



Kelle Horn	12/1		
Adam Beers	12/3		
Brian Bratlien	12/6	Lou Puzon	12/14
Catrina Stroud	12/9	Heidi Becker	12/14
Marian Rova	12/10	Bob Wenzlaff	12/18
Tammie Rabura	12/11	Tom Lucas	12/19
Michael McMahan	12/12	Florence Paulson	12/23
Jen Nelson	12/12	Amanda Cain	12/24
Sarah Nelson	12/12	Ersle Gregersen	12/25

HAPPYANNIVERSARYTO...

- Don & Helen Cole 12/4
- John & Glenyce Ross 12/6
- Rob & Lori VanVlerah 12/17
- Lou & Anita Puzon 12/27
- Jon & Jen Nelson 12/28
- Nick & Kathy Gilman 12/31

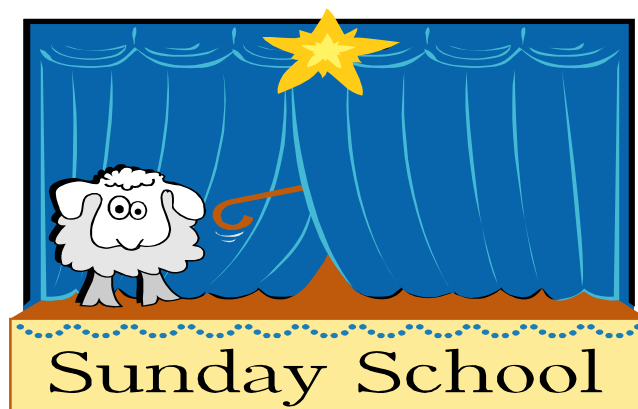
**PRAYER OF
OUR HEARTS**

*COME, Lord Jesus,
born of Love so extreme.
PREPARE within us
trusting hearts.
COMFORT your people
through your birth and
sacrifice for OUR sake.*

AMEN

contributed by Sharon Schmid

Vinland Lutheran Church, est. 1904
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 Poulsbo WA 98370 360-779-3428
 E-mail: vinland@vinlandlc.org
 Website: vinlandlc.org
 Pastor Charles Slocum
 Parish Life Associate Marsha Wright
 Youth & Family Minister Karyn Crawford
 Parish Secretary Megan Adrig
 Preschool Director Janean Moriarty



**Christmas
Program**

*Women of Vinland Lefse, Baked Goods
and Craft Sale Dec. 7
Kid's Christmas Program on
Dec. 14 at 11am. Youth-led worship service at 9:30.*





December 2014
Vinland Lutheran Church

King of Kings
Lord of Lords
Prince of Peace

“For to us a child is born, to
us a son is given, and the
government will be
on his shoulders.

And he will be called

**Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his
government and peace, there
will be no end.

He will reign on David’s
throne.”

Isaiah 9:6-7

December Sundays

- Dec. 7** **8:45 Sunday School**
 9:30 Worship
10:30 Women of Vinland’s Bake and
 Craft Sale and
The Alternative Market is Open!
- Dec. 14** **9:30 Youth-Led Worship**
 11:00 Kid’s Christmas Program
 “Christmas Letters”
- Dec. 21** **8:45 Sunday School**
 9:30 Choir Cantata
10:30 Reception in Grace Hall hosted
 by the Vinland staff
- Dec. 28** **9:30 “Carol Sing”**

Advent Wednesdays

Soup and Bread Supper at 6
Candlelight Service at 7

- Dec. 3 “The Soul Needs God”
Dec. 10 “The Soul Needs Hope”
Dec. 17 “The Soul Needs Rest”



Christmas

F'kulwvptv#Hyh#
Carols and Candles
and Holy Communion
Dec. 24
4pm and 9pm

pastor chuck believes, banter & blogs

Many Thanks from "The All Saints for Good Sam Fund Dinner"!

- To: Judy Wales and friends for preparing such a fine meal!
- To: Deitches, Settles, Pushns and Marj Kallem for buying the food!
- To: Our youth and their families who served and cleanup up!
- To: The Vinland congregation who donated \$1500 for Good Sam!

More Thanks for Our Property Guys!

- To: Kurt Peterson for replacing ceiling tiles in Haugen Hall
- To: Don Mills and Team who completed painting the old building
- To: Dennis Deitch for updating and upgrading our insurance

Go Blogging with Pastor Chuck!

<http://pastorchuckstakeaway.wordpress.com/> There is also a direct link to the blog on the home page of our website.

Lectionary Lunch is on break in December; resumes January 18

Men's Breakfast gathers Saturday, December 6 at 8:00 AM

Calling all the brethren who like breakfast with brothers in Christ. After a BIG breakfast we exchange thoughts, wisdom(?), & expertise around a current event in the headlines. Always good fellowship!

Lunch Bunch meets Monday, December 8 at 11:30 AM

Envy's in Poulsbo! This month we stay close for good food and great conversation.

Dialogue on Draft Holiday Edition

Sunday, December 21: "Exodus: God's and Kings"

This month we'll meet Sunday afternoon to view the newly-released blockbuster about Moses and the Exodus. After the matinee we will convene at Campana's for food, fellowship and Exodus conversation.

Note of Sympathy

A memorial service was held on Nov. 14 for our dear friend Betty Rogstad. We continue to hold her family in prayer as they adjust to life without Betty.



barb's backyard

-Barbara Erickson



Looking back, we were pretty ignorant about the whole thing. But we had an old farm house, a small pasture with good grass, readily available irrigation, and we had read that sheep were easy to raise. We drove to a local farmers' auction, dead-set on getting some lambs. Surprisingly, we took the bid on a nice little flock of three, loaded them into the back of our small pickup, and home we came. Unloading them into the field, the fun began - those little lambs, in a strange place and separated from others of their kind, began a loud, plaintive bleating that we were sure could be heard in the next county; it went on for hours. Who knew???

That first tentative step into raising sheep taught us much, and when we moved from Idaho to Washington, we tried again - in fact, we tried several times. Each time, we managed to raise them to butchering size and were satisfied that we got a big pile of wool to spin and a good batch of meat for the freezer. This is not to say we were highly-knowledgeable sheep farmers. Far from it!

Two thousand years ago, on the other side of the world, the shepherd's equipment was very simple: a cloak woven from wool or made from sheepskins, a lighter, short-sleeved coat, a staff or club, a sling of goat's hair, a skin pouch or bag for his belongings, and sometimes a musical pipe.

In those days, shepherds knew their sheep. Unless he could afford to delegate the work to his relatives or hirelings, the sheep owner tended his flocks himself. If others watched them, they well may have been neglected or abused, but the owner had a personal interest in the well-being of the animals and if he herded them they usually had good care. Either way, the main job of the shepherd was to see that the sheep found plenty to eat and drink. The flocks are not fed in pens or folds, but depended on foraging both summer and winter. Sheep are fairly helpless on their own and do not possess the instinct of many other animals for finding their way, so they need to be led to good grazing and watered at least once a day. This was an easy matter on mountain tops with melting snows or if there were springs or streams, but in other places they depended on deep wells. Often the nearest water was hours away. Sometimes it could be found by digging shallow wells and the shepherd would carry a container from which the sheep could drink. The usual time for watering was at noon. After drinking, the animals huddled together in the shade of a rock while the shepherd slept. At the first sound of his call, usually a peculiar guttural sound, the flocks followed him to new feeding-grounds. They never mistook their own master's voice, even if the sheep intermingled and two shepherds called their flocks at the same time.

In the mountains, flocks were gathered at night into folds, which were caves or enclosures of rough stones. Where there was no danger the sheep huddled together in the open until daylight, while the shepherd watched over them. Lambs were often born far off on a mountain side. The shepherd guarded the mother during her labor, picked up the newborn and carried it to the fold. He might carry it in his arms or in the loose folds of his coat for a few days until it grew strong.

So very long ago - I often wish I had been there...

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."...The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them...The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:10-12, 15-18, 20

women's groups

Women of the ELCA Women of Vinland

All women are invited to the monthly gathering, which includes Bible Study, lunch, singing and a meeting. The Dec. 19 will be a potluck with the officers serving as hostesses. Anita Puzon will bring the devotions.

Women of Grace 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7pm



This is a lively bunch of women - some still working, some retired, some semi-retired, some just plain tired - who gather to draw upon each other's EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH and HOPE. We meet on the first and third Mondays at 7pm in Grace Hall.

Our December 15 meeting will be a fun evening of "cookies and memories."

Bring an item or memory to share with the group. Also, bring some cookies to enjoy with our tea.

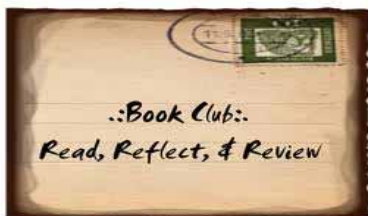
Quilters 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 9am

Fun-loving group meets to put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief and have coffee and lunch! Newcomers welcome! They currently need FLAT COLORED OR PRINT SHEETS.



Women's Breakfast

On the second Saturday of each month women of all ages meet at Envy Grill at the Poulsbo Junction at 8:30am.



Last Tuesday Women's Book Group

We meet on the last Tuesday of each month to discuss a book from the local library collection.

Come at 7pm on Nov.

Busy Moms

Looking for a fun group? Have kids school-age or younger? Then meet up with THE BUSY MOMS!

They are currently meeting at TWO times - different time and different focus. For those of you home on Mondays from 10-noon, join other moms to visit and watch the little kids play.

For those of you who work outside the home, come to Grace Hall on the first and third Tuesdays at 7pm.

kids and youth

Living Our Faith Together

Thank You so much to the Banzers, the Schmids and the Raburas for hosting our first High School Progressive Dinner!

Thank You to Glenn and Beachie Settle and Sharon Schmid for joining our potluck and prayer tour.

We are collecting warm, outdoor socks for the homeless in Seattle. They will be delivered during our High School Socks and Sandwiches Service Project on Jan. 11.

LOFT meets 5-7:30 Dec. 3, 10, 17

LOFT Christmas Party - on Wednesday, the 17th for 6th-12th graders. In lieu of bringing a gift to exchange, bring \$5 and we will shop together for Angel Tree Toys.



“Christmas Ball”
Friday, Dec. 19, 8-10pm

Celebrate the beginning of Christmas vacation with an evening of magical fun for all 6th to 12th graders and their friends!
Tickets are on sale in the LOFT for \$3 per person



Advent and Christmas We will be focusing on Advent and the hope, peace, joy and love we have in Jesus.

On Dec. 7 at 8:45am we will learn about the real St. Nicholas and fill Christmas mugs to deliver to special friends.

No Sunday School on Dec. 14.

Christmas party at 8:45 on Dec. 21.



Play Practice Schedule

NO PRACTICE NOV. 30

Sunday, Dec. 7 right after the 9:30 worship service

Saturday, Dec. 13: Dress Rehearsal at 1pm

Sunday, Dec. 14: leave church after the children's message to prepare for the pageant.



Preschool Vision “Honoring God by Nurturing Children’s Relationships”

-Janean Moriarty, Director

“So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.” Luke 2:16

At preschool we are excited for December, bringing a special focus on the celebration of Christ’s birth. Children can deeply understand ideas of birthdays and love. At the same time, the holidays can be a time of added “hurry, stress, activity and overstimulation.” I encouraged our preschool families to take time for quiet connection and togetherness during this season. This is good advice for all of us. Bedtime or meal times can be excellent opportunities to read, talk, listen and pray together. Make sure to share hugs and snuggles with the special people in your life every chance you can.

We thank the congregation for welcoming preschool families at our fall Preschool Sunday and for stopping by our open house. We thank Susan Gilbert for sharing her homing pigeon, White Cloud, with our classes in November. We continue to thank Anita Puzon for singing with our children and Mary Lou Reister for reading to us. We especially appreciate everyone who has volunteered to pray for our students. We are in need of a couple more prayer partners, since we’ve had some new students register this month.

We are happy to report that two new students joined our Grasshopper class (2 year old) in November. We had a new Dragonfly (3-5years old) begin in December. We continue to welcome new students and have openings in all classes. Please continue to share our preschool with your friends and neighbors.

Holidays through children’s eyes are simply magical. Catch the magic!

Many of our Middle and High School kids are involved in band and choir. It is fun to attend these concerts and recognize “our kids” singing or playing an instrument!



Poulsbo Middle School Band Concert	Tues, Dec. 2 at 7pm
Poulsbo Middle School Choir Concert	Tues, Dec. 16 at 7pm
NK High Band Concert	Thurs, Dec. 4 at 7pm
NK High Choir Concert	Thurs, Dec. 11 at 7pm
Kingston Middle School Band Concert	Mon, Dec. 15 at 7pm
Kingston High Winter Music Concert	Tues, Dec. 16 at 7pm

this and that



Good Sam Donations...

We will continue to collect food and household necessities in December. Please know that your donations are VERY MUCH APPRECIATED by the recipients. We are the hands of Jesus in this world. "I was hungry and you fed me....."

Remember.... local food banks are always in need of donations. When grocery shopping, pick up a few things to share.

Have you visited "Second Season Thrift Shop" in Poulsbo?

ALL PROCEEDS from sales go directly to Fishline Food Bank. They are always in need of gently-used items. They are open 10-5 Monday through Saturday. It is also a great place to do some shopping!!

share your
hristmas
card!

We will have a special spot in Grace Hall where you can post one of your Christmas cards (we love photos!) for everyone to enjoy.

It will be like a wonderful Christmas greeting station.



PINOCHLE!

Gather with friends for a potluck and a friendly game of cards. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Grace Hall.

We would love to have you play, but need to have a head-count before the game!

Friday, December 19

Potluck at 5:30

Cards dealt at 6:00

Please call

Jan Hakanson at 598-4882
or Julie Swenson at 779-6545
if you plan to play.

Christmas opportunities



Festival Singers Present a Christmas Cantata

*A gift of music during the December 21
Worship Service at 9:30am.*

*Vinland staff members will host a reception in
Grace Hall following worship.*

Poulsbo Community Orchestra Concert on Monday, December 8 at 7:30 in the sanctuary



In conjunction with our “Sundays at Two” series the Poulsbo Community Orchestra will present a concert at Vinland on Monday, December 8th at 7:30pm. Come and enjoy a beautiful evening of music and support our local orchestra.



Christmas in Big Valley

Nov. 21-Jan. 4 4:30-9:30pm

check out their website at: christmasinbigvalley.com

If you have never seen this magical Christmas Enchanted Trail of lights (over 65,000!), this is your year!

Matt Worden, co-owner of this venue, is graciously giving us 100 tickets to sell. All proceeds will go straight to Vinland!

The tickets are \$7 each and kids 6 and under are free.

December 12 - Face Painting and Crafts for Kids from 5-8pm

“Bethlehem Experience” at Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church on Bainbridge

December 5 and 6 from 6-8:30pm



Experience the true meaning of Christmas while driving through a 1st century village. This event is free. Visit the website at www.rbpres.org

seasonal

Advent Soup Supper and Holden Evening Vespers *Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17*



It would not be Advent without our award-winning soup and bread suppers followed by the peaceful Holden Evening Vespers Service.

There are sign-up sheets posted. If you can bring soup, bread or help with clean-up, that would be appreciated. More importantly...we want you to come and bring the whole family!

Supper at 6pm...Holden Evening Vespers at 7pm.

The Youth and their families will provide the entire meal on Dec. 3!



Alternative Gift Fair *on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14*

You are invited to shop at our Alternative Christmas Gift Fair. We'll have goods from all over the world purchased from SERRV, a not-for-profit organization. This means purchasing gifts made by craftspeople the world over who are given fair return on their goods. The purpose of offering these goods is to give the shopper an alternative to buying from large retailers.

Come and double the benefit of your Christmas spending.



Poinsettias!

We have ordered 20 poinsettias to grace the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The cost this year is \$10 per plant. If you would like to order a plant in honor or memory of someone special, forms are in the weekly bulletin, on the bulletin board or you can call the office (779-3428).

Preparing for the Christ Child....

A long-held custom in Scandinavian countries is to clean homes from top to bottom in preparation for Advent. Windows are polished, cobwebs attacked, kitchens scrubbed, floors polished...every little nook and cranny is given a thorough cleaning. Preparing their homes for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas is a very important ritual.

Take a good look around our church facilities and see if there is a spot you could clean in preparation for the Christ child. Isn't the church Christ's home? If you have a few hours to spare, bring some cleaning supplies and spend some time in Advent preparation.

There will be a poster in Grace Hall with some suggestions of things that need attention, but don't let that limit you! Windows always need cleaning, the pews could use polishing and the cushions vacuumed. How about dusting all those flat surfaces or thoroughly cleaning all the table tops?

We all want to help...sometimes we just don't know where to start!



Embrace December!



Declutter and donate. Go through clothing, toys and household items and donate them to a local charity. Also, go through your holiday decorations and donate any you no longer use or love.



Take a day off. We often get caught up in the hustle and bustle and forget to enjoy this time of year. So give yourself a day off from shopping, gift-wrapping, and baking. Take a walk and breathe deeply the crisp air. Or call a friend and enjoy a leisurely lunch.



Call someone you love. Our days are often over scheduled. Take time to call a loved one that you haven't talked to in a long time. Let them know how much you truly care.



Introduce yourself to a neighbor. Many of us may not know some of our neighbors because we become consumed with our busy lives. Take a plate of cookies and go meet a neighbor you don't know.



Grieve with someone. The holidays can be difficult for people who are recently divorced, separated or have lost a loved one to death. Let such a person know you are aware of their sadness and be ready to be a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on.



Let someone cut in front of you in line. Lines at stores can seem to stretch on forever during the holidays. Notice the stressed-out mom juggling a toddler or the elderly gentleman who seems tired from standing so long. Offer to let them move ahead of you in line.