



# Anacortes Lutheran Church

*A message from Pastor Scott Peterson*

MARCH 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

As the calendar turns to the month of March and we start looking forward to the changes that Spring will show us, we also see a change in the seasons of the Church. As we turn this page of celebrating the glory shown on the mountain and seeing the transfiguration of Christ, we now turn to the season of Lent. A season that begins with that deeply moving day of Ash Wednesday. The day we are once again reminded of our mortality, reminded that we are here but for a short time, and begin our walk toward the Cross of Christ.

Lent is perhaps my favorite season of the Church Year. Some may be more connected to the seasons of Christmas or Easter, but for me the 40 days that we spend on this journey is a time where change can happen in our lives (if we let it). 40 days is enough time to start a new discipline. 40 days is enough to change a habit that may not serve as a benefit to our lives. 40 days is enough time to begin to explore our lives, both individually and as community, as we learn who we are in Christ. Sometimes Lent feels long and tiring, and sometimes it may hurry by as we learn something new.

For those of you who have a tradition of 'giving something up' for Lent, I would invite you this year to do something different. I would invite you to take on something new. Reading a chapter a day from one of the Gospels or the epistles of Paul, or maybe reading through the book of Proverbs over the course of the season.

Maybe you will read more, or cook more, or play an instrument for a few more minutes each day. Use the season of Lent to start something new, so when we get to that joyous Easter morning, when all things become new, we may indeed be a bit new as well.

You are also invited to gather on Wednesdays for a simple meal and a time of worship. We will gather at 5:30pm for soup and bread, and then continue at 6:30pm with Holden Evening Prayer.

May you have a blessed Lent!

Pastor Scott

## *Church Council Minutes from February 12, 2026*

**Attendees:** Pastor Scott, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pat Carrie Smith, Rosemary Walter, Claude Woodall

The meeting was called to order and Pastor opened with prayer.

Rosemary made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, it was seconded and motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** January's offerings were about \$5000 per Sunday, about \$7000 per Sunday is needed to meet the budget, February so far was about \$6000-7000 per Sunday.

**Worship:** A written report was submitted. The community wide Good Friday service will be at ALC at 5pm & 7pm. Pat-Carrie will let Diane know that ushers will be needed. Laurie is working on a community choir for these services. There will be no refreshments or communion.

**Pastor's Report:** A written report was submitted. He is now the President of Paths to Understanding Board as well as the Director of Fidalgo Chaplaincy.

**Youth & Education:** See new business.

**Finance/Stewardship:** The 2026 budget was approved at the congregational meeting with addition of \$10,000 for the Youth. Bill will acquire a fireproof safe for the baptismal and death records (legally required) after double-checking that none exist in the church.

**VBS:** Lane made a motion to approve an honorarium of at least \$500 for the Director of VBS. This was seconded and motion passed.

**Properties:** A written report was submitted.

### **New Business:**

- The Lent Soup Suppers (leaders) have all been signed up for. Anyone can still bring soup to any of them.
- Archives - Bill states 3 recycle bins have already been filled with non-personal papers, any sensitive papers are being destroyed. He has 2 volunteers to tape off and paint the archive room, Paul will help fix the wood drawers and Les will help with the prints/drafts and what should be kept will be stored in labeled tubes. There is a LED light in the room to help prevent mice. WELCA, Pastor, Finance Committee and Liturgical Arts have piles to go through. A Historical Committee is needed moving forward. Linda Braske and Chris Anderson will help identify people in old photos. Minutes and annual reports will be kept as they are legal documents.  
Pat-Carrie made a motion to get rid of all Bulletins and Scoops, this was seconded and motion passed.
- Youth Activities - The first all-church breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 22. Other ideas were discussed. Rosemary will talk to families to see what types of activities they or their kids would come to. After there is more input from current families, a job description can be made for a leader. There is a Youth Meeting on Feb. 17 at 6:30pm, anyone who is interested is welcome to join.
- All Committee or other annual reports are due to Amanda by May in preparation for the June Congregational meeting. At this meeting 3 new council members will be elected - please talk to Don or Pastor or any council member for more information if you have some interest!
- The current phone system does not forward emergency messages to pastor when no one is in the office - Pastor will talk with Amanda to figure out a plan.
- April 5 is Easter Breakfast. Rosemary will check with the Youth committee to see if they are willing to make the cinnamon rolls again this year, if not - a couple of volunteers will be needed.
- Bill made a motion to purchase a new coffee system with 12 pump pots (10 cups each) for about \$2000. Coffee grounds can be purchased from anywhere as we will not be bound to a contract for purchasing. This was seconded and motion passed. Don will plumb the machine directly into a water line.

Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next regular council meeting will be held March 12 at 4:00 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, March 10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary

**ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY  
PRIME TIMERS™**

— Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

**Upcoming quarterly events**

March 14, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. - Bingo in the Morning hosted by Rachel Devine and Jeanette Christensen – a special thank you. **Please note date change.**

June 12, Friday, at 11:00 a.m. – Out to Lunch (need host)

September 11 or 12 - Day Outing planned by Paul and Julie

December 11, Friday – Get-Together in the Fellowship Hall (need host)

*If you are interested in hosting an event or have an idea for the day outing; please call, text, or email Julie.*

*Have a super spring, stay safe, and be happy.*

*Paul - Julie Dusenbury*



**ALC PRAYER CHAIN**

Anacortes Lutheran has had an active prayer chain for many years. It is a low key, confidential ministry. There are no meetings. If you would like to have this group pray for you or someone you know who has a need, you can tell Amanda in the church office and she will get it started. If you would like to know more about the prayer chain and possibly be a part of it, you can call me or talk to me at church.

Mary Beth Pollard  
360-202-9443

**PRAY FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES**

|                             |                              |                              |                               |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>           | Don Devine                   | <b>Fellowship :</b>          |                               |
| <b>Vice-President:</b>      | Bill LeDuc                   | <b>Education:</b>            | Rosemary Walter               |
| <b>Secretary:</b>           | Julie Jacobson               | <b>Youth:</b>                | Rosemary Walter               |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>           | Lane Phelan                  | <b>Preschool:</b>            | Lane Phelan                   |
| <b>Stewardship:</b>         | Bill LeDuc                   | <b>Properties:</b>           | Steve Anderson                |
| <b>Outreach:</b>            | Julie Jacobson               | <b>Worship:</b>              | Pat Carrie Smith              |
| <b>Personnel:</b>           | Jeaneen Brogan               | <b>WELCA :</b>               | Lane Phelan                   |
| <b>Josephine Delegates:</b> | Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo | <b>Legacy Endowment:</b>     | Wayne Olsen, Rod Odegaard     |
| <b>Finance:</b>             | Lane Phelan, Bill LeDuc      |                              | Julie Jacobson                |
|                             | Linda Millo                  | <b>Synod Assy Delegates:</b> | Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy |
| <b>Finance Secretary:</b>   | Linda Millo                  |                              | Linda Millo                   |
| <b>Camp Lutherwood Rep:</b> | Kenny Holzemer               |                              |                               |



# LENT

## A SEASON OF RENEWAL



### Wednesday Soup Suppers - 5:30 pm Worship service - 6:30 pm

A Fellowship gift we share with one another. A simple meal of soup and bread.

Please, Sign up at the Opportunity desk or contact the coordinator to bring soup or cleanup.

Setup group arrive at 4:30 pm. Soups should arrive hot at 5 pm.

| Week   | Date     | Church Group - Setup & Soup | Coordinated by      | Clean-Up            |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lent 1 | Feb 25   | John & Kathy Parker         | John & Kathy Parker | John & Kathy Parker |
| Lent 2 | March 4  | Worship Committee           | Pat Carrie Smith    | Worship Committee   |
| Lent 3 | March 11 | Preschool                   | Maggie Santos       | Preschool           |
| Lent 4 | March 18 | Scout Troops                | Becky Eggleston     | Scout Troop         |
| Lent 5 | March 25 | Congregation                | Kathy Khile         | Congregation        |

*March*

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| MARCH<br>1<br>Arrival: 9:30<br>Service: 10:30  | Rebecca Burtney<br>Catherine E |
| MARCH<br>8<br>Arrival: 9:30<br>Service: 10:30  | Rachel Long<br>Stacey F        |
| MARCH<br>15<br>Arrival: 9:30<br>Service: 10:30 | Rebecca Burtney<br>Stacey F    |
| MARCH<br>22<br>Arrival: 9:30<br>Service: 10:30 | Rachel Long<br>Catherine E     |
| MARCH<br>29<br>Arrival: 9:30<br>Service: 10:30 | Rebecca Burtney<br>Rachel Long |

### LENT DEVOTIONALS

Lent will soon be here and many of our congregants have been busy writing devotions for our Lenten Devotional booklet. These booklets are ready to be picked up at the Welcome Desk...please grab one! You will be amazed at the writings in this booklet and I hope you will take advantage of these daily devotions. I cannot thank our prolific writers enough! I have been profoundly touched by your insights, spirituality, and I know this project could not have happened without all of you! Jan Woodall

## Dates to Celebrate in March



### Birthdays

|    |                   |    |                     |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 01 | Marv Wold         | 18 | Janey Dent          |
| 02 | David Brosten     | 18 | Amelia Thomas       |
| 03 | John Lowrie       | 19 | Malcolm McCutcheon  |
| 04 | Marcia Berg       | 20 | Kennedy Costenbader |
| 04 | Elaine Olsen      | 21 | Rob Harstad         |
| 05 | Anita McCoy       | 22 | Rebecca Claus       |
| 06 | Dan Khile         | 25 | Aksel Hansen        |
| 10 | Joseph Pestar Jr. | 27 | Matt Kennedy        |
| 11 | MacKenzie Corder  | 27 | Cami Mavar          |
| 12 | Judy Holmes       | 27 | Boyd Veer           |
| 16 | Brooklyn Bush     | 28 | Grace Sullivan      |
| 17 | Mia Kennedy       | 29 | Anne Hofferth       |
| 17 | Tegan Kerr        | 29 | Delaney Phelan      |
| 17 | Charles DeWitt    | 30 | Jan Vigre           |
| 17 | Bonnie Kerschbaum | 31 | Majbritt Hansen     |



### Anniversaries

|    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 08 | Robert & Sharon Ohm        |
| 14 | Malcolm & Susan McCutcheon |
| 19 | Joseph & Stacey Pestar     |

### Worship Attendance

| Date   | Events                      | In-Person | Nursery | Live-Stream |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Jan 25 | 3rd Sunday in Epiphany      | 100       | 4       | 133         |
| Feb 1  | Praise & Family Sunday      | 92        | 5       | 72          |
| Feb 8  | Scout Sunday                | 129       | 5       | 36          |
| Feb 15 | Transfiguration of Our Lord | 97        | 4       | 43          |
| Feb 18 | Ash Wednesday 12:00p        | 18        | 0       | 0           |
| Feb 18 | Ash Wednesday 7:00p         | 44        | 0       | 0           |
| Feb 22 | 1st Sunday in Lent          | 94        | 6       | **          |

\*\* Not available at time of printing



We are living in times that would have felt unimaginable just a few years ago. We are surrounded by neighbors who are worried about sending their kids to school, seeking medical help, or gathering for worship – afraid of what might happen. We are also surrounded by neighbors who are anxious about people from other countries or people of different religions – uncertain about a changing world and unsure where they belong. Many people are afraid. And this fear, in all its forms, is shrinking our world.

Fear pulls us inward. It isolates us from one another. It tempts us to retreat into suspicion and guardedness rather than reaching out toward one another. It makes it harder to see one another as fully human. It becomes almost impossible to say that we are all beloved of God and all neighbors with one another. Truly, as followers of Jesus, we are called to a new way: a way of connection, courage, and community.

During this time of Lent, as children of God, let us practice these new ways through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity (the traditional disciplines of Lent).

**Prayer:** Let us pray together for this world. Let us read scripture together and attend mid-week Lenten services. Let us light candles each night. Let us listen to one another's fears and longings. Let us gather on street corners and sing. Let us gather in churches and homes – and even in front of federal buildings. Prayer grounds us so we remember who we are and whose we are. Let us gather in prayer this Lent.

**Fasting:** You are welcome to give up luxuries during Lent – but fasting also invites us to examine what consumes us and what we consume in return. What are we holding onto that causes us not to see our neighbor? What holds our attention more tightly than the people right in front of us? This Lent let us choose practices that connect us rather than separate us. Let us fast from doomscrolling and performative outrage and instead read thoughtfully and be genuine in our allyship. Let us make space for joy, for creativity. Let us not only fast from junk food but let us prepare good, nourishing meals for those who are without. Let us fast expansively this Lent.

**Charity:** This is not simply about writing a check (though sometimes this is a faithful use of resources). Charity is also showing up. Let us share time, attention, and care. Let us reduce our focus on hoarding wealth or possessions and instead practice love for our neighbors in tangible ways. Let us use our voices for those who have been silenced. Let us help redistribute wealth so that those who are without receive what they need. And let us stand in solidarity with communities who are vulnerable. Charity makes visible Christ's love we proclaim. Let us show the love of God and neighbor through charity this Lent.

These practices alone cannot change the world – but we believe in One who is already changing this world. And so, as we practice these disciplines, we also live in the promise that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in this world. And that even in this fearful time, death does not have the final word. Through Jesus, God is always bringing hope out of despair, community out of isolation, life out of death. As people shaped by the promise of the resurrection, may we dare to live differently – to pray boldly, to fast with freedom, to give generously. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us during these forty days and beyond. And may our lives bear witness to the new life God is already creating among us.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



# MARCH

## 2026



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

|  |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1 Family &amp; Praise Sunday</b><br/>WORSHIP 10:00a<br/>Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>                   | <p><b>2</b><br/>O.A. 10:00a<br/>SCOUT B 7:00p</p>  | <p><b>3</b><br/>Sewing 9:00a<br/>SCOUT G 7:00p</p>  | <p><b>4</b><br/>Staff Meeting 9:30a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>WORSHIP Comm 11:00a<br/>LENTEN DINNER 5:30p<br/>LENTEN WORSHIP 6:30p<br/>CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p</p>     | <p><b>5</b><br/>Men's Bible Study 7:00a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>WELCA Board 11:00a<br/>EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p</p>   | <p><b>6</b><br/>PRIMETIMERS<br/>Bingo 10:00a</p>  | <p><b>7</b></p>                                   |
| <p><b>8 1st Sunday in Lent</b><br/>EDUCATION Time 9:00a<br/>WORSHIP 10:00a<br/>Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>  | <p><b>9</b><br/>O.A. 10:00a<br/>SCOUT B 7:00p</p>  | <p><b>10</b><br/>WOMENS BIBLE 10:00a<br/>WOMENS BIBLE 3:30p<br/>SCOUT G 7:00p</p>                                 | <p><b>11</b><br/>Staff Meeting 9:30a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>A-Town Cigy Mtg 12:30p<br/>LENTEN Dinner 5:30p<br/>LENTEN WORSHIP 6:30p<br/>CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p</p> | <p><b>12</b><br/>Men's Bible Study 7:00a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>CHURCH COUNCIL 4:00p<br/>SCOUT B Leader 7:00p</p> | <p><b>13</b><br/>PRIMETIMERS<br/>Bingo 10:00a</p> | <p><b>14</b></p>                                  |
| <p><b>15 2nd Sunday in Lent</b><br/>EDUCATION Time 9:00a<br/>WORSHIP 10:00a<br/>Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p> | <p><b>16</b><br/>O.A. 10:00a<br/>LWR Knitting 1:00p<br/>SCOUT B 7:00p<br/><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p> | <p><b>17 St. Patty's Day</b><br/>Sewing 9:00a<br/>SCOUT G Leader 6:00p<br/>YOUTH Comm 6:30p<br/>SCOUT G 7:00p</p> | <p><b>18</b><br/>Staff Meeting 9:30a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>LENTEN Dinner 5:30p<br/>LENTEN WORSHIP 6:30p<br/>CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p</p>                            | <p><b>19</b><br/>Men's Bible Study 7:00a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>CUB Pack 6:00p</p>                                | <p><b>20</b><br/>CUB Pack Derby Setup</p>         | <p><b>21</b><br/>Pinewood Derby<br/>10a - 12p</p> |
| <p><b>22 3rd Sunday in Lent</b><br/>EDUCATION Time 9:00a<br/>WORSHIP 10:00a<br/>Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p> | <p><b>23</b><br/>O.A. 10:00a<br/>ALTAR Guild 11:00a<br/>SCOUT B 7:00p</p>                                | <p><b>24</b><br/>Sewing 9:00a<br/>Piano Tuner 2:00p<br/>SCOUT G 7:00p</p>   | <p><b>25</b><br/>Staff Meeting 9:30a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>LENTEN Dinner 5:30p<br/>LENTEN WORSHIP 6:30p<br/>CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p</p>                            | <p><b>26</b><br/>Men's Bible Study 7:00a<br/>Prek Chapel 10:45a<br/>Praise Team 1:00p</p>                             | <p><b>27</b></p>                                  | <p><b>28</b></p>                                  |
| <p><b>29 Palm Sunday</b><br/>EDUCATION Time 9:00a<br/>WORSHIP 10:00a<br/>Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>        | <p><b>30</b><br/>O.A. 10:00a<br/>SCOUT B 7:00p</p>   | <p><b>31</b><br/>Sewing 9:00a<br/>SCOUT G 7:00p</p>   |   |   |   |   |