

Anacortes Lutheran

Church



December 2024 Newsletter

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

A blessed Advent and a merry Christmas!

I have found over the years that the more I take time to enjoy Advent the more wondrous Christmas becomes. By taking the time to spend time with the prophets of old as they shared the news of the “one to come” I have relished in the history that we share with the Jewish Tradition. It puts into context the reminder that God continues to watch over all of us and invites us to the stable to kneel at the manger and behold the Christ Child. We are surrounded by the very reality of what is important in life – love, hope, joy, and faith.

I invite you to take some time and really dive into Advent. Perhaps using one of those daily calendars to take a moment and turn your thoughts and heart to a God who loves you. To let the opening of those little windows be a moment to look out of your own windows and see those around you in this community whom God loves as well. Take a moment to embrace the sweetness of life as you bite into that piece of chocolate (or wine or beer if that is more your style of Advent calendar) and know that God holds us amid a world that is ever changing. Take some time each day to reflect on how you might become an incarnation of God’s love in the world today, living out what Jesus has shown us as he walked upon this very same Earth.

And remember that Christmas is not just one day. Christmas is a season of blessing that extends for twelve wonderful days. Breathe in the blessings that God shares with us with each and every breath we take. Spend time with friends and family. Remember those who live in the midst of struggle as the rest of the world seems covered in twinkling lights, while the sound of joyous carols drift down like the snow that falls from the sky. Remember the children around the world who look toward that day when we gather together as one people on this little, blue marble floating through the cosmos.

May you be blessed in this season of hope!

Pastor Scott

November 14, 2024 Council Minutes

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Jeaneen Brogan, Jeanette Christiansen, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Janice Louie, Lane Phelan, Pat Carrie Smith, Michael Sullivan, Dave White

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

Guest: The Rev. Stephanie Hanley and Jolynn Lucas from Westminster Presbyterian presented a request that The Brick (the community free dinner program) use our facility for meal prep and serving on Sundays 3pm-6pm during their remodel. About 35 patrons and 6 volunteers come each week. It will begin in January for up to 6 months - they would appreciate any amount of time we would give them. This will be decided later in the meeting.

Guest: Kenny Holzemer reviewed what the Memorial Fund committee does and how the undesignated funds (vs. the designated) work. These funds are only used for tangible items and a request must be made and approved prior to purchasing. Kenny will give a list of previous designated fund details to Lane.

October minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: According to the records of the Chamber of Commerce, ALC is holding a \$250 deposit and they are no longer using our space. Lane is looking into this.

An experienced bookkeeper in Quickbooks and Non-profits payrolls is being considered for hire.

By the December Council meeting she will have final numbers to work into the 2025 budget.

Worship: A written report was submitted. The Worship Committee chose to change this year's Christmas Eve services to 4pm and 8pm (rather than 3 services as attendance was lower last year). Lane made a motion to approve this change, motion approved.

The Christmas Storage Room has been accumulating items not related to Christmas. It was suggested that once Christmas decor that is being used is out, to go through what is not being used and discard accordingly.

Janice made a motion to declutter the overflowing closets after January 1 as a large group effort. Motion passed.

Personnel: Personnel and pastor will check in with Kenny now that he is back in town.

Steve requested that the custodial staff vacuum the ceiling vents in the youth room.

Education: The children's Christmas Program is scheduled for December 15, practice starts on Sunday. They need someone to make a Time Machine prop, Michael will talk to the youth.

Outreach: There were 12 attendees at the successful All Saints Brunch.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. There is a gathering regarding the topic of Reimagining Space Usage for both churches and communities.

Let's Go Together Program by Paths to Understanding was presented, the purpose is to build relationships with faith communities and community agencies through shared stories/meal, service project and a public event - they need funding through support and grants. Pastor is their current treasurer. Bill made a motion to gift them \$500 from our community benevolence, therefore becoming a supporting organization, motion passed.

It was noted that Veteran's Day is the more appropriate day to celebrate our living military (as Memorial Day is honor those who have died). Worship Committee will note this for next year.

Youth: The pumpkin carving event was fun. The recent retreat was awesome, they hope make it an annual event.

Stewardship: Bill just needs some final numbers from Lane and the budget for 2025 will be finished. The Parking Lot Fundraiser hasn't changed much - this will get ramped up again at the annual meeting.





Property: A written report was submitted. Steve continues with indoor tasks such as hanging a special chair in the preschool area. He is still waiting to hear from PSE about changing out lights. There are leaks by the wooden cross which ends up in the basement so this will be addressed now instead waiting to do this when the lift is here for PSE work.

WELCA: WELCA is currently looking for a new president and for someone to take over the Sewing Group. The Angel Tree for Christmas will go up Nov. 24th to give people enough time for shopping.

Preschool: A written report was submitted.

Open Items: After looking at 3 options, Bill made a motion to purchase a new kitchen refrigerator from Home Depot for \$2933 delivered by 12/2, all were in favor. The old refrigerator along with the youth fridge will be brought to the dump. The Youth are still looking for a donated refrigerator.

Constitution Update: Tor Berg from the synod approved our proposed constitution. Pat-Carrie made a motion to make copies and distribute and to schedule a special meeting for the first vote on December 8 following the service. If approved, it can be ratified at the annual meeting on Feb. 9. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Discussion took place regarding The Brick request to use our facility. One or two ALC monitors will be needed during that time to be available and to open up the church (3pm-6pm each Sunday). Bill made a motion to approve use of our kitchen, fellowship hall and plates/silverware/pans for the months of January, February and March. Motion passed. Congregants will be invited to volunteer to be a monitor each of these Sundays - Council members have volunteered to cover January. (Bill Jan. 5th & 12th, Don 19th and Janice/Michael 26th). Pastor will let The Brick representatives know our decision. Contact information should be posted for both Steve and Don in the kitchen for any facility issues that come up during this time.
- One of the drinking fountains broke, Don and Paul ordered new parts to fix this.
- Jeanette is stepping down from being in charge of the kitchen and is looking for someone to replace her.

Our next regular council meeting will be held December 5 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, December 3.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Oct 27	Reformation Sunday	120	3	33
Nov 3	All Saints Sunday/ Praise Sunday	104	3	59
Nov 10	25th Sunday after Pentecost	116	5	44
Nov 17	26th Sunday after Pentecost	117	6	34
Nov 24	Christ The King/ Pie Sunday	120	5	**

** Not available at time of printing

Christmas Dinner - Beginning the first Sunday in December, the red "Volunteer Sign Up" board will be available at the Opportunity Desk. I'll be there to answer questions before & after service. There are tasks available before Christmas and on Christmas Day.

Opportunities include: carving turkey (Dec 24, 9:00 am), decorating Fellowship Hall (Dec 24, 1:00 pm), Christmas Day beginning at 8:00 am thru clean up at 2:30 pm. Think about what you might like to do. The sign ups will continue thru the last Sunday before Christmas. And please keep the dinner, volunteers, and those we will feed in your prayers. Thank you
- Anne Barry

Choir News - Choir rehearsals during Advent will be at 7:00 pm instead of 6:30 pm.

Sewing News - The calendar year is drawing to a close. Our shipment of over 3000 pounds of quilts and kits is behind us. But the Tuesday workers are busy preparing for the 2025 shipment.

Did you know that the LWR Quilt and Kit Ministry recently expanded to the U.S. A large number of LWR quilts and kits went to help survivors of the recent hurricanes. But before that, LWR partnered with the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center to help the crews of the 10 ships stuck in port following the bridge collapse there. Most of these men were unable to leave their ships to get supplies like soap and towels. What LWR was able to provide went a long way in making their lives a little easier during that time.

In December we will meet December 3 and 17 and take a winter break on December 24 and 31. The workroom (fellowship hall) is open from 9:00 and we close up before 2:00. Stay as long as you can. If your schedule allows, bring a lunch and stay to visit. All are welcome.

Christmas Season Worship -

Sunday School Christmas Play will be on December 15th during worship.

Christmas eve worship times will be at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Christmas day worship will be at 10:00 am.



**TABLE SERVICE &
DRIVE THRU MEALS TO-GO**

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Anacortes Lutheran Church

2100 "O" AVENUE



Wednesday, December 25, 2024

TABLE SERVICE

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

DRIVE THRU MEALS TO-GO

12:30—2:30 pm

Enter parking lot from "O" Ave & proceed as directed

HOMEBOUND?

To schedule delivery, call the church office
no later than NOON - MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

WANT TO HELP? QUESTIONS?

Anacortes Lutheran Church office 360-293-9586

the Christmas Store Hours:

Children Only Shopping Days:

Sunday, December 8th	11:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, December 10th	5:00pm - 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 11th	4:30pm - 6:30pm
Thursday, December 12th	5:00pm - 6:30pm
Saturday, December 14th	11:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday, December 15th	11:00am - 1:00pm

Adult Shopping Days:

Monday, December 16th- 18th 10:00am - 1:00pm
(\$ donations will be taken in the front office)



Happy

DATES TO CELEBRATE IN DECEMBER

BIRTHDAY

To You

Birthday Blessings

01 Nancy Loftis	10 Norm Vigre	15 Matthew Sullivan	23 Anne Barry
04 Graham Ferckovich	11 Karen Whittier	17 Breana Sullivan	24 Irene Parker
04 Ida Ford	11 Madeline Lowrie	17 Hunter Harrington	28 Matthew Phelan
06 Robert Claus	11 Matthew Lowrie	19 Carl Ellsworth Jr.	29 Erin Flanigan
06 Marvin Walter	11 Corbin Walter	20 Jim Carver	30 Peggy White
08 Stacey Pestar	12 Robert Eggleston	20 Diane Gusa	31 Joseph Fisher
08 Melanie Sahnou	15 Alice Dohve	20 Gary Walter	31 Norma Knutsen
10 William Rasar	15 Stella Smith	22 Colleen Legan	31 Dana McCoy

Wedding Anniversaries

02 Don & Rachel Devine	26 Stan Berntson & Sharon Geldaker
12 Robert & Rebecca Eggleston	27 Stan & Leone Zimmerman
18 Robert & DeAnna Claus	28 Chad & Jennifer Hansen
24 Kenny & Lacey Smith	

Happy Anniversary



PRAY FOR OUR 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

<i>President:</i> Don Devine	<i>Fellowship :</i>
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<i>Education:</i> Janice Sullivan
<i>Secretary:</i> Julie Jacobson	<i>Youth:</i> Michael Sullivan
<i>Treasurer:</i> Lane Phelan	<i>Preschool:</i> Anne Barry
<i>Stewardship:</i> Bill LeDuc	<i>Properties:</i> Steve Anderson
<i>Outreach:</i> Dave White	<i>Worship:</i> Pat Carrie Smith
<i>Personnel:</i> Jeaneen Brogan	<i>WELCA :</i> Jeanette Christensen
<i>Josephine Delegates:</i> Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo	<i>Legacy Endowment:</i> Wayne Olsen, Rod Odergaard
<i>Finance:</i> Lane Phelan, Kirk Swanson	Julie Jacobson
	<i>Synod Assy Delegates:</i> Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy
<i>Finance Secretary:</i> Linda Millo	Linda Millo
<i>Camp Lutherwood Rep:</i> Kenny Holzemer	

GET TOGETHER - PIZZA OLE'

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, AT 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme is: **"Incredible Ice Cream"**.

Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk or call, text, or email Julie before Wednesday prior to the event.



BINGO IN THE MORNING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room #2 or whichever room is available.

No sign-up required - just come and have fun. Snacks are provided. Please bring a drink.

*** News - We are retiring at the end of 2024 and plan to travel. ***

THANK YOU for 9 great years.

2025 will bring changes – monthly Get-Togethers will be held on the 2nd Friday and hosted by volunteers. A monthly sign-up sheet is available on the Opportunity Desk.

Thank you, fun-loving seniors, for your continued support and participation.



We love all of you. God bless each of you.

Take care. Have a terrific 2025.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury

GET TOGETHER - 2025

2nd Friday at 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall or Conference Room #2

SIGN IN!

MONTH	NAME OF HOST and EVENT	PHONE
January		
February	Joy Walter - History of Valentine - bring a can of chili—11:00 a.m.	360-293-1082
March	Rachel -- Out to Lunch - 11:00 a.m. Rachel — Jeanette - Bingo.	360-612-0252
April		
May	Paul — Julie — Super Sticky Rolls - Marvelous Moms — 10:00 a.m.	360-298-8671
June		
July	John & Denise Lowrie - out to Lunch - 11:00 a.m.	360-333-2347
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		



DECEMBER 2024
 ALC NURSERY SCHEDULE

DEC 1 10:00 Service	Lead: Rebecca Burtney Asst: Brooklyn Bush
DEC 8 10:00 Service	Lead: Rachel Long Asst: Brooklyn Bush
DEC 15 10:00 Service	Lead: Rachel Long Asst: Brooklyn Bush
DEC 22 10:00 Service	Lead: Rebecca Burtney Asst: Brooklyn Bush
DEC 29 10:00 Service	Lead: Rachel Long Asst: Brooklyn Bush



From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,

This is but the beginning of the birth pangs ... Mark 13:8

There are a lot of stories about women and pregnancy and motherhood in the Bible. To list some of these women off the top of my head, and in no particular order: Hannah, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, Eve, Hagar, Rebekah, Jochebed, Rachel, Tamar, Bathsheba, Ruth, and all those unnamed women - Manoa's wife, the Shunammite woman, the widow of Zarephath, and more, I'm sure.

I think that there is a tendency to over-spiritualize these women's stories – or, honestly, to just pass over them because we know the outcome of their pregnancies (and so often we memorize their sons' stories instead of theirs). We know Hannah had Samuel the prophet ... but we might forget she fiercely prayed and wrestled with God for a child. We know that Jochebed had Moses ... but we might forget how she gave him away (actually placed him in a basket and sailed him down a river) to save him and then pretended to be someone else in order to raise him. We know that Bathsheba had Solomon ... but we might forget the messiness and horror that came before his birth – how she became pregnant with her first son and how he died early in life and later how she maneuvered to get Solomon on the throne.

And then there are the two pregnancies in Advent:

- Elizabeth. Old menopausal wrinkled-up Elizabeth who is surprisingly with child. Elizabeth who gets both startled and assured when her baby kicks for the first time as she greets expectant Mary on her doorstep.
- Mary. Young Mary who is so often depicted in art and literature and even theology as being passive and demure. As being above such things as having spinach between her teeth or toilet paper stuck to her shoe or anything that goes along with being human. We don't hear of her having cravings or swollen ankles or heartburn or a growing belly. But, surely, she did. How could she not as she carried our Savior within her?

Advent is sometimes depicted as a waiting time. As a time when we are anticipating something coming towards us. We often say that "Christmas is coming" or "Christ will come again."

But isn't Advent also a movement time. A time that changes and expands, stretches and swells. A time when there is kicking and motion. A time that is exciting but also terrifying. A time that is anticipatory but also unknown. A time when something is growing inside but cannot be seen ... yet.

As I write this, the 2024 election happened a week ago. For half of the country, the outcome was devastating. For the other half, it was welcomed. Personally, I am trying to understand what this means for so many. Truly, I am concerned and broken-hearted when I think of the campaign promises that were made and the potential actions to so many vulnerable communities. The possible scenarios can make you stop and weep and fall on your knees exhausted.

But here's the thing: Regardless of the outcome of the election, we are an Advent people. Like Hannah, we pray to God. Like Jochebed, we act to save those whose very lives are at risk. Like Bathsheba, we name and work for the well-being of those we love. Like Elizabeth, we clasp our bellies and feel the Spirit moving within us. Like Mary, we lift our heads high and we cry out against injustice and tyranny and we lift up those who are marginalized, hated, and oppressed.

In this Advent/ Pregnant/ Gestation time, as we wait and act, grow and stretch, move and expect, as we deeply yearn for this new life that is coming, may these women's stories fill us with fortitude and courage, and may Jesus – the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God With Us – bring the promises of hope, peace, joy, and love to completion in this beautiful and broken world. May these birth pangs bring a new world into being.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



DECEMBER



2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 1st ADVENT SUNDAY PRAYSE SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a SCOUT G/PLC 2:00p MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p	2 O A SCOUT B 10:00a 7:00p	3 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	4 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP COMM 11:00a ADVENT DINNER 5:30p CHORAL Rehearsal 7:00p	5 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a WELCA BOARD 10:00a EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p CUB Pack 6:00p	6 PRIME TIMERS 11:00a GET TOGETHER-F/H ELEM Playgroup 5:30p	7 PRIME TIMERS BINGO 10:00a Christmas Store 11 - 1pm
8 2nd ADVENT SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Christmas Store 11 - 1pm	9 O A Prayer Group SCOUT B 10:00a 11:30a 7:00p	10 WELCA Potluck 10:00a SCOUT G 7:00p Christmas Store 5 - 6:30p	11 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a A-Town Clay Mtg 12:30p Fire-Conway Conf. 2:30p ADVENT DINNER 5:30p CHORAL Rehearsal 7:00p Christmas Store 4:30 - 6:30p	12 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30p SCOUT B Leader 7:00p Christmas Store 5 - 6:30p	13 ELEM Youth Night 5:30p	14 PRIME TIMERS BINGO 10:00a Christmas Store 11 - 1pm
15 3rd ADVENT SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p Christmas Store 11 - 1pm	16 O A LWR Knitting SCOUT B O A 10:00a 1:00p 7:00p	17 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p Christmas Store 10 - 1:00p Adult Shoppers \$ donations to the office	18 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a ADVENT DINNER 5:30p CHORAL Rehearsal 7:00p Christmas Store 10 - 1:00p Adult Shoppers \$ donations to the office	19 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p SCOUT G Leader 7:00p	20 ELEM Youth Night 5:30p	21
22 4th ADVENT SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	23 O A Prayer Group Homebound - Christmas Dinner Delivery Order Deadline - 12 pm 10:00a 11:30a	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICES 4 pm & 8 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00a FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER 11:00 am - 2:30 pm	26 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a	27	28
29 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	30 O A ALTAR Guild 10:00a 11:00a	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				