

An illustration at the top of the page features a red dinosaur on the left and a yellow giraffe on the right, both holding baskets of autumn leaves. The dinosaur is wearing a small crown and the giraffe is wearing a small hat. They are standing on a dark brown background with a row of colorful autumn leaves (red, orange, and yellow) at their feet. The title 'Anacortes Lutheran Church' is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the illustration.

Anacortes Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

October 2026 Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

As October arrives, we begin to notice the beautiful signs of change all around us. The days grow shorter, the mornings cooler, and the leaves begin their familiar transformation. Autumn reminds us that change is a natural part of God's creation—and that even in seasons of transition, God remains faithful.

This is a wonderful time of year to pause and give thanks for the many ways God is at work among us.

A Season of Gratitude

The harvest season offers us a meaningful opportunity to reflect on all that we have received. We give thanks not only for the food that sustains us, but also for the people, relationships, ministries, and communities that nourish our lives.

As a congregation, we are blessed by so many people who quietly share their gifts each week: those who prepare worship, teach our children, visit those who are homebound, prepare meals, care for our building, welcome visitors, serve our neighbors, and offer their time and prayers.

None of these acts is too small in God's eyes. Each one is an expression of love for God and neighbor.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that we are one body with many members, and each member has a gift to share. May we continue to discover the gifts God has given us and find joyful ways to use them for the sake of our neighbors.

Reformation Sunday

Later this month, we will observe Reformation Sunday. It is an opportunity to remember the Reformation and the ways God has continually called the church to examine itself, listen to Scripture, and proclaim the good news of God's grace.

At the heart of our Lutheran faith is a simple and profound message: **we are saved by God's grace, through faith—not because we have earned God's love, but because God freely gives it to us.**

That grace is not merely something we talk about on Sunday morning. It shapes how we live. Because we have received God's grace freely, we are freed to extend grace to others—to forgive, to welcome, to serve, and to stand alongside our neighbors.

The church is always being renewed by God's Spirit. May we remain open to where that Spirit is leading us.

Loving Our Neighbors

October also gives us opportunities to put our faith into action. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and our neighbors are not simply the people who live next door. They include those who are hungry, lonely, grieving, struggling, overlooked, or searching for hope.

I encourage each of us to look for one simple way this month to be a blessing to someone else. Perhaps it is a phone call to someone who is lonely, a meal shared with a neighbor, a donation to a local ministry, an invitation to someone who has been away from church, or simply taking the time to listen to someone who needs to be heard.

Small acts of love can become powerful signs of God's presence.

Looking Ahead

As we move through October and toward the final months of the year, let us remember that the church is not simply a building or a weekly gathering. **We are the body of Christ, called to live God's love in the world.**

Whatever this season brings—joy or uncertainty, celebration or grief—we do not walk through it alone. God is with us, Christ is among us, and the Holy Spirit continues to call, gather, and sustain us.

Thank you for being part of this community of faith. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, your service, and your willingness to grow together.

May this autumn season remind us that God is present in every season of our lives. May we be rooted deeply in God's grace and continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

With gratitude and prayers,

Pastor Scott

"Let all that you do be done in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14

Anacortes Lutheran Church Council Minutes for September 10, 2026

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Don Devine, Rachel Long, Lane Phelan, Bruce Rolfe, Pat Carrie Smith, Rosemary Walter, Claude Woodall

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

Pat-Carrie made a motion to approve the August minutes as written, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Very few checks need to be written. The online payment and reimbursement system is working.

Member offering through August is \$212,161 or \$6,429 a week. This amount does not cover weekly expenses. A budget shortfall for the year is projected. We are fortunate to have gifts and designated funds to provide help:

The Dick Rice estate—\$5,000 to sewing; \$5,000 to scholarship fund.

From Patty Pederson—\$15,000 to Preschool; \$15,000 to Youth and Education.

Bill LeDuc and the Budget Committee for 2027 will begin its work soon.

Lane will put financial news in the Newsletter and Scoop.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted.

Youth & Education: The final report on VBS was submitted. Lane will be looking over expenses to make sure nothing was missed and we have an accurate number for next year. Regarding Sunday School, Rachel and KJ may go ahead and order a new curriculum. Rachel will follow up with Stacy Pestar and Marta Swanson about staffing.

Worship: A written report was submitted.

Old Business:

After discussion it was decided *not* to pay lay persons for pulpit supply. So, no action was taken with regard to Sophie Peterson's service.

A Thrivent grant is still needed for the Kick-off breakfast.

Pastor reported that his request for more information regarding use of our parking lot and location shots by a movie production company has been forwarded to a local manager.

New Business:

Maggie Santos clarified the request from the non-profit Balanced Behaviorists to use one classroom for assessments of children for possible ADHD: one room for two people, twice a week beginning in September, for a six-month trial. Their work includes our preschool, other preschools, and locals. Rachel moved and it was passed and approved that we charge \$100 a month for the use of our facilities.

An honorarium for Rachel's very successful direction of VBS this year was discussed. Lane moved we grant her \$1,000 for all her efforts. There were 5 yes votes and one no vote—the motion passed. She has been tasked with putting together a plan for next year.

A 3-hour, Saturday morning Council Retreat will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Pat moved to have Jobun hired as a part-time Lead Tech at the same rate he is receiving now. Seconded and approved.

Per Lane's request, it was moved, seconded and approved that Roger Peckman, church member and retired accountant, receive full signature authority on the WA Fed accounts.

Rachel moved that Sophie Peterson's request for support and travel expenses while attending seminary in Minnesota be referred to the Scholarship Committee. All approved.

Don will address the congregation on Sunday about our need for a coordinator for Samaritan's Purse; an assistant for Dave White and the All-Saints Luncheon; and Confirmation students. Council is asked to scout for volunteers, also.

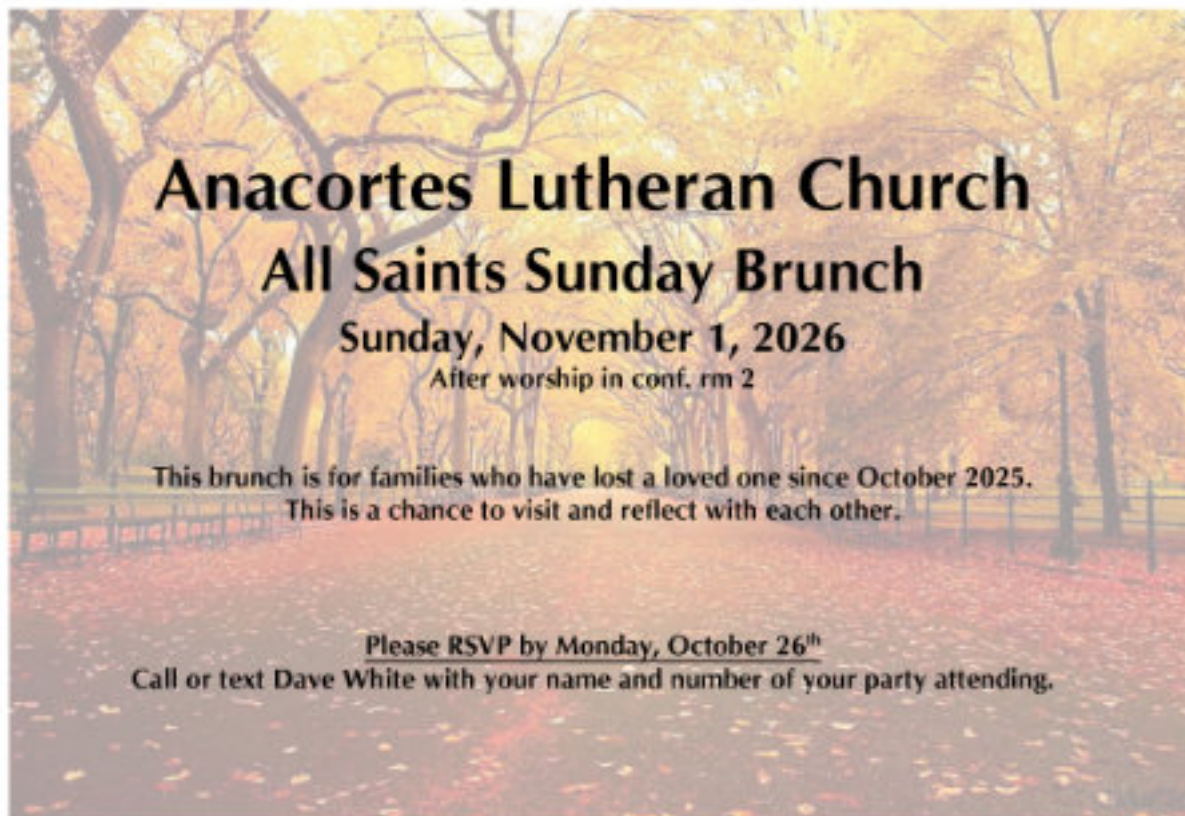
Lane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next council meeting will be held October 8, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Walter
(for Council Secretary Julie Jacobson)



PRAY FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

President:	Don Devine	Fellowship:	
Vice President:	Rosemary Walter	Education:	
Secretary:	Julie Jacobson	Youth:	K.J. West
Treasurer:	Lane Phelan	Preschool:	Lane Phelan
Stewardship:		Properties:	Steve Anderson
Outreach:	Julie Jacobson	Worship:	Pat Carrie Smith
Personnel:	Don Devine	WELCA:	Rachel Devine
Josephine Delegates:	Pastor Peterson	Legacy Endowment:	Wayne Olsen, Rod Odegaard
	Linda Millo		Julie Jacobson
Finance Secretary:	Linda Millo	Synod Assy. Delegates:	Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy, Linda Millo
Camp Lutherwood Rep:	Kenny Holzemer		



COMPOSTING/YARD WASTE RECYCLING

Thank you to everyone who helped out by composting paper goods and food scraps on Sunday, September 13th during our Fall Kick Off luncheon! We filled an entire garbage can full of compostable products and thank you to Pastor Scott for dumping it into the yard waste bin! With the help of our janitors and all of you, we can keep this going. Please put plain paper plates, napkins, food scraps and any paper cups (not the coffee cups we use at church) into the designated garbage can and we will save bags from going to the landfills! Thank you so much! Organizers who are planning events at our church can help by purchasing compostable products (plates, cups, napkins and even compostable forks, knives and spoons). Thank you!

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY "PRIME TIMERS"

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

Upcoming quarterly events

December 11, Friday, at 10:00 a.m. - Get-Together in the Fellowship Hall
Guest Speaker: Kenny Holzemer on Search and Rescue

Sign-up sheet for December is available at the Opportunity Desk.

For more information, please call, text, or email Julie.

Have a fantastic fall, stay safe, and be happy.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



FALL KICKOFF LUNCHEON - The worship committee thanks everyone who brought delicious salads and desserts. We are especially thankful and grateful for the volunteers who served, set up, and cleaned up.

SEWING NEWS

The Sewing Group is busy with the countdown to shipping which is set for November 6. Our quilt and kit blessing is Sunday, October 25. One more set of dates for you: Quilt raffle ticket sales will be October 11 & 18 with the drawing on October 25. This year we again have two beautiful quilts to raffle off. Your ticket will give you a chance at both quilts. Tickets cost are 2 tickets for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$10.

So you are asking why we have a quilt raffle when the bulk of our supplies are donated. Lutheran World Relief asks us to help pay for shipping to final destinations. This year they are asking for \$.95 a pound but are grateful for any amount we can send. Last year we were able to send the full amount (\$1650). Last year's quilt raffle brought in \$606. So your ticket purchases helps in a big way. Watch for the quilts which will soon be on display in the narthex. And thanks for supporting this ministry all year long.



QUILT RAFFLE



Tickets: 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10

2 large quilts lovingly handcrafted by the Sewing Group
(Quilts not shown)

Drawing: Sunday, October 25

Proceeds go toward Lutheran World Relief shipping cost.

October Dates to Celebrate



October Birthday Blessings

02	Frank Corso
02	Jane Nelson-Fors
02	Nancy Fowler
02	Tim Walters
03	Duane Dent
03	Mark McCaughan
03	Tom Smith
04	Linda Krippner
04	Helen Fink
08	Karen Tavalero
09	Kevin Costenbader
12	Ginny Veer
13	Cora Rolfe
14	Jim Fors
16	Amanda Bush
19	Sharon Geldaker
20	Chuck Landgraf
20	Eva Dent
20	Jeanette Christensen
25	Chad Hansen
25	Jim Loftis
26	Maverick West
27	Ezekiel Sturgul
31	Jan Woodall
31	Robert Ohm II

October Wedding Anniversaries

01	Matthew & Taylor Phelan
02	John & Kathy Parker
02	Rexanne Graham & Michael Bastrom
06	Tom & Pat Carrie Smith
07	Marvin & Rosemary Walter
08	Howie & Mindy Sorensen
22	Norm & Jan Vigre
31	Gary & Joy Walter



Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live Stream
Aug 23	13th Sunday in Pentecost	63	3	49
Aug 30	Hymn Pick	96	6	37
Sept 6	15th Sunday in Pentecost	75	6	33
Sept 13	Fall Kickoff	85	6	48
Sept 20	16th Sunday in Pentecost	86	2	55
Sept 27	17th Sunday in Pentecost	93	4	**

** Not available at time of printing



During the Bishop's Sabbatical we are lifting up guest writers from the synod staff. Thank you to our Dir. for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Judy Brennan, our featured writer for **Oct. 2026**



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

God IS up to something – what is it?

How do we perceive, recognize, notice whatever "it" is – and then respond?

As both individuals and faith communities, isn't this part of our regular reflection all the time? We know God is active in the world. We know God is continually moving to bring love, grace, healing, and wholeness to a world that desperately needs it. And we believe that as members of God's body, however small we are, we get to be a part of that big "Good News" mission.

The congregations and ministries in our synod are mission centers – where God's beloved people are embraced, inspired, strengthened, and equipped to be participants in God's work in the world. I am humbled to listen as so many people share with me profound stories about how God is working through them – both individually and through their communities of faith. Of course, I don't have enough space here to share with you all these stories, but I will tell you one:

Pastor Wendy Cheung serves as the Mission Developer for two of our Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs). One of them, called Jesus Loves Me Lutheran Church, is a unique community serving special needs children, adults, and their families. Pastor Wendy told me:

"There have been many times when I have struggled with this ministry because I know how complex and demanding it is. The greatest challenge is not designing programs. The deeper challenge is how to walk faithfully with children with special needs and with their families.

Children with special needs may experience sudden emotional, behavioral, or sensory challenges, and their parents and caregivers often carry long-term stress, anxiety, exhaustion, and pain. I often ask myself: How can we truly care for these families? How can we accompany them without simply trying to solve their problems? How can we help bring them into the presence of God so that they themselves may receive strength, comfort, and hope from Him?

This ministry requires more than good programs. It requires patience, training, pastoral care, wisdom, and a community willing to learn how to walk together... My hope is that Jesus Loves Me will continue to be a community where these families experience love and belonging, and where they are also empowered to share that love with other families who live with similar realities. I hope it will become a place where every person has meaningful opportunities to participate, serve, and use the gifts God has given them."

God is at work in and through this beautiful ministry – and I am so grateful that this community is part of who we are as people of faith in the Northwest Washington Synod.

I am honored to serve as a connector, supporter, and advocate for all the congregations and ministries throughout our Synod. I am grateful for you, and for all our many mission centers, active in both perceiving and participating in what God is up to in our amazing corner of the world. Let's stay connected!

Your partner in ministry,

Rev. Judy Brennan, Director for Evangelical Mission | Northwest Washington Synod | dem@lutheransnw.org

For more info about congregations and ministries in our synod, please visit our website:

<https://www.lutheransnw.org/pages/congregations-mission-starts-ministry-sites> or invite me to tell you some more stories. To financially support Jesus Loves Me and other Emerging and Strategic Ministries of our synod, please donate here (select New & Strategic Ministries in the dropdown menu) <https://www.lutheransnw.org/give>



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00a Executive Board 4:00a New Member Carno 6:30p		3 New Member Carno 10:00a
4 Praise & Family Sunday Education Blast 9:00a Worship 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a YOUTH Comm 11:15a	5 O.A. 10:00a A.C. of A. 6:30p	6 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	7 Staff Meeting 9:30a Praise Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP Comm 11:00a Old Pack 6:00p CHORR Rehearsal 6:30p	8 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Chapel 10:45a New Member Carno 11:00a CHURCH Council 4:00a SCOUT B Leader 7:00p	9	10 Eagle Court of Honor 1-6p
11 Education Time 9:00a Worship 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Patty Pederson Memorial 2pm	12 Columbus Day O.A. 10:00a A.C. of A. 6:30p	13 WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a WOMEN'S BIBLE 3:30a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	14 Staff Meeting 9:30a Praise Chapel 10:45a A-Town City Mtg 12:30p CHORR Rehearsal 6:30p	15 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Chapel 10:45a	16	17
18 Education Time 9:00a Worship 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	19 O.A. 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p A.C. of A. 6:30p	20 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G Leader 6:00p SCOUT G & B 7:00p	21 Staff Meeting 9:30a Praise Chapel 10:45a Old Pack 6:00p CHORR Rehearsal 6:30p	22 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	23	24
25 Reformation/ Bonfire Education Time 9:00a Worship 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	26 O.A. 10:00a ALTAR Guild 11:00a A.C. of A. 6:30p	27 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	28 Staff Meeting 9:30a Praise Chapel 10:45a CHORR Rehearsal 6:30p	29 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	30	31 Halloween 