



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church
December 2021 Newsletter

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

Well, I made it! I have started the process of figuring out all the different ministries that are going on and how the regular schedule happens. For the next few months (probably many more) I will be doing a lot of observation and asking of questions. I will be trying to learn about this new culture of life and ministry in Anacortes and how I can best become a part of it. As many of you heard at the Question and Response gathering we had following the worship service on October 3rd (or perhaps watched the YouTube replay), coming to the Pacific Northwest has been something Gina and I have been thinking about for over 25 years. It is good to be here!

I will use this first article to let you know a little more about myself so that when you see me doing something 'peculiar' you may think to yourself, "Oh, yeah, he did mention that in the newsletter article."

Here goes:

I was born in Minnesota and spent most of my first 25 years there. I did go to Disneyland and Disneyworld with my aunt and younger brother, but other than that Minnesota was where I existed. Summers were often spent camping, spending times with friends, and swimming and boating (we lived on a small lake). The rest of the year often centered around school and church. I am one of those 'cradle Lutherans' who has spent much time in the circles of faith and the Church, and perhaps knows a little too much about the quirkiness that the Lutheran faith brings to Christianity. After spending university (Augsburg College) and seminary (Luther Seminary) in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Area, Gina and I moved out to rural Montana for our first call experience. Spending three years there was a time of learning how even congregations that were close in proximity geographically could vary widely in their expression of the Lutheran faith (it was a 3-point parish). We also learned how to help with harvesting, insemination of cattle, and building relationships with the neighboring Hutterite colonies. We learned how important faith was when you were in farming and ranching, as so much was out of your control.

After living in Montana, we made a move up to Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Gina was employed by U.S. Immigration) and spent the next 17+ years learning what it meant to live in a foreign country as an American,

learning how the metric system made so much sense, learning and experiencing what a Chinook wind was, learning the sport of curling and underwater hockey, and so much more. If you are interested, we would be willing to share much more about our time there. While in Calgary, our daughter Sophie was born and has now grown into a wonderful young woman studying at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA. After spending 14+ years serving a congregation in Calgary, we returned to the US with a move to California. Living in Los Angeles has been one of the hardest, and most exciting, times of our lives. We have seen so much in the 5 years we have lived and worked in LA that it is hard to believe that we are in another transition. One of the highlights of our time in LA was learning about being a background actor. If you would like to know the productions that Sophie and I (only working one production in common) have been a part of we would be willing to go down the list. You may have seen either of us on your TV screen before you ever knew you would see us in person!

There is so much to share, and now we will have the time to build those relationships and share of ourselves with one another. We will grow together through all that life will bring into our lives, and we will do it together. We have been called by God into this life, and work of ministry, and we will pray, share, and hope for what God has in store for us in the coming years.

It is a blessing to be with you, and may we be a blessing to the world around us!

Pastor Scott



Christmas Eve Worship

Holy Communion & Candlelight Services

In Person - 3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm

Live streaming 5 pm service



ALC FREE Community Christmas Day Dinner

Pandemic Style Drive Thru Pick-Up

Saturday, December 25th 11:00 am- 2:30 pm

(Enter parking Lot from "O" Ave & proceed as directed)

Even though we will not be having a sit down dinner, the Fellowship hall will still be filled with wonderful aromas and joyful voices of all the volunteers putting together dinners for those taking them home. As well as friendly drivers delivering meals to the homebound and to the Fire Department.

As in past years it will take many Volunteers to help carryout this important outreach.

Anne will be at the Welcome desk in the narthex before and after services on Sunday to sign you up and answer questions. You may also contact the office or Anne Barry directly to sign up to help.

Thank you, Anne Barry & Don Devine Dinner Co-coordinators

STEWARDSHIP REPORT - John Parker

Stewardship is defined as the job of taking care of something - protecting it. Like the tribes of Israel who protected and nurtured the Ark of the Covenant across the Sinai desert for 40 years, we all are guardians and Stewards of the concept, taught to us by Christ, which promises us the boundless love of God. This Church is our "Ark." And we have the sacred duty (and the joy!) to protect it, nurture it, and maintain it. Our reward is to live safely here, bathed in the love of our extended Church Family. Every year at this time, we plan our activities for the coming year, and estimate our income and expenses to accomplish that mission - the faithful stewardship of this Ark. This year's Budget Planning is proceeding well, and a Comprehensive Budget proposal will be made to the Church Council in early December. We know a few things will be exciting as we go through this process:

- 1) First and Happiest, we enter the new year welcoming a wonderful new spiritual leader. We are blessed to have found such a strong and experienced Pastor. Pastor Scott will provide a fresh and valuable perspective as we develop a final draft for presentation to the Congregation in January.
- 2) There are several high dollar building maintenance items that must be attended to, such as stained glass window repair, furnace replacement, foundation/drain sealing and repair, and parking lot paving , just to name a few.
- 3) Our Anacortes Lutheran Preschool budgeting and operations will be fully incorporated in the overall Church budget and this will be a powerful planning aid. Anacortes Lutheran Preschool is widely regarded as the best in the city.
- 4) Finally, we anticipate annual operating expenses will increase at least 10% over last year. But the last two years have not been typical in any way, and predictions based on recent costs will be subject to a lot of uncertainty. Please consider increasing your regular giving. Ten percent would be wonderful, everything will be a blessing.

Your fellow Steward In Christ,

John Parker
Anacortes Lutheran Stewardship Chair

GIVING - OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE

Our 2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex (*at the back of the church*) in December.

If you have not had envelopes recently but would like a set in 2022, please let Linda Millo, the financial recorder, know. If you have had offering envelopes in 2020 or 2021 and would prefer **not** to use them, please let Linda know that as well.

You can leave a note in the offering plate, call the church office, call Linda at 206-335-4295 or e-mail millo2@aol.com.

***4 ways to Give**

- 1) GivePlus App on your phone
- 2) Offering envelopes - check
- 3) Simply Giving program
- 4) Our website and click on the Giving tab at the top of the page

OUTREACH - Reach Out

Caring and Sharing

SEMINAR - Monday - December 13, 2021

Join us 1:00 to 2:00 pm in Conference room #1

We continue following in Jesus' footsteps as we discuss the materials from the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. Did you miss the November session? We can send you the hand out from the seminar and the minutes from the discussion; just call Peggy at 360-299-1184 and she will send it to you.

PRAYER GROUP

NEW TIME: 1:00 to 2:00pm
Every Tuesday

Come in person to the Prayer Chapel or call 1-518-351-9735. Come experience the quiet, peaceful, serenity of connecting with others in prayer.

PRAYER CHAIN

We have two openings on the Prayer Chain. Applicants need to be able to accurately relay prayer requests by phone. Confidentiality is required. You may fully participate via your cell phone when out of town. Call Peggy for more information. 360-299-1184

ALTAR GUILD - NEEDS YOU!

Consider joining us, more hands make less work! We prepare the altar area and set up communion for worship.

We meet the last Monday of the month at 10:30 am, in Conference room #2.

Questions? Gunilla Wold (360) 293-8560

SHOEBOX THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations. We collected over 45 boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

Linda Walker

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL THANK YOU - DECEMBER 5TH

Sunday, December 5 We will be thanking two special members who have served our church faithfully. The pandemic has put this on hold for awhile.

Mirth Moore has worked at Anacortes Lutheran Church since 1993. She had a few breaks in service as custodian, but never let us down checking doors at night and she still purchases supplies for us and makes sure our eternal flame is always lit.

Dave White worked in Children's Ministry for years and has a heart for education.

Please join us in thanking them both. You may bring cards and thoughts of thankfulness.



THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

The tree is up in the Narthex (*the back of the church*) with all of the Angels with gifts that are needed. The tree is filled with angel gift tags that are needed for the two families we are sponsoring.

One family has a mother and 2 girls, ages 13 and 16.

The second family has a mother and 2 children, a girl age 8 yrs. and a boy age 7 yrs.

They need clothing, gift certificates for food, warm bedding, etc. One of the families need furniture besides personal needs. A bunk bed, dressers, sofa, small table and chairs. If you have any of these items to share please let me know.

Please take an angel, buy the gift and return it to under the Christmas tree unwrapped with the tag attached.

We hope to have all of the gifts collected by Tuesday, December 14.

If you have questions please call Jeaneen 360-293-7829 or Jeanette 360-708-4865.

Thank you for your help with this project .



HOMEBOUND? WE'LL BRING YOU CHRISTMAS DINNER



Delivered by
ANACORTES LUTHERAN CHURCH
Saturday, December 25 - Between 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.

To schedule delivery, call the church office
no later than NOON - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Anacortes Lutheran Church office 360-293-9586

JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY - OUTREACH FOR CHRISTMAS

We are still collecting Christmas gifts for residents of Josephine Caring Community.

A few suggestions are: colored pencils & coloring books, playing cards, electric shavers, brightly colored blankets...Make it a present that would be suitable for a male, female, or generic. Then label the present as such.



For wrapping, please use a simple gift bag, so staff at Josephine can see what the gift is and sanitize them.

Please bring gifts to ALC Conference rm #2 during office hours. Deadline is Friday, December 10th.

I, and many others, are so very grateful for your compassion and your help at this holy time.

Thank you, Jerry Bongard

SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

SEWING DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7 ONLY

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Bring a sack lunch & stay.

In the Fellowship Hall

(We will be back to sewing January 4, 2022)

We sent our shipment to Seattle Friday, Nov 4th.
Thank you Brian Walker & Bob Higgins for driving the truck.

Thank you to Linda Walker, Jenny Remmerden, Jeanette Christensen, Lane & Paul Phelan and Clarence Rogers for weighing all the boxes.

We sent: 114 Quilts
219 School Kits
137 Personal Kits
17 Fabric Kits
175 Baby Kits

It all weighed out at 18740 lbs.

Love in Christ,
Julia Rogers

WELCA - CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

**WELCA - Women of the ELCA
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
December 14 at 11:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall.**



All women are invited to come and spend the morning with us.

We will have a brunch, sing Christmas carols, have devotions and time to spend with each other.

GET-TOGETHER - Taco Ole'

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

at 11:00 am *note time change

In the Fellowship Hall

The theme is: **Merry Christmas**

Please call, text or email to sign up before Wednesday, December 15.

Don't forget to bring your drink.

A special thank you to those people bringing toppings for the taco pizza.

**Have a great month, stay safe, and be happy.
We look forward to seeing you soon.**

Paul & Julie Dusenbury

LWR KNITTING NEWS

MEETING DATE: Taking Fall/Winter Break

**Season's Greetings &
a blessed Christmas to you all.**

As we continue to knit at home, please call me with your finished sweater/hat counts or if you would like more yarn,

Our current Spring 2022 total is:

Sweater/hat sets – 25

Sweaters – 0

Hats – 0

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief.

One sweater/hat set goes into each layette set.

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

~Linda Anderson 360 588-1730

Acolytes are wanted for Sunday services in December & Christmas Eve services

Find a friend in church that you can acolyte with.

Then let Rachel in the office know which Sunday you would like to serve.

CONFIRMATION - Grades 6th - 8th

Confirmation will take **December off**, and start up again the first Sunday in January at 9am.

Confirmation students have been requested to help with the Christmas program by joining the Sunday School kids when they go upstairs after the children's sermon.

Speak to Stacey Pestar for more info.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

No Bible study in December

WELCA –Christmas Brunch will take its place
December 14 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL - K-5th grades

10:00 am in sanctuary

Join us in Worship for the first 15 minutes in church and then be dismissed to Sunday school after the children's sermon.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

EVERY THURSDAY at 7:00 am **In conference room #1**

Led by Boyd Veer

COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

Our Scout units are collecting food for the community food locker!

Bring any cans or non-perishables.

No outdated items please.

Drop off boxes are located outside of the Fellowship Hall. Collection will continue through December.

Contact Robert & Rebecca Eggleston for pickup.



BSA SCOUT TROOPS 4084

- **BOY TROOP** - ages 11-17
Mondays at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Robert Eggleston
509-230-9648 / manu_tara@hotmail.com
- **GIRL TROOP** - ages 11-17
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Rebecca Eggleston
360-588-8328 /scoutmaster4084g@gmail.com
- **CUB PACK** - ages 5-10 or K-5th grade
1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
In the Sunday School rooms
Leader: Kyle Ellertson
907-888-1638 / kellertson84@yahoo.com

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 41804

(Brownies - 2nd grade)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays on 6:30 pm

Meet in Youth room

Leader: Cherie Goyer

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

December 5th - Elementary Bible Distribution

Our 1st-5th graders will be receiving their personal Bibles during the Children's Message.



December 19th - Christmas Program

Sunday school is going to be taking a detour on our trip through the Books of the Bible to prepare for our Christmas Program. Now until December 19th, the children will be practicing the skit and songs. We are excited to announce that they will be performing an all new Christmas program written by Pastor Rice. The skit will include the Sunday School children, Confirmation students, members from the congregation, solos, and choir. You don't want to miss it!

In preparation for the program, we will be practicing our carols every Sunday until the 19th. It would be greatly appreciated if we could have the kids to Sunday school every Sunday. The script and song lyrics has gone home with the kids. Parents please help your child learn their lines and lyrics.

Rehearsal will immediately follow Sunday School on December 12th.

On the 19th arrive no later than 9:00 am to get on costumes. We thank you for your support.



December 12-19

Volunteers wanted:

Shopping helper, Present wrapper, Set up, Tear down, Make crafts

Anacortes Lutheran Church children, grandchildren, cousins, and friends are invited to shop, wrap, and surprise loved ones with inexpensive gifts at the Children's Christmas Store. Most items are priced for less than \$1.00.

Store Hours:

Sunday, 12/12	9:00 am - NOON
Wednesday, 12/15	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday, 12/19	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Monday, 12/20	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
(Adult shoppers - bring \$ donations to the front office)	

*Store is located in the basement (Youth room) of the Anacortes Lutheran Church.
Don't forget to bring bags and money to shop!

Kendra Kennedy / Education Committee Chair

Worship with us near and afar

Join us for Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am

Or Watch the livestream service from your home by going to our website at <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org> & click tab "Online Ministry"

This is what you can expect when coming to Worship in person.

- Please Enter by way of the handicap ramp to the right of the main church doors.
- Masks are required of everyone inside of the church building.
- Signing in is still necessary for contact tracing.
- Communion is given with a prefilled all-in-one juice & wafer communion cup.
- Singing is permissible with your mask covering your nose and mouth.
- A full service Bulletin is available with the Sunday Scoop announcements.
- Hymnals & Bibles are in the pews.

After Worship please join us for Coffee hour in the Fellowship hall.

During coffee hour please remember to wear your mask when not eating and drinking, Thank you!



DECEMBER - Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel

December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent Presentation of Sunday School Bibles	<i>Readings:</i> Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 <i>Psalm:</i> Philippians 1:3-11 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 3:1-6	<i>Reader:</i> Grace Boggio	<i>Acolytes:</i>
December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent	<i>Readings:</i> Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 <i>Psalm:</i> Philippians 4:4-7 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 3:7-18	<i>Reader:</i> Lois Cassidy	<i>Acolytes:</i>
December 19 4th Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program	<i>Readings:</i> Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 <i>Psalm:</i> Hebrews 10:5-10 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:39-55	<i>Reader:</i> Joseph Pestar	<i>Acolytes:</i>
December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Candle light Services 3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm	<i>Readings:</i> Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 96 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 2:1-20	<i>Readers:</i> 3 pm - 5 pm - 10 pm - Don Devine	<i>Acolytes:</i> 3 pm - Eggleston twins 5 pm - 10 pm -
December 26 1st Sunday of Christmas	<i>Readings:</i> 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 148 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 2:41-52	<i>Reader:</i> Persephone Pestar	<i>Acolytes:</i>

DECEMBER - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Nancy Loftis	15	Matthew Sullivan
4	Ida Ford	17	Breauna Sullivan
5	Johanna Tracy	19	Carl Ellsworth Jr.
6	Robert Claus	20	Jim Carver
6	Brianna Etlicher	20	Pat Faulkner
8	Stacey Pestar	20	Diane Gusa
8	Melanie Sahnaw	22	Colleen Legan
10	Connie Bliss	23	Anne Barry
10	William Rasar	23	Philip Case
10	Norm Vigre	24	Chuck Arneson
11	Madeline Lowrie	24	Irene Parker
11	Matthew Lowrie	26	Owen Espinoza
12	Robert Eggleston Jr.	26	Hannah Smythe
12	Tyson Mavar	27	Jason Meyers
12	Jeni Richards	28	Matthew Phelan
13	Ed Berg	29	Darcy Storme
15	Alice Dohve	30	Peggy White
15	Sheila Duquaine	31	Norma Knutsen
		31	Dana McCoy

DECEMBER - Wedding Anniversaries!

2	Gary & Judy Card
2	Donald & Rachel Devine
12	Robert Jr. & Rebecca Eggleston
18	Robert & DeAnna Claus
18	Glenn Martin & Juli Sullivan
27	Stan & Leone Zimmerman
27	Blake & Tammy Tornga
31	Matt & Ginny Connelly

NOVEMBER - Worship Services

Date	Events	Live Stream	In person
7	All Saints Day	46	106
14		74	92
21	Christ the King	52	131
28	Not available at time of printing		

Church Office will be Closed
Friday, December 24th
Christmas Eve

THIS & THAT- BITS & PIECES

- DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR? Schedule an appointment by email or calling the office
Pastor Scott Peterson: pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org
Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com
- 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 - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>
- HAS YOUR PHONE #, ADDRESS OR EMAIL CHANGED? Are you receiving emails from church? Call the office!
- DO YOU NEED HELP? Ride to worship, a mask, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.
- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Third Monday of every month.
- PRAYER UPDATES: Call or email the church office additions or updates to the prayer list.

Available for you on the counter next to the church office.

- CD RECORDINGS: If you would like them delivered directly to you, call the church office
- DEVOTIONALS AND MORE: Christ in Our Homes devotionals, Living Lutheran Magazines, newsletters.

ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Attendees: Dave Bjornson, Jeaneen Brogan, Jeanette Christensen, Kendra Kennedy, Anita Holzemer, Bill LeDuc, Les Olsen, John Parker, Lane Phelan, Peggy White.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Bill LeDuc followed by an opening prayer.

October council minutes were corrected to reflect a requested monthly rate for the parking lot usage. It should have been \$375, not the listed \$450. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Currently we are in the black. Third quarter benevolences are yet to be paid. We expect offerings to rise as people return once we have a new pastor.

President's Report: A thank you was received from Pr Walt. Our Boy Scout troop has been asked to weed the parking lot. We will provide the tools, and they will weed and paint the stripes. A thank you was sent to the Sahnaw's for cleaning and painting the front steps.

Old Business:

1. South Wall Repair Part I has begun. Money in the maintenance budget will cover initial costs.
2. The Legacy Endowment Fund has made two donations from their local mission funds: \$2000 to Josephine Sunset Home and \$1000 to El Camino de Emaus.
3. The church has purchased a business Zoom license. Please coordinate with Rachel to arrange use.
4. Tentative plans for an appreciation for Mirth Moore and Dave White has been set for Sunday, Dec 5 following the children's sermon.
5. FAST team ideas? A list for volunteer readers is at the back of the church. An informal sign-up process will remain at the back of the church for now. We will revisit the process after the first of the year.
6. New toilets for basement are not needed. Water was just turned off. One stool was removed and capped off; the other two will be turned back on.
7. The church has an Amazon account. There is some question on if we have one account or two – one for our Smile account and one for our Kindle. Kendra will follow up. Reminder that all orders need to be coordinated and placed through Rachel.
8. Upstairs computer is working and online. We are working with the Church Windows software and will be transitioning to its contributions module.

New Business

1. Welcoming Committee for Pr Scott: We currently have three volunteers. More volunteers are needed. Please call the church office or contact a council rep to volunteer. Office set up and supplies are being coordinated by Rachel and Pr Deborah. We will wait until Pr Scott arrives to see what technology needs there are.
2. Arrangements for Service on Nov 21st: A welcome email will be sent from synod. Ads have been placed in the Clamdigger and Anacortes American announcing the new pastor's arrival. Sandwich board will be set out front.
3. Heat upstairs for Sunday School area. Les will look into turning it back on for Sunday School and the offering counters.
4. Brainstorming ideas on what we would like the new pastor to concentrate on when he arrives. Ideas suggested include: Gathering the congregation after Covid and death of Pr Benson. Reigniting the youth program. Picture directory. Small group congregational meetings. Meet with finance team re: budget, future plans, potential audit/ financial review. Bible studies. Confirmation. Live stream/social media involvement. Streamline communications with staff/council. Get involved with staff and staff oversight. Involvement with council and leadership. Get a building tour from Les.

Council minutes cont....

5. Thank you notes to Call Committee members will be sent. Peggy White will provide the cards and put them in Bill's box for signature. Council members need to look for them there and sign them.
6. MSP for a fundraiser for foundation repair. John Parker will kick off the fundraiser on Sunday, Nov 14th. More details to follow in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Worship: Final details on our Advent schedule will wait until Pr Scott arrives. Clip nametags have been generously donated. Advent service live stream would be done, but on a volunteer basis. Worship will investigate streamlining the sign-in process to prevent long lines of people waiting to check in.

Outreach: An Opportunity Counter on wheels is proposed to facilitate sharing information with visitors. This committee has many activities involving the Prayer Group and Prayer Chain, in-home member visitation, bulletin board update, Christmas dinner, and Operation Shoebox, media greetings for Pastor Scott, Evangelism Seminar series, new Visitor Guides, and new signage for visitors.

Education: Confirmation currently meets Sunday mornings from 9-10. They will be taking December off and will resume in January. Currently they have up to 9 members. Christmas store donations are being collected and a Thrivent card has been donated to help with expenses. Currently Sunday School has 5-11 kids and 1-2 teachers. Bible Presentations will be done on Dec 5th. Christmas program rehearsals are starting. Tree decorating: It was suggested to let the kids decorate the bottom half. Save the fragile ornaments to be added later.

Personnel: Pr Deborah's contract will not be renewed due to budget constraints. It is currently set to expire at the end of January. She will make plans to visit all members currently on the prayer list. Council Agenda item for December: Discuss a thank you for her. Live stream team is looking for feed back. Worship Committee will put it on their rolling agenda. Facebook oversight will be done by Personnel for now with the eventual takeover by Outreach Committee.

WELCA: The quilt shipment was delivered last week. It included sweaters, school kits, and hygiene kits. Largest shipment ever. Dec brunch will be held on Dec 14th. Photos will be given to Becky for Facebook publicity. Jeanette will organize a kitchen cleaning before the Christmas dinner.

Properties: Welcome back, Les! Plans to decorate the church scheduled for Nov 27th. All are invited.

Stewardship: Budget for next year is shaping up nicely. It will be voted on at next month's council meeting.

Next meeting will be on December 9th at 6:30 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary



BISHOPS MESSAGE – *The Spirit* December 2021

Miriam sings, “Sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously!” Exodus 15:21

Hannah sings, “My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God!” 1 Samuel 2:1

Mary sings, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!” Luke 1:46

I am so grateful for the stories of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. I love their spirit. I love their faith. I love their songs. I love that even with the great adversity, sorrow, and difficulty each of them endured, Miriam, Hannah, and Mary defiantly sang.

Each of these women’s stories unfolded in a world that seemed bleak. A world of systemic injustice and no safety nets. A world where people upheld their own power to the detriment of others. A world where people refused to see another person made in God’s image before them. A world where people threw away people because they were perceived as “less than.” A world where people threw away people because they could not bear children. A world where people threw away people because they became pregnant without being married.

And while their experiences are not our experiences, for many still today, the world feels desperate.

Today, so many people are living in dire conditions. So many who are hungry, houseless, voiceless. We have injustice and violence, racism and hatred. We have anger and acrimony. We have the spreading of lies and misinformation. As I write this, our world is grieving the deaths of over 5 million people who have died of COVID. Over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States this past year. And so many other deaths and losses. There are still people that society throws away. There are still people that other people don’t even look at as human.

And yet ... And yet ...

We have Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. We have their defiant voices lifted up singing not only to their world in their time – but beyond their time – to us – and to future generations beyond us.

In this Advent time, let us turn to the stories and the songs of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. Let us remember their prophetic voices. Let us remember their perseverance, their faith, and their grit. For even as the reality around them was difficult, they continued to sing of a new day, a new promise, a new reality.

May these amazing prophet women bring hope to us in this time. May we remember that new life is coming. May we trust that the world now is not how the world will be. May we hold before us that, through Christ, a new day is being born.

In this Advent time, we live in anticipation and in faith. And we sing. We sing.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:

“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;

She conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth

Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

ELW #266, All Earth is Hopeful vs. 3

In Advent Hope,
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org