

December/January Newsletter



"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."

Jeremiah 23:5

Greetings

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, we continue to embrace and prepare for change. As we know God is a constant (close your eyes and hear the words.... He has you, He holds you, and He is never letting you go). The other constant we can count on is change. American Lutheran Church, we have got this! Here is a summary of the process which lays before us:

1. Leave Taking:

Thank you for celebrating the ministry of Matt and Janine and the 19 years we shared with them. We grieved and celebrated together allowing them and us closure. We truly will miss them and will continue to grieve together as we move through this. We have lined up supply pastors through 12/24, although it is unclear if we will need them. Phil Misner, assistant to Bishop Megan Manlove, is working on securing an interim pastor for us. (*It is possible this Pastor will not live within commuting distance, and we are asking for ears open and ideas on possible rental spaces/suites.*)

2. The Discernment:

We are beginning the bulk of the transition work and time now. This council has approved a call committee (see below). The committee will be charged with two parts: self-reflection—addressing the questions of:

- a. Who are we?
- b. Who are our neighbors?
- c. Where is God leading us next?

And then discerning who is God calling next to this ministry? This is the step in which the call committee will begin to have conversations with pastoral candidates and will conclude with the congregation extending a call to a pastor.

3. The Welcome:

This is the final step in which I know we will excel. This is providing a warm welcome and plan for opportunities to get to know our new Pastor. This is a time for us to hold on to whom we are and what we are.

Each of us as a member of American Lutheran has a gift to offer. Please read 1 Corinthians 12 to better understand how we all need to work together during this time of change. As members of the body of American Lutheran, all need to keep each part of the body doing what we have always done. In addition, we need to see if there might be somewhere to help and support others through the change. God's Work, Our Hands...now more than ever.

So what are some ways we can move forward and help the church body?

1. Visit with people who attend church.
2. Take time to look for a person who may feel overlooked.
3. Check in with someone you have not seen in church for a while.
4. Call a member who does not get out often.
5. As we enter winter, does a neighbor need a ride to church, or does someone on your way to church need a ride?
6. Keep contributing the talents you currently are such as singing in the choir, reading the lessons, ushering, providing coffee hour snacks, going to Bible studies, quilting, or add your talents where you feel a need.
7. Prayer. Pray for the council, the call committee, our leadership and each other.

Change can be scary, wild and unnerving. But change can be exciting, refreshing and shed new light. Let's all work together to be the Body of Christ and hold one another up to get through this change and continue to be a united Body of Christ. Continue with our laughter and smiles and love.... Christ shines through us.

In Christ, American Lutheran Council Members



Please support and pray for our Call Committee:

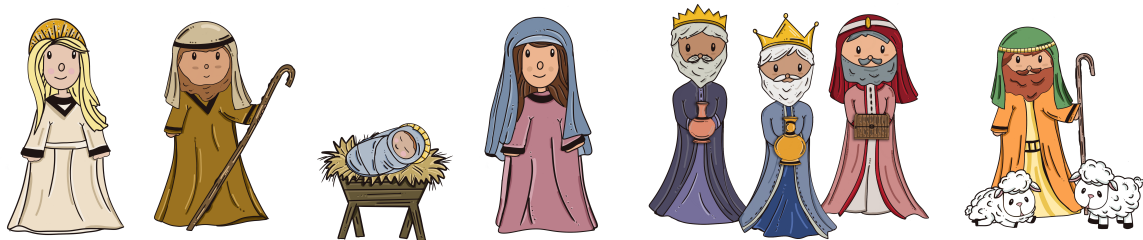
Larry Sauer, Sandee Meade, Jason Jones, David Grice, Kristi Bell, Pat Kowal, Annie Frederick.

Pastor Tom Inch, Zion-Deer Park interim, is available to serve on an on-call basis for pastoral care emergencies starting November 10. He can be reached at 509-398-0258 and inchworm57@live.com. Also, Annie Frederick is available to answer any questions you may have about the transition: 509-270-0496 and afrederick2018@outlook.com



December 24: 10am Worship

Christmas Eve Service: 7pm





Our Church belongs to the Northwest Intermountain Synod of the ELCA.

OUR SYNOD'S MISSION:

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

OUR SYNOD'S VISION:

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation

At our 2023 Assembly, Rev. Dr. Meggan Manlove was elected to succeed Bishop Kristen E.M. Kuempel as Bishop of the Northwest Intermountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Rev. Manlove graduated from the University of Chicago Divinity School, was ordained in September 2004, and holds a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. A Note from our new Bishop:

I am writing this after my second in-person Bishop Formation event which was followed by my first Conference of Bishops in Chicago. It was a big week of receiving information, building and rekindling relationships, receiving more information, worship, prayer, and receiving additional information. I am grateful for and humbled by the entire experience. I am also thankful I decided to stay an extra night to see my old roommate and her family. There is something grounding in spending an afternoon with someone who has known me for twenty years and remains my dear friend.

The worship services and prayers this past week also kept me grounded. Three times other bishops proclaimed the Good News to our assembly. During regular prayers, our chaplain lifted our collective concerns to God but also reminded us of whose we are. I had moments of feeling slightly overwhelmed throughout the week, but these moments of worship and prayer anchored me and even gave me deep joy, the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit.

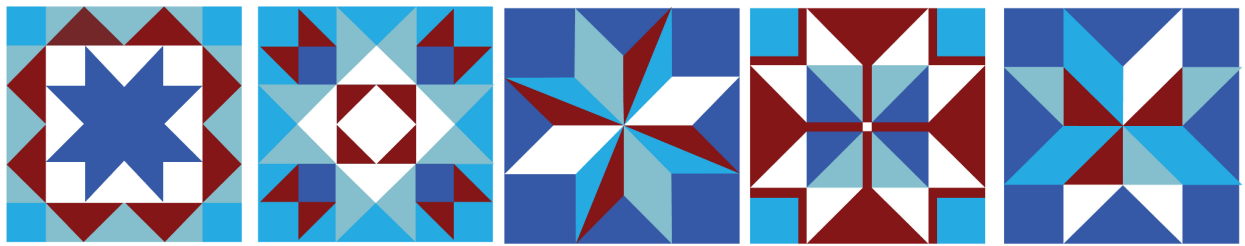
This e-news edition will go live when those of us following the three-year Revised Common Lectionary will be in the middle of a series of readings from Philippians, the Apostle Paul's letter written from prison to early Christians facing their deep troubles. Your church may follow the Narrative Lectionary or read just one text each Sunday (both of which make good sense to me), but I invite everyone to revisit this short letter.

The overarching theme of Philippians is the joy we have in Jesus Christ. There is so much that is still broken in our communities and cosmos and sometimes both the small conflicts and large injustices can overwhelm. I cannot continue the work of witnessing to the love of Jesus Christ with words and actions without reminders that the good news is for me too, and that the joy Paul writes of is ours. In this very short letter (just four chapters) written from prison, the words joy and rejoice appear 12 times. Paul writes, "For me living is Christ, and dying is gain." As with many of the dying that many of us have sat at bedsides with, it's not that Paul has a death wish: he simply knows that death will allow him to "be with Christ" in closer fellowship (1:21). Identity in Christ is also the source of joy for the Philippian believers in hard times, together with the hope of resurrection from the dead and Christ's return to earth.

I hope each of you are being reminded regularly of the deep joy and hope that comes in knowing Christ Jesus. Maybe the reminders will come at the Lord's Supper, maybe through a sermon, maybe in prayer with your community, and maybe in a conversation with a sibling in Christ. There are burdens that come with following Jesus, but there is also deep joy and hope.

Peace,

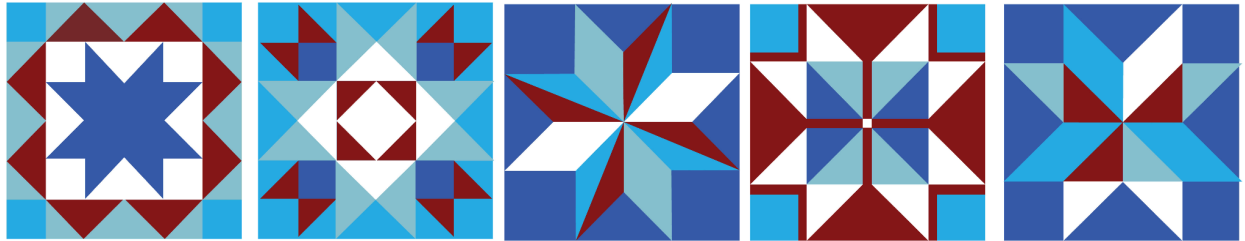
Bishop Meggan Manlove



We would like to remind people quilts can be purchased any time during the year.

The quilts are stored upstairs. In December every year, the money which purchased the quilts is split evenly among the Newport, Cusick and Priest River food banks.

We are asking \$200 for any quilt. If you are interested, please contact one of the quilters. Thank you!!



Join "Moo-Moo's Prayer Club"

A YouTube video series by and ELCA children's minister and former puppeteer from Sesame Street. It features Moo-Moo the cow having conversations with all sorts of church folks of all ages about how they serve God and how they pray. You can watch "Moo-Moo's Prayer Club" at youtube.com/@moomooprays



Reminder:

Please sign up for Coffee Hour on the sheet in the narthex.

Keep it simple. (Check the fridge/freezer for leftovers)



Dates for 2024:

March, June, September & December



Marlene Faraca	12-01	Blanche Wall	01-04
Rebecca Morey	12-02	Van Smith	01-05
Holly Waterman	12-05	Lee Shaver	01-11
Keith Lyson	12-08	Mark Bender	01-11
Imo Jones	12-11	Nicole Seeber	01-14
Tom Bauer	12-14	Nicole Smoot	01-15
Nakia Salazar	12-15	Racine Balow	01-18
Shannon Radke	12-16	Kristi Bell	01-19
Janet Lambarth	12-16	Faith Hughes	01-20
Sandy Loskill	12-17	Les Wall	01-21
Randy Richter	12-18	Janel Waterman	01-22
Carol Rock	12-18	Sandy Ellersick	01-23
Neil Persyn	12-19	Kervin Waterman	01-24
Scone Bender	12-21	Carol Wootan	01-25
Miller Griffith	12-22	Lynda Heckman	01-28
Ed Heckman	12-24	Ken Peralta	01-30
Gae Lewis	12-25	Anna Jones	01-30
Billie Goodno	12-27	Pat Kowal	01-31
Don Gumenberg	12-27		
Norm Haikkila	12-28		
Rocky Brumbaugh	12-28		
Cheryl Bailey	12-29		
Kathy Hansen	12-29		

If your birthday is not listed and you would like it to be, please email: alc.churchoffice@gmail.com

Ushers & Greeters



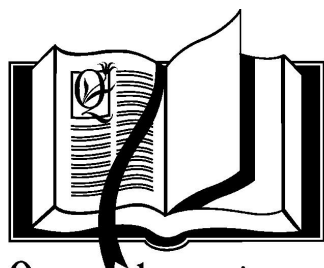
<p><u>December 2023</u></p> <p><i>3 Hedy Mitchell</i> <i>10 Tom and Hazel Bauer</i> <i>17 Pat and Debbie Buckley</i> <i>24 Sandy Loskill</i> <i>31 Katie Kersting</i></p>	<p><u>January 2024</u></p> <p><i>7 Elaine Petersen</i> <i>14 Vicki Richter</i> <i>21 Liessa Thorson</i> <i>28 Tom and Hazel Bauer</i></p>
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December 2023: Theresa Watson
January 2024: Kristi Bell, Pat Kowal

December 3. Hedy Mitchell
10. Julie Brown
17. Larry Sauer
24. Val Samson
31. Lee Shaver

January 7. Kristi Bell
14 David Grice
21 Debbie Buckley
28 Walt Olsen



Our study continues...

Bible Study
Monday mornings at 10am
All are welcome!

The church office is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from
9am to Noon.

Lauretta Heaney (Administrative Assistant) can be reached
after hours at 509-447-3440

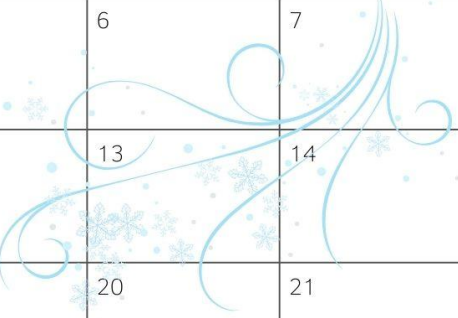
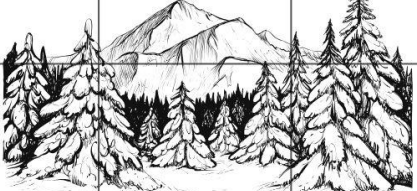



Calendar

2023 . DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1		2
3 10 am Worship	4 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	5 10 am Quilting	6 7pm Choir	7	8	9
10 10 am Worship	11 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	12 10 am Anna Circle 7pm Council Meeting	13 7pm Choir	14	15	16
17 10 am Worship	18 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	19 10 am Quilting	20 7pm Choir	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship Christmas Eve Service: 7pm	25 <i>Christmas</i> 	26	27 	28	29 	30 
31 10 am Worship <i>New Year's Eve</i>						

2023 . JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10 am Worship	2 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	3 10 am Quilting	4 7pm Choir	5	6	7 
8 10 am Worship	9 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	10 10 am Anna Circle 7pm Council Meeting	11 7pm Choir	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship	16 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	17 10 am Quilting	18 7pm Choir	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship	23 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	24 10 am Quilting	25 7pm Choir	26 	27	28
29 10 am Worship	30 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	31 10 am Quilting				



American Lutheran Church

Pastors Janine and Matt Goodrich
332801 Highway 2 - PO Box 653
Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-4338

alc.pastors@gmail.com

americanlutheranchurch.net

Church Council Members

President: Annie Frederick

Vice-President: Katie Kersting

Secretary: Pam Thompson

Treasurer: Kristi Bell

Education:

Shannon Radke

Monica Jones

Terry Zakar

Evangelism:

Val Samson

Sandy Loskill

Carleen Bliesner-Bowen

Missions & Social Concerns:

Mary Bug Smith

Jeff Bell

Bob Kowal

Property & Maintenance:

Toby Johnson

Jason Jones

Dennis Alliger

Stewardship:

Sophie Hinchcliff

Ken Brown

David Grice

Worship & Music:

Nancy Sauer

Hedy Mitchell

Millie Brumbaugh

Church Office Schedule: Wednesday and Thursday 9am to noon. Laurretta Heaney (Administrative Assistant) can be reached at: 509-447-3440 after hours.

*Marked with the cross of Christ forever,
we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.*