



Anacortes Lutheran Church

October 2024 Newsletter

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

I was speaking with someone the other day about what a Lutheran is. They were a person that did not grow up in a church environment and so were wondering what all the differences were that made so many different churches. I told them that to go through all the differences would take a couple of weeks to run through, but then I told them that all of them were Christian churches. They were confused about this because why would there be so many if they were all Christian churches. I gave the illustration that churches, like ice cream, has a lot of flavors (around 40,000 registered denominations in the US today), but that they all had the simple ingredients that made them a Christian church. "So it is all about the different flavors," they asked. Yes, it is about how we are flavored differently to reach the widest range of people with the message of God's love.

When I returned home later that day, I thought of this quote of Martin Luther:

The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and should not call themselves Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone...How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?

It seems we do get caught up by those many things that differentiate us from one another and forget about all those things that we hold in common. Earlier today, a few of the other religious leaders in Anacortes gathered for a time of shared discussion and prayer and our conversation again returned to this idea of denominational differences not being nearly as important as how we see ourselves (and our churches) as gathered by Jesus and to share His story. It is Jesus who gathers us together and calls us friends.

When I start to dwell on how much of society seeks to create division, I remember that we are called by Jesus to live for God and for our neighbor. We are called to love our 'enemy' and not just those who think like we do. We are to live lives of reaching out to the "least of these" and to help however we can. We are to live out our Christian faith by being Christlike.

Yes, there will still be differences in thought and opinions. We may not agree as to the best way to go about providing the basics of life to everyone. We will not agree on which car to drive or what boat to float, but we can agree that God loves us and that we are called to love one another. If we can do this, it will be enough.

Gathered in Christ,

Pastor Scott





Attendees: Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Anne Barry, Jeaneen Brogan, Jeanette Christiansen, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Bill LeDuc, Lane Phelan, Pat Carrie Smith, Michael Sullivan, Dave White

The meeting was called to order and Pastor opened with prayer. August minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was submitted. Attendance and offerings were lower this summer, September attendance and offerings thus far have been better. Linda Millo, John Parker and Lane will continue to work with the finance program and plan to have an up-to-date report for January-September at the end of September.

WELCA: A written report was submitted.

Property: A written report was submitted to council and to the newsletter. There is a new lock on the front door, matching other door locks in the building. Two furnaces have been inspected and signed off by the city of Anacortes. Old blackened vent filters have been removed. Lightbulbs in ovens and refrigerators have been replaced. The refrigerator/freezer in the youth area needs cleaning out and defrosting, Michael will look into this. Steve suggests 30 minutes of weeding by the youth or Boy Scouts as a thank you for building use. Don gave appreciation for Steve's work.

Outreach: No report.

Youth: Michael and Jobun met regarding youth activities. They are looking at a Lutherwood fall retreat in place of the summer retreat. The 3 mini-VBS days went well. They have the VBS package to do a full VBS week again next summer. The elementary-young middle school attendance is strong as there is a core group of kids attending. The older middle school-high school youth attendance has been more challenging. The Flamingo fundraiser went well. Plans are being worked on for the Trunk or Treat event and a family pool and BBQ event.

Pastor's Report: A written report was submitted. Reminder from Amanda to turn in any news of October events by 9/23 to get into the newsletter. Pastor has curriculum for a First Communion Class. Jeaneen, Jeanette and Lane will review the existing membership roll to update them. Pastor has had calls as the chaplain in the community during emergencies.

Preschool: A written report was submitted. School started Monday, the classes are not quite full. Let Anne know if anyone else needs CPR training as they will be setting that up for the preschool employees.

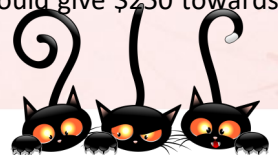
Personnel: All positions are filled in the preschool and nursery. There are 17 employees in the church and 7 in preschool.

Worship: A written report was submitted. There is Boy Scout popcorn stored in the Altar Guild storage area. Don will reach out Chris Anderson (Boy Scout lead) to see what storage is needed and suggest another place to store these.

Stewardship: Bill requests committee budget recommendations for next year - please have this in by October 1 so he can start working on a 2025 budget. If there are no changes from last year, let him know this. Regarding the Parking Lot Fund, there is currently \$13,000 with another \$7,000 promised, more money is needed. The cracks have weeds growing in them - Bill is trying to keep that under control until we have new pavement.

New Business:

- Education begins 10/6 with an intergenerational class. Adult, Confirmation and Sunday School classes begin 10/13.
- The Ministry Fair on 9/22 is being organized by the Worship Committee. Any committees who want to advertise what they do can have a table and a sign for coffee hour that day. Don will make an announcement on Sunday, 9/15.
- Youth Breakfast will be on Sunday 9/29. Michael and Don will create the menu.
- The kitchen refrigerator coils are rusted (24 years old). Anne made a motion to replace the refrigerator before it breaks, all were in favor. Don will find 3 to consider at the next council meeting.
- Warner Berglund has been mowing for many years and is retiring from this volunteer ministry. Don will send him a thank you letter after Pat-Carrie finds out how long he has been doing this. Bill LeDuc will take this mowing ministry over (Dorothy already is keeping up on the flower beds etc). Dorothy is willing to work with any volunteers to replant the bed where the sign is on the parking lot corner (the city cleared the hedge for a wheelchair accessible sidewalk). Don will reach out to Chris Anderson to see if there is an Eagle Scout who needs a project. Thrivent could give \$250 towards the project.



- Lane led a discussion on bringing back a paper mailing of the newsletter. In addition, Michael noted other churches have flyers distributed in the community. These would be reminders that ALC is here and continues to care for members who no longer come as well as for people in the community.
- Pastor reports that the Prayer Wall will launch in October, plans are under way.
- The Constitution revisions were introduced. Bill made a motion to hold a separate meeting on Tuesday, 9/17 at 5:30pm for council to discuss in further detail. All were in favor.

Jeanette moved to adjourn the meeting.

Our next regular council meeting will be held October 10 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Julie no later than midnight on Tuesday, October 8.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



PRAY FOR OUR 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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



EDUCATION

- Sunday school instruction will start Oct 13th during education hour from 9 - 9:45 am. We are in need of a volunteer to fill the Education Committee Chair position and four Sunday school teachers; **two** (Pre-k - 1st grade), **one** (2nd - 3rd grade), **one** (4th - 5th grade). This will allow the teachers to only be needed one Sunday a month.
- Also looking for talented congregational members to come up to Sunday school room at 9 am to assist the children singing songs with piano or guitar accompaniment for up to ten minutes. The volunteer can pick what they feel is appropriate for this age group to sing.
- Don is also looking for a volunteer or two to help with teaching confirmation classes that is also starting Oct 13th.

If you are interested in the Chair position or teaching please email the office at info@anacorteslutheran.org





GET-TOGETHER - ROASTED REDS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme is: *"Guest Speaker - Fred and Susan Wintermantel from the Kiwanis Club"*.

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



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

BINGO IN THE MORNING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room #2.

No sign-up required - just come and have fun. Snacks are provided. Please bring a drink.

****** News - We are retiring at the end of 2024 and plan to travel. ******

2025 will bring changes – monthly Get-Togethers will be held on the 2nd Friday and hosted by volunteers. A monthly sign-up sheet is available on the Opportunity Desk.

Thank you, fun-loving seniors, for your continued support and participation. Have a fantastic fall, stay safe, and be happy. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury

SCOUT NEWS

Scouts will be selling popcorn in fellowship hall after worship on October 6th and 13th! The money made will help the youth pay for their camp and activities during the year.



SYMPATHIES

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

Edward Berg

December 13, 1927 - August 3, 2024



| OCTOBER 2024 | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ALC NURSERY SCHEDULE | |
| OCT 6 10:00 Service | Lead: Rebecca Burtney Asst: Brooklyn Bush |
| OCT 13 10:00 Service | Lead: Erica West Lead: Rebecca Burtney |
| OCT 20 10:00 Service | Lead: Rebecca Burtney Asst: Brooklyn Bush |
| OCT 27 10:00 Service | Lead: Rachel Long Asst: tbd |





WELCA THANKOFFERING PROGRAM - JOSEPHINE CARING COMMUNITY



Guest speaker is Linda Milo. Linda will talk about the history and services provided at Josephine Caring Community and their Christmas program needs. Please join us Tuesday, October 22nd @ 1:00pm.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Let's send the joy of Christmas to children around the world. It's simple! Just fill a shoebox with toys, school supplies, clothing & hygiene items. Empty boxes for you to fill will be in the narthex by October 20th. Return filled boxes to church by 11/17/24. Call Linda Walker 925-963-3879, for more information.

SEWING NEWS



October is a busy month for this group. It is shipping month so on October 31 boxes of quilts and kits will be packed into the truck and head to Seattle. Before then we have our quilt blessing. Please join us on Sunday, **October 13** as the quilts and kits are blessed. It is always a festive occasion.

The group will meet on October 1, 15 and 29 to finish the quilts and kits for the 2024 shipment. You are invited to join us for this last push. Or come for coffee(9:30) and check out this wonderful group doing God's work.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

October 20th HS/MS youth night will be extended from 630-730 to 630-830 for a Halloween themed movie night. Attendees are invite to join us in costume and there will be treats and snacks. Movie will be voted on coming up.



October 25th during elementary school youth night we are inviting **youth, families, and members of the congregation** to join for pumpkin carving. You will need to bring your own pumpkin and tools if you have them. The church has some that we can use but we do not have enough for everyone.

October 31st trunk or treat in the church parking lot at 6-7. We need people to volunteer themselves and vehicles to help hand out candy. We also need people to donate candy for us to hand out. Volunteers should have some sort of appropriate costume.



DATES TO CELEBRATE IN OCTOBER



Birthday Blessings



| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 02 Frank Corso | 03 Tom Smith | 16 Amanda Bush | 25 Chad Hansen |
| 02 Bryn Kremling | 04 Helene Fink | 17 Maeve Kennedy | 25 Jim Loftis |
| 02 Jane Nelson-Fors | 08 Karen Tavalero | 19 Sharon Geldaker | 26 Maverick West |
| 02 Nancy Fowler | 09 Kevin Costenbader | 20 Chuck Landgraf | 27 Ezekiel Sturgul |
| 02 Tim Walters | 12 Erin Kennedy | 20 Eva Dent | 31 Jan Woodall |
| 03 Duane Dent | 12 Ginny Veer | 20 Jeanette Christensen | 31 Robert Ohm II |
| 03 Mark McCaughan | 14 Jim Fors | 22 Elijah Kennedy | |



Wedding Anniversaries



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 Matthew & Taylor Phelan | 08 Howie & Mindy Sorensen |
| 02 John & Kathy Parker | 17 Bob & Ida Ford |
| 02 Michael Bastrom & Rexanne Graham | 20 Carl & Kristen Ellsworth |
| 06 Tom & Pat Carrie Smith | 22 Norm & Jan Vigre |
| 07 Marvin & Rosemary Walter | 31 Gary & Joy Walter |

Worship Attendance

| Date | Events | In-Person | Nursery | Live-Stream |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Aug 25 | Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | 96 | 7 | 34 |
| Sept 1 | Family & Camp Song Sunday | 98 | 11 | No livestream |
| Sept 8 | Fall Worship Time | 107 | 6 | 34 |
| Sept 15 | 17th Sunday After Pentecost | 113 | 6 | 40 |
| Sept 22 | 1st Day of Fall | 95 | 8 | ** |
| Sept 29 | Hymn Pick Sunday | ** | ** | ** |

** Not available at time of printing



From the Bishop:



It sometimes comes as a surprise to people, but the Northwest Washington Synod is a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER). For several years many of our congregations – at one time almost twenty – were connected to Lutheran congregations in Russia to share ideas, fund certain projects, learn about one another, and, most importantly, build relationships with our Lutheran siblings in Russia. Unfortunately, many of these relationships have faltered or broken down in the last few years. However, recently I was fortunate to meet up with some of our Russian Lutheran siblings and I am excited about new possibilities and new relationships.

Before I tell you about my recent trip, let me first give you some history about the Lutheran Church in Russia. Since the Protestant Reformation, there has been a Lutheran Church in Russia. While we often think that Russia only has Orthodox churches, it is interesting to note that Lutherans have persevered and endured for over 500 years in Russia – through different czars, wars, persecution as a minority church, the Soviet Union, and more - dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus with all.

Today there are three Russian Lutheran Synods who have ELCA companion synods: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR) – companion synod Northeastern Minnesota, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East (ELCUSFE) – companion synod Central States, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER) – companion synod Northwest Washington.

Our companion synod, ELCER, is located primarily in St. Petersburg and Moscow along with other areas around these cities. In the recent history of ELCER, Bishop and Archbishop Dietrich Brauer had to move with his family from Russia to Germany for safety after speaking against the war when Russia invaded Ukraine. Following this, the ELCER then elected a new bishop. He sadly died a few months after taking office. The ELCER then elected another new bishop and archbishop in 2023. The new bishop is Bishop Sergei Holzwert and the Archbishop is Vladimir Provorov.

Because we in the ELCA are dedicated to renewing our relationship with our Russian Lutheran siblings, and because we are unable to travel to each other's country right now due to the war in Ukraine, it was arranged that representatives from ELCA Churchwide, the three Russian synods, and the three ELCA synods would meet in a neutral country. We were blessed to have twenty of us together from the ELCA and the Russian synods gather in September 2024 to build relationships, share ideas, and worship together in Novi Sad, Serbia. It was such a blessing to be in Novi Sad with Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo and Ms. Mary Muller representing the NWWA Synod and to be with Bishop Sergei Holzwert, Archbishop Vladimir Provorov, and Pastor Ivan Shirokov representing the ELCER.

We learned from our brothers that it has been difficult these last few years. The isolation they feel from the rest of the world is hard. They also have political division in their congregations as well as a shortage of pastors. It has also been a meaningful and joyful time. They were excited to share that many people have joined the church during these difficult years. As we shared our hopes and dreams we together talked about how to have more youth involved, how to do more lay ministry, and what are some educational opportunities. It was a full and rich conversation as we each shared and listened to one another.

After learning and discussing, and after beginning to rebuild relationships, we ended our time committing ourselves to these next steps:

- Establishing/renewing our covenant with one another
- Establishing a communication committee that will meet regularly with one another
- Have both parties feel that they are part of the universal church'
- Share experiences in social programs
- Have a gathering of youth from both synods – perhaps meet in Georgia (the country)
- Collaborate on lay ministry and what lay ministry looks like in both sites
- Have a Zoom in the next two months to continue to build relationships
- Have youth involvement in all of these things



I am excited about the possibilities before us as we live into being the body of Christ together. If you would like to hear more about this trip and ways to be involved, you are invited to come to the next meeting with the NWWA Russian Team on Saturday, October 12 at 1 PM at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood. We hope you can come.

As we read on the ELCA website regarding being a companion synod:




We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.

May it be so through the Holy Spirit.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org



2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  6 FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p | 7 O.A. 10:00a WORSHIP COMM. 11:00a Girl SCOUTS 5:30p SCOUTB 7:00p | 8 WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:00a WOMEN'S BIBLE 3:30p SCOUT G. C.O.H. 7:00p | 9 Staff Meeting 9:30a Pek Chapel 10:45a A-Town City Mtg 12:30p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 10 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Pek Chapel 10:45a DAISY Troop 5:00p Jr Girl Scouts 6:00p CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30p SCOUT B Leader 7:00p | 11 PRIME TIMERS GET TOGETHER-F.H. 10:00a Etern Playgroup 5:30p | 12 |
| 13 QUILT BLESSING EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a | 14 O.A. 10:00a Prayer Time 11:30a SCOUTB 7:00p | 15 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G. 7:00p | 16 Staff Meeting 9:30a Pek Chapel 10:45a CUB Pack 6:00p CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 17 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Pek Chapel 10:45a Children's Hosp Guild 11:00a SCOUT G. Leader 7:00p | 18 | 19 PRIME TIMERS 10:00a BINGO |
| 20 EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a MS & HS Youth Night 6:30p | 21 O.A. 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p Girl SCOUTS 5:30p SCOUTB 7:00p NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 22 WELCA Mtg 1:00p SCOUT G. 7:00p | 23 Staff Meeting 9:30a Pek Chapel 10:45a Piano Tuning 11:30a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 24 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Pek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p DAISY Troop 5:00p | 25 Etern Youth Night 5:30p | 26 |
| 27 REFORMATION EDUCATION Time 9:00a WORSHIP 10:00a Fellowship Hour 11:00a | 28 O.A. 10:00a ALTAR Guild 11:00a Prayer Time 11:30a SCOUTB C.O.H. 7:00p | 29 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G. 7:00p | 30 Staff Meeting 9:30a Pek Chapel 10:45a CHOIR Rehearsal 6:30p | 31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN Men's Bible Study 7:00a Pek Chapel 10:45a Praise Team 1:00p Trunk or Treat 6:00p  |  | |

