



Pastor's Message

Anacortes Lutheran Church
October 2020 Newsletter

We've got a \$2,000 cat.

Actually we found him at the animal shelter a little over a year ago. We had recently put down my wife's favorite feline, and I decided she needed a new one. I took my daughter, Rachel, with me as we scoped out the cats at the shelter. We were intentionally looking for a young adult animal since we've discovered you get a pig in a poke when you pick up a kitten, but personality is pretty much established by ages one or two. After frequent trips and spending time with a number of candidates, we settled on one which seemed to stand out. I believe we paid a little over a hundred bucks for a neutered male.

It turned out he was actually a thoroughbred from an interesting breed. He is a Siberian Forest cat which Rachel describes as a dog-cat because of his comfort around people and animals and his athletic playfulness which rivals that of a canine. I'm a dog person, however I must admit I really like this creature.

Over the weekend he became lethargic and stopped eating. We took him to an emergency animal hospital where he wound up on IV's and required a number of procedures. Fortunately all those procedures were non-surgical, nevertheless the bill has topped \$2,000, and of this writing is still climbing. The good news is he seems to be recovering.

How much is a cat worth? In my case that can be determined by actual dollars and cents.

This evaluation caused me to ponder a few other questions: How much am I worth? How much are you or any other person on this planet worth? What is the value of life?

I've seen various appraisals of human worth based on the cost of chemicals which comprise our bodies. I've also run across a number of other means of evaluation based on a variety of standards. However, let's ask that question from a divine point of view.

The Second Person of the Trinity, the very one of God, entered into human existence taking on flesh and loving to the point of brutal death. This was God's radical gift not only for humanity but for the hope of the entire cosmos. I know we can never actually place a dollar figure on the grace of God in Christ, however we can certainly marvel at a wondrous love which exceeds our scope of knowledge and understanding. In Jesus' own words from the Gospel of John, "God so loved the cosmos" that God's own self invaded creation.

I might be able to put a value on a cat, even though I really can't factor in the amount of love my wife and family invest in him. However when it comes to divine love, and the value God places on life and creation, I can only respond, "What wondrous love is this, O my Lord?"

Walt

We are getting closer!

The Re-Entry Task Force Committee is working towards setting a date in November to hold our first in person church service since last March!

Watch for announcements regarding dates and times in announcements during our live stream church services, on our Facebook and Website pages, and on the pre & post-service slides of our Sunday worship services!

This is so exciting!

Thursday–Noon Zoom Bible Study

I will soon be offering a Thursday Noon Bible Study. However this study will not be in person; rather we will meet together on Zoom.

We will be exploring the context of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday and discussing what they might mean for our lives. All you will need to participate is a computer or smart phone, a download of the Zoom app, and a Bible. The study will begin on October 15th at Noon. Each session will run about an hour and 15 minutes.

If you are interested in participating get in touch with the church office and I will send you a link to click on prior to the first session.

I look forward to meeting you online as we share together our understanding of how the gospel of Jesus Christ intersects with our lives.

Pastor Walt



As October unfolds we draw closer to two significant dates in our church calendar.

Reformation Sunday – October 25th

There is one Sunday in the life of the church which is unique to Lutherans, and that is Reformation Day. The actual date of Reformation is October 31st, although it is generally observed on the preceding Sunday. This is the date when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church. However this must never be only a day of remembrance, but a day when we as people who share in the legacy of Luther also look to reform the church within our own day and age. What reforms must we as a congregation consider in order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive in our larger community?

All Saints Day – November 1st

All Saints Day is actually one of the oldest feast days in the life of the church. Early Christians observed; in fact, it was observed long before there was a celebration of Christmas. It is always celebrated on or after the 1st Sunday of November; this year that Sunday happens to fall on the actual feast's date. On it the church remembers the legacy of those great saints of faith. We also recall those within our own Christian community who have preceded us into the Church Triumphant. Many times a congregation will also recall all those who have entered the "communion of saints" through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Finally, we remember that by our baptism and by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, we are all saints.

The families of those who have died and entered the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints Day are invited to provide pictures of their loved ones for special remembrance in ALC's service.

Interesting fact: Do you know how Halloween got its name? It is derived from the old English Hallowed or Holy eve. It is the evening before All Saints Day, one of the earliest holy days for the church. All the ghosts and goblins are a much later addition to a day which was originally part of the church's celebration.



Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 3 11:00 am to 12-noon
ALC Parking Lot

The traditional day to honor St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals and the Environment, is October 4th so we are celebrating his feast a day early by holding a Blessing of the Animals event. Bring your beloved pets for a special 'Drive-in' blessing.

Come anytime between 11 am and 12-noon. When you arrive, please remain in your car until the Pastor signals it's your turn to bring your pet forward. Remember that masks are required (not for pets!) as is social distancing, and we must remain in our own cars except when your pet is receiving the blessing. This may not be the Blessing of the Animals you've enjoyed in the past, but it is still possible as long as we observe safety protocols. No reason you can't greet one another from the safety of your car. Looking forward to meeting your animal friends!

It's been a long, long time ... since we have been physically together in worship. I have to confess putting together a 'virtual' worship service takes an amazing amount of time and energy. We are blessed to have an outstanding staff and dedicated volunteers who have put forth their best efforts to provide a service that provides both a spiritually uplifting experience and a way to feel connected to one another by hearing God's Word and sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Now there is something new!! September 20th was the debut of Anacortes Lutheran Church's livestream worship service. The countless hours of setup and preparation paid off as we were able to enjoy a pretty near-perfect broadcast service.

From my perspective it really felt like we were finally worshipping together, even though the pews remain empty. I was blessed to be able to preach and preside, and I can assure you I was very conscious of your presence. It seemed like (or almost like) old times. I like knowing the service remains available for those who couldn't

make it during the livestream too, and am glad this will continue after we have returned to in-person worship.

The past months have certainly been hard. Taking precautions to avoid getting sick is a pain, though by now it's pretty much become routine. Being separated from our friends and our family hurts. I joke about how I hope to see my 18-month-old grandsons sometime before they graduate from college, but it really doesn't feel all that amusing. Through it all the constant weekly worship experience has helped us remember that we are indeed connected to one another in the body of Christ and that no one is ever truly alone.

We will eventually get back to in-person worship and study and fellowship and service. In the meantime we will gather for Word and Sacrament every Sunday — now in real time!—and God will be in our midst, as God has always been, regardless of whether we're in the same building or not. See you on Sunday.

Blessings!

Pastor Deborah

From your Council President...

Hurray for a successful first Live streamed Sunday Service. All the team should be thanked for their efforts to bring this program to fruition. Although the learning process is ongoing, the production time will gradually become less strenuous for everyone, allowing a position of Multi-Media Manager to possibly be hired. Look for the job description in our desire for reopening of our active ministries.

Our constant effort to repopulate the Council and other volunteer positions is ongoing, and if you can help in any way, please contact anyone of the Council or call the Church Office. We are fortunate to include John Parker working with the Finance Committee, and Barb Atterberry has been approved by Council to be our Stewardship Chair. Hopefully we will fill more seats as the church opens its doors once again.

Reviewing and updating our Church Constitution has been a daunting task for anyone involved so far, and

many opinions have been expressed. As we looked at the functions of the Council during the year we have found that many tasks are assignable for shorter periods and less demanding, but extremely helpful to the congregation (like FAST team assignments). Toward this end, we are proposing a reduction in Council Chair Positions, but incorporating the jobs under groups with similar functions. This would help our volunteer requirements but still get things done. We will be looking for congregation input in the next few months.

One last thing: Get well, Pastor Walt! Although it was appropriate for Pastor Debra to do the first Live Stream Worship Service (and she's a star!!), it's imperative that you get back on your feet, and we all are saying a prayer for you...

Prayerfully Yours,
Bill LeDuc; Council President

Our 2020 ALC Church Council

President	• Bill LeDuc
President –Elect:	•
Treasurer	• Lane Phelan
Secretary	• Melanie Sahnou
Education	• Kendra Kennedy
Youth	•
Fellowship	•
Outreach	•
Personnel	• Steve Richards
Preschool	• Jo Rockwood
Properties	• Les Olsen
Financial	•
Stewardship	• Barbara Atterberry
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

Visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/anacorteslutheranchurch>

Visit our Website at:

<https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>

There are so many resources on our website such as:

Live Stream link, Past Worship Services, Newsletters, Calendars, Online Giving.

There are Links to all the Sunday School programs Dave and Kendra have talked about Covid updates with Re-Entry Task Force information about coming back to in person services. The Transition Team updates on our search for a new Pastor and much, much more.

You can even contact the office through the contact page if you have a question or want to get in touch with us.

So go check it out!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

See all **North West Washington ELCA** Events at:

www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update

On right sidebar find recent announcements.

(Mobile users, select "see full site" to view the sidebar)

Transition Team – Questionnaire Update

Thanks so much from your Transition Team. The response to the recent survey has exceeded expectations. More than 70 surveys have been returned. The Team now compiles this data as part of the call process.

For your information, the breakdown of the ages of those responding is as follow:

Under 19	6.8%
20-30	none
31-45	4.1%
46-60	24.7%
61-80	50.7%
Over 80	13.7%



The team will now begin recording this information as part of the Mission Site Profile (MSP). This profile will be submitted to the synod and to prospective pastors. The Transition Team utilizes the congregational input along with demographics in order to provide a snapshot of Anacortes Lutheran Church. This includes its history as well as its mission and ministries.

Please note the attached illustrations involving words you prioritized on the survey; one reflects the number of responses the Team received from each age group. The second is to illustrate which descriptive terms received the highest priority. **The larger the word the more responses it received.**

The Transition Team continues to work on your behalf in the process of calling a new pastor.

Thanks again for your wonderful response.

The Transition Team: Pastor Walt Rice, Nancy Loftis; Team Leader, Jane Nelson, Jim Fors, Kristen Nations and Matt Kerschbaum



Special News Flash In Our Community

Drive-Up Food Distribution



Hey Church People,

Anacortes Christian Church is partnering with "Helping Hands Food Bank" (formally the Sedro Woolley food bank), as being their new 1x a week, Anacortes area drive-thru distribution site.

<https://helpinghandsfoodbank.org>

Backstory:

The Anacortes 100 Food Bank on 4th Street is closing their current operations and joining with Helping Hands. Helping Hands feels that our ACC location (upper parking lot) would be PERFECT for their 'drive-thru' food distribution service.

Specifics:

This **Drive-thru distribution would be 1x a week, Wednesdays from 11-2pm**

One or two 26' box trucks would bring and hold the food boxes, assisted by National Guard helpers who will move the boxes to the waiting cars/people. Cars would simply come into the parking lot (directed by a volunteer), and receive their food boxes, and then exit the lot.

When:

This is scheduled to **begin on Wednesday, September 30...11am-2pm. Anacortes Christian Church - 1211 M Ave. (upper parking lot) ~ Anacortes.**

Helping Hands does much more than just food distribution. Their ultimate goal is to create a resource/food bank location here in Anacortes, helping supplement our towns current resources. ACC will be providing the space for them to serve during the Covid time and until they can secure their own location.

Who:

Helping Hands is **open to ALL**. No registration is needed. No income level guidelines or restrictions. There is no "judging" allowed. Frequency of weekly helps is not limited. They operate from a 'no questions asked' philosophy. They comically say "If you have a pulse, you will be served." Period.

Please feel free to share this news with your family, friends, and neighbors. It will be a GREAT help to our town, A-Town.

Blessings, Mike

Anacortes Christian Church

1211 M Ave. ~ Anacortes, WA 98221

360-293-3729 office@anacorteschristian.church

Dear Anacortes Lutheran Church,

As these times of COVID-19 and isolation extend on and on, your BSA Troops 4084 B+G would like to offer our help where needed. If there is an errand or task you are unable to accomplish due to COVID-19, please feel free to ask. If we have someone available, we will mask up, honor the social distancing guidelines, and do whatever we can to be helpful. While it is true that with school schedules we do have some time limitations, we do have several Scouting families that would do their best to be there as needed.

Yours in Scouting,

Mary Jo Brentari

MaryJo.bsa@comcast.net

BSA Troop 4084B Committee Chair

Suzanne Poliquin

Suzanne.ehrheart@gmail.com

BSA Troop 4084G Committee Chair



"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus...God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and made pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." Phil. 1: 3-4, 8-11.

Become a Mentor to a Youth of ALC

You are invited to participate in "ALC Family Link"

We'd like to offer an opportunity for the members of Anacortes Lutheran Church to make a special connection with a child in our congregation and for the children to connect with you!

Which teams up an adult mentor with a child or youth from the church. This will give the youth/child an outside contact with a church member other than their parents. The idea is to do devotions, or scriptures or spiritual growth building together. We have had some volunteers for this program and are preparing to team them up.

If you would like to sign up to participate in our new ALC Family Link Program, call the church office 360-293-9586 or Kendra Kennedy 773-236-1666.

We can't wait to connect adult members of ALC with the children of ALC. It will be a blessing to all of you and to the Body of Christ!

-The Education Committee at ALC

Can You Relate?



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DID YOU KNOW THERE'S MAGIC IN JUST A SIMPLE BAG OF POPCORN?

There really is! Here in Anacortes Lutheran Church, we have two BSA Scout Troops, and when you buy some of their fantastic popcorn, you aren't just buying bags of fluff, salt, and sugar.

No, you are also supporting the leadership and outdoor skills learning of our youth. You are supporting the various service projects our Scouts locate, organize, and do. You're supporting the smiles, sense of accomplishment, and strength of character of these Scouts.

Both our Troops have remained active during COVID. Our youth-led Troops have found ways to connect and continue their programs successfully.

But they need your help. Troop 4084 G in particular is brand new, and we are working hard to raise funds that we need to establish basic care and supplies.

So please, buy a bag of magic and watch how far these youth can go!

Please contact Suzanne Poliquin at 360-421-3935



Prayer Time – The Power of Prayer!

Now you can join us -TUESDAYS at 1:00PM by calling on your phone to our

“New Conference Call Prayer Time”

Call Peggy at 360-299-1184 to learn more.

In our Prayers:

For a current list of prayer concerns, go to:

<https://www.anacorteslutheran.org/>

& look for the “Prayer Page” tab.

Call the office at 360-283-9586 to add or update a prayer to the “Prayer Page.”

Urgent or Confidential Needs:

The prayer Chain is open for you from 9am to 9pm.

We pray for you and then pass you prayer to the next person, who then prays and passes, etc...

Your prayer needs cannot & will not be shared outside of the Chain.

As always, our Pastors are available to pray with you or for you. Please let them know if you are hospitalized or ill.

Peace of the Lord.

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRIME TIMERS

No events are scheduled for October.

Psalm 100:1-2 says -

1. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
2. Serve the LORD with gladness.

Next time you are feeling low — try singing one of these songs really, **really loud**.

Hope it puts a smile on your face.

“You Are My Sunshine”

“Head, Shoulders, Knees , & Toes”

“If You’re Happy and You Know It”

“This Little Light of Mine”



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

We look forward to seeing you some day.

We miss y’all.

Sewing Circles – Faith & Julia

*Rejoice in the Lord always and
again say Rejoice!!*

Greetings to all of the sewing Ladies. We are still looking forward to seeing you hopefully it wont be to long. Keep up the good job of being well and safe. Keep doing your projects so we can share them when we get back together. An idea if you have left over material you could make a pillow case or two. Just a thought! (*instructions available*).

Gods Blessing,
Faith and Julia

LWR Knitting News – Linda Anderson

Monday, October 19, 2020

~ Knitting 1:00-3:00 pm ~

Causland Park ~ 710 N Avenue

We will meet (*weather permitting*) at Causland Park outdoor amphitheater, located at 710 N Avenue (7th & N Ave). We will not meet if it is raining. That would not be fun!!! We can sit and knit and social distance. You may want to bring water and a hat. A cushion or blanket would make for softer seating. There are no bathroom facilities there.

We will update the sweater/hat counts and can turn in our sweaters when we meet again at the church. I will bring yarn to Causland Park. Please call me if you want more yarn before then.

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set. This year there will be one shipment in the fall.

Our last counts were:

Sweater/hat sets - 71

Hats - 6

Sweaters - 6

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

I hope to see you at Causland Park on

Monday, October 19th at 1:00 pm.

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

The Re-entry Committee has suggested that we aim for November 1st as our date to re-open Church services. Sunday school will be ready to start when and if the bell rings.

Two Volunteer Teachers wanted when open

As of this writing we are looking for two volunteers to share teach for the 2nd and 3rd grade class and the 4th/5th grade class; if you are interested, please text or call Dave White at 206-226-7182. With the potential start up of Sunday school, the Education Committee has spent a lot of time considering how we can keep our people safe. We are working on ways to ensure social distancing in the education building and how to provide adequate sanitation procedures. We believe we have some innovative ideas on how to conduct our classes safely and we are researching what other institutions are doing as well. For example, the people that brought us the "WOW VBS" made a video of their idea to keep the kids social distancing. They call it "**Hoop Camp**". The idea is to put hula hoops around on the floor and the kids stay in the hoop to do their crafts and lessons. Parents, call or text Dave White to discuss the safety measures we are taking to protect your children.

"Family Link" - Adult mentors for kids

In the meantime, what are we doing? Well, we are starting up **Family Link** which teams up an adult mentor with a child or youth from the church. This will give the youth/child an outside contact with a church member other than their parents. The idea is to do devotions, or scriptures or spiritual growth building together. We have had some volunteers for this program and are preparing to team them up.

WEBSITE - SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGE

Sermons 4 Kids:

In addition to Family Link, we are offering some resources on the ALC website. One of these resources is called Sermons 4 Kids. This particular site offers a children's sermon that is similar to the lesson material that will be offered in the church

worship service. In addition, there are crossword puzzles, word search games, coloring pages and other ideas to keep the kids entertained.

Skit Guys "Bedtime Stories":

Also appearing on our website is a link to one of the Skit Guys "Bedtime Stories." We attempt to use a story that identifies with the topic of the church lessons for that weekend. We hope that you find these resources useful and that the kids enjoy them.

Sunday school registration:

Parents, may we remind you to fill out a Sunday school registration form. You can find a pdf registration form on the church website (anacorteslutheran.org). Go to the Online Ministry page and click on Sunday school. There is a box on that page for Sunday school registration. By filling out a registration form you are helping us keep our records at the church up to date; just drop it off at the church. We certainly appreciate your help with this important matter.

Events to be watching for:

We are still working on our parking lot event. We hope to get approval from the Re-Entry Committee and the Church Council in the near future. We will let you know.

We thank you, so much, for your continued support of our Sunday school.. We look forward to all being back together again, soon!

Dave White
Director, Children's Ministry
206-226-7182



Worshiping Together while remaining apart



Now Live-Streaming at - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>

October – Sunday Worship Readings & Gospel

Follow along as you listen and watch our Live Stream Worship Service

	Oct. 4	<i>Readings:</i> Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 3:4b-14 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 80:7-15 <i>Gospel:</i> Matthew 21:33-46	<i>Reader:</i> Barbara Atterberry
	Oct. 11	<i>Readings:</i> Isaiah 25:1-9 / Philippians 4:1-9 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 23 <i>Gospel:</i> Matthew 22:1-14	<i>Reader:</i> Lois Cassidy
	Oct. 18	<i>Readings:</i> Isaiah 45:1-7 / I Thessalonians 1:1-10 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 96:1-9 [1-13] <i>Gospel:</i> Matthew 22:15-22	<i>Reader:</i> Dave White
	Oct. 25	<i>Readings:</i> Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 / I Thessalonians 2:1-8 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 1 <i>Gospel:</i> Matthew 22:34-46	<i>Reader:</i> Ginny Connelly

When the Pastor needs some support while filming the livestream

@EpicChristianM



² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thessalonians 1: 2-3

October - Birthday Blessings to You!

2	Marian Parsons	13	Megan Carroll
2	Nancy Fowler	14	Jim Fors
2	Tim Walters	14	Elise Stevenson
2	Jane Nelson	16	Earl Gibbons
2	Jake Romag	17	Mandie Bruner
2	Lola Mia Smith	17	McKenzie Duquaine
3	Tom Smith	17	Maeve Kennedy
3	Mark McCaughan	20	Chuck Landgraf
3	Duane Dent	20	Jeanette Christensen
4	Janice Trumble	20	Eva Dent
4	Helene Fink	21	Barbara Atterberry
7	Andy Morgenthaler	21	Benjamin Bolin
8	Karen Tavalero	22	Elijah Eckert
8	Tom Poor	23	Jerry Bongard
9	Jeff Walters	24	Carl Sundman
10	Gail Bongard	24	Carla Smythe
11	Brandon Schultz	25	Jim Loftis
12	Ginny Veer	25	Alaea Cerrillo
12	Sarah Brosten	27	Jason Kurz
12	Erin Kennedy	27	Dawson Floyd
13	Diana Lindsay	31	Woodall, Jan
13	Ashli Anderson	31	Robert Ohm II

Thanks for the kind words re my fifty years as an ordained minister. They were good years.

Ole and Lena send thanks for being mentioned also.

Jerry Bongard



October- Anniversaries!

1	Matthew & Taylor Phelan
2	John & Kathryn Parker
2	Jane & Robert Salnick
2	Michael Bastrom & Rexanne Graham
4	Eric & Laura Clifton
6	Tom & Patricia Smith
17	Ida & Bob Ford
22	Jan & Norm Vigre



September - Online Worship

Church Closed due to COVID-19

www.anacorteslutheran.org/online-ministry

SEPTEMBER	VEIEWS
6	96
13	140
20	221
27	Unknown at time of publishing.

ALC Council Minutes – September 10, 2020

Attended: Via Zoom- Dave Bjornson, Jeaneen Brogan, Laurie Julius-Carver, Kendra Kennedy, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Steve Richards, Melanie Sahnou, Maggie Santos & Pastor Walt, Bill opened the at 6:35pm with a prayer. August mtg notes approved as written.

Treasurers Report: Lane gave report. August member offering was \$23,554, average \$5886 weekly with an average weekly YTD of \$5,937. August revenue to expense is (-\$155.26) and YTD revenue to expense is (-\$5,813), Benevolence paid YTD is \$13,163 and bills are current. MSP

Pastors Report: Pastor Walt has surgery scheduled for September 18th but should be back online within a few days after.

Presidents Report: Bill made motion that Barbara Atterberry be appointed by the Church Council to fill the Stewardship position for the remainder of the church year. MSP

Old Business: Live streaming task force is working hard. Nominating Committee has not much success filling Council seats. The letter to the City expressing favor for the Rehab Facility was never sent as of missed deadline. Transition Team questioner has had 70+ returned and will start the Ministry Site Profile soon. Thank you for your thoughts. Member roster review will happen soon.

New Business: Pastor Walt suggested we do a Stewardship Campaign, celebration of gratitude. Send out estimate of giving cards and inviting all to join. Working on a Social Gathering in church parking lot, time to talk and share with each other. Masks and social distancing. Figuring out how to do transmission via the car radio. We are looking at a restricted opening for small groups such as bible study and sewing.

Personnel Report: Personnel (Steve) made motion last month that Dave White return to work as of August 31, 2020 with a 2% increase in pay. MSP. Maggie is still on hold but will start back on September 14th. Laurie has gone above and beyond, Steve made motion to pay Laurie for the extra hours she has worked. MSP.

WELCA Report: Hoping to return to sewing on October 6th with 12 ladies, they will register, take temps, distance and wear masks. Every Tuesday from 9-12:30, to enter through the playground. Motion to allow sewing to start October 6th on approval of reopening committee. MSP

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: No Report

Education: Kendra reports that the Family Link has had very little response, 8 kids and 4 adults. She will do background checks and cover the rules then connect with parents to go forward. All family gatherings have been postponed for now. They have 3 teachers for Sunday school with 11-15 kids, working on details. Kids want to do improvisation videos, telling bible stories 4-5 minutes long, sharing their interpretation also song videos and put on Facebook. Conformation has 16 kids. Education committee is concerned that the kids are missing out.

Fellowship Report: No Report

Youth Report: No Report

Preschool Report: They have had 3, 3 year old's unenrolled but the 4 year old's are enough to cover. So far, they are still in the black with projected opening of the preschool to be Sept 21st with M-F schedule

Continued on next page...

...Council Minutes continued

with hours shortened by 30 minutes a day. Traditionally military families come in, in October so hoping for more students. All students must be vaccinated per school district guidelines. Motion to start school Sept 21st with teachers back in Sept 14th. MSP. They have requested property to fix a few things before they open. The preschool is looking for a canvas pop up garage so the kids can be outside but out of the weather.

Stewardship Report: No report

Worship Report: Dave Bjornson and the Worship committee made motion to approve a Multimedia Manager position. No change in wages just have a named position. We need the Manager hired but we will still need committed people to volunteer and back up people in case some ones out. Motion to go ahead with a Multimedia Manager position and to put out a job description. MSP

This is an addendum to the September 10th council meeting: Opening Guidelines were distributed to the council for approval and with a 10 -2 vote email response, the Opening Guidelines were approved.

The next Council meeting is October 15th at 6:30p

Pastor shared the Prayer of Good Courage and closed at 8:35pm

Blessings, Melanie

Brain Food

- **DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO THE PASTORS?**

Pastor Walt Rice: walicoli@comcast.net

Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com

- **PASTORS OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm,

By Appointment Only - call the church office

- **CD RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PAST SERVICES:** If you would like them delivered directly to you, please call the church office, 360-293-9586, and ask to be put onto the delivery schedule.

- **DID YOU ALSO KNOW, WE HAVE?** Communion cups for home communion are available at church! Living Lutheran Magazines and Christ in Our Homes devotionals are available too!

You can find ALL of them in the basket right outside the church office door.

- **"LIKE" OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:** Anacortes Lutheran Church

- **DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?** Are you receiving emails from church? If not, call the office! If your email or mailing address has changed, call the office.

- **DO YOU NEED HELP?** Groceries, a mask, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.

- **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The Third Monday of every month.

- **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

- **CHURCH OFFICE PHONE #:** 360-293-9586

- **CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL:** info@anacorteslutheran.org

Dear Beloveds of Christ,

There are stories in this world that we will never know. Stories that beg to be told and yet they will never be heard because they have been forgotten, covered up, never told or intentionally destroyed.

A few weeks ago, I was floating down the Wenatchee River on an inner tube. It was a beautiful day – perfect weather –no sign of humanity anywhere. Rounding a bend, I suddenly saw a strange site: An old skinny white man wearing only a loin cloth flying a rainbow-colored kite. This man camping/living in an old RV on the banks of the Wenatchee, basically naked, long full beard and hair, arms outstretched towards the heavens and flying a beautiful multi-colored kite. *What story does he have to share?*

A few Sundays ago, the *New York Times* ran a photo essay about hunger in America. The author writes, “In the pandemic economy, nearly one in eight households doesn’t have enough to eat. The lockdown, with its epic lines at food banks, has revealed what was hidden in plain sight: that the struggle to make food last long enough, and to get food that’s healthful - what experts call ‘food insecurity’ - is a persistent one for millions of Americans... Like many hardships, this burden falls disproportionately on Black and Hispanic families, who are almost twice as likely to experience food insecurity as white families.” (www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/02/magazine/food-insecurity-hunger-us.html)

Through the photo gallery in this *New York Times* photo essay, we catch glimpses of the lives of Kandice, Brayden, Doris, Armani and many others. *What other stories are held in this story?*

As I write this article, large swaths of California, Oregon and Washington are on fire. Houses burned to the ground. People missing. People killed. Treasured items gone. Lives disrupted and forever changed. *What stories are lost in the raging fires?*

When you read this article, there is a very good chance that over 200,000 people in the United States will have died from COVID-19. Over 6 million will have been infected. Common sense measures to mitigate the spread of COVID have been politicized. Suicide, depression, hunger, loneliness, domestic violence, joblessness, and

other hardships have increased in these last six months. *What story is no longer possible?*

Today I am more and more aware of the stories that have disappeared, been forgotten, or pushed underground. And I am ever mindful that as people who follow Jesus, we have the responsibility, the obligation – maybe it is a calling – to listen to the stories in the gaps of other stories. And to understand that the biggest voice might not be the place where the story is happening.

In *Matthew 18*, Jesus says, ‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.’ A few verses later Jesus says, “It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.”

You see, we are the people of the book – we are the people who claim the Holy Story. We are the people who believe that the story of God and humanity did not end with the cross but continues in, with and under all of us today. The Holy Spirit is alive and active among us. And the Holy Spirit is calling us through the stories we remember, the stories we share, the stories we hear, and the stories we notice.

Let us listen to one another’s story. Let us be mindful of the stories that exist on the margins. Let those of us who have had big voices quiet ourselves to hear other stories. And let us be mindful that listening to stories is not the end. For those of us who are white, let us take to heart these words from Austin Channing Brown, “In too many churches and organizations, listening to the hurt and pain of people of color is the end of the road, rather than the beginning.” (From *I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*)

I would love to hear your story. *How are you doing? Where is God working in your life & in the life of the Church? Where do you see God? What stories need to be told? What pain needs to be shared? What stories do you want to hear?*

May the One - whose story we live in - provide care, comfort, love, and justice for you and for this world. Let us live, move, and be in God’s Holy Story.