



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WALT

Anacortes Lutheran Church
April 2021 Newsletter

My spell checker does not like the liturgical term “Agnus Dei:” it keeps changing it from Agnus to Angus, which significantly changes the meaning. Instead of “Lamb of God” the term then translates “Cow of God,” which just doesn’t work. If my spell checker doesn’t understand this language, how can we expect the person on the street or even the pew to know what we are talking about?

Many professions have terms and words which are not easily understood by the common person. For example, I couldn’t tell you what a scientist is talking about when referencing “quarks.” Likewise, even though I love movies, I wouldn’t be able to tell you what that closing credit means when it informs me who was the “Best Boy.” And, to be fair, many Christians probably couldn’t define “sanctification.” No, we live in a world where professional terms are not easily understood.

I’d like to briefly reference one such word from the theological/liturgical world. I’m talking about the Triduum. I suspect a majority of Christians couldn’t quickly pull that one out of their synapses. Fortunately, the church has recently translated it for us by calling it The Three Days. That might still be a little confusing, so let me unpack this one.

The Triduum or Three Days refer to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On those three days, which were observed long before the church set a date for Christmas, we gather in worship (virtually now, but not much longer – I hope), and walk through the hours of Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Three Days are not three separate services, but one service in which each part or day leads us into the next.

Most Christians are aware of Maundy Thursday. A number of significant things occur at that time. First the pastor announces the absolution for the confession that was made on Ash Wednesday. Often that is followed by the individual absolution when parishioners come forward to hear the words of forgiveness announced while the pastor lays hands upon the head of each individual. That is followed by the foot washing, an action Jesus undertook on the Thursday before his betrayal and arrest. In fact, the term Maundy is translated “command,” since Jesus gave a new commandment to love one another, and the foot washing was his illustration of that love. Holy Communion is observed, since three of our gospels inform us that Thursday was the night of the Lord’s Supper. Finally the altar is stripped of all adornments in darkness as preparation of the second part of the Three Days.

Good Friday is the second observance. The passion account from the Gospel of John is read. Many churches observe this date with the Tenebrae or Service of Darkness. The worship begins in light, but as the service progresses the sanctuary gradually moves into darkness until all light is extinguished. The readings end with the Strepitus (another one of those unusual theological words) when the Bible is slammed shut, signifying the closing of Jesus' tomb.

Holy Saturday gives us the Great Vigil of Easter. This used to be the major Easter celebration of the church year. It starts at sundown, since in the Jewish tradition the new day began not at midnight, but when the Saturday sun set. So for them it was Easter. The Vigil would run all night until sun up. The service begins in darkness since it follows the darkness of Good Friday. The Pascal Candle (that tall candle in the front of the church) was taken outdoors and lit for the first time with the "new fire of Easter" which represents the life of Christ. The candle is then processed toward the sanctuary. At that time the worshippers each take a candle and move into the sanctuary, with the candles being the only light. Next the Great Readings from the Old Testament are read. Originally the number of those lessons was twelve. However most churches have reduced that number since, unlike the first century, our service doesn't run from sundown to sun up. In that first century the candidates for baptism, who had been either instructed in the faith during Lent or throughout the previous year, came forward to be baptized. Men and women were divided into two groups. Each group took off their clothing and went down into the water to be baptized. When they emerged on the other side they were clothed in a new white gown, representing their new life in Christ. Today we often have a Remembrance of Baptism in place of the early ritual. However the Vigil is a very appropriate day to be baptized. All this has transpired in darkness. Today at this point the sanctuary is lit, the first announcement of Easter is shared, the Easter Gospel is read and the community of faith celebrates the first Communion of Easter.

Here at Anacortes Lutheran Church we have prerecorded those services this year and each will be available the evening of the Three Days. We prepare ourselves for Holy Week even as we prepare for Easter.

PRAYER VIGIL IN MEMORY OF PASTOR DEB BENSON

The staff of ALC has been searching for a way to come together to mourn the loss of Pastor Benson and to celebrate her new life in Christ. We have been planning a Prayer Vigil which would be held in the church parking lot. We were hoping to offer this vigil in the next few weeks.

We felt it would be important to have Pastor Lewis Benson in attendance. However Lewis has informed us he won't be back in this area for some time since he is traveling to visit with family. Therefore we are delaying the vigil until further notice, knowing that Pastor Lewis Benson would very much like to be in attendance. We will notify the congregation when the event can be rescheduled.



EASTER FLOWERS - IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF LOVED ONES

The Altar Guild will purchase flowering plants to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

EACH FLOWERING PLANT COSTS \$15

If you wish to donate a plant in memory or honor of someone, fill out the form below. Please place your completed form with check/cash attached in the Sunday offering plate or drop it in the black mailbox outside the church office by Monday, March 28.

Names will be published and displayed in the Easter service. If you ordered a flowering plant, you can leave it to adorn the altar for the Sundays of April or take it home after the second Easter morning service.

EASTER FLOWERS

Please print clearly



In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Given by: _____

Number of Flower plants: _____ x (\$15 each)

Total amount: _____

Place completed form with a check or cash in an envelope and drop it in the offering plate or in the black mailbox outside the church office.

Deadline Monday, March 28th

OUTSIDE EASTER “FLOWERING CROSS”

Bring any fresh cut spring flowers

On Easter morning please bring any fresh cut spring flowers like daffodils, tulips etc. from your yard or the store to put on the cross outside the church front door. The free standing seven foot cross is covered with chicken wire so you may place your flowers on it as you come in for Easter worship.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES ARE BACK

Sundays 9:45 - 10:45 am

in conference room #2

Hey!!! It's time to get back together and study God's word and know our Lutheran Heritage. We'll have a review of last year, i.e. Pre-Covid and set a path for this Spring.

So, the **"Mr. Les and Mr. Don - Hour"** has begun in-person on Sundays at 9:45 am. *(Kids please, Enter & Exit through the business door by the church office)*

**No classes on Easter Sunday*

Parents- if you are attending our worship service pre-register at www.anacorteslutheran.org.

After you drop your kids off, enter the building using the handicap ramp to the right of the main church double doors.

2021 GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Scholarships applications available

Applications for the Anacortes Lutheran & Laurene M. Rhodes Scholarship are available in the church office. Completed applications are due in the church office by Friday, April 30th.

If you have questions please contact the church office.

ANACORTES LUTHERAN PRE-SCHOOL

2021-2022 OPEN REGISTRATION

3's & 4's Classes

Forms are available on the Pre-School page of the church website. For more information call Maggie Santos, Pre-School Director 360-873-8748



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.**

PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom

The Call Committee is meeting every week to go over procedures and to clarify our ministry profile.

We will be meeting with Assistant to the Bishop Andy Yee soon via zoom." Lois Cassidy

BLESSINGS & 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

SEWING News - Julia Rogers

WE ARE GLAD TO BE BACK TO SEWING.

Sewing Dates are:

Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20 & 27

9:00 am till Noon

We have already been packing up kits, so far we have:
Personal kits - 164 & Baby kits - 40.

We start at 9 am till Noon and anyone that would like to sew, work on quilts and other jobs are more than welcome to join us.



Our **Bible Study Circles** will not
be meeting until further notice.

ALG SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRIME TIMERS™

ZOOM MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 AT NOON

I will email the invite at a later date.

Please contact Julie for more information.

Good-bye, Winter!

Good-bye, Winter!

Spring is in the air.

Flowers are in bloom.

You see colors everywhere.

Birds build their next
in branches way up high.
But out my window, that loud bird
woke me up again...sigh!

**Have a great month,
stay safe, and be happy.**

**We look forward to
seeing you on Zoom.**



LWR Knitting News - Linda Anderson

Meeting date— TBD

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 - 29

Hats - 1

Sweaters - 3

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

SERVICE ANIMALS ONLY

Please refrain from bringing pets into church buildings and preschool play areas as they are prone to cause allergy, sanitation, damage and noise issues.

Authorized medical trained service animals are acceptable, but certification papers may be requested before access is granted. All congregation members are asked to be considerate of others by agreement with these procedures.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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>





HOLY WEEK Schedule

Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on March 28. As of this writing the plan is for the church to be open to 25% capacity for those who pre-register, and to also be live-streamed.

The Triduum, or the Three Days of Holy Week, will be pre-recorded services. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Saturday Easter Vigil will all be available for viewing at 6 pm on their respective days.

The church will again be open to limited capacity Easter morning, April 4 at 10:00 am, for those who pre-register by going to our website.

Take advantage of these worship opportunities during the most sacred days of the church year.

			
Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
6 pm Services Pre-recorded			10 am Service In person
April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4

(All services are available on our website & YouTube)

April- Worship Readings, Psalm & Gospel


April 4 Easter Sunday	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 10:34-43 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 118: 1-2, 14-24 Mark 16: 1-8	<i>Reader:</i> Anne Barry
April 11	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 4:32-35 / 1 John 1: 1--2:2 133 John 20: 19-31	<i>Reader:</i> Bryn & Wayne Kremling
April 18	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 3: 12-19 / 1 John 3: 1-7 4 Luke 24: 36b-48	<i>Reader:</i> Dave Bjornson
April 25	<i>Readings:</i> <i>Psalm:</i> <i>Gospel:</i>	Acts 4: 5-12 / 1 John 3: 16-24 23 John 10: 11-18	<i>Reader:</i> The Connelly Family

Reserve your seat for in-person worship at www.eventbrite.org

APRIL - Birthday Blessings to You!

1	Egil Pedersen	13	Riverlyn Wagner
1	Breann Morgenthaler	14	Kyle Fosso
2	Griffin Hrovat	17	George Rockwood
3	Isabella Thomas	18	Harlan Eggleston
4	Jennifer Elling	18	Inez Pedersen
4	Dale Geffe	19	Agnes Wicknick
5	Daniel Richards	20	Malena Baker
7	Micah Spehar	20	Diane Berglund
8	Ginny Connelly	22	David Verall
8	Klaus Schoebel	24	Dorothy Engom
8	Kaelan Tornga	24	Roselyn Payne
9	Joseph Faulkner	24	Scott Soes
9	Bette Swietzer	25	Mahayla Thomas
11	Rexanne Graham	26	Rachel Franulovich
12	Esther Chang	27	Lauren Long
13	Steve Anderson	29	Brenda Harter
13	Kathy Khile	29	Rachel Nelson
13	Treva King	29	Blake Tornga
13	Kevin Kennedy	30	Colleen Kenimond

APRIL- Anniversaries!

2	Dave & Peggy White
6	Robert & Lenore Higgins
6	Egil & Inez Pedersen
6	Al & Judy Littlefield
9	Dan & Kathy Khile  20 years
13	Jerry & Gail Bongard
17	Lynn & Randy Arendse
20	Tim & Anne Hofferth
23	Earl & Diane Gibbons
24	Chris & Rachel Franulovich
27	Bob & Anne Barry
27	Tom & Yvonne Paul

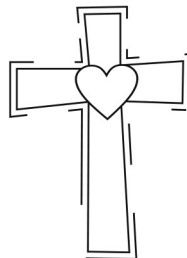
March- Worship Services

Date	Events	Live Stream	In person
7	3rd Sunday of Lent	91	-
14	4th Sunday of Lent	108	37
21	5th Sunday of Lent	52	34
28	Palm Sunday	-	-

SYMPATHIES - Our Heartfelt prayers for strength, comfort, healing and peace in this time of grief.

Loren Alan Knutsen
July 24, 1933—March 9, 2021

Our prayers are with
Norma and their family.



Pastor Debra Renee Hanson Benson
March 12, 1959—March 2, 2021

Our prayers are with
Lewis, Kayla, Kathryn and their family.

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

BISHOPS MESSAGE – *The Spirit* April 2021 + Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

There is a cave in Kentucky called Mammoth Cave. When you first enter, it appears quite empty of life. Dark, quiet, dank, barren.

And yet ... and yet ...

Like many caves, first impressions can be deceiving. You see, over 200 animals live in Mammoth Cave. Animals that range from raccoons and other small creatures who accidentally venture into the cave and cannot figure out how to return to the outside, to animals who deliberately live both inside and outside of the cave, to forty-two species of troglobites - animals adapted exclusively to life in the darkness. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

If one were to drive by most of our church buildings, parking lots would be empty and the doors would be locked. A casual observer might say, "That church is empty. Nothing is happening there."

And yet ... and yet ...

First impressions can be deceiving. There is a lot of life happening in congregations and ministry sites. There are people who have joined communities of faith in our synod that, for various reasons, would never have entered the doors of a church building. They have become part of the community through online worship – even if they live thousands of miles away. There are people who were a part of the church community for years – but because of work schedules or health issues or mobility concerns – they had faded away. Now they are coming each week as they re-connect. And there are people who have never left. They continue to foster relationships, enjoy serving in the community of the church, and who are faithful to the tasks that are required to keep churches functioning.

We have groups in many churches that are working with other organizations to help feed, clothe, teach, and be with people in the neighborhoods. We have those who are having sometimes uncomfortable (but always fruitful) conversations about what it means to be faithful in this time and place. We have many who are visiting and calling the sick and the dispirited.

Fundamentally, together we are living into the good news of Jesus and journeying together in the Spirit as we are Church in the world. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

Listen to these words from the first Easter, "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!' (John 20:1-2)

Mary looked into that tomb and saw only lifelessness and she despaired. She peered into the shadows and felt, deep in her bones, the darkness of sorrow, abandonment, disappointment, grief, heartache, and pain. She had gone searching for something, someone, and she came away with nothing.

And yet ... and yet ...

Jesus had risen. Jesus, scars and all, was going to meet her in the garden. In a few hours Jesus would call Mary's name and assure her of his love. Jesus would come to the disciples and breathe on them – giving them peace and asking them to, "Feed his sheep." And they would. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

Dear Beloveds, this last year has felt somewhat like we were living in a cave. We have been confined, somewhat lost, weary, and wondering where the new life is. We have stumbled on rocks and fallen in despair.

And yet ... and yet ...

We trust that soon we will be gathering in-person together. Soon we will be beyond this pandemic. Soon life will not "return to normal" but instead will move forward as we live God's calling of loving God and loving neighbor.

We know this because we are a resurrection people. Out of death comes life. We place our trust in our risen Savior who died and is raised again. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant in Christ Jesus our risen Savior.*** And we all proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!