

Anacortes Lutheran Church

An illustration of rolling hills in shades of green and pink. The hills are decorated with white daisies, small green stars, and several carrots with green tops. In the center of the lower pink hill, there is a large, golden Easter egg with intricate patterns. Other smaller, colorful Easter eggs are scattered across the landscape. The sky is a light blue with soft, white clouds.

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

APRIL 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Jesus is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

We have made our way through the season of Lent and now are entering one of the most holy times in the Church year – Holy Week. It is a time that begins in celebration, turns to suffering and death, and then returns to celebration as the tomb is found empty. It is a week of new followers, old friends, new friends, and friends that break trust in betrayal and abandonment. A week where we see what happens in speaking out against the establishment, even when it has become something that lives for its own survival instead of lifting up those for whom it is responsible.

And now we enter into the season of Easter, yes, the season. A season 50 days long where we see the power that has been unleashed in the world through the resurrection. A time when the rules that we thought we knew become opportunities to see the world in a new way. Even the certainty of death has been called into question. What does it mean for us to live in this new world of resurrection?

It calls us to live as a community centered in Christ. It calls us to live as a community that gathers to bless the world. It calls us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the places where we are. It calls us to love, to live with grace, to live in hope. It calls us...

We often talk about “call” when we think about pastors or deacons. We hear talk about “the call to ministry” and we think that it is not something that is a reality in our lives outside the church. The truth is that we are all called. We are called into a life of service in the waters of Baptism. We are called to be a blessing to the world. We are called into relationship with those around us that we might share the gift of God’s love. We are called to express the power of the Resurrection in our world as it struggles.

Where are you being ‘called’ in your life today? Who is God putting on your heart that needs to hear from you today? What change can happen today that glorifies God tomorrow? How can you live a life of resurrection where all things are possible?

Living the Resurrection,

Pastor Scott

Church Council Minutes from March 12, 2026

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Bruce Rolfe, Pat Carrie Smith, Rosemary Walter, Claude Woodall

The meeting was called to order and Bill opened with prayer.

February minutes were approved as amended.

Ginny Connelly presented a need by the Ott family who has a need for bed and bath renovations for their son Wyatt. They have a \$20,000 gift from the Hendricks Family Foundation as well as other gifts of time and fixtures. Lane made a motion to sponsor a community fundraiser for Wyatt. Motion was seconded and passed. The council agreed that the ALC Facility could be used on March 22 with a zero dollar "donation", Ginny will organize and run this Spaghetti Feed fundraiser.

Treasurer's Report: After 10 weeks of giving in 2026 the average weekly offerings have been about \$6900 per week, the budgeted amount is \$7200 so offerings are short about \$300 per week. Lane stated that a synod grant for \$500 was received, Pastor said that was for Mission in Ministry for youth programming that was applied for last year. On 2/22 ALC received an estate dividend from the Heron trust for \$11,693 from oil wells. The Finance committee will decide where to put this money and choose whether to take an annual amount or receive smaller amounts throughout the year.

Finance/Stewardship: Bill reports that there will be no finance committee meeting in March. He has continued to lead efforts to clean out the Archive room with the help of others. There is still more papers to review as well as bringing down the heavy fireproof safe to put in the conference room for use. The cabinets and walls are being refreshed. The floor will need replacing in this room as well as on the stairs once the other work is completed. Steve volunteered to purchase the needed 2 terabyte backup hard drive - to be stored in the fireproof safe.

Youth & Education: Rosemary reports there are very few kids in Sunday School. John Parker has been bringing his guitar and singing with the kids - with hopes to sing for the church some Sunday. Rosemary will contact Stacey to keep up with the Youth Mission Trip plans.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. VBS is being led by Rachel Long and will likely be a daytime program, 9am-12 August 10-12 or maybe 10-13. Two of the churches who usually hold a VBS are not this year so maybe a few volunteers and some kids could come from those churches to our VBS.

Bill made a motion to gift Easter offerings to Lutherwood and to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Motion passed with 1 opposed.

Properties: Steve has been Properties Manager for 2 years and would like someone to replace him. He is willing to stay in the interim until someone steps forward. It will not be assumed that any handyman work that is needed to be done will be his responsibility - he will do what work he chooses to do, otherwise someone else needs to fill in for handyman work.

Worship: A written report was submitted. Stacey will get the piñata for the kids on Easter and Lane will make a request for donations for the eggs and candy on Sunday.

Preschool: Registration is open for next year with a slight increase in tuition, approximately \$25 per month. Maggie continues to work with the state on reviewing plans for a daycare - a list of what will be inspected would be helpful to Steve and Don in case there is something to fix before being inspected.

WELCA: There is a WELCA gathering on Tuesday to present a donation to Family Promise of Skagit County.

New Business:

- Lane made a motion to offer any ALC member 50% of the cost to a Lutherwood event, this was seconded and motion passed.
- Reminder that last year we voted to increase the scholarship fund this year to \$2500 per graduate as they pursue further training/education for their future.
- The Estate of Connie Bliss donated stock that is being held by Schwab. Don made a motion to open a non-profit Schwab account for ALC with Don and Lane's names on it. This was seconded and motion passed. John Parker and Don will consider an outline as to what to do with a stock that will be put up for approval to council at a later date.
- Don is in process of opening a WaFd Safe Deposit Box to hold all church owned deeds. The rental payment will come out of the checking account once a year.

- Currently there is not an Egress Plan in place for ALC in an emergency. In April Don will come with paperwork and will hold a fire drill on a dry Sunday later this spring. The Ushers and Pastor will have responsibilities to learn about in case of an emergency.
- New Council Members are needed! Please talk to a council member or Pastor if you are interested. Three positions will be open for a vote at the June congregational meeting.

Additional Items:

Lane made a motion to strive to give 5% of extra gifts that we receive (example from an estate), this was seconded and motion passed. Don will ask the congregation for input as to where we might give this in 2026 with recent large gifts, after collecting ideas this may be voted on at the congregational meeting.

Bill made a motion to purchase a T-Coil Replacement for \$3000, this was seconded and motion passed. (The current system is not reliably working).

There is a Youth meeting next Tuesday. Rosemary will ask if anyone is interested in prepping the cinnamon rolls this year for Easter morning.

Claude made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our next regular council meeting will be held April 9 at 4:00 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than morning, April 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary

Easter Flower Cross
 All are invited to bring some cut flowers from your gardens, the store or wherever on Easter Sunday, April 5th, to place onto the outside Easter Flower Cross. We should have plenty of flowers by then and don’t forget that after service it is a wonderful place to have family Easter photos taken! If you would like your photo shared to the church’s Facebook page, please send them to the church office – info@anacorteslutheranchurch.org Thank you! There will be some flowers available in a bucket next to the cross in case you don’t have any or forget yours from home! Feel free to add those to the cross!

Beautiful Music Thank You!
 Thank you to all who sang, played and worked during this Lent/Easter Season. God has Blessed our church with so much, including wonderful musicians! May our music continue to be a Blessing and a vehicle of prayer and praise to our Lord!
 Laurie

PRAY FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

<p><i>President:</i> Don Devine <i>Vice-President:</i> Bill LeDuc <i>Secretary:</i> Julie Jacobson <i>Treasurer:</i> Lane Phelan <i>Stewardship:</i> Bill LeDuc <i>Outreach:</i> Julie Jacobson <i>Personnel:</i> Jeaneen Brogan <i>Josephine Delegates:</i> Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo <i>Finance:</i> Lane Phelan, Bill LeDuc, Linda Millo <i>Finance Secretary:</i> Linda Millo <i>Camp Lutherwood Rep:</i> Kenny Holzemer</p>	<p><i>Fellowship :</i> <i>Education:</i> Rosemary Walter <i>Youth:</i> Rosemary Walter <i>Preschool:</i> Lane Phelan <i>Properties:</i> Steve Anderson <i>Worship:</i> Pat Carrie Smith <i>WELCA :</i> Lane Phelan <i>Legacy Endowment:</i> Wayne Olsen, Rod Odegaard, Julie Jacobson <i>Synod Assy Delegates:</i> Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy, Linda Millo</p>
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SEWING NEWS:

First, a big thank you to the Legacy Committee. Sewing submitted a request for funds to purchase a fabric cutting machine. This request was granted and we have our machine (AccuQuilt GoBig). We also received a donation to purchase the first two cutting dies for the machine and have been putting these tools to good use.

The first three months of the year we concentrated on collecting items for Personal Care kits. Thank you to everyone who donated items and got Thrivent grants which they put toward supplies for these kits.

Now our emphasis shifts. During April and May we will be asking you to donate supplies for Baby Care Kits. There has been a change in what these kits contain. The biggest change is we must send new items, not gently used. Items include the following:

- Two light weight cotton tee shirts (no Onseies)
- Two long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet
- Two receiving blanket
- Four cloth diapers
- One jacket, sweater or sweat shirt and hat
- Two new pairs of socks
- One cotton or cotton blend hand towel, dark color
- Two bath-size bars of soap (Dove preferred)
- Two diaper pins

We are making receiving blankets, gowns, diapers and the knitting group is making all the sweaters we can use. We need New socks, tee shirts, sleepers, hand towels and bath soap. There is a box in the narthex for your donations. Enjoy shopping and thank you.

ALG SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY
PRIME TIMERS — Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

A special thank you to Rachel Devine and Jeanette Christensen for hosting Bingo in the Morning and to Don Devine for supplying the donuts.

Upcoming quarterly events

June 12, Friday, at 11:00 a.m. – Out to Lunch (need host)

September 11 or 12 - Day Outing planned by Paul and Julie

December 11, Friday – Get-Together in the Fellowship Hall (need host)

If you are interested in hosting an event or have an idea for the day outing; please call, text, or email Julie.

Have a super spring, stay safe, and be happy.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



Properties

Three windows have been replaced in the Church. Guess where?

Steve Anderson - Properties

From the Treasurer...

Member offering for the first 10 weeks of 2026 is \$69,294. To meet budget is \$72,111. That is a deficit of \$2,821 or \$282 per week.

JUNE ELECTIONS WILL NEED A NEW TREASURER

I have served over 5 years. There is lots of help with treasurer's job.

My job is preparing a packet every two weeks of vouchers with checks to be paid and entries for auto withdrawals. We have a volunteer member who makes entries and checks into quickbooks. Then I make sure to sign checks, mail out and file papers. We have a bookkeeper that rectifies our quickbooks monthly. I will happily walk beside anyone who wishes to jump in.

Blessings, Lane Phelan

Dates to Celebrate in April

Birthdays

01	Paul Krasnowski	18	Inez Pedersen
03	Isabelle Thomas	19	Agnes Wicknick
08	Klaus Schoebel	20	Malena Baker
08	Lucy Sturgul	20	Diane Berglund
11	Rexanne Graham	22	Dave Verrall
13	Steve Anderson	24	Payton Bush
13	Treva King	24	Dorothy Engom
13	Kevin Kennedy	25	Mahayla Thomas
13	Kathy Khile	26	Rachel Franulovich
18	Harlan Eggleston	27	Lauren Long

Anniversaries

02	Dave & Peggy White
06	Robert & Lorna Higgins
09	Dan & Kathy Khile
20	Tim & Anne Hofferth
24	Chris & Rachel Hofferth
27	Bob & Anne Barry
27	Tom & Yvonne Paul

Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Feb 22	1st Sunday in Lent	94	6	31
Feb 25	Lent Supper	42	0	0
Mar 1	Praise & Family Sunday	74	8	32
Mar 4	Lent Supper	41	0	0
Mar 8	3rd Sunday in Lent	78	2	33
Mar 11	Lent Supper	40	0	0
Mar 15	4th Sunday in Lent	96	7	34
Mar 18	Lent Supper	25	0	0
Mar 22	5th Sunday in Lent	82	2	**
Mar 25	Lent Supper	45	0	0
Mar 29	Palm Sunday	**	**	**

** Not available at time of printing



To My Church Family-

I want to thank all of you for the beautiful card. I have gotten a lot of hugs with the loss of Clarence. Wonderful God is good. Again, thank you all.

Love,

Your sister in Christ, Julia Rogers



From the Bishop:

April 2026

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1

When I ask people how they are, so often they say, “Well, I’m doing ok considering ...” Sometimes they confess to me that the world just feels so dark right now.

And I get it – I can feel this way, too. Sometimes it does seem the shadows are gathering around us and just getting scarier and more menacing and it is hard to see a path forward.

But then I am reminded of the gift of darkness.

Recently I read Conor Knighton’s book *Leave Only Footprints* where he talks about visiting all the national parks in a year. One of the most captivating chapters was about national parks that have been certified as Dark Sky Places. He describes areas where light pollution is carefully limited so people can experience the night sky as humans did for most of history. Standing in one of these places, the sky can be overwhelming. Stars multiply as your eyes adjust. Constellations sharpen. The universe stretches above you in breathtaking clarity. Conor says that what surprises many visitors is this: the darkness does not feel frightening. It feels beautiful. Everyone is standing shoulder to shoulder – strangers to one another in the daylight – but at night, all eyes are lifted to the heavens in wonder experiencing something extraordinary.

In these particular times that we are living in, this brings me hope. For in the light of day war is happening and people are dying and there is shouting on all sides and beliefs seem intransigent and we experience and participate in the hatred and greed and selfishness and bigotry that is everywhere around us. We see our enemy. We identify our enemy. We classify our enemy. The light shines harshly.

But in the darkness of night, we gather together. In the darkness of night, we huddle close. In the darkness of night, we sigh with wonder at the beauty and majesty of the heavens. In the darkness of night, we no longer can tell who our enemy is. And, while this could be scary, this is also liberating. For we remember the beginning of the story of God and creation – that for God darkness is not chaos beyond God’s reach – it is the very place where God begins midwifing new hope, new promise, new life – in spite of what happens in the light of day.

We experience this promise in the Easter story. (Let me remind you, the resurrection did not occur at sunrise even though many of us have attended a lot of sunrise services!). For even as Mary Magdalene started hurrying towards the tomb before dawn, the resurrection had miraculously already happened. The tomb was already empty. Jesus Christ was alive! For as we read in scripture, life was rising before the dawn. This is the strange and beautiful truth at the heart of our faith - and truly at the heart of the gospel. The power of death was broken even before the sun began to shine.

This is the hope of Easter. Even when the world feels uncertain, even when grief and fear weigh heavily on our hearts, even when the shadows fall, God is at work beneath the surface of things. Life is stirring. Hope is rising.

Go find a place of darkness. And there you will see God.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org



April



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	2 Maundy Thursday Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a <u>EXECUTIVE BOARD</u> 4:00p Maundy Thursday Service 7:00p at ALC	3 Good Friday Good Friday Service 5:00 & 7:00 pm at ALC	4 Krippner Memorial 3:00p
5 Easter Sunday WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	6 O.A. 10:00a	7 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	8 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP Comm 11:00a A-Town Clergy/Mtg 12:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	9 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHURCH COUNCIL 4:00p	10	11 Krippner Memorial 3:00p
			1 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	2 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	3 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	4
12 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	13 O.A. 10:00a LWFR knitting 1:00p	14 <u>WOMEN'S BIBLE</u> 10:00a <u>WOMEN'S BIBLE</u> 3:30p SCOUT G & B 7:00p	15 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	16 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a	17	18
19 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	20 O.A. 10:00a	21 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G Leader 6:00p YOUTH Comm 6:30p SCOUT G & B 7:00p	22 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Liturgical Arts 11:00a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	23 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	24	25
	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE					
26 2nd Easter Sunday EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	27 O.A. 10:00a ALTA R Guild 11:00a	28 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	29 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	30		