



Gifts aren't only gifts because we want them. Sometimes they're just gifts because they're given. For all the giving and the getting of the coming season, there are gifts given but so easily missed. The gift of the Christ, of course, can somehow be missed. Even when we put him on display, somehow, as happens so easily with children, he can seem gone before we know it.

Time is a gift. It's why we have Advent, really. To take time. We also have Advent because we need to be given time to comprehend the greatness of a God who can become small for our sakes and in becoming small somehow not lose one ounce of heavenly grace and power. So, let's take time together. Let's be mindful that the unnamed gift of each Sunday assembling is time. We get an hour. For that whole hour, there is nothing we need to do but be and listen, taste and see something that in its simplicity and freedom is new and unlike anything else the world gives. We take a month to wonder at why God would ever make a home among us, and to wonder if we are, after all, constantly missing signs that God's home is still among us. We also have Wednesday evenings together. Soup and bread at six in Grace Hall; Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 in the sanctuary. You've been hearing enough from me for the past year, so a few of your friends from the church will be speaking at Evening prayer. God knows what they're going to say, but I don't, and to me that unknown is a big gift.

Advent is also a good time to experience our God who holds all times together through the plural voices of the lectionary (the pattern of Sunday readings that we hear together throughout the year). We always hear the hope of the prophets and the witness of the apostles before we hear from Jesus himself right at the center of our service. In a way, by layering these voices, the Spirit is proclaiming the One who was and is and is to come. In Advent it gets even richer. The first Gospel reading comes from late in Luke's Gospel when Jesus is at the doorstep of Jerusalem and the veil between heaven and earth is especially thin. The following two Sundays, we look just past the birth of the Christ to see and hear John the Baptizer out in the wilderness looking to future things. The fourth Sunday, just days before the Nativity, we spend time with pregnant Mary and Elizabeth. It is as if the lectionary is saying the whole world has been pregnant until now with God's promise.

Thank God for these times.

+Pastor Nels



Olympic Lutherhaven News – Fall 2018

Olympic Lutherhaven is closed for the season, getting a rest from the busy-ness of Summer. The Board continues to meet the last Thursday of every month except for December. We are searching for someone to be one of Vinland's Board Members for the next 2 years; Brandy Weir will continue to serve, but Sherry's term is ending. Please talk with Sherry Gutierrez if you are possibly interested in serving in this important role.

Vinland's Family Camp is schedule for July 12 -18 and our Picnic is July 14. All Church Camp will take place August 3-8, 2019.

Lutherhaven's new approach to work party participation is that each Member Church is spearheading two different work parties during the year. This means that on their chosen work party dates, the member church will make a special effort to have many members participate in the work party with the tasks determined and advertised in advance so that participants are prepared with appropriate tools. We from Vinland Lutheran Church had our first work party date in October. The perimeter of the volleyball court on the picnic side was cleared and the debris raked; this job was done to make way for new sand to be delivered for the volleyball court and the waterfront "beach" area. We also began cutting back the overgrown bushes and alders along the waterfront to the left side of the boat launching area. As a participant in this work party with my family and two others, I found it a gratifying way to be helpful as we worked together to make the picnic side an even more welcoming place. I really encourage more of you to participate next time our turn roles around! Lutherhaven is a great place to be and work! As vice-president, Paul Hokanson is the Lutherhaven Board's work party coordinator and he helps the churches determine the jobs to be done. It is fun to participate in work parties with our fellow congregants doing tasks that increase and maintain the beauty and functionality of Lutherhaven!

Lutherhaven's Annual Clean Up will happen on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this endeavor. Please put it on your calendars now.

In the coming year, we are planning on having a fundraising event for Lutherhaven in order to meet the financial needs without raising member rates. The event may be an auction and/or a special dinner for people from all member churches to attend. The Board is seeking planners for this event. If you are interested in serving on the planning team, let Sherry or Brandy know. The goal is to raise \$10,000. We can do it and it will be a great way to build camaraderie and cohesiveness in our mutual ministry at Lutherhaven! Lutherhaven is a gift from God to us and we are the Blessed Stewards. Praise be to God!

~Sincerely, Sherry Gutierrez, OLH Board President

FAMILY CAMP 2019



If you want to get a head start on the very popular trivia contest held at camp, you will need to read the newsletter VERY CAREFULLY each month, for Matt Clucas has entrusted me with a clue to be hidden in the content!!

Holiday Worship Schedule

One Worship Service starting December 7, 9:30

Christmas Eve, 4pm and 9pm

Epiphany

Sunday, January 6 we celebrate the 12th day of Christmas, known in the church year as Epiphany.

Join us for a glorious morning of jubilant worship. We will have some surprises for the kids during Sunday School.



EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US,

As we wait for peace in the midst of war, be with us.

As we pray for families to be reunited, be with us.

As we pray for enemies to be reconciled, be with us.

As we pray for lands to be restored, be with us.

As we pray for long-term security, be with us.

As we pray for kindness and community, be with us.

Restore and set right our relationships.
Replace the darkness in our hearts with your light and joy.
Let your word set alight the hope the world needs
to bring to life your love and justice.

Amen

REJOICING IN FELLOWSHIP



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

Gluttony—the over-accumulation is the sin of the month.

Always lively! Bring a friend.



PINOCHLE resumes in January

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, Dec. 1 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



SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH will meet at Jan and Ernest Janzen's home on **MONDAY, DEC. 3 at 11:30am.**

Bring a side dish to go along with Swedish Meatballs and Potatoes.

Sign up in Grace Hall.

A Gift Worth Giving

Alternative Market

Sundays, Dec. 2, 9 and 16

Wednesday nights, Dec. 5 and 12

Ways that you can participate....



On Sunday December 2nd (the first Sunday of Advent) Lutheran World Hunger Barn Banks will be handed out to members of the congregation.

These are to be taken home and filled with change during the month of December, then returned on Epiphany (January 6th).



SECURITY



EDUCATION



RESPONSIBILITY



RIGHTS



VALUE

The Alternative and Fair Trade Market will be set up in Grace Hall and will be open on the first three Sundays in Advent and Wednesday during the soup suppers. There will be fair traded food and handcrafts from SERRV available as well as Lutheran World Hunger alternative gift ornaments.

WOMEN'S

groups

Women ^{of the} ELCA 



Christmas Gatherings



Busy Moms Painting Christmas Party!

Friday, Nov. 30 at 6pm in Grace Hall

Be prepared to have fun, eat good snacks and paint a picture at the annual Busy Moms Christmas Get Together. Bring a sweet or savory snack to share.



Christmas Memory Sharing and Cookie Exchange hosted by the Women of Grace on Monday, Dec. 17 at 6pm.

Bring a tradition, memento or memory to share with the group and a plate of cookies. What we don't eat we will share with one another.



Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Women of Vinland on Wed, Dec. 19 from 10am to noon.

Bring a potluck dish to share and dessert will be provided. Lots of carol singing and a couple of extra surprises that you don't want to miss.

Holiday Concerts



One of the best ways to get in the holiday spirit is supporting local music groups performing some of your favorite secular and sacred Christmas songs. Dates, locations, and times are presumed accurate, but please double check their flyers and websites.



The Independents Chorus – A Community Christmas Concert

December 15 at Village Green in Kingston at 5:30
December 16 at Crista Shores at 7:00



Poulsbo Community Orchestra - Christmas Concert

December 2 at 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm donations accepted
NKHS Community Auditorium



Navy Band Northwest - Holiday Concert

December 6 at 7 pm
Bremerton High School Auditorium



North Kitsap High Band Concert

December 6, 7-9pm
NKHS Community Auditorium



Hometown Band - Christmas Concerts

December 8 at 7:00 at Silverdale Lutheran
December 12 at 7:30 at Bethany Lutheran on BI
December 22 at 2pm at Hansville Community Center



Community Christmas Concert

December 11 at 2 pm
First Lutheran Church, Poulsbo



North Kitsap High Choir Concert

December 12, 7-8:30pm
NKHS Community Auditorium



Bainbridge Chorale - Sing We Now of Christmas

December 14 and 15 at 7pm. Dec. 15 and 16 at 3pm Paid admission tickets needed.
Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church

advent at vinland

Wednesdays in Advent

SOUP SUPPER
6PM

HOLDEN
EVENING
PRAYER
6:30-7pm

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19



There is a sign-up sheet in Grace Hall for soup and bread. You don't have to be Martha Stewart to bring either one! All is appreciated. Thanks to the LOFT kids and their families for providing soup and bread on November 28.

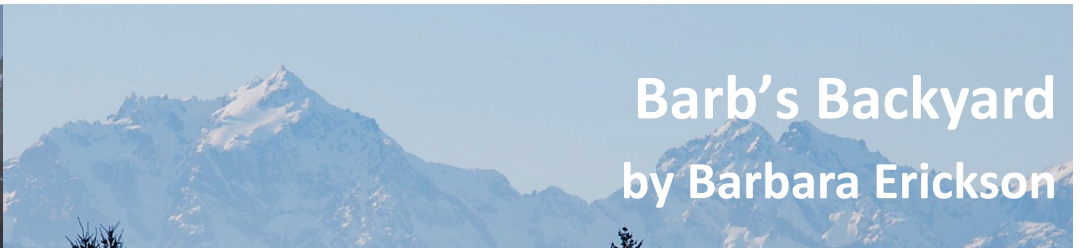


"COME AS YOU ARE" CHRISTMAS PAGEANT MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AT 4PM

All children are invited to the lowest stress, least prepared Christmas pageant in the history of modern Christendom. Encourage your kids to create custom costumes of their favorite nativity characters. We could end up with 15 shepherds, 2 sheep, and an Angel Gabriel that looks like a ninja! But that is ok. The point of this service is to reaffirm the truth that no matter what you look like, or where you came from, or what you've done, God still would have sent his Son just for you.

Kids will practice songs during Sunday School from now until Christmas Eve!!

Does anyone recognize the little angel?



Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson

When venturing out these evenings, I am mesmerized by lights. Recently, long lines of cars filled the late autumn darkness with what seemed like a thousand glistening spider webs, awesome in their perfection. White, bluish, and red, they appeared as the frozen, steady glow of large individual sparks from a giant Fourth of July sparkler. Honestly, they're hard to describe in their brilliant uniqueness. And it's all because of my "new eyes."

I distinctly remember the small room and hallway; it seemed like a whole new world to my left eye. No one told me that my vision had darkened, yellowed, and become blurry THAT much. Possibly they did, but I hadn't believed them. I thought I could see just fine; could still read, if the light was bright enough; could still see traffic signs, if I got close enough. I'd put off the surgery for a few years, knowing it was just a matter of time before I'd **really** need it. The eye doctor told me that everyone, if they lived long enough, was likely to develop cataracts. Also, that the procedures had improved over time, there were choices as to what kind of lens to have put in, and that the success rate was high. I didn't fear the surgery, but life was busy, and I just couldn't be bothered. When I finally decided to go ahead, the results were more than I ever expected.

After the second surgery, my right eye took longer to heal and focus. During the first long week of recovery, the thought occurred to me that I might never see well through that eye again. There was always that slight possibility, of course, but I clung to the hope that all would end well. Fortunately, it did, and I was greatly surprised by the vision I now have: objects in clear focus both near and far; colors that look pleasingly different from before; overall, a brighter, whiter world. The new artificial lenses in my eyes allow me to see all this, BUT, bright lights shining directly at me (including the myriad stars in the night sky...) appear with these magnificent prisms of light radiating out of them.

Life is full of risks, and sometimes we have no option about taking them. Often, however, we can choose and must carefully weigh what's at stake and if the risk is worth it. This year, during this season, I contemplate what vision really is and wonder: What if Mary had never believed the angel and had run away or Joseph had rejected her as she was, unborn child and all? What if the journey to Bethlehem had never been taken or the innkeeper had found room for two more? What if the shepherds had hidden in fear or the angels had been out on strike? What if the Magi had miscalculated the position of that one bright star or had done exactly as King Herod requested? What if we find we don't really believe it at all? What is it we think we see and does or can that vision ever change?

My faith journey, as perhaps yours, has been long, meandering, and evolving. I've taken some wrong turns and come to some dead ends, hit some slick spots and lost control. I've had to stop to re-fuel or just take a rest, but I've kept going just the same. For I know that I'm not the main driver; the light continues to shine, directing and guiding my trek through this thing called life. Sometimes, it even appears as a giant sparkler, giving me joy in the darkest of nights.

This season, I wish the same for you.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

~John 8: 12



Honoring God by nurturing children's relationships



At preschool we are excited for the holidays, bringing a special focus on thanks and the celebration of Christ's birth. Children can deeply understand ideas of thanks, birth and love. Our weekly themes, stories, songs and activities teach our little ones these big ideas. It is especially fun to bring the Christmas story to life in our classroom.

Every November the preschool joins in Good Sam's efforts to collect food to donate to Fishline in Poulsbo. We encourage each preschool family to include their preschooler in the process of choosing an item to sign up for, shopping, and bringing in their donations to add to the collection table. We try to make giving super fun with Turkey Posters for each class. The children bring in dollars to tape on the posters as turkey tailfeathers. We count them up together each day. We began the tailfeather bucks last year to fund turkey purchases, and it has turned out to be a highlight. In class we talk a lot about the good feelings of sharing and giving to others who may be hungry, working to create a true experience of giving with generosity for the children. This year our preschool families donated over 200 nonperishable items and \$140 to help Good Sam.

If you are ever at church on a Wednesday around lunch time, you may hear joyous singing coming from the sanctuary. The 24 children in our morning classes and 13 children in our afternoon class gather with Miss Anita (Puzon) each week to share music. The preschoolers learn songs that children have learned for generations, like, Mary Had a Little Lamb, He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, Itsy Bitsy Spider, The Wise Man Built his House upon the Rock, and on and on. It lifts my soul to witness their delight in these old standards. With Christmas approaching, the repertoire shifts toward songs about the baby Jesus and Rudolf, but the happy, energetic voices remain.

During this season, please take time for quiet connection and togetherness with those you hold dear, especially the little ones. Share your traditions and memories with our eager new generation and breathe in their fresh perspective. Holidays through a child's eyes are simply magical. Catch their magic! Blessings on your holidays!

Contact: Janean Moriarty preschool@vinlandlc.org (360)865-0510
Like us on Facebook at Vinland Lutheran Preschool





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

From time to time, I will publish articles, letters or statements from our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton or the Bishop of our Southwestern Washington Synod, Rick Jaech.

"Evangelical" in "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" means "good news." If you would like to read more about the ELCA go to the website. <https://elca.org>

ELCA Bishop Eaton's formal response to the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting

10/27/2018 4:15:00 PM

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write to you with a broken heart – for the lives lost, wounded, and shattered by horrific hatred and violence at Tree of Life Congregation this morning. We join our Jewish neighbors and enter into mourning for all that has been lost. In our grief, God is our comfort. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).

From Pittsburgh to Portland, and around the world, Jews are living in fear. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Public acts of hatred and bigotry against Jews are commonplace. As Christians, and particularly as Lutherans, we deplore and reject this bigotry. "We recognize in anti-Semitism a contradiction and affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling, and we pledge this church to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us" (1994 Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community).

We are reminded that hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, or a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh. As people of faith, we are bound together not only in our mourning, but also in our response.

Therefore, in this tender moment of grief, let us reach out to those whose hearts are most broken – our Jewish neighbors. Who was the first American in Space? I encourage you to contact your local synagogue, or your Jewish colleagues, friends, and family members, to share your words of care, support, love, and protection. There may be specific acts you might offer to demonstrate your care, such as when the members of Faith Lutheran Church surrounded Congregation Beth Israel of Chico, California, serving as *Shomrim*, or guardians, as they observed Yom Kippur following a hate crime in 2009.

Such simple acts can go a long way to demonstrate our love, as an extension of God's love. As we seek to heal the brokenhearted, we are assured that God is near. There is no greater promise in the face of grief.

*In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA*

REJOICING IN WORSHIP

Members and friends of Vinland Lutheran Church,

At our last meeting, your Council voted unanimously to move to a single service format for Sunday morning worship starting in the new year. The service time will be at 9:30, our customary single service time.

We took this action for several reasons. Attendance at the second service has been waning now for some time, in part because of the time of the service and because our current format does not provide an opportunity for either Sunday School or adult education for attendees at the later service. Most importantly, we also have heard from a broad cross section of the Congregation that you enjoyed our single services this past summer, particularly valuing worshipping together as one community.

There will be adjustments of course. We'll be experimenting, as we did last summer, exploring a variety of musical genres and liturgical settings. There will be Sundays that look a lot like our contemporary service, Sundays that look a lot like our traditional service, and many Sundays that incorporate elements of both to lift our hearts to the Lord.

Our transition to a single service is not the end all for worship opportunities at Vinland. Of course the Council will be closely monitoring our new format as we go forward into the new year. But our worship service responsibilities are larger than that. Led by Pastor Nels, the Council has started conversation about a possible evening service to see if that might "fix" some of our service time issues and appeal to a community demographic of time stressed families who find it challenging to make a Sunday morning service. In any case, your Council remains engaged in discovering the worship format that best suits our Congregation and the community we live in.

In faith,
The VLC Council

A graphic with the words "JOB OPENING" in large, bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters. The text is set against a background of light blue rays emanating from behind the letters, creating a sunburst effect. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin blue border.

"Vinland LC is seeking an energetic person to become the "Facility Coordinator" for the Church. This is a part time/contract position and would serve as the point of contact for those who wish to rent our facility for weddings, etc.

Please contact Peter Hansen for additional information"

BUDGET INFORMATION

To the Vinland Lutheran Worship Community,

We are a worshipping community, called by God to be an embodiment of His Church. We also exist in a secular world with bills, a pastor and staff to pay, and facilities needing both maintenance and renovation. Your Council has the responsibility to steward our resources to meet these fiscal needs – we do this guided by an annual budget approved by you, the Congregation, at our annual meeting in January. The Council has been hard at work and has now finalized a 2019 budget to present to you.

This year the Council took a zero base budgeting approach, carefully examining what line items should be in the budget and determining new budget estimates based on our current programs and anticipated costs. Many of the budget items remained the same, but instead of rolling over and adjusting numbers, we developed new budget allocations and priorities based on a bottoms-up estimate of our 2019 needs.

Our proposed budget for next year is \$395,664, an 11.6% increase compared to the 2018 budget of \$354,397. This reflects \$30,000 budgeted to purchase and install a new sound system for the Sanctuary to fix the problems we have with the two sound systems in place.

Considering our operating expenses, the 2019 budget is a \$15,267 increase (4.3%) over the 2018 budget. This increase is driven largely by new guidelines from the Synod on compensation for pastors and staff. Suggested minimums for pastoral salaries were recently adjusted upward to reflect equity with public school teachers with similar educational credentials. The Synod also recommended a 3.275% cost of living increase for staff members. The Council has voted to increase staff salaries by the recommended amount. We also have voted to pay Pastor Nels 110% of the Synod recommended minimum salary corresponding to his years of experience.

The Council has retained a \$10,000 budget line item for property maintenance. The Council feels that this, in conjunction with the contingency fund we established earlier this year, is sufficient to meet almost any property emergency we may encounter. We have added \$4500 to the landscaping budget because we unable to muster enough volunteer help to maintain our grounds.

A summary of the 2019 budget is on the reverse side. If you want to see more detail, the complete budget is available as an Excel file, or we can arrange to have one printed for you and available in the office. Ask any Council member for details; we'll also have a Q&A listening post in early December.

In faith,

The VLC Council

Vinland Lutheran Church Proposed 2019 Budget

	Proposed 2019	2018 Budget	Difference	Comments
Pastoral Expenses	\$ 102,391	\$ 97,737	\$ 4,654	Salary @ 110% of new Synod Minimum Guidelines
			\$ -	
Staff Salaries	\$ 94,825	\$ 90,482	\$ 4,343	reflects Synod recommended 3.275% COLA increase (all currently filled positions)
			\$ -	
Benevolences	\$ 24,837	\$ 24,643	\$ 194	Synod remains at 5%, increase local from 2% to 2.5 %
			\$ -	
Other Parish Life	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,400	\$ 1,100	largely additional babysitting expenses
			\$ -	
Music and Worship	\$ 19,181	\$ 22,705	\$ (3,524)	\$4K sound system in 2018 moved to Sanctuary Improvements line
Operating Expenses	\$ 53,810	\$ 49,310	\$ 4,500	1.06 x 2017 actuals with \$10K for maintenance & repair and \$4.5 plusup for landscaping
Fixed Expenses	\$ 65,120	\$ 65,120		mortgage, Lutherhaven fees
Sanctuary Improvements	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	new Sanctuary sound system
2019 Budget Total	\$ 395,664	\$ 354,397	\$ 41,267	plus \$9K in salary, + \$26 in capital, +\$4.5K in operating expenses,+1.7K misc

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

Kelle Horn	12/1	Heidi Becker	12/14
Clint Hurda	12/3	Bob Wenzlaff	12/18
Ginger Ceraldi	12/8	Lisa Michael	12/22
Catrina Stroud	12/9	Kristofer Kollmorgen	12/24
Marian Rova	12/10	Marty Dasler	12/24
Tammie Rabura	12/11	John Brock	12/27
Greta Ceraldi	12/12		
Michael McMahon	12/12		
Jen Nelson	12/12		
Sarah Nelson	12/12		

Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.



CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM & 9PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



John & Glenyce Ross	12/6
Kristofer & April Kollmorgen`	12/10
Jon & Jen Nelson	12/28

DECEMBER 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



Lefse rolling on Saturday, Dec. 9
Lefse, Craft and Bake Sale Dec. 10



GRAPHICSPERSITE.COM