

THE BEST — IS YET — TO COME

Revelations 21:4

Anacortes Lutheran Church
May 2021 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WALT

I'm writing this article less than an hour after the news of the guilty verdict against former police officer Derek Chauvin. The immediate response from the crowd around the courthouse was described as one of elation, and the word "justice" was used frequently as the reporters walked amongst the people.

We live in a nation of laws. The expressed purpose for those laws is to maintain justice. I believe almost all people want to live in a just land.

We worship a God of justice. The terms justice and just occur with great frequency in our scripture, as does the words righteous and righteousness which are linguistically related to justice. God is just. But do we always want a just God?

That might sound like a stupid question to ask. Of course we want a God who is just. Luther discussed the attributes of God's Law, and the very first function of Law he listed was to maintain order. We want an orderly society and an orderly world. We don't want other people stealing our property or injuring our family. We don't want to be the victims of slander or any form of bigotry. Of course we want order and to have order we must have justice, and to have justice in our world we need a just God.

However, there might be times when a just God doesn't sound like good news. We are broken people. We know we have violated God's Law. We know we have earned the title of sinner. We confess that brokenness and sinfulness almost every Sunday morning. And when we admit sin we really aren't hoping for a just God.

I'm a Luther fan. I like the way he explained the nature of our status before God. He said we are *simul justus et peccator*, which translates from the Latin to mean we are simultaneously saint and sinner. We understand the sinner part only too well. It's the reason we often try to diminish or hide our hurtful actions. We do so because at those times we aren't seeking justice. And when we stand under God's Law, we fill the role of law violators.

However God also acts in a most surprising way. God is also "merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Those attributes of God are what Luther called the Gospel. When we stand before God in the grace won through Jesus Christ, God doesn't see us as sinners, as guilty under the Law. Rather we stand in cross-won mercy as children of God. We wear our credentials on our forehead in the indelible sign of the baptismal cross.

When we see disorder in our world we cry out for the justice of the Almighty. But when we stand before this God of love, grace and mercy, we bask in our status as children. With a God of justice and mercy we find ourselves basking in God's amazing grace and love.

FROM THE TREASURER.....

We are 10 weeks into the new fiscal year. Thank you so much for your continued support for our ministry. After 10 weeks, our weekly average is \$6,967. This meets our current budget standards. This is an encouraging outlook as we prepare to interview and call a new lead pastor.

We are having more of our senior members direct their RMD from retirement plans directly from financial institutions to Anacortes Lutheran Church. ALC is a qualified non-profit, so when these distributions are direct to ALC, you do not pay income tax on the distribution. Some institutions will do this monthly, others do one lump sum annually.

To date Easter offerings total \$2,870. These dollars will be paid to benevolence by the end of the month.
Blessings, Lane Phelan, Treasurer

PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE - UPDATE

From: APRIL 18, 2021

Recently our approved Ministry Profile along with a few private nominations from congregants was sent to the synod office. Asst to the Bishop Andy Yee has 30 days to review them and send us 3-5 candidate names. We don't envision him that taking long.

In the meantime the committee is choosing appropriate questions to send to the candidates. They will be expected to answer them and return to us. We are also getting questions ready for in person interviewing.

Pertinent information packets about Anacortes and our surrounding area will be put together to send to interested candidates.

Check the bulletin board in the Narthex for current information and the time line.

Feel free to ask questions of any committee member:

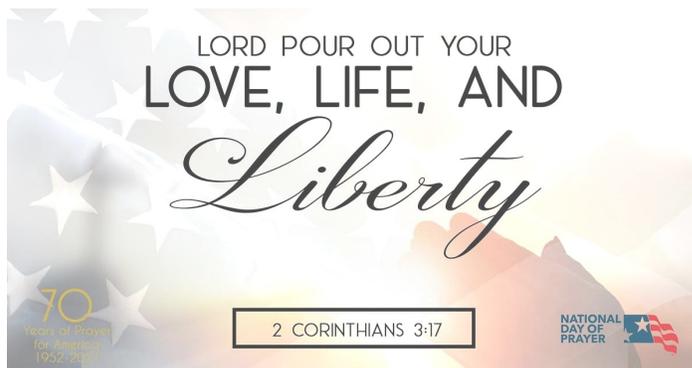
Rexanne Graham, Chair
Melanie Sahnaw, Recorder
Steve Anderson
Lois Cassidy
Janey Dent
Bob Ford
Kenny Holzemer
Bill Gusa, Alternate

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THURSDAY, MAY 6TH

6:30 - 8:30 PM

AT ANACORTES BAPTIST CHURCH



Lord Pour Out Your LOVE, LIFE, AND LIBERTY

This is the Theme for the 2021 National Day of Prayer. This year's NDP is being held on Thursday, May 6th, from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Anacortes Baptist Church. Please consider attending - it is always a Blessed time. How our world needs Prayer!!

If you are unable to attend, please take time out of your day to pray - for our Nation, Law Enforcement & Firefighters, Health Care Workers, Military, Media, Businesses, Education & Youth, The Church, Marriage & Family, and the Homeless.

Our world needs our Prayers!!



We will be finishing out Sunday School In Person May 9th, 16th, 23rd

Seeking In Person Sunday School Junior Leader or Adult to help
on Sunday, May 9th, 16th, 23rd

Call or email the church office if you can help 360293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This past year has had its ups and downs. During COVID, Sunday School was suspended for a long time to ensure the safety of the children and our teachers. We started in person Sunday School in November, but was cancelled as quickly as it started because of the increase of cases. In December, we put together a Sunday School Program virtually including many of the families from our congregation. When the kids went back to in person school in January, we knew we needed to return to Sunday School, but didn't know what it would look like. With a lot of planning, in February we started delivering "At Home Sunday School" bags to 22 children's homes weekly and now biweekly. The Education Committee will continue to deliver the curriculum, activity pages, treats and crafts through May 23rd. Sunday School will then resume as usual in September.

Thank you to Linda Walker, Dave White, Stacey Pestar and Eryn Hanes for helping with this Children's Outreach Mission. **A special shout out** to Mia Kennedy for her weekly commitment to leading ZOOM Sunday School and doing a fantastic job!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Anacortes Lutheran VBS 2021

July 12-16

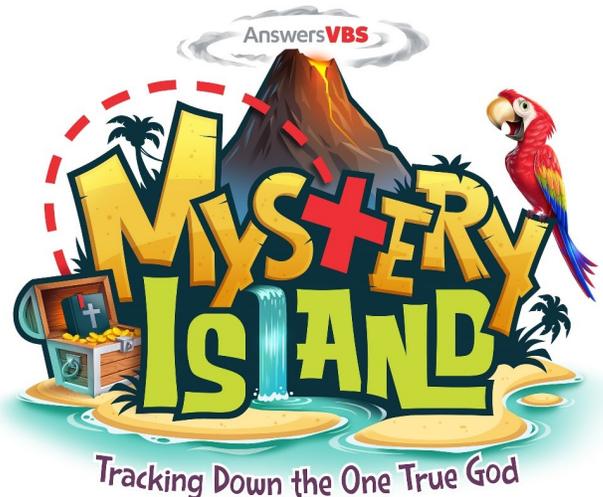
God's Blessing,
The Education Committee Chair
Kendra Kennedy

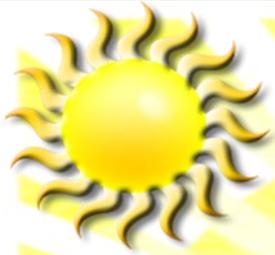
Anacortes Lutheran Church VBS 2021 Informational Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 6th

Time: 6-7 pm

Location: Conference Rm 2





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 at church or mail them to
ALC, 2100 'O' Avenue. Thanks!

HOME OWNERS & RENTERS ASSISTANCE

"If you or someone you know is struggling to pay their rent or house payments, please use the links below to find help from the federal government and Washington State. You may also call Community Action of Skagit County at (360) 416-7585 and ask about the E-RAP and T-RAP programs."

Washington State assistance with house payments or rent:

<https://www.wshfc.org/admin/covid19.htm>

Federal help with house payments or rent:

E-RAP eviction prevention

<https://www.ncsha.org/homeowner-assistance-fund/>

T-RAP Home owners protection

<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/xxgujafuzvd176qltq84s8nslittlep0/file/775324402313>

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS HELP!!

Due to the pandemic, Skagit County Meals on Wheels made the difficult decision to cancel the March for Meals Bowling Bash, their principal fundraising event for the year. The COVID-19 has caused a 35% increase in the need for home delivered meals for seniors in our community. In order to provide this much needed service, your financial support is more important than ever.

Meals on Wheels helps our seniors by providing:

- Hot, nutritious meals delivered to their homes
- Wellness checks by caring volunteers
- Help with maintaining good health
- Increasing ability to remain in their homes

For further information about Meals on Wheels and how to donate,

Visit www.bowlingbash.org

SEWING News

WE ARE SO GLAD TO BE BACK TO SEWING.

Sewing Dates are:

TUESDAYS, MAY 4, 11, 18 & 25

9:00 am - Noon

in the Fellowship hall

We are getting ready to ship boxes of Personal care kits, Baby layette kits, and quilts to Lutheran World Relief the end of April. Les will deliver them to Seattle for shipment.

God Bless all of you & thank you for helping.
New comers are always Welcome!!!

~ Julia Rogers



LWR Knitting News

MEETING DATE:

MONDAY, MAY 17

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 Spring 2021 total is:

Sweater/hat sets - 44

Hats - 1

Sweaters - 9

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

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY "PRIME TIMERS"

ZOOM MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 AT NOON

(I will email the Zoom invite at a later date.)

The theme is:

FAMILY
WHERE
life **BEGINS**
and
love
NEVER ENDS

Starting in June — And continuing into the future unless COVID protocols change, we will be having two events.

Second Wednesday - June 9: Zoom Meeting - at noon.

Third Friday - June 18: Get-Together in the Fellowship hall from 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Look for more information in the June newsletter.

Please call, text, or email Julie if you have questions.

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

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH WALT

Join Pastor Walt on Thursdays at 12:00 pm

in an examination of the coming Sunday's scripture lessons. Our hope is to discover a little background about the original context of each passage and then to share thoughts about how those particular verses might speak to us today.

Call or email the office for the Zoom link

If you have any questions about logging on to Zoom we will help you do so. **Welcome to the study.**

THURSDAY NOON ZOOM



BIBLE STUDY
SIGN UP TODAY!

Worship with us Near & Afar

We have resumed in person worship services.
Live stream and recorded services will still be available.

Reserve your seat for in person worship and access the Live Stream Services at
~ <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org> ~

MAY- Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel

May 2 	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 8:26-40 / I John 4:7-21 22:25-31 John 15:1-8	<i>Reader:</i> Carol Olsen
May 9 Mothers Day 	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 10:44-48 / I John 5:1-6 98 John 15:9-17	<i>Reader:</i> Anne Barry
May 16 	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 / I John 5:9-13 1 John 17:6-19	<i>Reader:</i> Beth Benson
May 23 Day Of Pentecost 	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 2:1-21 / Romans 8:22-27 104:24-34, 35 John 15:26-27; 16:4-15	<i>Reader:</i> Jeanette Christensen
May 30 Holy Trinity 	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Isaiah 6:1-8 / Roman 8:12-17 29 John 3:1-17	<i>Reader:</i> Dave White

PRAYERS FOR OUR 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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

PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE

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

MAY - BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

1	Lily May Dumas	14	Anita Holzemer
1	Carter Eggelston	14	Patricia Wilson
1	Catherin Eggleston	15	Thomas Knowles
1	Donna Maricich	16	Nathan dent
1	Mike Trafton	16	Carol Kirby
4	Yvonne Storme	16	Fred Tenoll
5	Hannah Parker	17	Judy Card
6	Dalyce Geffe	17	Bill Sahnaw
6	Maxine Roose	18	Susan Reed
7	Ethan Lust	18	Stacy Roux
7	Susan McCutcheon	19	Elliot Hofferth
7	Judy Pesaturo	20	Connie Walters
10	Lois Cassidy	21	Jeff Hrovat
10	Brian Hanrahan	21	Dave Repella
10	Michael Hanrahan	22	Jean Brown
10	Kendra Kennedy	22	Dee Holmes
10	Lara Knowles	22	Vera Jones
10	Sue Larsen	22	Krista Morgenthaler
11	Cory Geffe	23	Lucca Dumas
11	Megan Dumas	23	Judy Littlefield
12	Kori Fosso	25	Camryn Kerr
12	Owen Kennedy	26	Bernice Linvog
12	Heidi Parker	26	Don Sullivan
12	Blakely Swietzer	27	Lane Phelan
13	Ann Mayer	28	William LeDuc
13	Rod Rothlisberger	29	Stephanie Poor

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Delaney Jo Phelan

Born March 29, 2021

Congratulations to Parents: Matt & Taylor Phelan,
Big brothers: Michael & Arthur and
Grandparents: Paul & Lane Phelan

MAY - ANNIVERSARIES!

1	Bill & Diane Gusa	♥ 45 years
5	Jim & Nancy Loftis	
7	Bill & Karen Faulkner	
10	Steve & Kori Fosso	♥ 25 years
12	Tim & Donna Maricich	
13	Michael & Janice Sullivan	
25	Dale & Elsa Geffe	♥ 30 years
25	Randy & Stacy VanSweden	
27	Dennis & Christy Giddings	
27	Dave & Mirth Moore	
29	Klaus & Christie Schoebel	
31	Clarence & Julia Moore	

APRIL - WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Events	Live Stream	In person
4	Easter Sunday	107	109
11	2 nd Sunday of Easter	69	46
18	3 rd Sunday of Easter	77	46
25	4 th Sunday of Easter		

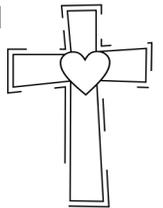
SYMPATHIES — PRAYERS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Ruth McDonald

March 10, 1927—April 2, 2021

Hans Ludvik Ekstrom

June 1, 1927 - April 14, 2021



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

In the book *Anxious People*, the author, Fredrik Backman, crafts a humorous, poignant, and wise story of a group of people thrown together because of a bank robbery. But the bank robbery is the least interesting part of the book. The characters, who seem flighty and weird and strange or just unlikeable at the beginning of the book, change into complex humans with such rich inner lives that you love each of them by the end of the story. This was one book that I was sad to see end because I wanted to continue with each character in their journey.

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people that surrounded Jesus that we get to know in the Gospels. These men and women who leave everything to follow Jesus – and who end up leaving Jesus after his arrest – only to once again connect with Jesus after his death and resurrection – are (we must admit) flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable.

- Thomas who is skeptical throughout the Jesus story and who won't recognize Jesus until seeing his wounds.
- Mary Magdalene who can't recognize Jesus until he calls her by her name.
- The disciples locked in a room, afraid to go out, and finally just going back to fishing until Jesus shows up once again.

I mean, ask yourself:

- Would we really have wanted John the Baptist over for a barbecue?
- Would we really have accepted a woman who washed Jesus' feet as being justified when she extravagantly wasted an expensive bottle of perfume?
- Would we have embraced the woman who bled for over a decade and invited her to our book club even after she assured us that she was cured and clean?

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people around me – on the news, on social media, in my neighborhood – and how I have judged them based on a very superficial understanding of who they are and what makes up their story. I call them ignorant or lazy, bigoted or uncaring, dirty or smelly or unclean in some way.

But as I continue to reflect on Backman's compelling story of seven "idiots" (as he calls them), and, as I continue to reflect on Holy Week, (even though it is now way past Holy Week), I see Jesus kneeling down and washing feet. I hear Jesus saying, "Peace be with you." I experience Jesus embracing disciples on a beach, offering them fish, and saying, "Feed my sheep." Loving and caring and forgiving – even though these humans are flighty, weird, strange and, at times, unlikeable.

None of us are Jesus. None of us can embrace the other as Jesus did. And yet, we are called, as sinners and as beloved children of God, to hear another's story. To listen. To reflect. To forgive. To ask for forgiveness. To engage. To be silent when needed and speak when necessary.

For my part, I repent. I repent for my judgment, for my verdict that I render without knowing the complexity of another's story, for my blindness to my complicity, for my withholding forgiveness in the name of self-righteousness, for my refusing to acknowledge my need for forgiveness, and for my judgment on who God loves and who God does not love (because, as I have been taught, if God only loves those I love, than I have remade God in my image).

So I ask you, dear Beloveds of NWWA Synod, with all of your stories, how may your stories be joined into the One Story? How may your hearts be open to the flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable (but always God's beloved) people that we are called to love? What are your thoughts, feelings, explorations, attempts, experiments? I'd love to hear how you are living into God's Holy Community of love, grace, compassion, justice and peace.

As for you, you are called. By name. Embraced, loved, and cherished – in all your flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable ways. And always, always, God's beloved.