



THANKSGIVING

Dear Friends in Christ,

Seventeen years ago you stepped out in faith and welcomed me and my family as your pastor. You have heard our stories in sermons, prayed for us through our challenges and changes, and worked alongside us as friends in this amazing life and ministry we have shared.

You walked, grieved, hoped, and prayed with us through the month of September as I took sick leave to visit doctors and understand my cancer diagnosis and prognosis.

You have gifted me with this wonderful month of October as I came back to church working on a limited bases and moved into palliative care and chemotherapy. Together we have cried, hugged and laughed. Your cards and gifts have meant the world. Through out these last two months, your thumbs up kindness and prayers have been a wonderful support. Thank you for this gift of grace.

Now it is time for me to say goodbye as your pastor. You need someone who is physically and mentally able to be there for you in ways that I cannot. Therefore, I will be going on official long term disability beginning November 1st and will no longer serve as your pastor.

It has been the privilege of my life to serve as your pastor. When I think of the births, baptisms, birthdays, weddings, funerals, and celebrations we have shared, I am overwhelmed at the ways you have invited me to bring the promises of Christ into your lives. Equally important have been those ordinary moments of conversation at your home or mine, in the church or around town, that bring to mind the friendship Jesus shared with his friends. Thank you for the friendships we share. They are a treasure and foundation that are the heart of what it means to be a Christian community. I commend to you the 15 chapter of John's Gospel.

We who walk by faith and not by sight, who know the immeasurable love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus, are blessed indeed. So thank you dear friends. As I now end my time of service as your pastor I look to a super charged future for Anacortes Lutheran and pray for you and your next full time pastor. You are a wonderful congregation and together you will share the love of Jesus in ways that bring life abundant and life eternal to this community and to the world. Go be servant disciples and bear witness to Jesus' amazingly gracious love. The peace of the Lord be with you.

Love in Christ - Pastor Debra Benson





Thanksgiving for Pastor Benson

Sunday, November 10, at 3:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Celebrate her ministry with us. Bring a funny story to share.

Light refreshments will be provided.



This friendship quilt was made by the Sewing ladies,
as a gift from the congregation.

Each white square was signed by a member with love and affection.

From Pastor Butler

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year we enter into the holiday season with mixed emotions.

Advent and Christmas are just around the corner. This is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for. On Reformation Sunday five wonderful young women affirmed their faith; they committed themselves to continue to follow Jesus and to further the work of the church—the Body of Christ—in the world. We are blessed to have enthusiastic and experienced men and women who keep the programs going that enrich our congregational life and fulfill our mission. At the same time, we struggle with the shock of Pastor Benson's illness, and we grieve the loss of her leadership, of her presence among us as she goes on disability.

Recently our Sunday lessons included the story of Jacob wrestling with a nameless opponent (*Genesis 32:22-32*). Jacob emerges from the night-long struggle transformed and blessed, though limping. Reflecting on this, we acknowledge that we wrestle too—we wrestle with the question, 'Why?' We ask G-d, 'Why?' We wrestle with G-d as we struggle to understand.

At the same time, we know that we are named and claimed by the Living G-d as beloved children, so we know that G-d will most certainly be a present help in our time of trouble. We may be limping a bit, but we have been blessed to be the faithful and loving people G-d created us to be. And so, we persist in praying for Pastor Benson for healing and for comfort, we pray for her family, and we pray for ourselves as well, that we may be strong in faith and confident trust in G-d in times of need as well as in times of rejoicing.

The message on that Sunday ended with a quote from the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich. After the loss of her family from the plague, understanding that G-d's will for healing and wholeness is stronger than any illness, than any evil, she asserted, "And all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Thanks be to G-d that this is most certainly true.

Shalom, Pastor Deborah

From the Council President - Bill LeDuc

Members of Anacortes Lutheran, the sad news of our beloved Pastor Deb stepping down as Lead pastor and beginning a long term disability period is devastating to most of us. Although only a member here for 5 ½ years, I have been fortunate to know and work with her for most of that time, and she presided over Dorothy's and my wedding. She spoke with Bishop Shelley this week to officially step down as of November 1, 2019, to enter medical disability status with the synod on January 1, 2020. We will be meeting with the Bishop shortly to address these and other concerns.

Please offer your prayers for Deb and her family in this time of trial for them, and give thanks for the many years of pastoral care she has provided to the Anacortes Lutheran Family.

Take any opportunity you can to promote a positive spirit with your family and friends though your heart might be heavy. Say that extra prayer when no one is looking or listening because God loves you and He is always listening.

Facility Usage - I would like to ask that all members and non-members of Anacortes Lutheran Church be vigilant to insist that any request for use of our facilities, including rooms, sanctuary, kitchen and parking lots be requested in writing to the Church council, and approved before any use. ALC is responsible and may be liable for any issues arising from such use, including citations and/or insurance costs. Facility usage applications may be picked up from the church office.

From the Treasurer....

The end of October will bring the end of the 3rd quarter, but this report is written mid-month October. Year to date (week 37), we have not spent more than we have taken in. However, we are behind the budgeted amount by \$1000. per week. That puts us behind our budget at the end of the year by approximately \$50,000. Our 2019 budget that passed at the Annual meeting included \$65,190 for a second youth pastor. This has not come to fruition in this fiscal year and **we certainly have not adequately funded for that.**

Pastors

What has developed was certainly unforeseen and will heavily affect our 4th quarter. Pastor Benson is currently using sick pay and vacation for her leave. She will then officially receive 60 days paid medical leave from Anacortes Lutheran Church. If she is still on medical leave after the 60 days, the ELCA Synod will begin to pay her disability pay and continue her medical coverage. We have contracted with Pastor Deborah Butler to be a full-time respite pastor. By the end of the year we will have paid two full time salaries for 3 months.

Youth

Our YOUTH programming has been affected the most by changes. We currently have **NO YOUTH** programming except confirmation and Sunday school. Our Youth Chairperson, Ginny Connelly, parents and concerned members met in September to discuss options. Executive board heard concerns and brought a motion to council on October 10. The council passed a motion to direct the Personnel and Youth committees to work together and immediately advertise for a temporary youth leader or leaders, and to create job descriptions and pay level not to exceed spending more than \$2000 per month for the rest of the fiscal year. We desire to have Sunday evening weekly time for high school, weekly meeting for middle schoolers and a monthly event for 4th & 5th graders. Please consider whether you or someone you know could fill these needs for our youth.

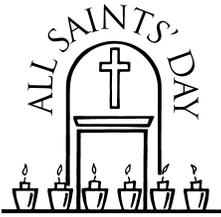
Pre-School Remodel Loan

Another financial piece of our budget is continuing to pay off the Anacortes Lutheran Preschool remodel we did in 2014. ALC carries a 10 year note with a balloon payment due December 2024. The note started at \$115,00 and is now approximately \$65,000. The interest rate will adjust down slightly December 2019. Stewardship Committee made a motion to continue to make the payment at our current level of \$690/month, to help pay the note down more quickly. Our goal will be to encourage continued gifts for the preschool remodel so that we could have the note paid before the balloon payment comes due. Those members age 70.5 can direct required withdrawals directly from your financial institution to ALC for the preschool mortgage.

Financial Support

The council is asking members to review your giving for this year. Yes, we are asking for money. We do have reserves to meet our needs, but I do not remember needing to do that in recent history. The Stewardship Committee is working with all of council on the proposed 2020-2021 budget and it is an uncertain and complex process. Please continue to pray for all the volunteer council and board members who try to sort through the business of the congregation.

In His service, Lane Phelan, Treasurer



All Saints Sunday - November 3 • 11:30 am in conference room #3

We will gather in worship & light candles to remember the saints that have entered the Church Triumphant and those who have been Baptized. There will be an All Saints Luncheon at 11:30 am in conference room #3 for the families who have lost loved ones and celebrated the baptisms in the past year.

Lutherwood Annual Auction - November 16 • 4:00 pm - Our Saviors Lutheran - Everett

The Auction is an opportunity to celebrate and support the ongoing ministry of Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center. With your contributions we're able to continue providing summer camp, retreats, and other life changing outdoor experiences. For Tickets go to <http://www.camplutherwood.org/auction/>

Fellowship Committee- Kathy Khile

DONUT Sunday

Just a reminder that the Donut Sundays are funded by donations collected in the baskets. Many weekends we barely break even on the cost, which is \$40.00. Please be sure to drop some \$\$\$ in the baskets on the tables!



FAST Teams

Our 5 FAST teams schedule volunteers on a monthly basis for providing service for each of the Sunday church services. The leaders need greeters, readers, communion assistants, kitchen crew and people to bring treats each week. We appreciate all those people that volunteer regularly, but we sure could use more help. We will have sign up forms at the welcome desk and they can be turned in to Rachel in the church office. Thank you.



Caring Bridge Notebook

For those of you without computer access, we will have a notebook of Pastor Benson's Caring Bridge Journal Entries. Please feel free to read them at your leisure so that you can feel informed about Pastor's experience.

Advent Dinners & Service- Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18 at 5:30 pm

Advent season is quickly approaching, and fellowship is planning 3 Advent Dinners. They will be on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall with a service in the church following at 6:30 pm. Dan and I are happy to do the cooking, however, if you would like to cook a meal, please contact me to review your plan by November 15. Please watch for the sign-up forms



Become Part of Our Church Family If you'd like to more information on becoming a member of Anacortes Lutheran and making it your HOME Church, contact Pastor Butler or the church office. 360-293-9586 or Email: info@anacorteslutheran.org

Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people. For you satisfy the thirsty soul and fill the hungry with good things.

Psalm 107: 8-9

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY
PRIME TIMERS™

JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN!

PRIME TIMERS Potluck Brunch

November 7th at 10:00 am

In Conference room #3

Signup on the signup sheet in the narthex.
Also, please signup to bring one of the menu items listed on the attached sheet.

Let me know if you have any questions,
Linda Walker 925-963-3879.

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY

20th Annual Scandinavian Fair

Saturday, November 2 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Holiday Inn & Suites at the Bellingham Airport
4260 Mitchell Way, Bellingham
Admission \$2

Scandinavian Bakery & Norsk Café, Vendors
with Nordic gifts, Crafts & Entertainment all Day

Skagit Community Hymn Sing

Sunday November 3 • 4:00 pm

Cornwall Church 830 N. 16th St. Mount Vernon

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Christmas Re-Wrapped

Thursday, November 14 • Starts 6:30 pm

At Family Life Assembly of God
29th and J Ave, Anacortes
Tickets \$25

An evening filled with food, fun, shopping & gifts

Bible Studies - WEEKLY

MEN'S Tuesday Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

In Conference room #3

Led by: Hoagy Kerr

Wednesday Bible Study with Kendra

Wednesday Mornings - 9:30 am

In Conference Room #3

Led by: Kendra Kennedy

MEN'S Thursday Bible Studies

Thursday Mornings - 7 am

In Conference Room #1

Led by: Boyd Veer

Thursday NOON Bible Study

Thursday - 12 Noon (For Men & Women)

In Conference Room #1

Led by: Pastor Deborah Butler

Women's Bible Study Circles

2nd Tuesday of the month, November 12TH

Hannah Circle – 10:00 am

Location: Conference room #3

Leader: Carol Olsen

Hostess: Judy Holmes & Linda Walker

Ruth Circle - 10:00 am

Location: 4511 Schooner Drive

Leader: Bev Landgraf

Hostess: Serena Partch

Anna Circle - 6:30 pm

Location: Conference room #2

Leader: Nancy Loftis

Hostess: Nancy Loftis

Offering Envelopes

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are being prepared for you.

- If you **do not have** envelopes this year, but **would like some**, please let me know.
- If you **have envelopes** but **do not use them**, please tell me.
- If you **would like to confirm** your giving number,
I can provide that to you.

Thank you, Linda Millo, Financial Recorder
millo2@aol.com / 206-335-4295



WELCA Board meeting

Friday, November 8 at 10:30 am
in conference room # 3

Bible Study CIRCLES

Tuesday, November 12 - 10:00 am & 6:30 am
in the conference rooms.



Pillowcase Review

Our Pillowcase Sew-a-thon on Sat, Oct 19 was a great success. We sewed about 350 pillowcases of all colors & design. In total we will have over 500 pillowcases to share with others.

We have given:

- 280** to Compass Alliance, in Seattle and will deliver to each about
- 125** to Friendship House, in Mt. Vernon and
- 125** to the Light House Mission in Bellingham.

Thank you to each of you that donated pillowcases to our collection. You can still bring pillowcases to church until November 3.

Angel Tree - Salvation Army

WELCA will again have the Angel Tree up for a family that has needs for Christmas. We plan to have the tree up on November 23 giving us all time to shop. Remove the angels from the tree and then shop for the gifts written on it. Return the gift, with the angel tag attached to under the tree. (Gifts cannot be wrapped.)

Thank you for your help with this project.
More info coming later



Sewing News

We are serving the Lord with "Gladness"~

We are wrapping up our fall sewing. Sending our Lutheran World Relief Kits on Friday, Nov 1st. Thank you to Les and Carol Olsen for driving the truck to down to deliver all the kits.

I want to thank all who helped with our Quilt Blessing; it went great & the sanctuary looked beautiful.

November Sewing days 5th & 19th. We will be taking the week of Thanksgiving off.

Thank you all! Julia Rogers & Faith Legan

Lutheran World Relief Knitting News

Monday, November 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

In conference room # 1

Our church usually ships 100-150 layette sets, each 6 month period. One sweater/hat set goes in each layette. We use a fun, one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome & teaching is always available.

This month we finished the Fall shipment. We did great! Thank you all for your wonderful talents, beautiful work and loving spirit.

We SENT in the FALL SHIPMENT:

- 49 - Hats
- 1 - Sweaters
- 68- Sweater/hat sets.

Our FALL Shipment GOAL was:

- Hats - 50-75
- Sweaters - 50-75
- Sweater/hat sets - 60-100

SPRING Shipment GOAL will be:

- Hats - 50-75
- Sweaters - 50-75
- Sweater/hat sets - 70-100

I Hope to see you all
November 18 at 1:00 pm
In conference room #1

~Linda Anderson, 360-588-1730



Children's

We need your help collecting new or gently used items to sell at the store for our Sunday School and Pre-School children to purchase, wrap & give as affordable gifts to their family members.

Suggested donations for Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and Siblings: costume jewelry, anything Seahawks, small trinkets, tools, toys, games, hat, scarfs, coffee mugs, ornaments, etc.

Also taking donations of wrapping paper, gift tags, tissue paper, bags of all sizes, and bows.

All donations are accepted in the bin next to the Welcome Desk **NOW - November 30th**

Sign Ups for Volunteering your time and/or talents at the Welcome Desk.

(Shopping helpers, gift wrappers etc....)

Dates for the CHILDREN'S Christmas Store 2019

Sunday, 12/8	10:00 am—12:00 pm	12/9—12/13	Morning Pre-school Shopping
Wednesday, 12/11	5:00 pm—6:00 pm	12/17 & 12/19	Afternoon Pre-school Shopping
Wednesday, 12/18	5:00 pm—6:00 pm	12/19—12/22	Adult shopping OPEN
Sunday, 12/22	10:30 am—1:00 pm		

Contact Kendra Kennedy at [773-236-1666](tel:773-236-1666) for questions and additional information.

Thank you! Kendra Kennedy

Confirmation - October 27, 2019

Thank you to Photographer; Kori Fosso for taking such fabulous pictures of this years confirmands. She will have Photos available to view & download at:

<https://korilynn.zenfolio.com/alconfirmation2019>

Password: HolySpirit



L-R: Pastor Deborah Butler, Camryn Kerr, Erin Kennedy, Breann Morgenthaler, Ashlee Long and Persephone Pestar.

IT IS SHOEBOX TIME!

Operation Christmas Child

Collection week in ALC Narthex is November 18-24

Coordinator: Mirth Moore

Pick up a Shoe Box & Instructions on WHAT & HOW to pack it.

Please consider including the \$9 shipping cost.



Customize a box for a Boy or Girl in Age groups: 2 - 4 / 5 - 9 / or 10 - 14

 **INCLUDE:** A "Wow" item, Toys, Personal care items, clothing and accessories, crafts and activities, school supplies (*except for the 2-4 age*), a prayer, a personal note and a photo.

 **Please DO NOT Include:** candy, chocolate, food, seeds, fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (*powdered or liquid*) toothpaste, lotions, medications or vitamins, used or damaged items; war-related items (*such as toy guns, knives or military figures*); breakable items (*such as snow globes*) glass containers or aerosol cans.

For packing ideas visit:

www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ

Sunday School News

Sunday, October 20, 2019 - Annual All Church
Fall Pool & Pizza Party.

~IT WAS A BLAST!!! ~

I Sure hope you didn't miss it.



Alice wearing her Thrivent
"Live Generously" t-shirt



Kids playing on the pool toys.



Rowan making a splash-down from the swing.

Coming Future Events:

Christmas Program:

The Children's Christmas Program will be on the 15th of December. This years program will be entirely new. The Children will begin practicing Christmas Carols soon to get ready for the big event.

Third Grade Bible Presentation:

The church will be presenting Bibles to the Third grade students in January. The actual date has not been set as yet.

Winter Carnival:

This event has become quite popular. It is an all church event that offers games and fun for all ages; especially the kids of all ages. Micah enjoys smashing the milk bottles in the bean bag toss, and the little ones like the fishing hole.

Thank you again for supporting our programs.

Dave White Director, Children's Ministry

Worship & Fellowship Assistants

F.A.S.T. Leader #3 • Kristen Nations 360-873-8661 / lifeofreilly_4@msn.com

ALTAR Setup • Diane Gusa, Gunilla Wold, Karen Tavalero

SOUND Team • Jim Carver, Brian Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer, Dana McCoy, Linda Millo, Mark Tanis

POWER POINT Team • Michael Hanrahan, Anita Holzemer, Pat Carrie Smith

November 3		9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	CJ Eggleston & Carter Eggleston	Micah Spehar & Joseph Pestar	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Larry Thomas & Tim Hofferth	Bill & Diane Gusa	
<i>Greeters:</i>	Jenny Remmerden		
<i>Readers:</i>	Anita Holzemer		
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Kenny & Anita Holzemer		
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>	Kathy Khile		
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	Kathy Khile, Bill & Diane Gusa	Bill & Diane Gusa	
November 10		9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Breann and Reese Morgenthaler	Regan Franulovich & Tristyn Connelly	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Boyd Veer & Dan Khile	John & Kathryn Parker	
<i>Greeters:</i>	Jenny Remmerden	Bill & Diane Gusa	
<i>Reader:</i>	Lane Phelan	DeAnna Claus	
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Lane Phelan		
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>		Bill & Diane Gusa	
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	Kathy Khile	Bill & Diane Gusa	
November 17		9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Rowan Myers & Regan Franulovich	Mia Kennedy & Breauna Sullivan	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Win Thompson & Rich Berentson	Wayne Olsen & Randy VanSweden	
<i>Greeters:</i>	Jenny Remmerden	Paul & Julie Dusenbury	
<i>Reader:</i>	Pat Carrie Smith	DeAnna Claus	
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Kenny & Anita Holzemer		
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>		DeAnna Claus	
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	DONUTS – Baskets on tables for Free Will Offerings to cover the cost.		
November 24		9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Owen Kennedy & Carter Eggleston	Gracia Tanis & Madden Nations-Pearson	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Kenny & Anita Holzemer	Mike Bastrom & Rexanne Graham	
<i>Greeters:</i>		Jan Nations & Kristen Nations	
<i>Reader:</i>			
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Kathy Khile	Kristen Nations & Dave White	
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>			
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>		Jan Nations & Kristen Nations	



Altar Flowers may be given in honor or in memory of someone. To do so, sign up on the "Flower chart" at the back of the Narthex by the fellowship hall.



If you have a prayer request or an update for the "Prayer List" please call the church office 360-299-1184



November Birthday Blessings To You!

1	Conner Richards	15	Kaylee Lust
3	Emma Hanes	15	Peyton Floyd
3	Denise Lowrie	16	Sally Pagh
3	Phil Weber	16	Steve Richards
4	Lynn DeFrancesco	17	Signe Anderson-Graves
4	Sue Latendresse	17	Zoey Nibarger
4	Hannah Marie Miller	19	McKinley Baker
5	Robert Higgins	19	Marilyn Tenoll
5	Stephanie Sherman	19	Olivia Trumble
5	Liam Ufkes	19	Stan Zimmerman
7	Warner Berglund	21	Devin Piacentino
8	Fred Fisher	21	Linda Walker
8	Thomas Larsen	22	Ken Klepsch
10	Grace Boggio	23	Anne Meyers
10	Tristyn Connelly	23	Gracia Tanis
10	Ross Coyne	23	Barbara Schmidtman
10	Lorna Higgins	24	Karen Faulkner
10	Les Olsen	24	Alfred Engen
13	Paul Sund	25	Jo Rockwood
		29	Rachel Slater



November Wedding Anniversary!

4	Boyd & Ginny Veer
4	Bill & Jeanette Christensen
10	Bud & Wanda Rock
14	Matt & Bonnie Kennedy
17	Jim & Laurie Carver
18	Fred & Sharon Fisher
20	David & Diane Brosten
21	Phil & sue Latendresse
21	Robert Collins & Kristen Hoffbuhr
25	Jerry & Ann Knutsen
25	Mark & Penelope McCaughan
30	Brian & Cami Mavar

October Worship Attendance

Date	9:00	Nursery	10:30	Nursery	Total
6	122	1	85	2	210
13	127	2	64	1	194
20	127	2	81	6	216
27	140	3	75	2	220



Saturday Work Party Team

“THANK YOU” Work Party Team for Oct 5th;
Tom & Pat Carrie Smith, Maury & Helene Fink,
Chuck Landgraf & Jerry & Jan Woodall

“Rug Doctored” the two small rooms each side
of the Alter and the area at the front to the pews;
Washed the Narthex windows; Cleaned outside;
Dusted the Choir Loft; Fixed things.. All ‘n All a
very good Day

**Thank You one & all...Put the first Saturday on
YOUR calendar and come lend a hand... We’ll
share in the fun.**

***** NEXT Property Work Party *****

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Property Committee Chair: Les Olsen

Attended: Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Dave Bjornson, Jeaneen Brogan, Rachel Franulovich, Earl Gibbons, Kathy Khile, Steve Richards, Karen Tavalero, Les Olsen and Pastor Butler.

Meeting called to order at 6:30. Bill opened with prayer.

Minutes of the Sept 12 meeting approved with the addition of one comma under Worship after the word unknown. **M/S/P**

Treasurer's Report: Giving statements were sent out with a letter from Stewardship and treasurer highlighting the need for increased giving. Lane will give a temple talk about the challenges of the 4th qtr. and our increased spending. To date Revenue vs Expense is on the plus side by \$21,000. 3rd qtr. benevolences will be paid by the end of the month, and we are now paying for 2 full time pastors. Discussion held on the note for the remodel of the preschool. On December 3 we will be 5 years into the 10 year note with interest rates adjusting slightly downward. The note started at \$115,000 and is currently at \$67,000.

Motion: Stewardship Committee recommends we continue to pay the loan at our current payment of \$690 for the remainder of the note. **M/S/P** Discussion: This will continue to reduce the balance quicker. Our goal will be to pay off the note completely before Dec 2024 when the balance is due.

Old Business: Still looking for members for the scholarship committee, President Elect and to help the Nominating committee. Bill has one quote for upgrade to our Wi-Fi router to get better reception throughout the church where it is needed. We need to get more comparison quotes. Wednesday Women's Bible study group has started, and they have been given our current babysitting policy to follow.

New Business: A youth ministry brainstorming session occurred Sept 26. Currently there is No formal youth ministry happening at ALC other than confirmation and Sunday school. Consensus of meeting was we need weekly Sunday evening high school group, weekly middle school group and a monthly event for 4th and 5th graders.

Motion: Council directs the Personnel and Youth Committee to immediately advertise for a temporary youth leader or leaders and to create a job description and pay level not to exceed spending more than \$2000 per month for the rest of the fiscal year. **M/S/P** Discussion to apprise the members of needs and ask for increased giving.

Round Table of Committees:

Worship: Focusing currently on budget prep.

Stewardship: Reminder of timeline for budget submission: Oct 26. There is a Synod seminar Nov 20 & 21 on Spirited Generosity. \$25 registration. One of the locations is in Bellingham. It would be great if a couple members were interested in going.

Personnel: Working on Contracts and preparing budget.

Motion: Increase Pastor Benson's base salary starting October by \$600 per month to align with 2019 NWWA Synod guidelines. **M/S/P** Discussion: Her base salary was reduced to help align 2019 budget for a 2nd youth pastor that has not yet come to fruition.

Outreach: All Saints Lunch invitations have been sent out for Nov 3. The prayer chain has been updated and is being led by Peggy White.

.....*Continued on next page*

... ALC Council minutes continued

Fellowship: Kathy and Dan Khile will plan and cook Advent dinners with Thrivent Action grants. They will request work groups for set up and clean up. Reminder that we had discussed last month having a Healing Prayer Service in honor of Pastor Benson with fellowship afterwards.

Property: Les has RCW's for the Exec. Board to consider the former cemetery property we own to be deactivated by the state. Scaffolding will be needed to reach fans for cleaning.

WELCA: Quilt Blessing Sunday Oct 13. Pillowcase sew-a-thon Oct. 19. General meeting Oct 22, with guest speaker being the pastor from Compass Mission in Seattle.

Preschool: Report was read. Discussion that some meetings need to happen to clarify organization and connections between our preschool and the congregation.

Pastor Report: Attended a Synod continuing Ed in Burlington titled "Living Local" She liked the congregation Time-Line mapping, presented as a way for congregations to review where they have been and look toward where they want to be in the future. She is attending all committee meetings and has done some visitation.

Next council Meeting Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 pm

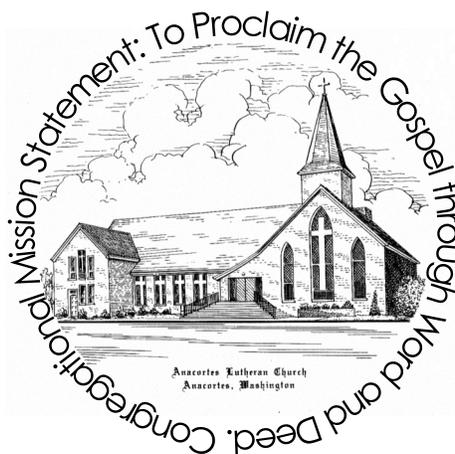
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lane Phelan



We are Thankful for All you do
ALC Church Council

<i>President</i>	• Bill LeDuc
<i>Treasurer</i>	• Lane Phelan
<i>Secretary</i>	• Melanie Sahnaw
<i>Education</i>	•
<i>Youth</i>	• Ginny Connelly
<i>Fellowship</i>	• Kathy Khile
<i>Outreach</i>	• Karen Tavalero
<i>Personnel</i>	• Steve Richards
<i>Preschool</i>	• Jo Rockwood
<i>Properties</i>	• Les Olsen
<i>Stewardship</i>	• Earl Gibbons
<i>Worship</i>	• David Bjornson
<i>WELCA</i>	• Jeaneen Brogan & Faith Legan
<i>Josephine Rep</i>	• Jerry Bongard & Grace Boggio
<i>Lutherwood Rep</i>	• Jim Fors



We turn to serve and love our neighbor

I share two stories that I heard in the last two weeks.

The first story I heard was from Pastor Ron Glusenkamp from a trip he took to Senegal with other ELCA folks: We landed in Dakar, Senegal where the people are 95% Muslim and the other 5% are Christian or something else. Our group traveled to a small village to visit a Lutheran health center that is funded by ELCA World Hunger. When we arrived, we met ten guests who were living there. They all were HIV positive and all had been banned from their homes and so lived together with about a hundred others at this Lutheran health center.

When we asked the group how they were doing, one of the women spoke. She spoke in her own dialect that was translated to English. She spoke eloquently and simply. She said, "If it wasn't for this Lutheran clinic, I would be dead."

The second story I heard while attending the Conference of Bishops in Chicago. There we heard of Lutheran owned and operated Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. The United States government had voted to continue funding this important medical center but for some reason they are not releasing the money. This is putting people at risk. Chemotherapy is not able to be administered. Surgeries are unable to be performed. Children, especially, are dying.

While this is a complex issue, the stories we heard compelled Presiding Bishop Eaton to write a letter to the administration. She and all 65 bishops signed this letter requesting the United States government to restore the millions of dollars in funding promised to Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem that primarily serves Palestinian Christians. This hospital, owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation and is supported by the ELCA, is vital as it is the only medical center there. (Read the letter here: www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8009)

In the first story above, I don't know what happened to this woman or the other people gathered that day in Senegal. I hope all of them are still living and still receiving care. In the second instance, I do know that many of the people treated at AVH are Christian Palestinians whose only access to health-care is through AVH. And I do know this: As people of God, we hold all people sacred. As people who believe in the priesthood of all believers, we know that the staff and volunteers at these health centers are doing holy work. As people who believe in Jesus, we know that Jesus is in the midst of those that others have rejected. As people of the cross, we know that in the midst of suffering, Jesus is there. You see, as Lutherans, we take seriously what justification by grace alone means: Salvation is not the process or goal of life but rather its foundation. Because we are claimed by God through no merit of our own, we are free to live and love and serve our neighbor – whether it is the neighbor next door or the neighbor in Senegal or Jerusalem.

Way back in the sixteenth century, Martin Luther wrote about establishing a common chest for the sake of the poor in the city of Leisnig, "Those individuals in our parish... who are impoverished... shall receive each week on Sunday ... support from our common chest ... This is to be done out of Christian love, to the honor and praise of God, so that their lives and health may be preserved." (*LW, 45:189*)

I read Martin Luther's words and they remind me that we are called out into the world – not because we have to but because of what God has claimed for us. I am so thankful that as we remember the Reformation on October 31 we continue in the footsteps of Martin Luther and the other reformers: Trusting in God's grace through Jesus, we turn to serve and love our neighbor – whoever or wherever that neighbor is.

Thank you for the love and care you are showing to your neighbors – both near and far – as we see the face of Jesus in all.

In God's Peace and Joy, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee