

#### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Summer greetings to you,

We enter into this time of the year with longing and anticipation that we will be seeing better numbers in relation to this continuing pandemic. As I have said to many people, "It is not longer 'if' we will get it, it is 'when'." We take solace in the fact that through vaccinations and boosters the symptoms are much less life threatening. We pray for those who have contracted the virus and makes strides toward recovery. We will continue to walk this path together and do what we can to keep one another safe and healthy.

With that in mind we also look forward to getting outside and gathering for picnics on Wednesday evenings, to having some thematic structured worship experiences, to hopefully have more people sharing talents of music as we look for special music additions to worship, and to continuing getting to know each other as we gather. Gina and I hope to be hosting some dinners over the summer to connect with you on a more personal and informal way. Keep watching for opportunities to sign up for those dinners.

I continue to thank you for wearing your nametags at worship on Sundays. It helps me put a name to the many faces I see, and it will also be a way to be hospitable to the visitors who may begin to show up for worship over the summer. The Worship Committee continues to work out how it will be most convenient for people to have their nametags available when attending.

The blessings of this place surprise me each day and I am amazed at the wonders of God's creation. Thank you again for calling me to be your pastor and to walk with you on this adventure of ministry. I look forward to exploring new avenues of ministry that will impact the wider community of Anacortes. God has called us together to shine in this place and we are reminded that we have been called to reach out to those around us in love, hope, and grace. What might the love of God do in this place? The power of that love is shown in the resurrection and the new life that comes through God.

May we be wrapped in that love and stive to love as God loves us!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

#### FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

June of 2022 has been a month for us to sort of catch our breath and return to many of the good things we love about being here in God's family at Anacortes Lutheran.

- We've enjoyed the return of the Choir after such a long pause. The music is welcome, as is the fellowship that comes with working together to sing praise. <u>The choir will welcome any new voices among us who</u> would like to join this most enjoyable form of giving.
- The "Church's one foundation..." is repaired and resealed, at least on the south side of the church and awaits the final sidewalk pour and a few good rains to judge whether or not we will have to extend the process to the east side. The Sanctuary maintenance project has been thoroughly planned and begins

immediately following Sunday Service on June 19. Thanks to Bill and his hardworking team.

- The Picture Directory has only one scheduled photo session remaining (June 26.) The 51 photos taken to date, are really looking professional. Call the office immediately if you want a photo in the publication due out in September. Thanks, Kathy Khile and daughter Kirsha!
- The Staff Job Descriptions project is complete right on schedule to merge with submission of the 2022-2023 staff contracts by July 1. Thank you Jeaneen.
- Although the role of Fellowship Chairman is still vacant, this week's Graduation celebration for our nine graduating ALC Seniors is a wonderful example of what a small group of enthusiastic people can do when inspired by a real leader. Hat's off to Jeanette Christensen & her team for a super sendoff for our 2022 grads!
- Before the next newsletter comes out in August, we will have completed another fabulous Vacation Bible School, this year with a new and exciting outdoor venue. Tons of planning by Kendra Kennedy and a team of literally dozens. Lots of opportunity to join the staff and help in any of a dozen ways. Sign up online via www.anacorteslutheran.org or call/text Kendra or Rachel for more info.
- Summer "Potluck Picnics in the Park" begin again Wednesday, July 20 at Washington Park, organized by Chuck and Bev Landgraf.
- We have a newly elected Youth Representative on Council: Persephone Pestar! Welcome!

Are there any open switches? Well, of course, and most are carryovers from previous month(s) but,

- We have instituted an Open Action Item tracking list to better drive open issues/opportunities to resolution.
- We still need a person to lead the Fellowship Committee overall.
- There have been several folks who've observed that we really should encourage some sort of informal social outlet for young adults. Please think about what a young adults group might look like.

So my message again this month is: Things are looking positive at Anacortes Lutheran. Let's celebrate our blessings and keep on keepin' on.

John Parker, Council President Go In Peace, Serve the Lord



A heartfelt "thank you" to everybody who sent cards with comforting words, beautiful flowers, and delicious meals on the passing of my son, Jeffrey. It meant so much to us and we are very appreciative.

Thank you. Irene Parker and Family

# CHURCH SUMMER POTLUCK PICNICS

All picnics are potluck, bring chair, utensils and plate.

# Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm

Bring family, friends and neighbors

July 20 - WA Park

July 27 - Storvik Park

- August 3 Pastor Scott & Gina's Home
- August 10 Storvik Park
- August 17 Causland Park

# August 24 - WA Park

Celebrate the end of summer together with a Corn-fed and Service by the beach

# 

MEN of the ELCA (MELCA)

Men of Anacortes Lutheran, here is an early reminder for the <u>ANNUAL BRAT FEST</u> and General Motors Cars Show at Boyd Veer's place.

Join the other men of the congregation for fun and fellowship.

It will be held on **Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.** So mark this date on the calendar as you do not want to miss this fun event.

# MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING at 7:00 am

In conference room #1 Led by Boyd Veer





ALC PRIME TIMERS" - Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food and Fellowship

Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk or call, text, or email Julie before Wednesday prior to the event. Have a great summer, stay safe, and be happy. We look forward to seeing you soon. Paul - Julie Dusenbury

**GET-TOGETHER - SCADS OF STICKY BUNS** 

FRIDAY, **JULY** 8 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme is:

"Are You a Millionaire?"



# **GET-TOGETHER - MULTITUDE OF MUFFINS**

FRIDAY, **AUGUST** 12 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme is: "RIGHT VS LEFT"



#### **OUTREACH -** Caring and Sharing

We know you CARE, So please SHARE, the Good News by inviting someone to join you at our Summer worship services on Sundays at 9:30 am.

#### CARE TEAM

Is there someone from church you have not seen or spoken to in a while?

How about give them a call. Send them a card, or a text. Reach out and say **Hello!** 



#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS**



Due to medical considerations, Peggy White has resigned as the Outreach Committee Chair on the Church Council. Dave White has agreed to serve as Chair for the remainder of her term. Peggy will remain the leader for the Prayer Chain and the Prayer Group. Many of the Outreach Programs will continue in effect and as always we look to the Congregation for new ideas.

Should you have an interest in serving on the Committee, or you have a brilliant idea, please feel free to contact Dave White at 206-226-7182, or email at lazygal@frontier.com.

#### **PRAYERS -** RECEIVE the Gift of Prayer

The Sunday Scoop bulletin has a list of Prayer Requests for our Congregation. The list is also on our website under "Prayer Page." We can all give the gift of prayer by including these requests in our daily prayers each week.

You can request a prayer by calling the church office during office hours at 360-293-9586. You may call Peggy at 360-299-1184 for your prayer needs at any time, including Prayer Chain, confidential prayer, and updates to your prayer request. As always, Pastor Scott Peterson is available to pray with you or for you.



#### WELCOME VISITORS - \*\*\*Youth\*\*\*Families\*\*\*Men\*\*\*Women\*\*\*

Recently we established what we are calling the **Opportunity Desk.** It is located in the Narthex just before you enter the Fellowship Hall. You will find all the various sign up sheets located there.



The **Welcome Desk** is now freed up to function as it was intended. We are asking for volunteers to be at the **Welcome Desk** for the 15 minutes prior to the worship service starting. Your mission while at the Welcome Desk is to watch for and assist any visitors, or congregation members, that are in need of information. The signup sheet for the Welcome Desk is at the Welcome Desk. We now have a blue "Welcome" folder with basic information about what programs and services we offer.

To add information about our project or program to the folder, contact Dave at 206-226-7182...Please help out in this important mission!



#### SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

#### SEWING TUESDAYS

JULY 5, 12, 19, 26 AUGUST 2, 16, 23, 30 Starting at 9:00 am till 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a lunch and join us. in the Fellowship Hall.

We are still collecting bath & hand towels as well as flannel and **School Kit supplies** - 70 sheet spiral notebook, scissors, #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners and ink pens (not gel). **Thank you for donating to us!** 

I am taking June, July & August off and will be back in September after Labor Day.

If you have any questions call:

Jeaneen 360-293-7829 Jeanette 360-708-4865 Lane 360-293-4290

Serving in Christ, Julia Rogers 360-293-4232

#### Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

#### KNITTING DAYS- MONDAY JULY 18 & MONDAY, AUGUST 15

1:00 - 3:00 pm - Conference Room #1

Yarn is available at the meeting. Our Fall 2022 total to date is:

Sweaters – 2

Hats – 0

Sweater/hat sets – 31



Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief.

One sweater/hat set goes into each layette set. We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome and teaching is available. ~Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

**WELCA NEWS -** All women are welcome to share some time together.

# Picnic Party Luncheon



#### Tuesday, August 9 at 12-Noon In the Fellowship Hall

All women of the church are invited to come for a friendly gathering of fun and fellowship. Hosted by the WELCA Board

# Sack Lunch will be provided for \$10.

Sign up with your Circle chairman, or call Jeaneen at 360-293-7829.

# WELCA Board Meeting

Thursday, July 7 at 10:00 am

in Conference room 1

Women's Bible Study Circles will start again in September. Enjoy the summer!

#### FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

#### SUNDAY, JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> & AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup> KIDS THIS IS YOUR SUNDAY TO TAKE OVER!!!

#### The first Sunday of the month is Family Sunday

where families are invited to worship & be of service together. To encourage active listening with children during the service 5 words are chosen by the Sunday schoolers to be used in the Pastors sermon.

Children & families are encouraged to read lessons, acolyte, usher, sing or play an instrument. Help with Fellowship hour by bringing treats, setting up and/or cleaning up. Sign-up at the at the Opportunity Desk

Sign up at the at the Opportunity desk (located *next* to the Fellowship hall) or call the church office. Speak to Becky about helping with Fellowship hour.

#### NOISY OFFERINGS - 1st Sunday of the month

This is another highlight of Family Sunday and is to be designated for a youth activity.

What great lessons learned about tithing and saving? WOW...what a family of givers in our congregation. Thank you all.

Most of the offering is loose change that has been saved up by the congregation, to "make noise", but the folding money made a nice thump in the bucket, too!

So save your change for the next NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY, JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> & AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup>



# **ACOLYTES for SUNDAYS**

We need acolytes every Sunday. The clipboard at the Opportunity desk has a clipboard with a list of Sundays from June through December. Pick a friend and sign up together, things are always more fun with a friend even serving in Worship.

If you are unsure about what to do as an Acolyte, talk to Pastor Scott or find an older teen that has done it and ask them questions.

# NURSERY HELPERS

#### Sunday Nursery helpers needed

Heather Harrington, Nursery supervisor is looking for Teen and Adult volunteers to help in the nursery with her. It is important to have 2 people at all times.

Did you know the nursery has speakers so you can listen to the service and not miss a thing while help out. She has even said you wouldn't have to change any diapers.

Sign-up at the Opportunity desk—look for the Faith And Service Team (FAST) chart.

All that is required is a short background check. Call or Visit the church office for the form.

# **BSA SCOUT TROOPS 4084**

#### BOY TROOP - ages 11-17

Mondays at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall Leader: Robert Eggleston 509-230-9648 /manu\_tara@hotmail.com

#### GIRL TROOP - ages 11-17

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall Leader: Rebecca Eggleston 360-588-8328 /scoutmaster4084g@gmail.com

#### CUB PACK - ages 5-10 or K-5th grade

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 pm In the Sunday School rooms Leader: Kyle Ellertson 907-888-1638 /kellertson84@yahoo.com

# **GIRL SCOUT TROOPS**

TROOP 41804 - Brownies - 2nd grade

1st & 3rd Tuesdays on 6:30 pm Meet in Youth room Leader: Cherie Gover

#### TROOP 44451 - 9th -12th grades

1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:30 pm Meet in Conference room #1 Leader: Ginny Connelly



# God's Love never takes a Vacation, join us for worship in person or live stream Sundays at 9:30 am

Watch the livestream service from your home by going to our website at https://www.anacorteslutheran.org & click tab "Online Ministry"

This is what you can expect when coming to Worship in person.

- Wearing of masks are optional
- Enter through either the main church doors or by way of the handicap ramp.
- Communion is given with a prefilled all-in-one juice & wafer communion cup.
- Gluten free prefilled communion cups are now available

	JULY - Worship Readings & those Serving in Worship					
Date July 3 Family Sunday		July 10 July 17		July 24	July 31	
Readings	Isaiah 66:10-14 Galatians 6:1-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Galatians 6:1-16 Matthew 5:11-12 Matthew 1		1 Peter 3:13-22 Matthew 5:3-10	1 Peter 4:1-19 Matthew 5:43-48	
Greeters 1. Jan & Jerry 2. Woodall		1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	
Readers	1. Jeanette Christensen	1. John Parker	1. Anne Barry	1.Lane Phelan	1.	
Acolytes	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	
Nursery	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. Pamela & 2. Brandon Gray	1. 2.	1. 2.	
Fellowship Hour						
Serve & cleanup				1. DeAnna Claus 2.	1. 2.	
Treats	ats1. Lane Phelan1. Jan Woodall2. Jan Woodall2.		1. Gina & Scott 2. Peterson	1. DeAnna Claus 2.	1. 2.	

AUGUST- Worship Readings & those Serving in Worship				
Date	August 7 Family Sunday	August 14	August 21	August 28
Readings	1 Peter 5:1-14	Ruth 1:1-22	Ruth 2:1-23	Ruth 3:1-18
	Matthew 20:25-28	Matthew 5:3-9	Luke 6:36-38	Matthew 7:7-8
Greeters	1.	1.	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.	2.
Readers	1. Rev. Harvey Nelson	1. Lane Phelan	1. Gina Peterson	1.
Acolytes	<ol> <li>Eva Nelson</li> <li>David Nelson</li> </ol>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
Nursery	1.	1.	1.	1.
	2.	2.	2.	2.
Fellowship Hour				
Serve &	<ol> <li>Jon Nelson</li> <li>Christina Nelson</li> </ol>	1.	1.	1.
cleanup		2.	2.	2.
Treats	1. Gina Peterson	1.	1.	1.
	2. Marie Nelson	2.	2.	2.



# **JULY** - Birthday Blessings to You!

3Emma Bakke17Troy Kunz3Carl Ellsworth III17Jerry Pollard3Bonnie Kennedy21Jake Anderson3Kim Trafton21Faith Legan4Lewis Benson22Nikki Bakke4Amanda Elling22Emilee Forbes5Michael Sullivan23Jacob Elling6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund7Tanner Sahnow25Zachary Anderson	
3Bonnie Kennedy21Jake Anderson3Kim Trafton21Faith Legan4Lewis Benson22Nikki Bakke4Amanda Elling22Emilee Forbes5Michael Sullivan23Jacob Elling6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
3Kim Trafton21Faith Legan4Lewis Benson22Nikki Bakke4Amanda Elling22Emilee Forbes5Michael Sullivan23Jacob Elling6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
4Lewis Benson22Nikki Bakke4Amanda Elling22Emilee Forbes5Michael Sullivan23Jacob Elling6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
4Amanda Elling22Emilee Forbes5Michael Sullivan23Jacob Elling6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
5Michael Sullivan23Jacob Elling6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
6Randy VanSweden23Delores Hermstad7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
7Mildred Bushey24Ruth Backlund	
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7 Tanner Sahnow 25 Zachary Anderson	
8 Julie Dusenbury 25 Gil Harvey	
9 Rachel Devine 26 Ashlee Long	
11Gina Peterson26Reed Myers	
12 Megan Angier-Ufkes 27 Jan Nations	
12Lara Coggins28Caitlin Kirby	
12Katie Parker28Leone Zimmerman	
14Rebecca Eggleston30Brian Bakke	
15Brenda Lust30Christie Schoebel	
16Alec Mavar31Megan Anderson-Smit	ch
16 Penelope McCaughan 31 Beth Benson	
17 Ellyn Cavanagh	

JULY - Wedding Anniversaries!			
1	Marv & Gunilla Wold		
2	Wayne & Elaine Olsen		
7	Rod & Cathy Odegaard		
9	Jason & Erin Kurz		
17	Michael & Eryn Hanes		
17	Brian Hanrahan & Treva King		
30	Scott & Gina Peterson		

Every morning is Gods way of telling you that your purpose in life is yet to be fulfilled.

# Good Morning!

You are very Special.



# **AUGUST**- Birthday Blessings to You!

		-	-
2	Nathan Thomas	17	Cathy Odegaard
3	Randy Arendse	17	Kayla Pierce
3	Karen Petersen	17	Reese Morgenthaler
5	<b>Reilly Nations-Pearson</b>	18	Madden Nations-Pearson
5	Dylan Thomas	18	Ryan Connelly
5	Brenda Lorentzen	18	Stanley Tracy
6	Emerson Ott	19	Jeanne Anderson
7	Adrienne Eide	19	Ensley Cook
8	Conor DeFrancesco	19	Ray Fowler
12	Beckett Harrington	21	Matt Connelly
12	Ella Harrington	23	Megan Campbell
13	Jacob Duquaine	24	Linda Anderson
14	Madelyn Berentson	25	MaKenna Nations-Pearson
14	David Bjornson	26	Emma Knutson
14	Paula Fors	26	Mallory Sullivan
14	Blake Trafton	28	Trevor Ott
14	James Parker	29	William Gusa
14	Yvonne Paul	29	Tim Hofferth
15	Bryan Walker	29	Bud Rock
15	Karen Caracciolo	30	Jennifer Brosten
15	Paul Phelan	30	Sharon Ohm
16	Lillian Devine	30	John Parker
16	Jacquie Oka	30	Adam Salnick
16	Jobun Tornga	31	Daniel Elling
17	Kira Oates	31	Jerry Woodall
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# AUGUST- Wedding Anniversaries!

5	Paul & Julie Dusenbury Happy 50th Anniversary
9	Jerry & MaryBeth Pollard
10	Wendy & Michael Atterberry
12	Stacy & Erin Roux
13	Johanna & Mathew Tracy
17	Tim & Connie Walters
19	Ray & Nancy Fowler Happy 60th Anniversary
21	Philip & Madelyn Case
24	Robert & Faith Legan
29	Maurice & Helene Fink

The richest wealth is wisdom; The strongest weapon is patience; The best security is faith; And the most effective tonic is laughter. May God bestow you with all of them!

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#### ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - JUNE 9, 2022

**Attendees**: Dave Bjornsen, John Parker, Brian Hanrahan, Lane Phelan, Heather Harrington, Jeaneen Brogan, Dave White, Pr Scott, Don Devine, Bill LeDuc, Jeanette Christensen, Persephone Pestar, Anita Holzemer, Guest: Kathy Khile

The meeting was held via Zoom due to uptick in Covid cases within the church. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. May minutes were approved. MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:** Overall giving is remaining steady. We are receiving tuition checks from the preschool on a regular basis. Lane will meet soon with Maggie to discuss procedures.

**Pastor's Report:** Attended synod assembly last weekend with Linda Millo and Lois Cassidy. He is busy settling into his new house. Pr Scott will be taking a few days of family vacation beginning June 26 and going to Calgary.

**President's Report:** John is grateful. He is grateful for Persephone joining us. Grateful for Kathy's work on our photo directory and grateful for Jeaneen's work with contracts and job descriptions.

#### Special Guests/Reports:

Kathy Khile gave us a Photo Directory update. She has taken photos of 51 families so far. Ten more are signed up for the end of June. She is cropping one to use in the directory and sending full photos to the congregants. Our Church Windows software will produce a directory. People can send in their own photos if needed. If you are submitting your own, please email pictures to John Parker (<u>jparkerpps@comcast.net</u>) by July. It is our goal to have the directory ready by this September.

#### Old Business:

- Pastor Scott led a discussion on Chapter Three of the Book "Growing Young" the process of attracting and keeping young people in the Church. ACTION ITEM: Ready Chapter 4 for August.
- We reviewed the Open Action Items Log and added several more items to the list. This will be a standing item at our meetings going forward.
- All Staff Job Descriptions are complete (June 1 deadline met,) and all contracts are ready for signature before July 1. Thank you, Jeaneen!
- A Preschool Board Position is still open. Schedule next Preschool Board Meeting Anne and Lane will meet with Maggie after school gets out.
- We are still looking for a Fellowship Chair. Please contact Pastor Scott or any council member if you are interested in serving.

#### New Business:

- Outreach Chair Peggy White had to resign due to medical reasons. Dave White has been appointed to fill the remainder of Peggy's term. MSP
- Set up a Google Drive as a working archive for the Church Facilities Schedule, Action Items Log, Council Bio's, etc. ACTION ITEM: Anita will visit with Rachel to coordinate.
- Proposal from Chuck Landgraf for ALC "Campaign" style yard signs for members to display. After discussion
  several issues were brought up. Some neighborhoods have HOA limitations. There are also city ordinances
  that need to be considered. Don is currently working on VBS signage. After VBS he will take a look at procedures, how well it worked, and will report back whether we should pursue this on a larger scale or not
  going forward.

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Council minutes cont.....

- There was a proposal from the Education Committee to award all non-scholarship graduates with a cash award to recognize their achievement. Scholarship funds are limited strictly for educational use. The opportunity to apply for a scholarship is open for two years beyond graduation. John will reply to the Ed Committee with council thoughts.
- Benevolences: How do we help others in the community? After receiving a request from Anacortes Christian Church (ACC) we discussed procedures. Is ACC the local clearing house? If so, we would possibly be open to supporting them with quarterly donations. We currently give regularly to the Salvation Army and the Anac Family Shelter. MSP to give a one-time donation to ACC for \$250. Pr Scott will contact ACC re: procedures for helping as we consider potentially giving on a regular basis.

#### **Council Roundtable:**

- Heather needs help with volunteers. Youth group will return in the fall. There was a request that Persephone has a time at our council meetings to share any youth needs.
- Properties will update the basement this summer. The piano has been donated and is on its way out. We need volunteers to help with sanctuary refurbishment. Contact Bill or Don to volunteer

The council will not meet in July. We will use email to handle any items that may come up that month. Our next in person meeting will be held August 11 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary

# Congregational Mission Statement: To Proclaim The Gospel Through Word and Deed

Pray for our 2022 Church Council & Committees				
President:	John Parker	Treasurer:	Lane Phelan	
Vice-President:	Brian Hanrahan	Education:	Kendra Kennedy	
Secretary:	Anita Holzemer	Personnel:	Jeaneen Brogan	
Outreach:	Peggy White	Properties:	Bill LeDuc	
Preschool:	Anne Barry	Worship:	David Bjornson	
Stewardship:	Donald Devine	WELCA :	Jeanette Christensen	
Fellowship :		Youth:	Heather Harrington	
NW Synod Reps:	Linda Millo & Lois Cassidy	Council Youth rep:	Persephone Pestar	
Josephine Delegate:	Jerry Bongard & Bill LeDuc			

# **FROM THE BISHOP** – *The Spirit* July 2022

It was a joy and delight to gather for the 2022 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, "Abound in Hope!" With over 330 people in attendance, the atmosphere was warm, inviting, celebratory, and festive. We had not gathered in-person since 2019 and it was so good to be together again.

We sang, we clapped, we listened, we learned, we prayed, we worshiped, we spoke, and we did the business of the Church. Through all of it, we trust and know that the Holy Spirit is moving and dancing in the Northwest Washington Synod. I invite you to watch the entire synod assembly here on our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=6s or the highlights that are hyperlinked below. (You will also find each of the individual videos on the synod website here: www.lutheransnw.org/synod-assembly.)

During the day, we played four "Stories of Hope" videos from congregations in our synod. Learn more about these ministries:

- Monroe Congregation Partnership vimeo.com/714332195/0b6b67b19b
- Faith Lutheran, Everett vimeo.com/714332202/ca4c6b5029
- Lutheran Church in the San Juans vimeo.com/714332210/3310c53d2c
- Prince of Peace, SeaTac vimeo.com/714335177/aefc3769a3

We lifted up congregations and rostered ministers who were celebrating milestone anniversaries:

- Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley celebrating 50 years of ministry
- Faith Lutheran, Redmond celebrating 75 years of ministry
- Watch the Rostered Minister Celebration Video here: https://vimeo.com/717125144

We gave thanks to one congregation and two SAWCs (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities) for their faithful ministry who entered legacy through closure or merger:

- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Issaquah merged with Our Savior Lutheran Church, Issaquah
- Seattle Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship, Seattle closed
- Reborn Fellowship, Shoreline closed

We discussed and passed three resolutions which have now been referred to the ELCA Memorials Committee for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this August. These resolutions are linked below – you may also find them on our synod assembly webpage.

- Reparations and Land Return Memorial
- Audit of ELCA Constitutions and Bylaws
- Portico Review to Grant Disability Status to Persons Experiencing Mental Illness

In the Bishop's Report, the synod staff and I lifted up our priorities and values for this next year. Find details in the videos below and in my written Report of the Bishop.

- Established Congregations and New Expressions of Ministry https://vimeo.com/716119337
- Transitions https://vimeo.com/716116325
- Legacy https://vimeo.com/716125835
- The LiVE Project https://vimeo.com/716102514
- Synodically Authorized Ministers (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s at 2:27:23)
- Justice, Equity, and Belonging (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s at 2:28:45)

The Synod Assembly was a wonderful time together. As I look forward to this next year, I am thankful to God for the Spirit of love and grace that permeates this synod. I am thankful for the synod staff and for synod council. And I am thankful for you - dear Beloveds of Christ in the Northwest Washington Synod. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee