



CHOOSE Joy

Anacortes Lutheran Church
November 2020 Newsletter



Pastor's Message

You know, the first Sunday in November might be my favorite day of the entire year. It is the one time when a single day is expanded to 25 hours as we “fall back.” Maybe you plan to use that extra hour to read a book or take a walk or arrange your sock drawer. As for me this year, I suspect that hour might be put to best use by simply sleeping in a little longer.

Sometimes I wish every day had 25 hours. People are always complaining there aren't enough hours in a day to accomplish everything. Well, one extra hour could at least relieve some of that stress. Of course that would throw the entire daylight and nighttime thing into total chaos as the sun might wind up rising at 2:00 am. But at least I can fantasize about that wonderful extra hour, and actually live in it on the first Sunday of November.

But you know what? The church also sees the first Sunday in November as something sacred. It is All Saints Sunday. All Saints Day is November 1st and we usually celebrate All Saints Sunday on the first Sunday following the 1st. However this year Sunday happens to fall on the first.

Some might know that Halloween started out as “Hallowed Eve” or holy evening, because it preceded All Saints Day; sort of like the 24th is Christmas Eve. Furthermore All Saints Day was among the first special holy days celebrated by the church. Long before anybody observed Christmas, All Saints was a high point in the church year. The various saints, such as St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Mary, all had days assigned their day. On November 1st all minor saints were celebrated. In addition the church again remembered those saints more well known.

In churches across the world November 1st also happens to be the day we remember those from our communities who have gone before us into the Church Triumphant. I understand that is also the practice here at Anacortes Lutheran Church as we cherish the resurrection promises of Jesus for those family and friends of the recently deceased. ALC will again do so this year.

However allow me to share one other fact. When we speak the words of the Apostles Creed we profess our faith remembering “the communion of saints.” We are not only recalling those saints who have died, we are also celebrating what God is doing among us now. Every baptized Christian is a saint. When the water was poured over you and the pastor spoke the words “Child of God, you have been sealed with the cross of Christ forever”, in that moment you had proof you had joined that company. As saints we are called to live the lives which reflect our calling. We go forth as God's presence in our world today.

So when we observe All Saints Day this year, remember we are not only looking upon exemplary Saints such as Paul, or recalling the wondrous grace of God for those who have gone before us, we are also celebrating all those living now who are named and claimed in baptism. So “Rise Up, O Saints of God.” You have been called. You are sent. Whether the day is 24 or 25 hours in length, you have been marked with the cross of Christ forever. Use your days and time faithfully.

Walt

RE-OPENING November 8th at 10 am ~ The time has come!

Good news!

Anacortes Lutheran Church members have been waiting for the reopening of the church building for in-person worship. That time has arrived. Beginning on November 8th worship will resume Sunday mornings with one service at 10:00 a.m.

However we are still in the midst of a pandemic so those attending will need to follow certain protocols in order to abide by both state and church synod requirements. You will need to preregister in order to attend.

In addition to the volunteers leading worship and assisting, at this time only 40 people will be allowed into the sanctuary each week. Reservations may be made the week of the service, Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (Sorry, no reservations earlier than the preceding week please). This can be done on the church's website or you may call the church office. You will need to provide the names of all attending from your household for the purpose of contact tracing.

A full list of changes and COVID requirements is printed on page 8 of this newsletter. Please consult it prior to registration and again prior to attending.

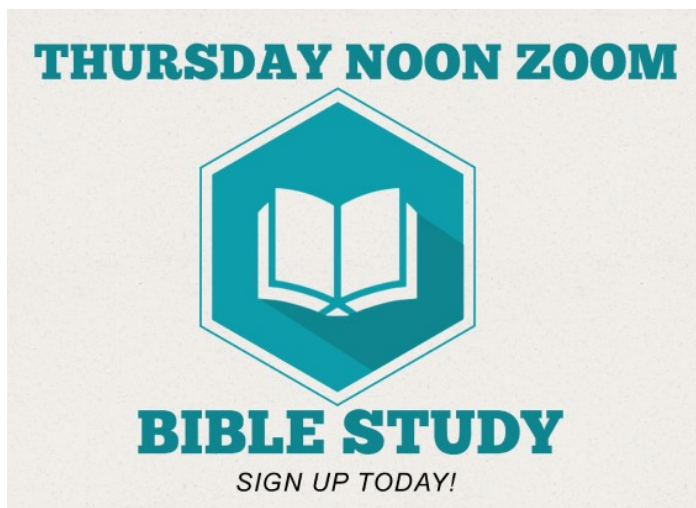
Please remember each service is being live-streamed; this means even if you aren't physically present you may participate directly through YouTube or by accessing the service on the church's website.

We recognize Sunday worship will look very different from what it has been in the past, yet we welcome the opportunity to gather in Jesus' name. We all look forward with eager longing for the day when we can return to something more familiar. However in all settings and situations the church continues to proclaim the Gospel, to share the sacraments and to witness to the wonder of Christ in our midst.

Wherever you might be, welcome to worship

Together Again **Welcome Back** *Re-Opening November 8th at 10 am*

- Seating is limited & by reservation only
- Reservations will ONLY be open the TUESDAY before that weeks service
- Reservations OPEN Tuesday 9 am - CLOSING Friday 2 pm
- Reservations can be made by going to the **eventbrite** LINK on the ALC website
- For those without internet access call the office to reserve a spot
- Guidelines for in-person Worship must be followed - **see page 8** for details
- We will still be live-streaming services to watch



Join Pastor Walt's Bible Study

Pastor Walt has begun a Thursday noon Bible study on Zoom. Every Thursday at 12:00 you will be able to join an examination of the coming Sunday's scripture lessons. Our hope is to discover a little background about the original context of each passage and then to share thoughts about how those particular verses might speak to us today.

If you wish to join, contact the church office between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, and Pastor Walt will send you the link for the study. If you have any questions about logging on to Zoom on your computer, we will attempt to help you do so.

Welcome to the study. We hope to see you this coming Thursday.

Follow the instructions to the right on how to Zoom or watch this YouTube video:

"Geeks on Tour" How Do I Join a
Zoom Meeting? Tutorial Video 614

How do I ZOOM?



WHAT IS ZOOM?

Zoom is a FREE web-based video conferencing tool that allows users to meet online, with or without video (you do NOT need an account to join)

You will need a couple of things:

1. Laptop/Desktop computer or cell phone-Android, iPhone, Windows or Mac, with a camera & microphone (or a separate video camera or headset to plug in)
2. Internet access

How to join a meeting for the first time:

1. You will receive an email from Pastor Walt Rice (or the person hosting the meeting) with a link. Click the **blue link** just below Join Zoom Meeting
2. Or enter the **Meeting ID** from that email.
3. It will ask you to **download the Zoom App**. **Click Okay** to install.
4. It will prompt you to **Enter your Name**. **Type in the name** you would like to appear for you and click **Join Meeting**
5. Click **Join with Video**
6. Click **Join with Audio**
7. On the top right click on **Gallery View** so you can see all participants (Full screen)
 - a. You can **put yourself on Mute** by clicking the microphone icon  (microphone off/ muted will have a red line  through it.)
 - b. You can **turn off your camera** by clicking the video icon (it will just show your name)
 - c. To leave a meeting **click leave meeting** on the bottom right hand corner.

If you have questions call the office at 360-293-9586

A Word from Pastor Butler

November is an interesting month. We begin with All Saints when we commemorate the lives of those who have passed into eternal life. We end with the triumphant “Christ the King” Sunday, which is the end of the liturgical year, and then we move into the new year and the season of Advent. In between, there is an election and Thanksgiving. This year it is also the month we will (God willing!) begin in-person Sunday worship under the guidelines for safe gathering as the COVID pandemic continues to afflict us.

November is a month when we traditionally focus on the idea of ‘thanksgiving’, enumerating those things for which we are grateful. And, while this November 2020 is anything but what we would call normal, the tradition of gratitude is one which we observe now more than ever. We really do have a lot to be grateful for, despite our current environment of unease and disease.

First, we can give thanks for the community of Anacortes Lutheran which has, despite months of physical separation, continued to be a source of encouragement throughout a seemingly endless separation; of comfort while experiencing loss; and of hope as we are reminded of the deep and abiding love for one another that has sustained us and will continue to strengthen us in our mission to be the hands and heart of God for the world. Thanks be to God for our church family.

How can we not be grateful for the beauty of God’s good creation that envelops us in the Pacific Northwest? We are blessed to live in close proximity to some of the most spectacular scenery on earth. Our spirits are lifted by the sights and sounds and scents that surround us as we go about our daily lives. Our gratitude is expressed by our efforts to preserve the earth which God has entrusted to our care. Thanks be to God for the wonders of nature.

As church people, it is a given that we give thanks to God for not only giving us life but also for giving us God’s living presence with us in every moment of every day. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus who shows us God’s nature and God’s way of loving by humble service and working for justice and peace. Thanks be to God for our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

During November 2020, let us be inspired anew to pray for healing and peace and comfort for all people. Let us recommit ourselves to growing in faith so that we may become more and more the reflection of Christ. In November 2020, let us not cease giving thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon us.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Deborah



ALC Free Community Christmas Dinner 2020

Pandemic Style - is now in the planning stages.

If you have a Thrivent Grant that you would like to use to help with this important outreach ministry, please contact Church Office for instructions on filling out the form to match our needs.

Thank you,
Anne Barry & Don Devine (Co-chairs)



WELCA - *Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

It has been a long time since we have been together and we hope to meet in December for our Christmas brunch...more on that next month.

Sew some Pillowcases for the Friendship House

We will not have a in person "Pillowcase Sew-a-thon" this year but if you'd still like to sew some pillowcases on your own we will deliver them to the Friendship house. We will have a tub with pillowcases to be sewed by the office door. You are welcome to take some home to sew, then bring the finished pillowcases back and put them in the box.

LWR Shipment

Thursday the 22 of October we will ship quilts and baby layettes to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you Les Olsen for driving to Seattle with our shipment.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

The last part of November we will put up the Angel tree with our family from the salvation army listing their needs. We will try to have it up by Nov. 20.

Sewing Circles meeting - Tuesdays 9:00 am -12:30 pm

We have started sewing! People may come if they will wear a mask, social distancing, and if they are not ill.

We ask that you stay safe & take care of yourself at this busy time of year.

From the Treasurer... Lane Phelan

Grace and blessings to you all. September Revenue to Expense was (-\$2,843)

Year to date Revenue to Expense is (--\$8,657)

Benevolence paid year to date \$13,613.

Scheduled to pay \$4,500 at end of 3rd quarter, October 31.

On a monthly basis we receive about 12% of our giving electronically, directly into our bank account. Our financial secretary gets record of this and all of it shows on your year-end statement. I would encourage anyone interested to call me or call the church office to join in giving this way.

Council's next challenge will be to build next year's budget.

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS**

No events are scheduled for November.

30 Days of Thankfulness

1. Family
2. Home
3. Nature
4. Cozy
5. Fun
6. Friendship
7. Faith
8. Memories
9. Warmth
10. Smile
11. Life
12. Gift
13. Animal
14. Tradition
15. Joy
16. Weather
17. Color
18. Food
19. Grateful
20. Laughter
21. Leaves
22. Dessert
23. Handmade
24. Surprise
25. Kindness
26. Music
27. Love
28. Mentor
29. Light
30. Happiness

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

We look forward to seeing
you some day.

We miss y'all.



Prayer Time – The Power of Prayer!

Join us by calling on your phone to our
“New Conference Call Prayer Time”
Tuesdays at 1:00pm

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/>

And look for the “Prayer Page” tab in the menu.
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 your 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 the Pastors are available to pray with
you or for you. Please let them know if you are
hospitalized or ill.

Peace of the Lord.

Sewing Circles – Rejoice in the Lord always

Greetings to all of you.

Sewing has started up again.

If you would like to come you are welcome.

We are meeting on Tuesday's 9 am to 12:30 pm

You must wear a mask at all times and social distance
while there. There will be coffee only, so bring your
own snack. We will have devotions and sharing time.

We are sending to Lutheran World Relief:

121 Baby care kits,

18 Personal care kits and

54 Quilts

These were all done before we were closed down
for the virus. Now we are working on the next time
we have an ingathering. Thank you for all you do.

If you have any questions please call Jeaneen Brogan.
Gods Blessing ~

CHOOSE *joy*
James 1:2-8



² *My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials
of any kind, consider it nothing but joy,*

³ *because you know that the testing of your faith
produces endurance;*

⁴ *and let endurance have its full effect, so that you
may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.*

⁵ *If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who
gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it
will be given you.*

⁶ *But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who
doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed
by the wind;*

^{7, 8} *for the doubter, being double-minded and
unstable in every way, must not expect to receive
anything from the Lord.*

LWR Knitting News – Linda Anderson

We are taking a Covid – Holiday until March

Please continue to knit sweaters and hats in the
comfort of your home.

If you are new to knitting and would like the fun one
piece sweater pattern we use or are you needing
more yarn, please feel free to contact me.

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 Spring/Fall total is:

Sweater/hat sets - 140

Hats - 11

Sweaters - 24

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

Sunday School's BIG News

The re-entry committee has agreed to our proposal to open Sunday school on November 8th. Sunday school will be ready to start when and if the bell rings. We have decided on a curriculum that will be of interest to the children. Last month the Kennedy family video taped a really cute skit as a parody on Daniel and the Lions Den. We will be doing a very similar thing with the Sunday school. We plan to make several videos over the first 4 to 5 weeks depicting a Christmas Story. We plan to show the finished product to the congregation at the December 20th service.

Sunday School Restarting

In regards to the opening we will be requiring that children make a reservation for each Sunday they plan to attend. Reservations will be handled by the Church Office beginning on Tuesday the week before and ending on Friday at 2:00 pm of the same week. Parents will drop their children off for Sunday school at the door by the Church Office. A teacher will sign the student in and ask the appropriate health questions and take temperature. Once upstairs there will be strict adherence to social distancing requirements and face masks will be worn at all times. At the end of Sunday school, parents will call for their children at the same door. A teacher or the Director will accompany each child to the pick up point. We will maintain the facility in accordance with CDC and Synod guidelines. We are looking forward to seeing our Sunday school kids back at the church. As of this date, we are still looking for two volunteers to share teach our classes. If you are interested please contact Dave White -206-226-7182

FAMILY LINK - ALC Adults mentoring youth

We are moving forward with 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.

Fun Resources on our website

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.

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 Ministries 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.

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





We are excited to be able to worship again in person

Please join us by registering on ~ **eventbrite** ~ via the ALC website the Tuesday before worship.

Due to the Covid pandemic, we are obliged to limit seating and follow the items listed below.

November – Worship Readings & Gospel Follow along as you listen and watch our Live Stream Worship Service			
November 1	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Micah 3:5-12 / I Thessalonians 2:9-13 Psalm 43 Matthew 23:1-12	<i>Reader:</i> Anne Barry
November 8 1st In-Person Worship	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Amos 5:18-24 / I Thessalonians 4:13-18 Psalm 70 Matthew 25:1-13	<i>Reader:</i> Lois Cassidy
November 15	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 / I Thessalonians 56:1-11 Psalm 90:1-12 Matthew 25:14-30	<i>Reader:</i> Bill LeDuc
November 22	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 / Ephesians 1:15-23 Psalm 95:1-7a Matthew 25:31-46	<i>Reader:</i> Karen Caracciolo
November 29	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Isaiah 64:1-9 / I Corinthians 1:3-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Mark 13:24-37	<i>Reader:</i> Linda Millo

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

Guidelines for in-person Worship:

- 1) Pre-Register for Worship service on the ALC website using “EventBrite” link (Open Tues 9am - Fri 2pm)
- 2) Reservations will be open each week prior to the service, Starting Tuesday 9am & Closing Friday 2pm
- 3) Enter the church via the handicap ramp door entrance, “O” Avenue side.
- 4) Wear a mask fully covering nose and mouth while on the property at all times.
- 5) Hand sanitize upon entry.
- 6) Sign in for contact tracing
- 7) Must be able to answer NO to the following:

In the past 14 days have you or someone you have come in contact with had any of the following symptoms?




- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| • Fever 100.4 °F or higher or chills | • Cough | • Fatigue |
| • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | • Muscle or body aches | • Headache |
| • New loss of taste or smell | • Congestion or runny nose | • Sore throat |
| • Nausea or vomiting | • Diarrhea | |

- 8) Maintain 6 ft spacing at all times unless you are related.
- 9) Follow directions of ushers for seating. (1 family or 2 couples or 3 individuals per pew)
- 10) There will be NO Singing or bulletins.

November - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Conner Richards	15	Kaylee Lust
3	Phil Weber	15	Peyton Floyd
3	Denise Lowrie	16	Sally Pagh
3	Emma Hanes	16	Steve Richards
4	Sue Latendresse	17	Signe Anderson-Graves
4	Lynn DeFrancesco	17	Zoey Nibarger
4	Hanna Marie Miller	19	Marilyn Tenoll
5	Robert Higgins	19	Stan Zimmerman
5	Stephanie Sherman	19	Olivia Trumble
5	Liam Ufkes	19	McKinley Baker
7	Warner Berglund	21	Linda Walker
8	Thomas Larsen	21	Devin Piacentino
8	Fred Fisher	22	Ken Klepsch
10	Grace Boggio	23	Barbara Schmidtman
10	Lorna Higgins	23	Anne Meyers
10	Les Olsen	23	Gracia Tanis
10	Ross Coyne	24	Alfred Engen
10	Tristyn Connelly	24	Karen Faulkner
10	Iliena Tracy	25	Jo Rockwood
		29	Rachel Slater

November - Anniversaries!

2	De and Sharon Wedell
4	Boyd and Ginny Veer - 15 years 
10	Bud and Wanda Rock
14	Matthew and Bonnie Kennedy
17	Jim and Laurie Carver - 30 years 
18	Fred and Sharon Fisher
20	David and Diane Brosten
21	Phil and Sue Latendresse
21	Robert and Kristen Collins
25	Mark and Penelope McCaughan
25	Jerry and Ann Knutsen - 20 years 
30	Brian and Cami Mavar



Pick up your copy of the "Christ in Our Home" devotional from the basket outside the church office entrance.



October - Online Worship

Church Closed due to COVID-19

www.anacorteslutheran.org/online-ministry

OCTOBER	VIEWS
4	89
11	121
18	67
25	Not available at time of printing

ALC Council Minutes – October 15, 2020

Attended: Via Zoom- Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pastor Walt, Melanie Sahnaw, Kendra Kennedy, Jeaneen Brogan, Les Olsen & Anne Berry.

Bill opened the at 6:35pm with a prayer. September mtg notes approved as written.

Treasurers Report: Lane gave report. September member offering was \$19,551, average \$4,887 weekly, with an average weekly YTD of \$5,116. Sept revenue to expense is (-\$2,843) and YTD revenue to expense is (-\$8,657), Benevolence paid YTD is \$13,163 and bills are current. Lane made motion to give Young Life & Helping Hands Food Bank each \$500, and ELCA \$3,500, MSP. The Executive Board with John Parker's help will make up a proposed budget for 2021 to present to the council. Accepted report

Pastors Report: Has had surgery and recovering well. Transition team will use the Core Values, Mission & Vision Statement that we have updated from last year. Pastor would like to add a few hours a week to Becky's schedule to set up music. Executive Board will meet with Steve to discuss. Did a Zoom Bible Study 10-15-20, 7 inquired and 3 people attend. Contact Pastor Walt if you wish to attend bible study.

Presidents Report: Member roster, no information. Bill & Lane will work on the constitution review.

Old Business: Barb Atterberry has filled Stewardship seat for the remainder of the year. The request from the Scouts to use the parking lot for their Court of Honor has been approved.

New Business: Motion was made to have the next council mtg on November 12th at 6:30 pm live in the fellowship hall with the option to zoom in for the mtg. MSP. Anne Berry gave report about the Christmas Dinner, we will prepare a modified menu and serve drive up style. If you want to help or donate please call Anne.

Personnel Report: Steve will post jobs for these positions, Production person 3-4 hrs a week at \$17.50 an hour, Production Live Stream Manager 3-4 hrs a week at \$20 an hour and Social Media 2-3 hrs a week at \$16.50 an hour. Kendra, Kevin and Becky will fill these positions until applications have been received, reviewed and jobs are filled.

WELCA Report: Happy to be back sewing. On October 23rd we will be sending quilts to Seattle. We are working on the Christmas Brunch for this year. We are waiting on more information to decide about the Salvation Army Family we do for Christmas.

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: Installation of High MERV value filters have been installed in the furnace for higher filtration and in all registers in the education building and in the Preschool. The church has been rekeyed. Les will work on the thermostat in the fellowship hall. Bible studies, sewing and knitting ladies have started back using the "Guidelines for Small Group use".

Education: Kendra reports the main focus has been getting back to Sunday School and what that will look like, she has a written plan. With Covid-19 restrictions the Sunday school allowed number of kids will be separate from the Congregation numbers as they will not be together. Family Link has a small attendance, background checks will be back on Oct 20th then they can proceed matching people with kids. It was decided that Micah will complete confirmation with this year's class when they are able to start. Some kids did a short video and the feed back after the last service was good.

Continued on next page...

...Council Minutes continued

Fellowship Report: No Report

Youth Report: No Report

Preschool Report: They have reopened and all is going well.

Stewardship Report: Welcome Barbara Atterberry. Barbara will start working on video interviews 2-3 minutes long for the Gratitude Campaign.

Worship Report: Pastor reported that the Worship committee will reopen the church for the first Sunday Service on November 1st for a soft opening being All Saints Day, inviting only families who have lost loved ones in the last year. Then on November 8th resume a modified Sunday Service. **MUST** make prior reservations with a max of 40 people allowed following all the guidelines for everyone's safety. Both Pastor's and Laurie will work out prerecorded music.

The next Council meeting is November 12th at 6:30p

We all shared the Lord's Prayer and closed at 8:05pm

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)

♦ **"LIKE" OUR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE PAGES:** Anacortes Lutheran Church

♦ **WORSHIP SERVICES, UPDATES & NEWS:** Visit our website - www.anacorteslutheranchurch.org

♦ **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

You can find ALL these in the basket right outside the church office door -

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

♦ **DEVOTIONALS AND MORE:** Christ in Our Homes devotionals, Living Lutheran Magazines & Communion cups for home communion (*Take for yourself and a friend.*)

Dear Ones,

In this month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, I give thanks for you. May God's Spirit continue to lead and guide us in these times.

This last week my mom called to tell me that they would not be hosting a big family celebration for Thanksgiving this year because of COVID-19. I already knew that we wouldn't be able to have the raucous, crowded party that we have had in the past (and will have in the future), but it still is hard when the decision is voiced. Unfortunately, we are still in COVID-19 times. And because of this, I want to emphasize a few things for all of you.

In the last few weeks, I have been asked when the synod would have new, updated guidelines. I realized that the guidelines were a few months old so I thought I should review and give new guidelines for where we are now. However, as I started working on updated guidelines, I realized pretty quickly that old guidelines are today's guidelines ... because we are still in COVID-19 times. Therefore, the updated recommendations sound remarkably like the old recommendations.

The NWWA Synod continues to encourage care and thoughtful preparation for your community. A care-filled response is much more than unlocking the church doors and inviting all to come. Please keep in mind the Washington State guidelines and CDC guidelines and the population of your congregation. While we are all in different phases, depending on your county, here are some guidelines that we all should keep in mind.

1. Please continue to avoid large gatherings, maintain physical distance when with others, use face coverings, and regularly wash hands and surfaces.
2. To maintain ultimate safety, the NWWA Synod continues to recommend that congregations and ministry sites continue to utilize corporate worship on an online or digital platform until February 2021 – and further into 2021 depending on the availability of vaccines or other positive markers.
3. If there is an in-person worship experience, please consider meeting outside while masked and physical

distanced and following the protocols for a corporate gathering. While this is not completely safe, this is the next safest option to meeting online.

4. If there is an in-person worship experience indoors, please understand that there is high-risk involved, and care must be taken for the safety of all. Please consider this carefully and thoroughly before implementing. Please see the synod website for further guidance.

5. If you are going to meet in-person, small gatherings are the safest option. Below are some ideas that are meant to meet spiritual, emotional, and physical needs as we continue to navigate this pandemic. (These ideas are meant to be a supplement to online worship and are only to be implemented after careful reflection and planning).

- Small group Bible studies
- One-on-one pastoral care conversations
- Bringing a meal or a card to a homebound person
- Participating in a food drive
- Having a “bring your own food” potluck gathering in a backyard.
- Sitting around a bonfire listening to a guitar
- Book Study
- I'm sure you all have many others.

If you have ideas in your congregation or ministry site on how to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people during this time, please share with others so we may safely and meaningfully meet with one another during this time. We would be happy to post these ideas on our website.

As we enter into winter, it is easy to let our guards down. We long to be together. We miss each other. And we are tired. I get it. I'm with you. I want nothing more than to be able to be with you in-person. But as we love God and neighbor, let us continue to be church in the world. Let us thoughtfully and prayerfully prepare. And let us continue to be Holy Community. And remember, dear Beloveds, we are still gathered and we are still sent – to live into the love of Jesus with all we meet.

Grace & Peace,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

