

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



HARBOR BEACON

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September 2022

OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

A friendly, Christ-centered congregation with a place for you

OHLC is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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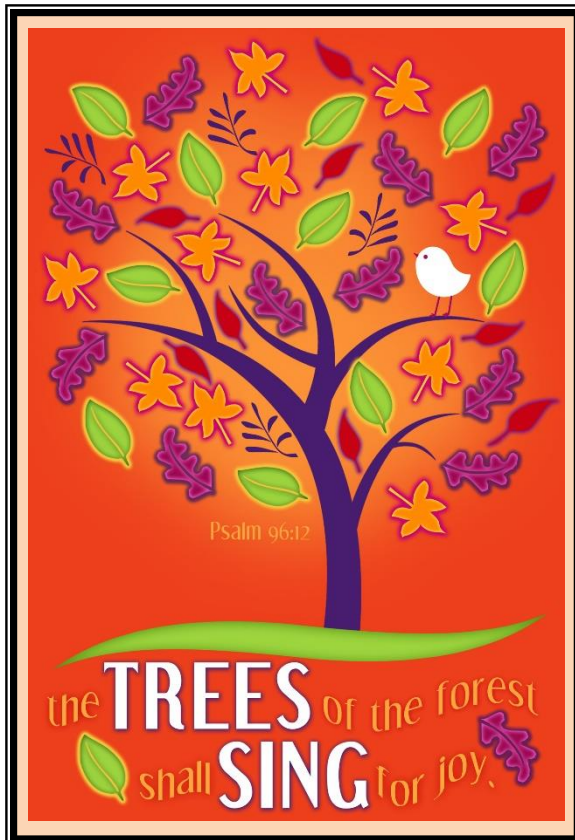
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**Click on these links
for the September newsletter inserts:**

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/2022/08/16/15/21/52/c62f74f7-742a-4888-b926-080d45f8c8e2/SEPTEMBER%202022%20Spirit.pdf>

OHLC's website:

www.oakharborlutheran.org

This issue was snail-mailed August 30, 2022

Pastor's Page:

A Friendly, Christ-Centered Congregation

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2



I needed a tagline. I was preparing our Advent book giveaways and wanted to tuck in an invitation to join us for worship. I needed a brief but impactful statement for the invitation signaling who we are as a congregation. I didn't have time to workshop it or assemble a committee. My first thought was: "A friendly, Christ-centered congregation with a place for you." I've heard that your first reaction or response to a spontaneous question is usually the most accurate, or at least the most sincere, so I went with it.

I think it fits us well. Most congregations strive to be friendly, but I think that, generally speaking, in most cases, we really are. It is part of our congregational culture. This isn't just me expressing my aspirations for our congregation; it is what I am frequently told by others. I have people in our new members classes say over and over again how warm and welcoming this place has been to them. They have had people notice them and talk to them and be kind and tender-hearted towards them. Describing our congregation as friendly, then, is not a pastoral brag or a market-tested bit of verbal bait, it is what I have been told we are by the newest people to join our congregation. Thank you for being friendly. It is a good word to be able to use in inviting others to join us. Please keep this friendliness up, especially towards newcomers. They notice, and they appreciate it.

The second descriptive term I used was "Christ-centered." The meaning of this term might not be as obvious as "friendly," but it is no less important. What does it mean to be a Christ-centered congregation? It is to keep Christ's saving work of dying and rising for us at the center of our proclamation and our life as a congregation. It is to recognize that we gather as sinners in perpetual need of his grace. To be a Lutheran Christian is to be a Christ-centered Christian, as the centrality of Christ's saving work is found throughout the Lutheran Confessions and is the centerpiece of all Lutheran theology.

This isn't just theological jargon. It actually makes a difference in how we function as a congregation, how we live together as brothers



and sisters in Christ. It means we don't let any other agenda displace the centrality of the gospel, given to us in Word and Sacrament and shared through us in our words and deeds. It means leaving every label at the church door so that we might gather, all of us, as sinners saved by grace. We leave behind our political rivalries and our culture war agendas to meet each other at the foot of the cross, where Jesus died for us all. Our Christ-centeredness is the basis of our community. It is what unites us.

To be a Christ-centered congregation is to gather for the purpose of worshipping Christ and hearing his Word of law and gospel, command and promise. It is for listening to eternal truths rather than hot takes. While cultural criticisms will be woven into the Word as God's truth bumps up against the ideologies of our age, this is primarily a Word that addresses *our* sin, not just the people we're mad at on TV or the internet. While we recognize deep problems in the world and seek to address them in various ways (sometimes addressing problems from opposite angles), at church we have bigger fish to fry. At church we see the ultimate problem as our captivity to sin, and the ultimate solution as our redemption through Christ.

While everyone loves friendliness, being a Christ-centered congregation is not universally appreciated. Some prefer their congregation to take more specific sides on issues or speak with a sharper voice on culture war battles. But when I sketch out what it means to be a Christ-centered congregation in our new members classes I have repeatedly noticed a palpable sense of relief among our new people. Many have come to us weary from congregations focused on either activism on one side or moral improvement on the other. As political and cultural turmoil seems to have invaded every corner of life, they find Christ-centeredness refreshing, giving space for healing, for peace, and for deeper truths to take hold.

This tagline, "A friendly, Christ-centered congregation with a place for you," is now found on our website as well. I hope you like it. I hope it sticks. And I hope it continues to be an accurate description of who we are.

+ Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

Worship notes

Regular worship schedule resumes Sept. 11



lease note that beginning Sunday, September 11, we will be going back to two worship services, at 8:00 and 10:30.

As we resume two services you are encouraged to keep in mind two things: First, while our sanctuary feels emptier with two services after being full all summer with one, we consistently have more people worshipping with us overall on Sunday when we have two services.

Second, those empty pews you see when we have two services have a purpose. They make room for new people. Studies have shown that full sanctuaries, as wonderful as they are and as much as we have enjoyed them during the summer, are a deterrent to new people joining a church. Think of those empty pews, then, as a reminder of our mission to invite those new people to join us!

Also, beginning September 11 we will be returning to communion around the altar, and will resume using glass cups.

Choir is back, and practices are planned!

We are trying something different with our choirs as we begin a new program year. (*Don't panic. Hear us out!*) We will have one choir practice on Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 PM. This will be the sole choir practice for both our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM groups, also known as *Morning Glory* and *Chancel Choir*.



Choir members can choose whether to sing at our 8:00 service, our 10:30 service, or both, because the anthems will be the same. More details will be explained at our first choir practice, which will be Wednesday, September 14. New voices are always welcome! Come make a joyful noise with us!

The return of Jubilate Ringers



Our handbell choir, **Jubilate Ringers**, have already begun holding practices, now on Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. The handbell choir will play in worship on occasional Sundays under the direction of Jan and Ron Ernst. New ringers are welcome!



September events



September 4: Rhubarb party!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, on Sunday, September 4, we will be having a rhubarb party!

You are invited to bring a rhubarb dish to share during our fellowship time after worship. Whether you bring a store-bought rhubarb pie or work up your own culinary masterpiece showcasing the surprising versatility of celery's sour cousin, your contributions will be appreciated. This will be our last combined fellowship time before we go back to two services, so let's enjoy it together with a variety of tasty rhubarb treats! (Non-rhubarb contributions will be welcomed also.)

New member orientation & ice cream social

Those interested in becoming members at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church are invited to an orientation to our congregation on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 PM. After our orientation we will enjoy an ice cream social with several ministry leaders from our congregation. We will be done by 8:30. New members will be formally received on Sunday, September 11.

Young Life tailgate parties at OHLC

OHLC youth are invited to hang out in our church parking lot before home football games this fall. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided by Young Life. Come enjoy food and Christian fellowship with other youth before the game. Friends are welcome! Tailgating will begin at 5:00 PM. Our home schedule is:



Friday, September 16, 7 PM (vs. Stanwood)
Friday, September 23, 7 PM (vs. Marysville-Pilchuck)
Friday, September 30, 7 PM (vs. Cascade)
Friday, October 7, 7 PM (vs. Mount Vernon)

Growing & Learning

September 11: Blessing of the backpacks



Hey kids! Bring your school backpacks (or other school bags) on Sunday, Sept. 11 (either service), for a special blessing to get your school year started right. All kids in attendance will also receive a little something to put in their backpack to remind them of God's love in Christ.

Youth & Family Night: Floats and Fellowship

Join us for the first Youth and Family Night of the new program year! On September 25, we'll say goodbye to summer as we gather from 6:00 to 7:30 PM for board games and root beer floats. Feel free to bring a board game to share. All are welcome!

Early release *Welcome Wednesday* is starting soon!

Welcome Wednesday is OHLC's returning outreach to OH High School. Come join us at Welcome Wednesdays! We are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, hang out with the students, donate food items, or just to donate!

All help is needed, wanted, and appreciated. Do you have a great smile? We LOVE welcoming faces! Do you enjoy shopping? Come shop with US! Do you like to bake? These kids LOVE to eat! EVERYONE can help at Welcome Wednesday this fall, starting September 21. Set-up begins at 12:30 on Wednesday afternoons; shepherding is from 1:30 to 3:00.

Sign up on the Connection Card in your Sunday bulletin or contact Beth Stephens, bethasteph@gmail.com, if you are interested. An orientation and Child Protection Policy training meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept 14, at 1:00 PM for all prospective volunteers. An alternative time will be available if you're not available on the 14th.

Confirmation kick-off BBQ set for Sept. 11

All new and returning confirmation families are invited to a confirmation kick-off BBQ on Sunday, September 11, beginning at 5:30 PM. Burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. We will discuss the program (which has changed a bit this year) and distribute the schedule and materials for the year.



Sunday School resumes September 11



Another exciting program year of Christian education for all ages is about to begin! The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, September 11, starting at 9:15 AM. Pre-K on up through high school students will kick off the new school year with a **God's Work, Our Hands** project to assemble School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Kids (and any parents who'd like to join us) will meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 AM for a meet & greet with the teachers. Then we will move into the fellowship hall to do our service project.

Student Registration Forms are available in the narthex. Please return completed forms to the office by Sept. 4.

If you have questions about Sunday School or would like to volunteer as a teacher or substitute, please make a note on a Connection Card in your Sunday bulletin or contact Beth, bethasteph@gmail.com, 619-729- 3031.

Fall adult Bible study:



"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

This fall, Pastor Spencer will be teaching a Bible study on the book of Hebrews — the marvelous, if mysterious, letter of exhortation and encouragement written to Christians facing cultural hostility from without and a discouraged malaise from within.

This class will be taught on **Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15** in the church library beginning September 11, and again on **Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 PM** beginning September 14.

Bring your Bible and join us! All are welcome!

Stephen Ministry

Last month, we listed four reasons why people have answered God's call to serve as a Stephen Minister (♥ Making a real difference in the lives of people who are hurting; ♥ helping our congregation ensure no one suffers alone; ♥ learning what – *and what not* – to say and do to care for people who are suffering, and ♥ participating in a worldwide tradition of caring ministry).

Have you been thinking about becoming a Stephen Minister? Here are a few more reasons for your prayerful consideration:

As a Stephen Minister, you will...

♥ **Be involved in meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts.** Serving as a Stephen Minister gives people an opportunity to put their spiritual gifts into action – gifts such as faith, mercy, compassion, and encouragement. Ministry that draws on your gifts is *personally fulfilling and touches people's lives in powerful ways.*

♥ **Deepen your faith as you see God at work through your ministry.** Providing care while trusting in God is at the core of Stephen Ministry. *Stephen Ministers regularly say how their faith deepens* as they experience training, learn to use distinctively Christian caring tools, and witness God at work in the lives of their care receivers.

♥ **Be part of a group of caring Christians who support each other as they care for those who are hurting.** One of the blessings of being a Stephen Minister is *being part of a community of people who care*, all of whom lift one another up as they strive together to provide the best possible ministry. The strong relationships you'll form are both rewarding and a great source of support.

♥ **Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.**

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our Stephen Leaders are Gail Dobbyn and Gaye Rodriguey. Contact one of them – or talk to Pastor Spencer – if you have questions or are interested in receiving training to become a Stephen Minister.

OHLC's current Stephen Ministers will meet on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 4:00 PM via Zoom.



His Kids Preschool

A ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

Activity is happening in and out of the classroom in preparation of the 2022/23 school year! The handbook has been updated with the new guidelines in place, conference times have been mailed to our families to meet with our teachers, and we've even scheduled our first field trip of the school year.

We will be working in the classroom with cleaning, sweeping out the cobwebs, and pulling weeds that have grown in the playground. We are wanting to make sure everything is just right for our incoming students.

Our numbers are unusually small this year, but that means we just have room to grow (Yes, that means we have plenty of availability for children to come to our preschool!) And, we have plenty of love to give to them! Please keep our preschool children, their families and the staff in your prayers. Here's to welcoming the following preschoolers to His Kids:

*Cecily R., Dean H, Julian J.,
Julianna R., Leslie T., Lona L.,
Samara S., Selah W., Victoria S., Vincent C.*

It's going to be another wonderful year!



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



Included in this newsletter are *Prayer Ventures* and *The Spirit* for September. This month's *Spirit* shares a joint article by Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee and NW WA Synod Vice President Kay Edgerton regarding the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in mid-August.

The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is Wednesday, September 21.

OHLC Women

Opportunities for fellowship, study & service

Blanket Workshop

Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, Sept, 6 & 7, starting at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief. New volunteers are always welcome!

Circles in September

Deborah Circle meets Thursdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 1:00 PM in the library. ALL are welcome! For more information, please contact Gaye Rodriguey at gaye@tobysuds.com.

We'll use the Sept. 2022 *Gather* magazine Bible study, "Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith" by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. *Session 1: Trees* taps into Biblical images of trees and explores why planting and protecting trees is important, while rooting us in models of interdependence and mutuality. If your issue hasn't yet arrived in the mail, you may download the pdf version from the *Gather* website, <https://www.gathermagazine.org/>, and follow the prompts to *Bible Study* and *Fall 2022*.



Lydia Circle meets on Mondays at 6:00 PM in the education wing to work on items for the upcoming Holiday Bazaar. For more information, contact Peg Fosnaugh, 360-675-3652.



So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together for good. Romans 8:28a

I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Colossians 2:2

Saturday, Oct. 1 – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Marysville

Explore how God's love weaves us together in the daily struggles and challenges, in hope and healing for our families, our communities, our country and our world. **Cost is \$30 if paid by Sept. 9; \$40 afterwards. Registration forms are available in the church office.** For more information, contact Gaye Rodriguey, gaye@tobysuds.com.

Loving our neighbors - with Gaye Rodriguey

[Excerpted from an article by Sarah Carson, managing editor, in the Jan/Feb 2022 *Gather* magazine]

Who do we say we are when we call ourselves Christians? Just as Jesus' baptismal calling was unique to the circumstances of his place and time, our own lives may each call for a different way of living out what we say we believe. At the heart of it are the two greatest commandments: to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. . . . I've made a list—40 ways I want to let myself be challenged to love God and to love that which God has created. I'm thinking of it as a checklist, one I can keep on my refrigerator to remind myself to be who I say I am. You are welcome to use my list as your starting point—though perhaps the real challenge will be to create your own.

40 WAYS TO LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

APOLOGIZE.	PUT YOUR HAND OVER YOUR HEART AND BREATHE.	TURN OFF THE TV.	ASK A STRANGER A QUESTION.	GIVE SOMEONE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.
LET GO.	GIVE GENEROUSLY.	BE PATIENT.	DON'T TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT.	RESERVE JUDGMENT.
GIVE YOUR BEST.	FORGIVE SOMEONE.	FORGIVE YOURSELF.	MAKE PEACE.	REST.
PAY ATTENTION.	SAY "YES" TO SOMETHING NEW.	TAKE THE DAY OFF.	TAKE A WALK.	BE THANKFUL.
ACT JUSTLY.	SAY "NO" WHEN YOU NEED TO.	GO OUTSIDE AND COUNT THE STARS.	SHAKE THE DUST OFF YOUR FEET.	GRIEVE.
FACE A FEAR.	HELP SOMEONE.	LISTEN.	KEEP YOUR WORD.	SLOW DOWN.
BE THANKFUL.	CARE FOR THE PLANET.	THINK GRACIOUS THOUGHTS.	SING.	CELEBRATE.
LEARN.	CONSIDER SOMEONE ELSE'S PERSPECTIVE.	STOP LOOKING AT YOUR PHONE.	HAVE FAITH.	CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WISELY.

In the library

- Karen Pasewark

Later this year, the OHLC Library Committee asked members of the congregation to fill out a survey, to share information about their interests and potential usage of the church library resources. 26 surveys were returned, representing 51 individuals, with 38 of those individuals being 60 years old or older.



Although little interest was expressed by families with children, the library does have a good selection of children's books, as well as materials on Christian parenting. The areas most requested included materials on Christian and church history/biography, Christian adult fiction books, books on self-help/dealing with difficult situations, and information to promote spiritual growth. There are many offerings in those areas, and we hope to gradually add more contemporary materials.

Although we plan to have an Open House this fall, the library is open NOW, during regular church hours, for self-checkout, as long as it is not being used by other groups. (When in doubt, check with the church office!)

Simple instructions for checkout are posted on the display table near the sink area. Library patrons are requested to fill out a provided Borrower Information card, to write their name and the checkout date on the book card(s), and to place the borrower information and book cards in the back of the box. Materials are generally due by the end of the month following the month they are checked out. Reminder "DUE BY" cards are present, which can be placed in the book pockets. If you would like "live" help, please contact Kathy Holroyd, Karen Pasewark, or Colleen Pedlar to arrange that!

With appreciation



A big THANKS to everyone who helped with the Watoto garage sale! It takes a village to do this sort of thing – some to donate, some to buy, some to work setting up, some to sell, and some to pack up afterwards, so thanks to *all*. We had a lot of stuff, even more from having missed a year or two since the last sale. We appreciate your support – physical, financial, and prayerful – over all these years, since 2007! We are a such a great team when we work together!

Through your generous donations we raised over \$2,600, all to help the women and children of Watoto in Uganda.

Blessings, Watoto Mission Team

Congregation news

Babies!

Congratulations to Rita & Dave Carter on the Aug. 10th birth of their great-grandson, Krew McGill, in Arizona. His parents are Sassi Gushee & Kyle McGill; grandma is Rita's daughter, Marcy Gushee.

We're delighted to welcome the arrival of Emma Grace Goeth, born Aug. 14 to **Amanda Reetz & Matt Goeth**. She joins her sister Harper, who's added the helpful phrase, "Baby crying!" to her vocabulary. Emma's grandparents are Debbie & Roland Reetz.

Joyful news!

Rekann Brannon & Aaron Ganji were married on August 30, and we offer our prayers for many blessings!! *Yes, Rekann is keeping her name and will continue to keep us on track as OHLC's office manager..... at least for now.*

In the mail

Dear Oak Harbor Lutheran Family,

We're settling in here in Norfolk, but still looking for a church home. Robin is babbling and standing and crawling (giving us a run for our money, ☺). Hope you all are well! We miss you!

Michael & Mandy Seeley
Norfolk, VA

In sympathy


Our hearts go out to those who have suffered the recent loss of loved ones, including **Dave Amarelo & Candi Rollag** following the death of Dave's mother, Eileen Amarelo, in Massachusetts. Eileen was 90 but had been in relatively good health, so this loss came quite unexpectedly, in addition to taking place just over a month after the death of Candi's mother, Phyllis Rollag.

Free to a good home

Baldwin piano with bench, in good condition. You'll need to be able to collect it from Ken Grigsby's home, east of Oak Harbor. Contact him, 360-675-4682.

Compassion Ministry

Ministry of the month: Young Life

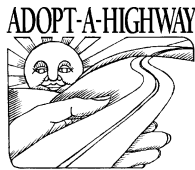
 Our ministry of the month for September is Young Life. Young Life is a community-based Christian youth group, with partners from various Christian congregations. We began our partnership with Young Life last year and look forward to deepening our relationship in the year ahead. We will be hosting Young Life events at OHLC in the program year ahead, beginning with tailgate gatherings with hot dogs in our church parking lot before high school football games (see the article on pg. 5). Young Life will also be partnering with us for our “Welcome Wednesday” afterschool program.

On Sunday, September 11, we will welcome Matthew Erickson of Young Life back to OHLC to bring a greeting to both services and visit with people during fellowship time. We look forward to welcoming Matthew back to OHLC!


Volunteers needed for roadside clean-up

Jeff Margraf, OHLC’s coordinator for litter pick-up along our 2-mile stretch of Highway 20, has scheduled an Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Clean-up on **Saturday, September 10**. Minimum age is 15 and can count towards volunteer credit. Meet at church at 8:30 AM to carpool to the site north of Oak Harbor. Hard hats, reflective vests and bags are provided.

Sign up on a bulletin insert Connection Card if you plan to participate or contact Jeff, 719-258-0055, jeffamargraf@aol.com.



Needed: School supplies for Lutheran World Relief!

 School kits for Lutheran World Relief will be assembled as a Sunday School service project on Sept. 11 (see the article on page 7). We’re still in need of a few items, including the following:

- **30 cm METRIC rulers** (okay if also includes inches)
- **Pencil sharpeners** (small; protective covering is appreciated)
- **Scissors** (children’s blunt scissors)

Items may be placed in the marked donation bin in the narthex.

Kerri Totten, kerritotten@hotmail.com, 360-632-0050

Refugee Support Committee update

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7:00 PM in the education wing. We’ve invited David Trowbridge from the Afghanistan Refugee Support Committee in Freeland to talk with us about the next steps.

We encourage the committee members to review the Sponsor Circle website information, <https://www.sponsorcircles.org>, to help understand how we might proceed.

If you have questions, please contact Bob Wall, 310-991-7830, bobcwall@gmail.com.

Baby Bottle Boomerang:

Pregnancy Care Clinic sends thanks for OHLC’s generosity

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.
Psalm 139:13

First, thank you, Pastor Jeff, for setting out the baby bottles in the narthex for pick-up in my absence. I was attending my granddaughter’s graduation from the police academy in Texas. God be with her.

Secondly, and on behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank you all for your generous giving to the Baby Bottle Boomerang annual fundraiser. The Lord has blessed our Christian outreach through these gifts. We are eternally grateful. God bless you all.

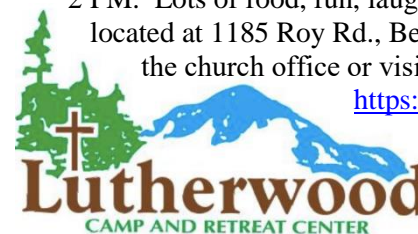
Morrie Parker



Camp Lutherwood

Plan to come celebrate 75+ years of outdoor ministry at Camp Lutherwood at their open house on **Saturday, September 10**, 10 AM to 2 PM. Lots of food, fun, laughter and games! Camp Lutherwood is located at 1185 Roy Rd., Bellingham. Directions are available in the church office or visit Lutherwood’s website,

<https://www.camlutherwood.org/>.



If you’re interested in carpooling on the 10th, contact Tom Piper, 360-675-4739, tomreflexpiper@gmail.com.

Worship Assistants		
September 4		
9:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Carey Comm. Assts.: C. Reafs; G. Hawley Healing Prayer: M. Stroud, T. Piper	Computer: Connor Norma Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
September 11 <i>Return to 2 morning services!</i>		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Peg Fosnaugh Communion Asst: Candi Amarelo	Computer: Donna Aspery Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Fitzgerald Communion Asst: Bobbi Miller	Computer: Bruce Holroyd Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
September 18		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Jeff Margraf Communion Asst: Tracey Tomlin	Computer: Lisa Margraf Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Leslie Improta Communion Asst: Tom Piper	Computer: Anders Spencer Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
September 25		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Communion Asst: Peg Fosnaugh	Computer: Sam Richards Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Craig Pedlar Communion Asst: Rita Cline	Computer: Kale Totten Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan

This month's featured font is
Imprint MT Shadow

Drop caps are
PICTURE ALPHABET

Financial Report

July

	July	Year to date
Income	\$ 27,874	\$ 256,831
Outgo	<u>31,605</u>	<u>259,031</u>
	\$ <u>(3,731)</u>	\$ <u>(2,200)</u>

Worship Attendance

August

Date	9:30 AM
July 31	130
Aug. 7	114
Aug. 14	90
Aug. 21	94
Aug. 28	128
Avg. Att.	111

Lesser Festivals & Commemorations

September

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2 Nicolai Frederik Severin Grundvig, bishop, renewer of the Church, 1872 | 17 Hildegard of Bingen, abbess, 1179 |
| 9 Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, 1654 | 18 Dag Hammarskjold, peacemaker, 1961 |
| 13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407 | 21 Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist |
| 14 The Holy Cross | 29 Michael and All Angels |
| 16 Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, martyr, c. 258 | 30 Jerome, translator, teacher, 420 |

Give all glory to God


By taking either compliments or criticism personally, we rob God of glory. Words go deep, either puffing up our pride or threatening our identity. But God intended better. Isaiah 60:21 (NLT) says, "All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory."

Our identity is in God, as his beloved children. Any comments (good or bad) must go through God first, and we can ask him to filter each word and speak his truth to our souls. We can pray: What do you want me to hear, God? Are you inviting me to do something different? How can I point others to you? Do I need to make something right?

This change in mindset provides peace. When we receive people's applause, we want to glorify God, who orchestrates all things. Likewise, constructive criticism can reflect God's work in us, making us teachable. Instead of being tossed to and fro by affirmations and critiques, let's rest secure and shift our focus to bring God glory!

—Janna Firestone, quoted in *The NewsletterNewsletter*, October 2022

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL Conferences: September 6 & 7 Classes begin September 12!		 <p>People who quietly do their jobs, tend their children, run the farms, fix shoes, cut hair and teach the children are the glue that holds the world together. – Martin Luther</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p>		1 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	2	3
4 Worship 9:30 <i>livestreamed on Facebook</i> Rhubarb Party after worship CA/library 7:30	5 Labor Day Church office closed 6:00 Lydia Circle/bazaar 7:00 North Whidbey NA, library	6 9:30 Blanket Workshop 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 9:30 Blanket Workshop 11:30 OHLC Staff 7:00 New Member orientation	8 1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 7:00 Refugee Support 7:00 Council 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	9 <i>Deadline for registration discount for the women's retreat in October!</i>	10 8:30 Roadside clean-up Camp Lutherwood's 75th anniversary open house, Bellingham
11 Blessing of school backpacks Worship 8:00 Sunday School service project 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Confirmation kickoff 5:30 CA/library 7:30	12 6:00 Lydia Circle/bazaar 7:00 North Whidbey NA, library	13 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 11:30 OHLC Staff 1:00 W. W. volunteer orientation 4:30 Choir rehearsal 7:00 <i>Hebrews</i> study	15 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	16 7:00 OHLC parking lot: Young Life tailgate party/OHHS vs Stanwood	17
18 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> CA/library 7:30	19 6:00 Lydia Circle/bazaar 7:00 North Whidbey NA, library	20 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 Newsletter Deadline 11:30 OHLC Staff 12:30 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday 4:30 Choir rehearsal 7:00 <i>Hebrews</i> study	22 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	23 7:00 OHLC parking lot: Young Life tailgate party/OHHS vs Marysville-Pilchuck	24
25 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Youth/Family Night 6:00 CA/library 7:30	26 6:00 Lydia Circle/bazaar 7:00 North Whidbey NA, library	27 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 11:30 OHLC Staff 12:30 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday 4:30 Choir rehearsal 7:00 <i>Hebrews</i> study	29 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 6:00 NA, fellowship hall	