

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Nita Johnson	2/2
Tom Booth	2/4
Susan Thiel	2/6
Linnea Barnhart	2/10
Jason Becker	2/10
Chad Gillespie	2/11
Audrey Bates	2/13
Aimee Becker	2/16
Aaron Schielke	2/16
Nancy Ray	2/17
Jillian Florent	2/18
Muriel Dodge	2/19
Martha Rabura	2/19
Andy Cotey	2/21
Steve Weir	2/24

*Happy
Anniversary*

John and Sirpa Brock	2/2
Greg and Susan Gilbert	2/5
Rich and Ersle Gregersen	2/6
Arnold and Delores Hammond	2/14
Ernest and Jan Janzen	2/14
Tony and Diane LaMagna	2/18



FEBRUARY 2017

VINLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH est.1904
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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



BAKE SALE FOR QUILTS FEBRUARY 12
Bring & Buy!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT Saturday, FEB. 25: 4-8PM



In Marty Haugen's hymn, *All Are Welcome*, he writes, "Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions. All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place."

There has been so much division over this past year in our country, and I wish I could say that it's getting better, but I think it's actually getting worse. Have you noticed how "friends" on Facebook are posting dreadful statements? Not to mention how many people aren't honestly listening to one another, and perfect strangers are calling each other nasty names?

It's easier to unfriend someone than talk to that person on the phone or meet to chat about one's differences. It's been a long time since I watched the news, except for the weather, because it seems to be all violence, anger, pain, brutality, and fear. The world is a dark place, which is why the text for *Christ, Be Our Light* fits so deeply right now, "Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."

I find comfort in songs' lyrics; they seem to be God's way of speaking to me. Often, just the right song comes on the radio, my Pandora station, or a church hymn that really hits my heart.

Bruce and I started laughing just the other day from the lyrics playing on the radio that perfectly fit a crazy evening. Sometimes they are a release from stress, while other songs give me the energy and drive to keep on pushing, when I don't think I have anything left to give.

My fifth grade students at school are preparing for an assembly for Black History Month. I wanted them to better understand some of the lyrics of their songs. To do that,

we have been learning and researching important figures, such as Harriet Tubman, Louis Armstrong, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the music that is connected to them. I have always enjoyed the songs, *Free At Last* and *America*, but connecting them with Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, put them in a new light for me.

I have decided that I'm going to show Jesus' light by digging more deeply into understanding others, making better connections with those around me, and being kinder and more forgiving to all of my "friends," my family members, and even perfect strangers, especially those I don't agree with.

Our nation was founded by people of different cultures, races, religions, and ideals. I feel blessed that Vinland is open to all people regardless of status, gender, money, age, political affiliation, etc. because we are all children of God. I am thankful to drive by the big rock out front that says, All Are Welcome, knowing that the statement is true to Vinland's beliefs. In the not-too-distant future, I want to feel and believe deep down in Louis Armstrong's words, "**And I think to myself, 'What a wonderful world.'**"



"When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage."

Matt 2:10-11 (NRSV)



Happy Epiphany! We have now entered the Epiphany season where we focus on the light of Christ shining in the darkness! Just as the one bright star illuminated the sky and was followed by wise men (and maybe a few women) they were led to the light of the world. So too we follow our "Light Savior" as it says in John's gospel

"The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it!"

This year as we celebrated Epiphany we gave out "Star Words" in our worship services. The idea is to pick a word to guide you into the New Year and receive the gift it offers you, and reflect upon it in the coming year. So here is the invitation for you this year; to leave behind something in your life that you don't want to bring into the New Year like old baggage or a chronic problem, a habit, hurt or hang up. Leave it behind, and follow the star, the Light Savior. Take a starword and meditate on it's meaning for you asking God to help to guide you this coming year.

Just as the bright star guided the wise men so we too need the light of Christ to guide us through the darkness. As Isaiah prophesied long before Jesus was born.

"Darkness as black as night will cover all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord will shine over you. All nations will come to your light. Mighty kings will come to see your radiance." Isaiah 60:2-3NLT

Perhaps that is the invitation in this story. To live like the wise men with our eyes on the stars. Focusing on one bright star to lead us, to show us the way out of our own cocoons, comfort zones, kingdoms and guide us to the Christ child, the newborn King. One who would be a different kind of King, who would love, serve, invite the outsider in and welcome all from every land, even some wise men from the East. One who would lead us a different way home.

What star word did you receive? How is it leading you this New Year? What might be a good word to lead Vinland Lutheran in this New Year?

If you have a response to the questions that you would like to share, please email pastor-siqi@vinlandlc.org or post on the Vinland Lutheran Church website at www.vinlandlc.org

Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that, through you, others can see Him." C.S. Lewis

May we all reflect His light in 2017!
Pastor Sigi Helgeson



UPCOMING EVENTS

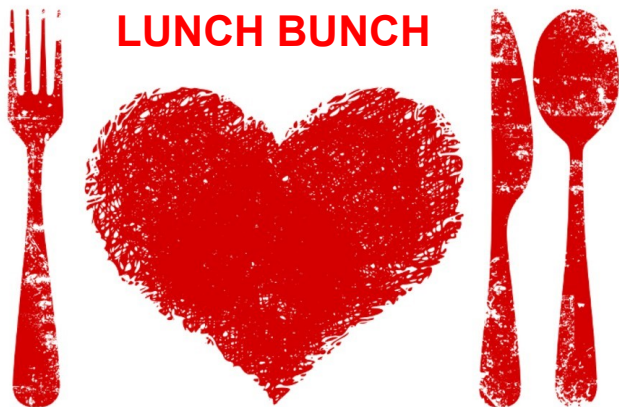


**ANNUAL MEETING ON
JANUARY 29**



ALL MEN are invited to a great breakfast on Feb. 4 at 8am at church. Hearty Food and Healthy Conversation!
Bring a friend along.

FEBRUARY SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH



Keep your eye on the bulletin board and the weekly bulletin and E-Flash for details! It will surely be a "sweet" lunch!



DIALOGUE ON DRAFT

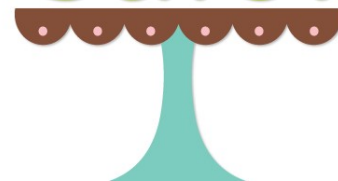
The next meeting of Dialogue and Draft is set for Monday February 27.

The time is 5:30 PM. Location is Elmer's restaurant in Poulsbo. Topic: TBA

We had some discussion about the start time and it was agreed to move it back to 5:30 to allow those who work til 5 to get there at the start.

We also had a discussion about the location. The only other place besides Sound Brewery with a private room is Round Table Pizza in Silverdale. For a variety of reasons (location, food selection) we decided to stay with Elmer's.

Bake Sale!



FEBRUARY 12

What's happening



FAMILY CAMP IS COMING! IT WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
Friday, July 21-Thursday, July 27



Thanks to Martin Luther (and a few others) the Reformation took place 500 years ago...and we are **CELEBRATING!**

Join us at camp...stay for the week, stay for the weekend, stay for a night, come out during the day...whatever suits your schedule, there will be lots of exciting things happening. When planning your outfit for the Reformation Ball, think medieval.

Be sure to come to the big Lutheran Potluck Picnic on Sunday, 23! Lots of hot dishes, jello and maybe even some pickled herring and lefse!



A Prayer for Refugees

May we see the face of Christ in the refugee fleeing a violent home, in the migrant workers bringing food to our tables, in the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for a family, in the unaccompanied child, navigating a dangerous world alone. Jesus, teach us to welcome strangers in our midst as You would welcome them. Amen.



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.

WOMEN'S

groups

Women of the ELCA 

Vinland Women will gather on Feb. 15 at 10am. Judy Wales and Tina Bigelow are hostesses; Jean Danielson will bring a devotion and Anita Puzon will lead a Bible Study. All women welcome to join this lovely group of women.

The Women of Vinland will be sponsoring a Valentine bake sale between services on **Sunday, Feb. 12**. Proceeds will go to help pay for materials for the personalized quilts that Lou Youngs makes for special occasions at Vinland...graduations, retirements. special recognition, etc. Donations are welcome to fund this wonderful ministry.

Be sure to stop by and get some delicious treats.

If you have empty 1/2 pint jars from previous jam purchases, please return them to the church so they can be re-filled and you can



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 February 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



what's HAPPENING

February Wednesdays in the Loft

Feb. 1 Potluck!! We will eat whatever you bring.

Feb. 8 **Surprise!**

Feb. 15 See the movie "Screenagers", Growing up in a Digital Age. 6:00-7:30. Meet at the NKSD auditorium. RSVP Karyn and she will save seats.

High School Hangout on Feb. 12 and 26. Watch for details.

Synod Youth Gathering February 3-5 at Camp Arnold in Eatonville.
Eleven of our youth will be attending.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT Saturday, Feb. 25: 4-8pm

\$10 per child (potty trained) Includes dinner

Joyful News to Share!



Natalie Journey and Patrick Magnus were married December 31, 2016 at the Port Gamble Vista Pavilion. Natalie is the daughter of Hayes and Lisa and beloved babysitter of many at Vinland. They are living in Shenzhen, China. Natalie is a preschool teacher and Patrick is working with ELL students at Shekou International School.

Their address (the school they work at) is :

Natalie and Patrick Magnus
Jing Shan Villas, Nanhai Blvd.
Shekou, Nanshan,
Shenzhen, Guangdong 518067 PRC

Karly Crawford and Grant Lanphier were married January 15 at the chapel at Fort Worden. Karly is the daughter of Dave and Karlyn Crawford. The wedding really was "the happiest place on earth that evening." Grant and Karly both work at DisneyWorld.

Their address is:
Grant and Karly Lanphier
16443 Nelson Park Drive Apt. 303
Clermont FL 34714

good lutheran news



I WAS A STRANGER AND
YOU WELCOMED ME IN.
- MATTHEW 25:35

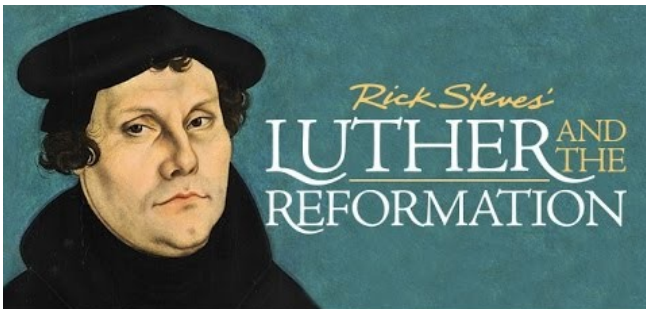
Refugee Update

In the 75 years of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service nearly 500,000 refugees have been welcomed by Lutheran Congregations. When I first was involved in the 70's in Portland we were welcoming refugees from war torn SE Asia countries like Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Later it was Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Today the top countries of origin for refugees are Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia. Most of these people have been in camps for nearly 2 years waiting for approval to come to the USA.

On Sunday afternoon January 22 around 2 o'clock, a Lutheran Community Services Northwest van picked up all the household items collected by Vinland since the first week in January. The kitchen items were combined into a total of 12 kits and will be delivered to the apartments of newly arriving refugees.

With our partners at Bethany Lutheran Church and Eagle Harbor Congregational Church of Bainbridge, we collected 53 "kits," each designed for a specific room of the home. The goal was 40 kits. Thank you to all who participated.

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION



Dear Sister and Brothers in Christ,
The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not only a time for reflection on the rich history of this church, but also a chance to look forward to what lies ahead for all of us. It's an exciting time to be Lutheran as we come together with the Roman Catholic Church on the foundation of our common

heritage. Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation" is a wonderful resource for all of us to better understand our Lutheran roots and help us in our continued journey of understanding the Gospel. Thank you to Rick Steves for generously giving all members of the ELCA access to "Luther and the Reformation."

Sincerely, Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop

Here is the link to watch this enlightening movie:

<https://www.elca.org/ricksteves>

Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson

VINLANDERS, I LOVE YOU

(SONNET FOR TODAY)

With apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning

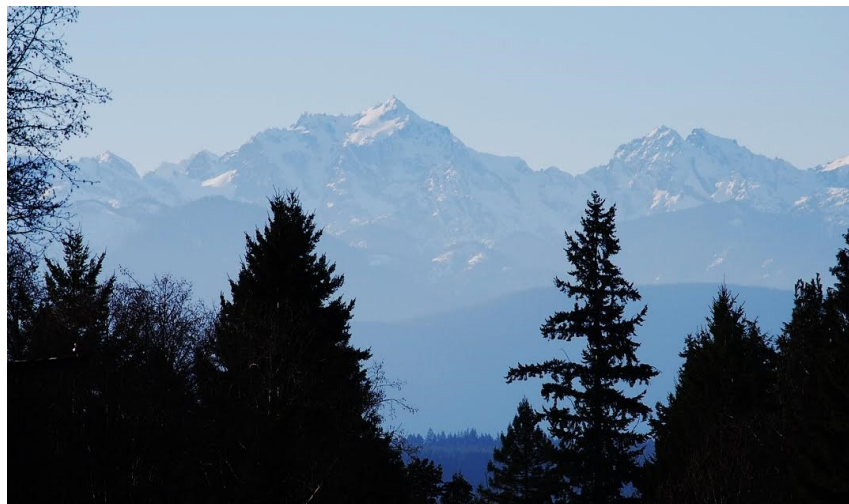
Vinlanders, I love you – and let me count the ways.
As the depth and breadth and height of the Olympics,
When I am weary and downcast, you lift me up
From the depths of despair, with your care and grace.

I love you to the level of the mighty Hood Canal,
Nourished by the sun of your sharing, the rain of your kindness.
I love you freely, as we all may choose.
I love you purely, with no ulterior motive.

I love you with the acceptance that
None of us is perfect, and with my childhood's faith.
I love you with a love that grew over time
With small steps and slow experience. I love you with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love you to the end of our time together.



And now, these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13





Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1
Begin this time of reflection and renewal with worship at 7pm

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT MARCH 8 - APRIL 5

Gather for supper at 6pm; a time to nourish your body with good food and nourish your soul with good conversation.

Worship at 7pm. around the theme "Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus"

We will both eat and worship in Grace Hall this year!
The service will be a meditative prayer with calming music, words and time for reflection.



We will be publishing an original Lenten devotional and we want YOU to be a part of it.

Vinland members wrote Devotionals for Lent three times in the 80's and 90's PLUS we wrote a year-long (365) Centennial Devotional in 2004 (copy in Church Library). This year's Lenten series would come out weekly, beginning on Sunday March 5th for 6 weeks through April 15.

If you have something to say regarding;

***A Difficult Time...Keeping the Faith During Times of Change...Favorite Scripture
Specific Growth in Your Faith Walk....Inspiration from Liturgical Music, Writing or Art
Reflection on Saint(s) in Your Life... Theme from Current Lenten Sermons
Importance of Church in Your Life,***

we would like to include it in the devotional.

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Please consider participating (children included). We'd like submissions to be 200 words or less (1/2 letter sized paper). The exercise of writing down a faith "statement" can enhance your personal faith walk. This year of examining "who" Vinland is and "where" we hope to go is an excellent time for personal reflection. Our church will be enriched by your participation.

Questions? Ask Sharon Schmid 779-2944 / scschmid@embarqmail.com or Sherry Gutierrez 394-2033 / alwaysrejoice@yahoo.. Submit Devotions to our e-mail above or in writing.



Vinland Lutheran Preschool is abounding in love! We use the Valentine season to emphasize the love God has for each one of us and our responsibility to share His love with each other. Our preschoolers are generous with their love, hugs, affection and helpfulness. They shine bright with God's love.

Thank you for your support of our annual Sack Lunch Fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed your lunches before the Annual Meeting this year. The preschool families and board donated all of the food and prepared the lunches lovingly for you. We were able to sell 69 Inches and bring in \$564 to support our preschool ministry. THANK YOU!

Many of you are Thrivent members and have Choice Dollars from 2016 to direct by March 31st. Vinland Lutheran Preschool is a participating charitable organization. Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to this ministry. It's easy! <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

At the end of January, we had a very snugly Pajama Day to wind up our study of Bedtime. During January we explored Winter, Bedtime, the Circus, and completed an Eric Litman author study. The children enjoy chances to experience the new information through dramatic play, movement, art, and sensory exploration; making it part of their own experience. Every day we incorporate math, science, pre-writing and pre-reading through hands-on, engaging activities.

Registration for the 2017-18 school year opens for current families and congregation members on February 1st. We will open registration to the public at our Open House on Saturday, February 25th, 10am-12pm. We will offer 3 classes, taught by Lori Van Vlerah and Lynn Florent. Please like us on Facebook and share our event with your friends.

Contact: Janean Moriarty at preschool@vinlandlc.org or (360)865-0510.

CLASSES	DAYS	TIMES	AGE BY 8/31/17	REG. FEE	TUITION
Dragonfly	T, W, Th	9:15-12	3-5 years	\$75	\$2250/year
Honeybee	T, W, Th, F	12:45-3:30	3-5 years	\$75	*\$/2900year
Grasshopper	Fridays	9:30-11:30	2-3 years	\$75	\$750/year

* anticipated fee



We send a big preschool thank you to Doug Barnhart for replacing all of the sky high light bulbs in the preschool, including the security lights in the stairwell.