

Anacortes Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

MAY 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

In recent months, our hearts have grown heavy as we witness war and conflict unfolding across the world. Images of suffering, stories of loss, and the cries of innocent people can leave us feeling overwhelmed, angry, sorrowful, or even numb. As Christians—and especially as Lutherans, shaped by a theology that takes both sin and grace seriously—we may find ourselves wrestling with difficult questions: *Where is God in all this? How do we respond faithfully? What does it mean to be peacemakers in a violent world?*

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 8:22, *“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”* War is one of the deepest signs of that groaning. It exposes the brokenness of human sin, pride, and fear. Yet Scripture reminds us that none of this is a surprise to God. The world is not as it should be—but God has not abandoned it.

In Ephesians 2:14 we hear: *“For He Himself is our peace.”* Peace is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of Christ. This means our hope is not rooted in geopolitical outcomes or human negotiations, important as those may be. Our hope is rooted in the One who overcame sin and death and who promises, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you”* (John 14:27).

As Lutherans, we cling to the cross where God enters human violence and transforms it—not by force but by self-giving love. Christ’s resurrection proclaims that violence and hatred do not have the final word.

While we cannot control world events, we *can* respond faithfully:

- **We pray.**

Not as a last resort, but as people who trust that God hears us. We pray for the suffering, for leaders, for soldiers, for refugees, and for a just peace.

- **We lament.**

Scripture gives us permission—even encouragement—to cry out to God in grief. Lament is an act of faith, not despair.

- **We seek understanding.**

Martin Luther urged Christians to be people of truth and discernment, avoiding rumor, partisanship, or hatred.

- **We serve.**

We support relief efforts, welcome the stranger, and advocate for those whose voices are silenced.

- **We embody peace.**

In our homes, workplaces, and community, we live as people shaped by Christ’s mercy, refusing to let anger or fear rule our hearts.

Continue on pg. 2

We do not pretend that peace is easy. We do not ignore the real complexity of global conflict. But neither do we surrender to despair. The peace Christ gives us is steady enough to carry us through uncertainty and strong enough to shine even in the darkest places.

As we gather each week to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments, we are reminded that God is actively at work— healing, restoring, reconciling. And we are sent out as instruments of that work.

May the peace of Christ guard your hearts and minds in these troubled times.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Scott

Church Council Minutes from April 9, 2026

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bruce Rolfe, Pat Carrie Smith, Claude Woodall

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

Claude made a motion to approve the March minutes as written, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: None presented as Lane was out of town.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. A Lutherwood rep will be here on Sunday. Amanda will be out for surgery beginning April 24, she will try to get 3 weeks ahead for bulletins before leaving. Graduation Sunday will be May 31. There is a Thrivent Grant that can be used for Mother's Day Sunday.

Youth & Education: Written report was submitted. KJ West has volunteered to become the Youth Committee Chair - committee meetings will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm. Tentative revised dates for the mission trip is 6/27-7/3. VBS dates are 8/10-12 or 13.

Properties: A written report was submitted. Steve has purchased a 2Tbyte back up drive for the office computer. Three windows have been replaced.

Worship: A written report was submitted. **The summer schedule of a 9:30am service will begin on Memorial Day weekend, May 24.**

Personnel: Don attended the staff meeting in place of Jeaneen who had been chair of Personnel Committee (until she moved). He will be working on meeting with staff for annual reviews. Don will meet with Steve Anderson to work on a more detailed job description for custodians. Note: the Speakers are now all working in the sanctuary.

New Business:

- Zelle payment for personal reimbursements will be discussed with Lane - this would decrease the amount of time the treasurer spends on coming into the office as well as on check writing when reimbursing individuals for out of pocket expenditures..
- New Council Members are needed! Please talk to a council member or Pastor if you are interested. Three positions will be open for a vote at the June 7 Congregational Meeting following the service.
- Rachel Long has provided a suggested job description for Social Media Coordinator. Council members will review the description and be prepared to vote on it next month.
- The May Council meeting has been changed to May 7 at 4:00pm, Executive Board will meet at 3:00pm that same day.

Additional Item:

- Pat-Carrie made a motion to shorten the 2nd to the last pew to provide more parking for walkers or wheelchairs. Motion passed. Don will work on this and will store the section being removed.

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

Our next regular council meeting will be held May 7 (one week early) at 4:00 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than morning, April 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



Vacation Bible School
Registration link



Date: Aug 10-13

Time: 9am-Noon

At Anacortes Lutheran Church

<https://vbspro.events/p/208dfc>

Here's something about VBS for the newsletter, feel free to make any adjustments or let me know if I should change it up:

Vacation Bible School is coming! Join us for a fun-filled week at VBS, August 10–13 from 9:00am–12:00pm. This year's theme is Hometown Nazareth, where kids will step back in time to experience what life was like when Jesus was a child. VBS is open to children ages 3 through 5th grade. Students in 6th–12th grade are invited to join as junior leaders.

We're looking for volunteers to help make this week a success, whether you can serve one day or all four, any help is appreciated! Opportunities include snack crew, games, crafts, drama, group leaders, and more.

You can sign up, volunteer, or donate supplies through our VBS website <https://vbspro.events/p/events/208dfc>. Feel free to contact Rachel Long, this year's VBS director, regarding any questions. Thank you for helping us create an amazing week for our kids!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP!
PORTLAND, OREGON

6/27 - 7/3

**Follow God's Call!
Make a Difference!**

5th GRADE - COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!

Email: info@anacorteslutheran.org
Call: 360-293-9586

SEWING -

The sewers continue to create quilts and put kits together. We are concentrating on baby care kits this month. The April newsletter had a list of what was needed and your contributions are appreciated. Since the first of the year we have donated 10 children's quilts to Family Promise and 10 children's quilts to Anacortes Family Center.

Please come visit. We meet every Tuesday from 9 am to 2 pm in the social hall. Right now we could use help assembling kits. So if you don't want to work on quilts but want to help, consider spending a few hours helping assemble kits. We will provide the coffee.

Thank you to the congregation

My family and I would like to thank each of you for your prayers, hugs, kind words and support over the last 2 years as Bob fought against Parkinson's. Your caring since his death in March has been important to us and our ability to cope. He is at peace, and thus we can be at peace as we move thru learning to move forward without him. May God bless each of you for your kindness. Anne Barry

Thank You -

I would like to thank you, my church family, for all the prayers, my quilt, cards of encouragement, and loving support during these last few months as I went through cancer treatments and surgery. Surgery was successful and I'm healing well. God has been so faithful. It is such a blessing to be a part of this body of Christ. Jim and I are so grateful for you.

Love, from the bottom of my heart, Nancy Loftis

ALG SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY "PRIME TIMERS"

— Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

Upcoming quarterly events

June 12, Friday, at 11:00 a.m. – Out to Lunch at Rachel's Alibi – park at the church and walk to the restaurant

September 12, Saturday – La Conner Cruise with lunch. Let's fill the boat again – 32 passengers. All adults are invited – no need to be a senior.

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

Sign-up sheets are available at the Opportunity Desk.

For more information about any event or if you are interested in hosting the Get-Together in December; please call, text, or email Julie.

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

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Scott Peterson

MEMORIAL

April 11, 2026

Steven Krippner

PRAY FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

President: Don Devine
Vice-President: Bill LeDuc
Secretary: Julie Jacobson
Treasurer: Lane Phelan
Stewardship: Bill LeDuc
Outreach: Julie Jacobson
Personnel: Jeaneen Brogan
Josephine Delegates: Pastor Peterson, Linda Millo
Finance: Lane Phelan, Bill LeDuc, Linda Millo
Finance Secretary: Linda Millo
Camp Lutherwood Rep: Kenny Holzemer

Fellowship :
Education: Rosemary Walter
Youth: Rosemary Walter
Preschool: Lane Phelan
Properties: Steve Anderson
Worship: Pat Carrie Smith
WELCA : Lane Phelan
Legacy Endowment: Wayne Olsen, Rod Odegaard, Julie Jacobson
Synod Assy Delegates: Pastor Peterson, Lois Cassidy, Linda Millo

Dates to Celebrate in May

Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| 01 | Lily Dumas | 13 | Kristoffer Swanson |
| 01 | Carter Eggleston | 14 | Anita Holzemer |
| 01 | Catherine Eggleston | 15 | Thomas Knowles |
| 01 | Jennifer Hansen | 16 | Nathan Dent |
| 01 | Donna Maricich | 17 | Judy Card |
| 02 | Corine DeWitt | 17 | Renate Staab-Yankacy |
| 07 | Ethan Lust | 17 | Bill Sahnou |
| 07 | Susan McCutcheon | 18 | Susan Reed |
| 07 | Judy Pesaturo | 20 | Connie Walters |
| 10 | Lois Cassidy | 22 | Jean Brown |
| 10 | Brian Hanrahan | 22 | Vera Jones |
| 10 | Kendra Kennedy | 25 | Scott Peterson |
| 10 | Lara Knowles | 27 | Lane Phelan |
| 12 | Owen Kennedy | 28 | Bill LeDuc |

Anniversaries

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 01 | Bill & Diane Gus |
| 05 | Jim & Nancy Loftis |
| 11 | Kevin & Alyssa Costenbader |
| 12 | Tim & Donna Maricich |
| 13 | Michael & Janice Sullivan |
| 18 | Paul & Jeanne Krasnowski |
| 19 | Dave & Annarose Boge |
| 25 | Randy & Stacy VanSweden |
| 27 | Dave & Mirth Moore |
| 29 | Klaus & Christie Schoebel |

Worship Attendance

| Date | Events | In-Person | Nursery | Live-Stream |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Mar 22 | 5th Sunday in Lent | 82 | 2 | 45 |
| Mar 25 | Lent Supper | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| Mar 29 | Palm Sunday | 130 | 5 | 55 |
| Apr 2 | Maundy Thursday | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Apr 3 | Good Friday 5:00p | 152 | 3 | 0 |
| | Good Friday 7:00p | 73 | 0 | 36 |
| Apr 5 | Easter Sunday | 221 | 5 | 50 |
| Apr 12 | 2nd Sunday of Easter | 93 | 5 | 64 |
| Apr 19 | 3rd Sunday of Easter | 114 | 5 | ** |
| Apr 26 | 4th Sunday of Easter | ** | ** | ** |

** Not available at time of printing



Mother's Day Trivia

- Which flower is traditionally associated with Mother's Day?
- What year was the first Mother's Day celebrated?
- How many diapers does a mom change before her baby turns 2?
- What is the highest number of children one woman has birthed total?
- What age was the oldest woman to give birth?



I am so glad that the cherry trees and magnolia trees and dogwoods are blooming. I am ecstatic to see daffodils and tulips ... and to trust that the azaleas and rhododendrons are on the way. I can almost taste local strawberries ... ones with real flavor. And the promise of juicy tomatoes is getting closer. I can feel the dirt under my fingernails as I begin to plant in my small yard and garden. There is something both ancient and new, hopeful and earthy about planting a garden.

If you think about it, one of the first images we have in scripture is of a garden. God created humans and put them in a garden. And at the very end of the Bible, in Revelation 22, we hear a description of another beautiful garden – this one with a river flowing on and on, and the tree of life on either side, bearing fruit and offering healing for all nations. It is in our bones, our hearts, our souls to be in a garden – to be grounded in abundance. To be planted by the river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God.

Still, we might look at our communities and this world and think, “There isn’t enough. There isn’t enough care. There is a lack of justice and empathy and hope.” We might look at our congregation and lament, “There aren’t enough resources. We have so little. What can we possibly do?” We might look at our own lives and wonder if we can make any difference at all.

But while we are holding to what little we think we have, God is busy growing and creating, bringing new life from what seemed dormant. Scripture reminds us again and again that we are planted in God’s abundant garden, even when we forget it. God provides water when we feel parched. God feeds us when we are hungry. God is ripening tomatoes right before our eyes – even as we complain about the pale and tasteless ones from the grocery store.

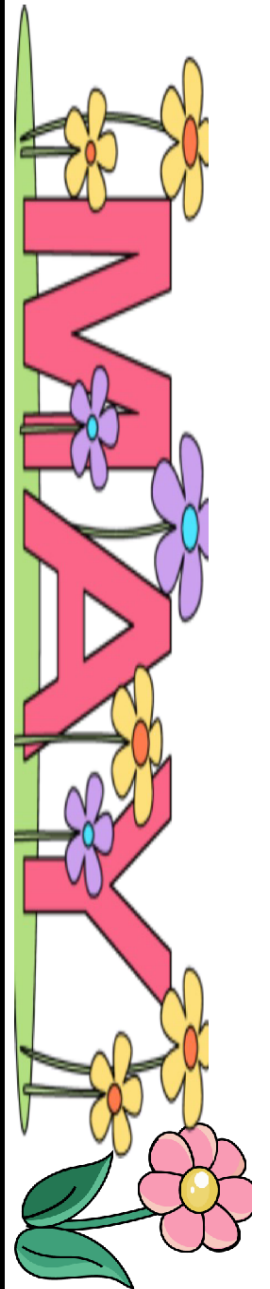
What a gift and promise this is – from the beginning of creation to today and into God’s future: God provides. Even when we doubt. Even when we hoard. Even when we grasp for more. God still provides. God provided clothing in the garden, manna in the desert, water from a rock, oil that didn’t run out. Jesus fed 5000, and Jesus appeared to Mary in a garden. What a generous and extravagant God.

We are truly planted in God’s abundance.

And with that promise, I invite you to come to the **synod gathering on May 30 for Life in God’s Garden: Seeds of Generosity**. (Learn more and get registered here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gathering/2026-05-30>) It will be a day of learning, community, encouragement, and imagining together how we live generously for the sake of the world. For we trust that through the Spirit, God plants. God waters. God brings life. And by grace, we get to be a part of it – as people rooted in God’s garden.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a | 4 O.A 10:00a | 5 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G. & B 7:00p | 6 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a WORSHIP COMM 11:00a CUB Paek 6:00p | 7 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a EXECUTIVE BOARD 3:00p CHURCH COUNCIL 4:00p | 8 | 9 |
| 10 6th Easter Sunday Mother's Day EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a | 11 O.A 10:00a | 12 WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a BANNER Comm. 11:30p WOMEN'S BIBLE 3:30p SCOUT G. & B 7:00p | 13 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a A-Town Olyg Mty 12:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 14 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a SCOUT B Leader 7:00p Beyond Malibu | 15 Beyond Malibu | 16 Beyond Malibu |
| 17 7th Easter Sunday EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a | 18 O.A 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u> | 19 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G. Leader 6:00p YOUTH Comm 6:30p SCOUT G. & B 7:00p | 20 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CUB Paek 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 21 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Day of Pentecost WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a | 25 Memorial Day O.A 10:00a ALTAR Guild 11:00a | 26 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G. & B 7:00p | 27 Staff Meeting 9:30a Prek Chapel 10:45a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 28 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Prek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Holy Trinity/ Graduate Recognition/ Scholarship Presentation WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a | | | | | | |

Trivia answers-

Carnations, 1908, 6,000-8,000 diapers, Mrs. Feodor Vassilyev of Russia birthed 69 children between 1725-1765!!, 73 years old