



Let your **FAITH**
be bigger than your **FEARS**

Reflections from Pastor Walter Rice

Anacortes Lutheran Church
May 2020 Newsletter

Is there anything like a Black Market Barber?

I asked that question, only somewhat in jest. I have calculated by the time social distancing guidelines are lifted I'm going to look like someone who recently escaped from the '60's. My hair continues to grow and I'm looking a little scruffier each passing day.

When I put that question to some family members and friends I was told a stylist or barber who violates the current guidelines would be in jeopardy of losing their license. I concluded it was best to allow my locks to flourish and just wait this thing out.

But it occurs to me, if my biggest concern is the appearance of my hair, then I am indeed one of the fortunate ones in this pandemic. While I frown at the image staring back at me in the mirror and bemoan this inconvenience, others are struggling for their lives in ICU units around the nation while many on the global level don't even have access to lifesaving medical attention. Doctors, Nurses, EMT's and others are putting their very lives at risk as they deal with the staggering numbers of those in need of emergency care amidst dwindling resources. Others are grieving for love ones while being unable to adequately mourn at funeral services. Many small businesses are at the brink or over the edge, while families wonder if they will still have a job or housing or food. Statistics show domestic abuse is on the rise.

We all know things are bad for millions. My inconvenience doesn't begin to approach the level of loss and pain many are experiencing.

This pandemic has kept me from personally meeting many of you. I've tried to remedy that with phone calls and Zoom meetings, encounters I've truly enjoyed, but it's just not the same as greeting someone in person or sitting across from them during a home visit. We on the church staff and in congregational leadership are aware some of you are enduring a great share of suffering from which others have been mostly spared. In our prayers we ask for wisdom and for God to come to you with healing, strength and hope.

Christians struggle with the question, "How can we be the church at a time like this?" Obviously worship and pastoral care are taking on new forms. Yet it's important to remember you are the church. So pray for our country and our world. Pray for those in government who make difficult decisions when all options have crushing downsides. Pray for those at risk who provide medical care and other essential services. And look out for your family and neighbors. If you know of someone in the congregation who is in special need, let us know. Continue to make those phone calls to others, just to bolster them with a familiar voice. Thank God for loving hearts.

I hope to see you soon on the other side of this crisis. My hair might be a bit too long, but I can live with that. To the best of our ability let's be God's presence for those who need so much more.

Grace and Peace, Walt

From Pastor Deborah Butler

Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you.

—*Matthew 18:20 (CEV)*

It has been over a month since we have been together. At first there wasn't any clear directive on what steps to take to keep everyone safe from the coronavirus, so staff and congregational leaders had to make decisions on whether to gather or not based on what information we had at the time, and our concern about protecting everyone, especially those who would be most at risk. In the meantime, we've been adjusting to a new 'normal' where we physically distance from one another as we observe our state's 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' order.

It's been over a month since we have been together ... but although it may be true that we have not been physically together, we have remained connected through email, Zoom, our ALC website, Facebook, telephone, and even through the medium of the US Postal Service.

Your pastors, music director Laurie Julius-Carver, resident filmmaker Rebecca Eggleston, with support from several additional volunteers have worked diligently to provide the best online worship experience we can. It has been a learning experience, and along the way we have begun to include Holy Communion in our online Sunday worship service. Many of you have expressed gratitude for these offerings, reflecting our deep need for community with God and one another.

Matthew 18:20 assures us of God's presence with us when and wherever we gather, which we now can see includes 'virtual' gathering. Hearing familiar voices, seeing familiar faces, and knowing our ALC family members are with us has given us all a comforting sense of connection in this time of separation.

We received the photo below which shows how one of our members has created a special sacred space for worship. This attention to the creation of a kind of sanctuary outside the church building demonstrates the power and presence of the Spirit of the risen Christ who gathers us together, who is present in our midst, who connects us with one another in unity through the power of the Holy Spirit.

It may have been a month since we have been together in our beautiful sanctuary, but we have been, and will continue to be together in prayer, in worship, and in companionship, whether by mail or phone or email or website or Facebook or YouTube. With the support of our church family and the abiding presence of our God, we will get through this time of trouble and find the bond of love for God and neighbor has grown stronger.

May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ and the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and always.

Pastor Deborah

Home Communion



Prayer Time - The Power of Prayer!

Join these members of the congregation as they pray for the people on the Prayer Chain & Prayer List.

Every Tuesday BY PHONE at 1 pm

Or if you can't join by phone **Pray from where you are.** If you feel a call to join them or would like more information contact Peggy 360-299-1184

If you have a **PRAYER REQUEST** for the **"Prayer Chain"** (confidential) or to update the **"Prayer List"** (printed in the Sunday Scoop & published on the ALC Website Prayer Page) please call the church office 360-293-9586

More Giving Options

We now have a **Secure Mailbox** located outside of the church office. You can drop your offerings off anytime that is convenient for you. (Thank you to those who have continued your giving during this time.)

We are in the process of setting up **"Giving Online"** on our website. Fingers crossed it is working by the time you receive this newsletter.

Meet us for Worship Online

By Visiting our Website:

www.anacorteslutheran.org

Or see what's up on our [Facebook page](#).

ALC Online Worship Services - www.anacorteslutheran.org

Anacortes Lutheran Church staff have been recording church services and uploading them to our Website and links to our Facebook page.

Anyone wonder how all this is done? So did we for the first few weeks!

We have had a team of people working behind the scenes to make this happen! We have been recording in the sanctuary, in our homes and in our offices. Music has been recorded on smart phones and cameras and shared to computers and flash drives.

We have been busy! But how does this really work?

Pastor Butler and Pastor Rice have worked extremely hard to have readings, prayers and sermons completed way ahead of the Sunday that they represent. Becky Eggleston has been a worker bee sent from God to do all the recording and "uploading" to the internet. Pastors Deborah and Walt and Rebecca (and sometimes Laurie) would meet and record two or more services at a time. Becky then worked her "magic" and finalized the recordings, inserted music and pictures. The final product that you see online has been such a learning curve for us all!

Thank you to everyone involved in this online ministry:

Pastor Butler

Pastor Rice

Becky Eggleston

Laurie Julius-Carver

Harlan Eggleston – *for singing and running flash drives up and down the hill between his house & Laurie's house*

Michael Hanrahan – *for recording*

Jacob Carver – *for video and editing*

Jim Carver – *for running the sound system*

Dana McCoy – *for your beautiful music*

Chris Long X 3 – *for your beautiful voice and trumpet X 3*

John Parker – *for your beautiful voice*

Anita, Kenny and David Holzemer – *for your beautiful voices and violin & guitar music*

Ruth and Mark Backlund – *for your beautiful voices and piano music*

Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone!

Laurie Julius-Carver; Director of Music & Choir





ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS™**

ALL Events Are Still Canceled

We look forward to getting Together in the Future.

Spring cleaning?

Dread the dusting chore...this poem is for you.

Color Me Monotonous

If dust were only pink and green
instead of ugly gray.
Then one by rearranging it
could brighten up the day.
If footprints on the kitchen floor
on pastel shades were laid,
No mother would object at all
to artful patterns made.
Fingerprints in lemon yellow,
bathtub rings in peach so mellow.
Muddy boots in bright cerulean,
banisters marked in vermillion.
Housework would seem less a chore
if only dirt were less a bore.

Ruthann Williams

Looking for a fun thing to do:

Game night with your friends or family.
Play Pictionary — it is always good for a few laughs.

Stay healthy and happy!

Please call Julie if you have questions



Christ in Our Home Devotionals

The current edition of “Christ in Our Home”
devotional booklets are here.

Pick one up for yourself and friend or neighbor.

They will be in a basket outside of the church office
entrance from **9 am - 1:30 pm, Monday - Friday.**

LWR Knitting News - Linda

**There will NOT be a Spring shipment due
to current circumstances.**

FALL Shipment GOAL is:

Hats - 100-150

Sweaters - 100-150

Sweater/hat sets - 140-200

....One sweater/hat set goes in each layette.

As of now we have COMPLETED:

Hat - 6

Sweaters - 6

Sweater/hat sets - 66

We will update our counts when we meet again,
hopefully real soon.

I have more yarn if you need any. We can meet
at my house or in the church parking lot, please give
me a call.

I hope everyone is staying healthy. It will feel good to
knit together again. See you soon.

~ Linda Anderson, 360-588-1730

Sewing Circles - Faith & Julia

*This is the day that the Lord has made we will rejoice
and be glad in it. This the day, This is the day that the
Lord has made.*

We are Praying everyone is doing Great. As for now
we wont be sewing for awhile yet. We need to see
how things will work out. We are looking forward
to our time together again. If you have project that
you are sewing on we will all bring them to our first
sewing day back.

Thank You for all you do for each other at this time.

We will get though this with Gods help.

Gods Blessing to everyone.

Faith Legan and Julia Rogers



Hello Kids:) Wow, it's been since February that we were all together in Sunday school. We, the Sunday school teachers and Education Committee, really miss you and we haven't forgotten about you. We have been working hard to find ways to share the Word of God with you. We have found some really neat

lessons to put onto our Church Web Site. On your device go to www.anacorteslutheran.org and look for the Sunday School page. There you will find some lessons and videos that you can enjoy. If you are having difficulty finding that information, try using this URL to go directly to the Sparkhouse lessons: <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-Sunday-school/> This series of lessons relates to our lectionary and is recommended by our Synod for our children. Another source is sermons4kids.com The Sunday School has subscribed to their program so we can share it with our parents and students. It also follows the Lutheran lectionary and has some fun things for the kids to do.

We will continue to look for ways to keep in touch until we can all be together again. There will not be any more Sunday school this year and we have elected to cancel Vacation Bible School. Never fear though, we are busy planning just what we will do when the all clear is sounded.

Until next time - Remember - And sing along

**Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong,
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me,
The Bible Tells me so.**

*** Color the letters in the Mother's Day card below and draw a nice picture, then give it to your mom ***

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

To my beloved ALC Choir members

Well, our year did not end the way we thought it would! However, as of today, April 21, 2020 we have a healthy choir! I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, thoughts, emails and phone calls during this 'shelter in place' time. We keep connected by these methods!

Thank you to the people who recorded special music for Holy Week and for other services! Thank you, Chris Long for splitting into 3 people! (*and for wearing different clothes*)

Thank you to Barbara Atterberry, Susan McCutcheon and Dave White for calling your "people" every week or so just to check in!

We are more than just a choir, we are a ministry & a family together. I look forward to next fall and being back together in some way. Please continue to stay home and be healthy.

Love, Laurie

Thank You!

I want to express sincere thank you to the staff and family at Anacortes Lutheran. Pastor Deborah, Pastor Walt, Laurie, Rebecca, Rachel and those others behind the scene that have made online worship available. It has been an epic challenge that our team met exceptionally well.

I miss making coffee, I miss group worship, I miss fellowship time. We will be together again and it will be sweet!

Blessings to all, Lane Phelan

Bryan and I want to send our blessings, thanks and sincere appreciation to all who have made this online worship possible. We marvel at how well done this website is. We look forward to the day we will all be together again.

God bless, The Walkers

From Josephine Caring Community

...Prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13

As I read Peter's first letter, a playful image came: Jesus shoving some big, solid grace out as he shows up, and all my hope sprinkled on top of what Jesus has brought me.

(See above – I'm not a good artist and I mean no disrespect by having Jesus remain a stick figure.) It is silly and graphic and a way of taking God's Word seriously.

Taking the Word of God seriously is a source of strength & stability in these chaotic times. As "Peter" exhorted the leaders of the early church, "love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew..."

Deep love from the heart abounds here at Josephine:

the echoes of a toddler's delight ringing down the entry hall...

the quiet murmurs of a grieving son by a father's deathbed...

the disoriented resident kindly invited yet again to return to their room...

Your prayers are felt and appreciated, friends; we hold you in ours. It helps us to walk the heartbreaking privilege of ministry in this time. I look forward to being able to gather with you, born anew to praise and worship God. May the risen Christ shove lots of grace your way as this odd season of social distancing

Easter blessings to you, The Rev. Helen C.L. McPeak

Director of Spiritual Care, Josephine Caring Community



During this time of social distancing to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our worship services and other gatherings have been suspended at Anacortes Lutheran Church. Also, our office is closed to visitors.

Meet us for Worship Online

by visiting our Website: www.anacorteslutheran.org

Or see what's up on our [Facebook page](#).

As this newsletter goes to print, we do not know when to expect resumption of our Sunday worship and gatherings. So for now, we will not publish the list of those serving in worship or hosting our Fellowship hour. ***Below is a list of the Sunday readings so that you may follow along while watching the online worship.***

*If you would like to be recorded doing a readings for an online
Worship Service please contact Becky or the church office.*

Sunday Worship Readings & Readers

Follow along as you listen and watch our online worship.

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| May 3 | Reader: | |
| Mother's Day | Readings : Psalm: Gospel: | Acts 2:42-47 / I Peter 2:19-25 Psalm 25 John 10:1-10 |
| May 10 | Reader: | |
| | Readings : Psalm: Gospel: | Acts 7:55-60 / I Peter 2:2-10 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 John 14:1-14 |
| May 17 | Reader: | John Parker or David Bjornson |
| | Readings : Psalm: Gospel: | Acts 17:22-31 / I Peter 3:13-22 Psalm 66:8-20 John 14:15-21 |
| May 24 | Reader: | Pat Carrie Smith |
| Pentecost | Readings : Psalm: Gospel: | Acts 1:6-14 / I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 John 17:1-11 |
| May 31 | Reader: | Lois Cassidy |
| | Readings : Psalm: Gospel: | Acts 2:1-21 / I Corinthians 12:3-13 Psalm 104:24-35 John 20:19-23 |

Pray for Our 2020 ALC Church Council

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President | • Bill LeDuc |
| President –Elect: | • |
| Treasurer | • Lane Phelan |
| Secretary | • Melanie Sahnnow |
| Education | • Kendra Kennedy |
| Youth | • Ginny Connelly |
| Fellowship | • Kathy Khile |
| Outreach | • |
| Personnel | • Steve Richards |
| Preschool | • Jo Rockwood |
| Properties | • Les Olsen |
| Stewardship | • |
| Worship | • David Bjornson |
| WELCA | • Jeaneen Brogan • & Linda Walker |
| Josephine Del. | • Jerry Bongard • & Grace Boggio |
| Lutherwood Rep | • Jim Fors |
| ELCA Synod Rep | • Pastor Butler • & Linda Millo |

We miss seeing your faces each week, hand shakes and hugs
during Sharing of the Peace and Fellowship.
Until we can be together again...

Stay Praying, Stay Caring (for yourself & others)
Stay Loving, Stay Safe



Happy May Birthday to You!

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Carter Eggleston | 14 | Pat Wilson |
| 1 | Catherine Eggleston | 15 | Thomas Knowles |
| 1 | Lily May Dumas | 16 | Nathan Dent |
| 1 | Mike Trafton | 16 | Carol Kirby |
| 4 | Yvonne Storme | 16 | Fred Tenoll |
| 5 | Hannah Parker | 17 | Judy Card |
| 6 | Dalyce Geffe | 17 | Bill Sahnaw |
| 7 | Susan McCutcheon | 18 | Susan Reed |
| 7 | Judy Pesaturo | 18 | Stacy Roux |
| 7 | Ethan Lust | 19 | Elliot Hofferth |
| 9 | Audrey Dunnington | 20 | Connie Walters |
| 10 | Lois Cassidy | 21 | Jeff Hrovat |
| 10 | Brian Hanrahan | 21 | Quinn Kurz |
| 10 | Michael Hanrahan | 21 | David Rapella |
| 10 | Lara Knowles | 22 | Jean Brown |
| 10 | Kendra Kennedy | 22 | Dee Holmes |
| 10 | Sue Larsen | 22 | Krista Morgenthaler |
| 11 | Megan Dumas | 22 | Vera Jones |
| 11 | Cory Geffe | 23 | Lucca Dumas |
| 12 | Kori Fosso | 23 | Judy Littlefield |
| 12 | Owen Kennedy | 25 | Camryn Kerr |
| 12 | Heidi Parker | 26 | Bernice Linvog |
| 12 | Blakely Swietzer | 26 | Don Sullivan |
| 13 | Ann Mayer | 27 | Lane Phelan |
| 13 | Rod Rothlisberger | 28 | Bill LeDuc |
| 14 | Anita Holzemer | 29 | Stephanie Poor |

May - Wedding Anniversary!

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

Birth Announcement

Born Friday, April 10, 2020

Jackson Joseph - 5lbs 7oz. &
Soren Martin - 5lbs 15oz.

Congratulations to the Proud

Parents: Kayla & Ryan Hoel

Grandparents: Pastors Debra & Lewis Benson



Wedding Bells Announcement

Knute Fosso & Kait Wieringa
Saturday, March 21, 2020

In Loving Memory

Jeffrey Gordon Radke
September 17, 1941 - April 09, 2020

April - Online Worship Views

| Date | Church Closed due to COVID-19 | Views |
|------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 5 | Palm Sunday | 142 |
| 9 | Maundy Thursday | 131 |
| 10 | Good Friday | 126 |
| 11 | Saturday Easter Vigil | 87 |
| 12 | Easter Sunday | 158 |
| 19 | 2nd Sunday in Easter | 105 |
| 26 | 3rd Sunday in Easter | 85 |

From the Treasurer... Blessings and Thank you to all.

Many have been faithful in getting your offering mailed to the church. I am preparing this on April 20. We attended church for 6 weeks in the new fiscal year, and have now been with Online church for 6 weeks.

Needed weekly to meet our 2020 budget \$7,400.

Average through Week 6 (March 8) is \$6,774.

Average through Week 12 (April 20) is \$6,700.

This includes all member giving that has been received by the church.

Easter Holiday offering has totaled an additional \$5,215.

This will certainly not be a usual year for our finances. We are blessed to have ample reserves and faithful family members at ALC that will see us through the special times.

We ask you to continue your offerings as you are able.

Giving While Not Gathering

3 Ways to Give:

1. Mail your offering envelopes or checks to the church office, 2100 "O" Ave, Anacortes, WA 98221

2. E-giving Download the **"GivePlus"** app from the app store.

Text 360-328-7521

Enter amount you wish to give. Press send

Follow directions to register and enter payment info.

You will receive verification

You can make one time or recurring gifts



We are currently in the process of setting up a **"GivePlus"** button on our website.

3. Simply Giving Program

This is a direct giving plan from your savings or checking account. These gifts are recorded and reflect on your statement. We have members using this already.

To keep this confidential, you may fill out the *Simply Giving Authorization Form* (included in this newsletter) and mail it to the church with **Attention to: LINDA MILLO**, (our financial secretary.) She will pass these forms on to Simply Giving for processing. You can fill out a new form anytime you wish to make changes.

God's love and faithfulness will see us through.

Blessings, Lane Phelan; Treasurer

From your Transition Team

Even though we are going through these strange times, we can go forward without fear knowing our God has control. We want you to know that even though we are not fellowshiping together in person every week, the Transition Team has continued to virtually meet to work towards our goal of gathering information and input from you.


In the coming weeks we will start by having you prayerfully consider a few survey questions. We would ask that you take some time to answer them from your heart and mind.

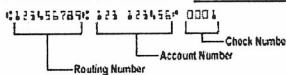
Your voice, your ideas, and your visions matter to us and this process.

We now have this amazing opportunity to call a Pastor to lead us to where we believe God is calling us. What do you sense God is calling ALC to do and be in Anacortes?

Your Transition Team: Nancy Loftis, Matt Kerschbaum, Jane Nelson, Jim Fors & BoydVeer

AUTHORIZATION FORM

The **Simply Giving** Program
endorsed by
 Thrivent Financial Bank

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | ENVELOPE/DONOR # | DATE |
| Name of Church _____ Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of Authorization Form: <input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date | | |
| Last Name | | First Name |
| Address | | |
| City | State | Zip |
| Email Address | | |
| Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) | | Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">  </div> |
| FIRST DONATION DATE: ____/____/____ | FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly (transferred on 1 st and 15 th of each month) | FUNDS AND AMOUNTS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Building \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism/Outreach \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</div> |
| AGREEMENT I authorize the above church and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____ | | |

Please attach voided check here.

ALC COUNCIL MINUTES – April 16, 2020

Attended -Via Zoom: Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pastor Deborah Butler, Pastor Walt Rice, Melanie Sahnaw, Maggie Santos, Kendra Kennedy, Dave Bjornson, Jeaneen Brogan, Kathy Khile & Les Olson.

Bill opened the meeting at 6:30pm and Pastor Walt shared a prayer.

Presidents Report:

Pastors Report: The taped worship services went well. Thank you everyone for your time and energy putting them together. Thank you, Becky for the outstanding job filming and editing so we could share them. Pastor Walt has been able to connect with many via phone or zoom and is looking forward to a meet and greet with everyone. Pastor Deborah reports that as of today we have no Covid-19 cases in Island Hospital. Happy Birthday to Paul Knowles he is 104.

Treasurers Report: Lane gave report. We had a \$10k gift so total giving was \$28,970 at the end of 11 weeks. That makes giving average \$6824 a week and budget is \$7400. Easter giving was \$2,975 with more coming in. We are hoping that all furloughed employees are now getting unemployment.

Old Business: The Transition Team has had meetings and in need of two people interested in joining the team. They are looking at doing a survey to gather information.

New Business: Looking at how the church will look when we open back up after Covid-19. Social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer, maybe an extra service? Maybe services live streamed to the fellowship hall to spread out. Then there is meetings, everyone responsible to sanitize after. Lots to think about. Worship and Property committees will look at this.

Personnel Report: Jeaneen reports for Steve that we are happy that Rachel is back. Dave and Mirth are on furlough and still waiting to get unemployment. Becky has put in 50-60 volunteer hours and can we compensate her? Steve will look at.

WELCA Report: Jeaneen says they are anxious to get preparations going for the Strawberry Social in June.

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: Les will gather questions from the committee's and have a meeting via Zoom with them on April 24th to address getting the church back open and he will purchase more cleaning supplies. The floor is done in the fellowship hall. Frank & Colleen are still working making sure everything is clean and sterilized. We have a new carpet cleaner/floor scrubber. Asking Legacy to reimburse \$500 for new lights in Pastor's office and the financial secretary's office. They had no April mtg. We received a letter from the NW Ortho that they will no longer pay to rent the parking lot. It was discussed that we wait a little while before putting up signs and a fence across the property line on the alley side.

Education: Kendra met with her committee via Zoom. All Easter events and VBS have been cancelled. Planning something for July in place of VBS but will wait and see. They will hold the packets purchased for VBS to use next year. Sunday school and youth attendance were low before, how to get numbers up?

Fellowship Report: Kathy is working on the FAST teams and looking for volunteers for May so we can be ready for services to start back. No plans for summer picnic's right now.

Youth Report: No report.

Preschool Report: Maggie reports that they sent out notices that school is closed for the rest of the year. She has reimbursed ½ of tuition paid for March as well as the few that paid for whole year. Also, she has a few checks to return paying tuition for next year. She also was able to pay payroll. Waiting to see who can get unemployment. Paid time off, can that be part of their pay?

Stewardship Report: No report

Worship Report: The recorded Good Friday & Easter service went great, we all really enjoyed being able to watch at our convenience, thank you.

NEXT Council meeting is May 14th at 6:30pm via Zoom

Pastor Walt said the Lord's Prayer and closed the meeting at 8 pm

Blessings, Melanie



Last night I had a dream. It was a strange dream. I dreamed that an older man was crying because his wife had died. Out of concern and love, I hugged him. And then I stepped back appalled that I had touched him. And then suddenly I was in a text study group with

several other pastors (you know how dreams go...) and they were angry with me for touching this man and getting too close to them ... and then I woke up. And, as is often the case, it was 3 AM and I lay in bed thinking about this strange world we are in where hugging is a nightmare and waking up and finding oneself alone is a relief.

First, let me say to you all, I hope you are doing ok. And if you are not, please reach out to your pastor, your deacon, your family, your friends, your congregation, this synod. We are Church Together – even, especially, in this time. Please know that even as we continue physical distancing, we are still in community. We are still Holy Community. We are still the Body of Christ in this world.

One way that the synod would like to demonstrate how we are Church Together is offering some relief to congregations for salaries. With this in mind, the synod has begun the **NWWA Synod COVID-19 Relief Fund** for congregations and ministry sites. The monies for this fund come from an anonymous supporter with matching funds from the synod. At the moment, we have approximately \$41,000 in this account. Our hope is that this fund will work in two ways:

1. To distribute funds to those who need financial help towards salaries (particularly our most vulnerable ministries.)

2. Provide opportunity for those who are seeking a way to support others (financially stable congregations and individuals could make a donation to this fund to help support others who are in need). You can do this by donating online here: www.lutheransnw.org/donate. Please specify “Leader Support.” You may also send check made out to the NWWA Synod with “NWWA Synod Leader Support” in memo line and mail it to the Region One Office: Region I ELCA, PO Box 94432, Seattle, WA 98124-6732

If you would like more information the **NWWA Synod COVID-19 Relief Fund**, find the letter and application on our synod website here: www.lutheransnw.org/covid-relief-fund.

In this last month, I have been amazed and in awe of the many ways congregations in this synod have continued community with one another and in the world. As I have participated in worship services, call committee meetings, Bible studies, informational meetings, book studies, and more, I am so thankful for each one of you. Yes, this is hard. Yes, we don’t know the end. And yet, through Christ, we are in this together. We are Holy Community. We are Church Together.

While I cannot be present with you bodily for now, know that you are in my daily prayers, my heart, my thoughts. And even in these times when we are unable to exchange the peace of Christ by shaking hands or even hugging, know that the peace of Christ *is* with you. Today and always.

In Resurrection Hope and Joy,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Did you hear? Our Synod Assembly has been canceled.

Learn more about other events that have been postponed/rescheduled here: www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update
Keep up to date by signing up for the weekly update email here: www.lutheransnw.org/Sign-Up-for-Email