



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church - October 2023 Newsletter

Members and Friends of Anacortes Lutheran Church,

I was speaking with someone the other day about what a Lutheran is. They were a person that did not grow up in a church environment and so were wondering what all the differences were that made so many different churches. I told them that to go through all the differences would take a couple of weeks to run through, but then I told them that all of them were Christian churches. They were confused about this because why would there be so many if they were all Christian churches. I gave the illustration that churches, like ice cream, has a lot of flavors (around 40,000 registered denominations in the US today), but that they all had the simple ingredients that made them a Christian church. "So it is all about the different flavors," they asked. Yes, it is about how we are flavored differently to reach the widest range of people with the message of God's love.

When I returned home later that day, I thought of this quote of Martin Luther:

The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and should not call themselves Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone...How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?

It seems we do get caught up by those many things that differentiate us from one another and forget about all those things that we hold in common. Earlier today, a few of the other religious leaders in Anacortes gathered for a time of shared discussion and prayer and our conversation again returned to this idea of denominational differences not being nearly as important as how we see ourselves (and our churches) as gathered by Jesus and to share His story. It is Jesus who gathers us together and calls us friends.

When I start to dwell on how much of society seeks to create division, I remember that we are called by Jesus to live for God and for our neighbor. We are called to love our 'enemy' and not just those who think like we do. We are to live lives of reaching out to the "least of these" and to help however we can. We are to live out our Christian faith by being Christlike.

Yes, there will still be differences in thought and opinions. We may not agree as to the best way to go about providing the basics of life to everyone. We will not agree on which car to drive or what boat to float, but we can agree that God loves us and that we are called to love one another. If we can do this, it will be Kenough! (If you haven't watched the Barbie Movie, I recommend that you do if you are able!)

Gathered in Christ,

Pastor Scott

IT'S TIME FOR SOME SEASONAL SCHEDULING!



ATTENTION

October 28th

All Church Workparty!!

9:00AM - 12NOON

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO HELP!

Sunday school instruction will start Oct 8th during Education hour from 9-945 before service. Sunday school will be every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. We have a fun new curriculum and we will have 3 classes PreK-K, 1-2, and 3-5. We are looking for Sunday School teachers! **Can you teach Sunday School one Sunday a month??** Please email Heather Harrington at HeatherRHarrington@gmail.com or call/text her at 904-982-0290 if you can help!



ALC SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 1st 9-945 AM
All Ages Breakfast Celebration

October 8th 9-945 AM
1st Day of Sunday School & Confirmation

Oct 8, 15, 22, & 29 9-945 AM
Sunday School & Confirmation



Please contact Heather if you are willing to teach Sunday School 1-2 times a month. You can choose to teach PreK-K, 1-2, or 3-5. All lessons prepared for you! 904-982-0290 HeatherRHarrington@gmail.com



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.

Anacortes Lutheran has a Legacy Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to receive and manage donations, bequests, and charitable gifts of an endowment nature. The Legacy Endowment Committee then makes periodic disbursements to enhance the mission and ministry of Anacortes Lutheran Church in addition to and apart from its yearly operating budget. Our committee met recently and approved 2023 disbursements of \$1000 to the ALC Christmas dinner, \$1500 to Anacortes Christian Church Community Benevolence Fund (distributes hotel vouchers, food vouchers etc to local people in need), \$2000 to the ELCA Disaster Response (Wildfires) and \$2000 for an AED (automated external defibrillator for emergency use) to be placed in our Narthex.

Rod Odegard, Wayne Olsen, Julie Jacobson, Pastor Scott



Youth Ministries:

Building solid foundations and strong connections.

Youth Happenings

Middle School
Overnighter
Movies and Games
October 6th 5:30

Youth Group

**Middle School: October
5th and 19th at 6:30**

**Elementary: October
13th at 6:30**

Youth And Family

Pumpkin Patch
Gordon's Skagit
Farm
October 21st
12:00 pm

Kenny Smith, Youth & Family Ministry Director
Jobun Tornga, Associate Youth Activities Coordinator
youth@anacorteslutheran.org

ALC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Date

**Friday Oct 13
530-730 PM**

Where

**ALC
Fellowship Hall**

Grades

K-5

Contact Us

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

Activities

**Dinner, Devotion,
Games & Crafts**



Youth Calendar

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Family Sunday Breakfast!	2	3	4	5 MS youth group 6:30-7:30pm	6 MS Over- Nighter 5:30pm →	7 → 10:00am
8 1st day: Sun- day School & Confirmation	9	10	11	12	13 Elementary youth night 5:30-7:30	14
15 After Church Craft day	16	17	18	19 MS youth group 6:30-7:30pm	20	21 Pumpkin Patch Family 12:00pm@ Gordons 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 	31 Trunk or Treat 3:30-5:30pm ALC parking lot				

Nursery Schedule

Date	Lead	Assistant	On Call
October 1	Heather Harrington	Kris Reddy-Boespflug	Rachel Long
October 8	Rachel Long	Kris Reddy-Boespflug	Heather Harrington
October 15	Rachel Long	Kris Reddy-Boespflug	Heather Harrington
October 22	Erin Flanigan	Kris Reddy-Boespflug	Rachel Long
October 29	Heather Harrington	Kris Reddy-Boespflug	Rachel Long

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 1, 2023
FAMILY & PRAISE SUNDAY

PRAISE SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

We will be singing contemporary Christian Music.
Led by the **Praise Team:** Matt Kerschbaum, Dana McCoy,
& Kenny Holzemer with our lead singer Rock star himself, Pastor Scott Peterson.

FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

Where kids are encouraged to assist in worship service.
You can sign up at our Opportunity Desk for future months in the year

We are looking for the following support in service

Entry Greeter (2)	Communion Assts (+1)
Welcome Desk Greeter (1)	Noisy Offering Attendant (2)
Usher (2)	Personal Talent of Instrumental/Poetry Reading
Acolyte (2)	Fellowship Treats
Reading (1-2)	Assist Serving / Clean Up with Fellowship Hour

To encourage active listening with children during the service 5 words are chosen by the Sunday schoolers to be used in the Pastors sermon. Thank you for allowing us to support your children's growth in their faith in our Lord.

NOISY OFFERINGS - 1st Sunday of the month

This is another highlight of Family Sunday and is to be designated for a youth activity.

What great lessons learned about tithing and saving? WOW...what a family of givers in our congregation.
Thank you all!

ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY
PRIME TIMERS™

Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

GET-TOGETHER - BONNIE BOWERS
PORT COMMISSIONER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The theme is: *"Maritime Industries."*

OUT TO LUNCH - place to be determined

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, at 11:00 a.m.

Meet in Conference Room #1 and carpool to the restaurant.

Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk or call, text, or email Julie by Wednesday prior to the event.

Have a festive fall, stay safe, and be happy.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul - Julie Dusenbury



WELCA Board Meeting

October 6, 10:00 am

CIRCLES

- ♦ Women's Bible Circles will meet on October 10. We look forward to seeing you there!

FROM THE WELCA PRESIDENT - LOIS CASSIDY

All women are invited to attend the Thankoffering General meeting:

October 24 at 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Devotions: Hannah Circle

Hostess: Anna Circle

Speaker: TBD

Lois will also report on the National Triennial Gathering that she attended in September in Phoenix.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

NWWA Synodical Women's Conference

October 21st at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Everett.

Time: 9am to 3:30pm \$30 for box lunch and refreshments

Theme: GOT FAITH? Our Speaker: Beth Lewis

Three sessions: Your Faith Journey, Called to Serve, Share it!

Communion service led by Pastor Deb Squires

More information and registration from Lois Cassidy

SEWING NEWS - Come & Join Us!

SEWING DAYS - Sewing News Oct.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9am—2pm Tuesdays. Bring a lunch & join us.

Our Sewing Days in October are 3rd-17th-24th-31st

We need—Hand towels—darker—flannel - we use flannel sheets

We are having a quilt blessing on Oct 8th + Sweaters also.

We are taking the kits to Seattle on Fri. Nov 3rd I want to thank all of you for bringing in soap. We met our goal of 500 bars.

Thank you Jeanette, Lane + Jeaneen for taking over for me this summer. It was fun to have a break.

Serve in Christ
Julie Rogers
360-293-4232

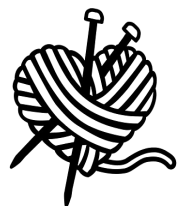


Lutheran World Relief - KNITTING NEWS

NEXT MEETING—MONDAY, OCT 16
1—3 pm in Conference Room 1

Please call me to get yarn between meetings and to give your sweater counts, Thanks.

Our Year To Date 2023 Totals are:
Sweater/hat sets – 178
Sweaters – 17
Hats – 0



One sweater/hat set goes into each layette set. We use a fun one piece sweater pattern. Beginners are welcome and teaching is available.

~Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

MEN'S MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, **OCTOBER 4 & 18**

7:00 pm in Conference room 1

Led by: Tom Paul



MEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

EVERY **THURSDAY MORNING.**

7:00 am in Conference room 1



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men of ALC and their guests. Join us for fun and fellowship on **Saturday, October 21st, at the Brown Lantern at about 11:30am.** We will be celebrating at famous Man's Birthday. Join your fellow Christians for a pleasant lunch.



OUTREACH

Sharing and Caring

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS:

Hey, just a quick note from the Outreach Committee! On Sunday, 10 September, the Outreach Committee spearheaded what was called the Ministry fair. We set up tables in the fellowship hall with displays from each of the council committees. Members of the committees manned those displays and answered questions for those showing interest. It was a good time to have the fair, because not only was it donut Sunday, but there was a luau right after the fellowship hour. The ministry fair was well received, and the committee members were rewarded with the sign-up of several volunteers. Thank you, congregation for stepping up and offering your hands for God's work!

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 - Public list in the Sunday Scoop, Thursday Update Email and on the website Prayer page.

To make a prayer Requests 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.



Worship with us this October

FALL SUNDAY SERVICE TIME AT 10:00 AM - in person or live stream

Watch from your home by going to our website at <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org> & click tab "Online Ministry"

OCTOBER • FAITH AND SERVICE TOGETHER

To fill in an **empty spot** sign-up at the Opportunity desk, call / email the office or jump in the day of. Thank you!!!

<i>Dates:</i>	Family & Praise Sunday October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	Reformation Sunday October 29
<i>Readings</i>	Exodus 1:8-14, [1:15—2:10]	Deuteronomy 5:1-21	Ruth 1:1-17	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5	1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29
<i>Greeters</i>	KIDS		Megan & Mia Kennedy		Kirk, Marta & Annika Swanson
<i>Ushers</i>	John & Kathryn Parker		Kenny & Anita Holzemer	Steve & Julie Jacobson	Bill & Diane Gusa
<i>Reader</i>	KIDS	Lois Cassidy	Anne Barry	Mira Knowles	Sharon Geldaker
<i>Acolytes</i>	1. 2.	1. Kirk Swanson 2.	Maeve Kennedy Violet Harrington	1. 2.	
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Judy Holmes	Lois Cassidy Stacey Pestar	Anne Barry Kendra Kennedy	Kenny & Anita Holzemer	Marta Swanson
<i>Nursery</i>	Heather Harrington Kris Reddy	Rachel Long Kris Reddy	Rachel Long Kris Reddy	Erin Flanigan Kris Reddy	Heather Harrington Kris Readdy

FELLOWSHIP HOUR — *After Worship everyone is invited to join us for coffee, juice and treats*

<i>Serve & Cleanup</i>	Youth & Education	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	Paula Olson Linda Walker
<i>Treats</i>	BREAKFAST CELEBRATION	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	Paula Olson Linda Walker

<i>Sound Team</i>	Kenny Holzemer, Pat Carrie Smith, Brian Hanrahan, Matt Kerschbaum, Jobun Tornga, Harlan Eggleston				
<i>Live Stream Team</i>	Pat Carrie Smith, Rebecca Eggleston, Anita Holzemer, Kevin & Kendra Kennedy, Gina Peterson, Joseph Pestar, Caden DeAtley				
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Gunilla Wold, Grace Boggio, Diane Gusa, Norma Knutsen, Paula Olson, Jenny Remmerden, Karen Tavalero, Caroline Spehar				

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE? WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Faith And Service Teams
- Men's Bible Studies
- Monthly Property Work Party
- Naomi ministry
- Noon Bible Study
- Outreach Committee
- Prayer Warriors
- Prime Timers
- Sewing group
- Teaching Sunday School
- Ushering
- WELCA
- Women's Bible Circles
- Youth mentors
- and more!

Celebrate

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

2 Tim Walters	9 Kevin Costenbader	20 Jeanette Christensen
2 Frank Corso	10 Gail Bongard	20 Eva Dent
2 Jane Nelson	11 Brandon Schultz	20 Chuck Landgraf
2 Nancy Fowler	12 Ginny Veer	21 Benjamin Bolin
2 Marian Parsons	12 Sarah Brosten	22 Elijah Kennedy
2 Lola Smith	12 Erin Kennedy	23 Jerry Bongard
3 Duane Dent	13 Megan Carroll	24 Carl Sundman
3 Mark McCaughan	13 Ashli Hewes	24 Carla Smythe
3 Tom Smith	13 Diana Lindsay	25 Chad Hansen
4 Janice Trumble	14 Jim Fors	25 Jim Loftis
4 Helene Fink	16 Earl Gibbons	26 Maverick West
7 Andy Morgenthaler	17 McKenzie Duquaine	27 Ezekiel Sturgul
8 Karen Tavalero	17 Maeve Kennedy	31 Jan Woodall
8 Tom Poor	19 Sharon Geldaker	31 Robert Ohm II
9 Jeff Walters		

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!



1 Matthew & Taylor Phelan	8 Howie & Mindy Sorensen
2 John & Kathryn Parker	17 Bob & Ida Ford
2 Rexanne Graham & Michael Bastrom	20 Carl & Kristen Ellsworth
2 Robert & Jane Salnick	22 Norm & Jan Vigre
6 Pat Carrie & Tom Smith	31 Gary & Joy Walter
7 Rosemary & Marvin Walter	

WORSHIP SERVICE - ATTENDANCE SEPTEMBER

Date	Events	In-Person	Nursery	Live-Stream
August 27	Camp Songs	132	2	86
September 3	Family & Praise	119	5	N/A
September 10	Fall Service Time	143	6	112
September 17		113	6	42
September 24		126	5	76

Anacortes Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for September 14, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Anita Holzemer, Lane Phelan, Don Devine, Anne Barry, Dave White, Kathy Khile, Jeaneen Brogan, Jeanette Christensen, Heather Harrington, and Pat Carrie Smith

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

Treasurer's Report: Lane and Don met with our bookkeeper about updating our report format. More training is needed to create and adapt the forms with the new system. Giving continues to be steady. After payment of closure fees, we will receive the deed for the preschool building. Benevolences will be paid next month. There will be a potluck/information night to hear an updated report on MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) at the end of September. MSP to give \$500 in benevolences to MAF to help their mission.

Council Roundtable:

Education: Pancake breakfast will be held Oct 1. Sunday School will begin on Oct 8. Going forward there will be an intergenerational activity on the first Sunday of each month instead of traditional Sunday School. New curriculum has been received and people are excited. Two additional preschool Sunday School teachers are needed.

Fellowship: Life is busy and volunteer slots are getting filled slowly but surely. New volunteer lists have helped. Advent dinners are coming.

Outreach: The committee met last week. We planned the Volunteer Fair on very short notice, but it was well received. A number of new volunteers stepped up. Christmas Dinner planning begins in October. We hope to return to on-site Christmas meals. Meals to go will continue as well. Outreach hopes to reinstitute the All Saint's Day dinner in November.

Preschool: Preschool is full. It started yesterday. Thank you to Don and crew for setting up the new play structures. They are up and being used. The preschool committee will be meeting soon and will discuss state licensure requirements.

Personnel: Jeaneen requested that we stock NARCAN® onsite for emergency usage. There may be a no to low cost options available to nonprofits for this. Pat Carrie Smith and Jeaneen have been meeting to discuss the LiveStream procedures and personnel. Becky is now doing the newsletter freeing up Rachel in the office for other duties. Two new employees have been hired to help in the nursery. Going forward we will offer nursery care during the education hour as well as the worship hour. Names of staff members were distributed and council members were asked to pray for them.

Property: First Saturday of the month was Property Day. Three people showed up. Better advertising is needed. The chair lift has been replaced and is completely operational. New woodchips were installed for the new play structures. A thank you will go into the newsletter to thank the volunteers. Don is doing research on getting a price to repave the main parking lot. Do we need a fundraiser to cover the costs? Multiple bids will need to be gotten. If we move forward, this would be a spring project.

Continued on the next page...

Stewardship: Don will gather the stewardship committee to plan a stewardship kick-off for November.

WELCA: No board meeting was held, but Oct 8th was tentatively chosen as Quilt Blessing Sunday. Shipping is scheduled for November 5th. Bob Higgins has volunteered to drive the truck. The WELCA luncheon/picnic was well attended. Jeanette Christensen is stepping down as kitchen cleaner. She will do one last deep clean before she leaves this duty. Thank you to Jeanette for doing this chore for so long.

Worship: No report was submitted due to the chairman's absence.

Youth: Youth payment policies and procedures need to be reviewed with our new staff.

Pastor's Report: Report was submitted. We discussed the LIVE Project. This organization offers retreats and classes both on-site and virtually. They offer a bundle pricing for churches. For \$500 a year, anyone in the congregation can take any of the courses offered throughout the year. Information regarding this program and classes will be shared with the congregation at a Fellowship hour to gauge interest before committing the funds. Oyster Run breakfast will not be held this year. We will look at having it next year with more advance notice after encouraging participation from other city churches. Security procedures for the church need to be examined. Don will talk to Wayne Olsen about running power for outside security lights and cameras.

Old Business:

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

New Business:

The Legacy Endowment committee met. The decision was made to provide monetary support to purchase an AED, funds for Maui relief, the Christmas Dinner, and for local support to Anacortes Christian Church who coordinates community help.

A mobility contract was presented for the chairlift. MSP to purchase a 5-year maintenance contract.

We are beginning the conversation to update our church constitution. Lane will contact the synod for guidance.

Our next regular council meeting will be held October 12 at 6:30 pm. Please have committee reports in to Anita no later than noon on October 11th.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary

“Sometimes it’s boring. Sometimes it’s thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry.”

(Quote from “The Wonderful Ordinarity of Congregational Life” by Cheryl Fullerton, Christian Century, March 2022)

Recently I was thinking about church. (Full disclosure ... I think about church quite a bit.) But, in particular, I was thinking about the rhythm of church life. And I think the above quote from Cheryl Fullerton sums it up pretty nicely.

Sometimes it’s boring.

I admit, sometimes there is something that is uninteresting about church. Perhaps it is the repetitive nature of it. Perhaps it is the cyclical nature of things. Perhaps it is seeing the same people in the same pew week after week and year after year.

We know that Fred will sing the hymns out of tune ... every time. We know that Mary will cluck her tongue at someone’s tattoo peeking out from their sundress. We know that Mike will fall asleep during the sermon and we know that Dan will try to share the peace with every single person. We know that the children will fidget. We know that the baby might cry. We know that we have rituals and sacraments and prayers that we say each week. We know that sometimes we won’t hear the utter preposterousness and absurdity and utterly amazing news that Jesus loves each of us and all of us – that sometimes this message sails over our heads because we’re too busy looking at the bulletin.

And yet ...

Sometimes it’s thrilling.

I always get goosebumps when I hear the words, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” I rejoice each Easter when we all shout, “He is risen! He is risen indeed!” Candles lit in darkness bring hope and light on Christmas Eve. When I am privileged to place bread in people’s hands and I see young, old, wrinkled, black, white, brown hands reaching out for Jesus, it is truly miraculous.

We know that Fred cares for his wife with Alzheimer’s. We know that Mary still grieves her daughter. We know that Mike works the late shift and we know that Dan only leaves his group home for church. We know that the children will hear of Jesus. We know that the baby will grow up in the community of elders. We know that sometimes we will hear and understand, if even for a moment, the utter preposterousness and absurdity and utterly amazing news that Jesus loves each of us and all of us.

And so ...

Sometimes it makes me cry.

Church is not for the faint-hearted. Church is not for people who only want to be with their own kind. Church is for the young, the middle-aged and the old. The healthy and the sick. The spiritually depleted and the spiritually full. Those who are seeking, those who are exhausted, and those who are filled with fire for justice. We all come together. The Freds and Marys and Mikes and Dans. And we sing and we pray and we receive Jesus, in community, together.

Church is wonderfully boring and thrilling. We catch glimpses of the divine amongst the coffee pot and petty disagreements. We see Mary hug the tattooed young girl after she is baptized. We see Mike exchange high fives with Dan. We see Fred with tears singing at the top of his lungs, “I Know that My Redeemer Lives.”

There is nothing like church.

“Sometimes it’s boring. Sometimes it’s thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry.”

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org