

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jim Abbott	1/1
Cami Krema	1/1
Isaac Beers	1/2
Natalie Journey	1/3
Joey Florent	1/4
Serena Journey	1/5
Galen Sele	1/5
Ed Florent	1/6
Callie Gillespie	1/7
Don Mills	1/7
Arlene Swift	1/10
Don Cole	1/12
Suzie Banzer	1/12
Michael Desmond	1/12
Ernie McCluskey	1/12
Linda Bergeron	1/16
Helen Cole	1/18
Matt LaMagna	1/21
Amy Munns	1/30

Happy Anniversary

Galen and Phyllis Sele



JANUARY 2017

VINLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH est.1904
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 Poulsbo WA 98370

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 Lay Associate: Marsha Wright
 Youth: Karyn Crawford
 Secretary: Megan Adrig

Preschool Director: Janean Moriarty
 Preschool: 360.865.0510
 E-Mail: preschool@vinlandlc.org



Socks and Sandwiches January 8

January 1 Worship at 10am

Annual Meeting on January 29



MAKING CHRISTMAS REAL

Every child wants a peek at Santa. Staying up late on Christmas Eve to get a glimpse of a red suit, listen for the sound of sleigh bells or see the footprint of reindeer is way better than seeing Santa in the Mall. Children want Santa to be real where they live.

I had a friend who saved the deer hooves from a fall hunt and imprinted them on the roof and lawn of his house on Christmas Eve. He wanted to make Santa real for his 5 year old son who was beginning to have doubts. Although my children are grown I still have a desire to make Christmas real.

Epiphany is the season for “making Christmas real by making Jesus real”. John has declared in his gospel: “The word has been made flesh and lives among us.”

Jesus is really here. Luther used wonderful prepositions to describe Jesus presence in communion. “Jesus is: *in with and under the bread and wine*”, he wrote. Perhaps we can use these same words to talk about other ways that Jesus is revealed among us. Is Jesus:

- **In with and under the mission of the church.** As the transition team fills in the “Ministry Site Profile”, they will describe the way Vinland is Jesus’ caring hands and feet in the world. When we participate in the work of the wider church efforts in foreign and domestic mission support through: Lutheran Disaster Relief, Seminaries and Universities, homes and hospitals, and foreign and domestic missionaries, Jesus is made real for someone.
- **In with and under the gathered community.** Jesus promised that when two or three are gathered he would be there. In our fellowship, at every small group and in home visitations as we share our mutual joys and sorrows; Jesus is made real. When the sick are prayed for, when the dying are comforted, when the lost or addicted are found, and when new people are welcomed, Jesus is made real for someone.
- **In with and under the help we give our neighbor.** – When food is given to the hungry through Good Samaritan Fund, Lutheran Social Services of Kitsap, Fishline, and the ministry at Martha and Mary, Jesus is made real for someone.

In with and under the prayers, music, and worship of the church. When we sing, pray, praise, intercede, give thanks, glorify God, teach and care for children and serve in worship, Jesus is made real for someone.

We are a sacramental church that believes in the real presence of Jesus in the world. ***The word made flesh*** is the way John describes it in his introduction to the Jesus story. Epiphany is a time for the church to behold the word made manifest in the words and actions of Jesus and the missions of the church. Jesus knew that we would be his incarnate presence in the world. Through our acts of love and kindness we make God’s love real for hurting people. Through the missions of this church we bring the compassion of Jesus to those in need.

Christmas is real! You just need to see it.

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 29

There will be one worship service at 9:30, then we'll take a break to get coffee, eat cookies and our sack lunches and then gather again in the sanctuary at about 11.

Please make it a priority to attend; your voice is definitely needed.



The Transition Team will be setting out boxes to deposit complete surveys. One will be in the entrance of Grace Hall and the other in the entrance to the church. Anyone who took these surveys home to fill out must have them back to Transition Team no later than **January 12, 2017**. Thanks to all, your input is of utmost importance!



DIALOGUE ON DRAFT

Will meet on at Elmer's in Poulsbo Jan. 23 at 5pm. We will use their back room for our lively discussion. **PLEASE SIGN UP** so we can set up enough tables and give the restaurant a heads up.



Vinland is looking for volunteers to join a committee to promote all of our wonderful community and church-related events and activities. If you are interested in public relations and outreach, please contact Lisa Mansfield at mansfie250@gmail.com or 444-822-6387



ALL MEN are invited to a great breakfast on Jan. 7 at 8am at church. Hearty Food and Healthy Conversation! Bring a friend along.

What's happening



GAMES NEEDED

If you have any new or gently used (with all parts!) games, they will be put to good use at Lutherhaven. It is time to replenish the stock in the Lodge. You can bring them to church and mark them "Lutherhaven or Sherry" and they will find their way to Wildcat Lake.

thank you

WATCH FOR CHANGES TO OUR LIBRARY/MEETING ROOM

If you don't know where that is, it is the room across from the nursery and it has beautiful new shelves installed, courtesy of our master carpenters John Ross and Dan Carlson. The room will be tidied up, and the shelves thoughtfully filled and historical information about the church, including photo albums and pictures on the walls. It is on its way to becoming a very welcoming space and a lovely place to sit with a friend or have a small meeting.

WHY YOU MIGHT WEAR A SAFETY PIN

The safety pin has made a statement. And it's not a fashion statement, there is deeper meaning.

A movement has started in the U.S. of people wearing a safety pin as a way of showing they are a safe space for those who are afraid.

The movement began over the summer in England following the Brexit vote, also as a way to show refugees and immigrants they had friends. An empty safety pin, simply pinned to your shirt, hat or coat, is a simple way of saying you are SAFE in my presence. I will not judge you because of your skin color, ethnic background, who you love, your religion or what you wear.

And the movement is not without merit. There have been numerous reports of harassment and intimidation of minorities. No one - whatever their beliefs - should feel afraid.

Alice Clearman Fusco ordered 200 safety pins for Vinland. We have put together a pin and an explanation. Please feel free to take one...or more...pass them around. As Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves.



WOMEN'S

groups

Women of the ELCA 

Vinland Women gather on the third Wednesday of the month.

First gathering of 2017 will be Wednesday, January 18. Come for the fun! Come for the food! Come and get to know some great women!



Women of Grace

We meet the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30pm in Grace Hall. We are a group of mixed-age women who love to laugh, discuss new ideas, share stories and enjoy a cup of tea. We begin with prayer and end with a benediction. Talk to Marsha Wright at 621-6983 if you have any questions. Friends always welcome!

Our first meeting of 2017 will be on MONDAY, JANUARY 19. NO MEETING ON JANUARY 2.

Members of the Transition Team will be our guests.

Our next topic will be "Mindful Eating."

Quilters meet EVERY Tuesday from 9-noon. Snacks & Coffee! They can always need need helping hands as they put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



Women's Breakfast

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 8:30 at Envy's

at the Poulsbo Junction



Event for Middle and High School....you MUST register

Serving Dinner at the Emergency Family Shelter in Bell Town on Dec. 28. Meet at church at 3:00pm- pick up at 9:15pm. If you did not volunteer in October use this link to register on the Union Gospel Mission website. Once you register let me know and I will add you to our event.

<http://ugm.volunteerhub.com/userregistrationwizard/usernamepassword>

Flapjack Fundraiser! Sat, Jan 21, 8am-10am

Buy a ticket for \$10 and enjoy breakfast at Applebee's in Silverdale anytime between 8-10am. Vinland youth will enjoy serving you and will earn \$5 from each ticket sold. Open to everyone! Invite your friends and family! You will be served a plated breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon or sausage and juice and coffee.



Synod Youth Gathering February 3-5 at Camp Arnold in Eatonville.

6th—12th grade students (also referred to by the kids as "Camp Berachah").

Use this link to register: <https://goo.gl/forms/l4FwUJiLSAv2ZyYp1>.

\$130 per camper. Please pay fees to Vinland Lutheran Church by Jan. 22

Notify Karyn Crawford by e-mail when you have registered. Fundraising is available to cover one-half of your cost. You MUST participate in one of the following fundraisers: PDO on Dec. 10; Applebees on Jan. 21 or PNO on January 28.



High School Service Project- January 8th- Socks and Sandwiches. We need donations of sturdy, warm, and **PREFERABLY**, dark colored socks.



JAN. PARENT'S NIGHT OUT SAT, JAN. 28, 4-8PM

Plan an evening out! Bring your kids to church for dinner and lots of playtime. Cost is \$10 per child. Kids MUST be potty-trained. Please sign up.

HOLDEN VILLAGE WEEKEND FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS...MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Price \$205 Karyn MUST know if you are going by JANUARY 1.

Talk to her ASAP. These weekends fill up fast.

What's Happening



What's Up with Our Pastoral Call Process?!?

We're off and running! Our transition team - Vicki Kobeski, Amy Munns, Glenn Schechert, Sean Carlson, Don Moriarty, Barb Erickson, Terry Beaudoin, and Carlos Gutierrez have been meeting, gathering demographic data and are now engaging with congregational groups to get input. The team has already met with several groups and has scheduled more opportunities for input, including roundtables and outreach to

shut-ins. Look for the flyer listing meeting times. There will also be a report to the congregation this coming Sunday, Dec. 18th. The team invites input – one way to contact them is to e-mail them at vinlandtransitionteam@gmail.com.

So here's where we are in the process defined by the Synod (<http://www.lutheranssw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-Call-Manual-final.pdf>) :

Finding and appointing an interim pastor. We're through this step with a wonderful interim pastor team of Sigi Helgeson and Marty Dasler

Establishing a Transition Team. We are in mid-process on this step. The transition team is established and already deeply involved in defining who we are as a congregation and where we want to go in the future. They are holding a series of round table and small group discussions in December and January to collect input from the congregation. Stay tuned for opportunities to get in your two cents worth about Vinland Lutheran Church 2025!

Elect a Pastoral Call Committee. The Synod process and our own constitution require that a Call Committee of six voting members be elected by the congregation. Our plan is to do this at the annual meeting in January so the committee is in place when the transition team completes their task. They will be responsible for identifying and screening applicants and presenting candidates to the Council and congregation. We've established a process for collecting nominations to the call committee. ***If you are interested in being considered for election to the Call Committee, or think someone else would be a great candidate, please submit a written letter of nomination to Megan Adrig, our church secretary. The Council hopes we can offer a slate with broad representation to the Congregation in January.***

Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson



Sometimes, when we are diligently searching but looking in all the wrong places, the very thing we seek waits for us in plain sight. Things we don't even know we need...

Glad to go out on a mission, I sought the variety of greens that I usually gather for holiday decorations. For cedar, I knew right where to go; the revered old tree had some lower branches that needed pruning. It was easy, using the long-handled loppers, to cut a couple of long branches off. Once those were down, I pruned off the smaller branches and made a stack on the lawn to be retrieved later.

The Douglas firs were more difficult, as most of the lower branches were gone. Strolling the edge of the pasture, I searched for any possibility when something caught my eye. Scattered about were many small branches blown down by a recent storm. I gathered them up and stacked them into another pile. There is a spot where western white pine cones accumulate. It's a bit of a mystery as there are none of these trees nearby that I can see, and now there were more there than usual and some unmistakable long-needled branches. I made another pile. When I was finished, I had more than enough fresh greens to do what I wanted and to share with friends and neighbors.

After fifty years of marriage, Bill and I have reached a new plateau, of sorts, in our relationship. Gone are the rounds of endless discussions trying vainly to change a mind, the hurt feelings, the frustrations of not seeing eye-to-eye on an issue. We have always agreed on most of the important things, but have our differences, as everyone does. Perhaps the struggle to turn a partner into someone other than who they really are is a hallmark of youth, but it is one we've surrendered to time. We now truly value each other - "warts and all" - and with that acceptance comes a tremendous peace.

A few years ago, through a series of environmental classes and volunteer activities, I met a couple of remarkable women. One is a chatterbox - innately honest and a warm, caring person with a heart as big as all outdoors and a fierce enthusiasm to throw herself whole-heartedly into any endeavor she is a part of. The other appears quiet and reserved and can size up a situation quickly, has an eye for detail, and a determined stubbornness when it comes to preserving the environment and all creatures within it. One is a non-practicing Catholic; the other has probing questions on all things involving faith. We get together often, discuss anything, and respect each other's opinions. Beyond a doubt, I have become better informed, stronger in my convictions, and more willing to act for causes I believe in because of their treasured friendship.

We had been without a dog for fifteen years when a series of circumstances led to our adopting our little rescue terrier, Scruffy. Lord knows he has his issues, unique behaviors, and odd little personality quirks, but he has added a certain energy, challenge, and spirit to our aging lives. He makes us LAUGH harder than we have in years. And we wonder - just who saved whom?

All of this is windfall - unexpected, unearned, a sudden gain or advantage. In one form or another it comes to all of us. Acknowledge, accept, and value it - trust where it comes from and that there will be more to come.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

SPECIAL MESSAGE



Join the class starting January 19 at Vinland Lutheran Church.

Get control of your finances in 2017. It will be life-changing!

When: 9 Thursdays from 6-7pm, January 19 - March 2

Cost: \$93 per family (This includes a book, access to all his financial worksheets, videos, and more)

Where: Haugen Hall (child care provided)

Questions: Contact Jen Nelson for any questions:

Consider this a New Year's gift to yourself!

- Approximately 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of their income. This means that "broke" has become the new normal in our nation.
- At the end of the month, many individuals simply have nothing left because of debt and expenses. If this is you, I've got good news. You are not alone.
- You may be sitting there wishing you could get more financial margin in your life. If you'd like to take control of your money, then listen carefully.
- As a church, we want to share a practical plan that can help you discover God's way of handling money. We want to empower you to get on a budget, get out of debt, save for the future, and take control of your money.
- *Financial Peace University* is that plan. This 9-week class taught by money expert Dave Ramsey can change your financial story in a matter of weeks—and your family tree for generations to come.

Jen Nelson has completed this class and will be the facilitator for this 9-week session. Sign up using this link: <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1030962>



Happy New Year from VLP!

Our 3 classes are going strong. We are at full capacity with 34 students currently enrolled. We begin enrollment for next school year in February for current students. We will open to the public at our Open House on February 25th. Please spread the word about this Vinland ministry.

A special thanks to all of our Prayer Partners praying for preschool students and their families. Your love is felt. Thank you for the gifts and cards sent over the holidays. If you ever wish to send a card or gift to a preschool family, please bring it to the preschool or drop it in our mailbox in the narthex.

The preschool will offer Sack Lunches for the Annual Meeting on January 29th. The cost is \$8 for meat and cheese and \$6 for PBJ, fruit, chips and cookies. Box lunches must be preordered. We will take orders between and after services in Grace Hall on January 8, 15, and 22. This is a great way to support Vinland's preschool ministry and have a full belly for the Annual Meeting. Proceeds go toward classroom materials and supplies to keep our tuition affordable. Donations are always appreciated.

We send you preschool hugs for the New Year and pray that you will be inspired to meet 2017 with the curiosity and enthusiasm of a child.

Janean Moriarty

Lori VanVlerah

Lynn Florent

