

Sirpa Brock	11/1
Kathryn McCluskey	11/1
Maren Swanson	11/6
Christopher Clucas	11/7
Kyle Cotey	11/7
Glenn Settle	11/8
Peter Hansen	11/11
Jill Krema	11/11
Jon Nelson	11/12
Debbie Cotey	11/12

Matt Holman	11/13
Abel Hurda	11/13
Melissa Warren	11/13
Conner Warren	11/15
Kyle Oster	11/18
Mae Ceraldi	11/18
Alexis Duncan	11/19
Corey Oster	11/22
Addison Kollmorgen 11/23	
Makai Magnuson	11/24
Donna Breuer	11/24
Nels Flesher	11/26
Carol Hein	11/30



Dick & Lonnie Swanson 11/2 Aaron & Mari Schielke 11/13 John & Carol Bartlett 11/18 Michael & Christine Warbois 11/21



Our dear friend Marj Kallem passed away on Oct. 10 in Cheney, Washington. She was buried next to her husband, Don, in the Vinland graveyard on Saturday, Oct. 21. A service was held in the church following the burial. Our thoughts are with her family as they adjust to life without Marj.



NOVEMBER 2017

VINLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH est.1904 PO Box 2134 2750 NW Finn Hill Road Poulsbo WA 98370

Office: 360.779.3428 E-Mail: vinland@vinlandlc.org Web: vinlandlc.org

Pastors: Nels Flesher Youth: Allison Pringle Secretary: Megan Adrig Communication: Marsha Wright

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





Dear kindred in Christ,

Here are some heavy words for you, but stick with me. These words have more to do with our happy church than you might think.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? I renounce them.



Then all the nice stuff happens. I mean the creed which is mostly constructive and positive. I mean the account of God's liberating work in words of Thanksgiving at the Font. I mean Baptism. I mean anointing in the Holy Spirit. A lit candle. But before all these visible, tangible signs of God's unbreakable love, we are accustomed to saying something totally negative. We get pretty real about the brokenness of the world in which we live. We get real about sin. But being real about sin does not mean wallowing in darkness and introspection. Nor does it mean living our lives as zeal-ots always on the hunt for wrongdoers. On the contrary, we trust that songs, laughter, fresh air, and hearty food are among the best defenses against the powers that bind us and turn us away from our true joy. In the third Harry Potter novel, *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, Professor Lupin gives Harry chocolate after Harry's teacher give him a leash and tell him not to go outside anymore. In *The Fellowship of the Ring*, it is the tolling of bells that first drives away the ringwraiths on the hunt for Frodo. J.K. Rowling and J.R.R. Tolkein were on to something about Baptismal living. They were on to something about Jesus, who on the night in which he was betrayed...

...hired an attorney? Nope, that wasn't it, was it?

...locked the doors and loaded his weapons? Something about that doesn't sound right.

...got on social media to complain about how everyone is out to get him? No.

...he took bread and shared it. He ended the meal with a cup of festive drink. Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, threw a party.

I love that Vinland Lutheran Church throws parties. Every Sunday is one, by the way. I love that you love to be together. So long as we celebrate like it matters. So long as we know these are not distractions from daily living, but bonfires people stuck out in the cold.

Jesus was very real about sin. Not so much about pointing it out in others, but more about the wages that it would demand. He knew that the sickness of the world would demand his life. And yet he was also very real about rising joyfully above the struggle.

And so we live. We eschew any simplistic notions that sin is not constantly tugging at us, trying to spoil the banquet. We reject any Gospel that is not really for those who are suffering, often suffering our own neglect if not our abuse. We reject them positively, by keeping lamps lit and a table set at a feast that has no end. We renounce evil with love. We renounce rebellion with inclusion. We renounce sin with grace.

You may have expected this to be the getting-to-know-you article. That takes so much time, and that will be time for which I am grateful. I look forward to years with you and our neighbors in this place. We don't know each other yet, but we share one baptism, we gather at one table. Thanks for calling me to pull up a chair.

In Christ, Pastor Nels



Pastor's Work Week: Sunday to Thursday

Mondays I hope to spend in study and preparation for preaching. I may be in the office or not.

Tuesday seems to be my busy day. Staff meeting, local text study with other pastors, and preschool chapel.

Wednesday and **Thursday** are probably the best days to either drop-in and see me at the church or get me out of the office.

I want to spend as much time as I can getting to know you. If you don't hear from me, have me over for a cup/glass of______. If your place of work is somewhere I can visit, have me meet you there. If your kid is in a ball game, play, concert, etc. put it on my calendar. Going fishing? I'll keep my rain gear in the trunk. I really want to know who you all are when you're not at church things, so drag me along.

Just as importantly, tell me if there is something you want me to keep in prayer. I will.

pastor.nels@vinlandlc.org

253-223-9582 (cell) no home landline yet, so feel free to use this number

INSTALLATION SERVICE PASTOR NELS FLESHER

NOVEMBER 19, 9:30AM RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

The Service of Installation will take place

during the **SINGLE 9:30 WORSHIP SERVICE.** Pastor Kim Latterell, Bishop's Associate, will preach that morning. We will serve a light lunch.

Watch for details about bringing/serving food and set up and clean up.



Our worship service includes the reading of two or more passages from Scripture — usually an Old Testament/Psalm followed by the Gospel story. In the Gospel story, the presence of Christ, the WORD of God, is clearly seen. Gospel translates as "good news", This good news is for all people and that is a reason to read it in the MIDST of the people. Other actions and posture also mark out the importance of the gospel. The congregation stands for the reading of the gospel. Before and after the gospel reading, the people "acclaim Christ present in the sacred word" with a chorus of sung or spoken Alleluias.





Potato Bar at 6pm Thanksgiving Worship at 7pm Wed, November 22

Bring your favorite potato dish. Family Friendly Evening!

ADVENT Begins Sunday, November 26

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of the church year.

It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest Nov. 30th, and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent means "coming" and the focus is on the first coming of Jesus Christ as well as anticipation of the return of Christ in his second coming.

We light four candles on an evergreen Advent wreath. Three candles are blue, which is a symbol of royalty. At Vinland the third candle we light is pink, signifying joy.

On Christmas Eve, four white candles adorn the wreath, as we celebrate Jesus' coming into the world as the light that no darkness can overcome.

Red and green (secular Christmas colors) are not used as liturgical colors during Advent or Christmas. We generously use fresh greens during advent, and adorn the altar area with white poinsettias for Christmas, since white and gold are liturgical Christmas colors.



Wednesday Soup Suppers and Worship Service

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20. Soup @6pm; Vespers @ 7pm.

Faith and Care Group 1 will provide the meal on Nov. 29 Sign up and bring some soup or bread for the other three weeks. Clean-up help is always needed. Invite friends and family to come; this is a peaceful mid-week pause in an otherwise busy season. Totally family-friendly!

NOVEMBER PARENTS' NIGHT OUT is Friday, November 17 from 5-9pm. Kids must be potty trained. Sign up in Grace Hall. Enjoy an evening out while your kids enjoy a fun evening together.



Sharing Our Time, Talents, Treasures.

PLEDGE: A solemn promise or undertaking.

What :be a more solemn promise than our covenant with God? As we all know we have fallen short of our budgeted giving in 2017. We also are aware that stewardship of the finances of the church is an important part of our relationship with Christ. Our Capital and Building Fund campaigns were great successes. I and the Council believe this success, in part, was because w:e *pledged* our support. In a majority of churches, and yes, even in the majority of Lutheran churches, pledging your planned annual support of the general fund is standard practice.

The practice of pledging is not only beneficial for the leadership and budget planning, but is also a beneficial to those that pledge as a conscious act of faith and support of our collective good works. Over the next week you will receive an invitation (via email) to small cottage meetings to discuss the current status of our budget, the 2018 budget and pledging your financial support for the ministries of Vinland Lutheran Church.

I look forward to sharing this (often hardest) solemn promise with you all. Yours in Christ, Kelle Horn, Vinland Lutheran Church Council

Share Your Time and Enthusiasm with the Children of the Church!



Lisa Mansfield and Sherry Gutierrez are teaching our children during the 9am worship service. They would love to have a few substitute teach-

ers to share God's love with some great kids. Talk to either one of them if you would enjoy this ministry.

Parents and Grandparents...thank you for bringing your kids to Sunday School. Keep Coming! Practice is beginning for the Christmas Program to be held during worship on December 10.

During November and December the offering the kids bring to Sunday School will be used to purchase an animal through the ELCA World Hunger Project.

The kids will sing during Pastor Nels' Installation Service. Please make sure that they are around to practice the great song: "It's About Love."





-Lisa Mansfield



Robin Leaver writes in the book, <u>Luther's Liturgical Music</u>, Martin Luther "recognized the intrinsic qualities of some of the older melodies which he retained unaltered in the Wittenberg hymnals; others he modified with such simple sophistication that in effect they became new tunes; and, of course, he created new melodies that have clearly stood the test of time" (p 59). One that clearly has stood the test of time is Martin Luther's *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (originally written in German: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott). It was composed sometime between 1527 and 1529 and is one of his best known hymns. As a popular Protestant hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* has been called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation" for the impact it had in increasing support for the Reformers' cause. Luther wrote the lyrics based upon Psalm 46.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

- ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars ceaseto the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

- I will be exalted among the nations,
- I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

The song has been translated into numerous languages around the world. Through the years, it has been translated into English by musical scholars. In 1539, Myles Coverdale wrote the first English translation using the title, *Oure God is a defence and towre*. In 1722, the more common version of the time was called *God is our Refuge in Distress, Our strong Defence* translated by J.C. Jacobi. In 1853, Frederick Hedge wrote a less literal translation using *A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,* which is the version printed in the United Methodist Hymnal. Thomas Carlyle wrote another popular translation using the words, *A safe stronghold our God is still.* Yet, neither the Hedge or Carlyle translations caught on in the North American Lutheran churches. In more recent years the version completed for the 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship "*A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious*" is the most recognized version.

For me, all of the translations come together as a single picture of our Lord; God is our defense and tower, a refuge in distress, a mighty fortress, a bulwark never failing, a safe stronghold, and a sword and shield victorious.

women's grups





All women are invited to the November 15 meet-

ing at 10am. Glenyce Ross and Beachie Settle will be the hostesses for the day. Beachie will share a devotion. Please remember to bring your Thank Offering for the work of



the Women of the Evangelical Church in America (WELCA).



Women of Grace

MONDAY, NOV. 6 at 6:30 pm. I have an interesting chapter from a Joan Chittister book to discuss in con12junction with an early episode from "Call The Midwife." I will have copies of the article at church, and an excerpt from the episode at the meeting on my laptop for all to watch. If you are able, watch Season 1, Episode 5. It is about Frank and Peggy.



What is the ALTAR GUILD?

A behind-the-scenes group of women "set the table" each week. By table I mean the altar...the table where the candles proclaim the light of Christ in our midst...the table that holds the Word of God...the table that extends hospitality to all.

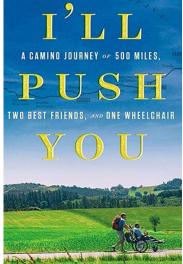
Upon this table are placed bread and wine and everyone is invited to come and feast in remembrance of the last supper Jesus shared with his closest friends. This table is set with a white cloth and clothed with paraments. These are the handmade, embellished pieces of cloth that, by their color and symbols, show us the season of the church year.

We are looking for new members. You will find it to be a calming and spiritual ministry. Contact Marsha Wright at randmwright@gmail.com if you can share some time for this important work. MEETING SCHEDULED FOR CUR-RENT AND CURIOUS POTENTIAL MEMBERS ON SUNDAY, NOV. 5 AT 10:30.

Youth & Family What's happening in the LOFT?

vices Northwest Annual Fundraiser NEEDS

We have the privilege of helping LCSNW with their annual fundraiser and they are counting on our help. They need a minimum of **5 high school youth** to help with directing car traffic into designated parking garages and helping with car validation information. This does count as community service hours for those that are needing it! I need the names by October 30th. We will meet at church around 12, then drive to downtown Bremerton and will have lunch after our volunteer post is complete. I would love to have as many youth come as possible! Please let me know if your child is able to help. thank you!!!!



TILLE

November 2nd: Night at the Movies, "I'll Push You"

If there is any interest in doing a movie night there is a one-day only showing of a documentary at 7:30pm (the only time available) on November 2nd. If this sounds interesting to you or your child let me know and I can see about making arrangements to go see it!

I'LL PUSH YOU: A REAL-LIFE INSPIRATION comes to cinemas for one night on November 2 to tell the story of two lifelong friends, Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray, embarking on an epic, 500-mile-long journey to hike Spain's famed El Camino de Santiago. Hiking this ancient pilgrimage along the vast terrain is challenging enough for the able-bodied, but these friends show the true test of humanity by physically and mentally pushing each other, as Justin, fighting a neuromuscular disease, would have to be pushed in a wheelchair. While Justin and Patrick face various challenges, they realize the greatest journey will be that of self-discovery, a sense of purpose and love of a community.

This inspirational one-night documentary event about friendship, endurance, humanity and overcoming adversity includes an exclusive panel about how to Live Unlimited.



Save the Dates- November 10th/11th—Time with BEACHIE!!!!

Our beloved Beachie has graciously offered her and Glenn's home as a retreat place. We will be sending more information in the next week but ask you to save -the-date!This retreat time is a time to have the youth to get to know Pastor Nels a little bit better (and myself) but to also have fun and time for fellowship AND Beachie's wonderful cooking!!!



November Preview:

- 6pm LOFT in Grace Hall
- No High School Hang Out
- 8th 5:45pm, Fishline
- 10th/11th Retreat at Glenn and Beachie's home
- 12th LCSNW Luncheon in Bremerton (High School Only)
- 14th DUI Discussion Panel (**High School Only**) meet at church and we'll carpool 15th 6pm LOFT- Thanksgiving themed event (will be going off-site)
- 19th No Sunday School (Pastor Nels' Installation), LOFT Advisory Committee
- 22nd **No LOFT** (Thanksgiving Service)



DIALOGUE ON DRAFT



MONDAY, NOV. 27 at Western Red Brewery again! We had a good time in October, so we'll meet there again.

You can get pizza from Westside Pizza right next door.



PINOCHLE November 17. Potluck at 5:30; cards dealt at 6pm. Sign up in Grace Hall.

CRIBBAGE players meet on the second Friday of the month at 1pm for a friendly game and a root beer float! Just show up in Haugen Hall!





These two breakfast gatherings are open to all ages of men

and women. Feel free to bring friends along. The men cook up a hearty

meal and have a lively discussion .

The women meet at Envy Grill for good food and great conversation. Friends are always welcome to join in.

Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson



"I'll be right back..." I called out as I began crossing the large parking lot to the motel office where they kept hot coffee all day long. In the early twilight, I could see splotches of some tannish-gray material spattered across the dark pavement. My first thought was that someone's tires had collected and dropped globs of mud, but they seemed to be the wrong color. Then I noticed odd little chunks and on closer inspection could see what they really were – acorns. The oak trees that had been planted in the median strips had produced dozens, which now were ripe and dropping to the pavement. Many

had been smashed by tires, but some were still whole, scattered about with their broken-off caps. Quickly grabbing that hot cup of coffee, I set it down on a curb and began gathering up the acorns and caps into the front of my shirt. Gingerly balancing the hot cup in one hand and my newly-acquired treasure in the other, I returned to our room, joyful. "Look what I found – free decorations!"

I have always loved to gather nature's bounty, which is everywhere you look and often free for the taking. Brightly-colored autumn leaves of different shapes and sizes, various seed pods and grasses, lichen-covered twigs, evergreen cones, berries, and nuts are abundant this time of year. As the weather cools and dampens, I bring them indoors to add some color and cheer to the darkening days. Once collected, however, we need to see how they fit together and how best to use or display them.

And, if we pay attention, those are not the only free treasures to be found, combined, and valued. I remember the year, shortly after both my parents passed away, that I had the opportunity to attend art school (at the age of 50, no less...) and use my part of a small inheritance to complete the studies debt-free. Another time, while attending a community class and subsequently volunteering to use that knowledge, I met some women who ultimately became some of my closest friends. Asking for help on a local internet community page has resulted in meeting some incredible people, whom I would now not hesitate to contact for access to their unique skills. Serving on a local community committee has helped me become acquainted with members of different service organizations, educational institutions, and a local juvenile justice department. The exchange of information and knowledge with each of these people has enriched my life immensely and helped me connect them with others who have needed their expertise.

Those acorns – and their matching caps – returned home with me. The caps have been glued on and they are prominently displayed, along with other nuts and seedpods, as a reminder of the yearly harvest. I'd much rather enjoy these real things than plastic imported replicas. Some years, I gather a small amount of evergreen huckleberries from our yard. They are small and there is never enough to do much with, but when combined with apples from my neighbor's yard, they make a wonderfully tasty pie.

Many of us are not as close to the land and its abundant resources as our ancestors were, but it's good to remember that all these things are timeless gifts from God. The harvest is ready – reap what you can, share the bounty, and be forever grateful.

Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ~ John 4:36



Note from Marsha: With Jen's permission, I am including this journal entry. These entries can be found on the Caring Bridge Site, where Jen has been journaling since the beginning of her "Ridiculous Journey With Cancer."

Journal entry by Jen Nelson — 9/15/2017

Dear Friends,

As I was getting ready to go to my second to the last (!!!!!) chemo last Friday, I was feeling really emotional. When I got to the doctor's office I cried with the nurse. Then I cried again with the other nurse in the infusion room. I was feeling so overwhelmed with the hurricanes, the fires, the smoke, politics, and living with this cancer. I was worried and tired. **But I was also feeling HOPE.**

The day before my chemo, I read this news article about the Eagle Creek Fire. It was in the Spokane Newspaper and someone had posted on facebook. I couldn't stop thinking about this story. The title of the article was "Spokane family escapes Eagle Creek fire 'will never again be unprepared for a hike." But it wasn't the focus on remembering to bring the 10 hiking essentials on every hike that caught my attention.

The story is about a family who was on a day hike to Punch Bowl Falls (an easy 1.9 mile hike) the day the Eagle Creek Fire started. The article has a photo of them taken minutes before the fire. They all look relaxed and happy in this gorgeous place. 15 minutes later they found out that the trail they came on was impassable. They would have to get out another way. They ended up connecting with over 100 other hikers in the area and found a 14-18 mile trail that would get them out of harms way. The group decided to stay together. It was already starting to get dark. A young medic stepped up and took charge, putting the strongest hikers at the front and the back of the line. He had them count off. Whenever anyone needed help, *the whole group stopped*. This young man went up and down the line of hikers offering encouragement and guidance. Another young woman (the only one with emergency supplies) helped filter water for others. Someone else climbed to the top of a tree and used her cell phone to call for help. Eventually they had to stop for the night. It was cold. They were scared. They could hear and sometimes see the fire burning nearby. A bear walked by. But they stuck together and early the next morning, with the help of some fire fighters, they hiked 11 more miles. At the end of the hike, after 24 hours of this scary ordeal, they had to hike the equivalent of 35 stories to the safe-ty of busses waiting to take them home.

I'm not sure why I connected so much to this story. I can't stop thinking about it. It may be because I have lived through my own wilderness nightmare. It may be because the Eagle Creek area is the place of my childhood and I am so sad about the destruction there. It could be because if I'd been on that hike, I'd have been one of the 100+ people without the 10 essential hiking emergency supplies.

But I think it is also because there were so many beautiful truths in this story. The way they stuck together inspires me: strong and weak, prepared and unprepared, young and old, experienced and novice hikers, the helpers and those that let themselves be helped. These strangers made it out unharmed TOGETHER.

Truth #1: Being in community with others gives us the strength to do hard and beautiful things.

Truth #2: Life can change course, literally, IN AN INSTANT.

Truth #3: Mr. Rogers was right when he said, "In times of distress: Look for the helpers. There will always be those offering help and it will give you hope."

Truth #4: Sometimes even after doing a REALLY hard thing (hiking like they did for almost 24 hours) you still have to do one more hard thing (climb the last 350 feet out).

These helpers and this story really did give me hope when I needed it. It reminded me to look for the helpers in my life that day: the kind nurses who listened and offered me a hug, the friends that came to keep me company, the other friends who brought us dinner, the people who sent me encouraging notes. Those hikers reminded me that we are stronger when we stop to tend to the wounds of others, and when we stick together we can do things we never thought we could. This story helped me get through my chemo day and the not-so-fun days that followed.

I think I'll carry it with me next week too when I go in for my LAST chemo on the 22nd.

With gratitude for the helpers everywhere, Jen



Sun, Nov. 12, 2pm Navy Band NW Clarinet Trio Reception Following



Cash or Item Donations to local food banks appreciated

Worship Music Opportunities!

Celebration Choir for Pastor Nels Installation Service 11/19 Celebration Choir Rehearsals 11/8 & 11/15 from 6:30-7:30 pm

> Sunday School Singers *It's About LOVE* on 11/19 Choir rehearsals move to Thur starting on 11/30

Chimes Group needs new musicians! No music reading ability required, just an enthusiastic attitude to learn a new instrument.





Honoring God by nurturing children's relationships

Vinland Lutheran Preschool is currently at full enrollment, serving 35 students from the congregation and community. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of this ministry of Vinland Lutheran Church.



Autumn at preschool is a very fun season. In October we went on a field trip down the road to Pheasant Fields Farm. We toured the farm, seeing

animals, gardens, tractors and playing in the corn maze. Later in the October, you may have seen the Poulsbo Fire Department visiting our classes bringing the fire engine, firefighters, and puppets to help us learn about fire safety. On October 19th we participated in the Great ShakeOut, a worldwide earthquake drill where we learned to Drop Cover and Hold On. We distributed information to families about fire and earthquake preparedness.

We finish up the month celebrating Halloween and welcoming our preschool families to parties in Grace Hall.

Preschool Sunday is November 5th during the 10:45 worship service. We have invited our preschoolers and their families to join us for worship. Make sure to introduce yourself and welcome our visitors. After the service, join us for an Open House in the preschool. Come explore our classroom, see our students' work and enjoy a cookie or two.

Contact: Janean Moriarty <u>preschool@vinlandlc.org</u> (360)865-0510 Like us on Facebook at Vinland Lutheran Preschool If you want a dose of "sweet joy", drop by the preschool some day and say hello to the kids!