



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Dear blessed friends and members of Anacortes Lutheran,

We have made it through the most 'normal' Lent and Easter that we have had since 2019. We were able to meet together in worship (although we still need to get back to sharing a bowl of soup) and we were even able to pack the church on Easter morning as we cried out, "Jesus is Risen, He is Risen indeed!" Thank you to all who worked so diligently to get everything ready!

We continue to return to what we remember as 'church', but we also know that things are different. We are still livestreaming our Sunday worship (and will continue to do so!) We continue to meet for some of our committees on Zoom. We continue to strive to figure out how best to use technology to both widen our reach to the world and to make new relationships grow deeper. We still have those little Communion kits as we share in the Eucharist. We place our offering in the basket on the way in (or look for a place to put it after the service when we forget). And yet, we are gathering together!

How can we continue to expand on what we have learned over the last 2 years that can help us reach into the next 20 years? One of the ways I would like us to begin is by reflecting on the gifts that God has given to each of us to do the ministry that we are called to do. No one has all the gifts necessary, and so we need the whole of the community to pitch in with their strengths and talents so that ministry may grow in Anacortes and beyond. As is in the whole of Creation, there is no gift that is too small, or seemingly inconsequential, that it cannot add to what God is doing in this place. We need one another and we support one another in this work! And if you do not know what gifts you have been given? Ask someone who knows you. I am sure they can tell you about the many gifts that they see in your life.

As Spring continues to burst forth, we too are called to break out of our COVID chrysalis and stretch our wings. We are called to live a life of resurrection and new life. Let us break forth into a world that needs to hear about the love, peace, and hope that we can find in Jesus Christ. Let us sound the trumpet from the highest hill (like Michael did for us on Easter morning!) and let the people know that God is in this place and calls us all to come and see what God is doing.

Many of you have told me how great the Summers are here. Let's make it even better as we remind people that they are loved and maybe even hear it ourselves. You are loved! We are loved! God is love!

Breaking forth!
Pastor Scott

FROM THE COUNCIL AT ANACORTES LUTHERAN:

Dear fellow members, it really feels to me like we are turning a corner. There's a new atmosphere starting to move in the sanctuary as we get closer and closer to a "new normal" defining the way we worship and interact. What are some of the signals? Count the number of kids at the foot of the altar for the Children's Sermon. Witness the increasing number of folks who turn out for Work Day Saturdays. The pews are getting happily just a little bit fuller every Sunday. And how about the Easter Week we just had! Good Gospel, Good Music, Good Fellowship, and Good Communications radiating out all across the Internet as our ALC online presence gets more and more polished.

What's being done in all these areas is due to a dedicated combination of paid staff and faithful volunteers. Our team is almost complete. But.....When almost any group I've been involved with lately asks "what

do we need MOST right now?" it's almost universally agreed that our **Fellowship Activities** really need a Captain, Chairperson, Recognized Coordinator, (or whatever title best suits your vision.) It's the only position on the Council which is not filled. There are an infinite number of ways this position can be filled; by an individual or a team; for a semester, or for a year, but it's an important gear in our machine which is currently only turned by the impromptu efforts of a few good members.

So my message this month is: Someone out there, Please become part of a very dynamic Church Council here at ALC and take on the joyful task of leading our Church Fellowship work. Contact any Council Member and ask how you might become involved. Please!!!

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

FROM THE TREASURER...

THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR IS COMPLETE

Our total income to expense has us \$8,000 ahead, this includes first quarter benevolences of \$7000.00 that was paid also. Our 13 week average member offering is \$7,772. Our most recent month average was \$6,882. Notable our utility expenses are well beyond budgeted. A cold spell in January, utility increases are most of the cause.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving. Lane Phelan, Treasurer

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

Pray for our 2022 Church Council & Committees

<i>President:</i>	John Parker	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Lane Phelan
<i>Secretary:</i>	Anita Holzemer	<i>Education:</i>	Kendra Kennedy
<i>Outreach:</i>	Peggy White	<i>Personnel:</i>	Jeanen Brogan
<i>Preschool:</i>	Anne Barry	<i>Properties:</i>	Bill LeDuc
<i>Stewardship:</i>	Donald Devine	<i>Worship:</i>	David Bjornson
<i>WELCA :</i>	Jeanette Christensen	<i>Fellowship :</i>	
<i>Josephine Delegate:</i>	Jerry Bongard & Bill LeDuc	<i>NW Synod Reps:</i>	Linda Millo & Lois Cassidy

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

This year we are creating a new pictorial directory for our congregation with our in-house staff ! It will be fun to have new photos and updated contact information available. Our plan is to have pictures of individuals/families taken in Conference Room 2 on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm and after Sunday service from 11:15am -1pm in May & June. We will publish the exact dates for online sign up and have an online form to update your contact information and forms at the Opportunity desk in the narthex.

Using our Church Windows software we will produce a directory with the goal of having it printed and ready for distribution at Rally Sunday in September. Keep a look out for further information with dates and sign up instructions.

See you all soon!

Katherine Khile, John Parker and Rachel Devine.

Photo session dates:

Wednesday: 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1 - 6:30-8pm

Sundays: 5/15, 5/22, 6/5, 6/26 - 11:15am -1pm

Appointments for pictures are available through Sign-Up Genius on our website or on Sundays at the Welcome Desk with a tablet.



ATTENTION: GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Completed application for the Anacortes Lutheran Scholarships are due in the church office no later than Tuesday, May 17. Contact the office with questions

Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 12.

CAMP LUTHERWOOD CAMP & RETREAT

Traditional camp / Day Camp / Specialty Camp / Lake Samish Music Camp / Family Camp
1185 Roy Rd. Bellingham, WA 98229 • office@camplutherwood.org • (360) 734-7652

JOIN HANDS DAY - Let's Serve the Lord Together

Join Hands Day is a national volunteer day! Come to camp and help make a difference as we get ready for Summer 2022! For more info or with any questions please contact office@camplutherwood.org!

Lunch provided for all volunteers!!

Saturday, May 7, 2022 - 9:30 am

CITS & HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

All 9th-12th graders join us for an awesome weekend with fellowship, serving, worship, fun and more!

May 6-7, 2022

HIGH SCHOOL & COUNSELOR IN TRAINING

High Schoolers join us for an amazing summer filled with adventures and friendship! All the best of Lutherwood and the outdoors! Join us as we adventure around camp and WA or for a week on the lake or check out our CIT program and learn leadership skills and put your faith in action!

Training Weeks: July 18-22, July 31-August 5 **Application Weeks:** July 24-29, August 7-12

Easter Thank you!

A special thanks to so many who made Easter Sunday very special this year. Thanks to Altar guild who has many extra hours during Holy Week, Brenda Lorentzen and Megan Dumas for help with flowers. Susan and Malcolm McCutcheon for the flower cross outside. Bill LeDuc for placing the banner & outside cross cloths. Paul and Don for painting the portico. WELCA ladies, especially Jeaneen, Jeanette and Lane for cinnamon rolls. Stacey Pestar for working with the children on Easter Sunday. Thanks to youth for their happy pictures in the sanctuary, Laurie Julius-Carver & all the musicians for the beautiful music. Thanks to Rachel for keeping it all going. Thank you Pastor Scott for a great service.

So, so many help to put this church together!! We thank you all.

Thank you

to those who purchased flowering plants for Easter, please feel free to pick up your plant on Sunday or during office hours and take them home



SCOUTS RECRUITING - JOIN THE LEGO RACE! - Tuesday, May 3rd . 6-7:30 pm in the Fellowship hall

A Night of Hot dogs, Hot Rods and Scouting Fun! This event is open to any youth, ages 5-18 who is interested in Scouting. There will be FREE food, LEGO Pinewood Derby races, Classic cars, and so much more!

POC: Mary Jo 360-333-8139 / maryjo.bsa@comcast.net

GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

TROOP 41804 - Brownies - 2nd grade

1st & 3rd Tuesdays on 6:30 pm

Meet in Youth room

Leader: Cherie Goyer

TROOP 44451 - 9th –12th grades

1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:30 pm

Meet in Conference room #1

Leader: Ginny Connelly

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

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

EVERY THURSDAY at 7:00 am

In conference room #1

Led by Boyd Veer

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY, MAY 7 - 11:30 am

At Rockfish Grill.

All Men are Welcome!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

TUESDAY, MAY 10

Ruth Circle at 10:00 am

In conference room #1

Hannah Circle at 10:00 am

In conference room #2

Anna Circle at 6:30 pm

In conference room #1

Led by: Nancy Loftis

SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

Sewing Days - TUESDAY, MAY 3, 17, 24 & 31

Starting at 9:00 am till 2:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a lunch a join us in the Fellowship Hall.

We are still collecting hand / bath towels & flannel.

Thank you to all who donate to us!

Serving in Christ, Julia Rogers 360-293-4232

Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

Meeting Date - MONDAY, MAY 16

1:00 - 3:00 pm - Conference Room #1

Yarn is available at the meeting.

Our Fall 2022 total to date is:

Sweater/hat sets – 5

Sweaters – 2

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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA GIVES THANKS !

Thanks to all who donated Sox and Soap during the last couple of months. We gave the Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle 150 pairs of white socks and a couple dozen pillowcases. Our church has had a long relationship with the Compass Center so we chose them to benefit from these donations.

The soap and towels that were donated will be used for Lutheran World Relief Health Kits and Baby Kits. Quilts and kits will be shipped to needy countries in the Fall.

Thank you for continuing to support the endeavors of the women of the church.

All women of the church are welcome to attend Bible Study Circle meetings the second Tuesday of the month, Sewing Group on all other Tuesdays and the Knitting Group making baby sweater sets for LWR on the third Monday of the month.

Ask Rachel in the office for dates and phone numbers.

RETIREES GATHERING TOGETHER FOR FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP

GET-TOGETHER - Myriad of Muffins FRIDAY, MAY 13 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme is: *"Mom's Favorite Bundle"*

Before Wednesday, May 11, please text, email or give Paul a picture of yourself—age 0 to 2 years.

Sign up for the Get-Together at the Opportunity Desk or call, text, or email your RSVP to Julie.

A special thank you to Norma for the theme idea for May.

Have a great month, stay safe, and be happy.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

~ Paul & Julie Dusenbury



NOTICE: NO MAY Outreach meeting or Tuesday Prayer Time this month.

FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

(There will be NO Sunday School or Confirmation)

KIDS THIS IS YOUR SUNDAY TO TAKE OVER!!!

The **first Sunday of the month is Family Sunday** where families are invited to worship & be of service together. Children & families are encouraged to sign up to read lessons, acolyte, usher, sing or play an instrument. Help with Fellowship hour by bringing treats, setting up and cleaning up.

Sign up at the at the Opportunity desk (located *next to the Fellowship hall*) or call the church office.

Speak to Becky about helping with Fellowship hour.

ACOLYTES for SUNDAYS

We need acolytes every Sunday. The clipboard at the Opportunity desk has a clipboard with a list of Sundays from May through December. Pick a friend and sign up together, things are always more fun with a friend even serving in Worship.

If you are unsure about what to do as an Acolyte, talk to Pastor Scott or find an older teen that has done it and ask them questions.

CONFIRMATION - Grades 6th - 8th

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM in conference room #2

Led by Don Devine & Paul Dusenbury

Don't forget to bring your bible with you.

After class join the congregation for worship at 10 am.

Save the Date: Confirmation Sunday - June 5th

SUNDAY SCHOOL - K-5th grades

MEET AT 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.

*1st Sunday of month is - Family Sunday
(No Sunday school)*

SAVE THE DATES

June 5th - Confirmation Sunday

June 12th - Graduation Recognition Sunday



Congratulation on your 1st Communion April 3rd

Nathan Dent
Bradley Harrington
Maeve Kennedy
Amelia Thomas
Mahayla Thomas



YOUTH GROUPS ARE BACK!

High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 - 1:45 PM

In Youth room

Interested Volunteers are highly needed for meetings and Events!

Please contact Heather Harrington or the office.

Middle School Youth Group

THURSDAY, MAY 5 - 7:00 PM

In Youth room

Middle School Movie night

FRIDAY, MAY 20 - 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

In Fellowship Hall

Middle & High school teens what better way to get your volunteer hours for school than doing something fun.

Sign up to help with this summers

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL • MEGA SPORTS CAMP • JUNE 27– 30

Volunteer Sign-up & Registration forms can be found on our website www.anacorteslutheran.org



VBS

PLANNING MEETINGS

at Anacortes Lutheran Church
2100 O Ave

DATES:

Wednesday, May 25th at 6pm

Tuesday, June 14th at 6pm

contact Kendra Kennedy (773)236-1666



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

hosted by
Anacortes Lutheran Church

DATE: June 27-30

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

WHERE: Storvik Park

ONLINE Registration opens on Facebook/Website May 2nd



Would you like to make a difference and have fun at the same time? Join the MEGA Sports Camp team!

From singing songs to telling stories to just hanging out with kids, there's a place for you at our MEGA Sports Camp outreach. (Sports skills are not mandatory.)

WE NEED PEOPLE TO HELP WITH . . .

(Check the boxes next to the jobs you are interested in.)

- ☐ Rally Coach (teaching in front of the whole group)
- ☐ Music Coach (leading worship songs)
- ☐ MEGA (helping kids review the MEGA Points)
- ☐ Huddle Coach (leading a group of 5-8 kids)
- ☐ Head Coach (teaching in Sports Sessions)
Sport you are interested in _____
- ☐ Snack Coach (organizing snacks)
- ☐ Safety Coach (running the first aid station)
- ☐ Registration Coach (organizing registration table)
- ☐ Prayer Coach (leading a prayer team)
- ☐ Publicity Coach (promoting the camp in the community)
- ☐ Follow-up Coach (inviting kids to church after the event or organizing a follow-up event)
- ☐ Sports Camp Store Coach (selling souvenirs to the kids)

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

GIVE THIS SHEET TO: _____

OR CALL : _____

Worship with us near and far

**Join us for Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
In-person or Live-stream**

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.
- Communion is given with a prefilled all-in-one juice & wafer communion cup.
- Gluten free prefilled communion cups are now available

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

FAMILY SUNDAY - IS THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

(Please note there will be NO Sunday School or Confirmation)*

Worship service & Fellowship hour where families worship & serve together. Children, teens & families are encouraged to sign up to read lessons, acolyte, usher, sing or play an instrument.

Help with Fellowship hour by bringing treats, setting up and cleaning up.

Sign up on clipboards at the Opportunity Desk in the Narthex *(next to the Fellowship hall)* or contact Rachel.

To help with Fellowship hour please contact Becky.

MAY - Worship Readings & those Serving in Worship

May 1 Family Sunday	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Acts 9:1-20 Revelation 5:11-14 Psalm 30 John 21:1-19	Reader: Vance Frerichs Coffee Hour Host: Jeanette Christensen	Acolytes: Megan Kennedy Ushers: John & Kathryn Parker
May 8 Mother's Day	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 23 John 10:22-30	Reader: Anne Barry Coffee Hour Host:	Acolytes: Eva Dent Ushers: Mike Bastrom & Rexanne Graham
May 15	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 Psalm 148 John 13:31-35	Reader: Serena Partch Coffee Hour Host:	Acolytes: Ushers: Maurice & Helene Fink
May 22	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5 Psalm 67 John 14:23-29	Readers: Grace Boggio Coffee Hour Host:	Acolytes: Ushers: Chuck & Bev Landgraf
May 29 Hymn Pick Sunday	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 Psalm 97 John 17:20-26	Readers: Coffee Hour Host:	Acolytes: Ushers: Bill & Diane Gusa

SUMMER SCHEDULE begins on May 29th with Worship service starting at 9:30 am

Last day of Sunday School and Confirmation Class is May 22nd

MAY - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Lily Dumas	16	Nathan Dent
1	Carter Eggleston	16	Carol Kirby
1	CJ Eggleston	17	Judy Card
1	Mike Trafton	17	Bill Sahnnow
4	Yvonne Storme	17	Shayne Smith
5	Hannah Parker	18	Susan Reed
7	Ethan Lust	18	Stacy Roux
7	Susan McCutcheon	19	Elliot Hofferth
7	Judy Pesaturo	20	Connie Walters
10	Lois Cassidy	21	Jeff Hrovat
10	Brian Hanrahan	21	David Rapella
10	Michael Hanrahan	22	Jean Brown
10	Kendra Kennedy	22	Dee Holmes
10	Lara Knowles	22	Vera Jones
10	Sue Larsen	22	Krista Morgenthaler
11	Megan Dumas	23	Lucca Dumas
12	Kori Fosso	23	Judy Littlefield
12	Owen Kennedy	25	Camryn Kerr
12	Heidi Parker	25	Scott Peterson
12	Blakely Swietzer	26	Bernice Linvog
13	Ann Mayer	26	Don Sullivan
13	Rod Rothlisberger	27	Lane Phelan
14	Anita Holzemer	28	Bill LeDuc
14	Patricia Wilson	29	Stephanie Poor
15	Thomas Knowles		

MAY - Wedding Anniversaries!

1	Bill & Diane Gusa
5	Jim & Nancy Loftis
7	Bill & Karen Faulkner
10	Steve & Kori Fosso
13	Michael & Janice Sullivan
25	Randy & Stacy VanSweden
27	Dennis & Christy Giddings
27	Mirth & Dave Moore
29	Klaus & Christie Shoebel
31	Julia & Clarence Rogers

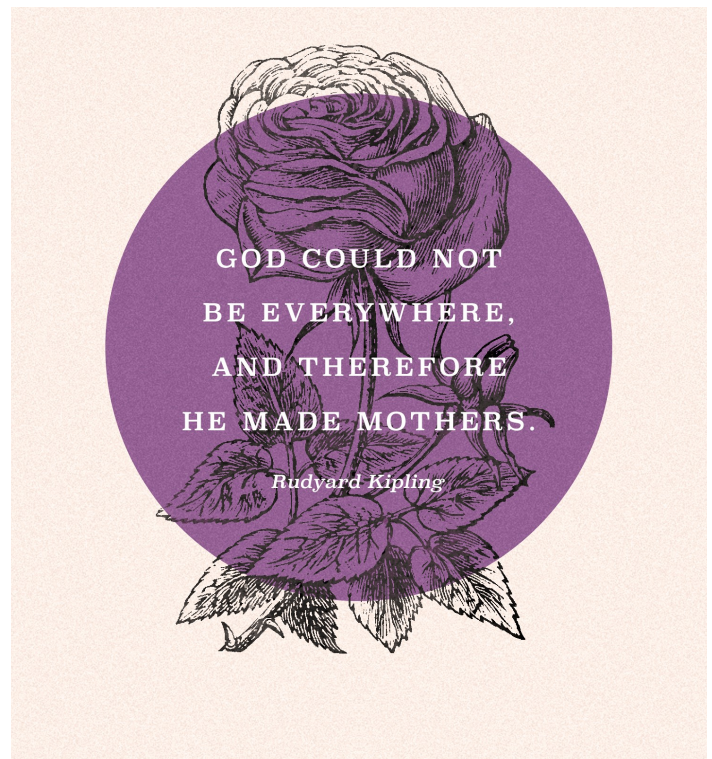
APRIL - Worship Services

Date	Events	In-Person	Live Stream
3	1st Communion-Family Sunday	107	88
10	Palm Sunday	129	70
14	Maundy Thursday	40	—
15	Good Friday	35	—
17	Easter Sunday	264	144
24	2nd Sunday of Easter	98	52

Sunday, May 8th
Have a Very Happy
Mothers Day



Thank you for all that you do.
We Love You!



ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - MARCH 10, 2022

Attendees: John Parker, Dave Bjornsen, Lane Phelan, Anita Holzemer, Pr Scott, Jeaneen Brogan, Bill LeDuc, Jeanette Christensen, Kendra Kennedy, Anne Barry, Don Devine, Brian Hanrahan

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

Treasurer's Report: Average weekly giving continues to go well. We are on track according to the approved budget. Reports were given to individual committee chairs. Quarterly benevolences were paid.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott is meeting monthly with MELCA, the men of the church. All men are welcome to join in. Attendance continues to grow for worship. People are returning slowly but surely, and we are seeing new faces in worship. We are still moving towards our new "normal".

President's Report: We need a Fellowship chair. An article will be coming out in the May newsletter. All council members were invited to submit names of potential Fellowship chair people as well as youth names for a potential youth council representative. ACTION ITEM: Don Devine will collate the names and get them to Pastor Scott to contact them on their interest in serving.

Old Business:

- "Growing Young" book study: Council is reading this book about attracting and keeping young people involved in the Church. Pastor Scott led the discussion. It was decided to open the audience to more people. Brian will give a temple talk in church on May 1st. The book study will begin May 15th and continue for five weeks, minus Memorial Day. Ten books will be ordered. ACTION ITEM: Please read Chapter 2 for next month.
- Linda Millo will designate the "Noisy Offering" (loose offering) every month for children's ministry. Linda is now using the giving module from our Church Windows software system to track member offerings.
- Member Roster/Photo Board: Kathy Khile has created a schedule for taking photos on eight days, Wednesdays & Sundays, beginning May 11 and ending June 26. Objective is to publish a picture directory in September.
- Job Description Updates: This is ongoing. Jeaneen is still waiting on input from some of the staff and will report back to council once finished.
- Preschool Board Opening: Anne met with Lane to go over the preschool handbook and bylaws. Anne will meet with Maggie in early May. Preschool job descriptions need updating.

New Business:

- Easter services: Good reports from all. Things seemed to have gone well.
- Scout Recruiting Event will happen on May 3rd. Facility Usage Request was approved.
- Staff Safety: When church staff are working alone in the building, it is important that strangers are not allowed in. If the staff feels uncomfortable or unsafe at any time, please feel free to call the police. MSP
- Large print hymnals: More people are using the large print bulletins. Rather than purchase large print hymnals, the church staff should make sure there are sufficient large print bulletins including the music available at all services, especially those services that don't use the projection screen.
- Wedding booklet: Don and Jeanette have been working on updating this manual along with a new rate sheet. We will visit this in detail next month. WELCA will continue to serve at funerals but will no longer serve wedding receptions.

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Committee Reports:

Worship: Summer worship time will be one service beginning at 9:30 am from Memorial Day weekend continuing through Labor Day. MSP

Properties:

- Signs will be placed around town advertising our services.
- There is a piano in the basement. Do we need it? Dave will check with Laurie.
- MOPS cabinet upstairs. Bill will check with Heather about emptying it.
- Bill will talk to the custodians regarding Sunday School area cleanliness.
- A meeting will be held soon to look for volunteers interested in helping with sanctuary revitalization.

Youth: Heather has met with different youth age groups. The youth are excited and have lots of ideas for activities moving forward, however more help is needed. We are willing to help Heather with childcare costs during her husband's deployment so she could conduct the youth activities if this is what is needed. ACTION ITEM: John will speak with Heather to ask what she plans on doing and what specifically she needs help with.

Council members were reminded to submit their committee reports to Anita no later than the Monday prior to our next council meeting. Anita will gather the reports and email them out to all council members ahead of the meeting.

Our next meeting will be held May 12 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary



PROPERTY WORK DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Starting 9 am

Come help beautiful our church.

POC: Bill LeDuc

THIS & THAT– BITS & PIECES

- DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR? Schedule an appointment by email or calling the office
Pastor Scott Peterson: pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org
- CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL & PHONE #: 360-293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org
- "LIKE" OUR FACEBOOK / YOUTUBE / 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!
- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The Third Monday of every month.
- PRAYER UPDATES: Call or email the church office additions or updates to the prayer list.
- DEVOTIONALS AND MORE: Christ in Our Homes devotionals, Living Lutheran Magazines, newsletters, etc...

I recently watched a documentary series that talked about bodies. In this documentary it was pointed out how in our society certain bodies are acceptable and “beautiful” (usually thin, young, female, white, etc.) and other bodies are not (usually fat, old, disabled, disfigured, etc.) One of the suggestions in this documentary to counteract society’s shaming culture about bodies is to stand in front of a mirror and look at your body. And, as you look at your body, to name, out loud, the positive things that you see in the mirror. For five minutes. Five. Minutes. This is a long time. And, to be honest, I have a much easier time naming my body’s deficits than attributes. Perhaps you can relate to this.

I think that we have the same problem when it comes to “church bodies.” Just as individual bodies are critiqued, church bodies are critiqued in this society, as well. A church body that has 800 bodies in it seems “sexier” than a church body that has 40 bodies in it. A church body that has younger bodies in it seems more attractive than a church body that has older bodies in it. A church body that has X, Y, or Z seems better than a church body that has R, P, or G (you fill in the letters). We have narrowed what it means to be beautiful and viable in the church much like we have with people in society - and if your particular context is different, it is easy to become tired and overwhelmed. It is easy to feel overlooked and shamed. It is easy, quite simply, to be discouraged.

But what if we expanded what it means to be the body of the church? What if – much like beauty standards need to do – we embraced a diversity of sizes and shapes? What if we truly incorporated what God does constantly – create and shape and grow and nurture a multitude of church bodies for the sake of the good news of Jesus?

I mean ... just as God never intended for the evergreen to be the only tree on earth (as beautiful as our state tree is), God never intended for one body to be the perfect body (as beautiful as each body is). The same goes for our church bodies. Think if we truly embraced the young and the old, the small and the large, the variety and multi-faceted ways of being church – including celebrating all that we do and are for the sake of the Gospel.

What if we listed all of the ministries that we participate in and that we partner with others outside of the church? What if we looked at the ministries that last a month or a year as important as those that last for decades? What if we said “yes” to ideas that seem different from what we’ve always done? What if we expanded church beyond worship on Sunday morning to ... what? What would you say? What do you envision? How is your imagination sparked through the Holy Spirit?

I encourage you to do the same exercise that is suggested from that documentary I mentioned above – only hold the mirror to our church body. What are you seeing and experiencing as attributes? What do you love about the church body that you participate in? What is beautiful? What formative experience is deep within you that you hold onto and would like to share with others? What do you see as a possibility beyond what you have been doing? What do you see as an obstacle that perhaps, upon closer inspection, could be a passageway? How has God gifted your community? Where is God’s Spirit nudging you now?

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, enslaved or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee