

Anacortes Lutheran Church
December 2020 Newsletter

Pastor's Message

The stores and televisions and media all call December “The Christmas Season.” We are bombarded with songs about a reindeer with an unusual proboscis, roasting chestnuts (am I the only one who has never eaten a chestnut?), mothers kissing Santa Claus, and noises up on our rooftops. This is also the time when Bing Crosby once again dreams of white Christmases, just like the ones he used to know. And you know what? I’m with Bing (although I can do without the snow part).

We consider a radically different Christmas this year. There might not be the whole family gathered together for Christmas dinner. Some families will not be able to afford the kinds of present which would mark a normal Christmas since they are out of work or they see their business on the brink of bankruptcy. And all the changes we encounter might not even be due to COVID; many will also find an empty space around the Christmas tree because of the passing of someone they love. For many people and for many reasons, Christmas will look different this year. Yes, I’m with Bing. I long for the kinds of Christmases I used to know.

Even though the world has been disrupted, the Christmas hype hasn’t changed a whole lot. I watch on television as an attractive couple gives one another brand new GMC vehicles, and I wonder: “Are there really people who can really afford to do that?” There are polar bears drinking Coke and geckos wearing Santa hats. Every commercial tells me how much I need to spend in order to make my loved ones happy. Yet we all know this year will be radically different. Some things have changed.

Here at Anacortes Lutheran Church we realize we will not be having three Christmas Eve services which traditionally have packed the house; there will be one and it will be live-streamed only. There will be no in-person midweek Advent services and the Christmas dinner, though it still will happen, will be carryout only. Yet in the midst of it all the church’s proclamation has not changed at all: we will still be announcing the incarnation of the newborn king.

Over many years I’ve found myself presiding at a number of funerals close to the Christmas season. The decorated Christmas tree rises over the coffin. And one of the things I recall for the family and friends is a line from one of our Christmas hymns: “Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.”

Jesus came into this world not simply to provide a peaceful nativity scene for a Hallmark Christmas card, but because there is pain and loss in this world. We confront fears and unwelcome interruptions in our lives. There is COVID. There is unrest. There are financial hardships and downright catastrophes. There are families broken. There are diagnoses we never wanted to hear. Christmas is not just about a baby who got a raw deal being born in a barn, it is about the need of a fractured and fearful humanity for a Savior; about a baby who grew up destined for a cross. God took on flesh because the cosmos was and is in pain.

This may not be the Christmas we all envisioned. This is not what Bing dreamed about. But the powerful message still rings true across the eons: Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.

Blessed Advent and a Wondrous Christmas.

Walt

A Message from Pastor Butler

Yet one more thing that will be different in 2020—the Advent and Christmas season. Heck, even the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is more a Charlie Brown tree than one of the majestic beauty we have come to expect.

As a child, my mother and grandmother would take me to Manhattan to walk down 5th Avenue where the fabulous window displays in the department stores filled me with awe and wonder. I remember the bitter cold as I watched the wind make the lights on the tree sway, while bundled-up New Yorkers skated on the ice below. There was a magic to those visits to “the City”.



This pandemic season will mean more disruption. We will be unable to enjoy the traditions that many of us cherish, and that is a hard and painful reality we will grapple with through the final days of 2020. As we have adjusted to new ways of shopping, of worshipping, of being in fellowship with one another, we will adjust to this holiday season’s circumstances too.

As has happened with many of the adaptations we have made, there has often been a renewed appreciation for things we may have taken for granted. For example, we have recovered the value of *sabbath*. Where once we rushed from one activity, from one time commitment, to another, we have been forced to stop. And that has enabled us to reflect on how we spend time, which has led some of us to focus more fully on those things that are truly important, that make our lives meaning-full rather than just full.

May this strange and disturbing Holy Season 2020 enable us to center our minds and hearts more deeply on the Source of life, the Ground of our being—the One Most Holy G-d whose love became flesh and lived among us in Jesus of Nazareth. May we find new meaning-full ways to connect with one another. May we see more clearly that every human being is G-d’s beloved child, sisters and brothers who we are to love and care for.

May this strange and disturbing Holy Season 2020 be a blessing to us and to the whole world. May we be filled with the Joy and Peace and Hope and Love of Emmanuel, God-with-us. May we join the angel chorus, singing, ‘Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace and good will toward all people.’

Shalom,

Pastor Deborah

*When they saw the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.*

Matthew 2:10

Advent & Christmas at Anacortes Lutheran Church

As the COVID pandemic continues to affect us, as we have in so many ways, we are adjusting our traditional Advent and Christmas schedule. We encourage you to take advantage of these seasonal worship experiences.

Why not create a special sacred space near where you engage in virtual worship? If you don't have an Advent wreath, set out four candles and light one every Sunday to mark the weeks of preparation for the Christmas celebration. Add an additional candle in the center to light on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. May this truly be a season of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love.

Advent midweek Holden Evening Prayer

Join with the ALC community for weekly Wednesday, Holden Evening Prayer on our YouTube channel
Pastor Walt will share a new message every week

Christmas Eve

Celebrate Jesus' birth at a livestream Christmas Eve Candlelight service

5:00 p.m. on December 24th

There will **not** be in-person worship on Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Our tradition of serving Christmas Dinner will take place, though as a take-out meal.

See the article in this newsletter for more information.

There will not be a Christmas Day worship service this year.



Community Christmas Dinner



Pandemic Style Drive Thru Pick-Up
Friday, December 25th | 1:00 am- 2:30 pm
(Enter parking Lot from "O" Ave & proceed as directed)

Preparations will take place on Wednesday and Thursday.

We will be delivering meals to the homebound and to the Fire Department as we have in previous years. We will still need volunteers to help with this important outreach; however, in different ways than previously.

Please contact the office or Anne Barry to help.

Thank you, Anne Barry & Don Devine (Co-chairs)

From the Treasurer... Lane Phelan

Budget drafts have started and the reality of the closure due to Covid and the uncertainty of transition times has us facing challenging numbers. We have weathered this year fairly well even though our member giving is down \$60,000 over the first 9 months. We are now faced with creating a budget when our weekly giving is now just at \$5,400, approximately \$2000 per week less than before. With quick math 52 weeks times \$2000 puts us down \$104,000 a year compared to the past 2 budget years. 80% of our budget is personnel, this makes for some difficult decisions.

It is a privilege to be a part of the leadership team at Anacortes Lutheran. We now find ourselves in difficult times that we have not seen. I ask that you pray for our church council, our members and for our vision moving forward.

Thank you Caroline from us all



Thank you, Caroline Spehar for sharing your gifts with our congregation as chair of the Altar Guild. Caroline recently announced her retirement from her position as committee chair.

Caroline has served well in her role which includes not only coordinating preparation of the altar space and setting up for Holy Communion and Baptism, but also monitoring worship supplies. Our Altar Guild team works behind the scenes, but without them our worship services could not take place. Thank you to all the faithful servants on Altar Guild.

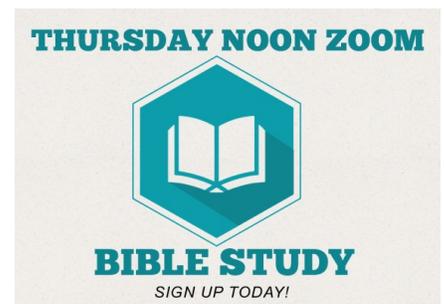
We are grateful to Gunilla Wold for taking on the role of chairperson. If you are interested in finding a new way to serve our church, consider being part of the Altar Guild. Contact Gunilla directly or through the church office for more information.

Join Pastor Walt's Bible Study

Every Thursday at 12:00 you can join Pastor Walt in an examination of the coming Sunday's scripture lessons. Our hope is to discover a little background about the original context of each passage and then to share thoughts about how those particular verses might speak to us today.

If you wish to join, contact the church office and Pastor Walt will send you the link for the study. If you have any questions about logging on to Zoom on your computer, we will attempt to help you do so.

Welcome to the study. We hope to see you this coming Thursday.



Outreach for Christmas – Josephine Caring Community

Dear compassionate friend,

As you have heard, Josephine Caring Community is in crisis because so many have been exposed to the Covid virus. Staff continue to work with the best safety precautions as they care for their precious residents, and the community will come through this eventually – do not stop praying. I am suggesting the following steps to help save time and energy for the people at Josephine who are already overwhelmed.

Could you buy a Christmas present for a Josephine resident that you think someone residing there would like. We have a few suggestions of items like colored pencils and coloring books, playing cards, electric shavers, brightly colored blankets.... Make it a present that would most likely be for a male, a female, or a generic, and then label the present as such and bring it to Anacortes Lutheran Church to Rachel during office hours. For wrapping, please use a simple gift bag, so staff at Josephine can see what the gift is and sanitize them. I would like to deliver all presents on or near to December 10.

If you prefer, make out a check to Josephine Caring Community, in care of Chaplain Helen McPeak. She will then find an appropriate way to benefit a resident, or in some cases more than one resident.

If you send a check, let Helen know that you are a member of Anacortes Lutheran Church and mark on the check it is for Christmas Presents.

Send the check to: *The Rev. Helen McPeak;*
Director of Spiritual Care
Josephine Caring Community
9901 272nd Place NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

The phone number for the Josephine Chaplains Office is 360-386-3231.

If you have any questions, call me at 360-588-8061.

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

Jerry Bongard

Amazon Smile – shop and donate at the same time

Make a difference this holiday.

Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0720905 to generate donations for Anacortes Lutheran Church and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.

Since January 2020, \$53.67 has been donated to Anacortes Lutheran Church from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity.





Anacortes Lutheran Church is looking for people to be employed in the production and electronic distribution of our weekly Online Sunday Service presentation. We are looking for people to provide service in 3 different responsibilities. More than one position may be held at the same time. The three positions may be thought of as pre-production prep, day of service recording, and post-production social media monitoring and management.

Please contact that church office if interested in any of the 3 positions.

Production Preparation Manager: 3 - 4 hours/week

- Work with Music Director and Pastor(s) and Live Stream Production Manager to create seamless online service presentation for weekly services
- Create all service slides for the live stream and prepare content of live stream service
- Coordinate files between Music Director and Pastor(s) to keep an open line of communication regarding the order of worship.
- Coordinate with FAST teams for “Live Chat”
- Organize and archive videos as needed and appropriate.
- Attend staff meetings as deemed necessary by the Pastors and/or Council

Live Stream Production Manager: 3 - 4 hours per service

- Attention to detail in production and direction of video.
- Work with Music Director and Pastor(s) to create seamless online service presentation for weekly services
- Make changes as necessary for any last minute changes to the service presentation
- Provide video quality meeting the standards of the Worship Committee
- During worship services and other “Live Stream” events, Live Stream Production Manager is responsible for set up of all necessary equipment and ensures that it will run smoothly
- Learning and understanding of all equipment pertaining to recording and live stream.
- Completely set up all equipment prior to the group meeting before service.
- Do sound checks and walk through the service in the group meeting
- Link the videos to the appropriate sources. (i.e. website, Facebook, YouTube)
- Take down equipment after services and store equipment properly
- Create and distribute audio and/or video recordings of the services as necessary
- Keep production desk tidy
- Train others to run equipment, create sub list and schedule as needed to include volunteer camera assistants

Social Media (Website, Facebook, Instagram) - 1-3 hours per week

- Attend staff meetings as deemed necessary by the Pastors and/or Council
- Keep all social media sites updated and accurate
- Ensure accurate information
- Promote upcoming events, sermons, updates, articles, etc.
- Alert pastor(s) to any sensitive issues
- Coordinate with church staff to provide accurate, appropriate and valuable content
- Provide a unique point of view and creativity to build a strong social media presence



CELEBRATE LIFE
This Season!

Please
GIVE BLOOD



You can't wrap a blood donation up and put it under the tree, but for the person who receives it, it'll be the best present they get all year. Take a little time off from the holiday hustle to make this season brighter for someone who needs it – a patient in our community. Find a [Pop-Up Donor Center](#) near you and book now. In fact, bring the whole family and make it a new tradition.

All donations are by appointment only.

The one hour donation appointment is a safe and essential action to support local hospitals and patients. The pop-up centers are being conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. No walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. All donors are required to wear masks during their appointment. Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus.

Upcoming Pop-Up Locations:

Pop-Up @

Edison Lutheran Church

14201 Church Rd. Bow, WA
Nov. 30th Dec. 1st & 2nd

Pop-Up @

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1300 9th Street, Anacortes, WA
December 15th, 16th, 21st, & 22nd

Can't make these locations work?
Visit website to find Pop-Up locations near you.

To make your appointment,
call 1-800-398-7888 or visit
schedule.bloodworksnw.org.

Our 2020 ALC Church Council

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

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY
ALC PRIME TIMERS™

No events are scheduled for December.

“CHRISTMAS”

“C” is for the Christ Child born upon this day;

“H” is for herald angels in the night.

“R” means our Redeemer;

“I” means Israel;

“S” is for the star that shone so bright.

“T” is for the three wise men,

They who travelled far.

“M” is for the manger where He lay.

“A” is for all He stands for;

“S” means shepherds came,

And that's why there is a Christmas Day.

Have a great winter, stay safe, & be happy.

We look forward to seeing you some day.

We miss y'all.



Sewing News

We met 3 times for sewing this month, it has been great to be back together for a few short times. Quilts were being put together, some pinned, some sewed, and some tied. It was fun to watch the pile of finished quilts grow. We will have a few weeks of no sewing while our state is quarantined. At this time we plan to begin our Tuesdays of sewing on December 8. All are welcome but please do not come if you are sick.

Sewing Pillowcases for homeless

We are still sewing pillow cases for the local missions. There is a basket in the hall by the secretary's office with cut cases that need to be sewn. Sewn pillowcases are to be returned to church.

Salvation Army Angel Tree Family



This year we will again sponsor a local family for Christmas with gifts and food. The Angel tree is up (in the hallway by the church office) with lots of angels on it for you to take and help us support the family. We have a family of 5 people, parents and 3 children. Take an angel tag, buy the gift and return it to church unwrapped with the angel tag attached and put it under the tree by December 17. Thank you for Blessing this family during Christmas!

We thank you for helping us with all of these projects. Stay healthy and well. Have a thanksgiving filled with love and peace. Questions call Jeaneen 360 293 7829.

Prayer Time – The Power of Prayer!

Join us by calling on your phone to our
“New Conference Call Prayer Time”
Tuesdays at 1:30 pm

Call Peggy at 1-518-351-9735 to learn more.

In our Prayers:

For a current list of prayer concerns, go to:

<https://www.anacorteslutheran.org/>

And look for the “Prayer Page” tab in the menu.

Call the office at 360-283-9586 to add or update a prayer to the “Prayer Page.”

Urgent or Confidential Needs:

The **Prayer Chain** is open for you from 9am to 9pm.

We pray for you and then pass your prayer to the next person, who then prays and passes, etc...Your prayer needs cannot & will not be shared outside of the Chain.

As always, our the Pastors are available to pray with you or for you. Please let them know if you are hospitalized or ill.

Peace of the Lord.

Sewing Circles – Faith and Julia

Rejoice in the Lord always

Greetings to all of the sewing ladies. It sounds like you are all busy doing the Lords work . Thank You so much. We want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. You are all A Blessing.

Hope you are all well and staying safe.

LWR Knitting News – Linda Anderson

We are taking a Covid – Holiday until March

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set.

Our current Spring 2021 total is:

Sweater/hat sets - 7

Hats - 1

Sweaters - 2

We use a fun one piece sweater pattern.

Beginners are welcome. Teaching is available.

If you need more yarn, please call me.

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

Sunday School News

The November newsletter article for the Sunday school news indicated that we would be opening classes on the 8th of that month. We did just that. On the 8th we had three teachers and two students show up. Not a huge showing but we had a great time. We introduced our plan to make a video and the kids were very excited about the idea. We actually plan to make several videos over the first 4 to 5 weeks depicting a Christmas Story. We will splice them all together; do some editing and then show the finished product to the congregation at the December 20th service. That's our plan and it will require some consistency on the part of our students to get it done. So the challenge is on. All we have to do is make it happen. I'm confident that we will. In the meantime, we are doing all the right things to keep our students and teachers safe. Sanitizing, social distancing and mask wearing are all being carefully observed.

We would love to have more students participating in our skit. Right now, we have five students in Sunday school; we could have as many as 12 in our space, according to our state guidelines. If any kids would like to join us, simply make a reservation on EventBrite via our website, or call the church office during the week prior. In addition to wanting more students, we are still looking for two volunteers to share teach our classes. If you are interested please contact Dave White - 206-226-7182.

Family Link:

Speaking of volunteers, we could also use a few for our Family Link program. We just recently kicked off our program with the assignment of some grade schoolers to two of our mentors. As of this writing we have not had any feedback on how things are going. By the time you read this, however, there should be something to report. We will catch you up later.

Another resource that we are offering on our website is a link to the Skit Guys "Bedtime Stories." We attempt to use a story that identifies with the topic of the church lessons for that weekend. It would be nice to know if the kids are utilizing this resource and if they are enjoying them. If time allows, please shoot out a text or note to Dave at the afore mentioned cell phone number or buzz Rachel at the Church office.

Upcoming Events:

December 20th - Children's Christmas video shown at the Worship service

Sorry no Christmas Store

As of this writing there has been no plans to have the Christmas store this year.

It is our prayer that the vaccines they are testing will provide relief from the pandemic so that we can get back to a more normal church experience. Until then, we will do our best to keep our congregation safe,

Dave White

Director, Children's Ministry

206-226-7182



Worship with Us near & afar



We are excited to be able to worship in person again.

Please join us by registering via the ALC website the Tuesday before worship. Due to the Covid pandemic, seating is limited and the guidelines listed below must be followed. For those who do not feel comfortable coming into church at this time, please continue to follow along as you listen and watch our Live Stream Worship Service at - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>

December- Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel

December 6 2 nd Sunday in Advent	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 40:1-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-15 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Mark 1:1-8	Reader: Beth Benson
December 13 3 rd Sunday in Advent	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Psalm 126 John 1:6-8, 19-28	Reader: Lois Cassidy
December 20 4 th Sunday in Advent	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 / Romans 16:25-27 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Luke 1:26-38	Reader: Bill LeDuc
December 24 Christmas Eve	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 9:2-7 / Titus 2:11-14 Psalm 96 Luke 2:1-20	Reader: Donald Devine
December 27	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Isaiah 61:10—62:3 / Galatians 4:4-7 Psalm 148 Luke 2:22-40	Reader: Persephone & Joey Pestar

Guidelines for in-person Worship:

- 1) Pre-Register for Worship service on the ALC website
- 2) Reservations will be open each week prior to the service (Starting -Tuesdays 9am & Closing - Fridays 2pm)
- 3) Enter the church through the main entrance, "O" Avenue side.
- 4) Visit the church website for more information at all times.
- 5) Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance.
- 6) Sign in at the entrance.
- 7) Make sure to answer NO to having COVID-19 symptoms.
- 8) Maintain 6 ft spacing at all times unless you are related.
- 9) Follow directions of ushers for Entering, Seating and Exiting
- 10) There will be NO Singing or bulletins & No congregating in the Narthex before or after services.

In-person services have been suspended until at least January. ALC will be following the Anacortes School District's metrics for K-3rd grade for re-opening.

December - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Nancy Loftis	15	Alice Dohve
4	Ida Ford	17	Breauna Sullivan
5	Johanna Tracy	17	Hunter Harrington
5	Wyatt Engom	17	Carleigh Kurz
6	Robert Claus	20	Pat Faulkner
6	Brianna Etlicher	20	Diane Gusa
8	Melanie Sahnnow	20	Jim Carver
8	Stacey Pestar	22	Colleen Legan
8	Georgia Ranz	23	Philip Case
10	Connie Bliss	23	Anne Barry
10	Norm Vigre	24	Irene Parker
11	Madeline Lowrie	24	Chuck Arneson
11	Matthew Lowrie	26	Hannah Smythe
11	Samantha Hernandez	27	Jason Myers
12	Robert Eggleston	27	Christal Boespfulg
12	Jeni Richards	28	Bob Merrill
12	Tyson Mavar	28	Matthew Phelan
13	Ed Berg	29	Darcy Storme
15	Jim Parker	30	Peggy White
15	Sheila Duquaine	31	Norma Knutsen
		31	Dana McCoy

November - Online Worship

www.anacorteslutheran.org/online-ministry

	Website	YouTube	In Person
1	69	117	
8	48	74	32
15	55	73	27
22			
29			

December - Anniversaries!

1	Fred & Marilyn Tenoll
2	Gary & Judy Card
2	Donald & Rachel Devine - 30 years 
12	Robert & Rebecca Eggleston
18	Robert & DeAnna Claus - 55 years 
18	Glenn & Juli Sullivan
27	Blake & Tammy Tornga
27	Stan & Leone Zimmerman
31	Matt & Ginny Connelly



Pastor Deborah Butler

Baptism

November 7, 2020

Owen Jacob Espinozo

Parents: Adam & Christina Espinoza

Grand parents: Bill & Diane Gusa

Sympathies

February 18, 1916 - November 11, 2020

Paul Lambert Knowles

“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- Romans 6:23

ALC Council Minutes – November 12, 2020

Attended: Via Zoom- Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pastor Walt, Melanie Sahnaw, Dave Bjornson, Jeaneen Brogan, Kendra Kennedy, Les Olsen & Steve Richards.

Meeting to order at 6:35pm and Pastor shares a prayer.
October 15th mtg notes approved as written, MSP.

Treasurers Report: Year to date member offering is \$210,841, averaging \$5,407 weekly. Year to date revenue to expense is (-\$5,841) Benevolence paid YTD is \$18,113 and bill are current. Requested to see if Kevin could look at Linda's printer and fix please.

Motion to set Thanksgiving benevolence to ELCA World Hunger, El Camino de Emaus & Friendship House. MSP with no discussion.

Motion to set Christmas benevolence to Lutherwood, Anacortes Family Center and Food Banks. MSP with no discussion

Motion to send Giving Statement along with the Stewardship letter ASAP. MSP with no discussion.
Accepted report as given.

Pastors Report: Annual meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2021 and just wondering what that will look like, how to distribute annual reports? Did a Zoom Bible Study today with 7 people attending. Contact Pastor Walt if you wish to attend a bible study. Transition Team would like clarification on the new pastor. Best for now would be one full time Pastor with Youth & Family experience in hopes to hire a Youth & Family Assoc. Pastor in 2-3 years. Someone to Pastor the whole congregation. Pastor will draft a letter for the Stewardship campaign. Deb & Lewis Benson stopped in to say Hi. They are ready to pick up their furniture from Pastor Walt's office, so we need to furnish the office soon.

Presidents Report:

Old Business: Reopening Committee is operational and moving ahead. Transition team is working on the MSP, they need a 12 word sentence summing up the Mission Stmt., Core values and Vision Stmt. Lane & Bill will get something to the council for approval. Member roster is put on hold till January. Bill working with the Nomination Committee to call people this week trying to fill council positions. Chapter 13 of the constitution review is almost complete.

New Business: BSA has filed Chapter 11. We will be filing a Proof of Claim form for our protection only. If any claims come in the future, they will go directly to BSA.

Personnel Report: They worked on the budget and going to Dave & Jeaneen to give input on multimedia contracts. The janitorial work schedule is Tuesday – Friday. We are looking at changing that schedule to have Sunday cleaning, not waiting till Tuesday.

WELCA Report: Still not much going on. Les drove the quilts to Seattle, thank you Les. We have 10-12 ladies sewing. We will be skipping the week before and week after Thanksgiving. All plans for 2021 are on hold for now.

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: Fellowship Hall furnace has been repaired with new thermostats in the Nursery, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen replaced. Have hopes to replace the remaining 3 soon. We are waiting a bid on sprinkler heads to be tested and certification done to be sure they are to specifications. Updated filters in the basement,

Continued on next page...

...Council Minutes continued

placing filter fabric in the Education building and installing ropes to section off the pews for social distancing. Waiting for a bid to replace the carpet in Conference Room I. Lane will provide a check for \$55 to the City for them to complete the final inspection and receive the occupancy permit for the Pre-school. We have updated the filters in the pre-school and fixed the window to receive the fan for better circulation. It is recommended that the Exec Board consider updating the language in the Legacy Endowment's "Use of Funds" to include Maintenance as well as Capital Improvements. Further recommendation is that the Exec Board consider implementation for funding of a Furnace Replacement Program over the next 10 years. We have 7 furnaces ranging from 20-50 years old and would be \$6000-\$7000 each to replace.

Education: Family Link has 8 kids and 2 adults, Dave is reaching out to get them connected. Sunday school had 2 attend, went well. Working on a short video, the curriculum is from Pastor Walt with a script to be recorded over the next 5 weeks for the Christmas program. Looking for extras to be in the program.

Multimedia: Kevin will get receipts turned in ASAP. Live stream internet is working fine but would like to get away from Comcast to be more cost effective. We are registered with Texpow.org as a non-profit and can get better pricing. We are waiting for the City internet to change over from Comcast.

Motion: Lane suggests that Kevin have the authority to make changes in our internet/phone for best service and cost. MSP Discussion: He is very knowledgeable but must keep Rachel informed.

Fellowship Report: No Report

Youth Report: No Report

Preschool Report: No Report

Stewardship Report: Barbara is working with Mason on a short video to launch on FB, Instagram and the ALC website for the Stewardship Gratitude Campaign.

Worship Report: When in church you MUST wear a mask at all times. No Thanksgiving Day or Eve service. The Advent services will all be prerecorded. Christmas Eve service will be online at 5pm with NO Christmas Day service.

The next Council meeting is December 10 at 6:30p via Zoom
We all shared the Lord's Prayer and closed at 8:35pm

Blessings, Melanie



Looking to give it a good home with a church family!

Generac 4000 XL A/C generator which has never been used.

It's a 4000 watt 120/240 Volt machine and has been stored with oil in the engine but has never seen gasoline. I'd like to give it to someone in the church who would use it as a home backup or camping power source.

Contact John Parker

360-424-2302

Bishops Message – The Spirit, December 2020

Dear Beloveds,

A prayer during this Advent season. *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when divisions seem unsurmountable, when hatred seems more real than love, when chaos churns, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when a mysterious and virulent disease stalks this earth, as loved ones become ill, as we see the exhaustion of caregivers, as we grieve those whose breath is now air, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when loneliness and anxiety are common, when we speak to one another behind masks or plexiglass, when we crave physical connection but are unable to touch, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when lies are disguised as truth, when leaders refuse to lead, when institutions we rely on begin to crack, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when silence is complicit in keeping others unheard, when cries for justice are treated with derision, when black and brown bodies are treated as less than sacred, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when voices are raised up, peaceful protestors come together, incremental change occurs, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when truth is exposed, when the courageous stand up to injustice, when institutions give way to the Spirit's dance, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when we gather in chat rooms and zoom calls across the miles, see faces on screens that bring smiles, hold babies up to computer cameras and we clap and sing and pray and laugh together, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when scientists doggedly pursue a cure, nurses and doctors and medical staffs come day after day after day to bring expertise and healing to those who have fallen ill, when pastors and deacons bring comfort to the sick and to the bereaved, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when we experience the ancient Word as the living Word, when we live into the radicalness of peace and wholeness and new life, when we join together in the Holy Community you call us into, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.

Grace & Peace,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

