

# The Herald

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*From Our Pastor –*

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

(Acts 1:8, NRSV)

## God’s Future; Our Calling

We all are on a journey together. We know the destination which we seek. We can’t get there alone. We need one other. But, most especially, we need God’s grace and mercy and a place where we can all be accepted; a place where God’s grace and mercy is lived out. That place is the church. For us, Bethany Lutheran Church of NE Portland. God has been faithful to our church for nearly 106 years. God has blessed Bethany and given us remarkable resources and people which have sustained our church. However, we have now reached the crossroads for our church.

In order for our church to be transformed into an apostolic, missional congregation, we are going to have to face and confront that word which we have feared for so long: **change**. Our transformation journey will require changes of us: our preconceived notions of past practices, our ways of looking at our neighbors, our prejudice and self-centeredness in wanting to keep things the way they are. We will need an abundant amount of patience, first with ourselves, and then with our neighbor. We will make mistakes along the way. We will need forgiveness from one another. We will need to remind one another again and again why we are doing what we are doing and what is God’s calling of us as the church:

1. We are on this transformation journey together because we know that **our past ways of being the church will lead to certain death** (of our congregation).
2. We are studying the book of Acts because this is where the church gets its “walking papers” (i.e. – its call into being). *Read Acts 1:8 above.*  
In order to be the people of God, we are called to study the word of God. Our study time together will be crucial in our discerning our congregation’s vision “for being” this fall.
3. This is God’s church and Christ is the head of the church.
4. God is faithful to his promises. In this, we trust that God:
  - a. Hears our prayers.
  - b. Has poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit richly upon each one of us.
  - c. Is with us in powerful ways which will become more fully known as we are guided through faith.
  - d. Has called us into being for serving and building up the body of Christ through the church, the kingdom of God on earth.
5. God has given us a new identity which no one can take away from us: **baptized child of God.** No other identity given to us on earth is greater than this name and our God given name in which we were baptized!

God will continue to be faithful to us! We now join hearts and hands in the power of the Holy Spirit and ask God to stir in us his powerful might to transform us in powerful ways. May God guide us and keep us steadfast in our transformation work together!

*Yours in Christ-  
Pastor Jeff*

# In-Depth Bible Studies on Acts 2, 10, and 16 Now Offered Twice Each Week

There are now two opportunities to go deeper into our Acts texts than we can do together in our Sunday 9:30 worship service:

1. Please join the **Sunday 10:45am Adult Bible Study** in the fellowship hall (following the 9:30am service) for a Bible study written by Pastor Jeff on the Acts texts, *or*
2. If you are unable to make that study, Pastor Jeff will also lead a **Wednesday 11:00am Bible Study** on the Acts text covered on the previous Sunday.

Pastor *strongly encourages* each participating member at Bethany to attend one of the above two Bible studies on Acts. This work together will be the basis for doing our coming visioning work together as a congregation.

The more we study, pray, discern, discover Scripture together, the more readily we will be

able to move toward a vision God has for us here at Bethany. Trust in the Spirit's work among us!

Come learn, grow, pray, discover together as the body of Christ!

Chapter summaries for October are listed below. *Pastor encourages everyone to read the appointed text before coming each Sunday.* Study questions will be distributed for further exploration during Adult Bible Study and midweek Bible Study where appropriate.

**Oct. 8** – Acts 10:34-48 – “Gentiles Hear the Good News and Receive the Holy Spirit”

**Oct. 15** – Acts 16:1-15 – “Timothy joins Paul/Silas; Paul’s Vision; Lydia’s Conversion”

**Oct. 22** – Acts 16:16-40 – “Paul and Silas imprisoned; God sets them free!”

## New Lutheran Hymnals Ordered for Bethany – Trainings Offered Throughout Oregon Synod

It has been nearly thirty years since we have had a new hymnal as a core component for our traditional worship service. Evangelical Lutheran Worship, a new hymnal for ELCA, makes its debut in October when pew, accompaniment, and leaders’ editions are made available to the whole church. A host of events will introduce and provide training for print and online resources. The Oregon Synod encourages every congregation to send participants. Cost is \$20, which includes one copy of the pew edition.

*Note from Pastor: If you may be interested in attending a training, please see me or call me at church (503)284-3836 or at home (503)667-7897. We need to RSVP soon!*

All events are scheduled for **Saturdays, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.**

**October 21**  
Zion Lutheran Church  
1113 SW Black Butte Blvd  
Redmond, OR 97756  
541.923.7466  
[nativity@bendcable.com](mailto:nativity@bendcable.com)

**November 4**  
Milwaukie Lutheran Church  
3810 SE Lake Rd.  
Milwaukie, OR 97222  
503.653.0250  
[milwaukielc@comcast.net](mailto:milwaukielc@comcast.net)

**November 18**  
Bethesda Lutheran Church  
4445 Royal Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97402  
541.688.9085  
[lindab@princeoflife.org](mailto:lindab@princeoflife.org)

# Council Considers Transportation Ministry – 1st Step: Identifying Volunteer Drivers

Church council has been wrestling deeply with the issue of providing reliable/dependable transportation for members who no longer drive to church on Sunday.

We realize that providing rides for others is not always possible for individuals depending upon one's schedule and/or other commitments on Sunday mornings. Many of you have provided rides for others. (Please forgive me if I do not mention your name – most people already know that you do!) People such as **Jim & Ann Pulioff** provide a ride each Sunday for **three other members**. That's fantastic! **Wanda Joaquin** brought **Helen Carter** each Sunday until Helen's passing. Several of you car pool to church each Sunday which is also a great idea. **Wanda Campbell** uses Tri-Met each Sunday for going to church but needs to rise early in order to catch her ride. All of these transportation modes seem to work pretty well. But we may be at (or near) our transportation maximum for providing rides for other members.

Council visited some ideas of providing transportation through Tri-met or transportation services such as taxis. All of them seem to have their limitations either with dependability or being cost prohibitive (too expensive).

Then something wonderful happened. A council member found a transportation system that offers buses (mini, full, and even physically disabled vehicles) *for free*. That's right, free! We still have to pay for the gasoline that we would use to pick up members and find qualified volunteer drivers (they can be non-Bethany members), but the vehicles themselves would be loaned to us *free of charge*.

Council decided that the best way to approach this ministry venture is to line up volunteer drivers, and then contact members who do not already have dependable transportation to see if they would be interested.

This is where you come in. Do you know of someone who might be interested in donating a few hours of their time Sunday mornings to transport some great senior members to Bethany? Our calculations suggest about six volunteer drivers would be needed and used in a rotating list. You don't even have to ask them yourself. I will. Just give me a name and phone number and I will be glad to contact them to see if they would be interested in helping us in this ministry. It might be someone in your neighborhood that you know does not go to church on Sundays or a relative or friend who has been wanting to get more involved in volunteering.

Let us think together who might serve our members as a volunteer driver. Do you know of a college student who might be interested? They would be a great resource to help us in this endeavor. Let's think together how we could grow our service with those who are able to come but are limited due to their transportation needs. It would be such a blessing to have those for Sunday worship who do not normally come because transportation is not readily provided. Let's see what we can do to help make this ministry a reality and let's give a big "thank you" to those who already provide rides to our members as well. God bless us in this endeavor!

*Pastor Jeff*

## Wednesday Activity Night Halloween Gathering – October 25

If you came to the Wednesday Activity Night right before Halloween last year, you know what I'm talking about. Bats were circling around near the ceiling. (Liquid) smoke filled the air. Halloween decorations were plentiful and a spirit of Halloween was in the air. Who was responsible for this ghoulish looking, decorating event? None other than our own **Stan Ekstrom**. **Stan** really enjoys decorating for this particular gathering and it surely does show!

This year's Halloween gathering is sure to be a special event as well. Please come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume (but please...nothing too scary or gory for the sake of small children).

And don't miss out on the pumpkin decorating contest. Bring your pumpkin, favorite decorating tools, and creative ideas!

Pizza and snacks will be provided. It will again be a great time and we would love to see you for this time of fellowship. So grab your pumpkins and costumes and we'll see you **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at **7pm** for another "ghoulish evening" of fun! Invite your friends too!

## Golden Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, October 22 from 1:00 to 4:00pm, **Jack** and **LeDonna Schrumm** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in the Bethany Lutheran fellowship hall. Everyone is invited. No gifts, please!

## September Council Meeting Highlights

Council met September 12 at 7pm with two members excused. Transportation Ministry: We have been offered the use of a number of vehicles for Sunday use for the cost of fuel only, if we provide qualified volunteer drivers; this potential ministry will be presented to the congregation. Property: A recommendation to accept a Front Gutter replacement bid of \$795 and pay \$100 for use of an electric drain cleaner for volunteers to use to un-clog our downspout drains was approved unanimously. Motion for Bethany to become a "Camp Lutherwood Associate Member" (we pay \$80/yr; our Day Camp fee is reduced by \$200) and to pay a \$400 deposit for Day Camp 2007 passed unanimously. Olan Mills pictorial directories have arrived and will be distributed; extra copies are available for \$5 each. New Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal: Council approved placing an order for 100 hymnals at \$17.50 (price increases \$2.50 after Oct 2); delivery estimate is late January. The eight-month financial reports show total income of \$49,283 and general fund expenses of \$72,213. Transfers from savings were used to pay the difference. The next Council meeting will be October 10 at 7pm.