

- |                 |      |                  |      |
|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Greg Gilbert    | 9/2  |                  |      |
| Myrt Jodry      | 9/3  | Lonnie Swanson   | 9/19 |
| Erika Rabura    | 9/6  | Katelyn Barnhart | 9/21 |
| Mary King       | 9/6  | Ray Kobeski      | 9/22 |
| Brandy Weir     | 9/6  | April Kollmorgen | 9/22 |
| Ken Ray         | 9/7  | Ed Stock         | 9/23 |
| Dave Bigelow    | 9/9  | Emma Banzer      | 9/25 |
| Mya Schultz     | 9/11 | Steve King       | 9/25 |
| Alyssa Banzer   | 9/12 | Walt Elliott     | 9/27 |
| Spencer Weir    | 9/12 | Sharon Schmid    | 9/28 |
| Kris Bonholzer  | 9/13 | Ava Adrig        | 9/29 |
| Rich Wendt      | 9/13 | Lisa Mansfield   | 9/29 |
| Anne Stock      | 9/13 |                  |      |
| Jimmy Prehm     | 9/14 |                  |      |
| Estelle Osbourn | 9/14 |                  |      |
| Chris Adrig     | 9/17 |                  |      |
| Lynn Florent    | 9/17 |                  |      |

*Happy Anniversary*

- Floyd & Karen Oster 9/3
- Bob & Mary Lou Reister 9/4
- Don & Marilee Mills 9/5
- Rick & Marsha Wright 9/12

## SEPTEMBER 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)

Pastor: Nels Flesher  
Communications: Marsha Wright  
Secretary: Kristine Clucas

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

**MINISTRY FAIR SEPTEMBER 16**

**TWO SERVICES RESUME SEPTEMBER 9**



**You can do hard things. We can do hard things.** Google it. From book titles, to motivational speeches, to word art you can hang by your coatrack, it's real. People are telling one another this thing we may well need to hear. We really can do hard things. Everyone knows that we have to. What we don't always know is that we can. Good, but first I'm going to complain a little and dig deeper. (If I didn't suspect a few of you feel the same way, I'd just leave it out).



Here's my complaint: I don't have time to do hard things. In the best stories I can think of, a hero sets out to do something hard ... because there's nothing else left to do. I can't think of a truly interesting story in which the hero looks

through the classified ads (or scrolls through social media) for a cause to join. In Star Wars, Luke Skywalker leaves home to confront evil because everyone at home is dead. In the Bible, it's usually a famine or an invasion of some sort that prompts change. There is not a book in the Bible about a committee who decided to make the world a better place in their spare time. There are stories of people who lost everything, had nothing else to lose, and got front-row seats to behold God at work.

But, okay, they still did hard things – things they could have avoided or ignored. The Daily Lectionary served up this story for my Monday devotions. (Genesis 43). Judah and his brothers have just returned home to Canaan from Egypt. Their father Jacob, aka Israel, had sent them to buy food to get everyone through a famine. Egypt had food to spare because Judah's brother Joseph (who had long ago been written-off as dead at his brothers' jealous hands) was a wise man who convinced Pharaoh to store up plenty of grain for years of famine. Judah and his brothers didn't recognize Joseph when he sent them back home with food, but Joseph recognized them. There are more details to the story, but Joseph basically makes them promise to return with their youngest brother Benjamin. (Jacob hadn't sent Benjamin with the others to Egypt because the whole thing was risky and, after all, Jacob had already lost one favorite son). Even worse, it turns out that Joseph has planted evidence of theft in Judah's luggage. It looks like a big set-up, and it is.

But Joseph set them all up to bring about reconciliation. He needs them to all come to Egypt so he can forgive his brothers for selling him into slavery so many years ago. It may be the best story ever. It's certainly part of the best story. But at this point in the story, Judah just has hard things to do. First, he has to tell his father that they got the food for the famine, but at too high a price.



Second, he has to go back to Egypt where Joseph (whose identity is still concealed) is probably going to charge him with a crime Judah didn't commit. Judah has to do hard things. I shouldn't be jealous. But I am, in one small but important way.

Judah gets to walk hundreds of miles between these hard conversations. It wasn't vacation, but between leaving his father's company and facing Joseph, Judah gets to walk his mind into a haze deep enough to forget his fears. There is refuge in monotony. He gets to sleep under the stars. He gets to talk this thing over as many times as he needs to with his companions. He gets to be unreachable for weeks. Nothing else is going to compete for his attention. He gets boundary time. Time to get ready.

These days, it feels like we have no time to get ready, and having just one hard thing to do might not be a luxury, but it would be better. Here's the thing. If you feel like it's all just too much. If you feel like you know you're not a coward, you're just confused and never ready to do what needs to be done, then hear this: your church is the one place you will not be punished for being unprepared, unfocused, feeling unready.

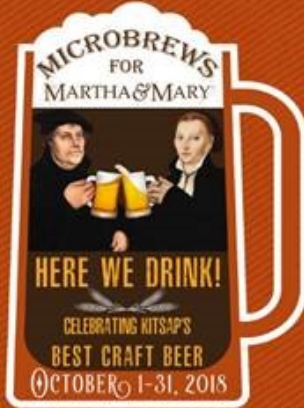
This is your space between. This is your place to talk things over with friends as often as you need to. This is your place to get lost in the transporting repetition of liturgy. Here, you will not be punished for procrastination because we know something that the world of performance obsession and narrow expectations has forgotten: God's time is long and that most of the things we didn't get to this week didn't actually matter. We also know that the hardest thing is the best thing and worthy of extreme prioritizing even at the expense of scheduled expectations: we gather in Christ's name to learn to be loved. You bet it's hard, and absolutely necessary. We must face God in this hard thing, because this is the one assignment God will not excuse. God will have us know that we are beloved. It's what our house was built for. Come, let us lay aside demands to do something hard and good.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nels





what's  
**HAPPENING**



# HOW DOES IT WORK?

**DATES: OCTOBER 1-31, 2018**

Participating Breweries agree to donate \$.50 per pint of beer purchased from customers who have a Microbrews for Martha & Mary Passport!

**Passports go on sale September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Cost for each: \$15.00**

*Passports are available at:*

Participating Breweries      Martha & Mary Gift Shop      [www.MarthaandMary.org](http://www.MarthaandMary.org)  
8 local Lutheran Churches      [www.HereWeDrink.com](http://www.HereWeDrink.com)

- Each Passport will include a 'code' giving access to set up an account on our new WEB APP! ([www.HEREWEDRINK.com](http://www.HEREWEDRINK.com))
- Breweries will be given a unique, easy to remember code allowing pints of beer purchased can be recorded on a smart phone.
- In the event that a customer does not have a phone, but they are in possession of the physical Passport, Breweries will have their own account where they can input the number of pints purchased.
- Breweries will each have a stamp in the event a customer would like their Passport stamped!
- Both the digital (web app) and physical Passport will have loads of information, including specifics of each Brewery (with logo), direct links to Brewery websites, and more!
- There will be print advertising, banners, flyers and posters throughout Kitsap County as well as a Social Media campaign, thanks to the help of our fantastic team of volunteers!
- We are offering the option for each brewery to have pint glasses with the event logo and their logo etched and painted, and for sale at each brewery. The idea is that participants would have added incentive to travel to every brewery to collect a set of pint glasses. Plus, sales of the pint glasses will stay with you. More information coming soon.
- At the end of October, we will get an accurate report generated from the software that will give us all the totals of pints sold from each brewery. We will send each Brewery their report / statement that will show the total amount of \$ to be donated.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US!

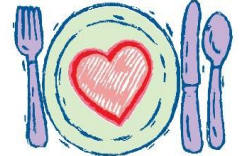
Supportus@mmhc.org | 360-394-4004

# WOMEN'S groups

Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

*please  
join us*

All women are invited to the September 19 meeting at 10am. Tina Bigelow and Judy Wales will be the hostesses and Judy Herman will share a devotion. Anita Puzon will head the Bible study.



**SCHOOL KIT SUPPLIES NEEDED: 70-sheet notebooks, ball point pens, crayons (18 or 24)**  
Bring supplies to church and the women will assemble them into school kits.



## Women of Grace

This group of mixed-age women meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30pm. We laugh together, pray together, learn together and share each other's lives. Our first meeting of the fall will be October 1. It will be an introduction to the year. Women and "women of the Bible" will be our starting point that evening. Bring the name of, or story about, a woman in the Bible to share. Just for fun, or to choose a woman, Google "women in the Bible".

**CHANGES TO THE FALL-LINEUP!** We're making a change to the plan to discuss the book "Tell Me More" and instead will be diving deep into the world of Enneagram. Shauna Becker will be sharing her passion and knowledge on this ancient method in finding your specific personality trait. Learn what makes you tick and how you can make your strengths and weaknesses work for your benefit. Learn compassion for those around us as we understand why people do the things they do. We hope you'll join us for this six week in-depth session - **Sundays - Sept 16th - Oct 21st - - 1:00-3:00pm.**



# Women's Breakfast

**FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 8:30 at Envy's  
at the Poulsbo Junction**





# Fall Sunday Schedule

Begins September 9

9:00 Worship & Sunday School

10:00 Social Time in Grace Hall

10:45 Worship



## DIALOGUE ON DRAFT

Watch the e-flash for September details. Kelle Horn will be the moderator for October and November gatherings.



**PINOCHLE** September 21. Potluck at 5:30; cards dealt at 6pm. Sign up in Grace Hall. Sign up if you want to play!

**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!



## Saturday, Sept. 1 at 8am Men's Breakfast in Grace Hall

As a continuation of the August breakfast, Jan Kelly, Glenn Settle's niece, and a practicing attorney, will guide our discussion on the various legal aspects of old age, retirement, estates, health and finances.

At the last meeting there was some misunderstanding of the various forms of power of attorney and Jan will help guide us through the discussion. This discussion has useful meaning, not for just us olde members, but also younger men who will be looking at the problems of caring for their parents.

So join us for a very valuable discussion on preparing ahead. We will also be asking for ideas of future topics we may wish to discuss and Pastor Nels also has some ideas. We will begin breakfast at 8:00am in Grace Hall and I am sure Dennis and his stalwart band of cooks (?) will have a hearty repast for us to enjoy.



## Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson

On a recent camping trip to Crescent Beach, on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, I took our little dog out for his last walk of the evening. Gazing into the far distance, and then high above, I was utterly amazed. That crystal-clear, hot summer day had been followed by an equally brilliant night sky that literally took my breath away.

I have always been a night owl. As a child, there were times I did not want to go to bed. I enjoyed hearing the quiet evening drone of adult conversations and stories, even as my eyelids drooped, and my head nodded. In the days of less technology, evening entertainment was live and

on the spot. Being an active child with an equally active imagination, my sleep was filled with dreams, some of which were scary. To avoid those, I learned to put off going to sleep if I could. Night can be a frightening time for a child.

In college, late night studying became the norm, as did weekend and holiday evenings spent with friends. In those days girls had a curfew, so dating time was limited. Sometimes, however, we'd resume our date on the phone - often into the wee hours of the morning. During the summers, my family gathered at our cabin where we spent evenings visiting and catching up on each other's lives. If the night was calm and clear, we'd gather on the beach around a fire, or huddle under old quilts on the porch. Nothing compares to a jet-black nighttime sky where no city lights dim the twinkling stars and moon.

Adulthood brought other realities. Newly married, I spent sleepless nights alone while Bill was across the country getting military training. In the dark I paced the floor of our small home in rural Colorado until flashes of lightning and booming thunder subsided, fearing the fires they might bring. With a child there were late-night trips to an on-call doctor for severe ear infections; waiting up for an errant or runaway teen. Aging parents with their own worries, fears and illnesses led to more sleepless nights. In the quiet dark, with none of the usual daytime distractions, thoughts and emotions have free rein.

But there is another, less worrisome, side to the night where quiet and darkness become your friend. Concentration and creativity can be sharpened, as can problem-solving and laying of plans. The night is so alive if we only pay attention and be patient. Bats flutter about at dusk, snatching insects in midair. Fish rise to the surface to feed. Mice, voles, shrews, opossums, and raccoons scurry about in search of food. On rare occasions, we've seen an elusive western flying squirrel perched in a bird feeder, happily nibbling away. Our streets become animal freeways at night. Lying awake, I've heard the distinctive yips and howls of coyotes and the eerie hooting of owls. We rarely see the deer, but know they steal in to munch on flowers and leaves.

Our home is surrounded by tall trees. Those, frequently cloudy skies, and reflected light from cities, means that our sky view is rarely very clear or unobstructed. At Crescent Beach, I realized that it had been many years since I'd had such a view. Gazing up at the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, Cepheus, Draco, and other constellations as they slowly rotated about Polaris, I was awed by the magnitude of the night sky in all its glory. Such an experience humbles us and brings us closer to God - for we are never alone in the night.

*I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.*

*My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.*

*Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your laws.*

*Isaiah 119: 147 - 149*





## SEPT. 16, 11AM FOOD, FUN, INFORMATION

If your group wants to have a space, please sign up in Grace Hall. This is not a fundraiser, just a fun way to kick off fall programs.

Groups are encouraged to provide a small "bite to eat" along with a "bite of information".

## FREEDOM BAGS UPDATE

The Washington Men's Prison in Shelton has approximately 100 men a month who are released homeless or without a stable address. Thank you to those who donated and contributed to the seven **Freedom Bags** that will provide men with a few of the essentials to start a new life. The filled bags were delivered to the prison on a recent visit to Living Stones Prison Congregation.



Join Children of the Nations' Rally for Education by assembling School SmilePacks®

RETURN FILLED SMILE PACKS BY SEPTEMBER 9

The image shows a young boy smiling while holding a white plastic bag labeled "SmilePacks". The bag has the "CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS" logo and a list of ingredients for a "School SmilePack". The text on the bag includes "STEP 1: Choose One to Assemble:", "School SmilePack\*", and "Hygiene SmilePack\*".



## Real People. Real Solutions.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest's  
Annual Fundraising Luncheon  
Sun, Nov. 11 at Kitsap Conference Center at  
Bremerton Harborside.

Social hour at 12:30pm followed by lunch  
and program at 1:30

If you would like to host a table or attend on your own, please talk to Tammie Rabura. More information is on the bulletin board in Grace Hall. There is no cost to host or attend the luncheon, but there is an opportunity to support the many worthwhile LCSNW programs in the Bremerton and Olympic Peninsula.

# THIS AND THAT

## CHURCH TABLECLOTHS

*Don't be afraid  
to use them!*

Vinland has 3 sets of round tablecloths for Grace Hall – White, Mint Green, and Dark Brown. We also have matching oblong tablecloths plus some lace-type ones for the rectangular serving tables.

The tablecloths are easy-care Wash/Dry material – ***BUT you must remove them from the dryer immediately.***

Tablecloths now HANG in the small room at the bottom of the stairs in Grace Hall on a rack that rolls away from the wall. Once you are in Grace Hall, you do NOT need a key to access them.

### **FOLDING THE TABLECLOTHS:**

1. Fold round tablecloths in **HALF 3 times** (it becomes cone-shaped). The width at the fold **cannot be more than 9"** to fit properly on the hangers.
2. Return them to store by carefully placing them on the open-ended, heavy-duty non-slip hangers, keeping like colors together.
3. Fold rectangular tablecloths, squared off, to fit the hangers & horizontal space.

When you use the tablecloths, they may need some touch-up with an iron. Please do not return soiled tablecloths.

## **FAMILY CAMP UPDATES!**

As we say goodbye to another summer and time at the lake, we hope the Spirit of Aloha will stay with us all as we move throughout our days. We had a wonderful time at Family Camp this summer and the planning team thanks everyone who joined us and also those who contributed to help make camp a wonderful week.

We look forward to **"Kickin' it Old School"** next summer where we'll celebrate easier times with less stress, less obligations and most of - lots of fun! As soon as we get the dates, we'll share them with everyone and we hope you'll join us. Contributions to help fund Family Camp can be made at anytime by giving donations to Kristine Clucas.



## **LUNCH BUNCH SEPT. 10, 11:30AM**

Lively "seniors" gather once a month for great conversation around a meal. These are almost always at a local restaurant, but in September they will gather for a potluck at the home of Julie Swenson.

Bring a dish to share; dessert and beverages will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Grace Hall.





# *What's Going On?!?*

## *Council Chatterings late summer 2018*

The proverbial smoke-filled room is inescapable today; can't see anything out the window but an off-white blank scene. But I can still try to keep visibility high. So here's what I know, at least what comes to mind.

Your council met for an off-site retreat early in August. Scott and Bev Puhn generously hosted us at their lovely home, which now has been renamed the VLC Conference Center. Do ask other council members what they experienced – here's mine. A big part of the success was that we had no agenda. Our time was spent just talking. Each council member spoke about what was on their mind about VLC; what was going well, what wasn't going so well. The aim was to build rapport and trust within the council so that we can even *begin* conversations on how we might transition VLC from an “our church”, with the inherent conflicts associated with establishing what “our” means for a wonderfully diverse congregation, to “God's church” where worshipping together transcends our differences. How do we evolve as a congregation to engage more comfortably and safely in conversation about challenging issues facing the church in a dynamic world – not necessarily seeking solutions, but encouraging all to thoughtful consideration and prayer as the world moves on with or without VLC. I recognize this is a very, very tall order, but happy that what transpired at the retreat was a very big step in the right direction.

Being a science nerd, I cannot escape from some analytical assessment of the operational side. Bottom line is we're doing pretty well. We have the usual summer drop-off of gifting, and are operating at our usual edge of the financial cliff; nothing out of the ordinary and something we are mitigating by establishing a contingency set aside for emergencies. Summer services have been packed. We've done a magnificent job in finding new staff.

Speaking of which, please pray for Kristine Clucas, our new Office Manager. She's taking over from Megan Adrig, who you would never guess wears size 47XXX shoes as evidenced by the skill and dedication she has provided us over the last several years. Filling them is a daunting challenge for Kristine and a reflection of all that Megan has contributed. We are profoundly grateful. And do extend a welcome to our new Director of Music, Rick Baty. Next up will be finding a permanent Youth Director. Thanks to V and Gerriey who've served as our interim directors in the meantime.

It's late summer so service times are on our minds. Contrary to scuttlebutt and rumor, we will return to our two service format starting September 9<sup>th</sup>. However, your Council does recognize that considerations that have guided our decisions (and rationalizations!) about the services are dynamic and that it is time for us to review and reassess where we are now. I assure you there have been no smoke-filled council meetings where we have been plotting for months – we will start our discussion at the next Council meeting in September. Please be patient; this will take some time. We will be bringing this to you more than once for your input as we wrestle with what is best for VLC.

*John Brock, Council President*

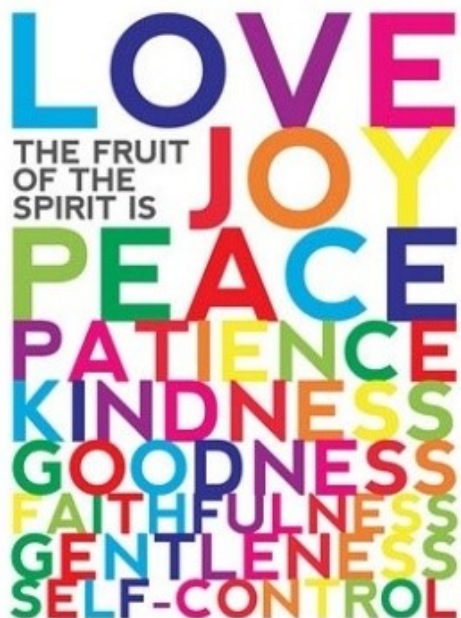


**Sunday School for ages 4 years through 5th grade BEGINS SEPT. 9 during the first service.**

The children go up for the children's sermon with Pastor Nels then head out with the teachers for a time and then return to sit with their families before communion.

This year we have several adults and some youth who will be serving on alternating weeks/months as guides and teachers as we participate in the SPARK rotation curriculum. Several weeks will be spent on each Bible story as we really use all our senses and capabilities to explore, learn, and grow in relationship with our loving God and with each other. Sherry Gutierrez is the Sunday School organizer.

If you have any questions or if you would like to participate, please contact her through the church office or on a Sunday morning!



## LOFT NEWS

### **(LivingOurFaithTogether) Vinland's middle/high school program**

**The LOFT families** would like to send a sincere thank you to V and Gerrie for acting as interim youth directors over the past six months. Thank you for sharing your time and energy with our kids and sharing your talents and passions with them too.

**FAMILIES OF YOUTH:** Watch your inboxes and the Vinland Youth page for upcoming events for our middle and high school families. While looking for a permanent youth and family director, the Youth Committee will be planning events. Your participation and good ideas will be appreciated during this transition time. Amy Munns, who is our youth and family steward on Council, will be the main communicator.

## ALL-CHURCH CAMP 2018

Vinland was very well represented at all-church camp, both as staff members and as campers.

**Staff:** Josh Clucas, Kari VanVlerah, Jill Florent, Christopher Clucas, Reese Adrig, Jaimie Florent, Dylan Moriarty and Nick Kobeski

**Campers:** TJ Munns, Joey Florent., Ben Gutierrez, Ethan Gillespie., Ethan Florent., Spencer Gillespie., Spencer Weir., Jack Nelson, Joey Munns., Henry Becker, Ava Adrig, Sarah Nelson, Kendall Becker, Aly Banzer, Mikaela Horn, and Daemion Dixon

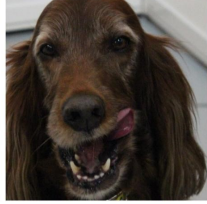
The kitchen staff had a great time bonding over the never-ending dishes in the hot kitchen. The Vinland campers really enjoyed having some Vinland counselors. And poor Joey Munns broke his arm during slip n' slide baseball but was a trooper nonetheless.



# Upcoming

EVENTS

Mark your calendars NOW!



**ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE PETS  
SUNDAY, OCT. 7, 1 PM**

Bring your cherished companion leashed or caged  
for **COMING UP** a blessing in h



**TRUNK OR TREAT**



**Sunday, Oct. 28  
Fun starts at 4:00**

**Women's  
ADVENT LUNCHEON**

**DECEMBER 2nd at 11am**

**Sweet and Spicy**

