



Anacortes Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Scott Peterson

AUGUST 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, 14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. 15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. -Genesis 28: 13-17

Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

We often expect to meet God only in the sanctuary—under stained glass, between the pews, among our hymns and candles. We might think that there are certain conditions that need to be met before we can encounter God fully. But this passage from Genesis reminds us that God will meet us even in the most unlikely of places. Here, Jacob is on the run and full of uncertainty—he stops for the night in the middle of nowhere, with nothing but a rock for his pillow. Far from home and comfort, he encounters the living God in a dream: a ladder reaching to heaven, angels ascending and descending, and the Lord speaking a promise of presence and protection. When Jacob wakes up, he declares, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!"

We all traverse through these wilderness moments. Perhaps you find yourselves in one now— navigating uncertainty, anxiety, or change. But like Jacob, we discover that God is not confined to temples, sanctuaries, or traditions. God is not limited or confined to the places that we label "holy". Our Lord is wherever we are, especially in those unexpected places—workplaces, kitchen tables, hospitals, meandering trails, and quiet moments in the dark. Scripture shows us again and again that God meets people in wildernesses, on mountainsides, by wells, on roads, and even in prison cells. Every single place can be seen as holy when we recognize God's presence in it. This does not take away the beauty of the church building or our sacred practices. Instead, it invites us to expand our awareness—every encounter with grace, every act of love, every moment we notice God's hand at work becomes a "Bethel"—a house of God, a thin place where heaven and earth meet. As our summer continues to take us to new and different places—on vacation, to visit family, or even just going outside—take the time to look around and ask yourself, "Where is God meeting me here? How is God meeting me in this moment?" Perhaps, it's in a mountain view, a quiet morning, or a conversation with a stranger. Holy spaces aren't always built—they're revealed to us, as we open our hearts and our minds. I invite you to slow down and notice the sacred in your daily life. This summer, may you carry the awareness of God's presence with you. Whether you find yourself at a cabin, in a pew, or somewhere in between—know that God is already there and calls it holy because you are there, too.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Anacortes Lutheran Church
Council Minutes for June 7, 2026

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Steve Anderson, Don Devine, Julie Jacobson, Rachel Long, Lane Phelan, Bruce Rolfe, Pat Carrie Smith, Rosemary Walter, KJ West

The meeting was called to order by Don following the Congregational Meeting.

February 7 is the set date for the next Annual Budget Meeting. (June 13 was set for the next Election Congregational Meeting during the today's Congregational Meeting).

Rosemary made a motion to wave the rules to allow Don to serve a 3rd consecutive term as president, motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Steve made a motion to nominate Don as president, motion seconded and all were in favor.

Rosemary volunteered to serve as president-elect, this was seconded and all were in favor.
Julie will remain as secretary and Lane will remain as treasurer.

The next Executive Committee meeting is set for August 6 at 4:00pm.

Rosemary made a motion to change the scheduled August council meeting back a week to August 6 at 5:00pm. This was seconded and all were in favor. Members are encouraged to talk to a few people to see what the interest is in changing our Mission Statement. ("To Proclaim the Gospel through Word and Deed") (Note: no Council meetings in July)

Steve noted that there will be contracted window washing done as well as furnace maintenance on most of the furnaces.

Pat Carrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Our next council meeting will be held August 6 at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Jacobson, Council Secretary



PRAY FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

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

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

Upcoming quarterly events

September 12, Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. – Conference Room #1.

La Conner “Crabby” Cruise with lunch. Let’s fill the boat again – 32 passengers. All adults are invited – no need to be a senior.

December 11, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.

Get-Together in the Fellowship Hall

Sign-up sheets are available at the Opportunity Desk.

For more information about any event, please call, text, or email Julie.

Have a superb summer, stay safe, and be happy.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



SEWING

The sewing group is having a good summer. Quilts are being finished and kits are being packed. In between, sewers are traveling, taking on projects at home and enjoying events in Anacortes. The fellowship vibes of this group are impressive as we work, share and pray together. We love to welcome friends, old and new, who may come in to bring donations or just join us for a cup of coffee.

We are currently working on gathering supplies for school kits. Sales are hot right now and here is what we need: Spiral notebooks 70 page, blunt school scissors, pencil sharpeners and erasers. or give a donation to WELCA for school kits. There is a box in the narthex where you can leave your donations or drop them off at sewing on Tuesday and stay for a cup of coffee.

PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Scott Peterson

MEMORIAL

June 27, 2026

Bob Barry

July 11, 2026

Sharon Fisher

BEAUTIFUL ANACORTES!

The other day, someone told me that our church was beautiful, just like the town of Anacortes! I said that I agreed 100%! They also said that we have such a friendly congregation with people who will go out of their way to welcome visitors and make all feel comfortable. Again, I said that I agreed and that I have seen this first hand in our church. I have worked for churches where this was not the norm and I feel it is so sad and can cause such hurt feelings. Our church is a singing church – I saw something the other day that reminded me of that and it read something like this: The greatest worship experience is to worship in a church that still sings! Pastor and I have both noticed how much more singing is happening in our church – sing loud, sing praises to our Lord! One of the most powerful sounds in any worship gathering is still the collective voice of God's people declaring His truth together. Congregational singing isn't a tradition to preserve; it's a spiritual practice that forms believers.

Anacortes Lutheran is a very special place with wonderful people who care deeply for others and for our church! Please remember to always be kind and welcoming to all who come to worship in our beautiful church – we are, after all beautiful children of the Lord and don't forget - sing loudly!

Thank you,
Laurie Julius-Carver

August Dates to Celebrate



August Birthday Blessings

01 Fred Wintermantel
 03 Elena West
 03 Karen Peterson
 12 Rosemary Walter
 14 David Bjornson
 14 Paula Fors
 14 Yvonne Paul
 15 Karen Caracciolo
 15 Alyssa Costenbader
 15 Paul Phelan
 15 Bryan Walker
 16 Lillian Devine
 16 Jobun Tornga
 17 Cathy Odegaard
 18 Elton Hanneman
 19 Jeanne Anderson
 19 Ray Fowler
 22 Keeley Irish
 24 Linda Anderson
 28 Maggie Santos
 28 KJ West
 29 Bill Gusa
 29 Tim Hofferth
 30 Sharon Ohm
 30 John Parker
 30 Paddy Sarvis
 31 Jerry Woodall

August Wedding Anniversaries

05 Paul & Julie Dusenbury
 17 Tim & Connie Walters
 19 Ray & Nancy Fowler
 19 Charles & Corine DeWitt
 22 Kirk & Marta Swanson
 27 Anthony & Amanda Bush
 29 Maurice & Helene Fink



Worship Attendance

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
May 24	Day of Pentecost	89	2	19
May 31	Grad Recognition	122	5	37
June 7	Congregational Meeting	97	3	27
June 14	Confirmation Sunday	92	1	35
June 21	Father's Day	85	6	31
June 28	Gospel Sunday	103	1	18
July 5	Patriotic Sunday	71	5	38
July 12	7th Sunday in Pentecost	89	5	36
July 19	8th Sunday in Pentecost	94	4	34
July 26	9th Sunday in Pentecost	84	5	**

** Not available at time of printing





From the Bishop:

July / August 2026

On July 18, 1976 Pastor Nancy Winder was ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry. She was the first woman ordained in what was then the North Pacific District and the fourteenth woman ordained in the American Lutheran Church.

But Nancy and those thirteen women were not the first. We remember all the women who came before them. In scripture we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, Phoebe, Priscilla, Junea, Lydia, and all the unnamed women including the Samaritan woman at the well who ran to proclaim what she had seen and heard, becoming the first to declare Jesus as Lord.

Along with these women in scripture, we also remember the countless women in these last 2000 years – Hildegard, Katie Luther, Argula von Grumbach, Maria Stewart, Phoebe Palmer, Catherine Booth, Margaret Wold, and so many others who were called by the Holy Spirit to preach, teach, proclaim, lead, and serve. We give thanks for the myriad of gifts that God has poured out through women for the sake of the church and the life of the world.

I am so thankful for the many women in our lives who passed on their faith to us. The women who taught Sunday School, prepared the altar, made meals, visited those who were sick, and marched against injustice. The women theologians, mystics, and writers. The women who, in countless ways, proclaimed through word and deed the good news of Jesus.

Thank you to our sisters in Christ. Thank you for the ways you have lived out your faith in every vocation. Thank you to the women who have gone before us, to the women serving today, and to the women who continue to say yes to God's call – including those called into ordained ministry.

I wonder, do you remember the first time you heard a woman preach? The first time you heard an alto or soprano voice chanting the liturgy or saying the words of institution? I remember. I was twenty years old. Seeing and hearing someone who looked like me, who had a body like mine, made the gospel come alive in a way I hadn't experienced before. Truly, it changed my life.

This is why I grieve what is happening to some of our sisters in other denominations. In recent weeks, the Southern Baptist Convention voted at its annual assembly to further restrict women from teaching, preaching, and pastoral leadership. This means women ordained ten or twenty or fifty years ago may now find their callings denied by the very churches they have faithfully served. So many women – chosen, loved, called, sent – women with fire in their bellies to preach the gospel may no longer do so. Not by God, but by their denomination. Their silencing is not only a tragedy for them; it is a tragedy for the whole Church.

So today there is an urgency to remember, celebrate, and publicly proclaim, that women are called by God. Just as the Spirit came to Mary, who sang of the mighty brought down from their thrones, just as the Spirit sent Mary Magdalene to proclaim resurrection to the apostles, just as Lydia helped birth a community of believers, the Spirit has called and continues to call women in every age.

So, in joy, thankfulness, and celebration, let us give thanks for the women of the past, present, and future who continue to proclaim, teach, lead, and serve. For, as we read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, *"Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart ... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord."*



AUGUST

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a YOUTH Comm 11:00a	3 O.A. 10:00a A.C of A 6:30p	4 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	5 Staff Meeting 9:30a WORSHIP COMM 11:00a ALC Picnic 6:00p	6 Men's Bible Study 7:00a WELCA Board 11:00a EXECUTIVE BOARD 4:00p CHURCH COUNCIL 5:00p		
9 WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a	10 VBS 9-12:00p O.A. 10:00a A.C of A 6:30p	11 VBS 9-12:00p WELCA Picnic 12:00p SCOUT G & B 7:00p	12 VBS 9-12:00p Staff Meeting 9:30a A-Town Clogy Mtg 12:30p ALC Picnic 6:00p	13 VBS 9-12:00p Men's Bible Study 7:00a SCOUT B Leader 7:00p	14	15
16 WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a	17 O.A. 10:00a LWR Knitting 1:00p A.C of A 6:30p	18 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G Leader 6:00p SCOUT G & B 7:00p	19 Staff Meeting 9:30a ALC Picnic 6:00p	20 Men's Bible Study 7:00a	21	22
23 WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a	24 O.A. 10:00a A.C of A 6:30p	25 Sewing 9:00a SCOUT G & B 7:00p	26 Staff Meeting 9:30a	27 Men's Bible Study 7:00a Praise Team 1:00p	28	29
30 Hymn Pick WORSHIP 9:30a Fellowship Hour 10:30a	31 O.A. 10:00a A.C of A 6:30p					