

STEADFAST

WORKING FOR A GREATER GOOD

Anacortes Lutheran Church
July 2021 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WALT

The state of Washington once had a region which was considered the asparagus capital of the world; that being the Yakima Valley. However, that title was recently transferred to a valley in Columbia when the nation's government attempted to replace the infamous production of cocaine with another crop, namely asparagus. Columbia's reputation as a drug supplying region remains, however it also leads the world in asparagus, taking the title from Yakima.

So, I went looking for other titles this state might hold, and I ran across this one: Washington leads the nation in the most UFO sightings per capita. There's something we can take pride in (or not).

Yet there is one other statistic for which we are famous, one in which I take no joy. Along with Alaska we are a state which is known by some as populated by the greatest per capita of "nones." You might be familiar with nones. No, that's not a misspelling of women who serve the Roman Catholic Church in acts of piety and charity. Rather "nones" is the title granted to people who check the "none box" on surveys of religious affiliation. Taking into account all religions, not only Christianity, our state ranks very high in terms of being the home secular individuals with no faith affiliation whatsoever. Whereas I find the UFO title somewhat amusing, the secular distinction is concerning.

As I believe I've stated before, Lutherans in particular are guilty of a poor record of Christian outreach. For decades, American Lutherans assumed bringing in new believers was a matter of procreation. We'd had children and were certain they'd grow up as faithful Lutherans. And that was true for a time being. However, a good question for many of us with adult children is "How many of our offspring have remained in this denomination or even in the Christian faith?"

Sometimes our minimal evangelism efforts are focused on sheep-stealing; that is, bringing in Christians from other denominations. However, I'm pretty sure that's not outreach evangelism. What are we doing to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all those "nones?"

As Anacortes looks to the future, I'm excited to see some of the members with renewed energy for outreach. That doesn't mean bashing someone with the Bible; it instead refers to walking with neighbors in their needs and in those moments pregnant with possibility, sharing our own faith experiences with the hurting and with those hungering for meaning. True faith-sharing evangelism isn't about numbers and statistics; it's about sincerely speaking of hope, grace, justice, and mercy with anyone open to hearing the Gospel, but especially those close to us.

We may mourn the loss of the asparagus title, or we may revel in our ability to see UFOs, however my prayer is that we are challenged and driven by the Gospel to care and to share.

Walt

CALL COMMITTEE - UPDATE JUNE 17

The Committee is continuing to interview the candidates.
Nothing to report at this time.
Please continue to pray for discernment, wisdom and patience.

Thank you!

PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE

Rexanne Graham; *Chair*
Melanie Sahnaw; *Recorder*
Steve Anderson
Lois Cassidy; *Communications*
Janey Dent
Bob Ford
Kenny Holzemer
Bill Gusa, *Alternate*

CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

<i>President:</i>	William Leduc	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Lane Phelan
<i>Secretary:</i>	Jane Nelson	<i>Education:</i>	Kendra Kennedy
<i>Outreach:</i>	Peggy White	<i>Personnel:</i>	Jeaneen Brogan
<i>Preschool:</i>	Jo Rockwood	<i>Properties:</i>	Les Olsen
<i>Stewardship:</i>	John Parker	<i>Worship:</i>	David Bjornson
<i>WELCA :</i>	Jeanette Christensen	<i>NW Synod Reps:</i>	Linda Millo & Pastor Butler
<i>Josephine Delegate:</i>	Jerry Bongard & Grace Boggio		



Our ALC Services:
What do you think?

Service Content, Length of Service ...

Music ...

Sermons ...

Date of Service ...

Name (optional)...

Jot your thoughts down, drop them off in church office, mailbox or mail them to ALC,
2100 'O' Avenue. Thanks!

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Personnel Committee and Church Council has given Laurie Julius-Carver one month of leave. She will be gone for the month of July. We are asking you to not call her with church business during this time. If you have business that needs attention please call the church office so they can help you.

Thank you,

Jeaneen Brogan, Personnel Chairperson

OUTREACH- *Sharing and Caring*

Care Team is back:

What you going to do when you slip in the bath tub and break your hip? What you going to do when you are blessed with a new baby to bring home? **CALL THE CARE TEAM!!!** We will help out by delivering a simple meal loaded with Christian love and prayers.

ALC Carpool:

Our carpool offers friendly rides to Sunday worship service and Sunday school.

VISITATION:

Stay in touch with your church family by visiting someone who is not able to make it into church services or activities. Our Church **VISITATION CONNECTION** offers in-person visits, greeting cards, phone chats, and check-ins. Home communion is also available.

We Need You:

You can help grow this ministry of Caring and Sharing by prayerfully considering if you could share your time, talents, and needs.

Please call if you have questions about Care Team programs for meals, rides, visitation, and communion.

Peggy White

Outreach Chairperson

360-299-1184

REMEMBER ME? - *Open House/Rally*

Get re-acquainted
Saturday, September 28th
Come to
OPEN HOUSE/RALLY
With name tags



The “ALC PAUL KNOWLES BRAT FEST” is Back!

Hi Men and Friends of the ALC,
We have been apart far to long...
So the decision has been made to have the



4th Annual
“ALC Paul Knowles Brat Fest”

WHEN: July 17th

WHERE: Bob Ford's

TIME: 4:00 pm till 7:00 pm

Any questions call Les Olsen...

WELCA News

Circles and WELCA will start this fall. We are planning a picnic at church on August 24th. More info later.

SEWING News

WE ARE BACK TO SEWING, COME JOIN US!

Sewing Dates are:

TUESDAYS, JULY 6, 20 & 27

9:00 am - Noon

in the Fellowship hall

The ladies who are sewing for LWR continue to meet this summer. We will meet three Tuesdays July 6, 20, 27. We will not meet on the 13th because that is Bible School week.

There are many jobs happening in the fellowship hall on Tuesdays and you are invite to join us, everyone is welcome. We are sewing, stuffing, and tying quilts. Also we sew diapers, hem flannel for baby blankets and do a lot of visiting.

OUTREACH - *The everybody committee*

Ideas and suggestions welcome!

WE WILL MEET MONDAY, JULY 12

AT 1:00 PM

to discuss upcoming projects.

Fall Open House/Rally,

new member Support teams,

lay missionary classes,

All Saints Celebration, and more.

Questions? Call Peggy White 360-299-1184

LWR Knitting News

MEETING DATE:

MONDAY, JULY 19

1:00 - 3:00 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Our church ships about 100-150 baby layette sets every 6 months to Lutheran World Relief. One sweater/hat goes in each layette set.

Our current Fall 2021 total is:

Sweater/hat sets - 17

Hats - 0

Sweaters - 0

We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome. Teaching is available.

If you need more yarn, please call me.

~ Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

LWR Kits - *collecting supplies*

Starting in July when school supplies are on sale we collect things for school kits. The things needed are:

spiral notebooks

color crayons (24 pack)

pencils

erasers

black pens

rulers

Also need are bars of soap ivory or Dove for babies and Irish spring or dial for health kits.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH WALT

Bible Studies are on a break for the summer.

See you again

in the Fall!



CHURCH SUMMER POTLUCK PICNICS - Will begin Wednesday, July 21



**We will have 5 picnics on Wednesday at 5:30 pm
at Seafarer's Memorial Park.**

A final picnic will be Wednesday, August 25th at Washington Park
which is our Annual Corn Feed and Service by the beach.

All picnics are potluck, bring chair, utensils and plate.



ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS™** - Get Together Schedule

GET-TOGETHER - FRIDAY, JULY 16, at 11:00 am at Seafarer's Memorial Park

or in the Fellowship Hall in case of inclement weather.

The theme is: *"America the Beautiful"*

Please call, text, or email for a reservation before Tuesday, July 13.

A \$5 donation will be collected to cover the cost of the pizzas.

Have a great month, stay safe, and be happy. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul and Julie Dusenbury



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME TO MEET</u>	<u>PLACE TO MEET</u>
July			
Friday - 16	Get-together - picnic	11:00 a.m.	Seafarer's Memorial Park or Fellowship Hall
August			
Friday - 20	Get-together - picnic	11:00 a.m.	Seafarer's Memorial Park or Fellowship Hall
September			
Friday - 17	Get-together	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
October			
Friday - 15	Get-together	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
November			
Friday - 19	Get-together	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
December			
Friday - 17	Get-together	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall

Congratulations!

Our heartfelt congratulations to the graduates and confirmands of 2021!



Congratulations to Anacortes High School 2021 graduates and ALC Scholarship recipients. (L-R) Madeline Lowrie, Matthew Lowrie, Hayden Long, Sydney Long, Katie Parker, and Lauren Long.



Congratulations to Joseph Pestar and Micha Spehar on completing their confirmation. Pastor Deborah Butler and the congregation of ALC are very proud.



Congratulations to Principals Kisha Fox and Brian Hanrahan who completed their doctorate programs.

SCOUTING IN ANACORTES LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Pandemic has affected many of the programs in our church. The Scouting has suffered serious setbacks.

Before the Pandemic set in, we had a Cub Pack with almost 40 young people from Kindergarten to 5th grade. We also had a Boy Troop with more than 10 Scouts and had just started a Girl Troop with the same number.

The Cub Pack has lost all of its former adult leadership and all of its youth. We are attempting a restart of the program, beginning with the youngest age group. (Kindergarten are Lions and 1st grade are Tigers.) The Pack is a Family Pack, which means it is open to both boys and girls. This allows brothers and sisters to both be a part of the program. Our own Becky Eggleston has, temporarily, volunteered to assist with getting the program going again and we have had several inquiries from parents of youth in the younger age groups. She is also the Scoutmaster for our Girl Troop and has only recently assumed that position.

The Boy Troop, with Robert Eggleston as the Scoutmaster, has pretty much held its own but not grown. There are two age levels. About half of the group is reaching the top of the Troop age (18 years) and will soon be graduating from Scouting. Four of them are also very close to becoming Eagle Scouts. The other half are fairly new to Scouting and closer to the 11-year age. They are just beginning the Scouting Trail.

The girl Troop, with Becky as the Scoutmaster, presently is down to only three members. They are in a critical recruiting phase and the Scouts are all at the very beginning of the Scouting Trail.

All three units have been active in service projects for our church and the community and have been a part of some of our worship programs. This year they have volunteered to assist with our VBS this summer. Five of them are currently working on the Lutheran Religious Award for Scouts in all age levels.

This note is an appeal to the families and members of the congregation to help us find more youth and parents to assist. There will be some recruiting activities when the schools begin again in late August and September but it would be so good if we could find people earlier to have a solid leadership core when school does start. Parents and Grandparents are our strongest resource for this kind of assistance. Let me know if you have ideas or suggestions.

Chris Anderson
Charter Representative for Anacortes Lutheran Church
360-299-2977
NorskFar@gmail.com



JULY - BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

2	Lara Coggins	17	Troy Kunz
3	Carl Ellsworth III	17	Jerry Pollard
3	Kim Trafton	21	Jake Anderson
3	Emma Bakke	21	Faith Legan
3	Bonnie Kennedy	22	Dorothy Bjornson
4	Amanda Elling	22	Nikki Bakke
4	Lewis Benson	22	Emilee Forbes
5	Michael Sullivan	23	Jacob Elling
5	Ralph Heacox	23	Dorothy Hermstad
6	Randy VanSweden	24	Ruth Backlund
7	Mildred Bushy	25	Gil Harvey
7	Tanner Sahnaw	26	Ashlee Long
8	Julie Dusenbury	26	Reed Meyers
9	Rachel Devine	27	Jan Nations
12	Katie Parker	28	Caitlin Kirby
12	Megan Angier	28	Leone Zimmerman
14	Rebecca Eggleston	30	Brian Bakke
15	Brenda Thomas-Lust	30	Christie Schoebel
16	Alec Mavar	31	Megan Anderson-Smith
16	Penelope McCaughan	31	Beth Benson
17	Ellyn Cavanagh		

JUNE - WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Events	Live Stream	In person
6		30	59
13	Graduation Sunday	50	76
20	Confirmation Sunday/ Fathers Day	43	70
27		44	37

JULY - WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

1	Marv & Gunilla Wold
2	Wayne & Elaine Olsen
2	John & Diana Lindsay
5	Dave & Dorothy Bjornson
7	Rod & Cathy Odegaard
9	Jason & Erin Kurz
11	Kevin & Andrea Long
17	Michael & Eryn Hanes
17	Brian Hanrahan & Treva King
21	Wen & Teresa Chang
24	Doug Thompson & Carol Kirby

SYMPATHIES – PRAYERS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Fred Tenoll

May 16, 1942 - May 31, 2021

Bette Swietzer

April 9, 1929 - June 28, 2021

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eddy Vela Pauley

Born: June 6, 2021

Parents: Josh & Elena (Holzemer) Pauley
Grandparents, Anita and Kenny Holzemer

Zoey So Ra Znack

Born: March 9, 2021

Parents: Bobby & Tiffinee Znack
Grandparents: Wayne & Elaine Olsen

ALC PRAYER GROUP MEET TUESDAY'S at 1:30 pm (Join By calling: 1-518-351-9735)

For a 'Party Line' style phone call connecting us together in prayer (voices only no visual).

In our Prayers: For a current list of prayer concerns, go to: <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>
Look for the "Prayer Page" tab in the menu. Call the office to add or update a prayer to the Prayer Page.

Prayer Chain: The Prayer Chain is open for you from 9am to 9pm. For personal and/or confidential prayer chain requests call Peggy at: 360-299-1184.

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

Worship with us Near & Afar

In-person Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am

Live stream and recorded services will still be available.

- Please enter through the handicap ramp to the right of the main church doors.
- Reservations are no longer needed but signing in is required for contact tracing.
 - Unvaccinated people must still wear a mask.

JULY- Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel

July 4 Independence Day	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Ezekiel 2:1-5 & 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Psalm 123 Mark 6:1-13	Reader: Don Devine
July 11	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Amos 7:7-15 & Ephesians 1:3-14 Psalm 85:8-13 Mark 6:14-29	Reader: Carol Olsen
July 18	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	Jeremiah 23:1-6 & Ephesians 2:11-22 Psalm 23 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Reader: Anne Barry
July 25	Readings: Psalm: Gospel:	2 Kings 4:42-44 & Ephesians 3:14-21 Psalm 145:10-18 John 6:1-21	Reader: Carl Ellsworth

BITS & PIECES

- **DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO THE PASTORS?** Schedule an appointment by calling or emailing the office.
Pastor Walt Rice: walicoli@comcast.net / Pastor Deborah Butler: revdeb.48@gmail.com
- **PASTORS OFFICE HOURS:** Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (by Appointment Only)
- **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- **CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL & PHONE #:** 360-293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org
- **“LIKE” OUR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE PAGES:** Anacortes Lutheran Church
- **WORSHIP SERVICES, UPDATES & NEWS:** Visit our website - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>
- **HAS YOUR PHONE #, ADDRESS OR EMAIL CHANGED?** Are you receiving emails from church? Call the office!
- **DO YOU NEED HELP?** Groceries, a mask, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.
- **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The Third Monday of every month.

Available for you in the basket outside the church office door-

- **CD RECORDINGS:** If you would like them delivered directly to you, call the church office, 360-293-9586, and ask to be put onto the delivery schedule.
- **DEVOTIONALS AND MORE:** Christ in Our Homes devotionals, Living Lutheran Magazines, newsletters.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
ANACORTES LUTHERAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

Monday, July 12- Thursday, July 15

6:00—7:30 pm

Register to PARTICIPATE or VOLUNTEER by going to our website.

<https://www.anacorteslutheran.org/>



ALC COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY - June 10, 2021

Attended: Bill LeDuc, Kendra Kennedy, Lane Phelan, Pastor Walt, Dave Bjornson, Les Olsen, Jeanette Christiansen, Jeaneen Brogan & John Parker.

Meeting opened 6:30 pm with John leading The Lord's Prayer.

Minutes of May approved with changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Lane): The month of May's weekly giving was lower than previous months. We are current on all bills and benevolence. We have obtained credit cards through Charity Charge and Commerce Bank. (See attached "Treasurer's Report for this meeting).

PASTOR WALT'S REPORT: A number of things happening with the worship services starting this Sunday June 13th: (A) Recognizing/Congratulating six AHS 2021 Graduates with a presentation of Quilts and (B) "The Celebration of Life Memorial of Pastor Debra Benson." Next Sunday, June 20th, during the church service, Pastor Butler will be recognizing 2 Confirmation Students. (C). Pastor Walt will remain here until a new pastor is officially called to serve here at ALC.

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...Council Minutes continued.

OLD BUSINESS: Executive board has set September 19 for a Congregational meeting for voting on the updated constitution with changes.

NEW BUSINESS : Motion was made, seconded, carried UNANAMOUSLY to:

- (1) Adopt the Credit Card policy as presented. Review use at end of fiscal year.
- (2) Add \$300 to line item 5154 Special events to help with cost of Celebration of Life for Pastor Benson.
- (3) Increase VBS budget \$1000 for expense in lieu of asking for donations.
- (4) Earmark \$20,000 gift from anonymous donor as follows:
\$15,000 for church maintenance; \$5,000 for technology upgrades.
(this money will remain in the church savings account until needed.)

Summer potluck picnics will begin on July 21. We will have 5 picnics on Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Seafarer's Memorial Park. A final picnic will be August 25th at Washington Park which is our annual corn feed. All are potluck, bring chair, utensils and plate.

Discussion was held on Mask Policy and Registration. Dave Bjornson- Worship chair said worship committee was deadlocked as far as what to do. Bill has received letters from members requesting we review policy. If we set aside space for nonvaccinated members, we may have mask optional for vaccinated members during worship. Discussion was held to eliminate EventBrite registration for Sunday service. We have not been near our 50% capacity yet.

Motion made to direct ushers to designate a nonvaccinated section and those vaccinated may be mask optional going forward. MSP

STEWARDSHIP: John Parker is enthusiastic about going forward with a stewardship program to re-engage members to in person worshipping and encouraging others to worship.

PERSONNEL: Jeaneen sent out self evaluation & contracts. She will be meeting with all employees this month.

WELCA: Jeanette: sewing is continuing every Tuesdays thru December/ possible picnic in August at the church.

PROPERTY: Property workdays are monthly and help keep up with maintenance.

OUTREACH: NEXT MEETING IS Monday, June 14th @ 1:00.

EDUCATION: Kendra met on the 1st with four "over Zoom" for 50 minutes. Confirmation is June 20th. The confirmands will be given standard gifts with wrapped cross. **VBS update:** Flyers are made and delivered to ACC, West Minster. Sunday School is "on hold " for this Summer.

Bill closed the meeting with everyone saying "The Lord's Prayer"

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Nelson, Recording Secretary

(Next ALC Council Meeting is July 8)

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

What does freedom mean to you? In this month that we in the United States celebrate Independence Day with fireworks and barbecues (yay for vaccines – we can have barbecues again!), what is freedom?

Well ... first let's consider what freedom is NOT. Freedom is NOT enormous sums of money, power, privilege, assets, stocks and bonds, cars, clothes, or degrees. Freedom is NOT being able to do anything you want without worrying how your actions might affect another. Freedom is NOT hedonism or casual cruelty. Freedom is NOT the ability to yell at someone either in person or online. Freedom is NOT to be taken lightly.

Unfortunately, we have conflated freedom with selfishness. We have decided freedom means we don't have to worry about our behavior or words. We have decided that we no longer need to be civil or caring or understanding of another's viewpoint or worldview or interest. In this synod, I am concerned at the rancor I am hearing, the level of uncivil discourse, and the inability to listen to people from different sides of different issues.

So ... what IS freedom?

Martin Luther writes in *The Freedom of a Christian* that through Christ, we are set free from sin into new life. He writes:

From faith flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a cheerful, willing, free spirit, disposed to serve our neighbor voluntarily, without taking any account of gratitude or ingratitude, praise or blame, gain or loss. Its object is not to lay [others] under obligations, nor does it distinguish between friends and enemies, or look to gratitude or ingratitude, but most freely and willingly spends itself and its goods, whether it loses them through ingratitude, or gains good will.

Freedom described in this way sounds amazing. But we know that it isn't that simple. We all know that even as baptized children of God, even as people assured that we are saved through Jesus Christ, even as people who revel in freedom – we know that we are not always cheerful and willing, disposed to serve our neighbor voluntarily. We know that the freedom we have been given through Jesus is sometimes squandered because of greed, racism, homophobia, sexism, nationalism, individualism, pride, and so much more. Quite simply, sin. We think that we are free and yet we are choosing death over abundant life.

And yet ... what a gift we have been given! For when we live fully into our baptisms, we are called into community with God and with one another. We are called into caring for one another. We are called to listen, love, and serve others – even those we might not particularly like. God calls us away from selfish behavior and into freedom to commit ourselves fully to each other. As Paul writes in Galatians 6:2: “Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” As baptized children of God and as the body of Christ in this world, we are called to the freedom of Christ. And this means we are called to a life not only for ourselves, but to die to ourselves and live truly in the freedom of bearing one another's burdens.

As a proud American, I love the Fourth of July. As a person following Jesus, I know that freedom means more than waving a flag or wearing the colors of red, white, and blue. As Martin Luther writes in his treatise *On Christian Freedom*, “A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.” May freedom in Christ reign. May the love of Christ be with you and all that you encounter.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee