

Together in Lent



LENTEN THEME

Jesus in the Marketplace

Lent is a 40 day journey with Jesus to the Cross of Calvary. It is a time for renewing our faith and growing in the practices of discipleship.

Our Lenten theme is "Jesus in the Marketplace." It is inspired by Jesus' Good Friday walk through the streets of Jerusalem on his way to the cross.

Years ago, I had the incredible opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel. Walking the streets of Jerusalem left an indelible imprint on me.

As we entered the city gate to walk the Via del a Rosa (The way of the cross) which Jesus had walked the day of his trial and crucifixion, I really expected to be transported back in time.

I had been to Disneyland, another pilgrimage place, a city onto itself. So I expected the same. A re-enactment of ancient Israel. Long robes, headdress, sandals, a man with a cross. You know the picture.

Instead, we entered a marketplace no different than walking through Pike Place market or the Anacortes' Farmer's market.

There were vendors selling produce, flowers, luggage and jewelry. There was even a butcher with a live chicken. That I remember distinctly. They barely noticed us except as potential customers. It was just another work day in the marketplace and not a hint of Jesus permeated the street.

Where was the reverence? Where was Jesus, the Savior of the World, who walked this street? These were the streets of Jerusalem. The city set on a hill. This was a holy place. Did it matter so little that we had come so far to experience Jesus' final hours? I had come to be transported back in time and to walk the city streets Jesus walked.

That contrast between the expected and the experienced has never left me. I came expecting a holy place. Instead, what I saw was a marketplace.

The truth is, what I experienced on my walk through the Jerusalem streets came closer to the experience of Jesus' last day than I could have ever realized.

Two thousand years ago, the marketplace never shut down. People then and now didn't have that luxury.

As Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem, before and after his trial before Pilot, there were no play actors, only real people: Marketplace people going about their daily routine of buying, and selling, policing the streets, exchanging money, and carrying out their trade. Real people trying to make a real living to feed their families and care for their city and neighbors.

So when Jesus of Nazareth, whose fame had spread throughout the Galilee and even to Jerusalem was arrested and brought before Pilot, it was just another day. They were used to criminals parading through the streets. They had heard of promised messiahs.

Continued on page #2

In the midst of their work some noticed. Some had heard about Jesus of Nazareth. Some who had followed him wept. One named Joseph of Aramethea offered to carry his cross.

Others kept on working. There were still meals to be prepared, goods to be sold and chickens to be butchered. Just another day in the market place. Or was it? Had Jesus come to make the marketplace a holy place?

I find it extremely engaging to think that Jesus walked through the midst of the marketplace looking at each person with the eyes of a Savior, knowing it was for the ordinary everyday people of the world that he would give his life. I think this has profound implications for our lives as his disciples, called to bring Jesus wherever we go.

Five Lenten Marketplace Speakers

This Lent I have invited five people who work in our community to come and share with us, their faith story and encounters with Jesus in the marketplaces of their everyday lives.

Each Wednesday after our five Soup Suppers, we will share in Holden Evening Prayer and hear their story from the marketplace.

Bringing Jesus into the Marketplace

This Lent I invite you to consider the people you encounter in the Marketplace. How might you bring Jesus to the people you encounter? How might you better treat people who work in the places where you shop, eat and go about your daily business. How might you get to know them and encourage them in their daily work?

As I thought about this theme for our Lenten journey together, I decided to put it into practice. I have made a special point to visit the local businesses around town.

I have found myself taking the time to talk with people and to delight in their stories. There are amazing people in our town who go to work each and everyday so that you and I might enjoy the basics of life.

Many in our congregation work in business. I encourage you to support them. It is more than keeping your dollars local.

It is believing and living into Jesus' call to follow him, right through the market-place.

This Lent I invite you to get to know the many people up and down Commercial Avenue and sprinkled throughout the community who work to provide the things we need in daily life.

Try a store or a new restaurant that you have never been to and get to know the people who own them or work there.

May you enjoy a wonderful Lent as you daily experience the joy of bringing Jesus with you into the Marketplace.

Peace be with you - Pastor Debra Benson



ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS of Giving

Anacortes Lutheran is joining the ELCA

Lenten Emphasis

For World Hunger

40 Days of Giving

Each Person is encouraged to set aside Something each day to help with World Hunger.

This Lent—what can you give up to help alleviate hunger in the world? Calendars to help your 40 days of giving journey are available at the welcome desk.

*Our Soup Supper free-will offerings will go to World Hunger.

*Each Sunday at the Children's Sermon we will take a noisy offering for World Hunger.



THE SEASON OF LENT



Theme: Jesus in the Marketplace

ASH WEDNESDAY ~ March 6th

Worship with Imposition of Ashes

Noon & 6:30pm

Pancake Dinner at 5:30pm

Prepared & Served by 7-12 Graders & Parents
Fundraiser for "Holden Village" May Youth Weekend

Lenten Soup Suppers

Every Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday, March 6

Pancakes, Strawberries, Ham

Church Group: 7th - 12 Grade Youth & Parents

Lent 1

Wednesday, March 13

Church Group : WELCA

Coordinator: Faith Legan 360-391-4121

Lent 2

Wednesday, March 20

Church Group: CUB SCOUTS

Coordinator: Ginny Connelly

Lent 3

Wednesday, March 27

Church Group : USHERS

Coordinator: Diane Gusa

Lent 4

Wednesday, April 3

Church Group : The CONGREGATION

Coordinator: Kathy Khile 360-708-4093

Lent 5

Wednesday, April 10

Church Group: The PRE-SCHOOL

Coordinator: Maggie Santos 425-246-3084

Lenten Evening Worship

Every Wednesday 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

Guest Speakers who will share their faith story and experience of "Jesus in the Marketplace."

Choir Practice and Confirmation Class

Each week following Lenten Services.

7th - 12th Grade Youth

We will gather after worship to meet the evening speaker each Wednesday from 7:00—7:30 pm. Meet in Conference Room across from office. All Parents are encouraged to join us too.

40 Day Lenten Devotional Booklets

Free for everyone. They include a daily devotion, bible verse, and space for journaling. Each includes a bookmark and nail to remind us of Jesus' death on a cross. Pick yours up to use from March 6- April 21.

Simple Soup Suppers

Fellowship gift we share with one another. A simple meal of soup and bread. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact a coordinator if you would like to offer a pot of soup on night.

Free Will Offering

The free will offerings at the Pancake Dinner will go to send our Sr. High youth to the Holden Village May Youth Weekend. The five Lenten soup supper free-will offerings will go to support the special Lenten "ELCA World Hunger" 40 days of Giving.

ANACORTES LUTHERAN "CUB" SCOUT TROOP

Every Tuesday night we are 35 Cub Scouts Strong!
Thanks to all our Scouts for helping with worship on Scout Sunday.
New Scouts and Families always welcome.
Thanks to all our amazing parent leaders!



ANACORTES LUTHERAN BOY SCOUT TROOP 4084 - UPDATE

Boy Scout Troop 4084 has been busy. We've worked at the Winter Wonderland, learned to construct their own camp kitchen boxes (with thanks to North Harbor Diesel for a safe work environment and use of tools), exploring mathematics, and learning Backgammon.

In December, lead by Jacob Fry, the Troop assembled 40 "stockings", 18 movie night / treat boxes, with hand crafted luxury bath items, and specialty sweets n treats for 18 families at the Anacortes Family Center. He even personally shopped for an individual gift for every child at the center. It was very important to Jacob and our Scouts, that these families enjoyed a little extra Christmas joy.

We'd like to Introduce you to Jacob. He has been in Scouting here at Anacortes Lutheran since his Wolf (Cub Scout) year; second grade. He's a First Class Scout, getting ready to earn his Star rank any time now. He's really looking forward to the Troop's summer camp, Camp Easton in Coeur d'Alene Idaho!

The Scouts have been very interested in getting to know the members of the church. They're really enjoying events such as Scout Sunday. Feel free to say hi!, and to ask them about their outings and on goings as Scouts.

With the upcoming warmer weather, we have so many exciting adventures planned, and are working on so many ways to help our community. We couldn't do any of it without the support we've received from Anacortes Lutheran Church, and are proud, and thankful, to be here.



From your Treasurer.....

We have started a new fiscal year as of February 1, and we have now adopted a 2019 -2020 budget at our annual meeting that is designed to support an additional ordained youth pastor.

We have shown a slow start to giving primarily from a couple of cold snowy Sundays. Our new budget sets our **weekly needed offerings at \$8,200.**

Information will be coming your way over the next few weeks. Not all members were at the annual meeting. **Our new budget means that we need all 198 giving units to prayerfully consider an increase this year from 10 to 20% giving.**

That means for every \$100 given you would give \$110 to \$120 instead.

We know budgeting is difficult. One member shared at the meeting they would be willing to give up one dinner out per month to support our new ministry.

I shared at a temple talk that our council is excited that the congregation vote was a vision to have our church family look significantly different by the end of the year. Comfort is hard to leave behind. This is a challenge and we all need to work together to meet it.

We need commitments and giving to begin right away even if our new ordained minister does not show up for months. We will not be able to catch up if you wait until our position is filled. Our budget is a 12 month plan.

Thank you for the blessings each and every one of you bring to the congregational family.

Lane Phelan

Meet our new Financial Secretary



We welcome Linda Milo who has been approved by the Church Council to serve as our new financial secretary. She lives in Anacortes with her Son & daughter-in-law and helps care for their four children. She served as the church secretary for a number of years at First Lutheran Church in Richmond Beach WA, and has a background as a paralegal among many other skills and interests. She is responsible for the Sunday Counters, Recording our Offerings, Providing statements of Giving, and Offering Envelopes. Please contact her if you have any questions about receiving a record of your gifts to the church.

Directories are available!

Please be sure to pick up your complimentary copy of the 2019 Church Directory. They are available at the Welcome Desk or by the church office.

The directory is available in a digital format for smartphones. We are currently setting up the program and will put instructions in the weekly bulletin on how to access the program using the APP and a password. Stay tuned for instructions.

Devotional Prayer Journals Available

Pick up yours at the Welcome Desk, all courtesy of a Thrivent grant.

Starting with Ash Wednesday, each daily devotion includes a space for journaling opportunities to bring focus, organization and clarity to your thoughts.

God's Spirit brings us to faith and gives us the strength to live each day as people of God.

Apply God's Word as you reflect upon what Jesus' sacrificed for you here and now.

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY
PRIME TIMERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 - MOVIE NIGHT ~ 6:30 pm
 "I Can Only Imagine" in conference room #3

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 - BRUNCH ~ 10:00 am
 "Kids, Kits, Kittens" in Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - TOMCO Marine Group and American Tugs Tour plus Lunch in La Conner
 Meet in Conference Room #1 at 9:15 am

Please contact Paul or Julie if you are interested in the overnight retreat to Holden Village in May. Reservation need to be finalized immediately.

Sign up sheets are available at the Welcome Desk.

<p>PROPERTY WORK DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 2 9:00 AM ALC</p>	
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"THANK YOU" Property Work Team

I would like to thank the following individuals for their donation of time to maintain and care for our Church:

Tom and Pat Carrie Smith, Phil Case, Steve Anderson, Chuck Landgraf, Lane Phelan and Eric Moe. Thank You Bev for the delicious "sticky" buns.

- Installed two sheets of peg-board in the Sound Room for Jim Carver to hang sound cables and equipment on. Thank You, Eric Moe for providing hangers for Jim.
- Phil Case painted around one of the new Exit signs to finish up the installation.
- Policed the outside of the church and swept the stairs and sidewalks.
- Checked the "feet and saddles" on the chairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You for always being willing to give of your time and talents to keep Our Church looking Good.

Legacy Endowment has provided funds to reach and replace the Sanctuary fans. We will see if this can be accomplished during the next several weeks.

If you would like to take on the responsibility of a front flower bed, please let me know... Les.

F.A.S.T. Team #1 ~ APRIL

Linda Braski	Chuck & Bev Landgraf
Jean Brown	Nancy & Jim Loftis
DeAnna Claus	Enid Oates
Matt & Ginny Connelly	Patti Carrie Smith
David & Karen Elling	Scott Soes
Hoagy Kerr	Mark Tanis
Bonnie & Matt Kerschbaum	Win Thompson

Please, sign-up at the Welcome desk for when you are able to serve in APRIL

F.A.S.T. #1 Leader: Kathy Khile
 360-708-4093 / gallery@scottmilo.com

What are FAST Teams & how can I join?

FAST Teams always need more members!

We have sign up sheets at the Welcome Desk.

Please pick up a form and put it in the offering plate or give it to the church office if you would like to help on a team.

We have 5 teams that rotate monthly throughout the year to provide necessary volunteers for each church service. We provide greeters, readers, communion hosts, kitchen hosts and treats each week. It takes about 20 people per week to fill all the jobs and we are always in need of help. Please volunteer!

If you have any questions, call Kathy Khile at 360-708-4093.

USHERS ~ APRIL Schedule

7	9:00 am - Dan Khile & Bud Rock
	10:30 am - Paul & Julie Dusenbury
14	9:00 am - Tim Hofferth & Paul Phelan
	10:30 am - Les & Carol Olsen
21	9:00 am - Win Thompson & Chuck Landgraf
	10:30 am - Bill & Diane Gusa
28	9:00 am - Boyd Veer & Larry Thomas
	10:30 am - John & Kathryn Parker

MEN'S MONDAY Bible Studies

MONDAY Evenings - 5 pm
In Conference room #3
Led by: Hoagy Kerr

MEN'S THURSDAY Bible Studies

THURSDAY Mornings - 7 am
In Conference Room #1
Led by: Boyd Veer

THURSDAY Bible Study

THURSDAY - 12 Noon (For Men & Women)
In Conference Room #1
Led by: Pastor Benson

MOM'S Bible Study

The second & fourth Thursdays in the month

March 14th & 28th

9:30 am - 11:00 am

In Conference room #3

Bible Study: "Finding I Am" By Lysa TerKeurst

Leader: Heather Harrington

MOPS-Mothers of Preschoolers

On the First & Third Thursdays in the month

March 7th & 21st / April 4th & 18th

9:30 am - 11:00 am

In Conference room #3

Theme: Find Your Fire.

Leaders: Erin Kohlhaas, Jenessa Eelkema
and Challon Walker

Childcare is provided for both MOM's bible study & MOPS group. If you feel called to help with childcare, please sign up at the Welcome desk or call the church office 360-293-9586

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

Tuesday, March 12

Hannah Circle - 10 am

Location: Conference room #3

Bible Study: Diana Lindsay

Hostesses: Norma Knutsen & Jenny Remmerden

Ruth Circle - 10 am

Location:

Leader

Hostess:

Anna Circle - 6:30 pm

Location: Conference room #3

Bible Study: Nancy Loftis

Hostess: Nancy Loftis

ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOU!

What we do:

Prepare the altar area for worship services.

1. Set up for communion,
2. make sure the candles are filled with oil
3. change the banners and paraments according to the season.

ALTAR GUILD IS OPEN TO ANYONE,
GUYS THAT MEANS YOU TOO!

We meet once a month and would love to have you join us.

Next ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Monday, March 25 10:30 am

in conference room #3

Questions? Call Caroline Spehar 360-299-4368

Thank you Newsletter Work-Party

Each and every month, a Work "Party" is held to get our church newsletter collated, folded, labeled, and ready for mailing.

Many, many thanks to this very faithful and extremely efficient group of ladies:

You are appreciated more than you know,
Rachel

Julie Dusenbury
Renie Hofferth
Judy Holmes
Vera Jones
Lorraine Kelly
Paula Olson
Patty Pettersen



Thank You

SEWING NEWS - Faith Legan & Julia Rogers

We are Servants of the Lord doing His work~

We want to Thank everyone for all of your support for sewing. We couldn't send as much as we do without you.

Keep us in mind we are in need of :

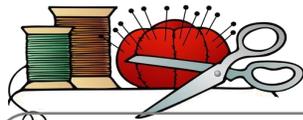
- * BAR SOAP - Lever 2000, Dial, Ivory and Dove
- * HAND & BATH TOWELS - New or slightly used
Dark colors (NO white)
- * TOOTBRUSHES
- * FLANNEL - for diapers and receiving blankets
(Flannel sheets are good)
- * BABY SOCKS - little & larger

Our sewing ladies gave :

10 QUILTS to the Anacortes family Shelter
 10 BABY QUILTS to the "Early Learning Program"
 in the school district.

They were very happy to receive them.

Thank you, Faith & Julia



MARCH SEWING DAYS
 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Tuesdays
 5th, 19th & 26th

PRAYER Team

Tuesdays 1:00 pm in the "Library Prayer Chapel".

If you have a prayer request or an update for the "Prayer List" please call the church office.



If you wish to join the Prayer Team call;
 Goodie Lorentzen 360-293-3669 or
 Peggy White 360-299-1184

Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

Monday, March 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm
In church conference room #1

Our SPRING shipment GOAL is:

- Hats 50-75
- Sweaters 50-75
- Sweater/hat sets 60-100

We have COMPLETED:

- 12 - Hats
- 0 - Sweaters
- 37- Sweater/hat sets.



Our church usually ships 100-150 layette sets, each 6 month period. One sweater/hat set goes in each layette. Beginners are welcome & Teaching is always available. We use a fun, one piece sweater pattern.

I Hope to see you all **MARCH 18 1pm**
 ~Linda Anderson, 360-588-1730



*NO WELCA Board or
 General meeting in MARCH

DIAPER DRIVE Ends MARCH 3

**Any Package Size of
 Disposable Diapers in Sizes 3, 4, 5**

Drop off in the Narthex or
 Bob's Chowder House
 Diaper wipes may be left also.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Do You know what?

The Winter Carnival on the 24th of February was a really great time! We had all sorts of fun things for people to do. There was sand bag horseshoes (corn-hole), cookie decorating (and eating), fishing for prizes, ring toss, football toss and many more.

The highlight was a tossup between the huge Jenga set and the cake walk. Everyone in the whole room knew when someone goofed with the Jenga blocks. The crash sounded like a real building coming down. The cake walk, on the other hand, was a lot of fun because everyone came away with a wonderful baked prize. Unfortunately, there were two winners who had to settle for baked goods (bads?) that the director offered. I don't think they will be fatal.

Anyway, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Special thanks go out to Heather Harrington, Paula Olson, Brian Bakke and Stacey Pestar for all their help in organizing the event. We also want to express our appreciation to the youth group that helped run the events and helped with clean up.

Thank you also to our congregation for continuing to support our Children's Ministries.



Grow as a Family.....

Bring you family to the Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer. A wonderful family tradition of eating & gathering and building special relationships with Christ and his church.

Coming Events:

Ash Wednesday: March 6th

Lenten Soup Suppers: 5:30 pm

The Children's Ministry will be providing crafts for the children at the soup suppers that will begin on the following Wednesday and run the next 5 weeks. Following the soup suppers there will be the Holden Service in the Sanctuary. We will have the crafts available throughout the evening's activities.

Palm Sunday: April 14th

The children will be participating in the Palm Sunday procession at the beginning of each service. There will be Sunday school.

Easter: April 21st

We will, once again, be having our Easter Piñata and an Easter egg hunt for the children between services. There will be **no** Sunday school on Easter Sunday.

Thank you all for your continued support of our Children's ministry.

Dave White / Children's Ministry



3rd Grade Bibles being put to use during Sunday school.

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP ASSISTANTS

F.A.S.T. Leader #5 Kathryn Parker 360-420-4940 / kmpbozeman@yahoo.com
 ALTAR Setup: Grace Boggio, Karen Tavalero, Pat Wilson, Gunilla Wold
 SOUND Team: Jim Carver, Brian Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer, Dana McCoy, Linda Millo, Mark Tanis
 POWER Point Team: Michael Hanrahan, Anita Holzemer, Pat Carrie Smith

MARCH 3	9:00 am	10:30 am
Acolytes:	Reagan Franolovich, Reed & Rowan Meyers	Jacob Elling
Ushers:	Kenny & Anita Holzemer	Les & Carol Olsen
Greeters:	Linda Millo & Bev Nevin	John Parker
Readers:	John Parker	Dave Bjornson
Communion Assistants:	John Parker	Les & Carol Olsen
Coffee Serve/Cleanup:	Sue Reed	Les & Carol Olsen
Coffee Hour Treats:	Kendra Kennedy	Les & Carol Olsen
March 10	9:00 am	10:30 am
Acolytes:	Trystan Connelly & Ethan Lust	Persephone & Joey Pestar
Ushers:	Tim Hofferth & Bud Rock	Bill & Diane Gusa
Greeters:		Karen Tavalero
Reader:	John Parker	Carol Olsen
Communion Assistants:	John & Kathryn Parker	Dave White
Coffee Serve/Cleanup:	Kathryn Parker	John Parker
Coffee Hour Treats:	Kjersten Frenricks	Dave White & Paula Olson
March 17	9:00 am	10:30 am
Acolytes:	Camryn & Talin Kerr	Kaylee Lust & Ashlee Long
Ushers:	Rich Berentson & Paul Phelan	Paul & Julie Dusenbury
Greeters:	Karen Tavalero	Bev Nevin
Reader:	Pat Carrie Smith	Carol Olsen
Communion Assistants:		Bev Nevin & Kathryn Parker
Coffee Serve/Cleanup:	Kathryn Parker	Dave White & Paul Olson
Coffee Hour Treats:	DONUTS	DONUTS
March 24	9:00 am	10:30 am
Acolytes:	Erin Kennedy & Mia Kennedy	Jacob & Amanda Elling
Ushers:	Larry Thomas & Boyd Veer	John Parker & Randy VanSweden
Greeters:	Boyd & Ginny Veer	
Reader:	Judy Holmes	
Communion Assistants:		Dave White
Coffee Serve/Cleanup:	Susan McCutcheon	Bev Nevin & Linda Walker
Coffee Hour Treats:	Ginny Veer	Bev Nevin
March 31	9:00 am	10:30 am
Acolytes:	Reese & Breanne Morgenthaler	Mason & Riley Nations Pearson
Ushers:	Chuck Landgraf & Scott Soes	Bill & Diane Gusa
Greeters:	Boyd & Ginny Veer	
Reader:		John Parker
Communion Assistants:		John & Kathryn Parker
Coffee Serve/Cleanup:	Kathryn Parker	
Coffee Hour Treats:	DONUTS	DONUTS

MARCH
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

1	Marv Wold	14	Ruben Anderson-Graves
2	Chelsea Boespflug	17	Mia Kennedy
2	Kirsha Khile	17	Tegan Kerr
2	David Brosten	17	Bonnie Kerschbaum
3	Robert Atterberry	18	Amelia Thomas
3	Larry Nelson	18	Janey Dent
4	Marcia Berg	18	Jacob Devine
4	Elaine Olsen	19	Ayden Rittel
4	Amber Writer	19	Malcolm McCutcheon
4	Brooke Writer	20	Hunter Wickman
5	Anita McCoy	21	Rob Harstad
6	Dan Khile	22	Asher Hrovat
6	Katherine Collins	24	Christine O'Leary
7	Logan Hanrahan	26	Kyle Kerr
10	Joseph Pestar Jr	26	Owen Ufkes
10	Ruth McDonald	27	Boyd Veer
10	Mia McCutcheon	27	Cami Mavar
11	Knute Fosso	27	Matthew Kennedy
12	Bette Wright	29	Natalie Brown
12	Judy Holmes	29	Anne Hofferth
12	Pastor Debra Benson	29	Kim Etlitcher
12	Ross Atterberry	30	Jan Vigre
13	Gail Ebel-Higgins	31	Samuel McFarlin

MARCH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

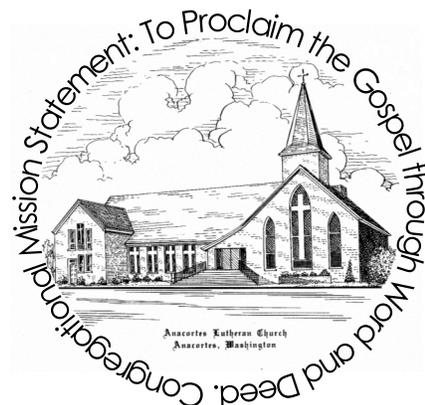
8	Aaron & Kelly Dunnington
14	Malcolm & Susan McCutcheon
17	Lynn & Dora Coffelt
19	Joseph & Stacey Pestar

OUR ALC Church Council
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

- President—
 President-Elect— Bill LeDuc
 Treasurer— Lane Phelan
 Secretary— Melanie Sahnaw
 Education—
 Youth— Ginny Connelly
 Fellowship— Kathy Khile
 Outreach— Karen Tavalero
 Personnel— Steve Richards
 Preschool— Jo Rockwood
 Properties— Les Olsen
 Stewardship— Earl Gibbons
 Worship— David Bjornson
 WELCA— Jeaneen Brogan & Faith Legan
 Josephine Rep— Grace Boggio & Jerry Bongard
 Lutherwood Rep— Jim Fors

FEBRUARY ~ Sunday Worship Attendance

EVENT	9:00 am	Nursery	10:30 am	Nursery	Total
3 Scout Sunday	118	3	87	6	214
10	66	5	42	2	115
17	99	3	73	0	175
24	99	2	61	2	164



ALC COUNCIL UPDATE

Saturday, February 23, 2019

9:00 am—10:30 am

Attended: Pastor Debra Benson, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Melanie Sahnaw, Faith Legan, Les Olsen, Karen Tavalero, Kathy Khile, Steve Richards, Dave Bjornson, Ginny Connelly.

The Meeting Opened with Prayer.

Review of the Annual Meeting where the congregation voted to pursue calling an additional Pastor with responsibility for youth and family ministry. The challenge budget was also passed. People were very Appreciative of the January forums that provided for discussion and input.

The Treasurers Report was given. We ended 2018 with around \$4,000 to the positive. Weekly offerings needed for our 2019 “challenge budget” are \$8,200 .

Committee Goals were shared to focus our work for the coming year.

We reviewed the annual calendar to coordinate ministry programs. The Council agreed to sponsor a joint committee “Gratitude” Sunday on May 5 to celebrate our life together as a church community.

Call Process explained by Pastor Benson

First Step is to select a Call Committee of six people. Council prepares the ballot of names with congregational input. The congregation votes on the ballot at a specially called congregational meeting. We voted to prepare the ballot at our Thursday, March 14 council meeting and present the ballot for vote to the congregation on Sunday, March 17.

The council will receive suggestions of names for the call committee until Thursday, March 14.

The Assistant to the Bishop, Shelly Bryan Wee, has been assigned to work with our call committee.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Anacortes Lutheran Church NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, March 17, 2019 10:00 am



For the purpose of voting on a six person call committee.

The ballot will be prepared and presented by the church council. Names for consideration to serve on the call committee for a youth and family pastor, should be forwarded to our Council Secretary Melanie Sahnaw or President-Elect Bill LeDuc by Thursday, March 14.

Responsibilities of the Call Committee: Work with the Assistant to the Bishop. Finalize a Ministry Site Profile. Interview Candidates. Check References. Select Pastor. Present Recommended Pastor to Congregational for Vote..

BISHOPS MESSAGE

The Power of Dignity

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod
From the MARCH 2019 edition of *The Spirit*

The most frequent question that I am being asked these days is, "What are you going to do next?" I announced in September that I would not be seeking reelection and immediately the question began. Strange as it may sound, I wasn't prepared for it. In fact, I have given very little thought to what I might do next other than sleep, spend more time with Kim, and get out more on our boat, *Gratitude*.

I am now thinking more seriously about what I am going to do next - knowing that throughout my life God has always disrupted my plans.

One area I know I want to invest more heavily in is my work as a trustee of Renton Technical College. It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life's journey to have a front row seat at the College. I have been tuned into the college for over thirty years. I was first attracted to the college knowing the population of students it serves - primarily those for whom tradition education is not fulfilling, those who cannot afford a 4-year college and more recently those who are new to our country whose primary language is not English.

The faculty at the college is likewise unique. They are people of great passion who believe that every person can learn and succeed. By and large, all of them can find much higher paying jobs in other areas of the economy. They are in it because they receive great joy in seeing students who have little or no confidence discover how smart and capable they are.

I recently returned from a gathering of trustees in Olympia where we hosted the Transforming Lives dinner. It was an opportunity to offer gratitude and praise to 34 students, each representing their school. Each of them arrived with incredible stories of moving from utter defeat to a pace of hope.

Five of the 34 were invited on stage to tell their stories. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. One woman re-

turned to college at 46 after years of abuse nearly ending in her own death. She was a high school dropout and had four children for whom she was responsible. She said to her kids before she entered college. "Don't grow up to be like your mom." It took only one counselor to see what potential she had. She went from wanting to drop out of college in the first week to getting her GED and will graduate this Spring with the intention to get her degree in psychology and use her life experiences to help others. At the end of her presentation she said to her four children in the audience, "Be like your mother - never give up."

Another student had come out of an abusive home from which she ran from. She ended up in the horrific world of sex trafficking. She once again ran from the violence, knowing her only hope was in getting an education. It was a hard story, but she said, "I do so because I want others to find the hope that I have found."

Two other students had been living on the streets and in their cars without shelter. Each had been incarcerated for lengthy periods of time. One living with HIV and the other having been a child soldier in the war in Liberia. They spoke powerfully of the confidence and hope they have in their futures. Further education and a living wage awaits all of these students.

The final student came from a family of 24 siblings. They lived in incredible poverty. She never dreamed she would go to college. She found a dead-end job and new that her only hope for a bright future was education. She is now a rising star in her college with a very promising future.

Each one of these students went from being unable to establish eye contact to finding their voices in less than two years' time.

There wasn't a dry eye in the room because we witnessed how resilient the human soul is when at least one other person knows you by name, sees you as fully their equal and believes in your ability to fulfill your dreams.

I don't know all that I will be doing - but I will continue to be an advocate for fully funding our Community and Technical Colleges. +BKU