



LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

Anacortes Lutheran Church
March 2021 Newsletter

For example, think how much clearer a few commas and the words “or” would have made the following sign posted above a restroom. As it stands, it seems the particular restroom is restricted to a very unique, and possibly non-existent, demographic.

THIS TOILET IS ONLY FOR DISABLED ELDERLY PREGNANT CHILDREN.

I doubt such a restriction was the original intent of the one who drafted the sign.

Little things also mean a lot in leading the Christian life. Our contributions to the world may seem small and even insignificant. There is probably no one among us who will make breakthrough strides in addressing the pandemic, world hunger or racial divisions. However Jesus once reminded us that even providing a cup of water to one who is thirsty is a powerful demonstration of our faith and calling.

There is a piety which is often stressed during the season of Lent whereby we are encouraged to “give up something” for the 40 day period. That is a worthwhile practice and serves to remind us of our commitment as disciples and followers of Jesus. However I prefer we “take up something” for Lent this year.

What are those little things we might pursue during this season? There is probably an endless list, but allow me to suggest a few which occur to me. In these days of COVID, phone calls or letters to shut-ins could bring comfort and companionship to one lonely or isolated. And then there is the possibility of providing transportation to testing or vaccination sites for those who don’t drive. Providing meals to those who are ill, giving even small donations to worthwhile charities such as those who tackle hunger or medical conditions or even one’s own congregation are ways we can be stewards of all we’ve been given. Although the most recent opportunity has passed, shoveling snow for someone and later in the year providing lawn care for the older or infirm may be an expression of our discipleship and love. The list is as endless as our imagination.

Little things make a difference. Jesus has called us not only to great acts of faith and sacrifice, but to those smaller ways we can live out our calling. As we journey through this season, give some thought to taking up something for Lent. Acts of kindness change lives. And who knows, maybe we can continue those little things throughout the entire year.

Walt

“PRAYER CROSS” in the sanctuary



During this Season of Lent we have a “PRAYER CROSS” in the sanctuary. You may send your prayers, concerns, moments of praise, thanks to God, etc. to: Carol Olsen carololsen99@gmail.com. Carol will write the prayers on a purple paper cross, which will then be attached to a larger cross inside the church sanctuary.

If you prefer, we also have paper crosses & pens available outside the church office, so you may write the prayers on it yourself and drop it in the mailbox. Carol will place them on the cross for you.

This will continue throughout Lent – send many prayers, concerns, moments of praise, thanks to God, etc.

Thank you!

Note: This does not take the place of the prayer list and prayer chain.





HOLY WEEK Services

Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on March 28. As of this writing the plan is for the church to be open to 25% capacity for those who pre-register, and to also be live-streamed.

The Triduum, or the Three Days of Holy Week, will be pre-recorded services. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Saturday Easter Vigil will all be available for viewing at 6 pm on their respective days.

The church will again be open to limited capacity Easter morning, April 4 at 10:00 am, for those who pre-register.

Take advantage of these worship opportunities during the most sacred days of the church year.

			
Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
6 pm Services Pre-recorded			10 am Service In person
April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4

Outside “Easter Flowering Cross”



On Easter morning please bring any fresh cut spring flowers like daffodils, tulips etc. from your yard or the store to put on the flowering cross outside the church. The free standing seven foot cross is covered with chicken wire so you may place your flowers on it as you come in for Easter worship.

And please take a photo in front of it and post them to our Facebook page. We love to see your beautiful faces.

Prayer Time - The Power of Prayer!

Our Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 pm

Join by calling: 1-518-351-9735

For a 'Party Line' style phone call connecting us together in prayer (voices only no visual).

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 to add or update a prayer to the Prayer Page.

Prayer Chain:

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

For personal and/or confidential prayer chain requests, call Peggy at:

360-299-1184

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

LWR Knitting News - Linda Anderson

Next Meeting Date of the Knitting Group: To Be Determined

Who knows when we will be able to knit together again. WHO knows, but we don't know yet. Until then, our future knitting date will be:

To Be Determined.

I did get another Thrivent grant. I have lots of yarn. Please call me when you want to get yarn. Until then, please keep track of your sweater/hat counts.

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set. We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome. Teaching is available.

Our Spring/Fall count is:

Sweater/hat sets – 15

Hats – 1

Sweaters – 3

Thank you all. God's blessings to you.
Linda Anderson ~ 360 588-1730

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRIME TIMERS™

ZOOM "Together"

Wednesday, March 10 at NOON

I will email the invite at a later date.

IS IT SPRING YET?

So long - ice scrapers, shovels, scarves, mittens, hats, sniffles, and severe weather reports. The first day of spring officially begins on March 20th at 12:57 pm.

A few fun facts about spring:

- Benjamin Franklin was the first to propose daylight savings time in 1784.
- The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox.
- Spring flowers are crocus, daffodils, dandelions, lilies, tulips, iris, and lilacs.
- Baby birds learn to sing during spring. Although they are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the specific songs of their species.
- Arizona and Hawaii do not follow daylight savings.
- Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th – Spring ahead!

*Have a great month,
stay safe, and be happy.*



We look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

WELCA - Women of the ELCA

Our **Bible Study Circles** will not be meeting until COVID-19 is under control.

Starting our **Sewing Group** will be reevaluated and we will let everyone know when it is safe to start.

So very Thankful, incredibly Grateful, unbelievably Blessed

Thank you from the Heart

Heartfelt **"Thanks"** to our church family for the many cards, phone calls, and flowers we received after Jim's passing. I am comforted to know that so many people care. I also would like to thank the Prayer Group for the lovely flower arrangement. Megan Dumas did a wonderful job.

I put my trust in God that he will carry me through this difficult time.

Love,
Irene Parker + Family

The Anacortes Family Center

The Anacortes Family Center strives to improve our community by providing emergency shelter and intensive case management for women, children and families in crises.

Thank you, we are honored and grateful to receive your support.

Together we can provide women and families in crises a helping hand and a path toward self-sufficiency.

Dustin Johnson, Executive Director
2702 Commercial Ave, Anacortes
www.AnacortesFamily.org

Anacortes Young Life - You were made for this

Your support is so important to keeping Young Life reaching out to kids and I cannot thank you enough for your financial support. 2020 has looked a little different, but leaders are making the most of it to take the gospel to teens in our community.

Introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith.

With gratitude,
Jamie and Anacortes Young Life Committee
<https://anacortes.younglife.org/>

Thank you for ALL your help!

Thank you to Beth Benson, Paul & Julie Dusenbury for their assistance with assembling the many, many mailings we have had this past couple of months.

I greatly appreciate the help and company. My sanity thanks you too!

Hugs, Rachel

Helping Hands Food Bank

Your support made a huge difference in the lives of your neighbors in Skagit County. Helping hands never turned away those in need this year because of your partnership and generous donation.

Thank you for nourishing our community with respect, kindness and food, without judgement!

Helping Hands Food Bank
www.helpinghandsfoodbank.org/donate

Compass Housing Alliance

Compass Housing Alliance helps some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in our area. Your gift of support helps ensure that we are able to maintain the same level of care for our guests that we have provided over the last century.

We envision a world in which everyone lives in a safe and caring community.

Compass Housing Alliance
www.compasshousingalliance.org

El Camino De Emaus Lutheran Church

You and other people of God who pray and give to this ministry are cherished partners who enrich God's important work and mission at El Camino here in the Skagit valley.

Your gift gives God's grace a human face through El Camino de Emaus.

With a thankful heart,
Pastor Josh Stromberg-Wojcik
and the members of El Camino





Worship with us near & afar

In-person services will begin starting March 14th

Please pre-register by visiting the ALC website the Monday before service.

We will continue to Live Stream Worship Service - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>

March ~ Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel

	<i>Third</i> SUNDAY IN LENT	7	<i>Readings:</i> Exodus 20:1-17 / 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 19 <i>Gospel:</i> John 2:13-22	<i>Reader:</i> Eggleston Family
	<i>Fourth</i> SUNDAY IN LENT	14 In person	<i>Readings:</i> Numbers 21:4-9 / Ephesians 2:1-10 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 <i>Gospel:</i> John 3:14-21	<i>Reader:</i> Pestar Family
	<i>Fifth</i> SUNDAY IN LENT	21 In person	<i>Readings:</i> Jeremiah 31:31-34 / Hebrews 5:5-10 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 51:1-2 <i>Gospel:</i> John 12:20-33	<i>Reader:</i> John Parker
	PALM SUNDAY	28 In person	<i>Readings:</i> Isaiah 50:4-9 / Philippians 2:5-11 <i>Psalm:</i> Psalm 31:9-16 <i>Gospel:</i> Mark 14:1—15:47	<i>Reader:</i> Carol Olsen


Guidelines for in-person Worship:

- **Reservations** will be open each week starting the Monday prior to the service
- **Pre-Register** for Worship service on the ALC website using Eventbrite.
- For those without internet access call the office to reserve a spot
- **Enter & Exit** the church via the handicap ramp door entrance, "O" Avenue side.
- **Wear a mask** fully covering nose and mouth while on the property - at all times.
- **Sign In** for contact tracing & Hand sanitize upon entry
- **Maintain 6 ft spacing** at all times unless you are related.
- **Follow directions of ushers** for Entering, Seating and Exiting
- There will be **NO singing or bulletins**
- Please **No congregating in the Narthex** before or after services.

MARCH - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Marv Wold	15	De Wedell
2	David Brosten	17	Mia Kennedy
2	Chelsea Boespflug	17	Tegan Kerr
2	Kirsha Khile	17	Bonnie Kerschbaum
3	Robert Atterberry	18	Janey Dent
3	John Lowrie	18	Jacob Devine
3	Larry Nelson	18	Amelia Thomas
4	Marcia Berg	19	Malcolm McCutcheon
4	Elaine Olsen	21	Gunner Keller
4	Amber Writer	21	Rob Harstad
4	Brooke Writer	22	Rebecca Claus
5	Anita McCoy	26	Kyle Keer
6	Katherine Collins	26	Owen Ufkes
6	Dan Khile	27	Matthew Kennedy
7	Logan Hanrahan	27	Cami Mavar
10	Mia McCutcheon	27	Boyd Veer
10	Ruth McDonald	28	Chase Bondurant
10	Joseph Pestar	28	Grace Sullivan
10	Sophia Suiter	29	Natalie Brown
11	Knute Fosso	29	Kim Etlicher
12	Ross Atterberry	29	Anne Hofferth
12	Debra Benson	30	Jan Vigre
12	Judy Holmes	31	Samuel McFarlin
13	Gail Ebel-Higgins		
14	Ruben Anderson-Graves		

MARCH - Anniversaries!

8	Robert & Sharon Ohm
14	Malcolm & Susan McCutcheon
19	Joseph & Stacey Pestar  20 years
23	Barry & Brenda Harter

Baby Announcements

Matthew Louie Sullivan

Born: December 15, 2020

Parents: Michael & Janice Sullivan

Big sisters: Breauna & Grace



Havyn Rain Fosso

Born: February 4, 2021

Parents: Knute & Kait Fosso

Grand parents: Steve & Kori Fosso



February- Online Worship

www.anacorteslutheran.org/online-ministry

<u>Date</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Live Stream</u>
7	Scout Sunday	218
14	Transfiguration of our Lord	107
17	Ash Wednesday	78
21	1st Sunday of Lent	58
28	2nd Sunday of Lent	

ALC - ASH WEDNESDAY "Drive Through Imposition of Ashes" was a huge success

Thank you to the Pastors, Scouts, and all those involved behind the scenes that helped make this a huge success. We are incredibly grateful for you!



ALC Council Minutes – February 11, 2021

Attended Via Zoom: Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pastor Walt, Melanie Sahnnow, Jeaneen Brogan, Dave Bjornson, & Kendra Kennedy.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm and Dave said a prayer.

January 14th mtg notes approved as written.

Treasurers Report: Total year end member offering is \$303,648, averaging weekly \$5,841. Total Benevolence paid \$29,963. We ended the year with net income of \$6,408 that's a weekly average of \$5841. Accepted report as given.

Pastors Report: Pastor is busy working with Worship for the drive through Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday Feb 17th, Noon -1 and 5:30-6:30. Transition Team should complete the MSP for the Congregation to vote then hopefully hand off to the Call Committee. Stewardship Drive is in the works. Question asked, impressions of available people for a new Pastor? The PNW is a destination, our church being active and financially strong, Pastor thinks many people want to live here so should have a great pool of Pastor's for this area.

Presidents Report: Getting everything ironed out for the Annual meeting on the 21st, Kevin Kennedy has offered help. Everyone should be getting letters today for instructions for the meeting, if not call the church office.

Old Business: Reopening Committee is working hard to open the church soon, Skagit County moves into Phase Two on Monday, February 15th. Waiting for a recommendation from the Opening Committee to the Executive Board and then Council for vote. Scout Sunday was last Sunday and we had Scouts in the Sanctuary for the Church Service. Approval without actual count of kids. Council is requesting that we will have some volunteers at the Annual Meeting willing to give some of their time and talents to help the church by joining a Committee. Rachel has updated much of the member roster, confirmed over 230 members.

New Business: Council will present an agenda to the Congregation at the Annual meeting on February 21st at 1pm with several important items to vote on. The Annual mtg will be via Zoom and Zoom w/ phone. Must be a quorum and All must be able to hear and respond. Meeting may take a bit longer than normal so please be patient. Council has made a recommendation for the Call Committee to include Rexanne Graham, Kenny Holzemer, Janey Dent, Lois Cassidy, Melanie Sahnnow, Bob Ford, Roselyn Payne and Steve Anderson as alternate. **Motion** was made to bring the Call Committee recommendation to the Congregation for a vote, after discussion **MSP**. To bring to the Congregation, Slate of Officers, Constitution, budget, vote to approve and amend Pastor's salary, approve the amended budget.

Personnel Report: Pastor Deborah's contract is complete January thru June. Pastor Walt's is getting worked out. Working on the live stream team employee vs volunteer. Live stream job descriptions will be done soon. Be aware there is a cost for every special recording.

WELCA Report: No sewing yet, hoping for March, waiting for the church to open. Jeanette Christensen will take over as WELCA Council Chair.

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: No Report

Continued on next page...

Education: Hard at work on home Sunday School. They delivered 22 bags of fun study materials to kids homes last week with lots of happy kids. We are studying Books of the Bible and have been doing Zoom meetings. Plan on continuing this through February weekly then every other week in March. No in person till the Church opens.

Multimedia: Kendra reports that everything is going in the right direction. We purchased the Church Presenter Program to push media into power point. We have now used the whole budget and have everything we need, it's getting better every week.

Fellowship Report: No Report

Youth Report: No Report

Preschool Report: No Report

Stewardship Report: Pastor is handling Stewardship until Council Chair is found.

Worship Report: They are working arrangements for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Easter. Bill Gusa is now Committee Secretary. Hoping to do a drive by Pastor Deb Benson's house on Valentine's Day will be decided by the weather.

The next Council meeting is Thursday, March 11th at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Melanie shared the Lord's Prayer and closed at 8:10 pm

Blessings, Melanie

Bits and Pieces

- Do You Need to talk to the Pastors? Schedule an appointment by calling or emailing the office.
Pastor Walt Rice: walicoli@comcast.net / Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com
- Pastors Office hours: Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (by Appointment Only)
- Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Church Office email & phone #: 360-293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org
- "LIKE" our FaceBook & YouTube pages: Anacortes Lutheran Church
- Worship Services, Updates & News: Visit our website - www.anacorteslutheran.org
- Has your phone #, address & email changed? Are you receiving emails from church? 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.

Available for you in the basket 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.)

Bishops Message – *The Spirit* March 2021



This is a picture of a calendar I have on my desk. The date on it is, “March 10, 2020. Yes, I am not making a mistake, the year on this calendar is 2020.

Last year, when I turned the page on this calendar, I had no idea that this date would mark the last time I had a “normal” day in my office – with my staff and I talking, sitting at our desks, crowded together, laughing, doing business – not thinking at all of masks or physically distancing or washing hands (well, hopefully we were washing our hands!).

I have kept this calendar on March 10, 2020 as a snapshot of when life changed to a new reality. Like many of you, I never dreamed that one year later we would all be planning our second Easter of COVID or having second birthdays under these strange circumstances or still not knowing for sure when we might gather together safely.

I did not anticipate the suffering so many people have undergone. The hundreds of thousands of people who have died. So many who are still suffering from the ravages of COVID. The impact of this virus has been brutal for millions of people.

While I consider myself a patient person, truth be told, I am becoming impatient. I am ready to be done with this pandemic. I am ready for the pain and anxiety of this disease to be over. I am ready for the loss of life and health of so many to stop. I am ready for this underlying feeling of anxiety and fear to end. And you? My guess is you are feeling some of the same things.

But, as we hear in many of the psalms, we don’t stop at despair. As people who believe in resurrection, we don’t stop at death. In this Lenten season as we move towards Easter, we proclaim that we are a people of hope, too. As I read in my devotions this morning from Psalm 147: “The Lord heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.” Through community with one another, through helping those who are marginalized, through coming together in prayer and song and worship, we are healing the brokenhearted and binding up wounds.

So, let me ask you, even as we wait, what are you looking forward to? Truly, what is bringing you hope right now? What are some things that you have learned and discovered during this pandemic that you want to take forward? We know that God works through all things – how do you see God working in your life and in the life of this nation and world?

I would love to hear from you where you see God’s Holy Spirit – in your congregation, in your home, in your workplace, in the world. Where are you finding hope? Where are you finding resurrection joy? You are welcome to email me at bishop@lutheransnw.org. I would love to hear from you.

In this Lenten season (a season that sometimes feels like it began last March and is still happening) we trust that we are walking the way of the Lord. God’s hand is guiding us. God’s love is surrounding us. And God brings us hope.

May you feel God’s grace through Jesus in these days. And may we soon gather in-person again. Stay safe. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Get a vaccine when you are eligible. And know that we are church together, even when we are physically separated.

In the Hope of Christ,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee