



GATHER

Together in 2022

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church
January 2022 Newsletter

*“O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!” – Psalm 8*

January 1st this year is celebrated in the Church as the festival of the Holy Name of Jesus. Psalm 8, which began this article is the appointed psalm for the day. I believe that there is no better way to begin the year than by remembering that we follow Jesus and hope to walk in his ways. January 1st is also the 8th day of the season of Christmas. We often forget that Christmas (like Easter) is a season and not just a celebration of one or two days, but we also forget to hold that feeling of hope and expectation from Advent into the coming Epiphany season.

continued on page 2

I have always been surprised that some people feel that church is boring or “not for me”. I wonder what would make ‘church’ more palatable or fun. And that gets me thinking about what we think of as church. For many, it is the building that holds our times of worship and other milestones like baptisms, weddings, and funerals. For some, it is the Sunday morning worship service when we tell others that, “we are going to church.” And those who are more interested in the Augsburg Confession, may think of it as “The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered.” (Article 7)

I believe the important part of that last definition is the word “congregation”. As you see it is not capitalized, which makes one think that it is used as a verb. It is the coming together of the people of God that makes us church. We are the church as we gather. We are the church when we assemble to share our lives with one another. Does it need to be at 10am on a Sunday morning? No. Although gathering for the rituals of worship is very important. We are led from confession to benediction, through the Word and sharing of Communion, to remember who we are as God’s people and followers of Jesus.

So where else do we find ‘church’? We find it in the Sunday School classroom when students and teachers share the love of God. It is found at the choir practice where people gather to sing and praise and pray. It is the Bible Study that meets to explore the Word of God. It is the Council meeting. It is the dinner table where we stop to say thanks for the blessings in our lives. It is the hospital room. It is the front yard where we greet the neighbor.

Are you getting the idea? Church is where we gather to share and give of ourselves to one another as people of God. I was once asked if it is church “when I am on the mountain or in the forest or at the shoreline and feel close to God?” I gently answered, “no.” That is not church, but it is a time of prayer and communion with God. It is a time important to our lives as spiritual beings and I would not take those moments away. But it is not ‘church’. (Maybe take one or two friends with you, then it may become church— for as Matthew 18:20 says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”)

As we begin this new year of 2022, let us gather together (keeping COVID protocols in mind) and give thanks for the blessings of God in our lives.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Scott



THE INSTALLATION SERVICE

of

The Rev. Scott C. Peterson

as

Pastor of Anacortes Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 30, 2022

10:00 am

A FAREWELL MESSAGE - Pastor Deborah Butler

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens ...

When I started as Visitation Pastor in March, 2018, I envisioned mostly spending time with shut-ins and people dealing with illness, and leading worship once a month, working in partnership with Pastor Benson. It was to be a season of retirement with some pastoral work added on so I could continue to serve the church. I was looking forward to pastoral ministry without administrative responsibility and lots of meetings!

There's a saying which goes, 'You know how to make God laugh? Tell God your plans.' I doubt God was laughing, but my plans certainly didn't go as expected. I imagined enjoying an easy balance of retirement and pastoral ministry. None of us ever envisioned that cancer was going to strike Pastor Benson and take her from us. None of us—especially me—ever expected the call to come for me to take on the role of full-time Respite Pastor from August 2019 until May 2020. It was a season of painful loss, and it was a season where we still continued to faithfully do God's work. It was a season where we loved and cared for one another in our time of grief. I was happy to welcome Pastor Walt Rice to our community as Transition Pastor and figured I would be back to pastoral care and once-a-month worship leadership.

Then came COVID. All the expectations for the season of transition to a new called pastor were upset as we had to rely on zoom and videos and livestream for worship and meetings. The whole staff pitched in to ensure worship continued, and together we spent many hours figuring out how to manage technology and planning and recording and zooming in order to keep the ministry of our church going. And, thankfully, dedicated staff and volunteers, in fact all of you who are part of the ALC family, managed to do that. It was, and still is, a season of disruption and concern for the well-being of our siblings here and around the globe. It is a season when we are called to embody the risen Christ to our neighbors by our loving service

Now we welcome Pastor Scott Peterson to lead the people of Anacortes Lutheran into a new and exciting season of ministry! I believe the Spirit has led Pastor Scott to ALC and that he will be a blessing to this faith community.

Now there will be a new season for me as my time as Visitation Pastor will come to an end on January 31. January 9th will be my last Sunday leading worship. It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor. I am grateful for the support and encouragement you have offered me. Jay and I are especially thankful for the love you have shown us after the death of our son, James.

I'm still going to be here in Anacortes, so we'll meet at the grocery store and elsewhere. Jay will be available to help with your hardware needs at Sebo's and your sailing needs at Butler Rigging. And, of course, I will continue to pray for you in all the seasons of life and ministry in all the years to come.

May God's peace be with you always.

Shalom,
Pastor Deborah

FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT...

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as your president these last three years, and to assist the Council in navigating some challenging times, with COVID and the transition / Call process. The time has come for the Anacortes Lutheran Church family to adjust once more to the ever-changing challenges of spiritual life in our congregation, pray for the health and welfare of Pastor Scott and our leadership in the community.

Dave Bjornson and I have been diligently searching for candidates to continue and improve on the congregational representation for the next couple of years, but need your help to put forth a ballot of officers in preparation for the annual meeting next month. Take a few moments every day and offer a prayer how you might help our family maintain the ministries of community and faith at ALC.

The Council positions currently vacant for the 2022 church year are:

President, President-Elect, Worship, Fellowship, and Youth Committee Chairs.

A member of the congregation must also be on the Preschool Committee and an advisory member of the Council. A new position also should be considered for a confirmed youth member to advise the Council.

The most important message I have to impart is how much I have been blessed with the help and guidance of Dave Bjornson as Worship Chair, but must give a well deserved thank you to the remaining Council members entrusted with 2022 duties:

Treasurer: Lane Phelan
Secretary: Anita Holzemer
Stewardship: John Parker
Education: Kendra Kennedy
Property: Les Olsen
Outreach: Peggy White
Personnel: Jeaneen Brogan
WELCA: Jeanette Christensen

These folks, and so many more volunteers to keep things running would take many more pages to acknowledge, but my appreciation for all the efforts of staff and volunteers at ALC goes without question.

Lastly, I am hoping over the next few months to find a way to continue helping ALC in some other capacity. I thank God every day for letting me live here and associate with His children at ALC.

May His grace and blessings be ever present,

Bill LeDuc

FROM THE HEART!

Thank you very much for the cards, gift card and beautiful quilt. I was very honored for the recognition. I really appreciate all of you!



Thank you again!
Mirth Moore

JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY

THANK YOU!

Today I delivered a car full of presents for residents of Josephine Caring Community. Front passenger seat; back seat; and trunk full of presents from Anacortes Lutheran Church. Really good; really nice presents. The staff were amazed at our generosity and thanked me for being the delivery guy. They asked me to thank you. So. Thank you, You are a super bunch of givers!!!



Jerry Bongard
Delegate for Josephine Caring Community

VOLUNTEERS Needed

YOUR >> GIFT | TALENT | SKILLS | TIME

CAN YOU COUNT AND ADD NUMBERS?

Then you qualify to join this group of people who count the weekly offerings.

Contact Linda Millo if you are interested.

ALTAR GUILD - NEEDS YOU!

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

We will meet this month January 3rd at 10:30 am in Conference room #2.

Questions? Gunilla Wold (360) 293-8560

ANGEL TREE FAMILIES UPDATE

Thank you from WELCA

We would like to thank you for supporting our Christmas families. We were able to provide one family with a bed, couch, 2 chairs, dresser. Also we gave each of the family members clothing, bedding, and food.

The sewing ladies gave each of the people a quilt, thank you for that. Bags of food and grocery store food cards were given too.

Thank you again for all the ways you helped.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER - UPDATE

Christmas and the Community Christmas Dinner will have come and gone, by the time that you read this. Thank you to all who volunteered to help with this important outreach. To all who prayed for the health of everyone involved and for the success of the dinner.

Be sure to look for the full report with all the details in the Annual Report out in February.

Thank you to all and God Bless you.



Anne Barry & Don Devine, Co-coordinators

ALC WEEKLY UPDATE EMAIL

Have you been getting our Thursday Weekly Update email Blast? It contains all up and coming events and meetings at church, notices, announcements, Sunday scripture readings, and links newsletters, community events and much, much more.

Don't miss out of what's going on,
start receiving the Thursday email blast

"ALC Weekly Update"

Send an email to: info@ancorteslutheran.org

Subject line: ALC Weekly Update

OUTREACH - Reach Out

Caring and Sharing

2022— A Brand New Year! Celebrate with a brand new OUTLOOK - looking out for visitors on Sunday mornings. The **Welcome Desk** is looking out for friendly folks, young and old, to greet visitors and help them feel comfortable worshipping with us. If you know where the bathrooms are, you are qualified. Simply add your name to the calendar at the welcome desk to choose a Sunday, and before or after worship. Try it, you'll like it!

SEMINAR

The Reach Out Seminar and Outreach Committee will NOT meet in January

WANT AD

Is it Teck or Tech? Outreach Committee is in need of help with requests to advertise on social media. If you know about social media, please contact Peggy at 360-299-1184! :)



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

LINK UP

No meetings, no reports, no zoom.

Your ALC family needs someone like you to keep our Prayer Chain strong. Are You willing to pray for your ALC brothers and sisters when they have a need of prayer? If so please call Peggy for more information. 360-299-1184

HOW TO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUESTS

Call the church office, a Pastor or the Prayer chain to submit or update a prayer request. You will be asked if you would like it to be Confidential or Printed.

CONFIDENTIAL - Prayer Chain and Pastors only

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.

PRINTED - In our Prayers listed in Sunday Scoop and on the Prayer Page of website

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

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

SOUND SYSTEM PEOPLE NEEDED! -TRAINING PROVIDED

After many, many years of service, Jim Carver is stepping away as the head of the sound system team!

Thank you Jim!!!

We are looking for people to join the Sound System Team – currently consisting of Brian Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer and Pat Carrie Smith. With only have a few people on the team, the addition of one or two more would make a huge difference! Thank you, all!

Basic duties include being a trained member of the sound system team, working with Laurie Julius-Carver for scheduling, trainings, equipment replacements and communicating with the team.

If you feel this could be a place for you to shine, please let the church office or Laurie know.

****Secret Fact:** you get to sit up in the choir loft, one of the coolest places in the church!

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - JOB OPENINGS

Live Stream Manager

We would like to thank Kevin Kennedy for his service and work of getting the Live Stream up and working each week. He has decided to retire from this job and so we are looking for someone who is willing to continue with this work. Applications and job description are in the office.

Nursery Attendant Needed

The Church Council has decided that we will open the nursery for church service therefore we need a nursery attendant. Job description and applications are in the church office



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

in Church office
by Monday, January 10th



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 6
11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

WELCOME DESK

Where is it? In the Narthex– the area between the entrance of the front doors and the Fellowship Hall.

What is on it? Christ in our home devotionals, Living Lutheran magazines, Monthly Newsletters.
Sign up sheets for ways to serve during worship: Acolyte, readers, coffee host, bring treats, Volunteer opportunities.
Childrens books, crayons and paper activities.

SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

We are starting another New Year 2022!

SEWING DAYS TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 18 & 25

In the Fellowship Hall

We start at 9:00 am
and continue till 2:00 pm

We take a break for lunch at 12 noon.

So, Bring a sack lunch & stay for the fellowship.

Everyone is welcome!

Save in Christ,
Julia Rogers

LWR KNITTING NEWS

MEETING DATE: Taking Fall/Winter Break

Happy New Year!

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

Our current Spring 2022 total is:

Sweater/hat sets – 49

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

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS**

GET-TOGETHER - MUFFIN MUNCHIES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

The theme is:

“Summer Fun”

Please call, text, or email to
sign up before Wednesday,
January 12.

* Don't forget to bring your drink.

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

Paul & Julie Dusenbury



**“Alexa, take down
the Christmas
decorations.”**

(it was worth a try)

Since Alexa can't help us we will
need your help.

Saturday, January 8
9 am

Taking down the “Greens”

SUNDAY SCHOOL - K-5th grades

Back on JANUARY 9 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.

CONFIRMATION - Grades 6th - 8th

**Welcome back on JANUARY 9 at 9:00 am
in conference room #2**

After confirmation join the congregation for worship at 10am.

ACOLYTE TRAINING - WITH PASTOR SCOTT

**Sunday, January 23rd at 11:30am
For youth in 3rd Grade and above**

Pastor Scott will provide training to youth in 3rd grade and above to learn about the wonderful history and exciting opportunity to acolyte and get on the scheduled.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Led by Boyd Veer

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

- **Ruth Circle at 10:00 am**
In conference room #1
- **Hannah Circle at 10:00 am**
In conference room #2
Led by: Rexanne Graham
Will continue with the 6 week study of the book of Roman's using Max Lucado's video & study guide.
- **Anna Circle at 6:30 pm**
In conference room #1
Led by: Nancy Loftis

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

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY - Tis the Season of giving!

The Children's Christmas Store returned this year!

Over the past 5 years, the store continues to grow every year. We started with just a few tables of items to sell and now this year I had 15 tables full of donated items and handmade crafts.



The store opened on Sunday, December 12th. There were about 25 children shopping and wrapping their gifts. Monday-Wednesday, approximately 40 ALC preschoolers came through the store. With help from ALC parent volunteers, all the preschoolers gifts were wrapped and sent home. Wednesday evening, we opened again and had about 20+ children from our church and community shop for their loved ones. The last day was Sunday December 19th after the Children's Christmas Program. There were so many kids shopping, I couldn't count them all!

They were all so excited and happy as they selected the perfect gifts. This store brings such joy to not only the children, but the volunteers and the recipients of the gifts. If you haven't volunteered in the past, I ask that you prayerfully consider helping next year so you too can experience the joy this Christmas Store brings to those involved.

With all the items priced at \$0.25, except for a few crafts, the children's ministry raised over \$600. What a blessing! We plan to use this money to continue enriching our ALC Children with fun, God filled activities.

A special thank you to Rachel, Serena, Patty, Judy, Dave, Helene, Linda, Hildy, Madelyn, Megan I, Megan K, Maeve, Mia, Elijah, Kevin, ALP families, Stacey, Joey, Persephone, and Prime Timers.

The Children's Christmas Program was on Sunday, December 19th and it was awesome!

Stacey, Kathy and Ginny lead the children as they put on a spectacular rendition of "The First Christmas Ever" written by Pastor Walter Rice. Mira told the story of Christmas to a child, Sadie, who had never heard the story of Jesus' birth. The rest of our Sunday School children participated in various roles as the story was told through a child's perspective. It was comical when Maeve, the Kangaroo, stood by Jesus' side at the manger, yet magical when Megan Kennedy sang "Mary Did you Know" with Chris Long on the guitar, while Maeve danced. The adorable angels melted my heart and everyone singing "Joy To the World" at the end of the program filled me with joy.

We felt so much love from the ALC members as we prepared for this program this year. When we asked for help, volunteers came to the rescue. So Thank You from the bottom of our hearts!

We have a few special shout outs and thank you too: Stacey, Ginny, and Kathy for committing numerous hours prepping materials, getting costumes/props and teaching the children the play; Janice and Michael for their weekly commitment to helping with the music and production; Kendra and Kevin for live streaming and sound; Chris for playing the guitar; John, Laurie and Gail for music assistance; and Pat, Jim and Brian for sound/mics.

Blessings this Holiday Season,

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.

- Enter through either the main church doors or by way of the handicap ramp.
- Signing in with phone numbers are no longer required except for first time visitors.
- Masks are required of everyone while inside of the church.
- Communion is given with a prefilled all-in-one juice & wafer communion cup.

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!

JANUARY - Worship Readings, Readers & Acolytes

January 2 2nd Sunday of Christmas	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Sirach 24:1-12 Ephesians 1:3-14 147:12-20 John 1:1-18	<i>Reader:</i> William LeDuc	<i>Acolytes:</i>
January 9 Epiphany	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 72:1-7,10-14 Matthew 2:1-12	<i>Reader:</i> Anita Holzemer	<i>Acolytes:</i>
January 16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 36:5-10 John 2:1-11	<i>Reader:</i> Anne Barry	<i>Acolytes:</i>
January 23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 19 Luke 4:14-21	<i>Readers:</i>	<i>Acolytes:</i> Eva Dent
January 30 4th Sunday after Epiphany	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 71:1-6 Luke 4:21-30	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>Acolytes:</i> Eva and Nathan Dent
Installation of Rev. Scott C. Peterson as Pastor of Anacortes Lutheran Church				

Please help us fill the empty spots for Readers and Acolytes this month.
Sign up at the welcome desk or call the church office
Thank you!

JANUARY - Birthday Blessings to You!

3	Kai Frerichs	19	Alex Nibarger
3	Al Littlefield	20	Elsa Geffe
3	Hannah Pierce	21	Julie Harstad
4	Pat Carrie Smith	21	Mira Knowles
5	Jerry Knutsen	21	Aurthur Phelan
5	Erica Prentice	22	Sarah Atterberry
7	Persephone Pestar	22	Takara Tornga
11	Donald Devine	23	Millicent Swietzer
11	Anna Holzemer	24	Diane Brosten
11	Danielle Long	26	Dave White
12	Renie Hofferth	27	Donna Anderson
13	Kristen Hoffbuhr	27	Jean Rogers
14	Kenny Holzemer	28	Jeanie Arneson
14	Carleen Oldham	28	Madelyn Case
14	Leah Ott	28	Sharron Fisher
16	Joseph Pestar III	28	Caroline Spehar
17	Billie Jean Melton	28	Taylor Phelan
17	Paula Olson	30	Regan Franulovich

JANUARY - Wedding Anniversaries!

5	Chris & Heidi Parker
9	Les & Carol Olsen
12	Warner & Diane Berglund

DECEMBER - Worship Services

Date	Events	Live Stream	In Person
5	2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	43	129
12	3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	57	114
19	CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	66	146
24	CHRISTMAS EVE - 3 pm	/	94
	5 pm	40	110
	10 pm	/	51
26	1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	46	23

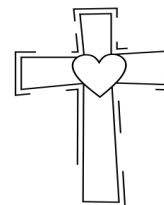


Pastor Scott Peterson

BAPTISM

December 12, 2021

Matthew Louie Sullivan



SYMPATHIES

Our heartfelt prayers for comfort and healing in this time of grief to the family and friends of:

Arlene French

September 11, 1945—December 27, 2021

A BIG
thank you

A HUGE Thank you goes out to Beth Benson, Julie Dusenbury and Paul Dusenbury for helping

me put the newsletter together every month for this past year. You have truly been my sanity savers and I appreciate you all!

Rachel

ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - DECEMBER 9, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Bill LeDuc followed by a short devotional and opening prayer. November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Currently we are covering all our expenses. General giving is up in general. \$18,000 has been raised so far for the foundation repair. Preschool funds have now been transferred into Heritage Bank. Third quarter benevolences will be paid soon. MSP to designate our Christmas benevolences to include Lutherwood, Helping Hands Food Bank, and Whatcom County flood relief.

President's Report: Items listed are below under Old Business.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott continues to meet small groups over dinners. He has started conducting pre-school chapel. His family will be moving here by Christmas. A prearranged vacation is scheduled for Jan 6-15, 2022. As a result, we will move our next council meeting to Jan 20.

Old Business:

1. Parking Lot Scout Maintenance Project: Painting of the new stripes has been put on hold until after the rainy season. Weed pulling will be scheduled soon.
2. South Wall Repair Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 will start when dryer weather arrives. Properties will keep an eye on drainage for now during rainy season. Suggest they start on downspouts for now since we have the funds on hand. MSP to proceed with Phase 2 based on receipt of a reasonable estimate.
3. FASTeam discussion: It was decided to hold off resumption of FASTeams until we have a Fellowship chair. For now, a sign-up sheet for readers continues to work. A sign-up sheet will also be placed in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday morning treat donations. Anita will coordinate with the office to arrange a sign-up form.
4. It continues to be cold upstairs in the offering counting room. Les will check the portable heater situation.

New Business

1. 2022 Budget: John Parker presented the 2022 Budget. MSP to accept the budget and present it to the congregation at the annual meeting. Discussion was held on personnel contracts timeframe. MSP to keep personnel contracts effective from July to June. MSP to authorize a 5% raise for the staff effective with their new contract in July.
2. A discussion was held on our Contact Tracing process. The Worship Committee presented their recommendation to maintain the current process. After much discussion it was decided to keep the sign in at the office door, have voluntary sign-ins on Sunday mornings at the sanctuary doors, and continue the mask requirement when inside the church building. MSP
3. Downspout repair expansion quote. Les will follow up with Decker Construction for a quote.
4. Phone System Upgrade: We have Comcast phones. They are not compatible with our fire alarm system. We need to install a new box with a cellular chip in it. To do that we will need to switch alarm monitoring companies. Kevin Kennedy can supply quotes for less expensive phone systems. Les will follow up.
5. The Nominating Committee has met. It currently has two members. They met and brainstormed names. Openings for the upcoming year include President, President Elect, Worship chair, Fellowship chair, and Youth chair. We are also looking for a confirmed youth member to serve as a youth representative on council.
6. The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 6 following service.

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Committee Reports:

Worship: We will begin opening the front sanctuary doors for Sunday entry in addition to the ramp. Name tags have been provided, but it will be everyone's responsibility to keep track of their own name tag. Don't return them to the table.

Properties: Nothing new to add.

WELCA: Brunch will be held on Tuesday at 11 AM. Kitchen cleaning for Christmas dinner is scheduled for this Thursday. The Angel tree still has angels for gifting. They will be delivering furniture tomorrow to a needy family.

Personnel: Pastor Deborah is still visiting congregants. A thank you/farewell will be done on Jan 9th for her, though she will continue with us through the month of January. Kevin Kennedy has resigned from the live stream team. He will work through December. Pat Carrie Smith will take over in the interim until we can find a replacement.

Outreach: Peggy presented a Visitors guide folder sample. It will be used to greet people. If you have any information on projects or upcoming activities you wish to include in her "Welcome Guide", please talk to Peggy. Christmas dinner needs volunteers.

Education: Confirmation is on break till Jan 9. Don and Paul will continue through the spring. Sunday School is finalizing the Christmas program scheduled for Dec 19. Stacy Pestar is putting in many hours. Sunday School will break for Christmas and resume on Jan 9. Acolyte training will be held on Jan 23 after service for any interested students 3rd grade and above. Nursery situation – We have several young families that have been using the nursery. Parents want the nursery space available, but the sound system isn't working in there making it difficult to hear the service. Jim Carver is working on it. Custodians are supposed to be sanitizing the space. The Personnel chair will advertise for a nursery attendant in the January newsletter.

Next meeting will be on January 20th at 6:30 PM

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary

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Congregational Mission Statement: To Proclaim The Gospel Through Word and Deed

During this winter, as many continue to grapple with - and be discouraged by - the continuation of the pandemic, isolation, discontent, and loneliness, we might feel that our relationships are not as strong as they once were – with family and friends, with colleagues and co-workers, and with those in our church.

Recently I read a book called *Tempered Resilience* by Tod Bolsinger. While I wasn't enthralled with the whole book, I did resonate with one visual that he used and perhaps you will find helpful in this time, too. He writes about how our different relationships help us in our resilience and in our on-going ability to adapt. On page 112 Bolsinger writes, "To flourish in ministry or other forms of social leadership, leaders need to be conscious of at least three different contexts, and the relationships needed to flourish in those contexts, 'front stage, backstage, and offstage.'"

The Front Stage is the public face that we show to the world. It is the place where "performance" happens. It is critical to have trustworthy colleagues or teammates where you are able to be yourself. These relationships could include peers and teammates, partners, and colleagues. An example from scripture would be the disciples. Who would you include in your life?

The Back Stage is the place to support and nurture you in your "front stage" work. Good front stage work depends on lots of time backstage analyzing and thinking about the work that is being done, learning from the lessons of success and failure from others, and especially, gaining perspective from experienced leaders. In his book Bolsinger cautions, "Backstage relationships don't happen because of others. They happen because of you." (p. 116) In other words, you might have to seek out "backstage people. Backstage relationships include therapists, coaches, mentors, spiritual directors, pastors, and more. An example in scripture would be David listening to Samuel or Moses listening to his father-in-law Jethro or Ruth listening to Naomi. Who would you include in your life?

The Off Stage are the people that you are emotionally closest to and who are your confidants. As Bolsinger writes, "The quality of your relationships with other people influences how emotionally resilient you can be in the face of an emotional or physical crisis. In general, the more quality social support you can draw upon from family and friends, the more flexible and resilient you can be in stressful situations." (p. 120) An example in scripture would be Elizabeth and Mary. Who would you include in your life?

So, I'm wondering, how are doing in these three areas? Are your relationships strong "front stage, backstage, and offstage"? Do you have good connections? Where could you form deeper connections? Where do you need help in forming new relationships?

I'd love to hear from you how we can be a more connected church community, how we can support one another, and how resilience can be built up by forming and growing relationships.

I know this is a difficult and frustrating time for many. I feel it, too. May you feel connected with one another. May you feel upheld by one another. And, especially, in this Epiphany season, may God's presence, love and grace be made known to you.

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