

Anacortes Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

I was speaking with someone the other day about what a Lutheran is. They were a person that did not grow up in a church environment and so were wondering what all the differences were that made so many different churches. I told them that to go through all the differences would take a couple of weeks to run through, but then I told them that all of them were Christian churches. They were confused about this because why would there be so many if they were all Christian churches. I gave the illustration that churches, like ice cream, has a lot of flavors (around 40,000 registered denominations in the US today), but that they all had the simple ingredients that made them a Christian church. "So it is all about the different flavors," they asked. Yes, it is about how we are flavored differently to reach the widest range of people with the message of God's love.

When I returned home later that day, I thought of this quote of Martin Luther:

The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and should not call themselves Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone...How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?

It seems we do get caught up by those many things that differentiate us from one another and forget about all those things that we hold in common. Earlier today, a few of the other religious leaders in Anacortes gathered for a time of shared discussion and prayer and our conversation again returned to this idea of denominational differences not being nearly as important as how we see ourselves (and our churches) as gathered by Jesus and to share His story. It is Jesus who gathers us together and calls us friends.

When I start to dwell on how much of society seeks to create division, I remember that we are called by Jesus to live for God and for our neighbor. We are called to love our 'enemy' and not just those who think like we do. We are to live lives of reaching out to the "least of these" and to help however we can. We are to live out our Christian faith by being Christlike.

Yes, there will still be differences in thought and opinions. We may not agree as to the best way to go about providing the basics of life to everyone. We will not agree on which car to drive or what boat to float, but we can agree that God loves us and that we are called to love one another.

Gathered in Christ,

Pastor Scott



Church Council Minutes from September 11, 2025

Attendees: Steve Anderson, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Lane Phelan, Pat Carrie Smith, Rosemary Walter, Claude Woodall

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

August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Written reports were submitted. Lane reviewed highlights. The accounts at Heritage Bank have been closed and the Safe Deposit Box was emptied. Lane will get items to Don to go through. \$20,000 was transferred to the checking account to cover expenses rather than the \$45,000 that had been approved at the August meeting. Preschool tuition dollars are being paid again which improved the checking account balance.

Lane reviewed budget lines that were over what had been expected to help the Stewardship Committee when coming up with an accurate 2026 budget - she will get this information to Bill. People who have Thrivent accounts could be applying for grants to help pay for Fellowship events/food.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted.

Outreach: Steve made a motion for Pastor to make a plug at the beginning of each quarter to encourage Food Bank Donations so that 4 times a year we make a bigger effort to bring in food. All Saints Sunday is Nov. 2, there will be a meal for those who have lost a loved one or had a child baptized this year - let Dave White know if you know of someone who should be included.

Preschool: Lane reports that the 3 year old class is small with 9 children currently and the 4 year old classes add up to 22 children. The Anacortes School Foundation just paid \$11,000 in scholarship money (which also covers last year).

Youth & Education: 10/5 there will be the Youth Breakfast (led by Don) which is also a fundraising event for a mission trip this year, Stacey Pestar is looking into opportunities. 10/12 Confirmation and Adult Ed starts at 9am, Sunday School will occur after the Children's Sermon during the service.

Worship: A written report was submitted. The new Sound Board equipment has arrived, speakers are still on order. Lane will fill out a request for the Memorial Fund committee for a portion of the cost once the final number is known.

Properties: The parking lot has been paved, striping was currently happening. There will be 3 handicap spots (one van accessible) near the office door, 2 handicap spots behind the kitchen/preschool and 1 handicap spot in the lot across the street. Handrails and the handicap ramp at the preschool have been sanded and painted.

Finance Committee: The minutes from the recent meeting were submitted.

New Business:

- The Installation for current council members was moved to 9/21 when more members could attend.
- The council retreat will take place 9:30am-2:30pm on 10/18. Pat-Carrie will check into the availability of the conference room at Fidalgo Bay Resort.
- There was a concern voiced regarding charging the apartment residents \$50/month to use our parking lot. This was discussed (along with our liability). Steve made a motion to continue with our current policy that was voted on at the August meeting, motion passed.
- Lane made a motion to gift the Salvation Army from our local benevolence fund \$250 for needed sensory tools to help those with special needs. Motion passed.
- Lane made a motion for Don to make an announcement at church to affirm and thank all those who donated to our parking lot project. ALC has a memorial gift that will pay what wasn't raised by the congregation. Motion passed.
- Don and Steve presented options that could hasten hot water getting to the kitchen sink. It took 1 min 45 sec to get hot water to the furthest kitchen sink and used 4.2 gallons of water. There would be costs associated with adding a small



heating unit or a recirculating unit as well as the natural gas it would use. It was agreed to leave it as it is at this time.

- What to do with the youth program was discussed. It will be discussed further with Don, Jeaneen and pastor. This will be on the council retreat agenda. Any other priorities council would like to get on the agenda send to Don. We will finalize priorities at the next council meeting, Pastor and Don will make the agenda for the retreat.
- Steve had received a request to add a lock on the door by either handicap ramp to make getting in the door easier when it's locked. The cost would be large, this will be left alone at this time. The doors are unlocked for services and special events.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next regular council meeting will be held October 9 at 4:00 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, October 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary

FALL KICKOFF DAY LUNCHEON WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! Worship Committee thanks everyone who brought so many delicious salads, and especially the volunteers who served, set up, and cleaned up. We look forward to the coming season and the start of regular Sunday morning events—Sunday school, Confirmation, and Adult Education. Blessings, Pat Carrie Smith.

Sewing News-As I write this, the sun is out and it is warm. But we had several days in a row of fog and clouds. The season is changing. Pumpkins are showing up on porches and in stores. Pumpkin lattes are available at your coffee stop. For the Tuesday sewers there are also changes. It is shipping time. Our boxes of quilts and kits will be delivered to Seattle at the end of the month. This is what we have worked on for a year. So we celebrate the gifts of supplies donated, money given, hours of labor making quilts and assembling kits. We celebrate the people who load the truck and drive to Seattle. We are thankful. Please come celebrate with us on Quilt Blessing Sunday later this month. Watch for the date in an upcoming Scoop. Quilt and kit makers will meet on the following October dates: 7, 21, 28.



PRAY FOR OUR 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

<i>President:</i>	Don Devine	<i>Finance Secretary:</i>	Linda Millo
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Bill LeDuc	<i>Camp Lutherwood Rep:</i>	Kenny Holzemer
<i>Secretary:</i>	Julie Jacobson	<i>Fellowship :</i>	
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Lane Phelan	<i>Education:</i>	Janice Sullivan
<i>At Large Members:</i>	Rosemary Walter, Claude Woodall, Steve Anderson, Pat-Carrie Smith, Bruce Rolfe	<i>Youth:</i>	Michael Sullivan
<i>Stewardship:</i>	Bill LeDuc	<i>Preschool:</i>	Anne Barry
<i>Outreach:</i>	Julie Jacobson	<i>Properties:</i>	Steve Anderson
<i>Personnel:</i>		<i>Worship:</i>	Pat Carrie Smith
<i>Josephine Delegates:</i>	Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo	<i>WELCA :</i>	Lane Phelan
<i>Finance:</i>	Lane Phelan, Bill LeDuc Linda Millo, Roger Peckman	<i>Legacy Endowment:</i>	Wayne Olsen, Rod Odegaard Julie Jacobson



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to all the volunteers who graciously hosted the monthly get togethers in 2025.

We are looking for hosts for the October, November, and December meetings.

Please call Julie if you are interested.

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

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



Parking Lot



Properties— Winter is coming up and many tasks still need to be done.



You're Invited To:

**Anacortes Lutheran Church
All Saints Sunday Brunch
Sunday November 2, 2025**

(directly following worship service)

This brunch is for families who have lost a loved one since October 2024.

This is a chance to visit and reflect with each other.

Please RSVP by Monday October 27th

Call or Text Dave White to rsvp at 206-226-7182

Please reply with your name and number in your party attending



LifeWise Academy, is an opportunity to provide Bible education to public school students in our community. We all know that decades ago, our nation systematically removed Bible education from the public school day. LifeWise Academy is a way to bring it back. Under a little-known Supreme Court ruling, students can be released from public school during school hours to attend religious classes. LifeWise is a program that provides all of the tools for our community to make this opportunity available to our students. Tens of thousands of public school students around the country attend LifeWise Bible classes each week and it can happen here too! To continue moving forward with the process, our community needs to show broad support by gathering signatures. Will you please visit lifewise.org/interest and sign our community page to voice your support. Signing is simply your way of saying, "Yes, I would like to see the Bible taught to our public school students." If you would like more information about this program and how you could get involved to bring this opportunity to Anacortes please contact: Suzy Boyes at suzyboyes@gmail.com. We need your support and participation to make this happen!



Dates to Celebrate in October



Birthdays

02	Frank Corso	16	Amanda Bush
02	Jane Nelson-Fors	17	Maeve Kennedy
02	Nancy Fowler	19	Sharon Geldaker
02	Tim Walters	20	Chuck Landgraf
03	Duane Dent	20	Eva Dent
03	Mark McCaughan	20	Jeanette Christensen
03	Tom Smith	22	Elijah Kennedy
04	Helene Fink	25	Chad Hansen
08	Karen Tavalero	25	Jim Loftis
09	Kevin Costenbader	26	Maverick West
12	Erin Kennedy	27	Ezekiel Sturgul
12	Ginny Veer	31	Jan Woodall
14	Jim Fors	31	Robert Ohm II

Anniversaries

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

Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Aug 24	11th Sunday after Pentecost	95	1	37
Aug 31	Hymn Pick	98	4	38
Sept 7	Fall Kick Off	130	3	28
Sept 14	Holy Cross Day	97	7	50
Sept 21	Ministry Fair	107	6	27
Sept 28	16th Sunday after Pentecost	106	6	**

** Not available at time of printing

Happy Halloween





From the Bishop:

October 2025

There are snakes all around us. It might not seem like it, but just like the snakes that surrounded the people of Israel, snakes are surrounding us. Let me remind you of that story found in Numbers 21. The people of Israel had been in the wilderness for almost 40 years and they are tired. They are worn out. They are angry. They are annoyed. There is no water and the manna which God has provided for them is, as the people say, "miserable." They complain about God and they complain about Moses. And suddenly, in the middle of their complaining, they are surrounded by snakes.

Snakes slithering around them. People running and screaming. People snatching their children up from the ground. Snakes biting and biting and biting. People dying. Finally, desperate, they ask Moses to pray to God on their behalf. And he does. And in response to Moses' prayer, God sends this message. God commands Moses to lift a rod into the air with a bronze serpent on it for the people to gaze upon. (You can read the full story in Numbers 21:4-9).

Do you see how strange it is for God to command this? To tell them to make a statue of the horrible thing that is killing them? My guess is that they wanted to shield their eyes from this monstrosity. No one wanted to look. Truly when they gazed upon that bronze serpent they saw a scary, horrifying, life-killing image of death. They saw poison and destruction.

But do you know what happens in the story? It is amazing. For when those who were bitten looked up and saw that which scared them the most, what brought the most destruction to them, they were saved. They lived. Out of death came new life.

There are snakes all around us, too. Do you feel them? These snakes take many forms: violence, hatred, greed, despair. Sometimes the snakes look like systems too big to fight. Sometimes they look like shadows in our own hearts. We may want to pretend they are not here. We may want to close our eyes and hope they slither away. But they don't. They linger, bite, and wound. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we are not spared from being surrounded by snakes.

And just like the Israelites, God calls us not to turn away but to look. To see the truth of what is around us. To name the injustice, the fear, the grief, the death-dealing realities in our midst. This is not easy. Looking at the snakes feels unbearable. But even more, we are called to look beyond the snakes to what is lifted up. For it is only when the people lifted their eyes and saw the bronzed snake could they find life again.

This Numbers story is quoted by Jesus in John 3. There, we hear, *"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

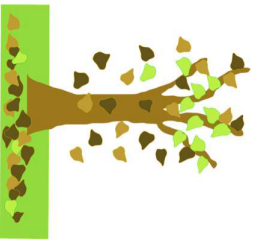
Jesus is using the Numbers story as an invitation for us as followers of Jesus. We are called to gaze upon something beyond the heartache and violence and all the snakes that are surrounding us. God calls us, just as Moses called the Israelites, to look up.

And what are we called to see? Not a bronzed snake but a cross. The cross. The cross of Christ is our bronzed serpent. On it, we see the ugliest things – violence, betrayal, injustice, sin, death itself. And yet, we are promised that this is exactly where God meets us. It is where Jesus bears what we cannot carry, where God does not hide from the world's brokenness and, instead, becomes broken for the world. Where God's promise that even death is transformed to the means of redemption, healing, and abundant life.

The snakes don't magically disappear. And we are called to confess, grieve, speak, listen, and act in community regarding the snakes. But ultimately, we lift our eyes, our voices, and our actions beyond the snakes towards the new life that is promised – where suffering is met with God's redeeming love. And in holy community is where we are strengthened again – discovering that healing and new life are possible, always, together, through Christ. Amen.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org





October

2025

SUN

MON

TUE


WED

THU

FRI

SAT



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<p>1 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP COMM 11:00a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p</p>	<p>2 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY Rally Sunday Blast 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>	<p>6 O.A 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p</p>	<p>7 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p</p>	<p>8 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a A-Town Cjy/ Mtg 12:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p</p>	<p>9 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHURCH COUNCIL 4:00p</p>	<p>10 Elem Youth Night 5:30p</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>	<p>13 Columbus Day O.A 10:00a Prayer Group 11:30a SCOUT B 7:00p</p>	<p>14 WOMENS BIBLE 10:00a WOMENS BIBLE 3:30p SCOUT G 7:00p</p>	<p>15 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p</p>	<p>16 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>	<p>20 O.A 10:00a LWFR Knitting 1:00p SCOUT B 7:00p</p>	<p>21 Sewing 9:00a YOUTH Comm 6:30p SCOUT G 7:00p</p>	<p>22 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Liturgical Arts 11:00a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p</p>	<p>23 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>						
<p>26 REFORMATION EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a</p>	<p>27 O.A 10:00a Prayer Group 11:30a ALTAR Guild 11:00a SCOUT B 7:00p</p>	<p>28 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p</p>	<p>29 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p</p>	<p>30 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p</p>	<p>31 Halloween Happy Halloween </p>	