

Arise and Shine, for your light has come!

Anacortes Lutheran Church
January 2020 Newsletter



*Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord is rising upon you!
Though darkness still covers the earth and dense clouds enshroud the peoples,
upon you the Lord now dawns, and God's glory will be seen among you! Isaiah 60:1-3*

The celebration of Christmas comes to an end on January 5th (the twelfth day of Christmas), followed by the feast of Epiphany on January 6th. Traditionally, this day is tied to the appearance of the magi, those wise men from the East. Matthew writes that when the magi saw that the star they had been following had stopped overhead, they were filled with joy, and, "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshiped him." *Matt. 2:11* They recognized that the glory of God is seen among us in Jesus, so it is fitting that the season after Christmas is called Epiphany, which means "manifestation". During this season we celebrate the dawning of the Light of the world and the revelation of the nature of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

In winter when nights are long, the image of light shining in the darkness is a sign of hope. It conveys the promise embodied in Jesus that the entire universe is in God's loving hands, that, as Julian of Norwich claimed, "All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

The year 2020 will be a time of transition for our congregation. We will welcome a Transition Pastor, form a Transition Team, then a Call Committee. Changes will come. In a time such as this, we want to remember that our church community is most certainly held in God's hands and that our mission to love and serve God and our neighbor does not change.

The year 2020 will be a time of opportunity for our congregation. Taking stock of who we are as a community and how our ministry connects with our neighborhood will help us to celebrate the good and faithful work we are doing and will also help us to envision how God may use us in the years ahead. What an exciting time this is!

The year 2020 will certainly bring surprises our way; there will be loss and there will be much joy. Through it all we will be rooted and grounded in the love of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and we will continue to shine the light of God's grace, mercy, and love into the world.

May God richly bless you in the New Year and in all the years to come!

Pastor Deborah

From Your Council President

I hope when you read this newsletter you and your families have enjoyed a happy, safe, and faithful holiday season with many blessings. Our Property Chairperson Les Olsen and I have been able to string some special wifi cables to the choir loft and the fellowship hall. We are now awaiting final bids on our design for the expansion hardware, and will be able to install at least some of the transmitters in the month of January.

The executive board recently met with Pastor Andy Yee to begin planning the transition that will commence on January 1, 2020. After explaining to us the process, and exchanging our current status with him, the suggestion he made was to establish a transition committee to begin the process to interview interim pastor candidates. He determined that a new committee be formed rather than using our Call Committee which is already on its own journey. Some of you have already been contacted as possible members for this task, and I sincerely hope and pray that you will seriously consider this very worthy endeavor.

All the Council chairpersons should have submitted their annual reports to Rachel by this reading, and the ALC Annual Report should be ready for our annual meeting on February 9th. Our Treasurer has had a "Temple Talk" that has hopefully cleared up some of our planning to start the new year (2020) and explain some of our behind-the-scenes preparations.

During January we are attempting to host Pastor Andy for a brunch-like meeting after the 2nd service to present the Transition procedure and answer questions for the congregation. We believe this would clarify further what we are trying to accomplish and the methods necessary to that end.

Happy, safe and blessed New Year to all of you. Say a prayer for our continued progress... Gracious God let your light burn brightly in us that we may bring joy and hope to dark places, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bill LeDuc; ALC Council President

From the Treasurer....

Member offering through week 45 average \$7,157 per week. Weekly to meet approved budget \$8,200.

Year to date we are at a net income of \$13,000.

Thanksgiving holiday offering for benevolence totaled \$1,750

Memorial Committee approved \$693.51 from undesignated memorial dollars for two new wireless microphones.

Christmas holiday offering will finish out our benevolence giving.

Lane Phelan; ALC Council Treasurer



**ANNUAL REPORTS are
DUE in the Church office
MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH**

Timeline

January 2020

- Interview for transition pastor. Names provided by NW WA Synod office. Plan to keep Pastor Butler part-time.
- Appoint Transition Team of 7 members. They will work with the Transition pastor to prepare a Ministry Site Profile of our congregation. Collect and analyze data on the mission, ministry and identity of the congregation. (6-8 months)

February 2020

- Annual meeting – Approve 2020 budget, Election of officers
- Welcome transition Pastor
- Transition teams works on surveys of congregation and meets with transition pastor for guidance
- Council works with transition pastor to be sure all aspects of church are in good order. Continues to update constitution.
- Upon completion of Ministry Site Profile, submit to NW WA synod for candidates.
- Congregation elects call committee, 6 to 8 members. that will proceed with search for new lead pastor. Conducts interviews and makes recommendation to council and congregation for vote. (6-8 months)

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Please be prepared to consider how you can help your congregation to fulfill needs during the Transition timeline.



*Bless this year
with love and light.*

*Bless this year with faith and sight.
Bless this year with grace and ease.
Bless this year with joy and peace.*

We are Thankful for All you do ALC Church Council

<i>President</i>	• Bill LeDuc
<i>Treasurer</i>	• Lane Phelan
<i>Secretary</i>	• Melanie Sahnou
<i>Education</i>	•
<i>Youth</i>	• Ginny Connelly
<i>Fellowship</i>	• Kathy Khile
<i>Outreach</i>	• Karen Tavalero
<i>Personnel</i>	• Steve Richards
<i>Preschool</i>	• Jo Rockwood
<i>Properties</i>	• Les Olsen
<i>Stewardship</i>	• Earl Gibbons
<i>Worship</i>	• David Bjornson
<i>WELCA</i>	• Jeaneen Brogan & Faith Legan
<i>Josephine Rep</i>	• Jerry Bongard & Grace Boggio
<i>Lutherwood Rep</i>	• Jim Fors

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS™**

Wednesday, January 15

VISIT: Microsoft Visitor Center & Store
- in Redmond

Lunch following at a nearby restaurant.

Meet in Conference Rooms #3 at 8:30 am

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Are you looking for a fun outing go visit the:
Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center

at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Rockport, WA. It emphasizes the migration of the bald eagle, salmon, and the vital role each play in our environment.

Guided nature walks are offered every weekend in December and January.

Looking for more fun outings — check the Sunday Scoop for ideas.

Fellowship Committee

FAST Teams

Another note of gratitude, we are thankful for all who graciously volunteered their time during December to fulfill all the needs of the many holiday services. It takes a lot of people to greet, read, serve communion, staff the kitchen and provide church. Many thanks.

Caring Bridge Notebook

For those of you without computer access, we will have a notebook of Pastor Benson's Caring Bridge Journal Entries. Please feel free to read them at your leisure so that you can feel informed about Pastor's experience.

WEEKLY - Bible Studies

Men's Tuesday Bible Studies

Tuesdays - 1:00 pm
In Conference room #3
Led by: Hoagy Kerr

Wednesday Bible Study with Kendra

Wednesday Mornings - 9:30 am
in Conference Room #3
Led by: Kendra Kennedy

Men's Thursday Bible Studies

Thursday Mornings - 7 am
In Conference Room #1
Led by: Boyd Veer

Thursday NOON Bible Study

Thursday - 12 Noon
(For Men & Women)
In Conference Room #1
Led by: Pastor Deborah Butler

Women's Bible Study Circles

2nd Tuesday of the month, January 14TH

Hannah Circle – 10:00 am

Location: Conference room #3
Leader: Carol Olsen
Hostess: Nancy Fowler & Linda Walker

Ruth Circle - 10:00 am

Location: 1801 9th Street
Leader: Helene Fink
Hostess: Bonnie Kerschbaum

Anna Circle - 6:30 pm

Location: Conference room #2
Leader: Nancy Loftis
Hostess: Nancy Loftis

~ We are serving the Lord with "Gladness" ~

WELCA Board Meeting

Friday, January 10th at 10:30 am
Conference room #3



January Sewing Days
Tuesdays, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
January 21 & 28

LWR Knitting News - Linda Anderson

Monday, January 20

from 1:00 - 3:00 pm
at The Market - Coffee Shop
Address: 2234, 1519 Commercial Ave

Our church ships about 100-150 layette sets,
each 6 month period to Lutheran World Relief. One
sweater/hat set goes in each layette.

SPRING Shipment GOAL is:

Hats - 50-75
Sweaters - 50-75
Sweater/hat sets - 70-100



As of now we have COMPLETED:

Hat - 5
Sweaters - 4
Sweater/hat sets - 26

We use a fun, one piece sweater pattern. Beginners
are welcome & teaching is always available.

I Hope to see you all January 20th at 1:00 pm
At The Market -Coffee Shop

~Linda Anderson, 360-588-1730

Prayer Time-You are in Our Prayers

Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

In Chapel Library

Join these members of the congregation as they pray
for the people on the prayer list and prayer chain.

If you feel a call to join them or would like more
information contact Peggy White 360-299-1184

If you have a prayer request for the "Prayer Chain"
or an update for the "Prayer List" please call the
church office 360-299-1184



Altar Flowers may be given in honor or in
memory of someone. To do so, sign-up on
the "Flower chart" at the back of the
Narthex by the fellowship hall.

Un-Hanging of the "Greens"

Saturday, January 11th at 9:30 am

❤️ Thank you from the Heart ❤️

Advent Dinners

A great big thank you to all the volunteers who helped prepare dinners, set tables and clean up the fellowship hall afterwards.

For the three Advent dinners we served about 65-80 people each week. Meals featured Ham and all the trimmings, homemade Lasagna with Caesar salad and Stuffed Flank Steak. Each meal was followed by yummy selection of pies: pumpkin, pecan and apple.

Due to the increases in food prices, the Thrivent Action Dollars no longer quite cover the costs of the meals that we prepare for 65-80 guests. So Thank you for the donations at the 2nd Advent dinner to help cover the additional expenses of the meals.

Kathy & Dan Khile



Naomi Funeral Committee

A Great Big Thank you to my Naomi committee for all you do through out the year for our families.

To our valued families of the church, Thank you for contributing cookies, salads, sandwiches for our funerals.

A Blessed year ahead for all!!!!

Jeanette Christensen;
Chair Naomi (funeral) Committee

Christmas Dinner THANK YOU

The deadline for the January newsletter is before the Community Christmas Dinner. However I'm sure that this year's dinner will be as successful as previous years. Thank you to all who participate in this important outreach, whether a volunteer or a diner, we are grateful for the generosity of this congregation. Look for a full report on the dinner in the Annual Report later in January.

Anne Barry and Don Devine

Children's Christmas Program

This year's Christmas program was a joint effort with the Sunday school, the Youth group, and the congregation as a whole. The Children's Ministry wants to thank everyone who participated for joining the children in celebrating Jesus's Birthday. The program was fun for the kids and it seemed to be well received by the congregation. We would like to give special thanks to Laurie Julius-Carver for finding the format for the program and for doing a great job as the narrator. A special thanks goes out to Gracia Tanis for reading the scripture parts and to Ruth Backlund for the piano accompaniment. Thank you also to Anne Hofferth for directing the sign language on the children's songs. Paula Olson helped out the children and the congregation with costumes, Adrienne Eide helped the children learn the program songs. Rachel Franulovich, Ginny Connelly and Stacey Pestar helped the children get in and out of their costumes & helped with organizing the program. All in all, it seemed to be a fun and successful event.

A big thank you to the congregation for jumping right in there and supporting the 2019 Christmas program.



COMING EVENTS

Third Grade Bibles: We traditionally give out bibles to our third grade class members in the month of January. We plan to do that again this year on Sunday, January 12 at the 9 am service. Please watch the announcements in the scoop for more details.

Winter Carnival: In February or early March we will have our Winter Carnival again. The kids seem to enjoy playing the games as much as the adults seem to enjoy watching and helping out. Brian Bakke's huge Jenga block set is a BIG hit with the kids and I enjoy watching the kids throw the football at the tire. The little kids seem to like going fishing in the surprise pond. At any rate, it's a fun time for everyone and it is also open to the whole church and to a couple of friends may come along too.

As the church starts it's new fiscal year, the Sunday school will be half way through it's school year. The Church staff, teaching staff, and Education Committee are very thankful for your continued support of our efforts to provide a solid faith foundation for our children. We join together in wishing all of our Anacortes families a joyful and prosperous new year.

So here's to great 2020 vision for our Church :)

Dave White

Director, Children's Ministry



Worship & Fellowship Assistants

- F.A.S.T Leader • Lane Phelan; Team Leader #4 360-293-4290 / paulandlane@comcast.net
 ALTAR Setup • Caroline Spehar; Altar Guild Chair, Paula Olson, Karen Tavalero, Gunilla Wold
 SOUND Team • Jim Carver, Brian Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer, Dana McCoy, Linda Millo, Mark Tanis
 POWER POINT Team • Michael Hanrahan, Anita Holzemer, Pat Carrie Smith

January 5	9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Regan Franulovich & Alice Piper	Joey Pestar & Micah Spehar
<i>Ushers:</i>	Kenny & Anita Holzemer	John & Kathlyn Parker
<i>Greeters:</i>	Phil & Madelyn Case	Madelyn & Phil Case
<i>Readers:</i>	Lane Phelan	Sharon Fisher
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Lane Phelan	Lois Cassidy
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>	Lane Phelan	Sharon & Fred Fisher
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	Lane Phelan & Madelyn Case	Sharon & Fred Fisher
January 12	9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Rowan Meyer & Owen Kennedy	Madden Nations-Pearson & Micah Spehar
<i>Ushers:</i>	Win Thompson & Scott Soes	Paul & Julie Dusenbury
<i>Greeters:</i>	Helene & Maury Fink	Helene & Maury Fink
<i>Reader:</i>	Helene Fink	Jeaneen Brogan
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Judy Pesaturo & Patty Pedersen	Jeaneen Brogan & Lois Cassidy
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>	Judy Holmes	Jeanette Christensen
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	Judy Holmes, Helene Fink & Judy Pesaturo	Jeaneen Brogan & Jeanette Christensen
January 19	9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Regan Franulovich & Emerson Ott	Breaunna Sullivan & Eva Dent
<i>Ushers:</i>	Dan Khile & Boyd Veer	Wayne Olsen & Randy VanSweden
<i>Greeters:</i>	Gail Ebel-Higgins & Patty Pedersen	
<i>Reader:</i>	Pat Carrie Smith	Anne Barry
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Gail Ebel-Higgins & Judy Holmes	Melanie & Bill Sahnnow
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>	Bob & Ida Ford	Melanie & Bill Sahnnow
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	DONUTS	DONUTS
January 26	9:00 am	10:30 am
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Alice Piper & Rowan Meyer	Breaunna Sullivan & Emerson Ott
<i>Ushers:</i>	Larry Thomas & Tim Hofferth	Bill & Diane Gusa
<i>Greeters:</i>	Tom & Pat Carrie Smith	Bob & Ida Ford
<i>Reader:</i>	Pat Carrie Smith	Jeanette Christensen
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Lane Phelan & Judy Pesaturo	Jeanette Christensen & Jeaneen Brogan
<i>Coffee Serve/Cleanup:</i>	Lane Phelan	Jeaneen Brogan
<i>Coffee Hour Treats:</i>	Pat Carrie Smith, Renie Hofferth & Ida Ford	Lane Phelan & Anita McCoy



Blessings and Celebrations

January-Birthdays

1	Richard Rice	17	Paula Olson
1	Tsana Leen	19	Alex Nibarger
3	Kai Frerichs	20	Elsa Geffe
3	Hannah Pierce	21	Muriel Burtness
3	Eric Clifton	21	Julie Harstad
3	Al Littlefield	21	Mira Knowles
4	Pat Carrie Smith	21	Arthur Phelan
5	Jerry Knutsen	22	Sarah Atterberry
7	Persephone Pestar	22	Kristen Downs
9	Barry Harter	23	Millicent Swietzer
11	Donald Devine	24	Diane Brosten
11	Anna Holzemer	26	Dave White
11	Danielle Long	27	Donna Anderson
12	Erin Kurz	27	Jean Rogers
12	Renie Hofferth	28	Jeanie Arneson
13	Kristen Hoffbuhr	28	Madelyn Case
14	Kenny Holzemer	28	Sharon Fisher
14	Carleen Oldham	28	Taylor Phelan
14	Leah Ott	28	Caroline Spehar
16	Joseph Pestar III	30	Regan Franulovich
17	Billie Jean Melton		

January-Wedding Anniversary!

5	Heidi & Chris Parker
9	Carol & Les Olsen
12	Diane & Warner Berglund

February - F.A.S.T. #5 Members

FAST Leader #5 - Kathlyn Parker
360-420-4940 / kmpbozeman@yahoo.com

Dave & Dorothy Bjornson
Kendra Kennedy
Susan & Malcolm McCutcheon
Ruth McDonald
Bev Brooks Nevin
Les & Carol Olsen
Roselyn Payne
Stacey Pestar
Jo Rockwood
Julia Rogers
Karen Tavalero
Boyd & Ginny Veer
Bryan & Linda Walker
Dave & Peggy White
Randy & Stacy VanSweden

Please, sign-up at the Welcome desk for when you are able to serve or contact that months FAST Leader.

February~ Usher Schedule

2	9:00 am	Paul Phelan & Bud Rock
	10:30 am	Mike Bastrom & Rexanne Graham
9	9:00 am	Rich Berentson & Chuck Landgraf
	10:30 am	Les & Carol Olsen
16	9:00 am	Maurice & Helene Fink
	10:30 am	Bill & Diane Gusa
23	9:00 am	Win Thompson & Boyd Veer
	10:30 am	Wayne Olsen & Randy VanSweden

December - Worship Attendance

Date	9:00 am	Nursery	10:30 am	Nursery	Total
1	104	1	65	0	170
8	115	0	97	0	212
	10:00 am			Nursery	Total
15	Christmas Program		178	2	180
22	Lessons & Carols		187	1	188
29			110	2	112

Date	EVENT	Time	Total
4	Advent Wednesday	5:30 pm	59
11	Advent Wednesday	5:30 pm	61
18	Advent Wednesday	5:30 pm	66
24	Christmas Eve	3:00 pm	151
	Christmas Eve	5:00 pm	182
	Christmas Eve	10:00 pm	90
25	Christmas Day	10:30 am	50

I was sitting in Resident Assistants training at Pacific Lutheran University in 1986. Suddenly the door opened and three people walked in: two men and one woman. They were introduced as the new campus pastors at PLU. I couldn't stop staring at the woman. In my twenty years on earth at that time, I had never met a pastor who was a woman. Pastor Susan Briehl changed my understanding of ministry, what it means to be a pastor, and what a difference it makes when you hear preaching from someone who has wrestled with much of what you have wrestled with, too.

The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women into Word and Sacrament ministry. While women have been preaching for thousands of years before this (think Sarah and Miriam and Mary Magdalene to name a few) the predecessor bodies of the ELCA felt called by God to open up the pulpit, the font, and the table to women for the first time after studying scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

This decision wasn't made lightly. Seminaries, judicatories, and other groups took time to arrive at the decision to ordain women. In the end, though, these various groups realized that there was nothing in scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, or church constitutions to prevent the ordination of women. As Luther Seminary's Board of Directors wrote in 1966, "God has left the details of the ministerial office to the discretion of the church, to be developed according to its needs and according to the leading of the Holy Spirit."

And just like that, the way was open to the thousands of women who have been ordained into Word and Sacrament Ministry in the last fifty years.

While this is an important milestone, we are also mindful that the last fifty years have not been without difficulties. It took ten more years for the first woman of color to be ordained in the Lutheran Church here in the United States. It has only been in the past ten years that LGBTQIA+ people have been able to serve freely. As we celebrate, we also lament the sexism, racism and homophobia that has been part of our church structure. And we are called to work towards a day when all are celebrated and welcome.

In this synod, we are excited to mark this anniversary with some special events. Each woman pastor will be videotaped with their story. At synod assembly in 2020 we will show some of these video interviews. We will also have a festive worship service during synod assembly to celebrate, remember, and look to the future. During this year we invite congregations to commemorate this anniversary. Pastor Nancy Winder, the first woman ordained locally and the 14th woman ordained overall, is happy to come and preach and teach in your local congregation. In addition, there are resources at www.elca.org to use for congregations or clusters.

A brief story: At one of the churches I served there was a man named Dell. On my first Sunday there he came up to me and said, "You know, I didn't vote for you. I don't think women should be pastors." I said, "OK." And left it at that. In spite of telling me that, week after week Dell and his wife were in worship. Week after week they heard me preach. Week after week they received Christ's body and blood as I presided at the Lord's Table.

About three years after I was there, Dell was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I visited him frequently at his home. On one such visit, as I was setting up the Communion elements, Dell said, "You know, I didn't vote for you." I said, "I know." He sat there for a long time in silence. Then he said, "I was wrong." And I looked at him. And I smiled. And I held his hand. And then I reached for the bread and I said, "On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread ..."

We give thanks for all the women pastors who proclaim the good news of Jesus, who baptize in the name of the Triune God, and who serve at the Lord's Table. We pray that we continue to be made new into the future.