



I have three questions for each of us to ask ourselves.

How much money can I gladly give to the church?

Do I trust the people serving on church council to steward my financial gifts faithfully?

What would happen if we all gave too much?

Let's take them in reverse order. What would happen if we all gave "too much"? In other words, what if we surpass our budget in giving? It's a realistic question. Your church council has drafted a pretty honest church budget. It is based on three things: recent giving trends, an honest and fairly conservative estimate of what it costs to sustain ministry at Vinland as we currently know it, and the confidence that God can make of us next year more than we were this year. The budget is not a spreadsheet by which we limit what God can do, but a low estimate of what we believe we are called to do. What if we gave more? Do you believe God would put that excess to good use? The church has a long history of receiving more than it has a right to expect. This would be no different.

Do I trust the people serving on church council? I answer with a strong yes. When I look around the table at a council meeting, I find myself to be in the company of people I trust. I trust them to speak up when something isn't right. I trust them to be diligent in their stewardship of the church property. I trust them to ask for help when they're in over their heads. I trust them to share with you every sign that God is at work among us. I trust them to keep listening for the Holy Spirit who calls us into a future that is broader than our past. The church council would be among the first people to notice when we have been given more than we have asked for and to begin to put all of that to good use, probably by sharing the "good problem" with you.

Now, how much money can I gladly give the church? Find that number for you or your household. Many people follow an old Biblical practice by starting with 10% of their income. I was raised in a family that did so and I try to get as close to tithing as I can. In all honesty, we currently fall a little short of 10% in my household, but we try. Once you arrive at *your amount* of glad giving, just ask if you could conscionably give more (for sake of argument let's say without going into debt, living without savings, or depriving your dependents of real necessities). Maybe you couldn't. If you could, then ask yourself another question before making any decisions. Where does that extra money need to be for God to do more good with it? Money can be put to all kinds of good uses – vacation is good, school is good, the arts are good, taking care of house and home are good. If you believe God will put that money to good use without it passing through the church, then I think you know what to do. But if you believe God is up to something at Vinland and you're in a position to increase your giving, just ask yourself: will God do something good with it at church?

If we ponder these questions openly and answer them honestly, I doubt we'll have any financial worries this season. I hope these questions help you to a joyful answer. May God bless the gifts.

*In Christ,
Pastor Nels*

NEWS



Ingrid Anna Carlson was welcomed into the world on October 25 at 9:34am. The happy parents are Sean and Lindsey Carlson. Big sister is Amelia and Dan and Linda Carlson are the doting Grandma and Grandpa. She weighed in at 7#7oz, the same as her big sister!

With Sympathy

We have received word that retired **Rev. George Larson** passed away on Oct. 23. He was the start-up pastor of Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in Port Orchard. We have enjoyed his preaching at Vinland over the years. Prayers of comfort go to his wife, Norma and son, Steve.

Vinland is enrolled in Amazon's Smile program, which means Amazon donates one half of one percent of the participant's order to the church. Enough people are enrolled now that we receive \$40 to \$50 a year. Since every little bit helps, if more Amazon customers from the church signed up, that amount would increase. The ordering method and items available are the same.



After you enroll and then sign on through Amazon Smile, the church will receive that percentage of the order total. Please consider signing up to help the church this way.



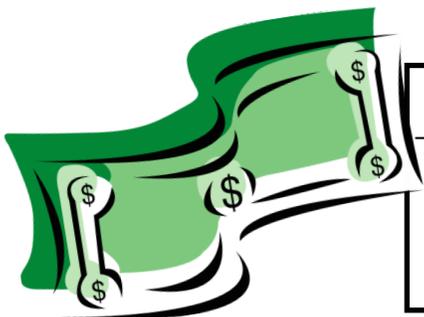
Are you over 70 and a half?

You can reduce the taxes on your Required Minimum Distribution from your Ira by setting up with your IRA trustee the payment of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity. Vinland Lutheran Church is a qualified charity. Contributions for 2018 must be completed by December 31, 2018.

To learn more, go to the following web article:

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/iras/articles/2017-12-04/how-to-donate-your-required-minimum-distribution-to-charity>

FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH SEPT. 30



	Actual	Budget	Positive/(Negative) compared to Budget
Giving	\$250,988	\$265,584	(\$14,596)
Expenses	\$214,309	\$236,133	\$51,275
Giving, less expenses	\$36,679	\$0	\$36,679

REJOICING IN WORSHIP



**ALL MUSIC GROUPS PRACTICE
ON THURSDAYS**

Chimes at 5pm

Choir at 6pm

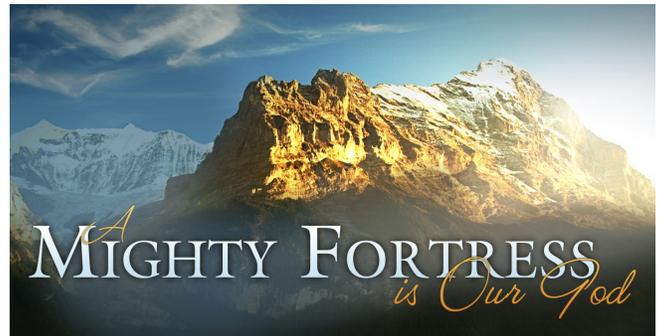
New Song at 7pm

If you love to sing, ring a chime, or play an instrument, join one of these groups!

Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018

-Rick Baty

On this reformation Sunday, the choir has decided to treat the congregation to something a little different. Instead of standing and joining us, I invite you to close your eyes and listen to a tale. A tale of a tune and a text so dear that it is considered by many to be the anthem for the entire protestant movement.



“It is the winter of the year 1528. It is bitterly cold and food is in short supply. If that wasn’t enough, the plague is once again present in your small German village just outside the city of Wittenburg.

To make matters worse, your entire way of life has been turned upside down by the protestant reformation. Depending on who you listen to, you are either in league with the devil or on the side of the saints. Over the past 11 years, you and your family have experienced the fallout of one of the most significant religious revolutions the world has ever seen. You have every reason to be down, distraught, and depressed.

As you gather wood outside to fuel your meager hearth, you see a group of men in the distance. Despite the cold and their cumbersome plodding through the snow, these men do not look miserable. In fact, they are singing! You recognize the tune and the words at once.

They come closer and greet you, not stopping the song, but instead encourage you to join in. You happen to join in on the third verse. “Though hordes of devils fill the land, all threatening to devour us. We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us. This world’s prince may rage, in fierce war engage. He is doomed to fail. God’s judgement must prevail. One little word subdues him.”

As you open your eyes, I ask that you stop and think of the world we live in today. Yes the problems have changed, but has evil ceased its onslaught? Current events from just days ago would answer a resounding NO.

But, we have hope eternal, a peace that surpasses all understanding, and a joy that prevails against the dire darkness. Today as the choir sings A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, we will not sing the setting found in hymn 504. Instead, we encourage you to get out your hymnals and flip to hymn 503.

This is the melody that Luther originally set the text to and we feel it captures the joyful bounce of a spirit freed by the abounding grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first verse of this hymn gets most of the notoriety, but I encourage you to pay close attention to the final verse. I believe the words contain the essence of what fueled Luther to face the plague, the pope, and people. *And I believe those same words can equip all of us to go out and live our faith boldly knowing that “the kingdom is ours forever.”*

REJOICING IN FELLOWSHIP



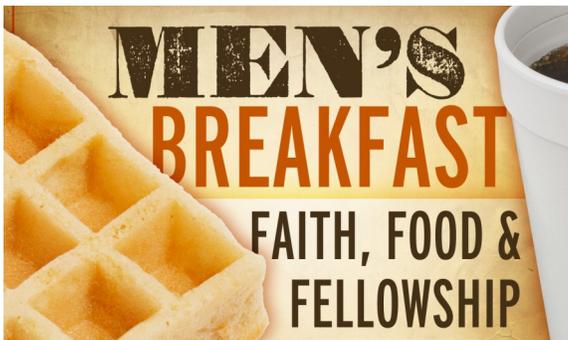
**DIALOGUE ON
DRAFT NOV. 26**
6pm at Western
Red Brewery

Join the discussion
that involves "The Seven Deadly Sins!!"
Always lively! Bring a friend.



PINOCHLE November 16. 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, Nov. 3 at 8am

Men's Breakfast in Grace Hall

**Men of all ages, come and eat a hearty
breakfast and some lively discussion.**

Women's Breakfast

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 8:30 at Envy Grill



*"Thanksgiving Day is a good
day to recommit our energies to
giving thanks and just giving."
-Amy Grant*



Women's ADVENT BRUNCH



DECEMBER 2nd ★ 11am

Vinland women and friends are invited for some sweet and spicy fun. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Grace Hall.

We still need a couple table hostesses. This involves decorating a table for 7 with a seasonal theme.



Hello November.
HAPPENING WITH LOFT

High School Hangout with Pastor Nels
All High Schoolers Invited
Sunday, Nov. 18 6:30-8 Dinner Provided!

Wednesdays in the LOFT
6:30-8
Nov. 7 Fishline & YoGi"s(5-7:30)
Nov. 14 Imagine Life Without...Apples
Nov. 21 NO LOFT
Happy Thanksgiving
Nov. 28 The Ultimate Christmas Gift List!

Instagram—@vinlandloft
#LivingOurFaithTogether

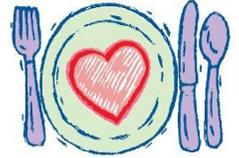
Join us!

WOMEN'S groups

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

*please
join us*

All women are invited to the November 14 meeting at 10am. Anita Puzon will head the Bible study. A great opportunity to get to know many of the women of the church. Grab a friend and come!



Lefse Baking on Saturday, Dec. 9 in preparation for the Bake and Craft sale on Dec. 10. Even if you can't roll, you can come and watch and learn and turn the lefse on the grills and help package. Bring homemade treats to eat and items to sell at the sale on Sunday, Dec. 9. All profits are put to very good use by the Women of Vinland group.



Women meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:00pm. We laugh, pray, learn and support each other..

Nov. 5 we will discuss what it means to be a "Good Samaritan."

We will meet again on November 19. Barb Erickson will have an interesting presentation on foods and spices of the Bible.

No meeting on Dec. 3. Cookie and memory sharing on Dec. 17. Talk to Marsha Wright, Sharon Schmid or Barb Erickson for more information.



M.O.M.S.COMING EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 1: Hot Topic

Sunday, Nov. 18: 2019 Preview

MOMs Christmas Party in December.

Watch for details



What's Going On?!?

Council Chatterings November 2018

A look out the window lends credence to the notion that fall has arrived. Which means that Advent and the New Year are right around the corner. Which means that its time for all of us to begin considering what we can joyously pledge for the coming year to support VLC's raison d'être – our congregational mission, our outreach to the community, stewardship of our facilities, and support for the Church in the largest sense. We have made astonishingly rapid progress towards becoming a congregation that pledges its support; last year about 50% of the giving units pledged about 50% of the budget approved by the congregation at the last annual meeting. Please do consider making a pledge for 2019 when we call for this offering in the next few weeks – 80% participation or bust!

Having been a non-pledger most of my life, I do understand the challenge of the ask when you don't have a good idea of what your Council has planned for utilizing our resources next year. Ah, but we have headed you off at the pass! The Council has just finished a thorough bottoms up budgeting; instead of just rolling over numbers against the same line items, we examined each area carefully and developed a new budget rationale to support what we can reasonably anticipate as expenses for the coming year. The Council has approved presenting the Congregation a 2019 budget of approximately \$395,000. What!!! Actually, when we rethought and rebalanced what we spend our resources on, the operating budget increased by only 3% driven for the most part by new recommendations from the Synod on pastoral compensation and COLA raises for church staff. The big change is that the Council has included \$30,000 for Sanctuary Improvements, most important of which is replacing and integrating our sound systems to avoid some of the issues we've had recently. I'll be rolling out the details in Listening Posts in November and December.

Right now Pink Floyd's "Money" is playing my head as I visualize the eye of a needle with a pyramid in the background. But remember that there is another arguably more important pledge to consider – that of engagement in our endeavors through the gift of time and talents. We've been coming up short on help for landscaping, Lutherhaven work parties, or even helping "produce" any number of fellowship activities. The saints in our congregation who regularly take on these chores are tired. We're not very good at asking for help except through blanket announcements. Help us by asking to be asked! I'll be happy to steer you to the right person to get you off the bench and into the game. **JUST ASK ME!**

God's Blessings on Us All.

John



Honoring God by nurturing children's relationships

Autumn at preschool is a very busy season. In October we headed down Clear Creek Road to visit Farmer Nikki at Pheasant Fields Farm. We learned all about the plants, animals and machines at a working farm. Later, the Poulsbo Fire Department sent an ambulance and a fire engine, along with paramedics and fire fighters who helped us learn about fire safety. Then, an author, Heather L. Beal, came to share her book, Tummy Rumble Quake, to teach what to do in an earthquake. We even participated in the Great Shake Out earthquake drill on October 18th with schools and businesses all around Washington. We appreciate being connected to such a wonderful community that supports early childhood education.

At preschool, we have been playing outside every day thanks to the mild weather. We added a new swing and steering wheel to the play structure. Parent volunteers help with projects inside and out. We ask that anyone playing in the Discovery Garden please put the toys away when they are finished. We hope that everyone uses good judgement out there to keep the play area safe for all.

We were happy to welcome so many from the congregation to our Open House on Preschool Sunday. We hope everyone will take a moment to see the transformation of the Sunday school classrooms downstairs. We're working hard to make the children's ministry wing tip top.

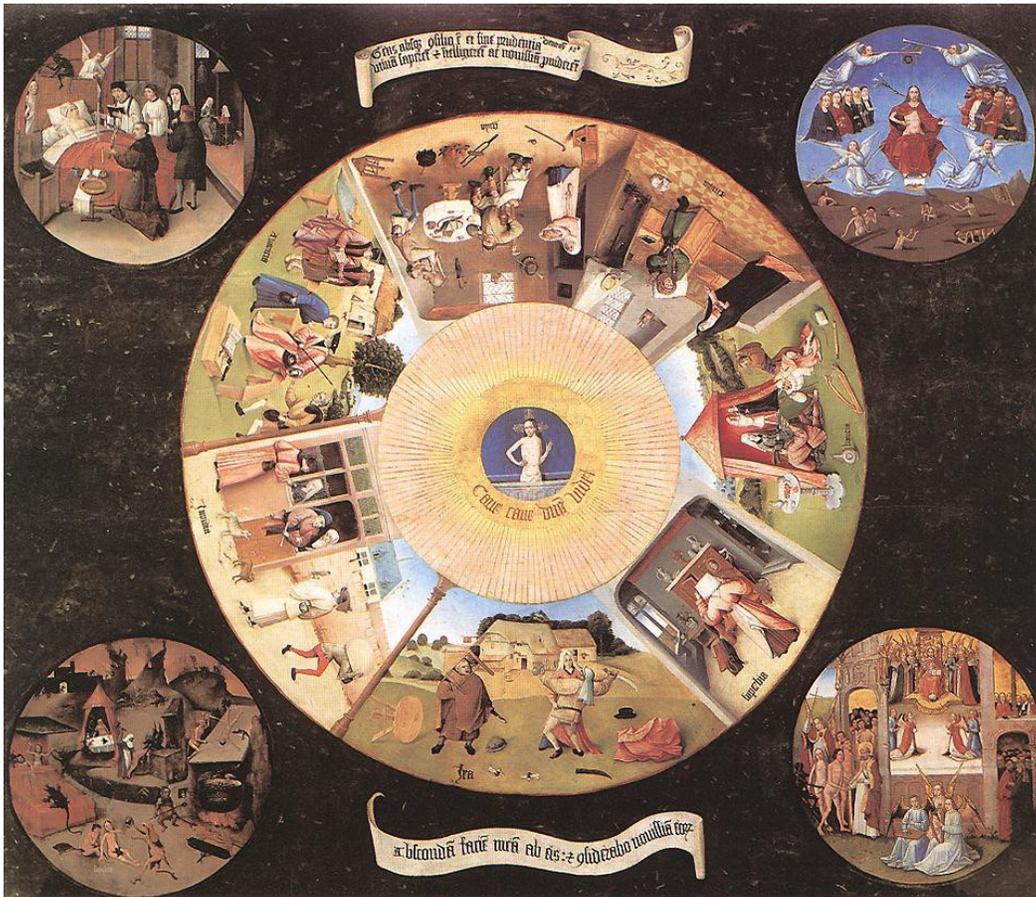
We thank all who have volunteered to join the Prayer Partner Ministry. Assignments went out at the end of October. Please remember your preschooler in your prayers. We welcome you to send cards or small gifts for birthdays and holidays. I hope to get some pictures of our Prayer Partners to share with our preschool families. If you are not a Prayer Partner, please still keep our preschool families and our team in your prayers.

Janean Moriarty

preschool@vinlandlc.org



DIALOGUE ON DRAFT



Welcome to Dialogue on Draft!

From its inception, the concept of this gathering was to meet in a pub (a la Martin Luther) to discuss issues big and small in a casual and perhaps more lively setting than the church social hall. These gatherings have always been open to the public and we definitely want to encourage folks outside of our Vinland family to join us and participate.

Unless there is a conflict in a schedule (or holiday), our intention is to meet on the last Monday of each month. We will send out reading materials and/or links to other media to prepare for our discussions prior each month's Dialogue on Draft. Please take the time to review and reflect so our conversations can be all the more worthwhile!

The conversation will have a format and a few rules to allow our gathering to get the most input from the most participants and to keep the discussion flowing. Although challenges facing us today may feel new, many, if not most, of our current struggles cover the same ground that humans have been wrestling over many millennia. Considering this, the October 29th Dialogue on Draft was a kick-off a 7 part series, The Seven Deadly Sins in the 21st Century.

See you on the last Monday of each month at Western Red Brewery in Poulsbo at 6pm.

Blessings,
Kelle Horn and Pastor Nels

REJOICING IN FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays in Advent

SOUP SUPPER
6PM

HOLDEN
EVENING
PRAYER
6:30-7pm

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19

SERVE
ONE ANOTHER



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.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

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

Abel Hurda 11/13
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



**Set your clocks back
November 3**



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

NOVEMBER 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
Web: vinlandlc.org

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

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



No Thanksgiving Eve Service this year.

we are called

A letter from Bishop Rick Jaech of our Southwestern Washington Synod

Once again we are horrified and in anguish following a mass killing in a house of worship. Last Saturday morning an intruder burst into the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, killing eleven worshippers and wounding six others, including four police officers. The killer made his motives very clear. "I just want to kill Jews!"

His was the deadliest act of violence against Jewish people within the United States in our nation's history. It is not, however, an isolated event. Violence and abuse against Jewish citizens rose 57% last year and continues to rise again this year. This is accompanied by a rising level of assault and violence against US Muslims and all people of color.

The killer also targeted Tree of Life Synagogue because the congregation members actively support the work of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). HIAS does the same ministry as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, helping hundreds of deserving Jewish and non-Jewish immigrants enter the country. The killer believes that any effort to bring in immigrants endangered the "purity" of America and so he decided to kill the people who did so.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Southwestern Washington, we must condemn this racist, religious violence and give our support to the Jewish community and all those who are in danger. An attack on one portion of God's family is an attack on all of us. As Lutherans, we must offer this support in a spirit of humility and repentance, remembering our own past sins: the violent verbal attacks made by Martin Luther against the Jewish people in his day and the failure of the German Lutheran Church to protect their Jewish neighbors in Nazi Germany. Recognizing our own past failures, we Lutherans are doubly committed to supporting and defending the Jewish community and all victims of violent and hate. Therefore, I encourage you to speak and act in behalf of those who suffer in Nazi Germany. Recognizing our own past failures, we Lutherans are doubly committed to supporting and defending the Jewish community and all victims of violent and hate. Therefore, I encourage you to speak and act in behalf of those who suffer and to actively seek the social healing that God desires for us. Here are some specific ways you can do that:

1. Pray for the Tree of Life victims and their families, asking God to bring them comfort and healing.
2. Make contact with Jewish neighbors and synagogues in your community and express your condolence and support. Ask them how you might help. If you have never made contact with them before, this would be an excellent time to reach out.
3. Call upon your political representatives and leaders and demand that they end the abusive and violent verbal attacks against others that we are hearing so much of in this campaign season. Such violent and demeaning words clearly prompt other people to commit physical violence.
4. VOTE! Study the issues! Pick good leaders! VOTE! Martin Luther clearly said that being an active, responsible citizen is one of the vocations to which God calls us. In his tract on Temporal Authority, Martin Luther said, "[The ruler] should picture Christ to himself, and say, 'Behold, Christ, the supreme ruler, came to serve me...Therefore, I will use my office to serve and protect others, listen to their problems and defend them, and govern to the sole end that they, not I, may benefit from my rule.'" In the United States we are blessed to live in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Therefore, we are all finally the rulers and decision-makers of how we will live together in our communities. To fail to vote is a rejection of the gift and responsibility that God has given us as citizens. Therefore, I want to emphasize this again, by midnight on November 6.

As Martin Luther would say, our lives and our world are in the hands of a God who is "with us and for us." In a shattered world, God hears Rachel weeping for her slain children and comes both to heal us and to catalyze us to live more fully in God's grace, love and justice. In these days of anguish, may God bring us the peace that passes understanding and powerfully engage us to be peace-makers.

In Christ, Bishop Rick Jaech