

the Bethel Beacon

Vol. 86 No. 1

Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church

February 2018

Events in February:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday 11 | Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Installation of Congregation Council |
| Wed 14 | Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm |
| Sat. 17 | Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9am-noon Faith and Family FunDay 3pm-5pm |
| Sunday 18 | Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am |
| Sat. 24 | Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9am-noon |
| Sunday 25 | Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Council Retreat and Orientation 11:30am-3:00pm |

| 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 | | | |

February 2018

February Birthdays!

* 2018 *

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 4 | Christine Downing | 22 | Mary Rix |
| 8 | Sister Pat McCrann | 25 | Will Eusebio |
| 8 | Pat Cunningham | 27 | Hadley Mowe |
| 11 | June Hassebroek | 27 | Jackson Mowe |
| 12 | Tana Bishop | 27 | Sam Mowe |
| 21 | John Keys | 28 | Harmony Milburn |



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 PASTOR CHRISTINE...



Listening with the Ear of Our Heart

It is clear that Bethel stands on holy ground. It is true that the people of Bethel are eager to be for the world what God has called God's people to be: a servant people called to proclaim the Word, serve those in need and nurture each other. But it is also true, we are taking a good hard look at what we must do next to adapt to a future that will be different in some ways than our past, while honoring who and what we are and where we have been. And that is why we are listening. Listening to each other intentionally, genuinely, across any barriers that might exist between us and with the ear of our heart.

We do this listening in part because it is in our Christian DNA. If we look closely at how Jesus lived when he was on earth and spend a few minutes pondering what scripture tells us, I notice that perhaps we have a good model for our own listening. Jesus knew the best way to care for others was to listen to them. It seems he knew, as do we, the best way to truly understand one another is to take time to hear their story; learn what sits on our hearts.

Jesus was willing to listen to understand another person's perspective and yearned to know about people's concerns and values. After Jesus' resurrection, he met two men on the road to Emmaus. In Luke 24 we read, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. Cleopas asked the Jesus, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" Jesus asked.

Jesus listened with all of his senses, not just for words, but for emotions and ideas, with undivided attention. At Cana when Mary told Jesus they had no more wine, he first hesitated, but then heard his mother say "Do whatever he tells you." Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water... now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. When he listened to the emotion in his mother's voice, he understood and obeyed. (John 2:1-12)

Jesus put away hurts and misunderstandings to hear what people were saying. The Samaritan woman at the well said, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)" (John 4:9) Jesus risked being accused of becoming ceremonially unclean if he used a drinking vessel handled by a Samaritan, since the Jews held that all Samaritans were unclean. Jesus was willing to overlook even this deeply embedded cultural value for the sake of reconciling one human being to God.

Jesus was willing to listen without interruption. He learned how to listen to Abba every morning in prayer: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

I pray for each of you and hold you all dear in my heart as you go about this holy work and grow in beloved community. Blessings,

Pastor Christine

Notes from the Pasture:

Go Deep.....Bethel Does Lent by Listening

At the Annual Meeting the last Sunday of January, we talked about 2017 as a good year for growth in new members and more babies; growing ministries with children and community care; fun times and good celebrations throughout year. Leaders shared where we stand financially in the coming year and the challenges ahead. We were honest about what is next before us.

One of the commitments leaders have made for 2018 is for Bethel to “**go deep**” with our relationships with each other and those who are touched by our Bethel community. Going Deep with each other challenges us to move beyond the “hello” and “how are you” during the sharing of peace at worship. To go deep is to pause long enough to really listen to the other person. To really listen is to open ourselves to respectfully hold the others stories, fears, concerns, and hopes. It invites us be vulnerable and honest, where we might be reserved and careful. This means we need to be intentional about creating safe, respectful space for each other to share as they choose.

This may sound serious, and you would be right. When a congregation is willing to listen to each other, the community is stronger because the care we share for the other is deeper. Listening is just the first step yet the most important one; one that needs to be repeated again and again.

This Lent we will be listening. Listening for what it is about Bethel that we appreciate and affirm. Listening to our concerns about what comes next. Listening to our ideas and hopes for Bethel. You have surfaced names of our Best Listeners and we are inviting them to be trained in 1-to-1s. We will bless them in this shared work on our behalf. They will choose some names to visit with and you can invite them to meet with you.

We invite you to be part of our going deep, to be part of our Listening Season, to be a participant in the work that God’s Spirit is doing at Bethel.

Come join the fun.

Pastor Mike



Lent

Ash Wednesday: Why?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

§ Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

§ Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.

§ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust".

§ Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day. Following an Invitation to Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy.

How? Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and may stand/kneel. Ashes are applied with the minister's thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Join us February 14th at 6:30pm for Ash Wednesday Service.

Lent (Latin: Quadragesima: *Fortieth*) is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. Traditionally, the purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, fasting, works of charity/mercy, giving up something, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial. In Christian communities today, participants may add something to their faith practices: spiritual reading, social justice and advocacy work, contemplative meditation, or deepening relationships through listening.

Lenten Listening Season

We have been talking a bit lately about a “listening season”. For some of us who have been around Bethel for a while, this is familiar language. But for others, these words are head scratchers. Exactly what is a Listening Season? And why is it important?

Bethel recognizes we are facing something new – and that we must organize ourselves in a different way. The first step in determining what this “different” way might look like begins with the understanding that we need more than just good intentions to adapt to something new. We not only need new practices and skills and we need to learn ways to continue to build capacity to act on behalf of the good of the entire congregation. But most importantly, we need to keep deep and abiding relationships at the center of our work.

And that is why we listen in an intentional way to each other. The Listening Season being designed for this Lent is intended to build relationships, identify interests, build up new leaders, and discern actions for the future. The congregation has identified a number of people they think are good listeners. Each of those people have been invited to attend a training session after worship on Sunday, February 11. Anyone can be a listener – and while listening is a bit of an art, a key skill is a commitment to listen deeply and with focus, asking clarifying questions and remaining curious about your partner’s story. Would you like to join? We’ll be in the library – the session will last about an hour.

Once listeners are trained, each listener will go out to meet with seven or eight people, armed with a couple of key questions. Conversation partners will be Bethel members, Friends of Bethel, neighbors, community leaders and others we have identified as stakeholders. Those conversations will take place during the Lent Season.

Listeners are asked to pray on the stories they are hearing, for they will be asked to reflect back to the group what they might be able to identify as trends, common concerns and affirmations. While the specifics of the conversations themselves are held in confidence, we know the content will be rich and will teach us much. The wisdom that will help us decide the way in which we are to go rests within the community.



Bethel Council 2018

Don Worthington



Tana Bishop



Ryan Olson



Stephanie Burdick



PJ Bentley



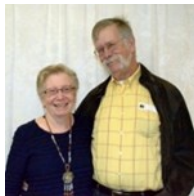
Karen Carpenter



Meghan Cyr



JulieAnn Edman



Sonia Fornoni



Athanasios Michaels



Cate Milburn



Holly Redfern



Jim Van Dyke



Thank you to those who have served on
the council in the past year!

Karen Anderson, Will Eusebio, Robin
Moody, and Sharon Delcambre

Heartfelt thanks to my Bethel family for prayers, cards, and calls of support after my Mom's fall and upon her death from complications. The help and vehicles of Jared & Brady Burdick, Paul Gover, Pastor Mike & Barb with sorting, packing & moving belongings twice in three weeks will never be forgotten. A special thanks to Pastor Mike and Pastor Christine for their help with Mom's Memorial Service at Gethsemane Lutheran.

With a grateful heart, Mary Rix

| <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 |
| Skip Getman | Prayers of peace and comfort as he battles cancer | Bethel Players and Congregation |
| 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 |
| Katie Reitel | Prayers of healing, strength and comfort for Katie and support for her family | The Bentleys |
| Shirley and Jeff Kolpin | Prayers of healing for Jeff; peace and comfort for Shirley | Cate Milburn |
| Sarah Whadford and her baby Penelope | Prayers for a safe delivery and a healthy baby | Joann Noll |
| Elizabeth | Prayers of healing and comfort | Joann Noll |
| Rob | Prayer of comfort and peace following a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease | Joann Noll |
| Jacob and Miles Bard | Prayers for health and healing | Ronda Bard |
| Annalu Lingnau and Ben Lingnau Jr., Stephani Burdick's grandparents | Prayers of healing and comfort | Stephanie Burdick |
| Ben Lingnau III, Stephanie's uncle | Prayers of healing and comfort | Stephanie Burdick |
| Stephanie Burdick | Prayers of peace and knowledge of God's presence for Stephanie | Pr. Christine |
| For Family of Mike Lee (Pastor Mike's nephew) who died in a drowning accident | Prayer for peace and comfort | Pr. Mike |



Looking for an Overnight Camping Experience for Your Child this Summer?

Check out Camp Lutherwood Oregon – The Lutherwood experience differs from most summer camps – they encourage everyone at camp to discover caring and affirming relationships with God, others, self and the natural world. Summer 2018 campers will explore what it means to be changed by God’s grace and how we can show that grace to the world. Campers can celebrate how God’s unending grace in Christ changes everything!

Lutherwood’s staff is carefully selected and goes through a 12-day intensive training to prepare for their various roles at camp. They feel called to create an intentional community that spreads God’s love and supports each camper.

There are programs for children from grade 1 to 12. There are also adult and family camping experiences offered.

Check out the Camp Lutherwood program and register online at www.lutherwoodoregon.org



Faith and Family FunDay

Cultivating Kindness and the Story of Ruth

But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

For centuries, the people of God have looked at the Book of Ruth and seen these words of great love and devotion. This may be the first time our children hear how the lovingkindness shared between Naomi and Ruth led to the birth of a great king.

Come hear what it practicing kindness might look like in the lives of children today.

February 17 – 3 to 5 pm, light dinner provided. Please let us know if you will attend so we know how much food to prepare.

Marked by Ashes

By Walter Brueggemann

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day...

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,

halfway back to calls and appointments,

halfway on to next Sunday,

halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,

half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,

but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —

we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:

of failed hope and broken promises,

of forgotten children and frightened women,

we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;

we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with

some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes

anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —

you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,

Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;

Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.

Come here and Easter our Wednesday with

mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

Do you want to fast this Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Ongoing prayers for healing for the following:

Paul Beezhold

Patricia Conner

Skye

Dorothy Hansen

Bob and Nancy Leon

Wayne and June Hassebroek

David Lingau

Steve Garrick

Phyllicia McGowan

Christine Downing

Mary Rix

Kathy Buss

As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.

Teresa of Calcutta



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First Class Mail

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