

Pastor's Message

Anacortes Lutheran Church September 2020 Newsletter

Don't you hate it when your computer or your phone's spellchecker wants to change a word or a name into something you never intended? A word preachers use with some regularity is "pericope." It functions as a synonym for "text" or "passage" when referring to the Bible. I used it in a recent email, sent it off, and had a response come back, "I don't understand. Why would you want a periscope in next week's sermon?"

Whether it involves pericopes or periscopes or anything else, communication is essential if people are going to understand one another. There are more roadblocks to dialog than simply overly eager spellcheckers. Misunderstandings of a more significant nature sometimes occur between individuals; most of us have experienced the discomfort knowing that a neighbor, friend or family member has taken offense because of something they misunderstood.

I'm beginning to appreciate how important open and honest communication can be. It's not only about what we say, but how we listen as well. There is a passage in the book of Proverbs which states "A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense."

Communication is tough enough under normal conditions; yet the difficulties are amplified in this time of coronavirus when face-to-face encounters are limited and we are left with phone calls, Zoom meetings, texts, letters and emails.

The word communication comes from the same root as community. Within a church community our words to one another need to be honest, loving, supportive and gracious. We are called to do more than taking care not to offend or take offense; our calling to discipleship pushes us further.

If you've ever read Luther's explanations to the Ten Commandments (and those who have taken confirmation instruction have certainly done so) you may have noticed how he tackles both the negative and the positive aspects of each commandment. Most of the commandments address actions in the negative; by that I mean most are "Thou shalt not . . ." instead of "You shall . . ." Luther fills in some blanks. Take the commandment "You shall not bear false witness." Luther explains first the negative: "We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray them or give them a bad name." Then he moves to ways we can fulfill the commandment positively: "But we should defend them, speak well of them, and take their words and actions in the kindest possible way."

Continued on next page...

Pastor's Message Continued

Maybe we can not only avoid giving offense or taking out anger during these strange times, maybe one of the best things we can do is put that positive connotation on our calling. Reach out to those in the community who might be the most isolated, the most vulnerable, and the most at risk. Use words of support with one another and take up surprising, unexpected acts of kindness.

Care of one another is about words and deeds. Communication which conveys love is much better. Use your words to reconcile, heal and restore. That's today's periscope.

Walt

A Word from Pastor Butler

Welcome to September!

Normally in September summer vacations are a fond memory, students are back in school, and the general pace of everyday life picks up momentum. In the church, we're usually getting ready for a big fall kick-off, affectionately named Rally Sunday, and the start of Sunday School, Confirmation class, weekly Bible studies, Choir rehearsals, a return to two worship services, gearing up of the quilting crew and WELCA for upcoming in-gatherings of quilts and kits and other items to support ministries to those in need.

But this is not a normal September. Instead of all the worship and fellowship, learning and service activities we love to do together, we must continue to do our gathering and ministry via zoom and other virtual platforms. Our Anacortes Re-Entry working group has been formulating a process for in-person meetings and worship that meets government requirements for safety during the pandemic. But, it isn't certain just when those plans will be enacted as the number of new cases and deaths remains at a dangerous level in Skagit County.

This may not be a normal September, but that in no way means the ministry of Anacortes Lutheran Church is on hold, or that the spiritual nourishment we all need has stopped.

Quilters are quilting at home. Knitters are knitting at home. Crafty people are making and distributing masks. Members are checking in on one another and are giving a helping hand when it is needed. Prayer ministry is especially important and is actively caring for those who are ill, bereaved, or having a tough time. Online worship continues to nourish our souls. Plans are underway to resume Thursday Noon Bible Study via zoom.

We give thanks to the dedicated volunteers and staff who continue to prepare and record worship: Laurie Julius-Carver, Jim Carver, Pat Carrie Smith, Rachel Devine, and Becky Eggleston. Considerable time and energy is being put into developing the ability to livestream worship on Sunday morning, with the recording available for viewing at other times. We are grateful for the untiring efforts of Kevin and Kendra Kennedy in making this happen in the near future.

We have said it before, and it is worth repeating—the church is not closed! We have just had to find different ways to keep doing God's work. Thank you for your participation in worship. Thank you for your generous financial support of our church. Thank you for your patience throughout this time of pandemic and for your prayers for one another and for the mission to which God has called us.

"See" you soon!

Pastor Deborah



The Transition Team would like to thank the congregation for their response to the recent questionnaire. More than 70 surveys have already been received. If you haven't had the opportunity yet to turn in your copy, there is still time.

The deadline is August 31st. You can either turn in the hardcopy (available from the church if you've misplaced yours) or you can visit the website and fill out the form online.

Your team is hard at work compiling all the information and organizing it for the report which will be given to the synod office in selecting candidates and to the prospective pastors as well.

Even though we are separated from one another by the coronavirus, the congregation is united in carrying on the work of mission and planning. Thanks for being a part of this important process. And thanks for keeping the team in your prayers.

The Transition Team

Pastor Walt Rice, Nancy Loftis (Team Leader), Jane Nelson, Jim Fors, Kristen Nations, and Matt Kerschbaum.

What have you been doing?

It has been too long since we have had fellowship together. I have missed hearing about your lives and seeing your beautiful faces. I'm sure you have too.

How have you been keeping busy...

Gardening, doing puzzles, reading books, listening to audible books. (Anything you would suggest we read)

Have you been listening to the Sunday Sermons? Been doing a virtual Bible Study with friends?

Have you taken any walks or hikes (what have you seen on your adventures?)

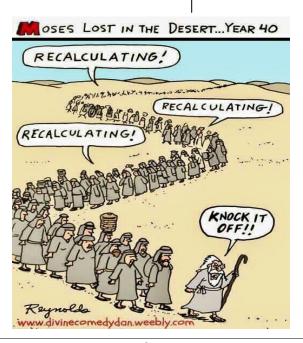
Have you cooked anything yummy or burnt something you will never make again?

Have you been cleaning out your closets, organizing cupboards or been online shopping filling them up.

Or have you just been relaxing in the sunshine, soaking up the vitamin D.

So tell me all about it...

Email the church, write a letter or send a photo. Curious minds want to know.



Pastor Jerry Bongard—Celebrates 50 years of service

WOW! It's been 50 years since Jerry Bongard was ordained!

We thank God for Jerry, for his faithful preaching of the Gospel, for his loving care for God's people, for his passion for justice and peace, for his sense of humor (including those Ole and Lena jokes), for his fine voice and presence in the Choir, for sharing Gail with us (thanks Gail for your leadership and caring ministry among us). Most of all, we thank God for placing Jerry in our ALC community and for the loving and generous ways in which he has shared his gifts with us.



Congratulations, Jerry, and God's blessing on you and the ministry you do in building up God's Beloved Kin-dom.



From the Council President ...

Our Church Council Needs YOU!

Anacortes Lutheran Church has several positions on our council that absolutely need to be filled. Of the highest priority right now is the Stewardship, the Youth, the Fellowship, and the President Elect.

The Stewardship position helps to oversee the appropriate and effective use of God's gifts in our church. The Youth position develops ways for the youth of the church to be involved in the work of Christ, and to provide opportunities for the youth to grow in faith and fellowship. The Fellowship position is tasked with ways to develop fellowship among the congregation, and to welcome new-comers to the church. All three positions would assign their own committee to assist in the efforts to put out the best possible work for our wonderful church family.

Also needed is a President Elect who's duties are described in the church constitution as "The president-elect shall act for the president in his or her absence, shall serve as parliamentarian when present at meetings and shall perform such other duties as the Congregation Council delegates, so long as they do not violate the constitution and bylaws. The president elect shall also serve as a non-voting member of the Call Committee in the event such a committee is elected."

Our 2020 ALC Church Council

Our 2020 ALC Church Council				
President	Bill LeDuc			
President –Elect:	•			
Treasurer	Lane Phelan			
Secretary	 Melanie Sahnow 			
Education	 Kendra Kennedy 			
Youth	•			
Fellowship	•			
Outreach	•			
Personnel	 Steve Richards 			
Preschool	 Jo Rockwood 			
Properties	 Les Olsen 			
Financial	•			
Stewardship	•			
Worship	 David Bjornson 			
WELCA	 Jeaneen Brogan & Linda Walker 			
Josephine Del.	 Jerry Bongard & Grace Boggio 			
Lutherwood Rep	Jim Fors			
ELCA Synod Rep	 Pastor Butler & Linda Millo 			

Once those positions are filled, we will look towards filling the Pre-School and Finance seats. If you think you can help, or have an idea of someone who can, please contact the office at 360-293-9586 or info@anacorteslutheran.org to leave a message for Bill Gusa. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

From the Treasurer...

We have completed the first 6 months of our fiscal year on July 31, 2020.

Our member offering for the first 26 weeks totals \$154,609 for an average weekly giving of \$5,946. Half-way through our fiscal year we are at a **negative** (-\$5, 620) Revenue to Expense ratio.

At the half-way mark of 2019 our average weekly offering was \$7,265.

At our 2019 February annual meeting the congregation had voted on an increased budget to support an associate youth pastor.

Our congregational life changed dramatically with the departure of our beloved Pastor Benson for medical leave last fall, and then COVIID-19 starting in March of this year. While giving overall is less, we have a solid core of financial support from our congregational family and have a good amount if financial reserves if needed.

Our personnel expenses year to date for 2020 are \$17,000 less than 2019.

Benevolence paid year to date 2020 is \$13,013.

I miss you all but am so happy to be blessed with awesome online worship weekly.

God's blessings! Lane Phelan, Treasurer

Proverbs 22:17

Listen to the words of the wise;
 apply your heart to my instruction.
 For it is good to keep these sayings in your heart and always ready on your lips.
 I am teaching you today—yes, you—so you will trust in the LORD.



Thank You from the Heart



Thanks be to our ALC family for all the love, support, and prayers. Until we gather in person, we appreciate connecting with you via phone, text, or grocery isle!

Dave & Peggy White

Thank you for all the Love and concern you have shown us during Paul's "Life with Parkinson's".

Your outpouring and lovely prayers, offerings of assistance, visitations, phone calls and so many cards of encouragement & condolences, was over whelming.

We were and I am so blessed to belong to such a caring church.

So many thanks and Gods blessings to all.

Lorraine Sund

Prayer Time - The Power of Prayer!

Now you can join us -TUESDAYS at 1:00PM by calling on your phone to our

"New Conference Call Prayer Time"

Call Peggy at 360-299-1184 to learn more.

In our Prayers:

For a current list of prayer concerns, go to:

www.anacorteslutheran.org and
look for the "Prayer Page" tab.

Call the office at 360-283-9586 to add or update a
prayer need to the "Prayer Page."

Urgent or Confidential Needs:

The prayer Chain is open for you from 9am to 9pm. We pray for you and then pass you prayer to the next person, who then prays and passes, etc.. Your prayer needs cannot be shared outside of the Chain.

As always, our Pastors are available to pray with you or for you. Please let them know if you are hospitalized or ill.

Peace of the Lord.

Sewing Circles - Faith & Julia

Rejoice in the Lord always.

We want to let everyone know we are praying that you are all well and doing good. We really miss all of you and we are looking forward to the day when we can be together again.

Take Care!

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRIME TIMERS"

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
ALL FUTURE EVENTS ARE
CANCELLED
until further notice.

Have a great fall, stay safe, and be happy. We look forward to seeing you some day. We miss y'all!

Visit our Website "Prayer Page"

for a list of people we are praying for.



To add to or update the "Prayer Page" call or email the church office.

LWR Knitting News - Linda Anderson

September 21, 2020 ~ **Knitting 1:00-3:00 pm ~**

We will meet (weather permitting) at <u>Causland Park</u> outdoor amphitheater, located at 710 N. Avenue (10th & N Streets). We will not meet if it is raining. That would not be fun!!!

We can sit and knot and social distance. You may want to bring water and a hat. A cushion or blanket would make for softer seating. There are no bathroom facilities there.

We will update the sweater/hat counts and can turn in our sweaters when we meet again at the church.

I will bring yarn to Causland Park. Please call me if you want more yarn before then.

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set. This year there will be one shipment in the fall.

Our last counts were:

Sweater/hat sets - 71

Hats - 6

Sweaters - 6

We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome and teaching is always available.

I hope to see you at Causland Park on Monday, September 21st at 1:00 pm.

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

BACK TO SCHOOL

Whoa, hold on there. As of this writing, we haven't received the go-ahead for back to school from the re-entry committee or the hierarchy of the Church. For now, we are looking at several options for small group gatherings with teachers and students. We have also thought of incorporating the Family Link program (see Kendra Kennedy's article in the August newsletter) as a teaching platform. In any event, we are working out ways that we can keep our Sunday school students engaged in the spiritual pursuits. When we do get the green light for in person Sunday school, we will be so happy to greet all our wonderful students and teachers back to the classroom. We have curriculum, crafts, supplies, tables and chairs all ready and waiting for the day. Until then, we will continue to seek ways and opportunities to reach out to our Sunday school students. We haven't forgotten about you and not a day goes by that we don't think about each and every one of you.

Sunday school registration:

Parents, even though we are uncertain about the start up date for Sunday school at the church, would you please take the time to fill out a Sunday school registration form. You can find a pdf registration form on the church web site (anacorteslutheran.org). Go to the Online Ministry page and click on Sunday school. There is a box on that page for Sunday school registration. By filling out a registration form you are helping us keep our records at the church up to date; then drop it off at the church. Be watching for breaking news on how and when we will be launching our Sunday school. We certainly appreciate your help with this important matter.

Sermons 4 Kids:

Sermons 4 Kids is available on the church Website. If the children aren't sick and tired of computer watching, try going over the little sermon and other features available on that Website.

Events to be watching for:

Covid - 19 forced us to abandon our plans for an all church gathering to celebrate the things we missed during the spring and summer months. We had planned to recognize those who had birthdays, those who graduated, those who received scholarships, anniversaries, and other notable occurrences. If we could figure out something that could be celebrated, we thought we should celebrate it. Well, don't give up. We have only postponed this celebratory event so be watching the Website, and Facebook for the breaking news that announces the date and time for this unbelievable, epic event.

We know it's been a difficult time, but thank you so much for your continued support of our Sunday school... We look so much forward to all being back together again.

GOD BLESS!

And hang in there.

Dave White

Director, Children's Ministry

206-226-7182





September - Sunday Worship Readings & Gospel Follow along as you listen and watch our online worship.

Sep. 6	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Psalm 119:33-40
Sep. 13	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Genesis 50:15-21 / Romans 14:1-12 Psalm 103:[1-7]8-13 Matthew 18:21-35
Sep. 20		Jonah 3:10-4:11 / Philippians 1:21-30 Psalm 145:1-8 Matthew 20:1-16
Sep. 27	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 / Philippians 2:1-13 Psalm 25:1-9 Matthew 21:23-32

Will you Read a Sunday Lesson?

We are looking for people to record themselves reading. We will email you the lesson & instructions. It would be wonderful to see your smiling faces once again!

360-293-9586 info@anacorteslutheran.org

Call or email the office to let us know which week you are free.

Did you Know?

DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO THE PASTORS?

Pastor Walt Rice: walicoli@comcast.net Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com

PASTORS OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm,

By Appointment Only - call the church office

- CD RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PAST SERVICES: If you would like them delivered
 directly to you, please call the church office, 360-293-9586, and ask to be put onto the delivery schedule.
- <u>DID YOU ALSO KNOW, WE HAVE</u>? Communion cups for home communion are available at church! Living Lutheran Magazines and Christ in Our Homes devotionals are available too!

 You can find ALL of them in the basket right outside the church office door.
- "LIKE" OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: Anacortes Lutheran Church
- **DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?** Are you receiving emails from church? If not, call the office!
- **DO YOU NEED HELP?** Groceries, a mask, a friend? Call the church office maybe we can help.

September - Birthday Blessings to You!

•		•	•
I	Chris Franulovich	14	Wanda Rock
I	Deneva Baker	15	James Butler
I	Jerika Duquaine	15	Maxine Greenfield
I	Rich Berentson	15	Michael Phelan
2	Brooke Geffe	17	Aidan Ufkes
2	Teresa Chang	18	Linda Millo
3	Karen Elling	19	Hildy Radke
8	Mirth Moore	20	Rory Coyne
8	Romany Kerr	21	Elyse Etlitcher
9	Tammy Tornga	22	Pastor Deborah Butler
10	Alexandra Hernandez	23	Chris Long
10	Brian Mavar	23	David Holzemer
10	Floyd Dent	23	Kirstin Fors
10	Robert Salnick	23	Lorraine Sund
П	Arlene French	23	Matt Kerschbaum
П	Ella Flanigan	24	Rachel Long
11	Eve DeFrancesco	25	Vicki Long
12	Jorgina Moore-Larson	26	Geoffrey Thompson
13	Dave Moore	27	William French
13	Robert Collins	28	Mathew Tracy
		30	Allison Sherman

In Loving Memory

Roberta Jean "Bobbi" Khile

January 25, 1945 - July 28, 2020



Dan and I are grateful to everyone that sent us condolences for the passing of his step-mother, Bobbi Khile, in Port Townsend. She fought a valiant battle against many types of cancers over the last 10 years and we are grateful for all the prayers that were offered up in her name.

We miss you all and look forward to seeing everyone again. From our family to yours, blessings!

Kathy and Dan Khile

September - Anniversaries!

I	Jan & Jerry Woodall
6	Bryan & Linda Walker
7	Anita & Kenny Holzemer
7	Jeff & Lori Hrovat
8	Gil & Vera Harvey
8	Pastor Deborah & Jay Butler
14	Kim & Mike Trafton
17	Duane & Janey Dent
18	Chris & Jeanne Anderson
20	Bev & Chuck Landgraf
20	Kyle & Romany Kerr
20	Melanie & Bill Sahnow
24	Stephanie & Tom Poor
27	Erin & Michael Flanigan
28	Deneva & Joshua Baker

August - Online Worship

Church Closed due to COVID-19		
AUGUST	VIEWS	
2	64	
9	85	
16	63	
23		
30		



ALC Council Minutes - July 16, 2020

Attended: Via Zoom, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pastor Walt, Melanie Sahnow, Kendra Kennedy, Dave Bjornson, Jeaneen Brogan & Steve Richards.

Bill opened the at 6:30pm and Jeaneen said a prayer. July mtg notes approved as written.

Presidents Report: We rec'd an activity report from the Scouts, we are happy to announce that we have I Cub Scout Pack and 2 Scout Troops, one boy and one girl. They are all staying active with online requirements, meetings are done via zoom. Bill is writing a letter to the City Council supporting the Wellness Center out at the old movie theater. At the last staff meeting they came up with a possible list of names to help fill the vacant Council positions. We have a small group meeting on Wednesday's at Ipm via zoom to work on the constitution update with the guidance of Pastor Berg from the Synod.

Pastors Report: Transition team is meeting regularly, the survey results are slowly coming in. Please send the survey in along with any long-term plans or any goals the congregation would like to see for our church. Hoping to resume the Thursday noon bible study soon.

Treasurers Report: Lane gave report. We are ½ way through the year and we are down about \$5000 revenue to expense, all current bills are paid.

Old Business: Live streaming task force is working hard to be up and running in the next few weeks. Kevin has not heard of problems with the new WIFI. Lane is in contact with Comcast, but we do not want a 3 year contract. Hoping for Anacortes WIFI- & / soon. If we hire a media manager/production person for live streaming they could replace Becky as she is doing it now. Laurie is keeping up the online presents for the church now.

New Business: The Synod has invited us to attend 2 zoom mtgs 8-29 & 9-12 about Fellowship, if interested contact Bill LeDuc to RSVP. A review and update must be done soon on Congregation Roster, anyone interested in helping call Bill LeDuc. Education committee has offered to help. The Executive Board will take over Stewardship until position is filled.

Personnel Report: Mirth Moore and Dave White are still on furlough, Mirth would not be coming back as a janitor but would like to still be in the nursery. Dave has been still doing many education tasks on his own time. Steve made motion to bring Dave White back on staff now. Discussion was to have Lane see if finances agree. Only with treasures approval, MSP All the preschool also is furloughed but Maggie is working. Steve made motion the bring Maggie back on staff also with the treasurers ok. MSP pending treasurer approval.

WELCA Report: We are still not sewing at the church. Wondering about having a Christmas Family this year?

Outreach: No Report

Property Report: No Report

Education: Kendra is meeting with her committee via Zoom, the summer gatherings have been postponed for now. The Family Link has had very little response. They are planning for Sunday school in the fall to start October 1st, hoping for in person classes with 5 kids per teacher, classed outside with all rules being followed. Conformation for Micah is in the works. Education committee is concerned that the kids are missing out.

Youth Report: No Report **Youth Report:** No Report **Preschool Report:** No Report **Stewardship Report:** No report

Worship Report: Dave Bjornson asked about a media manager person to do the live stream production and help get us up and running. Dave's concern was that if we hire and rehire back people, will the finances sustain it. Looking for a critique team to watch the services when they go live. Roslyn Payne is also willing to do wedding and funerals if Pastor Rice is unavailable.

The next Council meeting is September 10th at 6:30p

Bill read a Prayer and closed the meeting at 8:20 pm

Blessings, Melanie

From the Bishop · The Spirit · September 2020

www.lutheransnw.org/publications

Dear Beloveds,

Well, I have to be honest...when I first started writing and talking about COVID-19, I did not expect that COVID-19 would still be a "thing" in September. And yet...here we are...

So ... is anyone else weary?

In this time of great anxiety, worry, the unknown, and the threat of COVID for ourselves and our loved ones, I am finding that prayer is ever more important. I would like to commend to you one prayer practice that I have found helpful. This practice comes from Ignatius Loyola.

Ignatius Loyola writes in his book, Spiritual Exercises, about the daily prayer he practiced called The Examen (or The Examination in English). He also encouraged his fellow Jesuits to do the same. (You might remember that Ignatius Loyola was the founder of the Jesuits during the 16th century). I encourage you to do this practice with others – perhaps with your family at a set time each day or with your congregation sitting outside in a circle (physically distanced!) or on Zoom. Of course, you are welcome to do this by yourself, too.

The Examen is a prayer of review - a short reflection back over the day, recalling events and taking note of your feelings. The purpose is to become more aware of the ways in which God has been present to you, the times when the Holy Spirit was drawing you towards life. Before beginning the five steps, prepare yourself by breathing slowly and consciously. Continue to consciously breathe throughout this practice.

Step One: Pray to understand and appreciate the past day.

Look back on the last 24 hours. Make a list in your head and heart of all that happened in your life. You are welcome to write these experiences down.

Step Two: Review the day with gratitude.

What brought you joy? As you look at the work you did, the people you interacted with, what did you receive? What did you give? Where are you thankful to God? Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures.

Step Three: Pay attention to your emotions.

When did you feel most grateful? Least grateful? When did you love? When were you loved? What drained the life from you? When did things feel out of place ad off? When did you experience the fruits of the Spirit? When did it feel like a time of God's absence?

Step Four: Choose one of your feelings or encounters (positive or negative) and pray from here.

You might have a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. There might be something that at first seems rather insignificant. You might have great pain. Look at what you have chosen. Examine it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

Step Five: Look toward tomorrow.

Ask God for guidance in facing tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you look forward. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask God's Spirit for help and understanding. Ask for wisdom and protection. Pray for hope. Do all of this in the spirit of gratitude.

You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer as you end the Examen.

I pray for all of you, my beloveds in Christ. May you feel God's love and grace with you in these times. If you would like other resources or ways to pray, I also commend to you two smart phone apps: Centering Prayer and Pray As You Go.

We are in these strange and difficult times for awhile. But we are not in this alone. We are community. We are church. We are God's beloved children. May you feel God's Holy Spirit with you as we walk in Christ together.

In Christ's Love, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

See ALL Upcoming Events at www.lutheransnw.org/weekly-update

On right sidebar find recent announcements.

(Mobile users, select "see full site" to view the sidebar.)