

Bethel Beacon

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January 2018

Events in January!

Sunday 14	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Tue. 16	Council Meeting
Sunday 21	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Sat. 27	Neighborhood Hygiene Services... 9-12
Sunday 28	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Annual Potluck Meeting Following Service Bring munchies, side dishes, or desserts to share.

January Birthdays!

* 2018 *

- 2 Megan Keys
- 14 Wayne Hassebroek
- 25 Holly Hassebroek
- 30 Holly Redfern

When the carols
have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree
is taken down,
When family and friends
are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS
welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust,
not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace
for all people,
To bring Christ's light
to the world.
~~ **Michael Dougherty**

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			
January 2017						

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.

Notes from the Pasture:

Star Light, Star Bright in 2018

2017 started in a time of drama and trauma with politics turned upside down; the country in the midst of deep divisions some celebrating and others grieving. Personally, I was in shock and disbelief. Over the months, hopelessness seemed to grow. Yet, momentum grew, people stood up, folks marched, and voices heard.

At church, we were picking our Epiphany Stars that first Sunday in January. I have always picked two one for work and one for home/family. Last January, the “work” star was LIGHT-HEARTED. Now this is pretty fun, the Holy Spirit has a strange sense of humor. I am a serious guy when it comes to work, especially in challenging, urgent times. The “home” star was SELF-DISCIPLINE which may be humorous as well. This one turned out to be truer. For the next five months, I was literally knee deep in self-discipline doing physical therapy for my knee replacement.

This past Sunday, stars picked me (and all those at worship). There were some laughs and surprises. And this year, my “work” star is FRIENDSHIP and my “home” star is BLESSING. The stars God had smiled on me. I thought for a minute that the two stars should be reversed. But the more I thought about it maybe this was exactly right.

For Bethel and the Synod, FRIENDSHIP calls me to go deeper with those with whom I work; that means primary leaders, members and congregations, neighbors and Friends of Bethel. It invites me to pay attention to relationships first. Maybe it tells me not to lose sight what Jesus says:

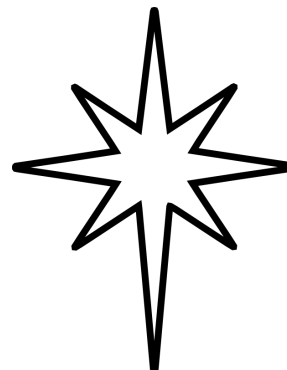
*I do not call you servants any longer, because I have made known what the master is doing; but I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **John 15:15***

Maybe part of my work is to make known what the Father has told us in Jesus Christ: Kingdom, Mercy, Forgiveness, Grace, Healing, Power, Love, Hope, Trust and Peace.

At home and family, BLESSING is both what I give and receive. God speaks to Abraham declaring that he has been *blessed to be a blessing*. First, I need to count my blessings (something we all might do). Then I need to look at 2018 as a time for being blessing, a time to share hope and peace, to seek justice in my actions not just my words. Maybe the best blessing I can be is to recognize where I see hope and possibilities and share that with others. In my personal life, this may be the year to get more involved in Sanctuary work, political races, or volunteering beyond my church work.

Let 2018 be a year for all of us to be deeper and better FRIENDS and be that BLESSING to all.

Pastor Michael Keys



NOTES FROM PASTOR CHRISTINE...



Dear Friends,

A happy and joyous 2018 to you and your families! I saw Neil deGrasse Tyson on TV the other day explain to us all the New Year holiday is “a cosmically arbitrary event, carrying no astronomical significance at all”. Now I really like Neil deGrasse Tyson, but seriously, what a buzz kill. I like the beginning of the New Year and I like what it brings.

This New Year brings me the opportunity to take a breath and look back at the last twelve months (I suppose those twelve months are also cosmically arbitrary, but oh well) and see where I’ve been, where I’ve grown, where the crunches have been and help me identify some of my growing edges. So in that spirit, here are a couple of random thoughts for the beginning of 2018.

I am incredibly grateful for all of you, my Bethel family. I am so very touched by the many, many affirmations, expressions of care and affection you have shown to me and John throughout the year: So many of you “attended” to our needs when I took a little side trip to Providence St. Vincent Hospital in March, cheered me on throughout the year, even though you may not have known how much I needed that joy at that particular moment, volunteered with the “little” things, and the ways you all just know how to have fun. John and I were so touched by the kind and generous words of encouragement and support contained in your Christmas card. We shall use the gift card for dinner and enjoy our meal! Thank you.

And I like New Year’s Resolutions. Sometimes, I even keep them. My first resolution was to “be nicer”. I thought that this might be a bit tongue in cheek, but now I’m beginning to think both John and Pr. Mike are going to hold my feet to the fire on this one. And perhaps it’s not such a bad thing to aspire to after all. For, I do resolve to listen, as a dear friend has said, “*across barriers and with the ear of my heart*”. Part of listening with the ear of my heart is to remember that absolutely everyone is carrying around some sort of burden and it is usually a burden we will never know about. And as I listen, I need to remember that paying attention to my conversation partner carefully is a gift I can give. And if I think about it, listening is a gift people very often give to me. What kindness mutual deep listening shows!

Oh, and that perennial resolution about losing weight??? And going to the gym more often??? Pshaw! That’s ridiculous. New Year’s carries no astronomical significance at all.

Blessings ... and Happy 2018.

Pastor Christine



Draft ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice

It seems a particularly timely conversation. The #metoo movement began in October 2017 and went viral within about 24 hours. It was created to denounce sexual assault and harassment in the wake of sexual misconduct allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein. The hashtag been used to publicize experiences of the widespread nature of misogynistic behaviors. Since then many others have been called out for their abhorrent behavior, many have lost their jobs, and it seems that perhaps the tide is starting to turn. Women and men are more empowered to speak their truth of their experience and perhaps feel they have a better chance of being heard.

We either saw bits and pieces of Sunday's Golden Globe Awards show in which the men and women attending were dressed in black to show solidarity with those women and men who have been subject to harassment and abuse, those whose names are known and the thousands we will never know. Oprah Winfrey's award accepting speech which discussed race and gender and the fight for equality was inspirational and uplifting. And the media is filled with stories about Oprah 2020!

Against that background, we now have before us the Draft ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice. The full statement can be found on the ELCA website (Google **Elca social statement women and justice**) or ask one of your Pastors for a hard copy. While it is difficult to distill the entire statement into one or two sentences, the draft asserts that Scripture teach us the God's intention is abundant life for all; however patriarchy and sexism prevent that abundant life for all. The document asserts patriarchy and sexism are therefore sinful. Further, the draft statement calls us to respond to the sins of patriarchy and sexism and to work to serve all people no matter their gender. The church sees itself; that is we as people of God, see ourselves, as living our our calling to foster not only a religious life that supports an abundant life for all, but to foster secular ideas, religious beliefs (our own and to the extent that is appropriate for us to do so those of others), laws, policies and practices that support abundant life for all of creation.

We, your pastors, invite your participation in the conversation surrounding this statement. The dialogue is an important one, and we understand that none of us have all, or even a goodly share, of the answers. The wisdom on these issues is found in the congregation; and in relationship with each other.

This Social Statement far predates the #metoo movement and Oprah's speech. ELCA has been in this conversation since 2009 when the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, a group of lay and clergy from across the country authorized the development of a social statement for our church on this topic. Synods from across the country were requesting that we, as a church body, examine this issue of women and justice. The Assembly directed a task force be formed to study the issues, provide resource material, create a draft and offer a proposed social statement that would be brought back for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly in 2019. The Draft Statement before us today is the result of that work. It is important to note that ELCA social statements are teaching documents that assist all church members in forming judgments on social issues. They are meant to aid in communal and individual moral deliberation and moral formation. Social statements also set policy for our church and guide our advocacy and work as a public church. Social statements are the result of an extensive process of deliberation, and are adopted only with a 2/3 vote of a churchwide assembly.

- From Pastor Christine

Summarized from the Social Statement on Women and Justice and other material from the ELCA website

Tammy would like to thank the congregation for the gift card she received for Christmas. She is honored to work in such an amazing, and supportive community.
Thanks!



Celebration of Welcome, Inclusion, Hope & Resilience

Please join ReconcilingWorks in celebrating inclusive churches at a Reconciling in Christ service of Hope and Resilience
Sunday, January 28, 5 pm
Followed by a potluck dessert reception
St. Luke Lutheran Church
4595 SW California St. Portland, OR 97219



JUST DESSERTS!

<u>Prayer Requested for:</u>	<u>Prayer Concern:</u>	<u>Prayer Contact:</u>
Bertha Anderson	Prayers for healing	Karen Anderson
For all victims of hate speech and prejudice	Peace and healing	Bethel Staff
Prayers for the families and children of migrant workers that they may be reunited	Prayers for peace and justice	Bethel Sanctuary Justice Team
Skip Getman	Prayers of peace and comfort as he battles cancer	Bethel Players and Congregation
Family and friends of Judy Merchant	Prayers for God's peace following her death	Mary Rix
Vance Burghard	Prayers for support and healing as he works through medical issues	The Burghard/Moody family
Dennis Mitchell	Prayers of healing and comfort as his throat cancer has returned	Stephanie Burdick
Family and Friends of Deb Cornils (Karen Anderson's favorite college roommate)	Prayers for peace and comfort upon the death of Deb	Karen Anderson
Dale Tersey (JulieAnn and Marlo Edman's son-in-law)	Prayers of healing and comfort as he battles a very rare and potentially aggressive form of cancer	JulieAnn Edman
Timothy Collins (JulieAnn's good friend)	Prayers of healing and comfort as he battles a very rare and potentially aggressive form of cancer	JulieAnn Edman
Family and friends of Betty Hahn (Mary Rix's Mother)	Prayers for God's peace following Betty's death Monday 12/11	Bethel Staff
Katie Reitel	Prayers of healing, strength and comfort for Katie and support for her family	The Bentleys

Ongoing prayers for healing for the following:



Paul Beezhold
Dorothy Hansen
David Lingnau
Phyllicia McGowan
Mary Rix

Patricia Conner
Bob and Nancy Leon
Steve Garrick
Christine Downing
Kathy Buss

Skye
Wayne and June Hassebroek



First Class Mail

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January 2018**

