

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

|                  |      |                   |      |
|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Jim Abbott       | 1/1  | Don Cole          | 1/12 |
| Isaac Beers      | 1/2  | Suzie Banzer      | 1/12 |
| Joey Florent     | 1/4  | Michael Desmond   | 1/12 |
| Serena Journey   | 1/5  | Ernie McCluskey   | 1/12 |
| Galen Sele       | 1/5  | Jacqueline Hansen | 1/14 |
| Ed Florent       | 1/6  | Linda Bergeron    | 1/16 |
| Callie Gillespie | 1/7  | Helen Cole        | 1/18 |
| Don Mills        | 1/7  | Matt LaMagna      | 1/21 |
| Arlene Swift     | 1/10 | Miolly Hurda      | 1/29 |
|                  |      | Amy Munns         | 1/30 |



## JANUARY 2018

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](mailto:vinland@vinlandlc.org)  
 Web: [vinlandlc.org](http://vinlandlc.org)

Pastors: Nels Flesher  
 Youth: Youth Committee  
 Secretary: Megan Adrig  
 Communication: Marsha Wright

Preschool Director: Janean Moriarty  
 Preschool: 360.865.0510  
 E-Mail: [preschool@vinlandlc.org](mailto:preschool@vinlandlc.org)



## ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 28

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.

# worshipwise

This is the first entry in a **worshipwise** series exploring the form and content of our liturgy. Pastor Nels will welcome any questions about why we do what we do on Sunday mornings, why some things change, (and why some things never seem to change), and what it all means. Questions general and specific are welcome. The series will cover topics following the order of service.

## REPENTANCE



Some Sundays are simple, some are elaborate. Some have a tone of lamentation, some of mystery, some of triumphant praise. Most begin with words of confession and forgiveness. Even when Lutherans want to change the style and tone of worship to be less traditional, they often keep the confession and forgiveness. There must be something to it. We must be taking Luther seriously, in the first of his ninety-five theses:

**When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” [Matt. 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**

But what does this mean? That we ought to start every Sunday with a cold shower? That we have to feel bad about things before we feel good? Not really. It means we're stuck on our own and no amount of self-help books, “boot camps” or S.M.A.R.T. goals is going to fix us. It means that the main thing wrong with us isn't our lack of merit, skills, mindfulness, or whatever we're supposed to have. The main thing wrong with us is our incessant need to be right on our own terms. We start worship by turning this need on its head: the right thing is to know that rightness comes from beyond us as a gift.

You may have heard that repentance can mean something like a course correction or a turning-around. (Now you're hearing your GPS tell you: “recalculating route” or “turn back”...). On recent Sundays, you may have noticed yourself physically turning toward the sanctuary entrance and the recently relocated baptismal font. The font is the proper place for confession and forgiveness. With baptism at the center of this act we are saying visibly that we have left out a third thing: confession, forgiveness, *and promise*. We are reminding ourselves, to return to Luther again, that repentance is for all times, not just our bad days. It is not necessarily negative. It is a way of life.







But why move the font? Because it is where our life in Christ begins and so we are reminded as we enter the banquet hall for our weekly festival of Jesus Christ. Here's another reason, with some background first. An old name (still used by most Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Episcopalians) for the Sunday service is *the Mass*. This word shares a root with the word *mission*. In short, they called and continue to call, the Sunday assembly by one of its parts: the sending. The waters of baptism send us out. We are commissioned in our baptism to serve and love the world that God made and redeemed in Jesus Christ. We are accompanied in this great vocation by the Holy Spirit, and clothed with Christ.

You are pivoting more in worship than you are used to -- turning toward the font, turning toward the Gospel book as it is read in your midst (more on that later). But worship is a pivot. It's a turning-around. It's the end of a week and the beginning of all weeks. I hope this change isn't making you dizzy, and I hope it is helping you turn around. We all need practice.

In Peace, Pastor Nels

# Music!

## Exciting Music Events are Coming to Vinland!

-  **In the coming months**, the organ keyboard will be moved from one side of the alter to the other to ease transitions between instruments for our accompanists as well as give the band members more space to lead the congregation in songs. Please be patient as we make this exciting adjustment.
-  **The Independents Chorus** will be singing a concert on Sunday, February 18 at 3 pm featuring Americana music in honor of Presidents' Day. Please come out and support our local musicians and their director, Pam Wenter, one of our wonderful accompanists. Invite your friends for a fun-filled, musical afternoon. Non-perishable food and toilet-ry donations are requested for a local food bank.
-  **Starting on February 18**, Vinland will be singing a new liturgy, setting 6, during the single 9:30 am Sunday services through the season of Lent. Pastor Nels wants the church to progress through the Lenten season as a unified congregation learning, worshiping, singing, and working toward the Easter celebration together. Setting 6 is a Gospel-styled liturgy that will be enriching and new for all to learn to sing.
-  **Also during the season of Lent**, there will be Wednesday evening 7 pm candlelight services in Grace Hall using the Prayers Around the Cross format that was so successful last year. The music will be the Taize style songs that are contemplative and reflective to allow for meditation and time to slow down from the rush of daily life. Soup Suppers will precede the 7 pm services.
-  **Sunday School Singers** are scheduled to sing (tentatively) on February 18 at the 9:30 am service. Great job with the Pageant to all of the performers! Congratulations to Amara, Laurie & Michael for their excellent singing.
-  **Vinland's Chimers** welcome Bev Puhn to the group! Bev is catching on quickly, and the group is happy to have a new ringer playing with the rest of us "ding-a-lings". More musicians or folks who simply have an interest in music are welcome to practice on Wednesday evenings.

## The Season of Lent Begins With Ash Wednesday on February 14







# WHAT'S ON MY MIND...



## **GAB FROM THE GAVEL** Kelle Horn, council president

The Council is hard at work finalizing the 2018 draft budget so the congregation can review it prior to the annual meeting.

I am happy to report that the cottage meetings to discuss Vinland, the budget and the practice of pledging were well attended and enlightening beyond Vinland's financial health. Thank you to everyone that attended and also thank you to everyone that has turned in their pledge cards. So far we have received pledge cards from about 45% of families. Our goal is of course 100%, but 45% is a good start. We will be following up on pledges throughout January.

There will be more about how we ended the year financially in the Annual Report and at the Annual Meeting, but I do want you all to know that although our giving was far under budget, so were our expenses and we will end the year at about breakeven or possibly even in the "black."

Quite a few Stewards will be leaving the Council, so if you feel the call to serve in leadership, now is the time to step forward. Please contact myself, Carlos Gutierrez, or the members of the Nomination Committee: Terry Beaudoin, Glenn Settle or Jan Hakanson.

*Yours in Christ,  
Kelle Horn, Vinland Council President.*

## **ALTERNATIVE MARKET UPDATE**

*- Tammie Rabura*

At the beginning of November almost 90 ELCA World Hunger Piggy Banks were passed out to Vinland families to collect their spare change. In December 28 pigs, a bottle, a bag and a box full of 4692 coins, cash, a check, 3 lithium batteries and a poker chip came back to the Alternative Market. This newest coin was a 2017 penny. The oldest coin was a 1930 wheat back penny.

There was also a 1950 Canadian dime with a picture of King George as well as Euro Cent. In total \$699.61 was collected enough for a drove of 23 pigs. Thank you Vinland for your generosity. If you still have a "piggy" at home, it is not too late to bring him to market (church!).



The Alternative and Fair Trade Market December was a great success. \$860.01 sold in Fair Trade items for Serrv, helping artisans around the world to escape poverty and to feed and educate their children. \$105 was raised for Lutheran World Hunger Good Gifts, \$50 for the Loft fundraiser and \$73.45 in proceeds from the Serrv sale given to Good Sam.

# Reaching Out To Serve



CHILDREN  
OF THE NATIONS®

## Assemble Hygiene SmilePacks®

Hygiene SmilePacks® provide children in need with toiletries to help prevent common illness and disease.

This event sponsored by:



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®



### Here's how to assemble:

Using a 2-gallon plastic ziplock bag, enclose the following NEW items:

- 1 toothbrush (packaged)
- 1 toothpaste (6 oz.)
- 1 small pack of adhesive bandages (15-20 count)
- 1 bottle of shampoo (12 oz. in a separate gallon ziplock bag)
- 1 comb/brush
- 1 washcloth
- 1 hand towel
- 3 bars of soap

Please include \$5.00 per SmilePack to cover shipping and program costs.

Visit [cotni.org/smilepacks](http://cotni.org/smilepacks) for more information and instructions.



**SmilePacks: This will be our January "Reaching Out to Serve Project"**

**Place completed smile packs in the Giving Box located in the church narthex**

**Contact: Tammie Rabura, Social Ministry Steward**

**(360) 297-3674 [enzian@centurylink.net](mailto:enzian@centurylink.net)**

# NEWS



## Cooking with Spirit Update

The scheduled January 20 “Dining With Spirit” is postponed until further notice. Mary King needed to travel to the east coast to be with her sister.



## Angels in the Bible

-by Bob Reister

Sometimes reading our Bible gets boring, so I thought I would write a commentary on Angels in the Bible. I use The Living Bible Paraphrased.

Would you like to know the truth about angels? Who are they? How did they come into existence and what do they do? There is no better place to look for answers than in God’s inspired word—the Bible (2 Tim 3:16). What does the bible tell us? Just as God is a spirit, angels too are invisible spirits that don’t have flesh and bones. The loyal angels reside in the heavens and have direct access to God’s heavenly presence. (Matt 18:10). Angels have at times appeared in human form to carry out God-given assignments on earth and then dematerialized after completing the assignment. (Judges 6:11-23; 13, 15-20).

Although angels are present in the Bible as males and have always materialized as males, there is no male or female distinction among them. They do not marry and do not produce their own kind. Angels did not come into existence as humans on earth. Angels were created by God; the Bible calls them “sons of the true God.” The Bible speaks of “the tongues of men and of angels,” indicating that the spirit persons have language and speech. God has used angels to communicate with humans; he does not permit us to worship angels or pray to them (1 Cor. 13:1, Rev. 22:8-9).

There are myriads of angels, perhaps billions. (Daniel 7:10; Rev. 5:11). Read all of Daniel 5. Angels are “mighty in power”, much more powerful than humans and they have super human intelligence. They evidently can travel at tremendous speeds, far exceeding the limits of the physical world. (Psalm 103:20; Daniel 9:20-23).

Despite their mental and spiritual powers, angels have limitations, and there are some things they don’t know (Matt 24:36; 1 Peter 1:12).

Angels were created with personalities, divine qualities, and free will. Therefore, they could choose to do right or wrong, like humans. Sadly, some angels chose to rebel against God. Read all of Jude 6. I recommend that you read the whole chapters instead of just verses. Watch for more information about angels in coming articles.



# WOMEN'S groups

Women of the ELCA 

**Vinland Women** will meet on January 17 at 10:00 in Haugen Hall for Bible study, devotions, a business meeting, and lunch. Hostesses are Susan Gilbert and Catrina Stroud. Anita Puzon will lead the study and Catrina will give the devotion. Come and join this lively, caring group of Sisters in Christ. All are welcome.

BOLD  
WOMEN'S  
DAY 2018

## Sunday, February 25

**Bold Women's Day**—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Are there ways that we can celebrate bold women at Vinland?



## Attention All Busy Moms!

If you have kids from diapers to dormitory - please join us for a Busy Moms Reboot 2018 - a meeting to gather and get organized for the year and as a group. Please bring your ideas of how you see this group evolving including - ways we can support our church, ways we can support each other, ways to

support our community and more. We'll also be considering a new name because "busy" is so 2017. **Please join us on Sunday, Jan 21st at 6:45pm in Grace Hall**



## 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!

**Quilters** meet EVERY Tuesday from 9-noon. Snacks & Coffee!

They can use helping hands as they put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

# Youth & Family

thank  
you!

Thank You Allison! Our gratitude and good wishes go to Allison Pringle (and Scott, James and Katie) for ministering to our youth these past 5 months. The light of Christ definitely shone from her into our entire Vinland congregation.



## JANUARY IN THE LOFT

Something fun is scheduled for each Wednesday!

Come at 6pm and bring a friend!



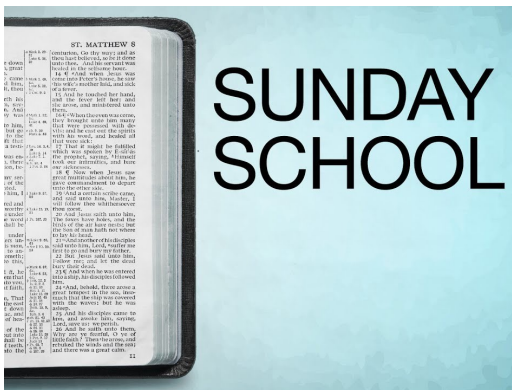
**LOFT SUNDAY SCHOOL** will get a “new look.” Check it out.  
**SENIOR HANG-OUT** on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 6:30pm.



*Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser*

**Applebee's** **Saturday, February 3**  
**8am-10am**

Buy a ticket for \$10. Invite friends and family; the youth are excited to serve you and they will earn \$5 per ticket sold. Tickets are on sale now!



**FIRST OF ALL....** Many thanks to Lisa Mansfield and Sherry Gutierrez for teaching Sunday School during the 9am worship service.

Bibles (purchased by parents) were given to all third-fifth grade students on January 7. It is the hope that the kids will bring their Bibles to church each week. This would also be a very good thing for all adults to do!



# good stuff



## DIALOGUE ON DRAFT

Jan. 29 at 5:30 at Western Red Brewery in Poulsbo. You can get pizza from next door, bring your own food in, or just get a beverage. By all means, invite a friend to come!



## THURSDAY LECTIONARY LUNCH

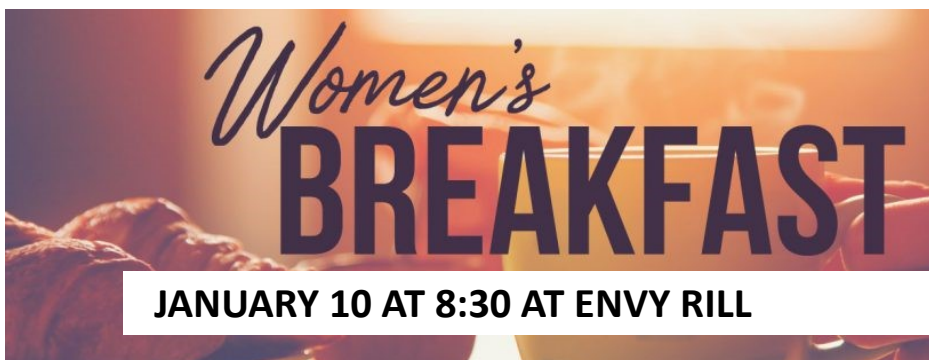
Bring your lunch and chew on more than a sandwich! Pastor Nels will have a “sermon playback” where everyone joins in to discuss the sermon from the previous Sunday.

**Starts at 11:30– No meeting on 1/18**



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

If I hadn't heard the noise, I still would have known. Our little dog, a terrier mix, has an innate ability to hear the slightest noise and smell the slightest odor, ultimately and doggedly following it to its source. At least attempting to... He has recently learned that the suet feeder hanging from the eaves just outside our kitchen window attracts more than birds. The louder-than-usual sound of the willow branch scraping against the window and the heavy swaying of the feeder caught his attention and he responded with his typical whining, barking, and frenzied demands to go outside immediately. To him, it all spelled one thing - SQUIRREL!

And he was right. As I stood, rock-still and quiet near the window, I watched that Eastern gray squirrel attempt what I thought might have been impossible. Literally within inches of the window, he tenaciously climbed up to the smallest and most brittle twig and time after time leaped toward the suet feeder, crashing gracelessly to the ground each time. I found it agonizing - and humorous - to watch. It was also exhausting to see his fruitless efforts and I finally turned my attention to other things. When I noticed that the noises had stopped, I checked again and there he was - precariously hanging from the bottom of that wire feeder, proudly gorging himself on the suet.

Although I love all animals and certainly appreciate that they all have their place in the world, these gray squirrels are not my favorites. A non-native species, they likely arriving in the Pacific Northwest with the help of humans. The most common squirrels found in most urban settings, they have also migrated into rural forested areas. Unlike most native squirrels, such as the smaller Douglas squirrels, they have adapted well to human habitation. Both species will give birth in the spring and fall; however, fall is typically a much busier season than any other time of the year. This possibly explains the frenzied search for food. Whatever the reason, they - and certainly all squirrels in general - are relentless in their pursuit of whatever it is they deem necessary to survive. This includes defending their territory, collecting nesting materials, and finding and obtaining food. As we have learned over years of trying, it is nearly impossible to out-smart of squirrel. Far more clever people than us have tried.

As we enter this brand-new year, we would do well to keep in mind the squirrels and their dogged persistence. Frustrating though it may be for us, more often than not this trait gets these furry creatures what they need. Trying new methods, climbing, leaping, and yes - often falling - are all a part of life's journey for us, also. When we step out in faith, persisting in what we need to do to attain our goals, even with the accompanying setbacks, surely we will accomplish whatever it is we set out to do. Fortunately for us, we do not take this journey alone.

*"But I tell you this - though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.  
"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ~ Luke 11:5-9*



**Honoring God by nurturing  
children's relationships**

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 and church members. We will open enrollment to the public at our Open House on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Please spread the word about this Vinland ministry. You can find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/vinlandpreschool](http://www.facebook.com/vinlandpreschool).

A special thanks to all 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 28th. Lunches include a sandwich with all the fixings, fruit, chips and cookies. The cost is \$8 for meat and cheese and \$6 for PBJ. Sack Lunches must be preordered. We will take orders between services in Grace Hall on January 7, 14, and 21. This is a great way to have a full belly for the Annual Meeting and support Vinland's preschool ministry. 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 2018 with the curiosity and enthusiasm of a child.

Janean Moriarty

Lori VanVlerah

Lynn Florent

