

the Bethel Beacon

Vol. 83 No. 1

Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church

November 2017

Events in November:

Fri. 3	Desperate Churchwives 7pm
Sat. 4	Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-noon Desperate Churchwives 1:30 and 7pm
Sunday 5	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Desperate Churchwives 3pm
Fri. 10	Desperate Churchwives 7pm
Sat. 11	Desperate Churchwives 1:30 and 7pm
Sunday 12	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Desperate Churchwives 3pm
Sat. 18	Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-12
Sunday 19	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Tue. 21	Council 7pm
Sunday 26	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am



November Birthdays!

- 5 Carol Knight
- 8 John Core
- 16 Barbara Lynch
- 21 Collin Burdick
- 25 Myrna Dunnigan
- 26 Phyllicia McGowan
- 30 John Knight

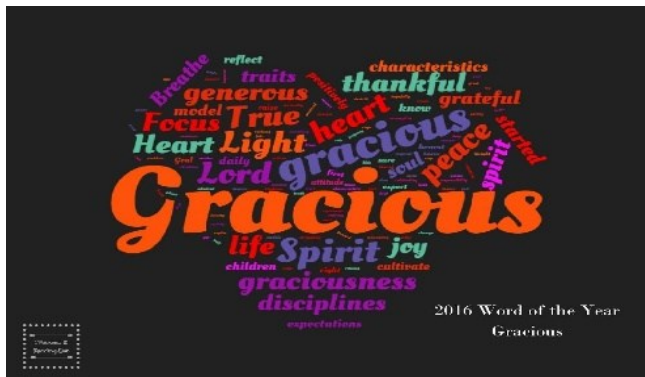


Su	Mo	T	W	Th	Fri	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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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



We are called to be Gracious. Filled with God's grace, outflowing with grace toward others. This is about a change-of-heart—the move from scarcity and fear to abundance and joy.

Generous people live differently. They start the day with a spirit of generosity which infects the whole day. Generosity is contagious. It starts with you and can change each person you touch..



Giving opens our hearts up. Giving is a lot like breathing. We can hold it in for a while but sooner or later we have to let go. Then we can take back in the happiness and satisfaction which giving gives to us.

So why should we give or be generous or gracious? Only you can answer that. But maybe we start with Thank you! To God and the others who have been gracious, generous, and gave to us.



Bethel Lutheran Church is asking you consider your financial commitment to our ministry in the coming year. You see and hear what Bethel is about each week. It is kids rushing forward for their sermon or taking up the Offering. It is the choir singing God's praises. It is breakfast for over a hundred and showers on Saturdays. It is the play which entertains and invites others to give. It is laughter, love, kindness and grace.

Prayerfully consider taking a step up in your contribution for this next year. God blesses you.

Pastor Mike



30 Day Gratitude Challenge

Every day for 30 days celebrate what you're grateful for corresponding to the theme of the day! Snap a photo, tweet or update your status about your gratitude. Share your thankfulness on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook at [#livethankful](#)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 01. Home | 16. Something that makes me laugh |
| 02. Nature | 17. Something that makes me smile |
| 03. Something I see every day | 18. Something that fills me with hope |
| 04. Something I do every day | 19. Something that fills me with love |
| 05. Transportation | 20. Something I accomplished today |
| 06. Hobbies | 21. Passion |
| 07. Work | 22. Purpose |
| 08. Family/Friends | 23. Peace |
| 09. Technology | 24. Intention |
| 10. Quiet | 25. Movement |
| 11. Noise | 26. Stillness |
| 12. Texture | 27. Kindness |
| 13. Smells | 28. Letting go |
| 14. Color | 29. Self-care |
| 15. Music | 30. Myself |

A little something to ponder... Blog post from Steve Wooley, A Country Parson, Walla Walla, Washington:

Politics and the Pulpit

An interesting question came up during our recent diocesan convention. Raised in the form of a statement, it went something like this: "I believe there is no place for politics from the pulpit; what do you believe is the proper role of the church in politics? Before reading on, how might you answer that? Give it some thought.

My guess is that the guy who asked it is among those who voted for Trump and are nervous about the liberal bent of Episcopalian leadership. There are other parts of the country where the same question might be asked by a parishioner deeply concerned about the conservative bent of Church leadership in their area. It's a sticky wicket for many reasons, among them, everyone assumes a general understanding of words like liberal and conservative, left and right. Moreover, they assume that what they think is meant is the same as what others think is meant. But none have agreed to definitions. They're always intended in the best possible way by one side, and the worst possible way by the other. Not only have terms not been agreed to, the sides have assumed attributes of opposing football teams where one must win, the other lose, in games inflicting as much damage as possible on each other.

Into that melee the Church is called to boldly proclaim Jesus as the one to whom Christians owe their primary loyalty. Not a country, flag, anthem, or political party, but Jesus. It is a loyalty that takes its instruction from what Jesus taught and did, translating it into word and work in the world, and it gets political. There is no way around it. But as I've argued in previous columns, politics is not distasteful, bad, or evil. Politics is the art of making decisions about how we live together in community. Like all citizens, Christians have an obligation to be informed participants in the political arena where public policy decisions are made. What Jesus taught and did sets, for them, the standards by which they are to evaluate information and options under debate.

What did Jesus teach and do? By now it shouldn't be necessary to go back over the basics, but it always seems to be. Let's begin with a few questions. How do political decisions reflect love of neighbor, remembering that the neighbor must always include those one least wants to like or love? How do political decisions reflect healing, reconciliation, elimination of barriers that separate, oppress, and marginalize? Where does loving kindness and doing justice fit in? How is peacemaking encouraged? How do they help feed the hungry, house the homeless, and clothe the naked? You know the rest.

Christians can influence public policy decisions in godly directions in many ways. Some look liberal. Some look conservative. Some don't look like either. Some things can be accomplished through voluntary charitable work. Some require the united efforts of whole communities through government action. Some issues are manifested locally in ways better addressed at the local level. Others are regional or national in scope. Most are complicated combinations requiring coordinated efforts from all levels of private and public sectors. Some political decisions address immediate needs. Others address conditions that oppress, marginalize, and create obstacles to health and economic well being. In every case, Christians can move the political conversation in a Jesus direction.

It's not about making America a Christian nation. Trying to do that turns its back on the way of following Jesus, and is an abuse of his name. We had a taste of it in the post war years when public schools and community organizations featured a flavorless, generic Protestantism as the default American civil religion. Promoting the illusion of unity, it was a safe harbor for prejudice and systemic injustice. The Christian obligation is to follow in the Jesus way as they engage in their personal, business, and public lives. It means measuring decisions and actions by his standards. As citizens in a democratically elected republic, where every level of government depends for success on an active, well informed electorate, Christians have a special responsibility to inform and influence the public debate in directions that respond to the gospel imperative,

Christians recognize the urgency of addressing issues of social justice, but argue about the responsibility of government to address them. It's a legitimate argument, but not one in which there are winners and losers. Instead it's an argument that seeks a pragmatic balance. Some issues can be addressed by voluntary groups working together for the well being of all, and especially those in greatest need. Others need governments to help, but in what way? America is a large, complex society in which social problems have no respect for county lines and state boundaries. Global interdependence exponentially expands the realm of decision making. Governments at all levels are the agencies through which policies are enacted to guide private and make public decisions. That's what politics is all about.

Christians living out their daily lives as followers of Jesus, with churches guiding them on Jesus' way, cannot avoid being political. There are some who want to keep Jesus confined to the weekend in church buildings, but Jesus likes it better out in the community. He spent of his time wandering around the countryside, engaging people where they lived, worked, and socialized. Every time he entered the temple, he caused trouble, and still does. Jesus will not be confined, and neither can his followers. Having said that, conservative Christians can keep liberals from going off the deep end with elaborate unworkable schemes to end all injustice. Liberal Christians can force conservatives to face their reluctance to change, and willingness to tolerate injustice. Each can help the other understand that while they can't do everything, they can do something. They can be dedicated to discovering truth and exposing falsehoods. Above all, Christians, both liberal and conservative, can treat each other, and all others, with respect, recognizing their dignity as children of God. But separating pulpit and politics? Not going to happen.

A note from Barbara Deines, a frequent Bethel visitor ...

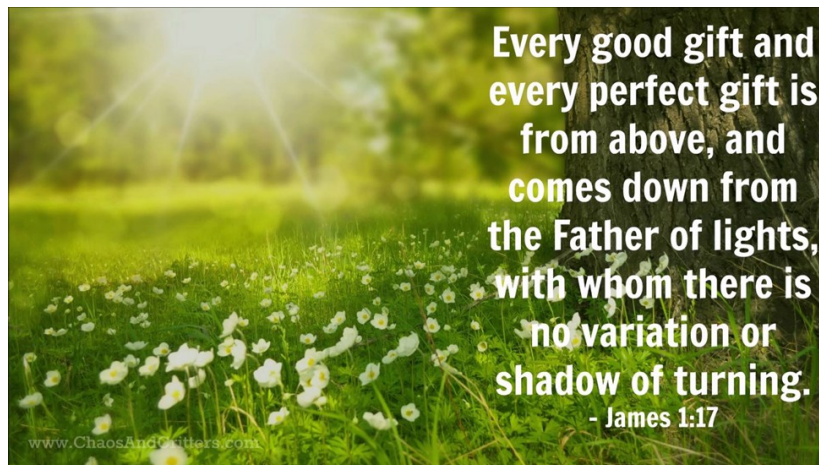
Hello Bethel pastors - Once again I have so enjoyed worshipping with you! The Spirit seems to be present whenever I am there. Timmy Straw's music (what a gift!) is transporting and what a wonderful family of worshippers. I will be back whenever we are in Portland.

As I mentioned, my husband Stephen and I are leaving on Friday for Tanzania. We are volunteering at Maasai Lutheran girls school near Arusha - tutoring girls who are about to enter secondary school. We will be there 6 weeks. Here is a link to Operation Bootstrap Africa, (<http://www.bootstrapafrica.org/mglss>). If you scroll down there is a video of the school, MaaSAE Lutheran Girls School, the organization in Minneapolis that supports the school and through which we are volunteering.

We welcome your prayers - for safe travels but also that our work will be helpful - and that we too will learn!
Many thanks and best regards, Barbara Deines

A Note on Giving Season:

Bethel Lutheran Church is a special place! God fills the people of this congregation with life and light and we are proud to call Bethel "home"! This season we celebrate Gracious, Generous, Giving out of our Gratitude for this place. On November 12th, the church council will pass out commitment cards during worship. We ask that you take time to consider what you will write on your card. We encourage you to discuss your commitment with your family and take it seriously. In 2018 we will enter a new financial situation, with the end of some grants that have been sustaining us over the past few years. We rely on your contributions to pay our pastor and staff salaries, utilities, as well as support our many ministries throughout the year. We absolutely need your support and ask you to prayerfully consider taking one step up! We ask for the cards returned by November 19th when we will honor your commitments to 2018 with a community lunch. We gratefully gather any and all gifts of money, time, leadership, or prayer that you bring.



Fall Family Dinners with our Bethel Community!

Join your Bethel neighbors for a *POTLUCK DINNER* on

Thursday November 9th, 6-8pm.

There will be 2 simultaneous locations for dinner in N & SW Portland:

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

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

Sign up by emailing Sharon @ sharonclarejaffe@gmail.com or calling 224-361-9290.

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

1 more dinner to come in December - date coming soon!



Fellowship Meal



MOBILE HOME ZONING CAMPAIGN

What is this campaign?

In support of our colleagues at the Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good, we join to call on Mayor Ted Wheeler to introduce a proposal to create a new “overlay” zoning designation for Portland’s 62 manufactured housing parks. This new zoning designation will make it more difficult for a landlord to close down the park and redevelop the land. This is an **essential** measure for preserving some of Portland’s most affordable housing.

How do I support this effort and participate?

We are collecting signed postcards, calling for Mayor Wheeler to take action urgently. These postcards are to be signed here at Bethel. On November 5, Sonia Fornoni and JulieAnn Edman will be collecting signatures after worship. On November 12, Pastor Christine will join Sonia in collecting signed cards. PLEASE DO NOT SEND THESE POSTCARDS TO MAYOR WHEELER. WE ARE COLLECTING THEM– THEY WILL BE PRESENTED TO MAYOR WHEELER IN PERSON ALL ON THE SAME DAY.

What information is needed?

Please sign your name, zip code and either your neighborhood or Bethel Lutheran as your “church” or “organization”. If you would like, you can provide your name, phone and email at the bottom of the card. That information will be kept confidential by St. Charles Church and Living Cully, the organizing group.

Thank you for your support of this important work!

Sanctuary Justice Team



Sometimes, working for Sanctuary Justice just means showing up. Last month, members of IMIrJ (Interfaith Movement for Immigration Justice) in Washington County did just that and the injustices faced by immigrants and people with different skin colors faced the light of the day.

The Latino community, along with their allies, were becoming increasingly concerned about the treatment of people showing up for court hearings at the Washington County Courthouse. They had heard too many reports of people being detained without warrants. They, along with IMIrJ and its members, believe people should be able to take care of legal matters and everyday business without fear of racial profiling or fear of arrest. And early on a Monday morning last month in a pouring rainstorm, IMIrJ showed up to make that statement, to witness to the injustice and to stand as an ally.

Eyewitnesses and video taken at the scene bore out the reports. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents, without identifying themselves and without a warrant, targeted a Hispanic man as a possible illegal immigrant. Turns out, however, the man was a US citizen and a Washington County employee, stopped because of the color of his skin.

We know about this because people showed up and the story could be told. A Washington County Courthouse Vigil will take place every third Monday of the month at 8 am. The address is 123 E. Main Street in Hillsboro.

Angel Project 2017



The Annual Bethel Angel Project is underway. Through the generosity of Bethel members and friends, we provide Christmas gifts for the children, something nice for Mom and/or Dad, and the fixings for a Christmas dinner for families who are in need.

We are adopting 12 families this year ... these are families who have been identified either by the Pastors or by the Drop-In Center Director as possible recipients based on their economic situation.

In the past, an individual has adopted a family, a Bethel family or two have joined together to adopt a family, a group from your place of work might want to adopt a family, your extended family might want to adopt a family ... the possibilities are endless.

If adoption isn't up your alley, maybe you'd like to supply part of the Christmas Food Box. You can do this in a number of ways: A donation one or more of the needed supplies – see the sign-up sheet on the easel at the back of the Sanctuary; or a donation of \$\$ always works. We are asking for specific items for the food box this year as some of the needed items can be obtained through alternative low cost sources. *Look for that sign-up Sheet and shop for paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, etc.*

Other ways you can help:

- ~~ Organizing Food Baskets the on December 14, 15 and 16
- ~~ Donation of a \$25 Gift Card for Fred Meyer (each family will receive a card so that they can supplement their Christmas needs as is right for their family)
- ~~ Grocery Shopping for additional food items as needed
- ~~ Delivering Packages and Food Boxes to families the weekend of December 16.

<u>Prayer Requested for:</u>	<u>Prayer Concern:</u>	<u>Prayer Contact:</u>
Bertha Anderson	Prayers for healing	Karen Anderson
Diego	Healing, health, and peace	PJ Bentley
For all victims of hate speech and prejudice	Peace and healing	Bethel Staff
Baby Dot Keener	Prayers for healing and guidance for the family and doctors	Joann Noll
People facing hardship following natural disaster	Prayers of peace, comfort, and adequate financial support; prayers of peace for the families of those who have died	Bethel Staff
Prayers that US citizens, mindful of the blessings of life and freedom that this country affords its citizens and those who have immigrated from other countries	Prayers for peace and justice	Bethel Sanctuary Justice Team
Ken and Melissa Moholt Siebert	Prayers of peace and comfort after they have lost everything in the California fires	The Beck Family
Skip Getman	Prayers of peace and comfort as he battles cancer	Bethel Players and Congregation
Betty Hahn, Mary Rix's Mother	Prayers for peace, strength, and patience after a fall	Mary Rix
Judy Merchant and family in Iowa	Prayers for peace and comfort and Hospice care begins for terminal lung cancer	Mary Rix
Vance Burghard	Prayers for support and healing as he works through medical issues	The Burghard/Moody family
Steve Greenfelt	Prayers for peace and comfort as her battles brain cancer	Pr. Mike



Ongoing prayers for healing for the following:

Paul Beezhold

Patricia Conner

Skye

Dorothy Hansen

Bob and Nancy Leon

Wayne and June Hasebroek

David Lingnau

Steve Garrick

Phyllicia McGowan

Christine Downing

Mary Rix

Kathy Buss



First Class Mail

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