Bethel Staff
Diego	Healing, health, and peace	PJ Bentley
For all victims of hate speech and prejudice	Peace and healing	Bethel Staff
The families and friends of the 16 trans women of color who have been murdered in the U.S. this year for living their truth	Prayers for justice and tolerance	Phyllicia McGowan
Loretta VanDyke	Prayer for peace and comfort for Loretta, Jim, and Andrew	Prs. Mike and Christine
Sheila Nordling, LeAnn Michaels' mom	Quick recovery from a stroke	Pr. Christine
Baby Dot Keener	Prayers for healing and guidance for the family and doctors	Joann Noll



Ongoing prayers for healing for the following:

Paul Beezhold	Mary Rix	Christine Downing
Dorothy Hansen	Patricia Conner	Kathy Buss
David Lingnau	Bob and Nancy Leon	Skye
Phyllicia McGowan	Steve Garrick	



# First Class Mail

**The Bethel Beacon**  
**September 2017**

