

Anacortes Lutheran Church Newsletter

November/December 2023



The quilts have been 'blessed to be a blessing' as they will be shared with Lutheran World Relief to be shared with those in need around the world. Thank you Quilters!

Random Thoughts A message from Pastor Scott

As we head into the 'holiday season' we do so with a sense of trepidation of what is happening in the world. As I write this, Hamas and Israel are at war and we wonder what will happen as time goes on. We may be feeling fear at the unknown, we may be feeling frustration at the lack of compassion, we may be feeling anger at the atrocities committed, but the truth is that we are probably all asking the question, "When will there be peace?"

We begin the month of November with a celebration of All Saints Sunday, a time when we remember those who have entered life eternal, and so we begin the season in a mindfulness of both our impermanence and our promised salvation. We are reminded that God has come to us in love and calls us to follow the teaching of Jesus to "love one another". But sometimes it is hard to do. We struggle with what it means to love, even when Jesus calls us to "love your enemies," and we find that at time we do not have the strength. God calls us in those times to remember that we are part of a community that cares for one another. We show that care in many ways, including letting ourselves be cared for when our strength is depleted.

As we continue through November, we are reminded of what it means to be 'thankful' for the many blessings and challenges we have in our lives. Yes, even being thankful for the challenges because they are what make us become more and more who we are called to be. Thankfulness and gratitude as a mindset give us a contentment with what may come. We live more in the present and let tomorrow take care of itself.

And then we enter Advent, a time where we again hear of the Promised One who is coming into the world. We live lives of anticipation of the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Our eyes turn toward the place where a war is raging today, where occupation by the Romans was happening 2000 years ago, and where the hope of a pregnant mother of a promised Son would show us a new way to live.

Today may we find the hope to live lives of love of God and neighbor. May we turn to Jesus and echo the words of a healed boy's father, "I believe, help my unbelief."

Believing, hope, and love,

Pastor Scott

Breaking news

Well, I guess it is not quite "breaking news," but I am trying my hand at this newsletter thing. Rachel has had some time off and instead of coming into a pile of work at the end of the month, I have volunteered to put together our November/December newsletter.

I am trying a different format, so we shall see what happens. As we look into 2024, we hope to make the newsletter even more of a blessing to those who receive it.

As such, if there is something you are involved with in the wider community, we would love to share your story. If you would like to share, write up a little something and send it to the church office (info@anacorteslutheran.org).

Prayers – Receive the Gift of Prayer

A list of prayer requests for our congregation can be found in the Sunday Scoop, Thursday Update email, and on our website under “Prayer Page.” Give the gift of prayer by including these requests in your daily prayers each week.

You have a choice for your prayer request to be: **CONFIDENTIAL** – Prayer Chain and Pastor Only OR **PRINTED** – a Public list in the Scoop, Thursday Update Email and on the website Prayer Page.

To make a prayer request or update a prayer – call the church during office hours at 360-293-9586. Let them know if you are hospitalized, ill, or needing their prayers.



Call Peggy at 360-299-1184 for your prayer needs at any time, including Prayer Chain (confidential prayer) & updates to your prayer request. As always Pastor Scott Peterson is available to pray with you or for you.

LWR-Lutheran World Relief - An important partner with Anacortes Lutheran Church

In 1945, World War II left an estimated one fifth of the world’s Lutherans homeless. Here in the United States, Lutheran churches in at least 20 states mobilized to help in Europe through a new agency called Lutheran World Relief. Much has changed in those 75 years. But in thousands of congregations, in millions of offerings and in uncounted prayers, U.S. Lutherans continue to support Lutheran World Relief’s work in many countries.

LWR works with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and does not evangelize. It provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives, partners with communities to rebuild and grow rural economies. It breaks the cycle of poverty so families and communities can thrive.

Our women have been preparing, collecting and sending quilts, school kits, baby layettes, health kits, and fabric kits, for many years, even as far back as in the day when ladies made soap at home to include in the health kits. November is one of the national in-gatherings of LWR items. A truck load of our offerings has started their journey to countries in need.

We appreciate all the support that this congregation gives us to help accomplish our mission.

The Kiwanis Club has loaned us a truck to start our offerings on their journey to countries in need. Thank you, Kiwanis and our drivers, Bob Higgins and Fred Wintermantel! We also thank and appreciate all the support that this congregation gives us to help accomplish our mission.

- Lois Cassidy

JOIN US



Advent Dinners

DECEMBER 6, 13, 20
AT 5:30PM

Worship to follow

Join us following worship on **November 19th** as we celebrate Thanksgiving with a pie social!

Bring a pie to share!



Crisis in Israel and Gaza

Friends,

In response to the escalating violence in and around Gaza, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has extended a [letter of support](#) to Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. In it she pledges to accompany and support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries. Images in the news are heartbreaking, and we extend our prayers to all those who have lost loved ones and are living in fear and uncertainty.

The ELCA has long-standing relationships with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation.

The most pressing needs that Lutheran Disaster Response and our partners can address are food, water and medical supplies. Support for hospitals will be another priority as the need for medical assistance continues to grow. Additionally, Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries desk to provide interfaith emotional and spiritual care support for communities in the United States.

Bishop Eaton's letter also calls us to action:

“I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized.”

Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and anticipates answering calls for assistance when the time comes. Gifts to [“Middle East Crisis”](#) will be used to address humanitarian needs in the region. Above all, we pray for peace.

Gifts can be made online at lwr.org/crisis or mail a check to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061**. Write **CRISIS** in the memo.

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 are in the narthex. Return filled boxes to church by 11/13/23. Call Linda Walker 925-963-3879, for more information.

Faith & Blue Weekend

Thank you!

Faith & Blue was inaugurated in 2020 by MovementForward, Inc., working with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) at the U.S. Department of Justice. The idea was a simple but powerful one — the ties that bind officers and residents must be reinforced if we are to build neighborhoods where everyone feels safe and included.

Faith-based organizations are key to building these bonds because they are not only the largest community resource in the nation, with 65 million participants in weekly events, but because they are as diverse as our nation. Moreover, they speak to Americans' shared conviction that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

Faith & Blue was launched to facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations.



FAITH & BLUE

ELCA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 12, 10:00 am

All women are invited to a Potluck Brunch.
Sing favorite carols, Hear a story about Mary.
Bring a dish to share and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us.
Ruth Circle: Devotions
Hostess: WELCA Board

WELCA Board Meeting: December 1, 10:00 am



ALC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Date

Friday Nov 17th
530-730 PM

Where

ALC
Fellowship Hall

Contact Us

Heather Harrington 904-982-0290
HeatherRHarrington@gmail.com

Activities

Dinner, Devotion,
Games & Crafts

Grades

K-5



All Ages Education Dates:

Nov 5th 9-945 AM
All Ages Bingo in Fellowship Hall

Nov 12, 19, 26 and Dec 10 9-945 AM
Sunday School & Confirmation

Dec 3rd 9-945 AM
All Ages Cookie Exchange in Fellowship Hall

Dec 17th 10 AM
Whole Congregation Christmas Play During
Worship Service

No Sunday School Dec 17, 24, and 31

This Year's Christmas Play:

This year we will be doing an easy, fun, rehearsal-free, intergenerational Christmas Pageant during worship service on Dec 17th. We will need participation from children, youth and adults! As you arrive for worship, you will see tables of costumes from which you choose what character in the story you would like to dress up as. There will be costumes for angels, shepherds, various barn animals (cows, donkeys, sheep) and townspeople. Once the worship service begins, a narration based on Luke's telling of Jesus' birth will be read. At various breaks in the narration, while we sing a corresponding song, folks with certain costumes will go to the front of the sanctuary and help create a live nativity scene.

- Heather Harrington

Sewing News for November and December

Come and join us. Our sewing days are Nov 7, 14, 21, and 28th and Dec 5 & 19th. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9am to 2pm. Bring a lunch. We have fun. We are near the end of our packing. The truck is going down Nov. 4th. We will be packing the truck on Thursday Nov 2nd.

We always need:

- Hand towels (dark Ones)
- Bath towels (small)
- Soap (4oz, any kind)

Thanks everyone for donating.

Circle News

All women are welcome to attend the monthly circle meetings which includes Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Circles will meet Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 am and 3:45 pm in the church conference rooms. No Circle meetings in December.

LWR Knitters
Year to date we have made:

Sweater/hats - 208
Sweaters - 17
Hats - 2



— Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

GET-TOGETHER - STACKS OF STICKY BUNS

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

The theme is: "Veterans Day"

Please wear something red, white, or blue.



MOVIE NIGHT - HAVARTI! (John Wayne)
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #2.



OFFERING ENVELOPES are coming in early November. If you use offering envelopes, your giving number is between one and one hundred. If you do not wish to use envelopes next year, or if you wish to have envelopes, please let the office know, put a note in the mailbox by the office that says "Financial Secretary," or call Linda Millo, Financial Recorder at 206 335-4295. Thanks.



GET-TOGETHER - POUNDS OF PIZZA
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Note time change.
 The theme is: "Let I Snow"



BINGO
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room #2.

Please sign up for the monthly Get-Together at the Opportunity Desk or call, text, or email Julie before Wednesday prior to the event.

No sign-up required for Movie Night or Bingo in the Morning - just come and have fun. Snacks are provided. Please bring a drink.

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

Paul - Julie Dusenbury

TABLE SERVICE &
 DRIVE THROUGH AVAILABLE
COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DINNER
Anacortes Lutheran Church
 2100 "O" AVENUE
Sunday, December 25, 2023
TABLE SERVICE
 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
DRIVE THROUGH
 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Enter parking lot from "O" Ave & proceed as directed

HOMEBOUND?
 To schedule delivery, call the church office
no later than NOON - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

A few good volunteers are needed.
 WANT TO HELP SERVE? QUESTIONS?

Anacortes Lutheran Church office 360-293-9586

November 2023
ALC Nursery Schedule

5 Nov Just Service	Lead	Rachel Long
	Asst.	Heather Harrington
	On Call	Erin Flanigan
12 Nov Ed hour & service	Lead	Erin Flanigan
	Asst.	Kris Reddy-Boespflug
	On Call	Heather Harrington
19 Nov Ed hour & service	Lead	Heather Harrington
	Asst.	Kris Reddy-Boespflug
	On Call	Rachel Long
26 Nov Ed hour & service	Lead	Rachel Long
	Asst.	Kris Reddy-Boespflug
	On Call	Erin Flanigan

DATES TO CELEBRATE

NOVEMBER

Birthday Blessings!

01 Joy Walter
02 Marta Swanson
03 Denise Lowrie
03 Phil Weber
03 Steve Jacobson
04 Lynn DeFrancesco
04 Sue Latendresse
05 Robert Higgins
05 Stephanie Sherman
07 Warner Berglund
08 Fred Fisher
10 Grace Boggio
10 Tristyn Connelly
10 Les Olsen
10 Kristen Ellsworth
10 Lorna Higgins
15 Kaylee Lust
16 Sally Pagh
17 Signe Anderson-Graves
17 Zoey Nibarger
19 McKinley Baker
19 Stan Zimmerman
21 Mindy Sorensen
21 Linda Walker
22 Ken Klepsch
24 Reed Espinoza
24 Karen Faulkner
25 Jo Rockwood

NOVEMBER

Wedding Anniversaries!

02 De & Sharon Wedell
04 Boyd & Ginny Veer
10 Bud & Wanda Rock
14 Matthew & Bonnie Kennedy
16 KJ James & Erica West
17 Jim & Laurie Carver
18 Fred & Sharon Fisher
20 David & Diane Brosten
21 Phil & Sue Latendresse
25 Mark & Penny McCaughan
25 Jerry & Ann Knutsen
30 Cami & Brian Mavar

DECEMBER

Birthday Blessings!

01 Nancy Loftis
04 Ida Ford
05 Johanna Tracy
06 Robert Claus
06 Brianna Etlicher
06 Marvin Walter
08 Stacey Pestar
08 Melanie Sahnaw
10 Connie Bliss
10 William Rasar
10 Norm Vigre
11 Madeline Lowrie
11 Matthew Lowrie
11 Samantha Hernandez
11 Corbin Walter
12 Liz Campbell
12 Robert Eggleston
12 Tyson Mavar
13 Ed Berg
15 Alice Dohve
15 Sheila Duquaine
15 Stella Smith
15 Matthew Sullivan
17 Hunter Harrington
17 Breana Sullivan
19 Carl Ellsworth, Jr.
20 Jim Carver
20 Pat Faulkner
20 Diane Gusa
20 Gary Walter
22 Colleen Legan
23 Anne C. Barry
24 Churck Arneson
24 Irene Parker
26 Owen Espinoza
26 Hannah Smythe
27 Jason Myers
28 Matthew Phelan
29 Erin Flannigan
29 Darcy Storme
29 Carol Oglesbee
30 Peggy White
31 Norma Knutson
31 Dana McCoy

DECEMBER

Wedding Anniversaries!

2 Donald & Rachel Devine
12 Robert & Rebecca Eggleston
18 Glenn & Juli Sullivan
18 DeAnna & Robert Claus
24 Kenny & Lacey Smith
26 Stan Berntson & Sharon Geldaker
27 Blake & Tammy Tornga
27 Stan & Leone Zimmerman
28 Jenni & Chad Hansen
31 Matt & Ginny Connelly



Anacortes Lutheran Church Council Minutes for October 12, 2023

Attendees: John Parker, Pastor Scott, Anita Holzemer, Lane Phelan, Dave Bjornsen, Don Devine, Anne Barry, Kathy Khile, Jeaneen Brogan, Heather Harrington, and Special Guest Pat Carrie Smith

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

Treasurer's Report: Third quarter benevolences have been paid. The preschool mortgage has been paid off. Paperwork is filed in the office. Lane will get together with Don to work on Ministry Works report formatting. Committee budget reports were distributed and financial status of each was discussed. Don is asking committee chairs for input as he prepares the budget for next year. Detail sheets for each committee will be printed and we will continue the discussion next month.

Council Roundtable:

Education: The Education Committee has planned through January. The first Sundays of each month will be all generational events. Sunday School and Confirmation will not meet over the Christmas break. The Christmas program will be presented on Dec 17th during the service. Heather is looking at refreshing the Sunday School room décor. It is a bit dated.

Fellowship: Advent dinner planning is underway. There will be three advent meals. There will be a pie social on Nov 19th following the worship service. People will be asked to bring a pie to share.

Outreach: A brunch for those who have lost loved ones over the last year will be provided on Nov 5th. Christmas dinner will return to being served in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner-to-go will continue for those that don't want to eat in person.

Preschool: Preschool report was submitted.

Personnel: Rachel is out until Oct 30. Becky is still doing the livestream but is no longer working in the office. Substitutes have been filling in until Rachel returns. NARCAN has been ordered and will be distributed throughout the building.

Stewardship: The Stewardship committee will meet over the next two weeks to plan on next year's budget. Don is asking committee chairs to get him planning numbers by the next council meeting in November.

Worship: Reformation Sunday is Oct. 29. The congregation is encouraged to wear red. All Saint's Day services on Nov 5 are being planned. We need someone to take charge of the Hanging of the Greens following service on Nov 26. Don will hang the Epiphany Star. Christmas Eve services will be at 3, 5, and 10 pm. There will also be a Christmas Day service. Education Committee will provide the candy for the children's shoes.

Pastor's Report: Report was submitted. He will be in Tacoma next week for Chaplain Academy. Our AED has been received. Training on how to use it will be given. Don will mount it on the wall. Pastor is doing the newsletter while Rachel is out. Please get your announcements in over the next two weeks for Nov/Dec newsletter.

Special Report: Pat Carrie Smith reported on the livestream status. We are coming up on 3 years of providing livestream for the congregation. Jobun has been trained as a back-up for Pat. Pat believes we are fairly well covered with personnel to run the system. The system continues to have a few software bugs. We are working around those as best we can. Pat is in the process of surveying local churches to ask what they are using for livestream software programs. Her goal is to have an updated system by 2025.

Old Business:

- We are still recruiting for council members. Vacancies are for President, President-elect, Secretary, Worship, and Properties.

New Business:

- MSP to accept Michael Sullivan for Youth Committee Chairperson
- Worship and Music proposal from Laurie Julius Carver for New Hymnals. The new hymnal, *All Creation Sings*, was released in 2020. Following discussion MSP to purchase 40 of the new hymnals to be distributed throughout the church in the pews. Memorial funds are available to be used for this purchase.
- The preschool has requested funds for additional scholarships. Lane shared that funds are currently available through the scholarship fund managed by the Legacy Endowment committee. Anne will take this information back to Maggie.
- It was requested we purchase additional folding tables for the Christmas Store. Do we have the room to store them? Discussion followed regarding purchasing/renting/borrowing options. A request will go in the newsletter for table donations.
- Additional directories have been ordered with an updated addendum. John Parker and Kathy Khile will follow up in January after the holidays.
- First Lutheran in Mount Vernon has requested a Praise Band music exchange. Their praise band would come here and ours would go there. This is strictly in the beginning stages of discussion with no decisions made yet.
- Paul Dusenbury has proposed a coloring book to be sold as a fundraiser for the preschool.
- Service contract for the chairlift has been received. MSP to accept the 5-year maintenance contract.
- The Boy Scout trailer will be stored at Pastor's house.

Our next regular council meeting will be held November 9 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports into Anita no later than noon on November 8th.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary

November 2023 From the Bishop:



In the song *Amazing Grace* we sing, “I once was lost but now I’m found.”

Because my job sometimes involves travel, there are times when I am wandering unfamiliar airports – trying to find my flight, trying to find edible food, trying to find a place to charge my phone, trying to find a place where there isn’t a cacophony of sound and crowds of people. And sometimes at airports I also experience a feeling like a disconnection from my “self.” Sometimes I am wandering the airport trying to find my “self.” Strangely, there are moments at airports where I get this feeling as though I am unmoored from what connects me to other people. Honestly, I don’t know if this is something only I experience or if others feel the same way.

There have been a slew of recent articles and social media posts written about how churches are dying and pastors are leaving and people are upset and no one goes to church anymore and so on. These posts are hard to read, and I wonder - is this a sign that we are feeling unmoored? That we are searching for something? Or maybe it is simply being lost.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus tells two parables – one about a lost sheep and one about a lost coin (Luke 15:1-10). You probably remember these parables – the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine in search of the one. The woman turns over her entire house for the one coin that is missing from her purse. I think that traditionally we hear these parables as Jesus searching for the one who needs to hear the good news of Jesus for the very first time. But I think that is a misreading. The lost lamb was a part of the shepherd’s flock. The lost coin was in the woman’s purse. This story is for insiders. For those who know and yet have gotten lost.

This lostness might be of one’s own volition. The sheep wanders from the prescribed pasture. But it can also be something that just happens. A coin cannot, on its own, get lost. We have all experienced the disruption of the pandemic, the cracks in our government, the warming of our climate causing suffering and death, and so much more. We notice changes in our churches and in our families and in our communities. Many of us have experienced personal troubles and tragedies. These all can lead to a sense of feeling adrift. And it can lead to fractures in our church community and our faith life.

However, the circumstance comes about – because of one’s own actions or because of something that descends upon us – lostness occurs. And even when we know God’s love and grace and comfort, even when we know that community is important, even when we are already part of God’s community and church, we can still feel unmoored, lose our sense of belonging, our capacity to trust. We can get so lost that we don’t know who we are or whose we are or where we belong anymore.

I don’t know where you are at as you read this article today. Perhaps you are feeling snug with the other ninety-nine in the sheepfold of God. Perhaps you are a coin cozy with the other nine coins. But perhaps you are not. Perhaps you, too, are wondering and wandering. Perhaps you, too, are feeling disconnected from friends or family or your church community. Perhaps you, too, are wandering in Concourse C wondering how in the world you get to Concourse A. Perhaps you, too, are a sheep bleating for help or a coin under the couch cushions.

If this is you, the good news is that God is a searcher and a finder. The amazing news is that God is the shepherd hiking into the wilderness looking for you. The astounding news is that God is the housewife lighting her lamp and sweeping every corner in the house to find you. You are worth looking for. You are loved and desired. And when God finds you, there is rejoicing and laughter and a party! As Dan Erlander writes, “Love is God’s action to bring us into abundant life – reconciled to God, to each other, and all creation!”

In the 2023-24 course offerings of the synod’s LiVE Project there are many ways to be community together and the body of Christ together. There are ways to encourage and uplift one another. There are retreats, ongoing classes, and a year-long “Abide in the Word” Bible Study. (Learn more at <https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>) If you are feeling unmoored, lost, alone, adrift, I encourage you to first join in your community at your church and second, to join in the offerings in the wider synod. We are church together. We are journeying together. We get lost, and we get found, together.

Together we sing, “We once were lost but now we’re found.”
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org

YOUTH EVENTS - November

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1	2 MS youth group 6:30pm-7:30pm	3	4
5 Nerfed Family After church Till 3:30pm	6	7	8	9	10 Elementary Daycare 5:30pm-8:00pm	11 Youth Chili cookoff 2:00pm-4:00pm
12	13	14	15	16 MS youth group 6:30pm-7:30pm	17 Elementary Youth night 5:30pm-7:30p	18 Harvest Festival 1:00pm-4:00pm
19 Highschool youth night 6:30pm-7:30pm	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

YOUTH EVENTS - December

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					1	2
3 Cookie Exchange MS & HS Youth night 6:30pm-7:30pm	4	5	6	7	8 Elementary daycare 5:30pm-8:00pm	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 31New Years Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30