

# Anacortes Lutheran Church

*February 2025  
Newsletter*

*A Message from Pastor Scott*

How are you doing? No, really, how are you doing? I have talked with many people and the answers that comes up are either “scared” or “hopeful”. Hopeful for what will be or scared of what might be. And those views continue to separate us from one another.

It is a reality that we are all experiencing. We don’t understand how the ‘others’ can think the way they do. We just want the other side to understand. But do we take the time to understand? Or have we forgotten how to sit down over a cup of coffee or tea and listen? I believe we have forgotten who we are. We have forgotten that we are be-ings. And we have forgotten to take the time to just ‘be’. We have forgotten to take the time to smell the roses and stare at the clouds. We have forgotten that stopping and taking a deep breath is sometimes what we really need. A moment. A breath.

In my years of ministry, I have come to appreciate the season of Epiphany more and more. This time between Advent/Christmas and Lent (two much busier times in the church year), gives us time to get to know Jesus a bit better and to strengthen our relationship with God. Each week in worship we see more of who Jesus is revealed through the readings and sermons. More of what life is like in being a follower of Jesus becomes clearer as we are able to journey with Jesus from place to place during this time. We are able to see more because we are doing less.

One of the many lessons I learned in my martial arts training was how to experience power through relaxation. Of how to be strong and unmoving and still be fluid and flexible. It seems counterintuitive, but it often seemed that the less I worried about technique the better my technique became. When I started to feel anxious or stressed I found I would become tired easier and not be as quick to defend myself, but if I again took the time to take a deep breath and relax into the present moment my energy would return and practice would become much better.

Epiphany gives us a chance to breathe. Inhale. Exhale. Repeat. Let us take this time to walk with Jesus as he shows us more of what it means to follow God in our lives. Let us relax into knowing that God loves and cares for us. Let us look into the coming days with hope because we know that God goes with us.

Living the Ru’ah life,

Pastor Scott



**Attendees:** Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Anne Barry, Jeaneen Brogan, Jeanette Christiansen, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Janice Louie, Lane Phelan, Pat Carrie Smith

The meeting was called to order and Pastor opened with prayer.

December meeting minutes and the electronic meeting minutes were approved as written.



**Treasurer's Report:** See budget discussion under new business.

**Properties:** A written report was submitted. Steve noted the spike in utility usage for October as well as December 17. Going forward all utility bills will be handed over to Properties to review. Steve will look into challenging the October bill for some kind of credit. He is checking into Waste Management for our current charges.

**Stewardship:** A written report was submitted. The "good deal" on leasing a new copier didn't work out. A new copier deal is being pursued.

**Education:** Classes restart on January 12. Michael will start education hour with singing for 10 minutes before heading to Confirmation class. Discussed planning a pool party for the church.

**Pastor's Report:** A written report was submitted. Pastor asked if ALC wanted to provide one of the meals at the Brick, no decision was made. The Synod Assembly is in May, voting for ALC representatives will be on the annual meeting agenda. It has been noted that there have been visitors sleeping in the front stairwell janitors should be alerted to look each time they arrive to church. The security light is still not working properly.

**WELCA:** There is a plan to change the WELCA schedule as they have not been able to recruit a new president. Going forward there will be two general meetings per year, the Strawberry Social, the Christmas Brunch, Sewing and Circle Bible Studies. They will wait until the end of the year to collect benevolence. They will get their quilting batting through Thrivent. They may not be able to supply the kitchen supplies like they have in the past.

**Personnel:** All positions are filled. Kenny resigned from the youth activities position. Jeaneen, Pastor and Jobun can talk about next steps.

**Youth:** Jobun and the youth cleaned out the new refrigerator donated by the Presbyterian church.

**Worship:** The Worship Committee will meet next week instead of this week. January 11 there will be a cleaning out of the Christmas Closet.

**Christmas Dinner (Outreach):** A written report was submitted. The report has been published for all to see - it was a success. Anne is looking to have 2-3 more people to divvy up her job so it isn't so much work for one person. The notebook is all updated. Lane will have the donation dollar amount to share at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

- 2025 proposed budget was discussed. Anne made a motion to approve the proposed budget via email after a few numbers are double checked for accuracy, all were in favor. Printed budgets will be available to the congregation after the vote.
- All committee heads should have a written summary of 2025 to send to Amanda by Wednesday to get into the ALC Annual Report.
- The annual meeting agenda will be in this order: voting on the updated constitution, voting for new synod assembly representatives (2 women, 1 man, 1 youth delegate and 1 adult up to 30 years of age.), and voting on budget.
- Discussed the cemetery land near Campbell Lake.

Anne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Lord's Prayer closed out the meeting.



Our next regular council meeting will be held February 13 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, February 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Jan 5	Family & Praise Sunday	93	7	45
Jan 12	Baptism of Our Lord	125	6	25
Jan 19	2nd Epiphany	114	3	44
Jan 26	3rd Epiphany	125	7	**

In Memory of Rod Rothlisberger



Rod Rothlisberger, dedicated choir member and musician here at ALC passed away in December of 2024. Below is a tribute written for him from Minnesota State University Moorhead School of Performing Arts and is followed by many student/friend comments about Rod. Side note – Rod taught here in Anacortes in the 1960’s and was mentored by the late Keith Eide.

Minnesota State University Moorhead School of Performing Arts

During this time of Holiday cheer, the School of Performing Arts is saddened to announce the recent passing of Dr. Rodney Rothlisberger, former Chair of the MSUM Department of Music and Music Education and Vocal Music Professor from 1995-2012. Known throughout the Upper Midwest for his contributions to both choral and organ art forms, we remember him here with some excerpts from an interview he gave upon retiring from MSUM after endowing the “Rod Rothlisberger Vocal Music Scholarship” at MSUM and serving for 50 years as a music educator in positions around the world:

“If it hadn’t been for two mentors: a High School band director and a Jr. High science teacher, I probably would have quit teaching my first year by Christmas!” recalled Dr. Rothlisberger. After receiving degrees from St. Olaf College; Eastman School of Music; and the University of Colorado at Boulder, he went on to direct collegiate choirs at Bowdoin College in Maine; the University of Colorado; Berea College in Kentucky; and Concordia College as well as here at MSUM. He also taught choral music in public high schools in Washington State; Melbourne, Australia; as well as in Moorhead Public Schools from 1989-95.

Dr. Rothlisberger also served as Organist-Choirmaster at the Post Chapel of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York (1965-67); as College Organist at Bowdoin College (1967-70); and as an organist in churches of various denominations in Anacortes, Washington; Rochester, New York; Melbourne, Australia, and Fargo-Moorhead. He served on the faculty of the International Music Camp for fourteen summers and directed the International Ambassadors of Music Choir on three European tours (1990,1992, and 1994). During his time in Moorhead, he was an active member of the Board of Directors of the Lake Agassiz Arts Council, the Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company, and the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony.

When asked what were some "career highlights" of note, he recalled: "Conducting the Bowdoin choir with the Boston Pops. It wasn’t particularly musically outstanding, but it was memorable. Also, conducting the "Ave Maria" by Biebl with the MSUM choirs. It was an all-choir and orchestra concert at the First Presbyterian Church. The choirs were standing around the sanctuary. It was a massive event-- which, I suppose, says something about me and extravaganzas!"

Thank you, Rod, for your many years of service to the arts! You vibrant laugh and quick wit will be missed.





# Dates To Celebrate in February



## Birthdays

02	Jeaneen Brogan	09	Enid Oates	21	Greg Whittier
02	Roman Sturgul	10	Jenny Remmerden	23	Victoria Eckardt
02	Janice Sullivan	15	Chris Anderson	25	Patricia Rasar
03	Howard Partch	18	Paul Dusenbury	27	Vance Frerichs
05	Bev Landgraf	19	Tom Paul	27	Ann Knutsen
06	Della Reinbold	20	Arthur Price	27	Phil Latendresse
07	Julia Rogers	20	Owen Pierce	27	MaryBeth Pollard

## Anniversaries

03	John & Denise Lowrie	21	Bill LeDuc & Dorothy Engom
06	Paul & Lane Phelan	22	Rob & Alice Harstad
08	Steve & Linda Anderson	28	Gregg & Karen Whittier
20	Fred & Susan Wintermantel	29	Bruce & Cora Rolfe



## PRAY FOR OUR 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

<b>President:</b>	Don Devine	<b>Fellowship :</b>	
<b>Vice-President:</b>		<b>Education:</b>	Janice Sullivan
<b>Secretary:</b>	Julie Jacobson	<b>Youth:</b>	Michael Sullivan
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Lane Phelan	<b>Preschool:</b>	Anne Barry
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Bill LeDuc	<b>Properties:</b>	Steve Anderson
<b>Outreach:</b>	Dave White	<b>Worship:</b>	Pat Carrie Smith
<b>Personnel:</b>	Jeaneen Brogan	<b>WELCA :</b>	Jeanette Christensen
<b>Josephine Delegates:</b>	Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo	<b>Legacy Endowment:</b>	Wayne Olsen, Rod Odergaard Julie Jacobson
<b>Finance:</b>	Lane Phelan, Kirk Swanson Linda Millo	<b>Synod Assy Delegates:</b>	Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy Linda Millo
<b>Finance Secretary:</b>	Linda Millo		
<b>Camp Lutherwood Rep:</b>	Kenny Holzemer		



## ALC CHOIR NEWS

### ALC CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Our choir has become very small and we are in need of singers – especially sopranos! Do you like singing, praying to God through the gift of song, and laughing (a lot!)? Then our choir is for you! We need all voices, but right now we are very short on people who can sing the melody and bonus – our anthems mostly are in a comfortable range of most melody singers! Please consider joining our fun group, we rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. during Lent. We are singing in services about twice a month and practice ahead so it is okay if you can't be with us every week! We are Blessed to still have a choir here at ALC, so many churches no longer have choirs – let's keep ours going strong! Thank you and reach out to Laurie if you have any questions. Laurie: [ljc@fidalgo.net](mailto:ljc@fidalgo.net)

### SPECIAL MUSIC/DANCE AT ALC

Do you sing, play the piano or other instruments, dance or read poetry? I would love to schedule more people in our services to provide "Special Music, Art, Dance or Poetry Reading" here at ALC. Please let me know if you would like to share your God given talent with all of us and we can figure out how to use it in a service. Thank you! Laurie:

[ljc@fidalgo.net](mailto:ljc@fidalgo.net)

## SEWING NEWS

Sewing continues their busy schedule of making quilts and assembling kits. Recently we gave several quilts to the family that ALC supported with Christmas gifts. Each child received a quilt and one was also given to the parents.

Have you ever looked at the Lutheran World Relief website, [lwr.org](http://lwr.org)? I checked it today to see if they were responding to the LA fires and here is what they said. "You help deliver LWR Quilts and Kits to our partners in and around Los Angeles, so they can provide comfort for evacuees and families who have lost their homes."

That is good news. Come see what this group is up to. Help tie a quilt or sew a seam. We are looking for help in assembling kits. Maybe you would enjoy that. In February we will meet on February 4, 18 and 28. We begin at 9am.

## PRIME TIMERS NEWS

PRIME TIMERS will celebrate Valentine at 11:00 am on February 14<sup>th</sup> with each of you bringing a can of chili for Bruce to create a great mix of flavors! Norma will bring toppings and Chuck will have the coffee ready. Lois has a Chili Trivia quiz to challenge our knowledge of chili. Julie created the screenshots of Joy's old family Valentine cards. Joy will also share the history of Valentine, and encourages all to bring a memory of Valentine card exchanges within your family or at school. Signup sheet is at the opportunity desk.





From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,



February 2025

One of my most vivid childhood memories is when my home congregation welcomed a Vietnamese family. As a young child, I remember helping prepare the home that the family would live in, going grocery shopping with my mom for food to fill the pantry, giving our couch to them, helping with the “world dinner” that would raise money for this endeavor, and, most of all, anticipating the arrival of these new people – Loung and Young and Quin. I remember when this little family stood in the back of the sanctuary and everyone stood and clapped and embraced this family.

As you might know, I grew up in a little town in eastern Washington. This town was conservative and mostly voted Republican (although my grandmother was mayor and she was a Democrat). I believe that my hometown church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, was also more conservative in nature. I am grateful for the values taught to me by my siblings in Christ there. The love and care that I received and learned formed who I am today. These people embraced the challenge and gift of welcoming a family from a different continent, a different religion, a different language, a different culture, a different country, and so much more to become part of our community. According to my parents, there was no partisan debate about accepting a Vietnamese family with open arms.

Today, when I listen to political rhetoric or podcasts or the news, I wonder when and why the topic of immigration has become so fraught. While I understand that there are complexities and nuances of immigration and I understand the need to make sure that there is control and order at the U.S. border, I don’t understand why there is the need to vilify the vast majority of immigrants who are, quite simply, desperate for safety, work, and good government.

I know the arguments: Yes, sometimes people come into this country through the wrong avenues. Yes, sometimes people stay without documentation. Yes, sometimes crime happens by people who are in this country illegally. Yes, sometimes resources are used for people who are not citizens. Yes, there are laws in this country and people should follow the laws.

But let me push back a little bit. There is overwhelming statistical analysis that show immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than U.S. citizens. We know through our own experiences that immigrants will work hard at whatever job they find – as I have been told by one Mexican immigrant, “Mexicans will do anything and we’ll work harder and longer than anyone else.” We know people who were brought to this country as children and know no other country. We know that there are some laws that are simply unjust made to target people who are already desperate – simply because of the color of their skin or their birth country.

As people of faith, we are called to reflect God’s vision towards a more just and reconciled world. As people of faith, we are called to follow Jesus’ example towards loving and caring for all people – especially those that have been marginalized. As people of faith, when we are grappling with hard things, we are called to turn to God and scripture for wisdom and knowledge. In view of welcoming the stranger from other lands, here are a few passages:

Genesis 23:4, Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 27:19, 1 Chronicles 16:19-22, Job 29:15-17, Psalm 146:9, Jeremiah 7:5-7, Ezekiel 47:22, Zechariah 7:9-10, Matthew 5:43-44, Matthew 25:35, Matthew 25:40, Luke 10:27, Acts 10:34, Romans 12:13, Romans 13:8, Romans 13:10, Colossians 3:11, Hebrews 13:1-3, 3 John 1:5, Revelation 21:3, and there are many more not named.

These scriptures are about welcoming the foreigner, the outsider, embracing those who are in need, loving God by loving neighbor. If someone wants biblical authority, scripture makes it pretty clear. We are to welcome and embrace those who come from other places. We are to love our near and far neighbors as God loves us.

I am writing this article one week before the new administration begins. Truly, I am deeply concerned about the millions of people who will be affected and harmed by presidential action and legislative policies that have been promised by the incoming president.

I encourage you to learn more about how to support and welcome these new neighbors in need:

ELCA AAMPARO (<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/ammparo>)

Faith Action Network (<https://fanwa.org/>)

Lutheran Community Services Northwest – Refugees Northwest (<https://lcsnw.org/program/refugees-northwest-2/>)

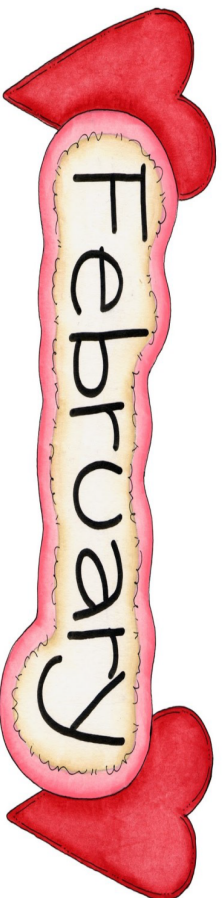
Global Refuge (<https://www.globalrefuge.org/blog/resources/congregational-resources/>)

Watch for more information from the Synod as we work and move and join together in loving God by loving the most vulnerable.

Please, I implore you, love and welcome and embrace your neighbor as God embraces each one of us.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)





# 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2 FAMILY &amp; PRAISE SUNDAY</b> EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a SCOUT G PLC 1:00p Dinner at the Brick 3 - 6:00p MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p	<b>3</b> O.A 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	<b>4</b> Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	<b>5</b> Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP Comm 11:00a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>6</b> Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p	<b>7</b> Eltern Youth Night 5:30p	<b>8</b>
<b>9 SCOUT SUNDAY</b> EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Dinner at the Brick 3 - 6:00p ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:15 am in F.H.	<b>10</b> O.A 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	<b>11</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a WOMEN'S BIBLE 3:30p SCOUT G C.O.H 7:00p	<b>12</b> Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Liturgical Arts Comm 11:00a Prayer Group 11:30a A-Town Cigy Mtg 12:30p Fir-Conway Cont. 2:30p	<b>13</b> Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30p SCOUT B Leader 7:00p	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b> PRIME TIMERS 11:00a GET-TOGETHER-F.H <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 6th Sunday in Epiphany</b> EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Dinner at the Brick 3 - 6:00p MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p	<b>17 President's Day</b> O.A 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p SCOUT B 7:00p	<b>18</b> Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	<b>19</b> Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>20</b> Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a SCOUT G Leader 7:00p	<b>21</b> Eltern Youth Night 5:30p	<b>22</b>
<b>23 7th Sunday in Epiphany</b> EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Dinner at the Brick 3 - 6:00p	<b>24</b> O.A 10:00a ALTAR Guild 11:00a SCOUT B.C.O.H 7:00p	<b>25</b> Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	<b>26</b> Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Prayer Group 11:30a Fir-Conway Cont. 2:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>27</b> Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	<b>28</b>	