



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church - January 2023 Newsletter

#### Revelation 21:1–6

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.”

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.

As I see the “1” balloon in my office each day, I am reminded that we have now been in ministry together for over a year. We have experienced some new things and we have continued with some of the ‘old’ traditions. We have basked in the comfort of returning to some of the gatherings “the way we used to do it” and we have found some new ways and opportunities to build relationships and explore what it means to live together in God’s Kingdom (no, I didn’t forget the ‘g’ – it is one of those small changes that better reflects our living together as brothers and sisters (kin) in Christ). But we also realize that our world has changed in many ways over these last 3 years. We can no longer do ministry “the way we have always done it” because our context has changed.

What will 2023 hold for us? That is yet to be seen. We will know more about that in January of 2024. But for now, the possibilities of 2023 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 2023 will be a season of love as we live our lives as the Body of Christ.

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

Blessings in this new year! Pastor Scott

## YOUR GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

Thanks to the caring congregation of ALC, and the Sewing ladies for sewing neck pillows. We were able to gather 48 gift bundles of a blanket, neck pillow and non-skid socks to give to Josephine Caring Community Residents.

We were also able to fulfill the wishes of the Salvation Army family that we sponsored for Christmas. Your kind hearts have brought love and joy to many this holiday season.

May God bless you beyond any known measure.



### **Pray for our 2022 Church Council & Committees**

<i>President:</i>	John Parker	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Lane Phelan
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Brian Hanrahan	<i>Education:</i>	Kendra Kennedy
<i>Secretary:</i>	Anita Holzemer	<i>Personnel:</i>	Jeaneen Brogan
<i>Outreach:</i>	Peggy White	<i>Properties:</i>	Bill LeDuc
<i>Preschool:</i>	Anne Barry	<i>Worship:</i>	David Bjornson
<i>Stewardship:</i>	Donald Devine	<i>WELCA :</i>	Jeanette Christensen
<i>Fellowship :</i>		<i>Youth:</i>	Heather Harrington
<i>NW Synod Reps:</i>	Linda Millo & Lois Cassidy	<i>Council Youth rep:</i>	Persephone Pestar
<i>Josephine Delegate:</i>	Jerry Bongard & Bill LeDuc		

A New Year is like a blank book,  
it has 12 chapters and 365 pages,  
and you are the author.

My wish for you is that this year  
you write the most beautiful story  
possible for yourself.

Happy New Year.

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### PRAYERS - Receive the Gift of Prayer

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A list of Prayer Requests for our Congregation can be found in the Sunday scoop and on our website under "Prayer Page." Give the gift of prayer by including these requests in your daily prayers each week.

**Request or Update a prayer** by calling the church during office hours at 360-293-9586. Let them know if you are hospitalized, ill, or needing their prayers.

**Call Peggy** at 360-299-1184 for your prayer needs at any time, including Prayer Chain, confidential prayer, & updates to your prayer request.

As always, Pastor Scott Peterson is available to pray with you or for you.

You have a choice for your prayer request to be:

**CONFIDENTIAL – Prayer Chain and Pastor only**

**OR**

**PRINTED - Public** list in the Sunday Scoop and on the website Prayer page.

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### OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Caring and Sharing

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Should you have an interest in serving on the Outreach Committee or you have a brilliant idea, please contact Dave White at 206-226-7182, or email at lazygal@frontier.com.

## 1st Sunday of the Month

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### PRAISE SUNDAY

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We will be singing contemporary Christian Music the 1st Sunday of the month.

Led by the **Praise Team**: Matt Kerschbaum and Dana McCoy with our lead singer Rock star himself, Pastor Scott Peterson.

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### FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

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The **first Sunday of the month is Family Sunday** where children are encouraged to assist in the Worship service.

You can sign up at our Opportunity Desk for future months in the year

We are looking for the following support in service Sunday, Nov 6:

- Entry Greeter (2)
- Welcome Desk Greeter (1):
- Usher (2)
- Acolyte (2)
- Reading (1-2)
- Communion Assts: (+1)
- Noisy Offering Attendant (2)
- Personal talent of instrumental/poetry reading
- Fellowship Treats
- Assist serving/clean up with fellowship hour.

To encourage active listening with children during the service 5 words are chosen by the Sunday schoolers to be used in the Pastors sermon.

Thank you for allowing us to support your children's growth in their faith in our Lord.

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### NOISY OFFERINGS - 1st Sunday of the month

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This is another highlight of Family Sunday and is to be designated for a youth activity.

What great lessons learned about tithing and saving? WOW...what a family of givers in our congregation.

**Thank you all!**

**So save your change for the next  
NOISY OFFERING — SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

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## WELCA BOARD NEWS - JANUARY 2023

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The Anacortes Women of ELCA would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Salvation Army Family tree. As in the past, you went beyond what was asked for and a family has had a wonderful Christmas. God bless you!

Watch for news about a **"Pillowcase-a-Thon."** It is a fun day of sewing pillowcases for various community services. Collecting new & used pillowcases from thrift stores and your closets are also part of the event.

**Volunteers are needed** on Tuesdays for helping with finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief, High School graduation gifts, and local organizations. You need not be a sewer! If you can hold a needle, we can use your help with tying the finished quilts. Come and visit our "assembly line" workplace in the Fellowship Hall most Tuesdays except the second Tuesday of the month

**Circle Bible Studies** meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the Education wing near the offices. Contact Helene Fink or Linda Walker for more information.

All women of the church are invited to join a Circle and Sewing.

### **2023 Board members were installed in December:**

President:	Lois Cassidy
Vice President:	Linda Walker
Secretary:	Bonnie Kerschbaum
Treasurer:	Jeanette Christensen
Program Chair:	Jeaneen Brogan
Sewing Circle:	Julia Rogers



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## SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

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### **SEWING DAYS—TUESDAYS**

**JANUARY 3, 17, 24 & 31**

**Starting at 9 am till 2 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall**

Bring a lunch and join us at Noon

Serving in Christ,  
Julia Rogers 360-293-4232

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**We are still collecting** flannel for baby blankets & diapers. Here is what goes into the kits.

#### **Personal Care Kits**

- 1 tooth brush
- 1 comb
- 1 pair of clippers
- 2 bars of soap—8-9oz bars.
- 1 bath towel (NOT the great big ones)  
Size-20X40 or 52X70

#### **Baby Care Kits**

- 1 Hand Towel (dark colored recommended)
- 2 bars of soap— ivory or Dove 8-9oz bars**
- Diaper pins
- 1 sweater jacket
- 2 baby blankets
- 2 sleepers**
- 2 pairs of socks
- 2 t-shirt onesies-cotton**

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## Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

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### **NO meetings in January & February**

### **Next meeting—Monday, March 20, 2023**

Please call me to get yarn between meetings and to give your sweater counts, Thanks.

#### **Our Year To Date 2023 Totals are:**

- Sweater/hat sets – 41
- Sweaters – 5
- Hats – 0

One sweater/hat set goes into each layette set. We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome and teaching is available.

~Linda Anderson 360-588-1730



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## MEN'S Thursday BIBLE STUDY

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**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING at 7:00 am**

In conference room #1

Led by Boyd Veer

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## PASTOR'S Thursday BIBLE STUDY

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**EVERY THURSDAY at 11:00 am** - returning Jan 12

In conference room #1

Led by Pastor Scott

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## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

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**MEET TUESDAY, January 10 at 10 am**

HANNAH & ANNA CIRCLE - in conference rm #2

Led by: Linda Walker

RUTH CIRCLE - in conference rm #1

Led by: Helene Fink 293-630-7544

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## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

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**Monday, January 2**

**10:30 am** in Conference room 2

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## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Jan 8 — YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Look for more information in the Weekly update emails and Sunday scoop.

**Sunday, Jan 15 — 9 am**

1<sup>st</sup> Day back to Sunday School & Confirmation

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## CHRISTMAS DINNER 2022 REPORT

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Even though you're reading this in the January newsletter, it is being written before the Christmas Dinner has taken place. Sign ups are going well, the menu is set, cookie camp will make 400 cookies, the grocery list is coming together, the Health Department is on board. Look for all the details in the Annual Report later in January. Thank you for all the support you provide for this important community outreach.

God bless each and every one of you.

Anne Barry & Don Devine, Dinner Chairmen

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## PROPERTY WORK DAY

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

**Starting 9 am**

Anyone who would like to help beautiful our church is invited. If you have projects to consider for Saturday parties contact Bill LeDuc, Property Chair



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**ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY**  
**PRIME TIMERS™**

Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food and Fellowship

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**GET-TOGETHER**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, at 10 am**

in the Fellowship Hall.



Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk, call or text the host before Wednesday prior to the event.

**Special thank you to Bev Landgraf & Helene Fink for hosting this event.**

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

*We look forward to seeing you in the spring.*

*Paul & Julie Dusenbury*

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# Worshipping Together

**Sundays at 9:00 am - Christian Education Time for Everyone - restarting Jan 15th**

**Sunday Service at 10:00 am - in person or live stream**

Watch from your home by going to our website at <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org> & click tab "Online Ministry"

## JANUARY • FAITH AND SERVICE TOGETHER

To volunteer to fill in an **empty spot** sign-up at the Opportunity desk or call / email the office.

	New Years Day	Baptism of Our Lord	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4
Dates:	January 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Readings	Lessons & Carols				
Greeters	1. 2.	Carleen Oldham Nita Ostlund	Helene & Maury Fink	Boyd & Ginny Veer	1. 2.
Ushers					
Reader	Mira Knowles	Anne Barry	Joseph Pestar		
Acolytes	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
Communion Assistants	1. 2.	Anne Barry 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
Nursery	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.

**Fellowship Hour** — *After Worship everyone is invited to join us for coffee, juice and treats*

Serve & Cleanup	Gina Peterson Sofia Peterson	Youth of ALC	Dorothy Engom Helene Fink	Julia Rogers Norma Knutsen	1. 2.
Treats	Gina Peterson Sofia Peterson	Pancake Breakfast	Dorothy Engom Helene Fink	Julia Rogers Norma Knutsen	Donut Sunday

Sound Team:	Harlan Eggleston, Brian Hanrahan, Michael Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer, Matt Kerschbaum, Pat Carrie Smith
Live Stream Team:	Rebecca Eggleston, Anita Holzemer, Kevin & Kendra Kennedy, Joseph Pestar, Gina Peterson, Pat Carrie Smith
Altar Guild:	Gunilla Wold, Grace Boggio, Diane Gusa, Norma Knutsen, Paula Olson, Jenny Remmerden, Karen Tavalero, Caroline Spehar

## JANUARY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

03	Al Littlefield	17	Billie Jean Melton
03	Hannah Pierce	20	Elsa Geffe
03	Kai Frerichs	21	Julie Harstad
04	Pat Carrie Smith	21	Mira Knowles
05	Jerry Knutsen	21	Arthur Phelan
07	Persephone Pestar	22	Kristen Downs
07	Sloane Gray	22	Takara Tornga
07	Asher Ellsworth	23	Kenny Smith
11	Donald Devine	23	Millicent Swietzer
11	Danielle Long	24	Diane Brosten
12	Renie Hofferth	26	Dave White
12	Delbert Reisner	27	Jean Rogers
13	Kristen Hoffbuhr-Collins	27	Donna Anderson
13	Heather Harrington	28	Caroline Spehar
14	Carleen Oldham	28	Sharon Fisher
14	Kenny Holzemer	28	Madelyn Case
16	Joseph Pestar III	28	Jill Hixson
16	Caleb Campbell	28	Taylor Phelan
17	Paula Olson	30	Regan Franulovich

## JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

Date	Years Married
05 Chris & Heidi Parker	32
12 Warner & Diane Berglund	49

## DECEMBER- WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Events	In-Person	Live Stream
Wed, Nov 30	<u>Holden Evening Prayers</u>	45	—
Dec 4	Family & Praise Sunday	120	50
Wed, Dec 7	<u>Holden Evening Prayers</u>	51	—
Dec 11	Baptism	136	104
Wed, Dec 14	<u>Holden Evening Prayers</u>	42	—
Dec 18	Children's Christmas Program	155	98
Wed, Dec 19	<u>Longest Night service</u>	—	—
Sat, Dec 24	<u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</u>	—	—
	3 pm	—	—
	5 pm	—	—
	10 pm	—	—
Sun, Dec 25	Christmas Day	—	—

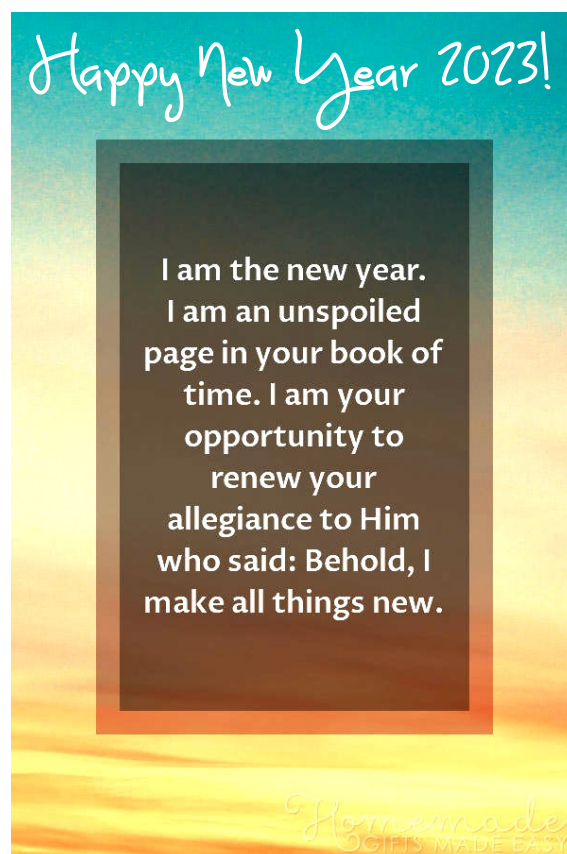


### BAPTISM

Sunday, December 11, 2022

**Maverick James West**

Parents: Kenneth & Eric West



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## ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - DECEMBER 8, 2022

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**Attendees:** John Parker, Lane Phelan, Jeanette Christensen, Jeaneen Brogan, Pastor Scott, Anne Barry, Anita Holzemer, Dave Bjornsen, Bill LeDuc, Don Devine, Dave White, Guest: Kathy Parker

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. November minutes were approved. MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:** Updated committee reports were distributed. \$28,000 has been paid year to date for benevolences. We are still in the positive and are right on track for the budget.

### **Council Roundtable:**

**Education:** Kathy Parker reported in Kendra's absence. Pumpkin patch was a success and will be continued. The Christmas pageant is coming up on Dec 18. Jan 8<sup>th</sup> a pancake breakfast will be served. All are welcome.

**Outreach:** A Care Team discussion was held. What services should be included under this service – rides to church, providing meals, etc. Visitation and home communion was discussed. Specific ideas will continue to be discussed at future meetings. Early plans were talked about for resurrecting the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" fellowship event. A large sign-up will be put up in the Fellowship Hall to encourage coffee hour treat sign-ups. Opportunity Fair plans are being discussed. A rocking chair has been provided in the church library for nursing mothers.

**Preschool:** No Christmas program will be held this year due to many staff and students being sick. Plans are being discussed on how to spend the art auction funds.

**Christmas Dinner Update:** Volunteer sign-ups are going well. Permitting process is going well. Christmas cost will be covered with designated funds, Thrivent grants, and donations.

**Stewardship:** Don will do January and February temple talks. This will include information on the preschool mortgage loan.

**Properties:** Work party will be held this Saturday. Work will begin on adding a door in the choir loft/sound room in January. Estimate of \$3,800 for security cameras. Hot water in the Fellowship Hall is slow in heating. It was suggested to insulate the pipes.

**WELCA:** Dec 20 kitchen clean-up in prep for Christmas Dinner. Dec 13 is WELCA brunch.

**Personnel:** Met with Pastor for his annual evaluation. Updates were requested regarding visitation schedules. **ACTION ITEM:** All council members are asked to bring in five names to the next council meeting of people you think could use a visit. A slide will also be created for the live stream mentioning anyone wishing a visit from the pastor should contact the church office. Motion made to move new contract dates for employees from July 1 to April 1 (Pastor Scott and the Preschool staff are not included in this). MSP

**Worship:** Nothing new to add beyond the submitted report.

Anita requested all committee chairs to email your reports by Tuesday prior to the council meeting each month for distribution.

**Pastor's Report:** Dec 21 – Longest Night service. Dec 19 is the newsletter deadline. Annual reports are due Jan 9. Church office hours will be shortened between the holidays.

### **Old Business:**

- Anita reported on open items still needing action.
- Photo Directory Status: Bayshore said they could do this with a proof available next week.

*continued on next page*



**New Business:**

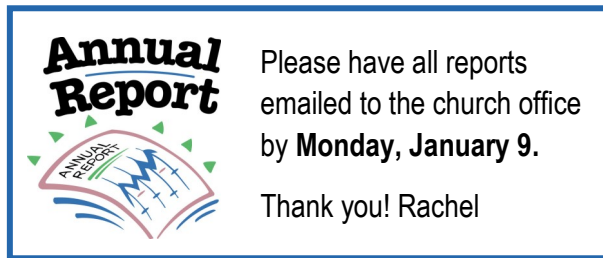
- Presentation of the 2023 Budget: Budget numbers were presented. It will be ready to present to the congregation in January in advance of the annual meeting.
- Job Description for proposed Youth position: This will be presented to the Youth and Education Committee members for input before finalizing.
- New Member Photo Poster: John will get pictures of new members and post them on a board for ease of recognizing and getting to know new members.
- Facility Usage Fee Sheets: MSP to accept fees as presented.

Our next council meeting will be held January 12 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary



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**THIS & THAT– BITS & PIECES**

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- ♦ Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- ♦ Church Office email & phone #: 360-293-9586 / [info@anacorteslutheran.org](mailto:info@anacorteslutheran.org)
- ♦ Do You Need to talk to the Pastor? Schedule an appointment by email or calling the office  
Pastor Scott Peterson: [pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org](mailto:pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org)
- ♦ “LIKE” our Facebook / YouTube / Instagram pages: Anacortes Lutheran Church
- ♦ Worship Services, Updates & News: VISIT our website - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>
- ♦ Has your phone #, address or email changed? Are you receiving emails from church? Call the office!
- ♦ Do you need help? Ride to worship, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.
- ♦ Newsletter Deadline: The Third Monday of every month.
- ♦ Prayer Requests: Keep the church current on your loved ones who are or need to be named on our prayer list by calling or emailing the office.
- ♦ Altar Flowers: To give flowers in honor or memory of someone, sign up on the “Flower Chart” in the Narthex.
- ♦ Giving 5 Ways: Vanco Mobile App/TEXT 360-328-7521/mail a check /offering plate/ALC website ~ Giving tab
- ♦ Welcome Desk: (*located in the Narthex*) You can find new member information, newsletter publications, weekly Sunday Scoops, “Christ in our Home” devotionals & additional information.
- ♦ Opportunity Desk: (*next to the Fellowship Hall*). Here you will find different ways to be of service throughout the church, Serving in Worship and Fellowship hour. Sign up sheets for Group Events, Prime Timers, Youth Events, etc. Preschool & Confirmation Registration forms.

More than twenty years ago now, when I was serving in a congregation, I sat with a woman who was dying. I loved this woman. Her name was Bobbie. She was fierce and funny. She was smart. She could be a little intimidating. She was a tall, big woman who pounded her cane into the ground as she walked. Throughout her life, like most people, she knew grief and joy. Disappointment and surprise. I was honored to hold her hand and sit with her as she took her last breaths.

As pastor, I have had the opportunity to sit with many people as they are dying. It is one of the most holy things a person can do. There is truly a thinness between what is and what is to come. While there are many things I love and miss as a congregational pastor, one of the top absences is being invited into people's lives as they leave this world and enter into God's presence in the company of all the saints.

Recently I attended a three-day retreat with several bishops and leaders from the western part of the United States. Most of what we talked about and discerned was what it means to be church today. Included in the conversation was how to journey and accompany congregations that are dying. This retreat wasn't a "how-to manual" of what to do. Instead, the intentional prayer, singing, worship, and community led us to sit in the same "thinness" feeling that I mentioned above: what is and what is to come.

As we sat in both the grief of some of our congregations closing and in the anticipation of what God is calling us towards, one person made the comment, "There is Spirit-led death and then there is just death." I've been pondering about this statement since it was said. What does it mean to have a Spirit-led death? What does it mean to just die?

Perhaps we can use Bobbie's death as a guide.

I think back to Bobbie who I met with many times before she died. She made it clear to me what her wishes were for her funeral. She talked many times about how thrilled she would be to see her husband again. (Her husband died when he was twenty-eight leaving her with two small sons.) She was looking forward to resting. She wanted to make sure that I knew how glad she was to not be a burden any more to her sons. She had hopes for the assets she was leaving behind and how they would be used to further her passions. Most of all, she was excited about what was next for her – she talked quite frequently about the questions she was ready to ask Jesus.

In the weeks before Bobbie died, her sons called me to ask if I would be available to sit with Bobbie when she died. They lived far away and knew that they might not make it to her bedside in time. I, of course, said yes. When the nurse called me, I went.

In Bobbie's last hours on earth, I was with her. I felt God's holy presence as I held her hand, sang hymns, prayed the Lord's prayer, shed tears, sat in silence, loved her, and was present with her and Jesus in the thin place between life and death and resurrection.

Going back to the retreat that I was at and the questions that arose, I wonder how we can have language to talk about some congregations having Spirit-led deaths. While I hope and pray that all congregations thrive and grow, I also know that there is a life cycle for all things. And I want to be able to live in the thinness between life and death and resurrection with all of us in the Northwest Washington Synod. I want to have the hard, deep conversations that need to happen. I want us to talk about looking beyond survival and instead talk about death and resurrection. How can we do this in meaningful ways? How can we do this before there is a sudden death? How can we do this acknowledging the pain and heartache and also living in faith and hope?

We in the synod office want to journey with you in these conversations. It is not easy and it is not wanted. But it is a time that can be holy and where God's presence is made known.

As this new year begins, may we walk together in the Spirit – placing our hope in God through Jesus. May we journey as resurrection people.

