



Anacortes Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Scott

March 2025 Newsletter

Is there something different you do during the season of Lent to set it apart? Historically, Lent was a season for the catechumenate to prepare for their baptism during the Easter Vigil gathering. It was a season of study, prayer, spiritual discipline, fasting, and other practices that deepened faith and faith community participation. As the practice of infant baptism became the norm, the season of Lent changed a bit. Probably the most familiar part of Lent is the act of “giving something up” and then like New Year’s Resolutions see how long we can keep it going. It is in some way a sense of ‘fasting’. Some people I have known have given up things like: Brussels sprouts, liver and onions, or even limburger cheese (I don’t know how they made it!) Some have given up things that may be a little more difficult, like: chocolate, dessert, candy, cursing, or even hamburgers. I have prided myself on giving up giving things up, but then I realized that I failed in that one from the very beginning.

Isaiah 58:6 reads, “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?” (NRSV) What if we spent time in Lent to work toward justice. Of course, we may have differing opinion of what that exactly means, but I do think we can agree that justice is a good thing. We work to help one another be the best we can be, to dismantle obstructions that may hinder, and to remember that we all are better off when each of us has enough. When we put our effort toward those endeavors that we are gifted for and passionate about, we create energy that is then freed for creative purposes. Life as a community in this way almost creates something like a perpetual motion machine as the community is strengthened by the energy that comes from us working together in the same direction.

Like the Isaiah text mentions, sometimes it is in “loosing” that we find the freedom to really stretch into a new reality. We “undo the thongs” that hold us back and we move forward with the love of God filling us that we may overflow that love into the world. And we move forward with each person living who they are in the community, we celebrate difference and realize that it spices up our life together. Like a patchwork quilt, all the pieces come together so that it may wrap around in an embrace of love from those who created it.

May this Lent be a time not of burden, but one of renewal in our lives of faith and our relationships with God and with one another.

Fasting on renewal,

Pastor Scott





Church Council Minutes from February 13, 2025

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Anne Barry, Jeaneen Brogan, Jeanette Christiansen, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Pat Carrie Smith, Dave White

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

January meeting minutes and the electronic meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The 2024 Income and Expenses report and the approved 2025 Budget was sent out by email.

Stewardship: Bill will get the Finance committee together to work on an audit.

WELCA: There is no current WELCA president and the VP is out of town so no current business. Jeanette will continue to take care of supplying the coffee cupboard, noting that no more tea bags are needed.

Outreach: Nothing to report. See New Business regarding the food bank donations.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. See New Business for more.

Preschool: A written report was submitted.

Properties: A written report will be sent by email. Steve has been working with PSE to remove a \$27 monthly charge for a streetlight that has been burned out. He has asked for credit to the account for the past 6 months of charges. It was noted that the bathroom faucet has been left on when the preschoolers have been in the fellowship hall, the teachers will be asked to check the bathrooms before heading back to the preschool. Steve is discarding any outdated manuals for equipment once owned by ALC.

Worship: A written report was submitted. It has not yet been decided where the community Good Friday service will be held, ALC sanctuary is too small for the crowd that showed up last year to the service. Pat-Carrie will check with Lane as to the financial documents found upstairs while cleaning out some closets. The Christmas room and the adjacent room was cleaned out.

Personnel: All employees will receive a 2% raise in 2025. Pastor's started in January, the church staff on April 1 and the preschool staff on August 1. Evaluations will be handed out soon, 3 per person. If you are asked to complete one, please be do so efficiently.

New Business:

- When the Finance committee meets this spring, it is requested they look into a higher interest earning vehicle for the church monies.
- Steve Anderson, Bill LeDuc and Michael Sullivan/Janice Louie have been present for The Brick dinners on Sundays. It would be helpful to have a second person present so one is available for questions while the other monitors the room. It was noted that a variety of groups come in to cook so not all have a key. ALC will provide dinner on March 9, Don and Jeanette will come this Sunday to get an idea of what to cook.
- Parking lot funding ideas were discussed. Stewardship and Properties committees will coordinate to get 3 bids.
- Steve called the city about the broken sidewalk on the east side of the building.
- The diminishing food bank donations were discussed. Dave made a motion to make the 3rd Sunday of each month "God's Work Our Hands" food donation Sunday. This will be announced each 2nd Sunday of the month to remind people. It was seconded and all were in favor.
- Jeaneen made a motion to increase the scholarships given each year from \$1000 to \$2000 in 2025 and increasing it by \$500 each year until it reaches \$3000. It was seconded and all were in favor.

Continued on page 3.

- It was noted that in Don's annual report there was a statistic that our attendance was down by about 30 people/Sunday. Creating a social media presence was discussed.
- Pastor presented a request by the Presbyterian church for donations to help cover the \$6000 cost to put on the Handel's Messiah sing-a-long as professional musicians are hired. Pastor will send an electronic copy of the request to council to consider this. They want commitments by August.
- Bill will have a decision in the next 2 weeks about a new copier.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the Lord's Prayer was prayed.

Our next regular council meeting will be held March 13 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, March 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



Properties Report

2/16/2025

Replaced microwave oven in kitchen. Appliance is/was 25 years old and could not see the display.

Replaced the microwave in youth room basement. Since it is 15 years old and still works, put that in the conference room and took out the small one (23 years old).

Removed the old, non working carpet shampooer that was stored in the room with tables and chairs. Also disposing of linoleum cleaning chemicals. Don't know how old they are, but not used.

Next will be the old floor tile cleaning and polishing machine and related round cleaning pads. Again, no longer being used.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) seems to overcharge us for sodium vapor lights, separately. Customer Service claims there is a totally separate electric meter, from the main, general Church meter.

Preschool got a new countertop microwave oven. Old one was 15 years old.

Properties ongoing.

- Clear coat seal all wooden window frames.
- Front 2 doors, apply clear coat sealant.
- All toilets, church and preschool, need to have internal parts changed in tanks. Updates
- There are windows in the church that the seals are bad, moisture between panes.
- Moss-off the roofs. Clean out the gutters.
- Make changes on down spouts to utilize rain run off.
- Winter: once a month, check furnace (8) filters. Replace as needed.
- Outside doors need replacement door sweeps.
- Wood window sills are showing wood rot – to replace
- Outside door wood trim - rot

More to be added.

Steve Anderson





LENT

A SEASON OF RENEWAL



Wednesday Soup Suppers - 5:30 pm Worship service - 6:30 pm

A Fellowship gift we share with one another. A simple meal of soup and bread.
Please, Sign up at the Opportunity desk or contact the coordinator to bring soup or cleanup.

Soup & Setup group arrive at 4:30 pm / Clean-up people arrive at 6:15 pm

Week	Date	Church Group - Setup & Soup	Coordinated by	Clean-Up
Lent 1	March 12	Choir & Ushers	Dave White	John & Kathy Parker
Lent 2	March 19	Preschool	Maggie Santos	Preschool
Lent 3	March 26	Congregation	Kathy Khile	
Lent 4	April 2			John & Kathy Parker
Lent 5	April 9			Paul & Julie Dusenbury

PRIME TIMERS NEWS

Out To Lunch - Rachel's Alibi

Friday, March 14 at 11:00 a.m. Meet in conference room 2 at 10:30 am to walk over to the restaurant.

Bingo!

Saturday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. in conference room 2.

Please sign up for the event at the opportunity desk by Wednesday before the event.

Newsletter Deadline: If you have information for the next newsletter, please send it to info@anacorteslutheran.org by March 17th. Let me help you get the word out on upcoming events or important information for the congregation!

PRAY FOR OUR 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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

Fellowship :
Education: Janice Sullivan
Youth: Michael Sullivan
Preschool: Anne Barry
Properties: Steve Anderson
Worship: Pat Carrie Smith
WELCA : Jeanette Christensen
Legacy Endowment: Wayne Olsen, Rod Odergaard
 Julie Jacobson
Synod Assy Delegates: Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy
 Linda Millo



WELCA News

"We praise God that Samaritan's Purse collected a record-breaking number of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes last year—and it all started with you! Due to your faithful partnership and encouragement, churches, groups, families, and individuals in the U.S. packed **10,574,805** of the **11,927,439** shoeboxes collected internationally."

Thank you Anacortes Lutheran for your part in making this all happen.



SEWING NEWS

What are you doing on Tuesday? If you answer is, **going to sewing**, well done. If you don't have anything scheduled, why not stop by. We would love to visit with you and share information on this program. We will meet March 4, 18 and 25, beginning at 9 am. Because of what we and other Lutheran churches do, this Ministry reached an amazing number of people in 2024. Look at these numbers of quilts and kits given to people in need. Quilts - 370,818; School Kits - 140,117; Personal Care Kits- 127,621; Baby Care Kits - 45,690; Fabric Kits - 5,568. We are representing the love of Jesus by wrapping people in warmth, clothing babies, giving children a chance to learn and much more.

A CELEBRATION OF TWO SERVANTS OF OUR LORD!

On Sunday, March 23, 2025 we will celebrate over 80 (!) years of service to the Lord from Ruth Backlund and Anita McCoy! Ruth and Anita have accompanied the services and the choir here at ALC for over 80 years and it is way past time to celebrate! They are not retiring, however, we will celebrate them with a special coffee hour after church on the 23rd and a recognition of them during the service.

Please come and enjoy a special tribute to two wonderful people. We will have a basket for cards and special treats! Thank you, Ruth and Anita!

Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Jan 26	3rd Epiphany	125	7	27
Feb 2	Family & Praise Sunday	76	13	32
Feb 9	Scout Sunday	138	3	36
Feb 16	6 Epiphany	103	6	68
Feb 23	7 Epiphany	119	5	**

** Not available at time of printing



Dates to Celebrate in March



01	Marv Wold	11	MacKenzie Corder	18	Amelia Thomas	27	Boyd Veer
02	David Brosten	12	Judy Holmes	19	Malcolm McCutcheon	28	Gracie Sullivan
03	John Lowrie	16	Brooklyn Bush	20	Kennedy Costenbader	29	Anne Hofferth
04	Marcia Berg	17	Mia Kennedy	21	Rob Harstad	29	Delaney Phelan
04	Elaine Olsen	17	Tegan Kerr	22	Rebecca Claus	30	Jan Vigre
05	Anita McCoy	17	Charles DeWitt	25	Aksel Hansen	31	Majbritt Hansen
06	Dan Khile	17	Bonnie Kerschbaum	27	Matthew Kennedy		
10	Joseph Pestar Jr.	18	Janey Dent	27	Cami Mavar		

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 08 Robert & Sharon Ohm
- 14 Malcolm & Susan McCutcheon
- 19 Joseph & Stacey Pestar



PASTORAL ACTS

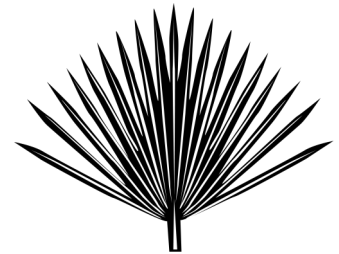
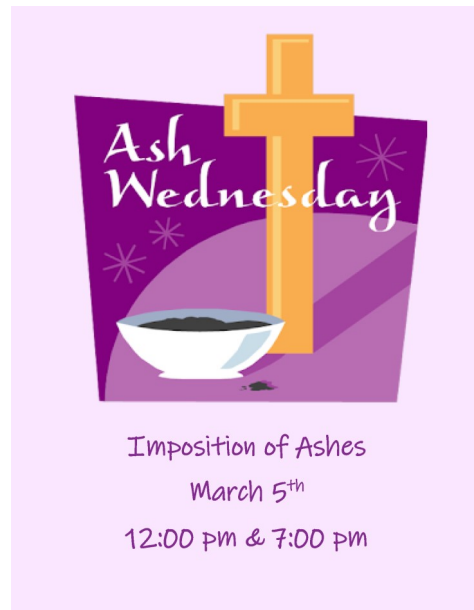
Pastor Scott Peterson

BAPTISM

February 23, 2025

Kennedy & Cora Costenbader
Parents: Kevin & Alyssa Costenbader

ALC NURSERY SCHEDULE	
MONTH: <i>March 2025</i>	
SUNDAY 2 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Rebecca Burtney Rachel Long
SUNDAY 9 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Rebecca Burtney Brooklyn Bush
SUNDAY 16 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Rebecca Burtney Rachel Long
SUNDAY 23 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Rebecca Burtney Brooklyn Bush
SUNDAY 30 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Rebecca Burtney Rachel Long
Please arrive 15-30min before service starts. You may leave once sanitizing is done, or organize and deep clean until 11:30.	
Please take down closed sign upon arrival and put it back up once all cleaning is done. Thanks!	





From the Bishop:

March 2025

Dr. Anna Lembke, a psychiatrist and an expert in addiction, states: “Rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide are going up in countries all over the world, and they're going up fastest in the richest nations of the world.... We are now turning to [electronic] devices and to the Internet to meet our physical, emotional, sexual, educational, every need we have. We don't really need other people anymore. We can get those needs met from the internet. I think that's a very scary prospect because I think it means that we will become more and more isolated.” (“Digital Drugs Have Us Hooked. Dr. Anna Lembke Sees a Way Out,” The Daily by The New York Times podcast, 2/1/2025)

What Dr. Lembke is talking about is the dopamine hit that people receive while on their phones and other devices. More and more research is coming out that dopamine, the neurotransmitter that motivates us to do things we think will bring pleasure, is being activated by electronic media in the same way that junk food activates over-eating.

So why am I (a theologian, pastor, and bishop - but not a scientist) talking about this? Well, I think that the moving from human interaction to electronic interaction is of theological and pastoral concern. You see, at the same time that more and more research is telling us about the harm that is happening when we get “hits” of dopamine from electronic media, we are also hearing (and experiencing in our own lives and social networks) that loneliness and anxiety and stress are rising. In isolation, we might lose trust in others and in our institutions, experience a crumbling of empathy, be susceptible to disinformation, and build walls instead of bridges to another.

Now, before you say to me, “Do you know what is happening in this world?” Please hear me – I know. I know. There is a lot going on in our families, with people we care about, in the United States, and in the world as a whole. I, too, am feeling despair and disbelief. There are valid reasons for feeling anxiety and stress. And we might feel isolated and scared because of these circumstances.

But I implore you, please don't try to navigate all of the things you are experiencing alone – without anyone around you. Please don't always turn to your phone and doomscroll or neglect relationships or separate yourself. Instead, I encourage you to look for those spaces where you can physically connect with another person or people. Please find those places where you can authentically, truly be yourself – in your joy, in your sorrow, in your anxiety, and more.

I pray that one of these places is your church community. That you can pray and sing and learn and grow, that you can receive and grant forgiveness through Jesus, receive the sacraments, take action through the Spirit, give and receive care, and that you can rest when needed. I pray that you may do this all in a sacred space where you deeply connect with others – even if you don't always agree with one another. I pray that you can have meaningful relationships, conversation, and can be there for one another. I pray that you receive love just as you love others. I pray that if you are feeling lonely or despairing, there are those you can reach out to who will sit with you and bring God's promises again to you.

In these days, when it feels like there is so much, may you feel God's love and grace surrounding you in the community of others. May we trust in Jesus' promise, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org





MARCH

2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord Family & Praise Sunday EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a SCOUT G PLC 1:00p Dinner at the Brick 3-6:00p MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p	3 O.A 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	4 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	5 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes 12:00pm & 7:00 pm Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP Comm 11:00a CHOIR Warmup 6:30p	6 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a EXEC BOARD 4:00p	7 Elem Youth Night 5:30p	8
9 1st Sunday in Lent EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Dinner at the Brick 3-6:00p	10 O.A 10:00a Prayer Group 11:30a SCOUT B 7:00p	11 WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a WOMEN'S BIBLE 3:30p SCOUT G 7:00p	12 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a A-Town Clogy Mtg 12:30p Fit-Conway Conf. 2:30p LENTEN Dinner 5:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p	13 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30p SCOUT B Leader 7:00p	14 PRIMETIMERS Lunch 11:00a	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Dinner at the Brick 3-6:00p MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p	17 St. Patty's Day O.A 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p SCOUT B 7:00p	18 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	19 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a LENTEN Dinner 5:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p	20 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:30p SCOUT G Leader 7:00p	21 Elem Youth Night 5:30p CUB Pack Derby Setup	22 Pinewood Derby 10a - 12p PRIME TIMERS BINGO 10:00a
23 3rd Sunday in Lent EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Dinner at the Brick 3-6:00p	24 O.A 10:00a Prayer Group 11:30a SCOUT B 7:00p	25 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p	26 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Fit-Conway Conf. 2:30p LENTEN Dinner 5:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 7:00p	27 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:30p	28	29
30 Hymn Pick Sunday WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a SCOUT G PLC 1:00p Dinner at the Brick 3-6:00p	31 ALTAR Guild 11:00a SCOUT B 7:00p					