

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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



## JANUARY 2019

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 Youth: Lisa Michael  
 Secretary: Kristine Clucas  
 Communication: Marsha Wright

Preschool Director: Janean Moriarty  
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## ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 27

After the 9:30 worship service, 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.

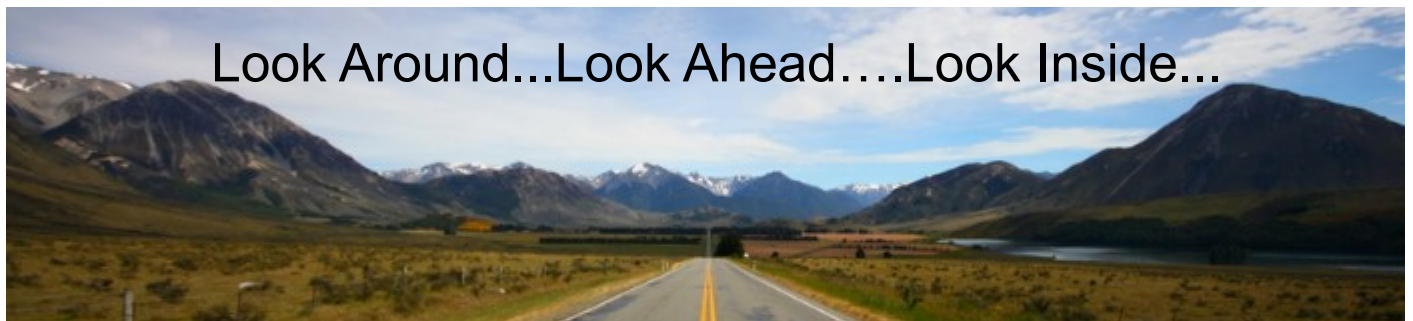


It is time to take a look! As we look at the church calendar, we see that the season of Epiphany begins on January 6. This season is a time when we take a cue from the wise men and take a look at what God is revealing to us in the sky above, in the words of ancient Scripture, in the Infant Jesus and in the recesses of our very heart and soul.

The wise men who came “from the East” represent for us the Good News that God sent the Infant Jesus to earth to save ALL people from every part of the world. Therefore, Epiphany offers a good time to look around at all the people in your neighborhood, workplace and circle of friends and invite them to worship.

The gifts the wise men brought to Jesus foretold the future of this tiny baby now before them. The royal gift of gold signifies the kingship of Jesus, who will reign over heaven and earth forevermore. Frankincense, a fragrant gum resin, was burned as incense in places of worship, and denotes the future priesthood of Christ. Myrrh is a perfume often used in embalming, so it is a reminder that Christ will die for our sins and be laid in a tomb before his resurrection on Easter day.

Use this season of Epiphany (revelation) to see what gifts God has given you and put them to use!



The new church year began in November with the season of Advent. The secular calendar that orders our days begins on January 1. Both new years offer us a fresh slate and a time for reflection. The following is from author Joyce Rupp.

*“Our life is a journey. We are always on the road. Each time another January greets us, we have an opportunity to pause, to see where we have been, to notice how far we have come, and to ponder how that journey has been for us. Each new year is also a time to clear our vision, to take stock of our resources, and to refresh our dreams as we set out once more on the journey that is ours.*

*The beginning of the new year is a good time to get out our road maps of life. We can gain wisdom by looking at the places of our hearts where we have traveled during the past year. As we look back over the journey, it is helpful to identify the places that blessed us, affirmed us, enlivened us and enriched us. We also need to reflect on the situations that challenged us, tested us, discouraged us, or maybe even tried to destroy us.*

*Whenever we walk into a new year, we are invited to enter into the unknown. We do not know what events will surprise us along the way. But we can risk the road because we have the tremendous assurance that God goes with us on the journey.”*

# LUTHERHAVEN CLEAN-UP DAY

The next **Olympic Lutherhaven work party is scheduled for 9 AM through noon, Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**. If you have tools/equipment that you are willing to use to work on tasks, please bring them along with appropriate clothing (gloves, boots, rain gear) and safety gear as Olympic Lutherhaven has limited quantities. Tasks to consider are the following:

## Picnic Area

- Move firewood from Caretaker house to Picnic Wood shelter
- Cut down/remove growth along waterfront fence
- Inspect Lifejackets for safety & determine size needs
- Repair/replace outdoor shower (Paul Davis)

## Camp Area

- Split wood and put in Wood Shed

## Caretaker House/Garage

- Check Garage roof for possible leak
- Replace Garage side door molding
- Measure for House attic insulation

## ALTERNATIVE MARKET UPDATE

- Tammie Rabura

Don't forget to fill your Barn Banks then bring them to church on Epiphany Sunday (January 6<sup>th</sup>)  
Money collected supports ELCA World Hunger.

Thank you for supporting the Alternative and Fair Trade Market during advent.

\$755.61 in Serrv products were sold, supporting artisans around the world.

\$244.00 ELCA/Good Gifts were purchased and

\$79.54 in donations and profits were given to Fishline







# WOMEN'S groups

Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

## Women of Vinland

New officers for the Women of Vinland were installed at the December meeting.

**President is Marilyn Maas-Jones, Vice-president is Lynn Gillet, Secretary is Willy Stuhlmiller, and Treasurer is Jean Danielson.**

The January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16 at 10:00 in Haugen Hall.

BOLD  
WOMEN'S  
DAY 2019

## Sunday, February 24

**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?



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

Jan. 7 we will discuss the power and possibility of focus words, phrases, affirmations, resolutions, etc. How can they make a difference in our lives in 2019? Bring ideas to share



## M.O.M.S. COMING EVENTS

**Thursday, Jan. 3: Hot Topic "To dye or not to dye?"**

**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 Welcome

Lisa Michael as our Director  
of Youth Ministry!



*"My family and I have lived in the Poulsbo area since June of 2017. We moved from Shelton Washington. Mike is an Engineer Manager for the City of Bainbridge Island and I am a Stay at Home Mom.*

*We have five children, Kyle & Mike, Melissa, Daemion and Gracelynn.*

*We love family activities and are big into Drag Racing, camping, and doing fun outdoor things, as well as having lots of game nights, movie nights and just hanging out together.*

*When I am home, I love being a homebody. I enjoy baking, sewing, reading, and knitting. My "current" job is mastering the art of Etsy, where I sell the fun things I make, such as knitting markers, hand dyed yarns, and project bags. Currently, we are renovating our new house that we bought this last summer. It has had its challenges and rewards, all at the same time!*

*I want to say thank you to Vinland Lutheran Church for this opportunity to be Director of Youth Ministry. I look forward to meeting all the great youth and their families!"*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL EPIPHANY



On January 6 the children will bring gifts in honor of the infant Jesus. What do you give a newborn baby? Diapers, wipes, baby food, formula are some of the needs. The kids will bring the items forward during the offering time and lay them in the manger. They will also be "chalking" a blessing on the church doors and hopefully, on their doors at home. Paper stars will be brought home and their families will write "focus words" on them for the coming year.



## Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser

**Saturday, February 2  
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 soon!



# good stuff



## DIALOGUE ON DRAFT

Monday, Jan. 29 at 6pm 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!



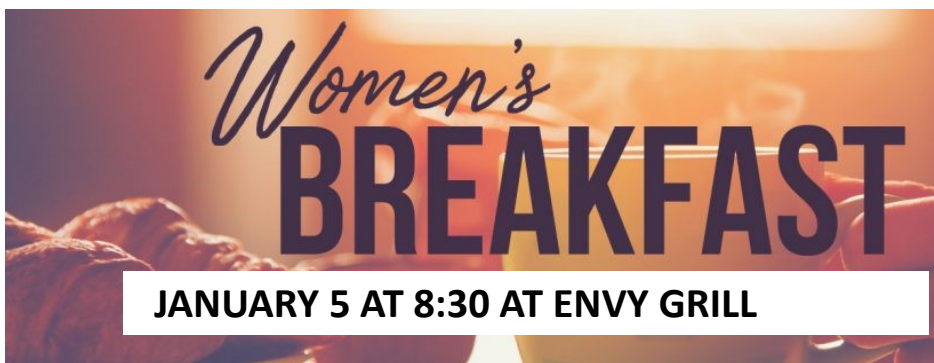
## THURSDAY LECTIONARY LUNCH @11:30

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.



*Breakfast discussion will be devoted to planning for our Super Bowl Party on February 3rd.*

Who knows..... we might even have the Hawks playing in the game. We have a good start right now, but there will be plenty of need for your help. So far Rand has made arrangements for a big screen projector, Dennis will be handling the food planning (burgers, dogs, buns and pop) and we will use paper plates to simplify cleanup. We will be asking attendees to do a potluck and bring chips, salads, desserts, and condiments. Clint Hurda and Lisa Michaels will be managing activities for the small kids including help from the church youth group.



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

***It started out innocently enough. A well-intentioned comment was unfortunately misconstrued and WHAM! Hurt feelings. It happens to all of us.***

Compared to my daily attire I was somewhat dressed up, wearing a newly-purchased burgundy red skirt with navy blue top and matching tights. I was pleased with this outfit and feeling a bit cocky, I guess. Then Bill made his remark: "Wow, you look like the Queen of England!" To which I quickly replied: "I do NOT!" Then I further explained that, although I had nothing against the Queen, I was not a stuffy, dumpy, little old lady, as I perceived her to be. Talk about insults. "No, that's not what I meant." Bill continued. "I mean, that skirt is a rich royal color, like what a queen might wear. It looks good on you—I meant it as a compliment." Oh...

It's not the first time my thoughts have jumped out of my mouth prematurely. I'm sure it won't be the last. It seems to be a basic problem with human communication: what you think you say about what you think is not at all what the other person hears and thinks you said, because they are thinking their own thoughts. ***Know what order the James Bond movies were released.*** Thinking is a wonderful thing, most of the time, but it can and does mislead us. Accurately hearing what the other person is saying, if we are even listening, is critical. Because I am such a visual person, I know that I immediately picture in my mind what it is the other person is saying. I also know that I'm sometimes totally wrong. It helps to clarify by repeating what you think the person said before adding your own reply.

To complicate matters, everyone is different when it come to speaking one's mind. Some of us are more articulate than others; some write their thoughts better than speaking them. Then there are those who think others can just read their minds...

With another new year beginning, many are making resolutions to improve themselves or their lives—or at least considering making those. More recently, it's become popular to choose a word for the year, with the intention of focusing on that as a way of improving oneself. I don't do well with resolutions, but I do like to set a goal or two for the year. Although I reach those with varying degrees of success, it gives me something to aim for. I also like choosing a word or statement and in past years have chosen **listen**, **focus**, and **one step at a time** as my word(s) for the year. This year, I'm taking my words from the 1989 book ***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People***, by Dr. Stephen Covey. In it, he stated:

***"If I were to summarize in one sentence the single most important principle I have learned in the field of interpersonal relations, it would be this: Seek first to understand, then to be understood."***

I think I have my work cut out for me, but that's good because I like challenges. Whatever method you choose, I hope that you also will seek some way to improve your life in the coming year. Secretly, I really would like to appear as dignified as the Queen of England. How about you?

***Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.***

***Proverbs 29:20***

***"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."~ Isaiah 55: 8 - 9***



# Annual Meeting Sack Lunches

**Yum!**



The preschool is taking orders for their popular brown-bag lunches to energize us for the annual meeting on Jan 27. There is a choice of meats and cheeses or the popular PB&J. Fruit, chips and a cookie complete the meal.



# Super Bowl Party



**WHEN? SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEB. 3**

**WHERE? AT CHURCH!**

**WHO? EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

**WHY? TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER!**

The Men's Breakfast Gang is organizing this fun event. More details to come!



## Christmas Greeting from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Christmas comes at a descending time. The old year is coming to an end, the new year is not yet here. It is too late to accomplish goals set on the previous New Year's Day, and just enough time to realize that whatever shape or state you are in will be the shape or state in which you end the year. There is a hefty dose of "what-might-have-been."

In the Northern Hemisphere the trees are bare, fields are barren, birds have migrated, animals are hibernating, the days are short and the nights are long. The earth's colors are muted, and when there is snow the world becomes silent. Sometimes during these short days and long nights I find myself thinking about the brevity of life. This conflicts with my tendency to believe that the possibility of self-improvement and renewal is limitless: there is always another day, more time, another chance. I remember watching our first child as she slept in her cradle, thinking about the future before her and, at the same time, the reality that there would be an end. The Ash Wednesday declaration, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," became more pointed and more poignant. The cradle-to-grave progression is our path; the inevitable decline of our strength.

"As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more" (Psalm 103:15).

Maybe this is why the Christmas season can be so fraught. Of course, there is anticipation and celebration, but there is also pressure and stress. Perhaps we are trying to greet the Lord's birth with our best efforts (when I was a girl, Christmas preparations were not complete until the silver was polished, and that job fell to me), but desperation can creep into the urgency to get Christmas right, to hold back the night. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" (ELW, 279). This is freight that Christmas can't carry when Christmas depends on us.

But Christmas also comes at an opportune time. God did not come to us that first Christmas when we were at the top of our game or when the world was perfect. Even the circumstances of Jesus' birth were a sharp reminder that all was not well – forced migration to Bethlehem, no room for the young family, born in a stall. Emmanuel – God with us – came to us and comes to us precisely at the time when our need is greatest. Our attempts to bring about perfection actually get in the way of receiving the gift. When we try to fit into an unrealistic ideal of who we ought to be instead of welcoming God into our real self, no matter how messy, then what is left on the 13th day of Christmas? Fatigue, certainly, but also the dull acceptance that life moves from cradle to grave.

On Christmas, God has reversed the cradle to grave progression. The angel announced to the shepherds:

*"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."*

Here is the new reality. Here is the truth. Our lives are not a meaningless trudge from cradle to grave, but a joyful journey – true and lasting joy – from grave to cradle. All our brokenness and death meet life and healing and hope in the child in the manger. His cradle defeats the grave. We are loved. We are alive. Now we are free to greet this holy season.

*Merry Christmas, dear church.*

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **CHRISTMAS GREETING** from Bishop Rick Jaech of our Synod

Dear Friends,

The Yale church historian, Roland Bainton, combed through the Christmas sermons of Martin Luther to pull out the highlights. On one Christmas Eve, Luther marveled at the faith and trust with which Mary opened herself to God's world-changing action. Luther said to his congregation that Christmas,

*"Her name was Mary. I think she was probably an orphan. And the angel said to her, 'Dear Mary, you are more blessed than any woman that ever lived or ever shall live. For you shall bear a child, and you shall call his name Jesus. And he shall sit upon the throne of his father David, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.'*

*Mary was flesh and blood. She said, 'How can these things be?' And Gabriel said, 'You've asked too big a one for me, Mary. I don't know. But the spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, and you will not know yourself how it has come to pass.'*

*And Mary believed.'" Then Luther said, "There are three wonders here: one, that God should become human; another, that a virgin should bear a child; and the third, that Mary believed. And this is the greatest of the three."*

In this Advent of 2018, to what is God inviting us to open ourselves? Where is God entering to bring new life to people and the world and inviting us to be bearers of that new life? I pray that the third great wonder will happen to us as it did to Mary: that the Spirit will agitate you and I to trust and say 'Yes' to God, no matter how much it turns our lives upside down.

In another Christmas sermon, Martin Luther bluntly tells the people of Wittenberg that, if they are opened and set free by God's grace to new life, it must make a visible difference in their daily treatment of the people around them, especially the homeless. Luther said in that Christmas sermon.

*"The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way. Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem! The inn ought to have been burned with brimstone, for even though Mary had been a beggar maid or unwed, anybody at such a time would have been glad to give her a hand. There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: 'If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!' Yes you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve your neighbor, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself."*

What would Martin Luther preach to us about the homeless in our cities? What would Luther say to us about the Honduran mothers and children needing shelter at our southern borders? More importantly, how is Christ calling us to open ourselves to God's grace and then to live that grace in concrete actions to others, whatever the cost?

As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas, may the wonder once again happen in us. May we be moved by the Spirit to say with Mary, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

In Christ, Bishop Rick Jaech