



Pastor's Message

A few years back I read an article which brought to my attention something I'd never before considered: I learned the Mirriam-Webster Dictionary annually deletes words which have fallen from common usage. The article then listed a number of examples of words which once were spoken with some frequency, but now have fallen into extinction along with typewriter repair shops and Oldsmobiles. As I scanned the list it became apparent why many of the terms would no longer apply to our everyday lives. However one word caught my attention. I realized it could well be utilized in everyday speech, especially at a place such as the Pike Place Market. The word is "cornobble."

The definition of cornobble is "to hit or be hit with a fish." I remember cornobbling my dad when I caught my first fish. I pulled the struggling creature from the water so fast the line swung to the back of the boat, the fish hit him in the face. I'm sure the folks who work the Flying Fish booth at Pike Place have cornobbled their share of people, and undoubtedly been cornobbled themselves. It's become a goal of mine to bring this wonderful and descriptive word back into usage so that cornobble is returned to the dictionary where it belongs.

There are other words which seem to have fallen from the language of the world around us. Many of those are religious words; words which are part of our faith yet unknown in the secular world. Certainly there are very few people outside the church doors who could tell you what sanctification means; in fact, undoubtedly there are many people within the church who could not provide an accurate definition. Other words such as redemption and grace are part of the world's language, yet don't necessarily convey our Christian understanding of what God is doing in the world. When it comes to evangelism or even everyday conversation, the church doesn't always speak in a way it can be heard.

To the culture around us our worship sometimes appears to be cultic in the negative sense of the word. And when we speak, the world doesn't really care to listen. We could blame this on the culture, yet possibly the onus is on us.

How do we present the good news of Christ in a way the person on the street can understand? I don't necessarily have the answers, but I do feel the church needs to at least ask the question. I suspect the way we live our lives might be the first factor. Only if we act with integrity, love and grace will our words be considered relevant.

Those outside our doors search for meaning; and the quest for hope, has become more desperate today than it has in many years. I pray that my life might be a witness, so my words would have significance. Otherwise, I might as well be cornobbled.

Pastor Walt

From the Council President...

Anacortes Lutheran has endured a difficult year so far, and no end is in sight. That being said, the Council, Transition Team, staff, and pastors have made a laudable effort to keep the congregation informed of changes, procedures and methods employed to maintain contact with you and prepare for the eventual reopening of our active ministries.

That effort has not been without its casualties however. We have updated the Constitution and are now reviewing those changes for acceptance by the congregation. Our Transition Team has circulated a questionnaire to update the Ministry Site Profile and look forward to your input to complete that effort. During this trying time we have been without a **Stewardship Chair** or **Committee**, a **Youth Chair** or **Committee**, and the **Outreach Chair** needs a new person, but Karen has graciously continued to assist in a limited capacity. We are now without a **Fellowship Chairperson**, although a few members have been asked to participate in all of these positions.

Two years as Council Secretary, and in my second year as your President, we have made significant progress in some areas, but are lacking in others. Our progress with Youth and Family has been stymied with the loss of our Lead Pastor, COVID-19 has taken a chunk of our church year to date, but the changes necessary to grow and flourish as a church could be close at hand. If we can repopulate our Council with new and different ideas as we emerge from these dilemmas, ALC will most definitely prosper faithfully and emotionally, preparing for the eventual search for a new Lead Pastor. Pastors Walt and Debra will be, as they have been, a major asset in that effort.

One last thing: We must have a person willing and dedicated to serve in leadership for two years. Without a **President-Elect** this coming year, I am not sure I should be considered as **Council President** for a third term. The continuity of effort for the Council, the congregation, and the church community is paramount to continued progress, and I personally feel that this congregation deserves 100% effort.

Prayerfully Yours,

Bill LeDuc



*“God is our shelter and our strength,”
“When troubles seem near, God is nearer,
and He’s ready to help. So why run and hide?”*

Our 2020 ALC Church Council

President	• Bill LeDuc
President –Elect:	•
Treasurer	• Lane Phelan
Secretary	• Melanie Sahnou
Education	• Kendra Kennedy
Youth	•
Fellowship	• Kathy Khile
Outreach	•
Personnel	• Steve Richards
Preschool	• Jo Rockwood
Properties	• Les Olsen
Financial	•
Stewardship	•
Worship	• David Bjornson
WELCA	• Jeaneen Brogan & Linda Walker
Josephine Del.	• Jerry Bongard & Grace Boggio
Lutherwood Rep	• Jim Fors
ELCA Synod Rep	• Pastor Butler & Linda Millo



COMPLETING YOUR TRANSITION TEAM QUESTIONNAIRE

To Anacortes Lutheran Members,

In the June Anacortes Lutheran Church Newsletter, all members received and were requested to complete a questionnaire from the ALC Transition Team. Your completed questionnaires are an essential part of the ALC Transition Process and will help guide your Transition Team as we work to gather information and prepare a document that guides us in the selection of a new pastor for Anacortes Lutheran Church.

As of July 15, the Transition Team has received fourteen completed questionnaires. To have the best information possible, we need many more. If you have not yet completed your questionnaire, please find it and take the short time needed to complete it.

Your questionnaire can be filled out on a paper form or you can go to the ALC website where it can be completed and submitted online. Either way, paper and mailing or bringing to the church office, or submitting electronically online, your Transition Team needs your questionnaires to keep ALC's transition process moving forward. The deadline for completing questionnaires is September 1st, but it will be very helpful for the Transition Team to receive them before that date.

Amidst the concerns and restrictions imposed on all of us by the COVID-19 pandemic, filling out a questionnaire may not seem all that important, but rest assured, it is. With the information received from your questionnaires, your Transition Team will be able to assemble the data needed to move us forward in the selection of a new pastor for Anacortes Lutheran Church.

So, the ball is in your court. it's now your turn to participate in the ALC Transition Process. Grab a pencil, pen, laptop, or desktop computer and complete your questionnaire today (or real soon).

Thanks a bunch!

Your Transition Team;

Pastor Walt, Nancy Loftis; Team Leader, Jane Nelson, Jim Fors, Kristen Nations and Matt Kerschbaum

From the Treasurer...

Blessings to all. At the end of **June** our average monthly giving for the first 21 weeks was down by \$300 from the month before.

The average weekly giving is \$6,374.

Our Revenue to Expense ratio was **negative** \$561.

We have reserves in the checking account for the foreseeable future.

Benevolence paid in June were \$1,113 financial aid through the Deacon's Fund.

Total benevolence paid to date is \$9,613.

God is good.

Lane Phelan, Treasurer



1. **Mail** or drop in the mailbox outside the office door
2. **Mobile** - GIVEPLUS+ app.
3. **Church website** - www.anacorteslutheran.org
4. **Simply Giving Program** - pick up a form from office

Pastor Office Hours

Pastor Walt Rice is keeping **office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.** He welcomes Get Acquainted and business visits during those hours.

Pastor Deborah Butler will be in the **office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Because of COVID, they will be observing social distancing protocols. Therefore, please schedule any visits through the church office in order to make sure they are available.

A Couple of Notes:

Our dear friends in Christ,

We long for our days together again. While we are grateful to online services, it just isn't the same as seeing our friends in person.

We pray we will soon be released and be able to see our friends up close and personal. Dear Lord clear this virus.

God bless,

Bryan and Linda Walker



Dear ALC:

Thank you so much for awarding a church scholarship, particularly during an incredibly challenging time for the congregation. The support of the church has meant everything to this family, and the congregation can never know how much the scholarship and unwavering faith and support has helped.

Special shout out to Dave White and Rachel Devine for going above and beyond to assist in the application process, and being ever guiding and present. We are lucky to have Anacortes Lutheran Church.

Thank you again, so much.

Ryan Franulovich and family

You are invited to participate in "ALC Family Link"

We'd like to offer an opportunity for the adult members of Anacortes Lutheran Church to make a special connection with a child in our congregation - and for the children to connect with you!

As we think about how Anacortes Lutheran Church can continue to care for each other as we are apart, here is a great opportunity!

Here are some ideas of ways connections may be made between you and an ALC child:

- Learn a memory verse together over the phone!
- Write letters
- Call your child and read a Bible story together
- Pray for each other's families
- Have family dinners together
- Send birthday/holiday cards

It makes me think about when Paul was away from his churches, he missed them very much, and his hope was that they would grow deeper in love for God and for each other.

We can't wait to connect adult members of ALC with the children of ALC and begin extending the spirit of Paul's love to God's children. It will be a blessing to all of you and to the Body of Christ!

If you'd like to sign up to participate in "**ALC Family Link Program**" here are 3 ways to sign up:

- 1) Website online by clicking [Adult ALC Family Link](#) or [Child ALC Family Link](#)
- 2) Fill out & drop off form (*on next pages*) to the church office by August 3rd
- 3) Call the church office 360-293-9586

For additional information or questions, contact Kendra Kennedy 773-236-1666.

-The Education Committee at Anacortes Lutheran Church

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus...God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and made pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." Phil. 1: 3-4, 8-11.

ALC Family Link

Fill out this form to sign up an **ADULT** to participate in the ALC Family Link program, August-December 2020. Please return to the Church no later than August 3rd.

Contact Information

First and Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: Cell (primary) _____ Cell (secondary) _____

Home phone _____

Email address: _____

(Circle your preferred communication)

Cell (primary) Cell (secondary) Home phone Email

Age Group Preference (circle all that apply)

Elementary Middle School High School

Are you willing to make contact with your child at least 2x/month August - December 2020?
(circle one) Yes No Maybe

For additional information or questions, contact Kendra Kennedy 773-236-1666

ALC Family Link

Fill out this form to sign up a **CHILD** to participate in the ALC Family Link program, August-December 2020. Please return to the Church no later than August 3rd.

Contact Information

Child's First and Last Name: _____

Age: _____

Entering Grade (circle one) Pre-K K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Name: _____

Phone number: Cell _____ Home _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name: _____

Phone number: Cell _____ Home _____

Best email address: _____

(circle your preferred communication)

Parent #1 Cell Parent #2 Cell Home phone Email

Are you willing to participate in ALC Family Link August - December 2020?

(circle one) Yes No Maybe

For additional information or questions, contact Kendra Kennedy 773-236-1666

Prayer Time - The Power of Prayer!

Join these members of the congregation as they pray for the people on the Prayer Chain & Prayer List.

Every Tuesday BY PHONE at 1 pm
Or Pray from where you are.

If you feel a call to join them or would like more information contact Peggy 360-299-1184

If you have a **PRAYER REQUEST** for the **“Prayer Chain”** (confidential) or

Visit our Website
“Prayer Page”
for a list of people we are
praying for.



To add to or update the
“Prayer Page”
call or email the church office.

ALG SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRIME TIMERS

August Outing - Yeah!!!
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED

depending on Covid-19 Phase 3

Thursday, August 20
BROWN BAG LUNCH
at Causland Park

*Bring your own lunch, drink, silverware,
napkins and chair.*

Meet at the park at 11:00 a.m.

Please call Julie to sign up.

We hope you are having a
Happy and Healthy Summer



We look forward to getting Together soon.
We miss y'all!

Sewing Circles - Faith & Julia

*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again
I say, Rejoice! Philippians 4:4*

Greetings to everyone.

We are Praying that everyone is well and staying safe. Because of covid-19 we WILL NOT be doing our school kits this fall. We usually send them in November. As of now the November “Ingathering” is not going to take place. We are looking forward to the time we can get back together.

We also cannot accept any supplies until we are all back together and sewing again.

Gods Blessing, Faith and Julia

LWR Knitting News - Linda Anderson

August 17th, 2020 ~ Knitting 1:00 - 3:00 pm

We will meet (weather permitting) at Causland Park outdoor amphitheater, located at 710 N. Avenue (10th & N Streets). We will not meet if it is raining. That would not be fun!!!

We can sit and knot and social distance. You may want to bring water and a hat. A cushion or blanket would make for softer seating. There are no bathroom facilities there.

We will update the sweater/hat counts and can turn in our sweaters when we meet again at the church.

I will bring yarn to Causland Park. Please call me if you want more yarn before then.

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set. This year there will be one shipment in the fall.

Our last counts were:

Sweater/hat sets - 71

Hats - 6

Sweaters - 6

We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome and teaching is always available.

I hope to see you at Causland Park on August 17th.

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730



ATHENS 2019

Paul's Dangerous Journey to spread the Truth

As you can see by the picture above, last year, at this time, we were reporting on the wonderful Anacortes Lutheran Church's 2019 Vacation Bible School. This year, however, the Church was forced to cancel all Vacation Bible School plans due to the infamous Covid-19 invasion.

Not all was totally lost though. We were able to locate a virtual VBS on the internet. An evangelical church organization on the east coast came up with a concept for reaching out in a virtual manner to children all over the world. They called their program **WOW VBS**. It was a live stream video program that you could tune into on Facebook or YouTube. The video was like a loop recording that would repeat every hour. The first 40 minutes contained material for elementary age students and then there was a five minute break followed by a 10 minute session for pre-school aged children. In this way, you could just tune in at a time convenient for your schedule. They had several professional entertainers including singers, story tellers, magicians, and videos from providers like Faith Kidz. It was pretty

cool, and well done. ALC was a contributor with a small financial donation. The goal was to reach 1,000,000 children World wide. I'm betting they accomplished that.

Surely you are aware that Covid also forced us to shut down our Sunday school early this year. Yes, I know what your thinking; "I already know that and quit calling me Shirley." All kidding aside, it looks like it might be difficult to open our Sunday school this fall. At this writing there has been no decision made on how and when we will open Sunday school. At the Re-entry Committee & Education Committee meetings we are discussing our options. We will also be watching the Public school system to see what they are up to. We will most likely follow the state and synod guidelines for all our church programs. There are several options available for virtual classes in the event we are unable to meet in our classrooms. In any event, we will do our best to provide our children with solid Lutheran doctrine and keep them close in our care.

COMING EVENTS

Turning now to coming events.

We have tentatively planned an event for

Wednesday the 26th of August.

"Celebrate All Things Past, We Missed"

The event would be held in the Church parking lot at around 5:30 pm. This is a two part event because we are wanting to celebrate all the happenings that occurred while we have been unable to congregate; i.e.: birthdays, graduations, scholarships, confirmation, etc., and a sort of kickoff gathering for a program we are calling **"Family Link"** (see the article on page 6 in this months newsletter) As previously mentioned, this event is tentative so be watching your emails, the church website & Facebook pages for further details.

May the Lord be with you and keep you safe,

Dave White

Children's Ministry Director

Come Worship with us! Online

August - Sunday Worship Readings & Gospel

Follow along as you listen and watch our online worship.

	Aug. 2	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 55:1-5 / Romans 9:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Matthew 14:13-21
	Aug. 9	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	1 Kings 19:9-18 / Romans 10:5-15 Psalm 85:8-13 Matthew 14:22-33
	Aug. 16	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 / Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Psalm 67 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
	Aug. 23	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 51:1-6 / Romans 12:1-8 Psalm 138 Matthew 16:13-20
	Aug. 30	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Jeremiah 15:15-21 / Romans 12:9-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Matthew 16:21-28

We are Looking for: **READERS**

If you'd like to record yourself doing a reading for an online Worship Service, please contact the church office. It would be wonderful to see your beautiful faces once again!

Did you Know?

DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO THE PASTORS?

Pastor Walt Rice: walicoli@comcast.net

Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com

Pastors Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm,

By Appointment Only - call the church office

CD RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PAST SERVICES: If you would like them delivered directly to you, please call the church office, 360-293-9586, and ask to be put onto the delivery schedule.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW, WE HAVE? Communion cups for home communion are available at church! Living Lutheran Magazines and Christ in Our Homes devotionals are available too!

You can find ALL of them in the basket right outside the church office door.

“LIKE” OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: Anacortes Lutheran Church

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? Are you receiving emails from church? If not, call the office!

DO YOU NEED HELP? Groceries, a mask, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.

August - Birthday Blessings to You!

2	Nathan Thomas	18	Madden Nations-Pearson
3	Randy Arendse	18	Stanley Tracy
3	Karen Petersen	19	Jeanne Anderson
5	Brenda Lorentzen	19	Ensley Cook
5	Reilly Nations-Pearson	19	Ray Fowler
5	Dylan Thomas	21	Matt Connelly
6	Emerson Ott	21	Lorraine Kelly
7	Adrienne Eide	23	Megan Campbell
8	Conor DeFrancesco	24	Linda Anderson
13	Jacob Duquaine	25	Zackary Brown
14	Madelyn Berentson	25	MaKenna Nations-Pearson
14	David Bjornson	26	Emma Knutson
14	Paula Fors	26	Kevin Long
14	James Parker	26	Mallory Sullivan
14	Yvonne Paul	28	Cadie Engom
14	Blake Trafton	28	Trevor Ott
15	Karen Caracciolo	29	William Gusa
15	Bryan Walker	29	Tim Hofferth
15	Paul Phelan	29	Bud Rock
16	Jobun Tornga	30	Jennifer Brosten
17	Reese Morgenthaler	30	Sharron Ohm
17	Kira Oates	30	Adam Salnick
17	Cathy Odegaard	30	John Parker
17	Kayla Pierce	31	Daniel Elling
18	Ryan Connelly	31	Jerry Woodall
18	Lillian Devine		

Birth Announcements

Bjorn Michael Larson

Born: July 15, 2020 ~ 9lbs. 3oz. , 22" long

Parents; Jorgina Moore & Sean Larson

Big Sister; Runa

Grandparents; Dave & Mirth Moore



Audrey Layne

Born: June 4th, 2020 ~ 6lbs. , 19" long

Parents: Kaitlyn Kirby & Taylor Deshotel

Grandparents: Doug Thompson & Carol Kirby

August - Anniversaries!

2	Loren & Norma Knutsen
3	Ralph Heacox & Colleen Kenimond
5	Paul & Julie Dusenbury
9	Jerry & MaryBeth Pollard
10	Michael & Wendy Atterberry
12	Stacy & Erin Roux
13	Mathew & Johanna Tracy
17	Tim & Connie Walters
18	William & Arlene French
19	Ray & Nancy Fowler
21	Philip & Madelyn Case
24	Robert & Faith Legan
28	Dennis & Jeri Hanson
29	Maurice & Helene Fink

July - Online Worship

Church Closed due to COVID-19

JULY	VIEWES
5	93
12	106
19	103
26	48

In Loving Memory

David Elling

Died: June 28, 2020

Paul Sund

Died: July 18, 2020

*Though you have shown me
great troubles and adversities,
you will restore my life and bring me
up again from the depths of the earth.
You strengthen me more and more;
you enfold and comfort me once again.*

Psalm 71:20-21

ALC COUNCIL MINUTES – July 16, 2020

Attended: Via Zoom, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pastor Walt, Melanie Sahnaw, Kendra & Kevin Kennedy, Dave Bjornson, Les Olson & Maggie.

Bill opened the at 6:30pm with a prayer.

June mtg. notes approved as written.

Presidents Report: Thank you to everyone for all you do and working efficiently together. The process going forward per the Constitution will be that any new business must be run through the Executive Board first for approval then the Council if need be. We still have openings for Fellowship, Youth, Stewardship and Outreach Committee Chairpersons, we need 1 person to be on the Finance committee as well as 3 people interested in being on the Preschool Committee, please prayerfully consider this. Bill Gusa is working on the Nominating committee. The Constitution review is still in process with a mtg. for review and modification of chapters I-I I on July 22nd.

Pastors Report: Transition team is meeting regularly, the survey results are not coming in as hoped. We really would like more Congregation input ASAP. Please see email from Rachel and please respond. Pastor is available in office on Tuesday's and Thursday's for meetings via phone, zoom or in office.

Treasurers Report: Lane gave report. We are down \$300 from last month, average weekly needed to meet budget is \$6,374. All current bills are paid.

Old Business: Maggie asked about having an email account for the preschool, Kevin recommended getting a Gmail acct and connecting it to the church so it's easy for people to find the preschool. Jay & Kevin are still working on the software update to speed up our WIFI at the church. Live streaming task force is working hard to be up and running in early August. We purchased 1 computer monitor and have had 2 donated, Thank you. Practicing on how this all will work and hoping to include Communion. Need more discussion on technology person to set up power point and sound board each time and what committee it falls under. Will ask other churches how they do it.

New Business: Lane will Chair the Financial committee. The Constitution says all Executive Council and Chairpersons must be ALC members. The physical running of the church must go through the Executive Board to follow Policy and Procedures.

Personnel Report: No Report

WELCA Report: No Report

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: We have a supply of masks and hand sanitizer, we need signage and log in book. We are looking into the best way to open the church for meeting room use and how to schedule and record these activities. Kendra recommended using "SignupGenius", can be linked to our website. **Must follow maximum capacity limits and 6' distancing.** This would be only church members in a small group setting, offering 2 conference rooms with 1 meeting per day per room. This would allow for staff to clean properly each night. Have discussed a video with do's and don'ts. Legacy Endowment has purchased blinds for the financial secretary office upstairs. To rekey the church keeping the crash bar style opening type it will be about \$2900. We are waiting for quotes on regular doorknob type and key code type.

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Education: Kendra met with her committee via Zoom, they are still planning a “Celebration of all Things Past” (birthdays, graduations, scholarships etc.) on August 26th at 5:30 pm. Invites limited to kids participating in Family Link. Dave sent a link to youth interested in online VBS. Motion was made for the Education Committee to move forward with sign ups connecting mentors from the church with kids of the church, with parental approval. Pre-K - 12, maybe writing letters, doing memory verses, just visiting, reading books. Motion 2nd, discussion was guidelines to be followed, background checks, parental supervision, no one on one. MSP Sunday school is still up in the air, more to come on that.

Fellowship Report: No Report

Youth Report: No Report

Preschool Report: Maggie is waiting for the School District to put out fall schedule. Preschool modified schedule will be M-W-F and T-T-F and cutting each day by 30 minutes. No lunch served and have less kids with 2 teachers in each class and tuition to be the same. Need Plexiglas dividers on tables. Check in procedures will change, parents will sign child in stating that they have not been sick in 72 hours. Maybe start Sept 16th. If ASD goes to all online, then No Preschool. With Mirth retiring Maggie will now purchase own cleaning supplies. Wondering about PTO of teachers if exposed, 14 day quarantine. Has paid for the final occupancy permit \$55 and Les will get it.

Stewardship Report: No report

Worship Report: Dave said not much to report but Big thank you to Kendra and Kevin.



The next Council meeting is August 13th at 6:30pm

Melanie said the Lord’s Prayer and closed the meeting at 8:40 pm

Blessings, Melanie

I can relate!





Dear Beloveds of the Northwest Washington Synod,

I recently read the book *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson about Winston Churchill during the blitz. I was surprised to learn that Churchill was appointed prime minister on the day that German forces stormed into Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. He did not even have time to move into the prime minister's office. Instead, he began directing the war effort from his previous office. (And I thought that my first year had tumultuous events!)

On August 1, 2020, I will have completed my first year as your bishop. I have been excited, thrilled, sad, frustrated, energized, and challenged – perhaps you have been, too. I have been so grateful for everyone in this synod – the staff (Andy, Dianne, Susan, Traci, and David), the rostered ministers, and the members of our congregations/ministry sites. I have enjoyed working in the wider ELCA and with other faith leaders throughout the U.S. and the world. This call is truly a gift.

At the beginning of my call as Bishop, through prayer and conversation, I discerned what I believed God was calling us to emphasize as a synod during this first year:

- Leadership
- Community
- Youth and Young Adults
- Faithful Innovation

In collaboration with other individuals and groups within the synod, we began working on these emphases. And some good work is happening.

That said, I did not predict COVID-19. I did not predict churches stopping in-person worship nor did I understand how long this pandemic time would last. I did not anticipate how this pandemic would impact each person and each congregation in this synod. I am slowly realizing that it will be a long time before we shake hands, hug, sit closely, and sing together again.

I also did not expect that in these last months we would have marches in the streets, voices being raised, and laws being changed as people said, "Enough! Enough to systemic racism and brutality against people of color. Enough!" I did not anticipate that there is new possibility in this world towards true peace and justice if we all do the hard work God is calling us to do.

This is an exciting – and challenging – time to be church. But what opportunities we have! God is calling us to new ways of living, new ways of doing, and new ways of being. Truly, God is calling us to new life in Christ! As we hear in Romans 6:4, "*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*"

So, what will come in my second year as your bishop? If it is anything like this first year, a lot will happen! I anticipate that there will be highs and lows, joys and sorrows, confession and forgiveness, surprises and wonders. Through it all, though, I trust that God will be with us - in, with, and under – as we move forward together.

Every day I give thanks for you. I am so grateful to be with you on this journey. I thank you for your trust in me as your bishop and I thank God every day for the Spirit who calls us, gathers us, and sends us out into the world. May you rest, breathe, and act in God's love, justice, and true peace.

In the Hope and Love of Christ,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



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

[See ALL Upcoming Events at www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update](http://www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update)

On right sidebar find recent announcements. (Mobile users, select "see full site" to view the sidebar.)