



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church - February 2023 Newsletter

---

Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

The month of February has always been one of my favorite months. Why is that, you ask? Groundhog Day? Nope. Valentine's Day? Nope. Yukon Heritage Day? Closer...

Maybe it is my Lutheran upbringing, but it is Ash Wednesday! That day when we are reminded of our mortality and begin our pilgrimage into the season of Lent. The day when ashes are placed upon our forehead as a sign. The day when we put away the "alleluias" and turn our hearts toward repentance. The day when it seems the music all goes into a minor key.

I hear some of you saying, "Wow, you must be fun at parties." (It turns out I am) But I have found that by accepting mortality as a reality of our lives frees me to actually live better. In our Western society we spend an awful lot of time and energy to distract us away from death and dying. We spend millions and billions of dollars to keep ourselves 'young', or at least looking that way, thinking that we may just cheat death and win it all. The truth, however, is that none of us make it out of life alive.

Very early in our lives, at least if we have grown up in a church that does infant baptisms, we were joined to the "death and resurrection of Christ" as those waters cascaded down upon our heads. Yes, resurrection is part of the story, but death is the factor that we cannot miss. In baptism we 'die' to ourselves and are reborn children of God. Death is an integral part of who we are as followers of Jesus. And death is a very sacred reality. I have been at the bedside of a number of people as they took their last breath. It is a moment when the presence of God is tangible and the silence brings peace that surpasses all understanding. Yes, it is also filled with grief and sadness, but the presence of God makes even the tears falling down our cheeks into droplets of holy water.

For many the beginning of Lent brings up feelings of trepidation and even fear. We are called to come face to face with our mortality and to even embrace it. But by accepting our mortality we are free to embrace the abundant life that we are given in Christ even more. We are freed to enter into the season of Lent and grab on to the gift of repentance and forgiveness. We may find beauty in the sound of a hymn in a minor key. We may be filled with anticipation at the return of "Alleluia!" to our lips. We may find in the ashes on our foreheads a promise of palms being waved in celebration of Jesus in our lives. We may even find the power of resurrection breaking into our daily lives as we share the gift of love with our neighbors. And may we all find blessings in returning to God in each moment knowing that we are loved.

May the coming season bless you in your pilgrimage toward the Cross!

Pastor Scott

---

## FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT– John Parker

---

Happy New Year to us all! I'm hopeful you all had a blessed Christmas season. It gift-wrapped a very successful year for Anacortes Lutheran. Now, we have this Council meeting and one more to finalize planning for next year before the Congregational Meeting on February 12. As always, this meeting has a large influence on the coming year, so it's our responsibility to make it as smooth and productive as possible.

**There are Three major things for us to address at this month's meeting:**

- **First and Foremost - The 2023 Budget:** Embedded in the budget vote are three key financial decisions.
  - ♦ Express our commitment to increase staff emphasis on coordinating Youth and Education programs by allocating \$28,000 for hiring a part time Director of Youth and Young Adult Activities.
  - ♦ Free up \$650/month of cash flow by consolidating some cash reserves and pre-pay the current mortgage on the Pre-School.
  - ♦ A 10% across the board increase for church staff effective April 1, 2023.
- **Second and just as critical - Recruiting Council Leadership for the coming year:** There are four Open Committee Chair Positions going into the New Year.
  - ♦ Education - Sunday School/VBS/Confirmation
  - ♦ Youth Ministry - Youth (4th thru 12th grade), Young Singles, and Young Families
  - ♦ Fellowship - Coffee Hour/Prime Timers/General Congregational Events
  - ♦ Properties - Management of the maintenance and protection of the church property

***It's my opinion that the first two positions, education and youth ministry, overlap and some redefinition clarification of roles is required and will aid in recruiting. In the meantime, we have to go into the Congregational meeting with an incomplete slate and a promise to keep on trying to fill these slots.***

- **Third - Online Worship is a growing part of our Sunday attendance:** Depending on how you estimate the online audience, it accounts for about 40% of the Sunday Service attendance. There's reason to consider increasing our technical hardware capability and exploring ways to expand this ministry. It might start with creating a new Council position for Communications.

The Year-End Statistics for 2022 are very satisfying. You can be very proud of your accomplishments. Financially we were right on target, but an aggressive budget is going to require us all to consider increasing our stewardship and encourage our fellow members to do the same. So my message this month is: Enjoy the rewards of all your combined contributions. As we hit our stride to finish the year, remember to run all the way through the finish line. Thanks for being a Good and Faithful Volunteer!

John Parker, Council President  
Go In Peace, Serve the Lord

# ANNUAL MEETING



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 - 11:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall**

**OPEN COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR 2023** - *Speak to John Parker for more info.*  
Education Chair, Fellowship Chair, Properties Chair, Youth Ministries Chair

**2023 PROPOSED BUDGET CONVERSATIONS** - Sunday, February 5 at 11 am  
in the Fellowship Hall. Don Devine, Stewardship Chair will be available to  
discussion the proposed budget with those that are interested.



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
at 10 am worship service**

This is the day we recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. Chris Anderson, Charter Organization Representative (COR) will present ALC a Charter certificate. We will have BSA Scout B & G Troops & Cubs volunteer in service this day.

**Come Celebrate Scouting Anniversary!**



Christian Education Time

**EVERY SUNDAY AT 9 AM**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

**(Grades 6-8)** in conference room #2

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**(Grades K-5th)** in Sunday School rms

**ADULT ED CLASSES**

**(Adults & High School teens)** in Fellowship Hall

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*

**Monday, February 14th**

## **1st Sunday of the Month**

### **PRAISE SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month**

We will be singing contemporary Christian Music the 1st Sunday of the month.

Led by the **Praise Team:** Matt Kerschbaum and Dana McCoy with our lead singer Rock star himself, Pastor Scott Peterson.

### **FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month**

The **first Sunday of the month is Family Sunday** where children are encouraged to assist in the Worship service.

You can sign up at our Opportunity Desk for future months in the year

We are looking for the following support in service

- Entry Greeter (2)
- Welcome Desk Greeter (1):
- Usher (2)
- Acolyte (2)
- Reading (1-2)
- Communion Assts: (+1)
- Noisy Offering Attendant (2)
- Personal talent of instrumental/poetry reading
- Fellowship Treats
- Assist serving/clean up with fellowship hour.

To encourage active listening with children during the service 5 words are chosen by the Sunday schoolers to be used in the Pastors sermon.

Thank you for allowing us to support your children's growth in their faith in our Lord.

### **NOISY OFFERINGS - 1st Sunday of the month**

This is another highlight of Family Sunday and is to be designated for a youth activity.

What great lessons learned about tithing and saving? WOW...what a family of givers in our congregation.

**Thank you all!**

**So save your change for the next  
NOISY OFFERING — SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

---

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS - Dave White, Outreach Chair

---

The most recent Committee meeting found the members discussing how to implement our Care Team program. Lacey Smith agreed to setting up and coordinating of this program. She will need volunteers to assist in the tasks that will be undertaken.

The Care Team will endeavor to provide meals, rides, and visits for our congregation members who may have a need. If you feel like you could cook a meal, give a ride, or spend a few minutes visiting a fellow member, please watch for a sign up sheet on the opportunity desk. Should you be in need of any of these services, please contact Rachel in the Church office.

### REMEMBER TO PRAY for those in need of Prayer:

The Sunday bulletin has a list of Prayer Requests for our Congregation. The list is also on our website under "Prayer Page." We can all give the gift of prayer by including these requests in our daily prayers each week.

### RECEIVE the Gift of Prayer:

You can request a prayer by calling the church office during office hours at 360-293-9586. You may call Peggy at 360-299-1184 for your prayer needs at any time, including Prayer Chain (confidential prayer), and updates to your prayer request. As always, Pastor Scott Peterson is available to pray with you, or for you.

### WELCOME VISITORS

We continue to look for volunteers to man the Welcome Desk for the 15 minutes prior to the worship service starting. Your mission while at the Welcome Desk is to watch for and assist any visitors or congregation members that are in need of information. The sign up sheet for the Welcome Desk is at the Welcome Desk.

We now have a blue "Welcome" folder with basic information about what programs and services we offer. To add information about your project or program to the folder, contact Dave at 206-226-7182. Please help out in this important mission! Many of the visitors to the church are prospective members. They may be just testing the water to see if they want to dive in. Let's make the water and the greeting warm!



While many are experiencing division, it is possible to build trust in our communities. When we show up, work, and eat together you'll join the momentum with [Paths to Understanding](#). Let's Go Together.

This six-week training prepares Christian communities for partnerships with diverse traditions and cultures to build a more peaceful future together.

Join Pastor Terry Kylo, a diverse team of leaders, and other participants to explore what it means for us as Christians to respect and partner with diverse people. Discover how this makes us both faithful to Jesus and better prepared to meet the challenges of our time and to build a brighter future.

The **Let's Go Together** strategy prepares churches to build meaningful relationships with neighbors of all cultures and faith traditions, and to work for the common good together through three simple, easy, yet powerful activities:

- Eat, play, and share stories
- Do service projects
- Show up at public celebrations together.

**Register Here:**

[https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/jfUkpGq0ApScYD79Ey\\_7jw](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/jfUkpGq0ApScYD79Ey_7jw)

<p><b>Burlington Lutheran Church</b> 134 E Victoria Ave, Burlington <b>Sundays, 3—5 pm in person / childcare available</b> February 19, 26, &amp; March 5, 12, 19, 26</p>
---

---

## WELCA GENERAL MEETING

---

### WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIRTHDAY PARTY

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1:00 PM**

**in the Fellowship Hall**

All women of the church are invited!

Come and join us, celebrating everyone's birthday.

Devotions by Ruth Circle

Hostesses: Hannah Circle

We have three circles meeting for Bible study every second Tuesday of most months.

Hannah and Ruth Circles meet at 10:00 am

Anna Circle meets at 4:00 pm

Feel free to join one of them!

Call Lois Cassidy for more info 360-293-0181

---

## SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

---

### SEWING DAYS—TUESDAYS

**FEBRUARY 7 & 21**

**Starting at 9 am till 2 pm**

**in the Fellowship Hall**

Bring a lunch and join us at Noon

As the new year begins **we are always collecting:**

- Soap—8 oz bars Ivory or Dove
- Bath and Hand towels - dark colors
- Baby blankets
- Onesie T-shirts - cotton
- Baby Socks
- Sleepers—up to 18 months size

We thank all of you for donating to us.

Serving in Christ, Julia Rogers 360-293-4232

---

## Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

---

### NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

**NEXT MEETING—MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023**

Please call me to get yarn between meetings and to give your sweater counts, Thanks.

**Our Year To Date 2023 Totals are:**

Sweater/hat sets – 47

Sweaters – 6

Hats – 0

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

---

## OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE

---

### **PICK YOURS UP FROM IN THE NARTHEX.**

Please note that the offering number might be different from last years. Statements have been mailed out.

If you have questions contact Linda Millo,  
Financial Recorder 206-335-4295

---

## LUTHERWOOD SUMMER CAMP 2023

---

### **REGISTRATION IS OPEN.**

Learn more on the Lutherwood Website!

[https://www.camplutherwood.org /](https://www.camplutherwood.org/)

**(360) 734-7652 / office@camplutherwood.org**

---

## GIVE YOUR SPOUSE THE VALENTINE OF A LIFETIME—YOU!

---

Good communication makes a good marriage GREAT.

Enhance your couple communication skills at a next

**VIRTUAL (online) March 3 - 5** Lutheran Marriage Encounter experience!

You can participate privately from your home or anywhere that affords you privacy as a couple

Pre-registration is required. **Apply Now / Learn more at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org) or 402-560-3475**

---

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

---

~ COMING ~

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19 - 5 PM**

**UFO Dinner**

**Uplifting Families Overtly**

### **NEEDED: 12 Hosts**

Hosts will host a table in the Fellowship Hall.

### **RESPONSIBLE FOR: 9 X 12 main dish**

Such as Spaghetti, Mac & Cheese, Lasagna, Meatballs, Chicken casserole.

\* Church will supply salad, rolls and dessert.

**YOU WILL BE GIVEN** the name of a family to call and personally invite to your table.

Sign up with Lane Phelan: 360-320-0798 or paulandlane@comcast.net



---

## MEN'S Thursday BIBLE STUDY

**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING at 7:00 am**

In conference room #1

Led by Boyd Veer

---

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

**EVERY THURSDAY at 11:00 am**

In conference room #1

Led by Pastor Scott

---

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

**MEET TUESDAY, February 14**

HANNAH - in conference rm #2 at 10:00 am

Led by: Linda Walker 928-963-3879

RUTH CIRCLE - in conference rm #1 at 10:00 am

Led by: Helene Fink 293-630-7544

ANNA CIRCLE - in conference rm #1 at 4:00 pm

Led by: Nancy Loftis 360-333-8111

---

## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 10:30 am**

in Conference room 2

---

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 at 6:30 pm**

in Conference room 2

---

---

## BSA SCOUT TROOPS 4084

**SCOUT BSA BOY TROOP 4084** - ages 11-17

Mondays at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Leader: Robert Eggleston

509-230-9648 /manu\_tara@hotmail.com

**SCOUT BSA GIRL TROOP 4084** - ages 11-17

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**CUB SCOUTS PACK 4084 F** - ages 5-10 or K-5th

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

In the Sunday School rooms

Leader: Kyle Ellertson

907-888-1638 /kellertson84@yahoo.com

---

---

## PROPERTY WORK PARTY

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

**Starting 9 am**

Anyone who would like to help beautiful our church is invited.

If you have projects to consider

for Saturday parties contact

Bill LeDuc, Property Chair



---

## ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS"**

*Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food and Fellowship*

---

**JOIN US FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 at 10 am**

in the Fellowship Hall.

THEME : **All Things Valentine**



Our guest speaker is Joe Burbank from our local Fire Dept to talk about "Safety In The Home".

Our program will be followed by a light lunch of homemade soup and dessert.

If you have any questions, call Paula Olson or Linda Walker.

*Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk, call or text the host before Wednesday prior to the event.*

---

---

## GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

**DAISY TROOP 41205** - Grades K-1

2nd & 4th Mondays at 5:30 pm

Meet in Youth room

Leader: Cherie Goyer

**BROWNIE TROOP 41804** - Grades 2-3

3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm

Meet in Youth room

Leader: Cherie Goyer

**GIRL SCOUT TROOP 44451** - High School

1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:30 pm

Meet in Conference room #1

Leader: Ginny Connelly

---

# Worshipping Together

Sundays at 9:00 am - Christian Education Time for Everyone

Sunday Service at 10:00 am - in person or live stream

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

## FEBRUARY • FAITH AND SERVICE TOGETHER

To volunteer to fill in an **empty spot** sign-up at the Opportunity desk or call / email the office.

	Scout Sunday Family & Praise Sunday	Epiphany	Transfiguration of Our Lord	1st Sunday in Lent
<b>Dates:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Readings</b>	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 Psalm 37:16-18	Matt 13:24-43 Psalm 84:1-7	Matthew 16:24-- 17:8 Psalm 41:7-10	Matthew 18:1-9 Psalm 146:7c-10 or 51:1-3
<b>Greeters</b>	SCOUTS			
<b>Ushers</b>	SCOUTS			
<b>Reader</b>	SCOUTS	Anita Holzemer	Lois Cassidy	John Parker
<b>Acolytes</b>	1. Mira Knowles 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. Lois Cassidy 2.	1. 2.
<b>Nursery</b>	1. Pamela Gray 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> — <i>After Worship everyone is invited to join us for coffee, juice and treats</i>				
<b>Serve &amp; Cleanup</b>	SCOUTS Gary & Joy Walter	Linda Walker Judy Holmes Paula Olson	DeAnna Claus	1. 2.
<b>Treats</b>	SCOUTS	Linda Walker Judy Holmes Paula Olson	DeAnna Claus Gray Family	1. 2.
<b>Sound Team</b>	Harlan Eggleston, Brian Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer, Matt Kerschbaum, Pat Carrie Smith			
<b>Live Stream Team</b>	Rebecca Eggleston, Anita Holzemer, Kevin & Kendra Kennedy, Joseph Pestar, Gina Peterson, Pat Carrie Smith			
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gunilla Wold, Grace Boggio, Diane Gusa, Norma Knutsen, Paula Olson, Jenny Remmerden, Karen Tavalero, Caroline Spehar			

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
with Imposition of Ashes  
**Wednesday, February 22**  
**12-Noon & 7:00 pm**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

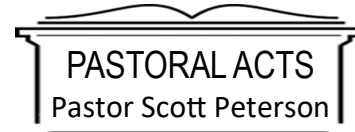
02	Jeaneen Brogan	16	Steve Fosso
02	Roman Sturgul	16	Erin Roux
02	Janice Sullivan	17	Garrett Kennedy
03	Howard Partch	18	Paul Dusenbury
04	Justin Lust	18	Sabrina Poor
05	Bev Landgraf	19	Tom Paul
06	Della Reinbold	19	Julia Soes
07	Wendy Atterberry	20	Owen Pierce
07	Mason Bakke	23	Victoria Eckardt
07	Julia Rogers	25	Carin Fors
08	Brianna Trafton	25	Christy Giddings
09	Enid Oates	25	Patricia Rasar
10	Jenny Remmerden	26	Sadie Lust
11	Carol Olsen	26	Glenn Sullivan
13	Corey Nibarger	27	Vance Frerichs
14	Dennis Giddings	27	Ann Knutsen
14	Pamela Gray	27	Phil Latendresse
15	Chris Anderson	27	MaryBeth Pollard

## FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

Date		Years
03	John & Denise Lowrie	22
06	Paul & Lane Phelan	41
08	Steve & Linda Anderson	37
08	Jennifer & Daniel Elling	20
18	Ed & Marcia Berg	62
20	Susan & Fred Wintermantel	41
21	William LeDuc & Dorothy Engom	7
22	Rob & Alice Harstad	20

## JANUARY- WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Events	In-Person	Live Stream
01	New Years Day	79	86
08	Baptism of Our Lord	136	68
15	2 Epiphany	122	52
22	3 Epiphany	97	92
29	4 Epiphany		



### MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, January 14, 2023  
at Anacortes Lutheran Church

**Charles Trafton**

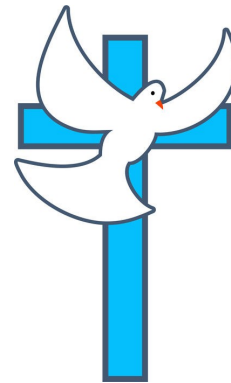
NOVEMBER 30, 1933 - DECEMBER 21, 2022

### GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Friday, January 20, 2023  
At Fernhill Cemetery

**Gary Albert Card**

JUNE 14, 1943 – DECEMBER 31, 2022



Love the Lord,  
your God, with  
all your heart,  
and with all your  
soul, and with  
all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5





---

## ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - JANUARY 12, 2023

---

**Attendees:** John Parker, Lane Phelan, Jeanette Christensen, Jeaneen Brogan, Pastor Scott, Anne Barry, Anita Holzemer, Dave Bjornsen, Bill LeDuc, Don Devine, Kendra Kennedy, Guest: Pat Carrie Smith

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. December minutes were approved. MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brotherhood Mutual is our new accounting service. Transition to the new accounting firm has gone smoothly. We do still have a local bookkeeper that we will use to pay local bills. Lane is looking in to getting a refund for payroll expenses spent during our Covid shut-down. We ended 2022 in the black. That's great news. The proposed budget for 2023 will include an increase, and will be available to the congregation after services for several Sundays prior to the annual meeting.

### Council Roundtable:

**Education:** December was a busy month including the Christmas program and the Christmas store. Having a rehearsal with sound checks worked out great. Thanks to the sound team for making this happen. The Christmas store made just over \$1,000! The pancake breakfast was a big hit. Thank you, Don, for your help in organizing this. This will be held again on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Fellowship:** Lane proposed an Uplifting Families Dinner. Details are being worked out. Tentatively scheduled for mid-March.

**Preschool:** We have a new committee member who is a preschool parent. A committee meeting will be held Tuesday, January 24.

**Properties:** We are working on adding a secondary door in the choir loft and taking care of plugs in the altar area. The furnace in the education wing is malfunctioning. It will be serviced this week.

**WELCA:** More volunteers would be nice. Nothing additional to add beyond the submitted report.

**Personnel:** Performance evaluations are completed. We collected names of suggested members that might need a pastoral visit.

**Worship:** Nothing new to report other than what was submitted. Lenten soup services details are being finalized.

**Christmas Dinner:** We had no leftovers. Over 340 meals were served. THANK YOU to all of our volunteers. The planning team wishes to purchase additional roasters. We will look into this at our next council mtg.

**President's Report:** John presented figures for budgeted expenses vs actual expenditures. We are right on track for the year. We also took a look at attendance numbers. Attendance is growing.

**Pastor's Report:** He suggested we read the book "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This will be a book study for both council & staff. We received a monetary donation from someone who used our sanctuary to film a video. A person is wishing to donate a car for a person in need.

**Special Guests/Reports:** Pat Carrie Smith attended to represent the Live-Stream Team. We have a growing team of volunteers (including youth members) and it is working well.

### Old Business:

- Anita reported on open items still needing action. Currently there are no open items.
- Photo Directory Status: Bayshore said they could print this for us. John is working on the layout. a printed copy will be available soon.

*continued on next page*

*Council minutes cont.....*

- Presentation of budget: The proposed budget was presented and discussed. Don will lead the presentation at the annual meeting. Copies will be available at the back of the church starting this Sunday for questions. MSP to accept the proposed budget.
- Presentation of Candidates: We have council vacancies in Properties, Fellowship, Education, and Youth Ministries. Don will attach the list of open spots to the proposed budget made available to the congregation.

**New Business:**

- Facilities Usage Request: Young Life Beyond Malibu would like to use the church for training purposes. MSP
- Preschool Conference request: Maggie Santos would like to attend a preschool ELEA conference in SeaTac area in March. MSP to cover the cost of the conference and a hotel stay if needed.
- Preschool Mortgage Prepayment: The loan will come due in Nov 2024. We would like to pay off the loan. A proposal will be made at the annual meeting to retire the debt. The Preschool committee will meet and report back on how they would like to prioritize the spending of their reserve funds, including a portion that might go towards the debt retirement.

Our next council meeting will be held February 9 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary



---

**THIS & THAT– BITS & PIECES**

---

- ♦ Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- ♦ Church Office email & phone #: 360-293-9586 / [info@anacorteslutheran.org](mailto:info@anacorteslutheran.org)
- ♦ Do You Need to talk to the Pastor? Schedule an appointment by email or calling the office  
Pastor Scott Peterson: [pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org](mailto:pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org)
- ♦ “LIKE” our Facebook / YouTube / Instagram 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 friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.
- ♦ Newsletter Deadline: The Third Monday of every month.
- ♦ Prayer Requests: Keep the church current on your loved ones who are or need to be named on our prayer list by calling or emailing the office.
- ♦ Altar Flowers: To give flowers in honor or memory of someone, sign up on the “Flower Chart” in the Narthex.
- ♦ Giving 5 Ways: Vanco Mobile App/TEXT 360-328-7521/mail a check /offering plate/ALC website ~ Giving tab
- ♦ Welcome Desk: (*located in the Narthex*) You can find new member information, newsletter publications, weekly Sunday Scoops, “Christ in our Home” devotionals & additional information.
- ♦ Opportunity Desk: (*next to the Fellowship Hall*). Here you will find different ways to be of service throughout the church, Serving in Worship and Fellowship hour. Sign up sheets for Group Events, Prime Timers, Youth Events, etc. Preschool & Confirmation Registration forms.

When I was in sixth grade, my teacher decided that we were going to build chicken skeletons. From real chickens. So, the teacher divided us into groups. A local farmer donated the chickens. Each group had to boil and boil and boil their chicken. When all the flesh and tendons, etc. were boiled off, and the bones were clean, then we had to build the chicken back up so that it formed a complete bird.

When I think back on this project, I wonder what we were learning. Anatomy? Names of bones? I'm not sure. But what I did learn was community, relationship, and collaboration. Without the people in my group—and the different skills and gifts that they had – we would not have been able to put this chicken back together. We had to make sure that the bones were sorted into the right boxes (the feet bones, the leg bones, the wing bones, the beak, etc.) We had to make sure the bones weren't wet and that there wasn't anything left on the bones so it didn't stink. (My mom claimed it did stink. Side note, I was elected to bring home the completed chicken. My mom was not pleased and at some point, it disappeared from the living room bookcase).

Anyway, getting back to community, relationship, and collaboration...as I think of our synod, and what God is calling us to do and to be together, I think that these three things are key. I know that many of you are already in relationship and collaboration with other ELCA congregations around you. Perhaps you share your building with other ministries. Perhaps you share a food bank or work with a school. Perhaps affordable housing is part of your collaborative work. Many of you have preschools. All of these are wonderful ways to collaborate.

I'm wondering if we can think even bigger and more relationally than that. What if people from geographically close congregations met and talked about who they are. What their hopes are. What their fears are. What they need from others. What they have to offer others. What might come out of these conversations and relationships? Perhaps a way to share staff? Perhaps a way to more impactful in the community? Perhaps new ways of using property? I'm not sure. It would be interesting and exciting to find out.

As I have mentioned before, study after study indicates that pastors today are lonely and feel isolated and anxious about the future. As my staff and I travel around the synod, we hear that many congregations also feel lonely and isolated and anxious about the future. Hearing stories and knowing some of the difficulties, doesn't it seem that it would be better to build relationship with one another and collaborate rather than every congregation trying to figure it out on their own?

Here are three ways that we are encouraging congregations to be in community, build relationships & collaborate.

First, we continue to expand the LiVE Project (Living into Vocational Engagement). We are excited about the synod's collaboration and building relationship with the Trinity Education Foundation who is contributing funding this year and partnering with us. I encourage you to visit [www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project](http://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project) and learn more.

Second, in lieu of a Synod Assembly this year, we are hosting two Synod Gatherings in the spring with forums where relationships and collaboration are key. Watch for information in early February on the two Gatherings (May 13 in Mount Vernon and May 20 in Bellevue) via email and on our website here: [www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gatherings](http://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gatherings).

Third, the Grace Grant application this year asks applicants with whom they are collaborating on the proposed project. The application process is open February 1 – May 31. Read about the focus areas and how to apply for this final year of funding here: [www.lutheransnw.org/pages/grace-grants](http://www.lutheransnw.org/pages/grace-grants)

You know, I could never have built that chicken alone. Nor would I have wanted to. Truthfully, even with my group, it was messy and hard. In my memory, we had a few bones left over that we quietly threw in the garbage. And yet, I am still in relationship with many of the people in my sixth grade group. And we are bonded from the chicken-building experience.

As the body of Christ, may we build relationship, be in community, and collaborate together. I'd love to hear what you are doing in your congregation towards this. Please email me at [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org).