



*Spring shows what God can do
with a drab and dirty world.*

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church - May 2023 Newsletter

**“Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.”
- Proverbs 16:32**

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

I was doing some reading the other day on the subject of the “Fruits of the Spirit” and I was struck by how these are expressed in our lives together as a community centered in Jesus. We are quite good (or at least better) at living out the first eight, but when it comes to the ninth in the list, we many times falter a bit. One of the most underrated and underappreciated ways – but one of the most important – is in the fruit of self-control. Self-control is not flashy, and it’s probably not newsworthy. It probably won’t gain you a thousand followers on social media. But it doesn’t take much effort to see how vitally important it is in our lives. Just consider some of the ways that self-control is a blessing to you and to those around you...

Bodily: self-control helps us to stay in good health, as we regulate what we put into our bodies (the types of food and drink and their quantities). And as Gina and I have discovered, when control is lost (for any reason) it takes a greater amount of effort to return to where you began.

Financially: self-control keeps us out of debt and helps us to live within our means, setting us up for success both in the present and the future.

Emotionally: self-control allows us to respond to circumstances and to relate to others appropriately, with thoughtfulness and grace.

Relationally: self-control protects our marriages, families, and other relationships as it leads us to think and to act in ways that don’t just feel good in the present but serve ourselves and those around us for years to come.

We can easily see how important self-control is when we compare it to its opposite – being out of control. We lose control of our emotions, and we end up hurting the people around us. We lose control of our spending, and we are heading for bankruptcy. If we operate a vehicle in an out-of-control way, we endanger people’s lives. What a gift self-control is!

And self-control is possible for us as we place our trust in the crucified and risen Christ. He is the One who gives us peace when worry and fear would tempt us to panic. He is the One who gives us hope and a vision for the future when we would be tempted to live without direction or vision or discipline in the moment. He is the One who willingly denied himself in order to save us and who strengthens us to look out for the needs of others, not just ourselves.

Self-control is usually not flashy or outwardly impressive, but it is a precious gift from God that allows our lives to be a real blessing to others.

May God bless you as you employ the gift today!

Pastor Scott

MY HEARTFELT THANKS

To the congregation of Anacortes Lutheran,

I was so surprised when Pastor Scott announced that there would be a special presentation given to me for my 35 years working at ALC! I absolutely love the keyboard plaque that John Parker made and the wonderful reception that the A-Team put on for me. THANK YOU EVERYONE!!! God “called” me to music ministry a very long time ago and has given me so many opportunities to give back to Him, but none as great as my time at ALC. I have worked with 10 Pastors here at our church and have loved all of it (even the harder times ☺). Thank you for the gifts and cards and words of love that you all gave me. Thank you for being my family, my home.



Love,

Laurie

MORE THANKS

Thank you to all the people who made Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday so very special! Someone mentioned to me right after service on Easter “now that is how you do an Easter Sunday”! Thank you to all the musicians who worked so hard to add beautiful music to our seasons! I hope that I do not forget anyone but thanks to: Pastor Scott, Bishop Wee, ALC Choir, ALC Praise Team, Ruth Backlund, Anita McCoy, Chris Long, Jobun Tornga, Bob Higgins, John Parker, Dave Bjornson, Rod Rothlisberger, Abby Frankenfeld (cellist on Good Friday) and Anita Holzemer and the Community Bell Choir (4-23-23)! We are so Blessed at Anacortes Lutheran!



A BIG THANK YOU!



Thanks to everyone who contributed plants to beautify the altar area for Easter!

Special thanks to Brenda Lorentzen for getting the plants for us, to Paula (and Linda) for picking them up and to Megan Dumas for the lovely arrangements.

Most of all THANK YOU to my faithful Altar Guild ladies (and Bill G.) for all your hard work. From weaving palm crosses (thanks Caroline!) to changing paraments and setting up communion, it was a very busy Holy Week.

Thanks again for all your hard work and dedication, I so appreciate all of you!
Gunilla



FROM THE TREASURER -

PRESCHOOL REMODEL LOAN IS PAID OFF!

As voted on at annual meeting, net income funds from 2022 were used to fully pay off the loan. ALC has no outstanding debt, just our month to month obligations.

We thank all for your generous commitments to support our budget.

We are in a positive net income for the first quarter.

We met our goal of \$5,300 for LWR Turkey relief. We will be up to date on benevolence giving by the end of the month. It is our custom to give 10% of Member offering in Benevolence gifts.



1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

PRAISE SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

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

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

FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

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

- 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.

NOISY OFFERINGS - 1st Sunday of the month

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, MAY 7**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Every Sunday at 9 am
through May 21st

CONFIRMATION CLASS

(Grades 6-8) In conference room #2

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Grades K-5th) in Sunday School rms

ADULT ED CLASSES

(Adults & High School teens) in Fellowship Hall

**Last day before summer break will be
May 21.**

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Sunday will be May 28.

Confirmands for 2023 will be

Regan Franulovich and Catherine &
Carter Eggleston.

Come and celebrate with us as a vital
part of their Church Family.



PROPERTY WORK PARTY - 1st Saturday of the month

At this time we do not have a Property Committee chair person. That means that there is no one to take the lead in the Property work Party the first Saturday of the month.

If you feel a calling to take on this day of service in and around the church please speak to John Parker or call the church office.



MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

7 am in Conference room #1

Led by: Boyd Veer

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 11

6:30 pm in Conference room 2

Committees please remember to send minutes &
updates to Anita prior to Council meeting.



2023 ALC GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Applications for the Laurene M. Rhodes & Anacortes Lutheran Scholarship have been mailed and are available in the church office. Completed applications are due back no later than **Tuesday, May 16.**

Questions? Please contact the church office at 360-293-9586



**Thursday, May 24
7pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Do you play an instrument and have an interest in playing great music with some cool cats? Bring your instrument, come on down, and jump right in! It doesn't matter who you are, let's laugh and learn together.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



**Thursday May 4th, 2023, 7:00p.m.
Anacortes Christian Church
1211 M Avenue**

May we gather in unity to pray for each other and our Nation to turn to God.

WELCA BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 2
10:00 am in Conference Room #1

WHAT IS WELCA?

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

CIRCLES MEET TUESDAY, MAY 9

Feel Free to attend any circle.

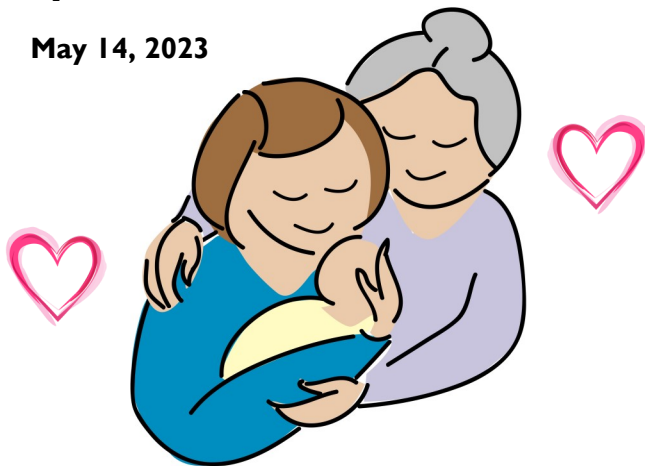
Hannah: 10 am - Conference Room #2
Led by: Linda Walker 928-963-3879

Ruth: 10 am - Conference Room #1
Led by: Helene Fink 630-293-7544

Anna: 4 pm - Conference Room #1
Led by: Nancy Loftis 360-333-8111

Prayers for a Blessed Mother's Day

May 14, 2023



Mother is a verb. It's something that you do.
Not just who you are. - Cheryl Lacey Donovan

SEWING NEWS - Come & Join Us!

SEWING DAYS—TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS, MAY 2, 16, 23, &30

Starting at 9 am till 2 pm

Come & Join us, we are in the Fellowship Hall.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall 9 am until 2 pm. Bring a lunch and stay.

We are still in need of:

- ◆ Sleepers (up to size 24 months)
- ◆ Hand towels
- ◆ Small bath towels
- ◆ Baby socks
- ◆ Flannel
- ◆ Combs (big ones)

We are having **Soap Sunday** May 7th! We will have a pink tub to put them in. Our goal is 500 bars! Ivory, Dove, & any other you want to bring that is 4 oz and over.

In Christ,

Julia Rogers 360-293-4232

Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

NEXT MEETING—MONDAY, MAY 15

1—3 pm in Conference room 1

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 – 95

Sweaters – 11

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

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 22

10:30 am in Conference room 2

OUTREACH - SHARING AND CARING

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

LAUNDRY LOVE ---OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE

Laundry Love.org is a national organization providing laundry assistance to homeless and low income. A group of Anacortes citizens have joined in and offer free laundry and supplies on the first Tuesday of the month at our local Econowash. Council discussed outreach opportunities at our council retreat. We contacted this group and asked if we could provide sack lunches for these individuals as they finish their laundry. We got an enthusiastic yes! On April 4, several of the sewing ladies made up 15 sack lunches and walked them to the Econowash. The turn out was small this first Tuesday, but expectations are word of mouth will help it grow. We will provide 15 lunches on May 2. If you are interested in helping contact Dave White or Lane Phelan.

PRAYERS

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:
The Sunday bulletin & Thursday Update email has a list of Prayer Requests for our Congregation. The list is also on our website under "Prayer Page." We can all give the gift of prayer by including these requests in our daily prayers each week.

RECEIVE the Gift of Prayer:

You can request a prayer by calling the church office during office hours at 360-293-9586.

You may call Peggy at 360-299-1184 for your prayer needs at any time, including Prayer Chain (confidential prayer) and updates to your prayer request.

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

WELCOME VISITORS

We continue to look for volunteers to man the Welcome Desk for the 15 minutes prior to the worship service starting. Your mission while at the Welcome Desk is to watch for and assist any visitors, or congregation members, that are in need of information. The volunteer sign up sheet for the Welcome Desk is at the Welcome Desk.

We now have a blue "Welcome" folder with basic information about what programs and services we offer. To add information about your project, or program to the folder, contact Dave at 206-226-7182.

Please help out in this important mission! Many of the visitors to the church are prospective members. They may be just testing the water to see if they want to dive in. Let's make the water and the greeting, warm!

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS**

Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food & Fellowship

GET-TOGETHER — SAVORY SOUP

FRIDAY, MAY 12, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *Please note the time change.*

The theme is:

"Alphabet Soup"

Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk or call, text, or email Julie before Wednesday, May 10.



BINGO IN THE MORNING

SATURDAY, MAY 27, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room #2.

No sign up is required - just come and have fun.

Snacks will be provided. Please bring your own drink.

Have a "souper" spring, stay safe, and be happy.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury

B I N G O				
4	26	43	59	70
9	30	41	55	68
7	23	FREE 32 SPACE	50	63
8	20	31	60	75
13	18	34	52	69

Worshiping Together

Sundays at 9:00 am - Christian Education Time for Everyone

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"

MAY • FAITH AND SERVICE TOGETHER

To fill in an **empty spot** sign-up at the Opportunity desk, call / email the office or jump in the day of. Thank you!!!

	Family & Praise Sunday	Mother's Day		Day of Pentecost
<i>Dates:</i>	7	14	21	28
<i>Readings</i>	Romans 1:1-17 Matthew 9:10-13	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11 Matthew 11:28-30	Romans 6:1-14 Matthew 6:24	Romans 8:14-39 Matthew 28:16-20
<i>Greeters</i>	KIDDOS			
<i>Ushers</i>	KIDS		<i>Names were not available at time of printing</i>	
<i>Reader</i>			Anne Barry	
<i>Acolytes</i>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. Anne Barry 2.	1. 2.
<i>Nursery</i>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. Flanigan 2.	1. 2.
Fellowship Hour — <i>After Worship everyone is invited to join us for coffee, juice and treats</i>				
<i>Serve & Cleanup</i>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	Judy, Paula, Patty & Linda
<i>Treats</i>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	Judy, Paula, Patty & Linda
<i>Sound Team</i>	Kenny Holzemer, Pat Carrie Smith, Brian Hanrahan, Matt Kerschbaum, Harlan Eggleston			
<i>Live Stream Team</i>	Pat Carrie Smith, Rebecca Eggleston, Anita Holzemer, Kevin & Kendra Kennedy, Gina Peterson, Joseph Pestar, Caden DeAtley			
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Gunilla Wold, Grace Boggio, Diane Gusa, Norma Knutsen, Paula Olson, Jenny Remmerden, Karen Tavalero, Caroline Spehar			

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE? WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

Here are some suggestions:

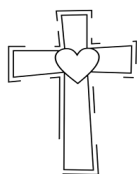
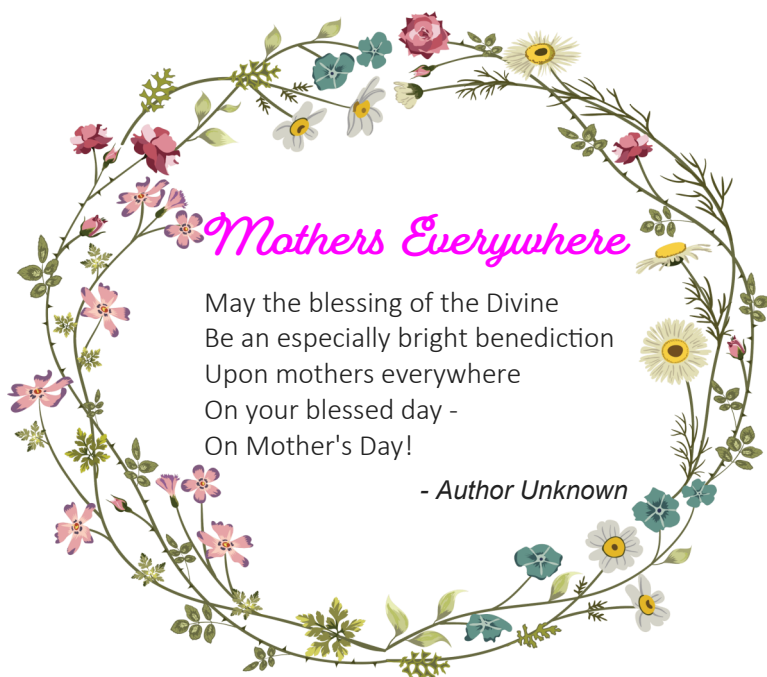
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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar Guild • Choir • Faith And Service Together - <i>fill in the blanks</i> • Men's Bible Studies • Monthly Property Work Party • Naomi ministry • Noon Bible Study • Outreach Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Warriors • Prime Timers • Sewing group • Teaching Sunday School • Ushering • WELCA • Women's Bible Circles • Youth mentors • and more! |
|--|---|

MAY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

1 Lily Dumas	10 Lois Cassidy	13 Ann Mayer	22 Krista Morgenthaler
1 Carter Eggleston	10 Brian Hanrahan	13 Rod Rothlisberger	23 Jim Beltz
1 Catherine Eggleston	10 Michael Hanrahan	14 Anita Holzemer	23 Lucca Dumas
1 Jenni Hansen	10 Kendra Kennedy	15 Thomas Knowles	23 Brendan Gray
1 Donna Maricich	10 Lara Knowles	16 Nathan Dent	23 Judy Littlefield
1 Mike Trafton	10 Sue Larsen	16 Carol Kirby	25 Camryn Kerr
2 Corine DeWitt	10 Susan Reed	17 Judy Card	25 Scott Peterson
4 Yvonne Storme	11 Megan Dumas	17 Bill Sahnou	26 Don Sullivan
5 Hannah Parker	11 Cory Geffe	19 Elliott Hofferth	27 Lane Phelan
6 Dalyce Geffe	11 Stacy Roux	20 Connie Walters	28 William LeDuc
7 Ethan Lust	12 Kori Fosso	21 Jeff Hrovat	29 Stephanie Poor
7 Susan McCutcheon	12 Owen Kennedy	21 David Rapella	
7 Judy Pesaturo	12 Heidi Parker	22 Jean Brown	
8 Emma Flanigan	12 Blakely Swietzer	22 Vera Jones	

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

Date		Years
1	William & Diane Gusa	47
5	Jim & Nancy Loftis	38
7	Bill & Karen Faulkner	35
10	Steve & Kori Fosso	27
12	Donna & Tim Maricich	44
13	Michael & Janice Sullivan	6
25	Randy & Stacy VanSweden	24
27	Dennis & Christy Giddings	61
27	Mirth & Dave Moore	51
29	Klaus & Christie Schoebel	30
31	Julia & Clarence Rogers	59



SYMPATHIES

Our heartfelt prayers for comfort and healing in this time of grief to the family and friends of:

Bernice Linvog

May 26, 1919 - April 6, 2023

Philip Case

December 23, 1937 - April 7, 2023

WORSHIP SERVICES - MAY 2023

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live Stream
2	Palm Sunday	137	3	94
6	Maundy Thursday	62	—	82
7	Good Friday	84	—	62
9	Easter Sunday	253	10	120
16	2nd Sunday of Easter	104	0	102
23	3rd Sunday of Easter	111	3	64
30	4th Sunday of Easter	<i>Not available at time of printing</i>		

Attendees: John Parker, Lane Phelan, Jeanette Christensen, Jeaneen Brogan, Anne Barry, Anita Holzemer, Dave Bjornsen, Pr Scott Peterson, Don DeVine. Guests: Pat Carrie Smith, Lacey Smith

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

Treasurer's Report: Giving is going well. Lenten offerings brought in just over \$3,000. Holiday offerings brought in just under \$3,000. The preschool mortgage has been paid off. We are still working on getting the Earned Retention Credit. Lane made a presentation on "Laundry Love". This local group provides funds for low/no income people to do their laundry once a month.

Council Roundtable:

Fellowship: A report was submitted. Thank you to Kathy for getting lots of things organized going forward.

Personnel: Employees have signed their new contracts including a 10% raise for the year. All are satisfied with their jobs. We have two candidates for the DYFM position. One candidate has been interviewed with one more interview to happen soon. Both are strong candidates.

Outreach: Nothing to report for now.

Preschool: Preschool report was submitted. Fall registration is going well. We are over half full for the fall. The preschool will be offering a preschool summer camp in July. A diagram of the new preschool play structure was shared. Playground labor may be provided by preschool parents. The structure will be purchased with some of the Dusenbury auction funds. Kindergarten round-up will be hosted here at our church. Volunteers are needed. **ACTION ITEM:** Anne will contact Maggie to contact Rachel to complete a facilities usage request for the kindergarten round-up.

Stewardship: Don is meeting with three members to conduct a financial review. This will be completed by June. Don will meet with Lane to reorganize our budget format in hopes of making it more user friendly.

WELCA: Sewing is going well. We are planning on a Soap Sunday the first Sunday of May. Two funerals will be held this month. General meeting will be on April 25th with a guest speaker. Strawberry Social is tentatively scheduled for the last Tuesday in June depending on berry availability.

Worship: Lenten services were reviewed. Things seemed to go well. It was a nice surprise to share the peace on Easter Sunday.

President's Report: Submitted

Pastor's Report: No synod assembly this year. May 13th will be a synod gathering from 8:30-3:30 at Salem Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon. Anita will send out information on the gathering with the minutes following the meeting. Faith Night will be held at the Mariners game on Aug 26th. Fellowship chair might want to look into organizing a group from the church to attend.

Old Business:

Anita reported on open items still needing action.

Youth Director Search: First interview was held April 12 via Zoom. The interview for the second candidate will be held next week.

New Members Event Status: Kathy is working on something. Details will be shared as they become available.

New Business:

VBS Planning: We need a leader. A discussion was held regarding the role the new DYFM position will play in coordinating Education and Youth. Don will ask for volunteers this Sunday morning to lead VBS.

Spring Graduation: Scholarship information has been distributed. Senior Recognition Sunday will be on June 11th.

Quilts will be presented.

continued on next page

Council minutes cont....

Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday May 28th. We will have three confirmands.

Church Service Times Sign plans are still being worked on.

Church facilities usage request: MSP to allow the use of the lot across the street for prom parking. MSP to allow a June 9th grad party request for a private party.

Laundry Love plans: MSP to allow up to \$50 a month from benevolences to cover sack lunches.

Don will choose a date for an upcoming pancake breakfast.

Our next council meeting will be held May 11 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Anita no later than noon on May 8th due to the secretary's absence during the May council meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary

PRAY FOR OUR 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

<i>President:</i>	John Parker	<i>Fellowship :</i>	Kathy Khile
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Brian Hanrahan	<i>Education:</i>	
<i>Secretary:</i>	Anita Holzemer	<i>Youth:</i>	
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Lane Phelan	<i>Preschool:</i>	Anne Barry
<i>Stewardship:</i>	Donald Devine	<i>Properties:</i>	
<i>Outreach:</i>	Dave White	<i>Worship:</i>	David Bjornson
<i>Personnel:</i>	Jeaneen Brogan	<i>WELCA :</i>	Jeanette Christensen
<i>Josephine Delegate:</i>	Jerry Bongard & Bill LeDuc	<i>Council Youth rep:</i>	Persephone Pestar

THIS & THAT- BITS & PIECES

- ◆ Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- ◆ Church Office email & phone #: 360-293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org
- ◆ Do You Need to talk to the Pastor? Schedule an appointment by calling the office or email Pastor Scott Peterson: pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org
- ◆ Get on our "Weekly Update" email list: Send your email address to the office.
- ◆ Worship Services, Updates & News: VISIT our website - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>
- ◆ Visit & "LIKE" us on Facebook / YouTube / Instagram pages: Anacortes Lutheran Church
- ◆ 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 in 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, 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.

Some synonyms for GATHERING that I found on the internet include: *association, caucus, collection, conclave, conference, congregation, convention, crowd, function, group, mass, meeting, party, throng, acquisition, affair, aggregate, aggregation, band, body, bunch, clambake, company, concentration, concourse, congress, convocation, crush, drove, flock, gain, heap, herd, horde, huddle, junction, knot, levy, meet, muster, parley, pile, rally, roundup, society, stock, stockpile, swarm, turnout, union, get-together, social function.*

Some of these GATHERING words sound positive to my ears (group, party, social function), some sound political or corporate (caucus, acquisition, convention, meeting), some sound a little scary (crush, drove, horde, swarm) and one just makes me smile (clambake). How is a clambake like a GATHERING? I'd love to hear your answer!

We are excited that this year we are having two GATHERINGS. As a congregation, you are welcome to choose either May 13 or May 20 to GATHER with people throughout the synod. While there is no limit on the number of people who may attend from your congregation, we do have to cap registration at 300 each Saturday, so we hope that you are coming and that you are already registered as you read this! Here is the link for more information <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gatherings/2023-05-13>.

At these two GATHERINGS we will have ample opportunity to learn together, laugh together, share information together, collaborate together, sing and play together, eat together, engage in possibility and vision-thinking together, pray together, plan together, and, especially to GATHER together in the Spirit of Christ.

For too long we have tried to do things alone. For too long we have tried to figure things out on our own. For too long we have not looked to others for collaboration and community. But Ecclesiastes 4:9 reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help."

These last few years have shown us that there is nothing better than GATHERING with the body of Christ, especially in-person. We are excited for all of us in our synod to come together as we share our God-given gifts and wisdom. We are excited for the knowledge that will be shared and, even more, the Spirit of hope, generosity, and anticipation for what is next.

We are excited to see you and your congregation at one of the GATHERINGS this year. We can't wait to GATHER together with you on May 13 or May 20 and into the future!

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org