

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY! *Happy Anniversary*

Kelle Horn	12/1
Catrina Stroud	12/9
Marian Rova	12/10
Tammie Rabura	12/11
Bruce Mansfield	12/12
Michael McMahon	12/12
Heidi Becker	12/14
Lou Puzon	12/14
Bob Wenzlaff	12/18
Florence Paulson	12/23
Ersle Gregersen	12/25
John Brock	12/27

Don & Helen Cole	12/4
John & Glenyce Ross	12/6
Lou & Anita Puzon	12/27
Jon & Jen Nelson	12/28



prayer of our hearts....

Precious Lord, Thank you for togetherness and that we BELONG.

From our first BELONGING as a CHILD OF GOD, may we extend GRACE to all to whom and to which we BELONG.

Amen

Sharon Schmid

Our dear friend, Lois Whannell, passed away on Oct. 15 at the home of her daughter Sue.

Lois was an expert quilter who worked diligently for the Vinland Quilters.

Les Oen died on Nov. 20 at Martha and Mary. He was 94 and a lifelong member of Vinland.

Blessed be their memories here at Vinland.

Single Services in Dec. 9:30am

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: Chuck Slocum
Lay Associate: Marsha Wright
Youth: Karyn Crawford
Secretary: Megan Adrig

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



2015

Lefse, Crafts and Bake Sale on Dec. 6

Christmas Eve Worship 4pm and 9pm

Carols, Candles and Communion



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE
4pm and 9pm



the VINYARD
Vinland Lutheran Church Dec. 2015

Single Service Worship in Dec. 9:30am



Advent Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16

Soup and Bread Suppers, 6pm

Holden Vespers 7pm



Lefse, Craft and Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 10:30

Youth-Led Worship Dec. 13, 9:30
Our wonderful teens will lead our worship service!

Kid's Christmas Program Dec. 13, 11am "Jesus, the Light of the World"
The age-old message through the words of our kids! Join them as we sing our favorite carols.



Christmas Cantata Dec. 20, 9:30am

Beautiful music, hopeful words...

Join us for a reception provided by the staff.



Here we Come, a' Caroling!

Wednesday, Dec. 23, we'll meet at church and head out from there!

Everyone is welcome to join the merriment.

We'll have song books; Bruce and Lisa Mansfield will be leading us.

Pastor Chuck: MISSION.BIBLE STUDIES.FELLOWSHIP

THANKS TO Rand Hein, Kurt Peterson, John Brock, Kelle Horn, and others who've helped put together our new acoustics in Grace Hall!

THANKS TO Bruce Mansfield for bringing in the NAVY BAND. What a marvelous way to remember and reflect on VETERAN'S DAY.

LUNCH BUNCH will meet at church for a potluck on Monday, December 7 at 11:30a.m For this SPECIAL EDITION of our Lunch Bunch we are gathering at Vinland for a potluck and program. Pastors Bob Winkel and Chuck Slocum will be leading conversation around "The Importance of Legacy" for our seniors.

Next **CONFIRMATION CLASS**: Saturday, December 5, 10 AM ! Matt & Kris Clucas is our host parent as we gather for study, service, + fellowship! Our next class is January 9 with Chris & Megan Adrig hosting.

DIALOGUE ON DRAFT Special Edition: Sunday, Dec. 27th PM This month we're going to the movies (TBA) and (maybe) meet to discuss.

Mexico Mission (March 31-April 8, 2016) open for registration To sign up for our house-building trip (spring break) to Tijuana there is a \$200 non-refundable/transferrable deposit to register that is due on Dec. 6. Mission Preparation: Sundays, Dec. 5 at 5:00 PM. For those registered for our mission project, your attendance is required.

LECTIONARY LUNCH Is taking a break until January 7

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, Dec. 5 at 8:30AM

PASTOR CHUCK will be away Dec. 10-13 for a family wedding.

Advent Wednesdays with Holden Vespers "ADVENT CHARACTERS"

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
Dec. 2	Mother Hannah	1 Samuel 1:4-20
The Mother of Samuel, whose name means "grace" is surprised to have a baby!		
Dec. 9	Prophet Habukkuk	Habukkuk 1:12-2:3
The prophet questions God as to when justice will finally come to an unjust world!		
Dec. 16	King Herod	Matthew 2:1-12
The ruthless king tries intrigue and infanticide to stop the true King from coming!		



Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson



Tom Adams and Dena Newkirk

The shepherds wore tennis shoes, Mary checked her makeup, one of the wise men got the giggles, and the sheep were noisy and nearly knocked the manger over to get to the hay...

When our son was young, I spent many years helping with Sunday School. Each year, inevitably, as fall progressed into winter the time came to plan for the yearly production - *Christmas Program*.

Things do not always go as smoothly with these things as we adults would sometimes like. We never knew for sure how many kids would be there each week for the essential costume "fittings", practicing of lines to say and songs to sing. And so one year, we tried a new approach.

In early November, we began to work on this Christmas program. We wanted to tell the story of Jesus' birth. We wanted music. We wanted everyone to be in it, and we wanted it to be a little different. Well, it certainly was.

Each week, we'd costume the kids on the spot, using whatever odds and ends we had on hand. Then, we'd head outdoors for a photo shoot, while I diligently tried to capture them on film (This was in the days before digital.) The first week, using everyone present, we asked the kids to become "Jews trudging to Judea"- across the back of the church property and through Muriel Dodge's pasture. The second week the younger kids were transformed into angels, complete with tinsel halos and wonderful, childish humor. The third week we met in a nearby field, hastily dressing preadolescent boys in scraps of burlap and other rough fabric. Handing them wooden staffs, we lit a small fire and cautiously tried to herd a small flock of leery sheep within camera range. The fourth week we met at our house, using our old barn and 3 sheep for the crucial manger scene. It was a night I'll never forget.

It did occur to me that our schedule was tight. If we missed one week, or I ruined one roll of film, we would not be able to complete our plans. But we blundered ahead and somehow it all worked out. The day of the program we all sat back and relaxed (more or less). We did tell story of Jesus' birth. The *Kid's Choir* sang, a couple of kids played piano pieces, a few of the older ones read our rendition of the Christmas Story. And all the while, on the screen in the front of the sanctuary, flashed picture after picture of our precious children - every single one of them. Not everyone sang on key nor remembered all the words. The musicians tripped over some of their notes, the narrators missed some of their cues, some of the slides were too dark or slightly out of focus. None of that really mattered - and to this day, one memory stands out in my mind.

Picture this: a cold, dark, rainy night in an old, dingy barn - rain beating down on the tin roof, crowded with wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, baby and hay-filled manger - and real sheep. The noisy, smelly kind. We were only pretending, but in doing so we got a little closer to each other, a little closer to that baby born so long ago - a little closer to the real meaning of Christmas. Let none of us forget - that is where it all began.

It is the children who help us remember.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ~ Luke 2:6

seasonal events

Poulsbo Middle School Concert
December 8 at 7pm

Kingston Middle School Concert
December 14 at 7pm

Kingston High School Band Concert
December 15 at 7pm

NK High School Band Concert
December 3 at 7pm

NK High School Choir Concert
December 15 at 7pm



Advent Wreath Memories from Jean Danielson

It was Christmas 1971. Pastor Moore and family had just come to Vinland the summer of that year. He and I went down to David's "Five & Dime" store in downtown Poulsbo, which I think was where Verksted Gallery is now. We bought jello molds, sandbakkel tins and individual candle holders. He, being a body and fender man, knew how to weld. He put the steel ring and all the parts together into the Advent wreath we've had now for 44 years.

He and I assembled it with the greens and candles that first year. The church was less than half the length it is now, space was limited, and he decided it needed to be hung. He put up the pulley mechanism. After that, I did it alone for a number of years, then Barb Erickson handled it for quite a long time. Later Katherine Wollpert took it over for a few years. I helped her, and I remember one year when the whole thing came crashing down while we were trying to hang it while swaying back and forth on the ladder. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry, but we got it all patched together and rehung. Currently, Marsha Wright is putting it together and is looking for someone to take over!



ORDER A POINSETTIA

Remember or honor loved ones by ordering a white poinsettia for Christmas. We use them to decorate the altar area on Christmas Eve. You may take yours home anytime after the 9pm service or leave them at church for the season of Christmas. The cost is \$9 per plant.

We use white plants because the liturgical colors for the season of Christmas are white and gold.



Navy Band Northwest Presents

Home for the Holidays

Free concert on **Thursday, December 10 at 7pm**
Bremerton High School Performing Arts Building

Poulsbo Community Orchestra Holiday Concert

Free Concert on **Sunday, December 6 at 3pm**
North Point Church (across from NK High)
Charitable food bank donations requested.

news for and about women

Women of Vinland

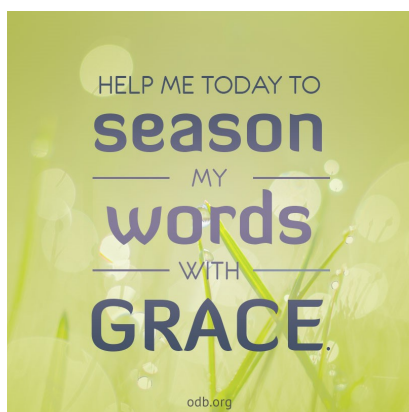
Third Wednesday of each month



The Women of Vinland will meet on December 16 from 10-noon. All women of the church are welcome to come! Bible Study, singing, a little business, lots of laughter and a good lunch are guaranteed. This will be their Christmas party and a good time to reveal your Secret Prayer Partners.

Lefse Bake on Saturday, Dec. 5 beginning at 9am. Contact Beachie Settle 360-598-3354f or a copy of the recipe. Bring the prepared dough and we'll teach you how to roll lefse.

Big sale on Dec. 6. Baked goods and crafts are welcome!!



Women of Grace

First & Third Mondays of each month at 6:30pm

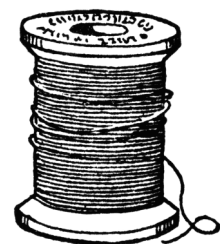
This is a mixed-age group of interesting, fun-loving women who gather on the first and third Mondays for tea and cookies, prayer and discussion.

We will meet on Dec. 7 and 21. Bring your Bible and favorite verses to share on Dec. 7.

We will have our cookie and memory sharing party on Dec. 21.

Quilters meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 9am

A committed group gathers at church to put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience necessary, and...there is never-ending coffee and lunch!



Women's Breakfast Dec. 12, 8:30 at Envy Grill.

Beginning in January we will meet on the FIRST SATURDAY. Same time and same location.

Last Friday Craft Night—No meeting in December

kids and LOFT news



DEC. PARENT'S DAY OUT SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 2-6pm

An afternoon of fun for kids while their caregivers take a few hours to shop, eat out, see a movie or window shop. Karyn will need adult and teen volunteers to help with this popular event. **NO DINNER PROVIDED**

All profits will benefit LOFT activities.

DECEMBER in the LOFT 6PM-7:45

DECEMBER 2 We are providing the meal for the first soup supper.

Sign up in the LOFT to bring soup or bread.

DECEMBER 9 Rehearsal for the Youth Worship Service on Dec. 12

DECEMBER 16 Bring \$5 for our WalMart toy-shopping adventure for Fishline.

DECEMBER 23 Caroling and then dinner party and dancing back at church.

BRING LOTS OF FRIENDS!!

DECEMBER 30 NO LOFT Happy New Year!

Don't forget to bring your instruments on Sundays and Wednesdays in preparation for the Dec. 13 worship service!

Sunday School Kids Christmas Program

DRESS REHEARSAL will be

Saturday, DEC. 12 at 1pm

(just before Parents' Day Out begins)

We will do our final run-through with our musician!



DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will have Sunday School at 8:45 on Dec. 6 and Dec. 20.

These will be fun, special-event times, so get up early and come! **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DEC. 27.**

preschool news from Janean Moriarty



Holidays through children's eyes are simply magical. Catch their magic!



We thank the congregation for welcoming preschool families at our fall Preschool Sunday and for stopping by our open house. It is always fun to welcome visitors to our preschool. We especially appreciate everyone who has volunteered to pray for our students as a Prayer Partner. These are not secret. We encourage you to send cards or little gifts at birthdays and holidays or anytime, if you would like. We want our families to always feel God's love through our preschool and our congregation. Look for our new "mailbox" in the narthex.

The preschool gathered 141 items and a turkey to donate to Fishline, through Vinland's Good Sam food drive in November. Our students are learning to share their blessings and help their neighbors here in Poulsbo.



The preschool hosted its 2nd Annual Holiday Toy Sale in November. We sold lots of great toys to be loved by new families, raising \$800 for our preschool ministry.

We welcome new enrollment and have openings in our afternoon class. Please continue to share our preschool with your friends and neighbors.



Thrivent Choice Dollars® directions can help Vinland Lutheran Preschool

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who's eligible to direct Choice Dollars®?

With the end of the year, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate to a non-profit of your choice. Vinland Lutheran Preschool is an eligible recipient. Please consider directing your Thrivent Dollars toward this ministry. You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars online at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt for this year until March 2016.

miscellaneous



ALTERNATIVE MARKET Dec 6 and 13 We feature two organizations this year.

Advent Tree – For ELCA Good Gifts. There will be an assortment of ornaments on a tree representing ELCA Good gifts – a goat, fruit tree, school supplies etc. People purchase the ornaments representing the gifts. Funds go to ELCA World Hunger.

SERRV—a selection of fair traded items for purchase; proceeds go to the artisans and their communities.

The Sunday School kids are excited to use their weekly offering money to purchase animals!

The kids will be marketing VLC (Vinland Lutheran Church) car stickers. A donation in the \$3-\$5 range is suggested. All money earned will go toward their animal purchases.



GAB FROM THE GAVEL Kelle Horn, council president

It has been suggested (for longer than I care to admit) that the Council have a small segment in the newsletter to let the congregation know what we are up to at our monthly meetings. Now of course one can always review the minutes, but who doesn't prefer a paraphrase to dry minutes?

Firstly I would like to thank all those currently serving on Council; their dedication to their roles as stewards or officers is only eclipsed by their participation in just about everything else around Vinland.

The main focus of our last few meetings has been digesting the survey results and taking action where able and most needed. In addition, we have been tackling budgetary concerns, staff changes and building improvements.

Unfortunately as we head into November we are about \$10,000 behind in giving; however our spending is under budget by about \$7500 which gives us a balance of -\$2500. Bigger spending is on the way with the days getting shorter and colder, so we will be asking the congregation to revisit their giving to ensure we make the budget we unanimously agreed upon in January.

There has been dogged discussion about service times and types of service. As mentioned in our post survey listening posts, the Council did not receive a mandate from the congregation regarding time and service type. Which in turn leaves the Council with competing concerns of growth, logistics, fairness and grace; each of which require equal weight. So as we in the Council reflect, we keep God's word close at hand and heart; *Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.* Philippians 2:4 and so the discussion with its many facets, continues.

There will be *many* changes coming our way in 2016, decisions about our budget, it's structure and our mortgage, multiple staff changes and continued brainstorming on best how best to serve those that are already here and how best to reach out to those we have not yet met.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support of our amazing place of Grace.

Yours in Christ, Kelle Horn Vinland Council President

good words

MARTHASM
& MARY

YOU Are Needed To Help At Martha and Mary!

WHAT Vinland is creating a team to assist with worship at Martha and Mary. The team would assist with music, readings, and prayers and sit and worship with the residents. Martha and Mary is a nursing home in downtown Poulsbo that is supported by area Lutheran Churches.

WHO All ages, families, musicians, pianist and “pew singers” alike.

WHEN Only four Sunday afternoons a year.

CONTACT Ernie McCluskey, Chaplain at Martha and Mary office phone is 360 394-4020, home 779-7991.

Is That New Song Service Lutheran? - Steve King

Occasionally I’m asked if the New Song Service (NSS) is actually Lutheran. So I thought it might be good to look deeper. First, the title begs the question, “what IS Lutheran, anyway?” I grew up Methodist, and we rarely took communion (back in the day). In 1971 my new marriage brought me into the ALC, Lefsa, & Lutefisk. And at various times since, I’ve wondered about different aspects of being Lutheran, from infant baptism to kneelers, crossing myself, liturgy, old & new music, sacraments, traditions and habits. So what is Lutheran, and where is our freedom in worship?

The ELCA web site has teaching materials that contain rich discussions of doctrine.

<http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>

Now I’m no Bible scholar, but we can put some things together from their source: As Lutherans we first believe in the Triune God, The Father, the Son and His salvation through Grace, and the Holy Spirit given to us. (That’s different from other Christian denominations that are more liberal or fundamental.) And from that comes the Bible (the inspired word of God & studied interpretation) plus our Cannon (think inherited traditions).

We believe God comes to us, not the other way around. He stands at our door and knocks – if we open the door He comes into us. He does that is through “The Means of Grace,” which are composed of the Word and Sacraments. Now we’re getting closer to the worship service.

We believe in the Liturgical worship. *Webster* defines “Liturgy” as:

1) a form of public worship; ritual. 2) a collection of formularies for public worship. 3) a particular arrangement of services. 4) a particular form or type of the Eucharistic service.

If we look at pages 91 & 92 of our *ELW* hymnal (red book), we see liturgy is composed of gathering, word, sacrament, and sending. Specifically, the Word means: 1) the written Word (Bible), 2) music (words/inspiration), 3) preaching, and 4) prayer. Add in, 5) the Sacraments of communion & Holy baptism and together you have the five elements of Lutheran liturgy, the Means of Grace.

The Introduction to *ELW* is very clear that within liturgy there is great flexibility beyond our familiar settings:

On page 7: “*Still, it is not possible or necessary for a single worship book to contain all the expressions of worship desired in every context by an increasingly diverse church. The book contains notable representatives of a wide variety of liturgical texts and musical forms that point to larger repertoires outside this volume.*”

On page 8: “[*ELW*] continues to emphasize that ‘freedom and flexibility in worship is a Lutheran inheritance, and there is room for ample variety in ceremony, music, and liturgical form.’”

...is the new song service Lutheran? (cont.)

In other words, the red book settings give us familiar forms within which we can choose traditional worship – and it leaves the door open for creativity as well.

Regarding technology, our NSS follows a growing inheritance of contemporary Christian music. And technology (for better or worse) is changing the face of music – whether it's the iPods we listen to, the smart phone we stream music to, or even the instruments we use with the electronics & speakers that broadcast the music.

The other changing aspect of music is something we all grew up with, e.g., Tommy Dorsey, Chuck Berry, John Denver, Elton John (1930s – 1980's) and beyond. That change is **Musical style!** A good example is when I write the title, "*Blue Suede Shoes*." (For the younger crowd, Google *Elvis Presley*). Moms and Dads mostly disliked that "newfangled music." But now it's 'solid gold!'

Our contemporary service is within the Lutheran tradition of flexibility while holding firm to the "means of grace" found in our Lutheran liturgical elements of gathering, word, meal, & sending. Our "contemporary service" in no way replaces the rich setting we're familiar with in our *ELW* hymnal. But it does use changing aspects of music, including electronics and different musical styles beyond the *ELW*, to offer an alternative venue that appeals to our changing demographics in Kitsap County, the US, and actually throughout the world. I know VLC is flexible enough to have both, in order to appeal to a broad demographic and diverse church.

Finally, there is the brief topic of our habits that can mislead us about what is and isn't Lutheran. We grew up experiencing our worship traditions in local congregations. And out of habit or preference, we can make the mistake of thinking what we've always done defines what is Lutheran. So if we see an electric guitar in church, we might say, "*That isn't Lutheran*," which isn't true. It is important to distinguish between Lutheran theology and personal preferences based on habit or "what we've always done."

You've heard the phrase, "the only constant in this world is change." Change is happening with our music services. Yet Lutheran worship is designed for this flexibility within the means of grace & the flexibility of liturgical worship described in our Lutheran hymnal. So our NSS fits well within Lutheran doctrine, ELCA beliefs, and our Vinland Mission State: *Rooted in Christ, Rejoicing in Worship, Reaching to Serve*.

Yours in Christ,

Steve King, New Song Worship Team Leader

By the way - If you are interested in an ELCA clarification – please see the following publication from their Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) <http://www.elca.org/worshipfaq>

“How is worship traditional? How is worship contemporary?”

file:///C:/Users/Stephen/Documents/Documents/Viinland%20Lutheran%20Church/How_is_worship_traditional_How_contemporary.pdf

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Did you know – the NSS name is based on Psalm 96:1 “Sing to the LORD a new song.” The NSWT is also inspired by Psalm 66:1-2, “*Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious.*”