



Anacortes Lutheran Church

January 2025 Newsletter

A message from Pastor Scott

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment." -Revelation 21:1-6

What does it mean to start something new? I was always struck by the deep wisdom of a certain lyric of the song Closing Time by Semisonic, "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." As I investigated it further, I found that the quote goes all the way back to the philosopher, Seneca, and the exploration of beginnings and endings is something that has been an integral part of our experience of life since the first beginning. As we enter this new year, we are called to reflect on what has been and also look forward to what is yet to come.

What will 2025 hold for us? That is yet to be seen. We will know more about that in January of 2026. But for now, the possibilities of 2025 lie before us. We can dream and imagine, pray and contemplate, and then do the work to make the possibilities into realities. With God's leading, we are called to be the church in the world today. Not the world 10 or 15 years ago, or the world 20 years in the future, but rather to live into the time that is now. We have 525,600 minutes to be the church in our world over this next year. Maybe 2025 will be a season of love as we live our lives as the Body of Christ.

Jesus entered the world to speak and be a Word of love. We have been tasked with continuing that work in our world today. We are still basking in the season of Christmas and will turn our sights to Epiphany on January 6, where we celebrate the coming of the Three Kings (wisemen) who open to us that the reality of the Christ Child is for the whole world, not just a select few. We in this nation are also about to enter into a new political administration. May we, who continue Christ's works of love, see each other as Christ sees us. No matter which 'side' we are on, may the truth of God's Word lead us forward in hope and justice.

Let us go forth into endings and beginnings as we remember Christ as our Alpha and Omega!

Blessings in this new year!

Pastor Scott





Attendees: Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Anne Barry, Jeanette Christensen, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pat Carrie Smith, Dave White

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

November minutes were approved with correction of spelling of Rev. Hankey.

Treasurer's Report: A Profit and Loss report was handed out. The finalized report will be complete by end of year, this will require about 25 hours more of Ray Lewis's time as it includes updating all accounts on this system. Moving forward in 2025 Ray Lewis will reconcile monthly bank statements and keep the Profit & Loss report updated. Linda Millo will continue to print checks as needed. The report is looking encouraging for the year.

Worship: A written report was submitted. Christmas bags will be filled for the children on Christmas Eve this year rather than putting items in their shoes as had been done in recent years. Memorial, Veterans and July 4 holiday Sundays will have a patriotic singalong in the Fellowship Hall rather than in the sanctuary. Those who have been in the military will still be recognized on Veterans Day during the service.

WELCA: WELCA is currently looking for a new president.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. There are hidden Mary/Baby Jesus figurines around the church, if found they can be kept or rehidden. The PSE program had misfiled ALC's paperwork so the church is asked to contact them in early 2025 regarding scheduling LED replacements. They were last replaced in 2012.

Preschool: The Christmas program is December 20 and they return to school on January 6. They have closed their Banner Bank account and opened one at Heritage Bank where ALC has an account.

Christmas Dinner: The ad has not been published in the Anacortes American for the past three weeks, Anne is working on this as it is the best way to advertise the dinner and request volunteers from the community. ALC volunteers have been signing up. Suggestion was made to post this on more social media sites. Signs could be printed up and posted around town. Pastor will announce this to city council on Monday and he will send the information to other churches to post.

Outreach: Nothing further to report.

Property: A written report was submitted. Steve noted the lack of insulation above Room 201.

Stewardship: See new business.

New Business:

- Bill made a motion to send the entirety of the Holiday Benevolence to Lutheran World Relief to "where it is needed most", all were in favor.
- There is a Facility Request for use May 15-18 by Young Life - Beyond Malibu.
- Red Cross has requested ALC to sign up again up to be an Emergency Shelter. Steve has agreed to be the contact person.
- The Brick staff want to come to the kitchen to familiarize themselves with it before they start using it in January. Incidentally the dishwasher stopped working this week and will be serviced Dec. 13. There was a question whether or not The Brick brings their own paperwork from the county to serve at ALC.
- A freezer has been purchased for \$300 to store the Christmas Dinner turkeys, this expense can come out of the Christmas Dinner monies.



- It has been noted that the Christmas garland is unattractive this year, Steve will take a look at it. Pat- Carrie would request that none would be hung in the choir loft as it interferes with equipment.
- Thursday, December 19 there will be a kitchen cleaning crew working to get ready for this years' inspection by the county health department.
- Bill reports that a new folding machine has been ordered for the office.
- Bill informed the council of the waning copy machine and suggests a \$120 per month rental on a new one rather than a purchase with a maintenance agreement on a copy machine.
- 2025 Budget - Bill handed out what he has so far and is looking for all feedback ASAP on corrections or additions to be made. Council will vote on this at the January council meeting and it will be ready for public review the next day. A small group will be meeting in early January to fine tune the budget.

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Lord's Prayer closed out the meeting.

Our next regular council meeting will be held January 9 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, January 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



WELCA News - REMINDER FOR HANNAH CIRCLE MEMBERS

For our January Bible study we are meeting at Irene Parker's house at 4902 Heather Dr., but the front door is located at Kingsway. Please bring your own Bible. See you on January 14th at 10 am.

A L C NURSERY SCHEDULE	
MONTH: <i>January 2025</i>	
SUNDAY 5 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Lead: Rachel Long Asst: Brooklyn Bush
SUNDAY 12 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Lead: Rebecca Burtney Asst: Brooklyn Bush
SUNDAY 19 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Lead: Rebecca Burtney Asst: Brooklyn Bush
SUNDAY 26 9:30 Arrival 10:00 Service	Lead: Rachel Long Asst: Brooklyn Bush
Please arrive 15-30min before service starts. You may leave once sanitizing is done, or organize until 11:30.	
Reminder we are cracking down on being 5 and younger!	

Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
Nov 24	Christ The King/ Pie Sunday	120	5	38
Dec 1	1st Advent Sunday/ Praise Sunday	110	6	55
Dec 8	2nd Advent Sunday	107	2	41
Dec 15	3rd Advent Sunday	162	0	81
Dec 22	4th Advent Sunday	103	4	33
Dec 24	4pm Christmas Eve	226		No Livestream
	8pm Christmas Eve	116		53
Dec 25	Christmas Day	19		No Livestream
Dec 29	1st Sunday of Christmas	64	6	25



** Not available at time of printing

DATES TO CELEBRATE IN JANUARY



Birthdays

03 Kai Frerichs	11 Danielle Long	21 Mira Knowles	28 Madelyn Case
03 Al Littlefield	12 Renie Hofferth	21 Arthur Phelan	28 Sharon Fisher
04 Pat Carrie Smith	14 Kenny Holzemer	23 Kenny Smith	28 Jill Hixson
05 Ole Hansen	14 Carleen Oldham	24 Diane Brosten	28 Taylor Phelan
05 Jerry Knutsen	16 Caleb Campbell	24 Shannon Woodall	30 Regan Franulovich
07 Asher Ellsworth	16 Joseph Pestar III	26 Dave White	
07 Persephone Pestar	17 Billie Jean Melton	27 Donna Jo Anderson	
11 Don Devine	17 Paula Olson	27 Jean Rogers	



Anniversaries

12 Warner & Diane Berglund



PRAY FOR OUR 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

President:	Don Devine	Fellowship :	
Vice-President:		Education:	Janice Sullivan
Secretary:	Julie Jacobson	Youth:	Michael Sullivan
Treasurer:	Lane Phelan	Preschool:	Anne Barry
Stewardship:	Bill LeDuc	Properties:	Steve Anderson
Outreach:	Dave White	Worship:	Pat Carrie Smith
Personnel:	Jeaneen Brogan	WELCA :	Jeanette Christensen
Josephine Delegates:	Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo	Legacy Endowment:	Wayne Olsen, Rod Odergaard
Finance:	Lane Phelan, Kirk Swanson		Julie Jacobson
	Linda Millo	Synod Assy Delegates:	Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy
Finance Secretary:	Linda Millo		Linda Millo
Camp Lutherwood Rep:	Kenny Holzemer		



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might... Isaiah 6:3

Do you hear a song, or maybe a multitude of songs, when you read the words above? We know these words in hymnody – in traditional songs, in praise songs, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy, and more. These words are deep in the bones of the Church. Of course, like so many lyrics that we sing in church, they weren't created out of thin air. We first hear these words from seraphs during the strange and grand vision that Isaiah had when he entered the holiest of holy places in the Temple – the place that housed the ark of God, the place revered as God's earthly throne, the place where God was simultaneously present in the heavenly realm and within the fabric of the world. We hear these words in Isaiah's call story in Isaiah 6:1-8. (Go ahead ... read the Isaiah story now before reading the rest of this article.)

As Isaiah enters into the Holy of Holies, God grants Isaiah a glimpse into God's celestial throne room. God is so magnificent and big that the hem of God's robe fills the temple. God is attended by fierce and fiery creatures – scary flying snakes with six wings called seraphim. These were not the cute cherubs holding flutes and harps. These were sea serpent-sized creatures singing (shrieking, screaming) in loud, ear-piercing voices, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty..."

Isaiah is overcome. He falls on his knees and cries, "Woe is me!" Isaiah knows, in that moment, who the Creator of the universe is and what this Creator can do. Isaiah knows he could be destroyed in the flash of a second.

It needs to be said, of course, that Isaiah's vision didn't happen in a vacuum. Isaiah entered the holy of holies when the Assyrians were attacking and the people of Jerusalem were trying to barricade themselves against this most formidable army. Outside of the Temple it was a dark and scary time. For Isaiah, and the rest of the Judeans, the world felt frightening and terrifying and out-of-control.

Do you know this feeling? This feeling of being so small and powerless in a world that seems so big and overwhelming. This feeling of the world being topsy turvy and unpredictable. This feeling of not knowing what to do next because everything seems like too much to bear.

For Isaiah, the next thing that happens in his vision is that a huge seraph comes at him with a piece of burning coal and presses it to his lips. The pain must have been brutal. But when the coal touches Isaiah's lips, things are clarified for him – he is cleansed and he is prepared for what is coming next and he instantly pledges to God, "Here I am. Send me." And Isaiah becomes God's prophet. (If only things could be made this clear for all of us.)

In any case, what do we do with this strange and beautiful story? What does Isaiah's call story mean for us today? Please know that I cannot wrap this story up in a tidy bow – nor do I want to – because this isn't how life works. (Also, Isaiah couldn't either ... as much as Isaiah pledged to follow God, if you read Isaiah 6:9-11 you'll hear Isaiah crying out, "How long, O Lord?"). But this is where I seize hope.

Above all things, God is God and we are not. God is wholly other. We cannot know the mind of God. And yet, in this extraordinary story, there are glimpses beyond majesty and awe. God is fearful to behold and God holds us as a mother holds a child to her breast. The touch of God burns and yet it is with life-giving fire. God towers above and God embraces us in inexplicable and earth-shattering tenderness and forgiveness. The One who creates all things also lives in the dirt and muck of life.

Dear Beloveds, may you always know and trust through all things: God is God. Almighty and Always. The One who shepherds you in life also tenderly holds you into death and beyond. The One who created the universe is as close as your next breath. For God gave you life, named you, and holds you near. Forever. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Amen.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org

Christmas Dinner News - Christmas Dinner, WOW! 60

meals to homebound, 149 Drive thru meals, 16 walk in for take out, 125 served in the dining room for a total of 350 again this year.


Thanks to everyone for your support of this important outreach.

Anne Barry & Don Devine



2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day Office closed 	2 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Team 1:30p EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p	3	4
5 FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a Unhanging of Greens 11:00a MSHS Youth Night 6:30p	6 Epiphany of Our Lord O.A. 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	7 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p 8 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP Comm 11:00a A-Team Clergy Mtg 12:30p Fit-Conway Conf. 2:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	9 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a WELCA Board 10:00a CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30p SCOUT B Leader 7:00p	10 PRIME TIMERS 10:00a Elem Playgroup 5:30p 11 Cub Scouts Rain Gutter Regatta 8:00a-4:00p		
12 Baptism of Our Lord EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	13 O.A. 10:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	14 WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a SCOUT G 7:00p 15 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Prayer Group 11:30a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	16 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a SCOUT G Leader 7:00p	17	18	
19 EPIPHANY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a MSHS Youth Night 6:30p	20 MLK Day O.A. 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p SCOUT B 7:00p	21 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p 22 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Fit-Conway Conf. 2:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	23 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p	24 Elem Youth Night 5:30p	25	
26 EPIPHANY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a	27 O.A. 10:00a ALTAR Guild 11:00a SCOUT B 7:00p	28 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G 7:00p 29 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a Prayer Group 11:30a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p	30 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a	31		