

# Create in me a clean heart, O God



Anacortes Lutheran Church  
February 2021 Newsletter



I suspect some of the most difficult words to say and really mean are “I’m sorry.” To admit fault and to turn to the other for some kind of absolution is not an easy thing to do. It not only hurts our egos, but it also forces us to admit our culpabilities and flaws. Even Elton John acknowledges this with his song *Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Thing*.

My kids when they were young could throw around the “I’m sorry” phrase with ease. If my wife or I would question them about some childish violation they would quickly respond “Sorry” as they went on to do something else. In fact, my daughter had a vocal inflection common to many teens and pre-teens which made it clear the word was just for the appeasement of her parents and further indicating we were the ones who should be sorry for even questioning her. Maybe you’re familiar with that inflection and its meaningless nature. I’m sure I’ve used the “Sorry” word many times and never really meant it.

Realizing our faults and seeking forgiveness are just not things we like to do.

This month we move into the season of Lent, and, of course, that season begins with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the most penitential day of the church year. We make a lengthy confession of sin. We then hear a statement which emphasizes the mercy of God, but it doesn’t pronounce the full absolution; that absolution will not be received until Maundy Thursday.

We also receive the imposition of ashes upon our foreheads. Ashes in Israel were a sign of deep penitence. They are also a reminder of our mortality, emphasized by the words, “You are dust, and unto dust you shall return.”

Sin and death; certainly not the topics we readily share with friends. They are two aspects of human existence which scare the bejeebers out of us. Yet they are at the forefront of the Ash Wednesday observance.

However there is a reason we can speak of both our faults and our mortality. We have a God whose mercy and love are powerful enough to answer our worst characteristics and flaws. Without such an assurance it would be far more painful to address the darker side of our existence.

This year’s Ash Wednesday service will be virtual, but we will also offer a drive-through imposition for those who wish. More information on this will be forthcoming.

With confidence in God’s grace through Jesus Christ we enter are bold enough to be honest not only with this community of faith and with our God, we are also honest with ourselves.

“I’m sorry” can be heartfelt and sincere. It awaits forgiveness in order to be healed and whole. We, as God’s people, will admit our brokenness and place ourselves in the hands of God. We do so knowing we have already been answered.

Walt

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## ANNUAL MEETING is set for SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 at 1:00 pm

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The Council is actively working on plans for the Annual meeting. These are changing week to week. You can plan to receive a letter with instructions two weeks prior to the Annual meeting. We will need a quorum of fifty to validate business.

Blessings from your Council Officers,  
Bill LeDuc, Melanie Sahnaw and Lane Phelan.

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### From the Treasurer... Lane Phelan

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Your copy of the Annual Report has budget notes for 2021 and the proposed 2021 budget. Please feel free to email me at paulandlane@comcast.net with any questions, or call 360-293-4290.

#### **We are Blessed her at ALC and Gifts come in all sizes**

We took in about \$2,500 in gifts for the Christmas Community Dinner. Much of this was from donations from the community at large.

The estate of Betty Wright gifted ALC with \$25,000. to be used for preschool scholarships.

This coin came in anonymously:



*This 1881 silver dollar  
may (or may not) be worth  
a lot more than one dollar.  
If it is worth something  
I hope that it helps  
someone who needs help.  
God bless you.*

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### Thursday ZOOM Bible Study

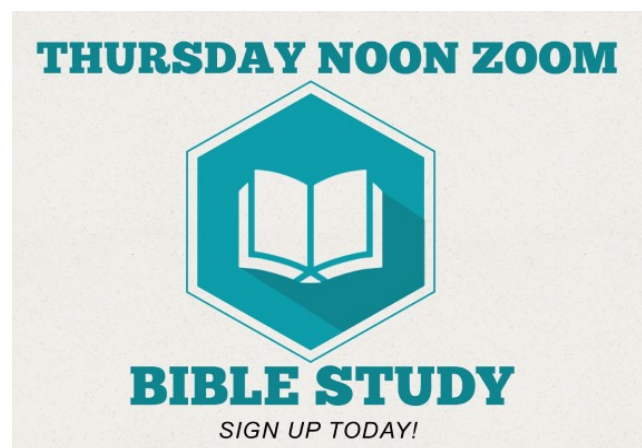
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#### Call or email the office for the link

Join Pastor Walt on Thursdays at 12:00 pm in an examination of the coming Sunday's scripture lessons. Our hope is to discover a little background about the original context of each passage and then to share thoughts about how those particular verses might speak to us today.

Contact the church office and Pastor Walt will send you the ZOOM link for the study. If you have any questions about logging on to Zoom on your computer, we will attempt to help you do so.

**Welcome to the study.**





# What are you up to?







Come join in a  
**Valentine Drive-By  
Celebration for  
Pastor Deb Benson**

**Sunday February 14, 2021**

Meet at Hobby Lobby parking lot,  
College Way, Mount Vernon at 1:30 PM  
Bring cards, balloons, flowers, hearts to leave behind.

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**ALC ASH WEDNESDAY - "Drive Through Imposition of Ashes"**

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Let today be the  
day you give up  
who you've been  
for you who can  
become.

*Blessed* **Ash Wednesday**

**Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**Place: ALC Parking Lot**

**Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm &  
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

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## We Need to “SEE” Each Other! - Let’s get together over Zoom

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We’d like to get together for a **“Coffee Hour”** social time over zoom!

Or, get together and play a game such as **“Bingo”** over zoom!

Rachel Devine & Laurie Julius-Carver are willing to host the first of these events and then maybe others can follow! We will be sending out an email blast when we have dates and times. If you have a computer, tablet or smart phone you can join us!



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## Masks: The New Way of Life?

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The New Year: 2020 - and then came Covid-19.

A Pandemic! Panic struck with all sorts of questions! What do we do? How do we stay safe? How do we protect ourselves?

Guidelines were put into place: Wear a mask....Social Distance (what’s that?)....Wash your hands/use hand sanitizer! The World was not prepared. Within weeks there was a shortage of masks, hospital isolation gowns, ventilators.

In March, a request came to me from Fidalgo Rehab for masks.....could we make 200? That sounded like a LOT! But the word went out. 30+ women in Anacortes joined me and we worked fast to fulfill the original request, plus 120 isolation gowns! And the requests kept coming- from all over Anacortes..... and we kept sewing!

By the Fall, we had distributed over 3400 masks, to every Care Facility, the Family Shelter, the Anacortes Police, Fire Department, City and some local restaurants and businesses. Two other groups in town supplied masks to Island Hospital and other needs. Along with them, we are now working on 300 masks for Mt. Erie Elementary School for their re-entry to the classrooms. My group also sewed Purple masks to go to the High School when they reopen. And so - we keep sewing! Days for Girls International stepped up to the plate with “Masks for Millions”, changing our focus from reusable sanitation hygiene supplies (which we could not distribute with Covid) to Masks - Worldwide.

We ask: is this the “New Normal” for us? Hopefully not forever, but for now Covid is still raging, and we still need to follow the Guidelines for our safety, and the safety of others.

**SO! Wear Your Mask!**

**Keep 6’ Social Distancing!**

**Wash/Sanitize Your Hands!**

I know we are all frustrated, perhaps lonely, and need hugs, but please be patient! God is in Control, and This too shall pass.

THANK YOU!

Carol Olsen

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## Prayer Time - The Power of Prayer!

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Our Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 pm

Join By calling:

1-518-351-9735

For a 'Party Line' style phone call connecting us together in prayer (voices only no visual).

### In our Prayers:

For a current list of prayer concerns, go to:

<https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>

And look for the "Prayer Page" tab in the menu.

Call the office to add or update a prayer to the Prayer Page.

### Prayer Chain:

The Prayer Chain is open for you from 9am to 9pm.

For personal and/or confidential prayer chain requests, call Peggy at:

360-299-1184

As always, our Pastors are available to pray with or for you. Please let them know if you are hospitalized, ill, or needing their prayers.

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## LWR Knitting News - Linda Anderson

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### **We are taking a Covid - Holiday until March**

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set.

Our current Spring 2021 total is:

Sweater/hat sets - 7

Hats - 1

Sweaters - 2

We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome. Teaching is available.

If you need more yarn, please call me.

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730



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## ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRIME TIMERS™

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### ZOOM "POTLUCK LUNCH" Wednesday, February 10 at NOON

Please contact

Julie at [pjdusenbury@gmail.com](mailto:pjdusenbury@gmail.com) or  
360-298-8671 for more information.

### FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

- 1 - National Freedom Day
- 2 - Ground Hog Day
- 6 - Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- 7 - Send a Card to a Friend Day
- 8 - Boy Scout Day
- 9 - National Pizza Day
- 11 - Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
- 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 12 - Chinese New Years
- 14 - Ferris Wheel Day
- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 15 - Presidents' Day
- 17 - Ash Wednesday
- 20 - Cherry Pie Day
- 22 - George Washington's Birthday
- 24 - National Tortilla Chip Day
- 28 - National Chili Day

**Have a great month, stay safe, and  
be happy.**

**We look forward to seeing**



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## WELCA - Women of the ELCA

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Our **Bible Study Circles** will not be meeting until COVID-19 is under control.

Starting our **Sewing Group** will be reevaluated and we will let everyone know when it is safe to start.

# Worship with us near & afar

In-person services have been suspended until further notice.

Please check your emails and the ALC website for most recent updates.

**Watch our Live Stream Worship Service at - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>**

## **February - Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	7	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 40:21-31 / 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 147:1-11, 20 Mark 1:29-39	Reader: Scout Troops 4084 B & G and Cub Pack 4084
Transfiguration of Our Lord	14	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	2 Kings 2:1-12 / 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 50:1-6 Mark 9:2-9	Reader: Lois Cassidy

**February 17 ASH WEDNESDAY “Drive Through Imposition of Ashes”**  
In ALC Parking Lot - 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

1st Sunday in Lent	21	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Genesis 9:8-17 / 1 Peter 3:18-22 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15	Reader: Marilyn Tenoll
2nd Sunday in Lent	28	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 / Romans 4:13-25 22:23-31 Mark 8:31-38	Reader: Pestar family

ALC will be having a “Drive Through Imposition of Ashes” at two different times on Ash Wednesday Feb 17. Pastor Rice and Pastor Butler will be outside the church in the parking lot to administer the imposition of ashes and hand out prefilled communion cups while you stay in the comfort and protection of your car. Everyone will be wearing masks at all times and parking lot attendants will be available to guide you.

Our Pastors will be under a tent cover and will come to your car window to apply the ashes. Protective gloves will be worn and cotton swabs or sponges will be used and discarded for every person. If you are unable to come to the parking lot, or would like to administer your own ashes while you watch the service, you may pick up a small container of ashes and prefilled communion cups from the church office a week or so before the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **ALC Ash Wednesday “Drive Through Imposition of Ashes”**

**Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**Place: ALC Parking Lot**

**Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

We will have a prerecorded Ash Wednesday service available on our website, [www.anacorteslutheran.org](http://www.anacorteslutheran.org), and on our Facebook page, Anacortes Lutheran, anytime you want to access it starting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## February - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Laura Sullivan	18	Ian Anderson
2	Jeaneen Brogan	18	Paul Dusenbury
2	Janice Sullivan	18	Vera Harvey
3	Howard partch	18	Sabrina Poor
4	Justin Lust	19	Tom Paul
5	Bev Landgraf	19	Julia Soes
7	Wendy Atterberry	21	Virginia Dusenbury
7	Mason Bakke	21	Michael Swietzer
7	Julia Rogers	24	Russ Hermstad
8	Brianna Trafton	24	Sean Campbell
8	Hillary Young	25	Carin Fors
9	Hope Anderseon	25	Christy Giddings
9	Enid Oates	26	Andrea Long
10	Jenny Remmerden	26	Sadie Lust
10	Ian Piacentino	26	Glenn Sullivan
11	Carol Olsen	27	Vance Frerichs
13	Corey Nibarger	27	Ann Knutsen
14	Dennis Giddings	27	MaryBeth Pollard
15	Chris Anderson	27	Phil Latendresse
16	Steve Fosso	28	Hayden Long
16	Erin Roux	28	Sydney Long
17	Garrett Kennedy		



**Sunday, February 21, 2021**

**1:00 pm**

**More instructions to come two weeks prior to the meeting**

## February - Anniversaries!

3	John & Denise Lowrie	20 years
6	Paul & Lane Phelan	
8	Steve & Linda Anderson	35 years
8	Daniel & Jennifer Elling	
18	Ed & Marcia Berg	60 Years
18	Robert & DeAnna Claus	
21	William LeDuc & Dorothy Engom	
22	Rob & Alice Harstad	

## January - Online Worship

[www.anacorteslutheran.org/online-ministry](http://www.anacorteslutheran.org/online-ministry)

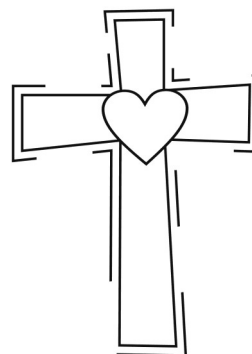
<i>Date</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Live Stream</i>
3	2nd Sunday of Christmas	99
10	1st Sunday after Epiphany	88
17	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	65
24	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	
31	4th Sunday after Epiphany	

## Sympathies

James "Jim" Randolph Parker

December 15, 1936—January 12, 2021

Our prayers and sympathies are with  
Irene Parker and their family.





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## ALC Council Minutes – January 14, 2021

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Attended: Via Zoom- Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Melanie Sahnnow, Pastor Walt, Jeaneen Brogan, Dave Bjornson, Kendra Kennedy, Les Olsen, Steve Richards, & Maggie Santos

Meeting to order at 6:30pm and Kendra said a prayer.

December 11<sup>th</sup> mtg notes approved as written.

**Treasurers Report:** Dec revenue to expense \$1,814. Year to date member offering is \$284,262, averaging \$5,685 weekly YTD. Year to date revenue to expense is \$9,702. The Christmas Benevolence was paid to: Lutherwood to \$1,500, Anacortes Family Center \$1,500, Salvation Food Bank and Helping Hands Food Bank each \$1,000. Benevolence paid final quarter is \$3,500 and bills are current. Benevolences paid YTD is \$30,113. Christmas dinner donations \$2,402, we will hold extra for next year. Christmas offering \$5,455. We rec'd from Betty Wright's Estate \$25,000 to be earmarked for Preschool Scholarships. We will save out \$10,000 for this year scholarships. Lane made **Motion** to hold the balance of \$15,000 in Mission Investments for disbursement next year. Discussion **MSP** We had an anonymous donation of an 1881 Silver Dollar to be used for someone that needs help. We will look into value and go from there. Accepted report as given.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor is working with Worship for a drive through Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Noon -1 pm & 5:30-6:30 pm. Transition Team has almost completed their portion of the MPS then the Call Committee can take over. It will go to Andy Yee at NW WA Synod and the Call Committee will meet with him to go forward. Thank you, Rexanne Graham & Kenny Holzemer for volunteering to be on the Lead Pastor Call Committee and requesting a few more.

**Presidents Report:** No Report

**Old Business:** Reopening Committee is following the Anacortes School District guidelines and are waiting for Feb 14<sup>th</sup> then will reevaluate and vote. Bill Gusa has resigned as Nomination Committee Chairperson, we are asking the congregation to help fill positions. Constitution review, Kendra had questions on Education. For the Membership Roster it was discussed that if we get 21 people to call everyone on 1 page we can update it quickly. We will get a script together. Rachel has really cleaned up the mailing list so that should help.

**New Business:** The conference room is being readied for new carpet. We will be getting the folding chairs out of the basement soon to be donated to Habitat for Humanity. **Motion** to approve the proposed 2021 Budget as discussed, **MSP** and we will present to the Congregation at the Annual meeting on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. The Annual mtg will be via Zoom and we are working out the bugs. All must be able to hear and respond also must be a quorum. Bill and Kevin will work on the details. Having a Zoom account at the church has been put on hold.

**Personnel Report:** We are live streaming but are we taping services? No. We will record Ash Wednesday service. Becky is working with Laurie on music. Happy with the budget.

**WELCA Report:** The Angel Tree Christmas Family project went real well. All is quite, waiting for Feb.

**Outreach:** No Report

**Property Report:** Christmas decorations are all put away. Conference rm #1 will be ready for new carpet, thank you everyone for your help. Additional lighting was added to the playground to discourage nighttime loitering. Property is requesting the Exec Board to consider updating the language in the Legacy Endowment's "Use of Funds" to include Maintenance as well as Capitol Improvements.

**Education:** Farewell to Dave White, he has done a great job with Children's Ministry for almost 6 years. Christmas program was a big hit. We have 3 Sunday school teacher's and we will be splitting everything that

*Continued on next page...*

Dave did. We are going to deliver a "We care bag" to kids door steps. Family Link, we are learning the books of the bible. Still planning: VBS in July, Carnival in August, Pool party in the fall and the Christmas store.

**Multimedia:** Kevin has changed updated Rachel's computer. Now hooked with Anacortes Fiber, the city internet and changed from Comcast, then we will need to update the phones to reduce the phone bill. Will work on staff training next week. Working on Microsoft Teams to replace Zoom. Kevin will see if Microsoft can work for the annual mtg. Phone lines are changed over in the preschool and will change over the church when we can. Lane needs old modem to return to Comcast.

**Fellowship Report:** No Report

**Youth Report:** No Report

**Preschool Report:** The preschool budget was discussed, Maggie will provide a monthly financial report and we will work on getting them onto the ALC budget later. The daily running of the preschool is going fine. The Anacortes School Foundation is used for scholarships so, can she submit a request for amounts not covered from the Betty Wright donation? Yes.

**Stewardship Report:** Pastor will for now, work on the Stewardship drive and work on a letter to the congregation.

**Worship Report:** Report was covered by Pastor.

The next Council meeting is February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p via Zoom

Kendra shared the Lord's Prayer and closed at 8:40 pm

Blessings, Melanie

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- Do You Need to talk to the Pastors? Schedule an appointment by calling or emailing the office.  
Pastor Walt Rice: walicoli@comcast.net / Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com
  - Pastors Office hours: Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (by Appointment Only)
  - Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
  - Church Office email & phone #: 360-293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org
  - "LIKE" our FaceBook & YouTube pages: Anacortes Lutheran Church
  - Worship Services, Updates & News: Visit our website - www.anacorteslutheran.org
  - Has your phone #, address & email changed? Are you receiving emails from church? Call the office!
  - Do you need help? Groceries, a mask, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.
  - Newsletter Deadline: The Third Monday of every month.

Available for you in the basket outside the church office door -

- CD Recordings: If you would like them delivered directly to you, call the church office, 360-293-9586, and ask to be put onto the delivery schedule.
- Devotionals and more: Christ in Our Homes devotionals, Living Lutheran Magazines & Communion cups for home communion (take for yourself and a friend.)

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## Bishops Message – *The Spirit* February 2021

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Dear Beloveds,

There were many images that horrified me during the Washington DC riots. The violence, cruelty, anger, and destruction were terrible.

One image that made me both angry and almost nauseous was the photograph of the person holding up a bright yellow sign with the words, “Jesus Saves.” To be clear, it is not that I object to these words. I strongly believe that Jesus saves. But in this particular case, when one holds up a sign bearing these beautiful words but participating in mob violence, it becomes a mockery. Horrifically, there were other Christian symbols present that day. There was a giant wooden cross outside the Capitol. One man carried a Christian flag into an evacuated legislative chamber. Christian music blared all day from loudspeakers. It was disgusting to see sacred words and items suddenly used to foment violence. It was sickening, reckless, and horrifying. It was profane. The insurrection on the Capitol broke the first, second, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth commandments. Any action that breaks one commandment is wrong. An action that breaks the majority of the commandments is beyond alarming. (And I could actually make an argument that this insurrection also broke the third and fourth commandments, too. This only leaves the sixth unbroken.)

In the ELCA social message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy we read, ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. (Read the full message here: [www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government](http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government).)

This social message states that as residents of the United States and as followers of Jesus, we all have a responsibility for government to function well. We are called to be a part of civic society. We are called to vote. We are called to be civil servants. We are called to speak out against injustice. We are called to march against hatred. We are called to peacefully protest when those in power act in ways that promote prejudice or bigotry or discrimination. We are called to speak truth. For those of us with privilege, we are especially called to examine ourselves, to listen to others, and to speak for those without voice. We are called to act in ways where God’s love is paramount – moving towards true peace, true equity, and true reconciliation. In short, we are called to live into our baptismal identity of forgiven and beloved children of God by loving and caring for God, our neighbor, and our world.

I encourage congregations and ministry sites to study the social message mentioned above. There are also other social messages and social statements found on the ELCA website to further conversation and action as we continue to learn how to be disciples of Jesus by engaging in the world. Perhaps this could be something that you and others do during Lent. But please don’t stop at reading, studying, and talking about it. Let us move forward with action. Our faith calls us to stand next to the oppressed and forgotten in faith, knowing that, as we are loved by God, we are called to love our neighbor.

I am appalled at what happened on January 6, 2021. As a citizen of the United States and, even more so, as a Christian, I am devastated. But I have hope. I have hope that out of this hatred, love will emerge. I have hope that those who have been fearful will gain courage. I have hope that we, siblings, beloveds in Christ, will join together and reclaim the words, “Jesus saves.” I have hope that we as a nation will form a more perfect union. I have hope – not because I’m an idealist but because I’m a follower of Jesus – that out of this death resurrection will come.

In God’s Spirit of Hope,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.