

The light shines in the darkness... John 1:5



HARBOR BEACON

Volume 68, Issue 1

January 2022

OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
1253 NW 2nd Avenue 360-679-1561
Oak Harbor, WA 98277 office@oakharborlutheran.org
www.oakharborlutheran.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

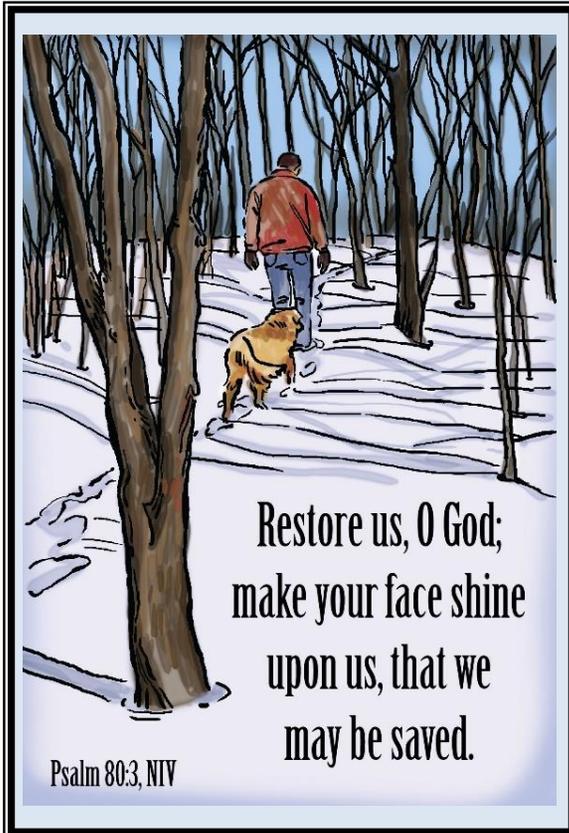
Pruning brings growth,
pg. 2

Semi-annual meeting:
Synod Assembly and other
delegates sought,
pg. 3

Youth invited for an
indoor snowball fight,
pg. 4

His Kids gifts for Jesus:
dinosaurs, unicorns,
Hot Wheels & hearts!
pg. 6

Loving our Neighbors:
Justice,
pg. 7



<u>OHLC Staff</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
Pastor: Jeffrey Spencer	360-320-4041
Preschool Director: Sara Harbaugh	360-941-1484
Youth & Family Ministry Beth Stephens	619-729-3031
Parish Secretary: Rekann Brannon	360-969-0775
Newsletter Editor: Martha Ellis	360-678-2264
Custodian: Salvador Carvallo	360-675-3957
Church Phone	360-679-1561

**Click on these links
for the January newsletter inserts:**

The ELCA's monthly *Prayer Ventures*:
<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

The Northwest Washington Synod's insert, *The Spirit*:
<https://dq5pwpq1q8ru0.cloudfront.net/2021/12/16/13/25/10/5d7482de-8176-4672-aec9-b8186c8dd5e4/JANUARY%202022%20Spirit.pdf>

OHLC's website:
www.oakharborlutheran.org

NOTE: Publication of this month's paper version of the *Harbor Beacon* has been delayed due to supply issues. As soon as our toner shipment arrives, we'll print the usual paper copies for mailing and availability in the narthex. We apologize for the inconvenience.

PASTOR'S PAGE: Pruning brings growth

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

John 15:1-2

"Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart."

2 Corinthians 4:1

A few months ago, I shared an article with our church council by Rick Lawrence, Executive Director of Vibrant Faith, a ministry coaching organization I have been involved in for several years. In the article he quotes the following from an ongoing study by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research: "In the 18 months since the pandemic found traction in the U.S., the attendance rate in churches (online and in-person) has dropped by 12 percent. Compare that to a 7 percent decline over the previous five years, from 2015-2020." Lawrence continues by stating the harsh reality that "the pandemic's influence has magnified and exacerbated every pre-pandemic trend, leading to a steep drop-off in church participation."

Duh, right? I mean, we knew that. However, it is where Lawrence goes next in his article that has grabbed my attention and changed my perspective. While he acknowledges that church-going has been in decline for some time, he encourages us to see it not only as a decline, but as a pruning. This does not mean writing off people who have become inactive, or giving up on evangelism and outreach. Rather, it refers to the necessary cutbacks and reorganization that needs to occur in light of current realities. The church, in just about every congregation and denomination, is in a season of pruning.

Pruning hurts when it is your branch, or a branch you care about. We here at OHLC had to do some pruning in the past year, and it wasn't always fun. Some of this was related to the pandemic. We ended the Coupeville Vespers service after more than a decade of worship at St. Mary's Catholic Church. There were trends in place prior to the pandemic which led to this decision, but just as Lawrence describes above, the pandemic certainly magnified and exacerbated those trends. When I let Father Paul know we were ending the service, he remarked that "the pandemic has left all of us recognizing we can't do everything that was done before."

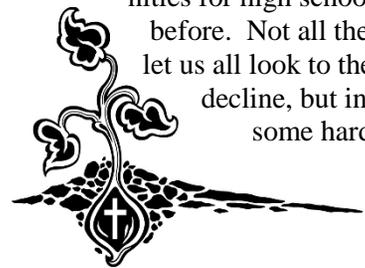
Other pruning has happened quite apart from the pandemic. We ended our Munchy Monday program because the school district changed its schedule from an early-release Monday to a late start Wednesday. Our golden time slot for hospitality to high schoolers disappeared and a beloved ministry ended. Then, after many years of service at OHLC, Pastor Stroud found himself needing to retire so he could tend to persistent health problems, ending a long-time and mutually beneficial ministry partnership that is not likely to be resumed or replicated. This pruning hurts. It makes parts of our church life look misshapen and out of sorts.



I do not mean to be flippant or casual about the ending of a worship service that meant a lot to certain people, or the ending of an after school program we were all so proud of, or the ending of a pastor's call for such unfortunate reasons, or the loss of about a third of our worshippers since the onset of the pandemic, but here's the thing Lawrence points out about pruning: It creates space for growth.

I did my share of hand-wringing and moping in the past year. Pruning hurts. But here's the good news: Our Lord Jesus promises us that whenever his church faces pruning, it is ultimately for the purpose of bearing more fruit. Any competent gardener will tell you that pruning stimulates growth. The pruned bush or tree might look awkward or misshapen for a while, but then new branches and leaves and fruits appear, filling in those empty spots.

Our fundamentals here at OHLC are strong. We are a healthy congregation. We made a remarkable comeback with our offerings last year and are in a strong financial position. New relationships, such as our growing partnership with Young Life, are opening up new opportunities for high school ministry. We won't look like we did before. Not all the growth will necessarily be numerical. But let us all look to the new year ahead not mired in a mindset of decline, but instead recognizing that we have endured some hard pruning, and trusting that it will open up some space for Christ Jesus to grow us in some new directions.



- Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

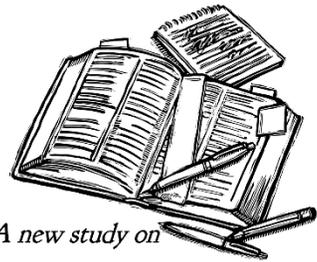
Pastor Spencer taking a mini-retreat

After an exhausting end of the year, both personally and professionally, I am in need of spiritual rejuvenation. I will be taking January 4-6 off as continuing education days. I will spend those days engaging in some reading and online theological curriculum, which I always find renewing for ministry. I will also be doing some prep work for the Proverbs class (see below) and some early planning for Lent.

I will be in town and able to respond to emergencies, but will otherwise not be in the office on those days and will not be responding to non-urgent texts, messages, or e-mails. Thanks for your understanding and patience!

- Pastor Jeff

Bible study on Proverbs begins January 16



A new study on

PROVERBS

Pastor Spencer will be teaching a Bible study on Proverbs in-person on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15, and on Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. The six-week long class will begin on Sunday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 18. Come dig in to an interesting and often neglected part of the Bible, and begin the new year with some godly wisdom!

Statements of giving for 2021

Year-end offering statements will be mailed in early January and should be received by the end of the month. **If you have not received yours by that time, or if you feel there is an error in your giving statement, please contact Rekann in the church office, 360-679-1561, office@oakharborlutheran.org.**

2022's numbered offering envelope sets for those requesting them are available for pick-up in the narthex. If you don't feel comfortable coming in and would prefer to have them mailed to you, please contact Rekann.

OHLC candidates sought

Are you interested in serving God in a new way in the new year ahead? We are seeking candidates for the following positions for election at the semi-annual meeting on January 23:

- Voting Members (up to 3) to the 2022 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, held Saturday, June 4, 9 AM – 4 PM. Location to be determined. Must show proof of vaccination to attend.
- Delegates (2) to Josephine Home, our Lutheran nursing home/care facility in Stanwood
- Delegates (2) to Lutherwood, our camp and retreat center in Bellingham

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, let us know by calling the church office or contacting Pastor Spencer or a council member.

Semi-annual meeting set for January 23

We will convene our semi-annual meeting in the sanctuary at 9:30 AM on Sunday, January 23. All voting members of OHLC are encouraged to attend.

An agenda with our financial reports and a draft of our 2022 budget will be made available by Sunday, January 16.

A decorative border with snowflakes and icicles. The border is drawn in blue ink and features various snowflake designs and icicle shapes hanging from the top edge.

Stephen Ministry
meets Thursday, January 13, at 4 PM via Zoom.

See the links on page 1
for *Prayer Ventures* and *The Spirit* for January.

The deadline for articles
for the February newsletter
is Thursday, January 20.

JUST FOR YOUTH

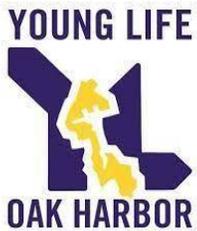
Confirmation class meets January 9

Confirmation class will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Sunday, January 9 for dinner, a rousing game of CateQuizm, and prayer. Please bring a brown bag dinner.

At least one parent/guardian is expected to attend with their student. Mark your calendars and be sure and complete sessions 1-3 in your workbooks before we gather!

Young Life Mondays!

Hey high schoolers! Did you know that Young Life events are held for high school students just about every Monday night at 7 PM?



These events are held at various locations around Oak Harbor – sometimes at churches (including OHLC), sometimes in homes, sometimes even at Toppins Frozen Yogurt. Find the Oak Harbor Young Life Facebook and/or Instagram pages to keep up with the latest opportunities for fun and fellowship with fellow Christians!

Youth Snowball Fight!

Sunday, January 23, 6:00 -7:30 PM

OHLC middle school-youth and above are invited to compete in an indoor snowball fight tournament. Compete to be named the Snowball Champion(s) and earn the coveted Snow Globe Award! Pizza will also be provided for competitors and spectators.

Contact Beth Stephens if you are interested in participating.
bethasteph@gmail.com .



CHRISTMAS WRAP UP

Spirits of Christmas Past: *If these costumes could talk...*

The Christmas season reminds us of the legend of talking animals when animals the world over are briefly given the power of speech on Christmas Eve and they raise those voices to rejoice at the birth of Jesus. Sometimes I wonder about Christmas program costumes finding their voices. Many of our shepherd tunics, lamb or cattle hoods, angel robes and other pieces have now reached multi-generational status.

This year's cast included Garrett, Aubrey & Isaac Gibbons, with Garrett as the shepherd with all the lines. It's *possible* he was wearing a shepherd costume that had been worn years earlier by his dad, Zach Gibbons. Abigail Gray, playing the part of Mary, wore a costume that was new last year, but Abigail's younger sister Alice's lamb hood was part of the flock that's been around for decades (all those ears originally hand-sewn on by Margaret Jedele). The Gray girls are daughters of Kaitlin (Aspery) Gray, who has her own OHLC Christmas program role memories of lamb, angel and Mary.



I haven't directed the program *every* Christmas since joining the congregation in 1981, but I've certainly handed out scripts for most of those years. Certain shepherd tunics remind me of the Zimmerman boys; some of the "wise guys" robes make me think of Chris & Lucas Lycksell.

Over the years we've had children and moms (*and* dads) among our angels, and in 2019 we had a visiting angelic grandma in the mix. Last year's drive-through version of the program was an interesting project, and I appreciated Pastor Spencer's organization of the scenes by family groups, including Natalie, Lucas & Logan Stone as armored Romans.

So, what might the costumes be saying, besides, "For heaven's sake, mend me before NEXT Christmas comes around!?" They're evidence of a long history of OHLC's children (and adults) being dragooned – I mean *encouraged* – to take part in telling a version of the story of Jesus' birth. Thank you to Beth Stephens and to everyone who helped out with 2021's almost-back-to-normal/post-pandemic production, and especially to Steve, who moves scenery, runs the lights, and generally keeps me on track.

Much love to all, Martha Ellis

Blanket Workshop

Weather permitting (!!), Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, January 4 & 5, beginning at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. *If you'd rather sew quilt tops in the comfort of your own home*, we have materials available – contact Leona McKee, 360-675-5712.

Circles in January

L Lydia Circle meets in the prayer room for Bible study, 6:00 PM on Mondays, January 3 & 17.

D eborah Circle meets (in-person) every Thursday in January, 1:00-3:00 PM in the library/fireside room. The new study, “The gift of the Spirit: a divine wild goose chase” can be found in the September/October 2021 issue of *Gather* magazine. All are welcome!

- 1/ 6: Session 1, “Spirit of God, revealer and resource,” pages 22-24
- 1/13: Session 1, pages 25-57
- 1/20: Session 2, “Breath of God, reviver and reformer,” pages 32-34
- 1/27: Session 2, pages 35-57.

BOOK MARKS

The Coupeville Book Group will be taking a hiatus until the Coupeville Library reopens their meeting room for public gatherings. Gaye Rodriguey will keep us up to date!

Looking for something to read? Check out OHLC’s library for such titles as ♦*What My Mother Gave Me: 31 Women on the gifts that mattered most*; ♦*A Quilt for Christmas*; ♦*The Spirituality of Men: 16 Christians write about their faith*; ♦*When You Lose Someone You Love, a book of comfort & hope*. Our shelves have selections for all ages and a wide range of interests.

Looking for a reading-related way to volunteer? Contact Kathy Holroyd about helping to keep our library in good order, holroydkathy@gmail.com.



Archbishop Dietrich Brauer, who visited OHLC some years ago, sent a Christmas greeting from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia. In next month’s newsletter we’ll include some information about our companion synod congregation, St. Katharina’s Lutheran, Kazan, about the recent celebration of their 250th anniversary (!!) as a congregation and an update from our friends in the St. Petersburg Men’s Ensemble.

“The Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born for you today in David’s town.” (Luke 2,11)

*I wish you blessed Christmas!
Peace and grace of the Savior be with you!*

+ Archbishop Dietrich Brauer
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Russia

Евангелическо-Лютеранская Церковь России
Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche Russlands / Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia

фото: Рождество в общине Ульяновска / Bild: Weihnachten in der Gemeinde Ulyanovsk / In the photo: Christmas in the congregation of Ulyanovsk

HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL

A MINISTRY OF OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prepare and wait! The month of December was all about preparation, with getting ready for Christmas and learning about Advent, the time we wait for Jesus' birthday! Our students' little hands were busy painting red and white candy canes, and we learned that if we turned them upside down, they make a "J" for Jesus. Large painted and glittered bells ring out the good news that Jesus was born for us, and we also cut out, glued and decorated paper Christmas trees, with the top of each tree pointing up to God. We made little wreaths, which remind us that God's love for us never ends. We also painted a choir of angels, decorated them with glitter and posted them on the education wing bulletin board to proclaim the good news!



The students sang *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* to the parents out in the parking lot, while wearing antlers made from cut-out hand prints and a red dot sticker on their noses. The parents loved it! We even had a pair of special visitors to the class room – Santa and Mrs. Claus! They came by for a quick visit to our morning and afternoon 3-day classes and handed out oranges and candy canes to the children. What a treat that was! Thank you to our good friends Dusty Rhodes and Judy Fantauzzi, who just happen to know Santa and Mrs. Claus and were able to arrange the visits for our students.



During the month of December, we asked the children and their families to donate winter clothing items to be given to the Sharing Tree that is coordinated through OHLC. Our children brought in 21 pairs of socks, 7 hats, and 16 pairs of mittens/gloves. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!

Parents were invited to a special chapel time to watch the children be presented with their Bible storybooks that the preschool gives as a gift to them every Christmas. The children walked back to their classroom proudly holding their new books closely to their hearts.

Before we left for Christmas break, we had our annual *Happy Birthday, Jesus* party! We celebrated and we sang "Happy Birthday" to him. We're hoping that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and safe

new year, and we are looking forward to January, where we will be focusing on Community Helpers.

Here are our students' responses to "My Christmas gift for Jesus would be..."

AM class

James: a candy cane

Alice G: a board game

Ryan: a toy truck

Natalee: a toy car

Lila: a gingerbread man

Violet: a cross toy

Cecily: a candy cane

Chelsie: a heart because I love him

PM class

Savannah: a cupcake

Keyara: an owl stuffie

Katarina: a pacifier

Eddie: a toy dinosaur

Jenna: a toy unicorn

Dean: a blanket and a Hot Wheels car

Victoria: my dinosaur toy

Kamila: a Christmas tree

Lona: a paper heart

Poppy: a teddy bear

Claire: a candy cane

Julianna: a gingerbread man

Kinsley: a bottle

Alice D: a blanket

Olivia: my heart

Wyatt: juice

Roslyn: a blanket

Camilla: a toy dinosaur

Sophia: a toy pony

Nate: a monster truck

Tristan: a candy cane

God's Peace, Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Gaye and Ms. Sara

FLOWERS FOR SERVICES

A big and blessed thank you to those who so graciously sponsor chancel and/or organ flowers for worship services during 2021! What a difference flowers can make, bringing a live gift of beauty offered to the glory of God and honoring a special someone or event.



The flower chart for 2022 is posted in the hallway outside Pastor Spencer's office, with plenty of spaces still available for your celebrations and memorials. Chancel flowers are \$45 and organ flowers are \$35; we place our orders through The Greenhouse florist in Oak Harbor.

About a month before your chosen date, I'll contact you regarding particular flower variety and color preferences and the wording you'd like listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Peg Fosnaugh

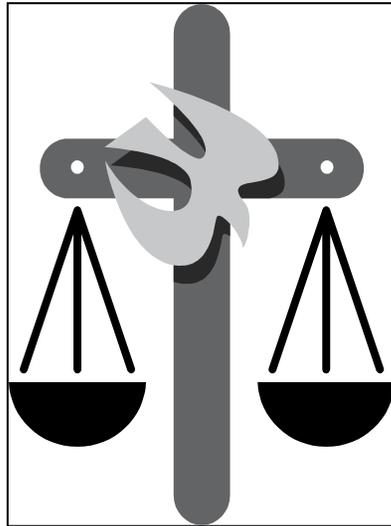
LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

with Gaye Rodriguey

Justice

What does the Bible say about justice? Here are some verses to meditate on:

“God upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.” - *Psalm 146: 7-9*



“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” - *Proverbs 31:8-9*

“This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.” - *Jeremiah 22: 3*

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” - *Micah 6: 8*

“Teacher, which is the greatest command in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - *Matthew 22: 36-39*

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“All humans are equal before God and have a right to be treated with dignity and fairness, no matter who you are”

- *The Bible Project* video “Justice” (2017)

“God’s work. Our hands. ...an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.” - *ELCA website*

Shalom,
Gaye

Always doing a new thing

In 2015, scientists discovered more than 18,000 new species — some ancient and extinct, others contemporary. They include a cartwheeling spider; fossils of a “feathered dinosaur”; a beautiful sea slug that photographs in brilliant blues, reds and golds; a Christmas-colored plant that grows in near isolation in Mexico; and a pufferfish whose males make intricate seafloor “crop circles” as spawning nests.



Such discoveries — regardless of how old or new the species are — demonstrate the ongoing creativity of God, who both does new things and gives people new abilities to discover them.

Recently, we began a new church year with Advent. At Christmas, God did a new thing by becoming human. Now we launch into a new calendar year, in which scientists will surely discover *more* new creatures. The newness all around us reminds us that God is always doing a new thing in *our* lives, too!

The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2016

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

Once again our OHLC family has very, very generously shared with our brothers and sisters in our community and other places such as El Camino de Emaus in the Skagit Valley and Josephine Caring Community, Stanwood. Your sharing continues to show God's love to others. A big THANK YOU! on behalf of the recipients. Know that all the gifts and your thoughtfulness are very much appreciated.

Special thanks to the His Kids Preschool families for the gifts of hats, mittens and gloves, to those who donated new socks, and to our congregation's knitters for the handmade items. Also, thank you to those who assisted with the tree and the tags and the sorting afterwards. Altogether, it was great teamwork and a beautiful present to our community and beyond!



We wish you Blessings and Peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Joyfully,
The Sharing Tree Team

IN THE MAIL

We received a Christmas card and the following note from Karen Loma (Vashon Is.), the daughter of Willard & Dottie Krigbaum, now living in Milton, WA:



Dear members and staff of Oak Harbor Lutheran, Thank you so much for continuing to send sermons, newsletters and personal letters to Dottie and Willard. They greatly enjoy hearing from and about their friends at the church and would respond if they were able. Due to Covid and their health-related challenges, they have not been able to connect with another church or form new friendships, which makes you all the more special to them. May God continue to bless and guide you all.

Karen Lomax

Pastor Spencer, Martha, Rekann, and all my friends at OHLC, Thanks for your time and effort to keep your outlying family close through videos and newsletters.

♥ Jan McCullough, Des Moines, WA

The following note came with a card from Tony Polubinski, currently incarcerated at Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Aberdeen:

Members of OHLC, Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas. Another year gone, and what a year. I started off the year with Covid-19. A mild case, no fever, just a sore throat and lost my sense of smell. After 2 weeks in quarantine in the prison gym I'm returned to my cell.

After quarantine I went back to work for Correctional Industries and Union Supply Direct, processing monthly food and property packages for incarcerated individuals statewide (Think Amazon Fulfillment Center for prisoners). Worked steadily until the closure announcement of WA State Reformatory in mid-August. By mid-September was out of work as the shop was moved to Twin Rivers unit.

In October my pack-out order came for Stafford Creek Correctional in Aberdeen. My move was delayed until late November due to Covid. I spent Thanksgiving at the DOC Reception Center in Shelton before finally being transferred to Stafford Creek. Been here for two weeks now, and even though it's a great facility it has major disadvantages. Hoping for a transfer back to Monroe to Twin Rivers; with God's blessing I could be back there in 12 to 18 months.

I continue to read and study the Bible and enjoy OHLC sermons every week and the Harbor Beacon. Thank you all for your continued thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Christ, Tony Polubinski

Check the "OHLC in the news" bulletin board in the hallway near the offices to see these and other cards, including the smiling faces of the Pawlak family, currently stationed in Virginia.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our hearts go out to those who have recently suffered the loss of loved ones, including...

...**Sal & Fatima Carvallo and family**, following the death of Sal's mother in Peru;

...**Becky & David Peattie and family**, following the death of Becky's 94-year-old aunt, Gladys Welty;

...**Luke & Heather Myers and family**, following the death of Luke's cousin Clint Jones;

...**Gisela Hawley**, following the death of her brother, Ralph Seelke.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
January 2		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Paul Senness Usher: Dave Fosnaugh	Computer: Connor Norman
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Kathy Holroyd Usher: Randy Wood	Computer: John Totten
6:30 PM	President: Pastor Jeff Spencer Assisting Min.:	Cantor: Carol Reafs Keyboard: Kris Bruland
January 9		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Peg Fosnaugh Usher: Jeff Margraf	Computer: Donna Aspery
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Trudy Decker Usher: Randy Wood	Computer: Ted Smith
January 16		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Jeff Margraf Ushers: Steve & Martha Ellis	Computer: Lisa Margraf
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Moira Bartrand Usher: Randy Wood	Computer: Bruce Holroyd
January 23		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Sheila Ryan Ushers: Steve & Martha Ellis	Computer: Kerrick Norman
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Bobbi Miller Usher: Randy Wood	Computer: Kale Totten
January 30		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Piper	Computer: Samuel Richards
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Fitzgerald Usher: Randy Wood	Computer: Anders Spencer

LESSER FESTIVALS COMMEMORATIONS

JANUARY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 THE NAME OF JESUS | 19 Henry, Bishop of Uppsala,
martyr, 1156 |
| 2 Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe,
renewer of the church, 1872 | 21 Agnes, martyr, 304 |
| 6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD | 25 The Conversion of St. Paul
<i>Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity ends</i> |
| 12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD | 26 Timothy, Titus, and Silas,
missionaries |
| 15 Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer
of society, martyr, 1968 | 27 Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe
<i>witnesses to the faith</i> |
| 17 Antony of Egypt, 356, Pachomius,
343, renewers of the church | 28 Thomas Aquinas, 1274, teacher |
| 18 The Confession of St. Peter
<i>Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity begins</i> | |

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER

	<i>November</i>	<i>Year to date</i>
Income	\$ 51,831	\$ 414,972
Outgo	<u>37,798</u>	<u>418,775</u>
	\$ <u>14,033</u>	\$ <u>(3,803)</u>

Thanks to strong year-end giving, we ended 2021 with offerings exceeding expenses. Details will be available in the financial reports presented at the semi-annual meeting on 1/23/22.

WORSHIP AGGENDANCE

DECEMBER

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Coupeville
Nov. 29	46	77	7
Dec. 5	55	62	10
Dec. 12	66	53	8
Dec. 19	65	82	13
Dec. 26	26	<i>snow-canceled</i>	<i>snow-canceled</i>
Avg. Att.	52	69	10

Average Sunday attendance: 131

Midweek Advent services

Date	12:00 PM	6:00 PM
12/ 1	18	24
12/ 8	31	35
12/15	24	40
12/22	25	55

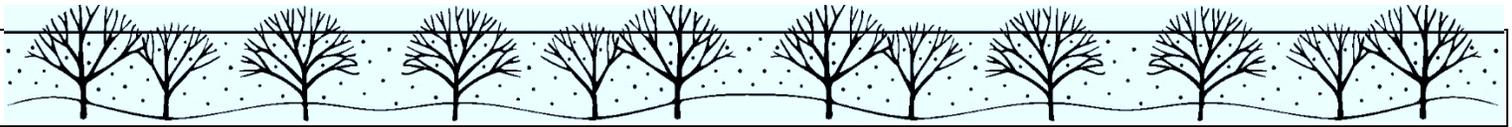
Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM
12/24	110	82	44

This month's decorative font is

SNOW CUPS CAPS



JANUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
2 Worship 8:00 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Worship 10:30 Vespers/Coupeville 6:30	3 6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/ library	4 9:30 Blanket Workshop 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 9:30 Blanket Workshop 11:30 OHLC Staff	6 1:00 Deborah Circle 6:00 Knitting Group 7:00 North Whidbey NA	7 14	1 8 15	
9 Worship 8:00 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Confirmation 5:00	10 7:00 North Whidbey NA/ library	11 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Cpvl Book Gr./Zoom	12 9:30 Blanket Workshop 11:30 OHLC Staff	13 1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry, via Zoom 6:00 Knitting Group 7:00 North Whidbey NA	14	15	
16 Worship 8:00 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30	17 M. L. King Jr. <i>Church office closed</i> 6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/ library	18 1:00 Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Proverbs study 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 11:30 OHLC Staff	20 Newsletter Deadline <i>Time TBA</i> Island Co. Sheriff's Dept. assessment exercise 1:00 Deborah Circle 6:00 Knitting Group 7:00 North Whidbey NA	21	22	
23 Worship 8:00 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Sunday School 9:15 Semi-annual congrega- tional meeting 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth indoor snowball fight 6:00	24 6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/ library	25 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Proverbs study 7:00 Boy Scouts	26 11:30 OHLC Staff	27 1:00 Deborah Circle 6:00 Knitting Group 7:00 North Whidbey NA	28	29	
30 Worship 8:00 <i>livestreamed on Facebook</i> Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30	31 7:00 North Whidbey NA/ fellowship hall	 <p style="text-align: center;"> We should work for a world not simply that hates hatred, but that loves love. <i>—Fr. James Martin, S.J.</i> </p>				HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL M, T, W: 8:45-11:45 AM 1-4 PM Pre-K Readiness Class, Th, F: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM <i>No classes on</i> <i>Jan. 17</i>	