

Anacortes Lutheran Church



A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

The month of February has always been one of my favorite months. Why is that, you ask? Groundhog Day? Nope. Valentine's Day? Nope. Yukon Heritage Day? Closer...

Maybe it is my Lutheran upbringing, but it is Ash Wednesday! That day when we are reminded of our mortality and begin our pilgrimage into the season of Lent. The day when ashes are placed upon our forehead as a sign. The day when we put away the "alleluias" and turn our hearts toward repentance. The day when it seems all the music goes into a minor key.

I hear some of you saying, "Wow, you must be fun at parties." (It turns out I am) But I have found that by accepting mortality as a reality of our lives frees me to actually live better. In our Western society we spend an awful lot of time and energy to distract us away from death and dying. We spend millions and billions of dollars to keep ourselves 'young', or at least looking that way, thinking that we may just cheat death and win it all. The truth, however, is that none of us make it out of life alive.

Very early in our lives, at least if we have grown up in a church that does infant baptisms, we were joined to the "death and resurrection of Christ" as those waters cascaded down upon our heads. Yes, resurrection is part of the story, but death is the factor that we cannot miss. In baptism we 'die' to ourselves and are reborn children of God. Death is an integral part of who we are as followers of Jesus. And death is a very sacred reality. I have been at the bedside of a number of people as they took their last breath. It is a moment when the presence of God is tangible and the silence brings peace that surpasses all understanding. Yes, it is also filled with grief and sadness, but the presence of God makes even the tears falling down our cheeks into droplets of holy water.

For many the beginning of Lent brings up feelings of trepidation and even fear. We are called to come face to face with our mortality and to even embrace it. But by accepting our mortality we are free to embrace the abundant life that we are given in Christ even more. We are freed to enter the season of Lent and grab on to the gift of repentance and forgiveness. We may find beauty in the sound of a hymn in a minor key. We may be filled with anticipation at the return of "Alleluia!" to our lips. We may find in the ashes on our foreheads a promise of palms being waved in celebration of Jesus in our lives. We may even find the power of resurrection breaking into our daily lives as we share the gift of love with our neighbors. And may we all find blessings in returning to God in each moment knowing that we are loved.

May the coming season bless you in your pilgrimage toward the Cross!

Pastor Scott

Church Council Minutes from January 8, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order and Pastor opened with prayer.
Bill made a motion and the December minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: A Balance Sheet as of December 31 was handed out.
Lane states that our first CD is due 1/9 and will be renewed at WaFd at 3.5%.

Stewardship: The previously approved budget for 2026 was presented along with updated 2025 Actual numbers. Actual Offerings were less than the 2025 Budgeted expected amount. The 2026 Budget (and 2025) will be available on Sunday to those interested in reviewing this prior to our Congregational Budget Meeting on February 8.

WELCA will request \$700 from the Legacy Endowment Fund to purchase a fabric cutter (Accuquilt) to save the quilters from all of the hand cutting as it makes for sore hands.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted.

Youth & Education: Rosemary reported a successful Christmas play where 8 families were involved. The upcoming swim party will be 1/11. It is time for the Youth and Education committee to meet again to talk about the year. Thank you to the Liturgical Arts Committee for the new Christmas decor and to all of those who worked on the Christmas play.

Properties: A written report was submitted. Steve noted after the Christmas dinner there were a lot of vegetables put in the trash rather than the yard waste bin. He notes that the microwave is very dirty and the basement dishwasher needs unloading. On 1/5 the thermostat in the Fellowship Hall was found to be at 80 (anyone who turns up the thermostat should also turn it back down when leaving). The preschool furnace filters are filling up in 21 days vs the expected 90, he hopes fixing the dryer vent will take care of this problem.

Outreach: Dave wrote that the Prayer Group, the prayer chain and the birthday greetings ministries continue. The Christmas Dinner served about 365 people. It was noted that new sandwich boards would be nice.

Worship: A written report was submitted.

New Business:

- Two pianos are in need of work. The Baldwin upstairs will cost \$200-300 and the Sanctuary piano will cost \$800-900. This will be a miscellaneous expense. Rosemary made a motion to fix the pianos, motion passed. Pat-Carrie will ask Laurie to come up with a 5 year maintenance plan as to what instrument maintenance costs outside of tuning can be expected.
- Rosemary requests more information as to what our church can do to be out helping in the community. This information may come from a local clergy meeting that Pastor regularly attends.
- Rachel Long has volunteered to run the VBS program this year (thank you!) and will be looking into how we can utilize social media platforms (?and the Clamdigger) to get more information about ALC into the community.
- Don states that there needs to be a coffee vendor change, Bill will look into options.
- Bill will make an announcement On Sunday regarding the available 2026 Budgets in the Narthex and will share a Bible verse that is pertinent to our ministry and celebration of families. This year the church will center programming on "The Family".

Lane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Our next regular council meeting will be held February 12 at 4:00 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, February 10.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



2026 events will be held quarterly on the 2nd Friday or Saturday. The schedule is as follows: March 13 – Bingo, June 12 – Out to Lunch, September 11 or 12 - Day Outing planned by Paul and Julie, and December 11 – Get Together in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Have a warm winter, stay safe, and be happy.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



Sewing News

January was a busy month for the ALC Sewers. We donated 10 quilts to the local United Way who is currently working with flood victims. We continued to finish quilts for our next shipment and started collecting supplies for Personal Care kits. If you can donate any of the following items, they will be used in these kits: 1 large bath towel, dark color preferred (no bath sheet), toothbrush, comb, nail clippers, 2 bars of soap.

The sewers want to thank Paul Dusenbury for adding a handle to our ironing board top. The handle makes it so much easier for the women to move it around.

Last fall we shared with you how many quilts and kits we sent to Lutheran World Relief. We recently received information from LWR and I wanted to share one paragraph with you.

“In 2025 the incredible generosity of quilters and kit makers like you distributed more than 325,000 quilts and 485,000 kits across 15 countries. THANK YOU! Your gifts are a comforting reminder to our neighbors that even on their darkest days, the love of Christ is near.”

Come by some Tuesday and visit with us. We would love to answer any questions you have about this ministry. We meet in the fellowship hall.

ALC PRAYER CHAIN

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

PRAY FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

President: Don Devine
Vice-President: Bill LeDuc
Secretary: Julie Jacobson
Treasurer: Lane Phelan
Stewardship: Bill LeDuc
Outreach: Julie Jacobson
Personnel: Jeaneen Brogan
Josephine Delegates: Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo
Finance: Lane Phelan, Bill LeDuc, Linda Millo
Finance Secretary: Linda Millo
Camp Lutherwood Rep: Kenny Holzemer

Fellowship :
Education: Rosemary Walter
Youth: Rosemary Walter
Preschool: Lane Phelan
Properties: Steve Anderson
Worship: Pat Carrie Smith
WELCA : Lane Phelan
Legacy Endowment: Wayne Olsen, Rod Odegaard, Julie Jacobson
Synod Assy Delegates: Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy, Linda Millo



Dates to Celebrate in February

Birthdays

02	Jeaneen Brogan	20	Arthur Price
02	Roman Sturgul	20	Owen Pierce
02	Janice Sullivan	21	Gregg Whittier
03	Anthony Bush	23	Kim Irish
03	Howard Partch	23	Tori Eckardt
05	Bev Landgraf	25	Patricia Rasar
06	Della Reinbold	26	Sadie Lust
07	Julia Rogers	27	Vance Frerichs
10	Jenny Remmerden	27	Ann Knutsen
15	Chris Anderson	27	Phil Latendresse
18	Paul Dusenbury	27	MaryBeth Pollard
19	Tom Paul		

Anniversaries

03	John & Denise Lowrie
06	Paul & Lane Phelan
08	Steve & Linda Anderson
20	Fred & Sue Wintermantel
21	Bill LeDuc & Dorothy Engom
22	Rob & Alice Harstad
28	Gregg & Karen Whittier
29	Bruce & Cora Rolfe



Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Dec 24	Christmas Eve 5 pm	161	0	50
Dec 28	1st Sunday after Christmas	82	3	52
Jan 4	Praise & Family Sunday	97	2	48
Jan 11	Baptism of Our Lord	103	6	38
Jan 18	2nd Sunday in Epiphany	105	3	35
Jan 25	3rd Sunday in Epiphany	100	4	**

** Not available at time of printing



Christmas Dinner Report

Each year Christmas Dinner seems to take on a life of its own beginning in October and culminating in January as the last of the paperwork is cleaned up. The first Christmas Dinner happened in 2003 and has slowly become what it is today. However, the goal was always the same: To feed those in need. A note received this year at the Drive thru says it all.

Anacortes Lutheran Church, I am a newly wed military spouse spending our first married Christmas alone as he is deployed. I have the Holiday off from the Hospital and was looking forward to some companionship at your "sit in" meal. Unfortunately I woke up sick and am now utilizing the drive through option to still feel some normalcy this Christmas. Thank you for all you do for the community! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and praying for your abundance in the New Year.

Thank you to 120 volunteers who spent over 400 hours providing meals. 165 were fed in the Dining Room, 43 delivered to homebound, 117 picked up in the alley, 4 take home to our members after the service and 20 from the dining room. The last 11 were delivered to the homeless by a dedicated clean-up crew. **Total 360 meals.** God bless each and every one of you!

Anne Barry & Don Devine, Coordinators



From the Bishop:

February 2026

If you follow the Revised Common Lectionary, this is the year of Matthew. Matthew's gospel offers a clear vision of the world as God intends through Jesus. It is also a clear mandate for the Church. While I encourage you to read Matthew in its entirety, here are some highlights to catch glimpses of this new world through Jesus:

Matthew 1-2: Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus that refuses to be neat or respectable. You see, it includes women who are foreigners, sex workers, and more. Jesus is born to a working-class family that soon become refugees as they flee Herod's murderous plot. The wise men refuse to bow down to Herod's power.

Matthew 3-4: Jesus is baptized, joining with others who are broken and burdened, entering the waters with them. He is then sent into the wilderness where he is tempted to seize power. (He says no!) Then his public ministry begins as he calls fishermen – ordinary laborers – to follow him.

Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, those who grieve. Righteousness is defined not by power or coercion but by mercy, reconciliation, and love – even love of enemies. Jesus teaches his disciples (and us!) to pray – emphasizing that God will provide each day, that we are not to be anxious, that we are not to hoard or judge but instead love and live in mutual care for one another.

Matthew 8-10: Jesus' teachings take on flesh as he heals a leper, a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, a paralytic, a hemorrhaging woman, and those who cannot hear or see. He eats with sinners, calls a tax collector, and restores people who have been pushed to the margins. He calms a storm for his scared disciples and sends them out to minister – without money or power – to also heal and restore.

Matthew 11-16: Jesus clarifies his mission by naming it plainly: healing, liberation, and good news to the poor. Human need is prioritized over religious rules. His parables lift up small, hidden things that the world overlooks. He feeds hungry crowds (5000!), challenges exclusion, and reminds his followers that being the Messiah means suffering service, not triumph.

Matthew 17-20: Jesus welcomes children and even places one at the center, calling them great in the kingdom of heaven. He warns leaders against harming the vulnerable. He tells a rich young man that true discipleship is not about the love of money. And to the chagrin of all, he tells a parable about workers where economic fairness is not tied to productivity or worthiness.

Matthew 21-25: Jesus enters Jerusalem. He comes on a donkey (not a military parade!). He overturns tables in the temple condemning its exploitation, and he heals those without power inside its walls. He condemns leaders who prey on others and he tells parables that insist on welcome, generosity, and care for the least. He makes it unmistakably clear: when you feed, clothe, welcome, and visit the stranger, you are doing so to him.

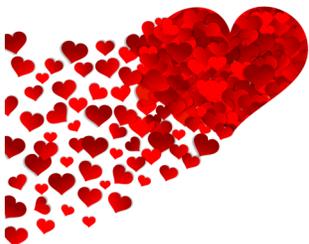
Matthew 26-27: Jesus is anointed by an unnamed woman. He is arrested, put on trial by the empire, and executed as a criminal of the state. His embodiment of God's reign inevitably brings him into direct conflict with the powers of the world.

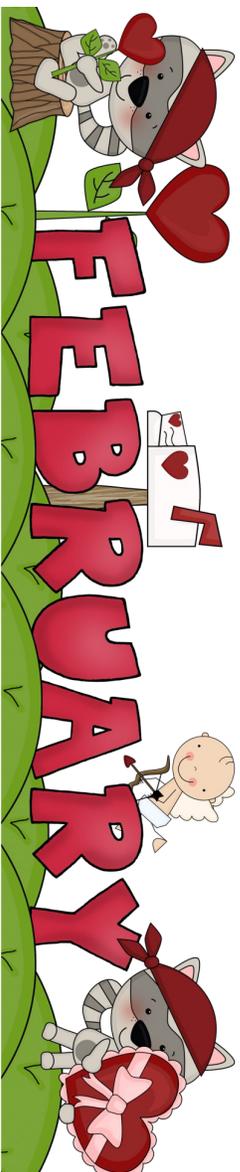
This could be the end. But there is one more chapter.

Matthew 28: This chapter proclaims that death does not have the final word. God brings life where there was death. The women are entrusted to proclaim the good news. And the Church is formed – not to retreat from the world, but to continue Jesus' mission of manifesting God's presence in the world where children are valued, outcasts are accepted, enemies are loved, foreigners are embraced, and all people are treated in love and mercy.

This vision is Matthew's Gospel. And today, in the midst of everything, in spite of everything, it is still unfolding.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org





2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	2 O.A. 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	3 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	4 Staff Meeting 9:30a Piek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP Comm 11:00a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	5 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Piek Chapel 10:45a EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p	6	7
8 SCOUT SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:15 am in F.H.	9 O.A. 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	10 WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a WOMEN'S BIBLE 3:30p SCOUT G C.O.H 7:00p	11 Staff Meeting 9:30a Piek Chapel 10:45a A-Town Cjy Mtg 12:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	12 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Piek Chapel 10:45a CHURCH COUNCIL 4:00p SCOUT B Leader 7:00p	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	16 President's Day O.A. 10:00a LMR Knitting 1:00p SCOUT B 7:00p OFFICE CLOSED NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G Leader 6:00p YOUTH Comm 6:30p SCOUT G 7:00p	18 Ash Wednesday Imposition of ASHES 12:40pm & 7:00 pm Staff Meeting 9:30a Piek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	19 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Piek Chapel 10:45a	20 Praise Team 1:00p	21
22 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	23 O.A. 10:00a ALTAR Guild 11:00a SCOUT B C.O.H 7:00p	24 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	25 Staff Meeting 9:30a Piek Chapel 10:45a Liturgical Arts 11:00a LENTEN DINNER 5:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p	26 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Piek Chapel 10:45a	27 Praise Team 1:00p	28 Cub Pack Blue & Gold 