

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



# HARBOR BEACON

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## OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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I will give thanks  
to the Lord  
with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your  
wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1



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**Click on these links  
for the November 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/2022/10/14/09/06/00/fe9f8e97-7236-431a-a398-023d9f200e69/NOVEMBER%202022%20Spirit.pdf>

OHLC's website:  
[www.oakharborlutheran.org](http://www.oakharborlutheran.org)

*This newsletter was snail-mailed on October 28, 2022*

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## PASTOR'S PAGE: Gospel Power

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'*

Romans 1:16-17

As winter approaches, there is deep concern about a looming energy crisis in Europe, caused in no small part by the war in Ukraine. Our own country is experiencing its own problems regarding energy. Debates rage about how to transition to cleaner sources of energy as prices go up and our power grids in some places teeter on the brink of collapse with astonishing frequency. I was recently visiting with a pastor friend serving in greater Los Angeles who noted the irony of his governor announcing a plan to ban new gas-powered vehicles only to be followed just weeks later by a plea from the state government for people to refrain from charging their electric vehicles due to power shortages. As brown outs rolled across the state, people are increasingly asking: Where are we going to get the power? It is an increasingly urgent question, and one which is being asked across the globe.

This is a question the Christian church is asking too. I'm not talking now about how we're going to keep the lights on and our sanctuaries warm. We face a different kind of energy crisis. Our declining denominations, stagnant church institutions, and struggling congregations are wondering where we are going to get the power to move into the future. COVID took a heavy toll on the church, no doubt, but this energy crisis was already in place well before any of us ever heard about the coronavirus. The pandemic merely exacerbated trends that were already well established. Seminary enrollment has seen a marked drop in recent decades. Worship attendance has been trending downward for years. The fastest growing religious affiliation in the United States is now "none." Volunteerism is way down, which has a huge impact on congregational life. Church bodies and institutions have been made to reorganize, and then reorganize again, in response to dwindling resources. We have an energy crisis in the church.

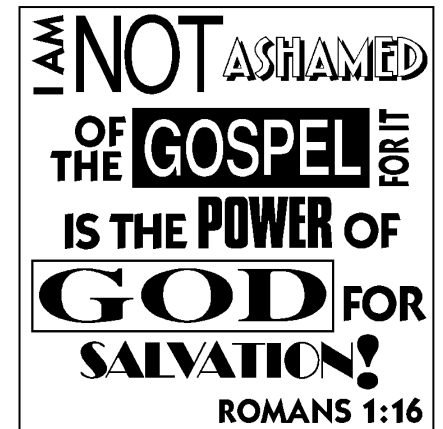
At the risk of sounding simplistic, I would like to suggest that we have a power source which can fuel the future of the Christian church which is right under our noses. It is a renewable resource of inexhaustible supply. This power is the gospel itself. It is the message

we have been given to proclaim to the world that sinners have been reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the message that we are freed and forgiven for Christ's sake to live a new life with God which begins now and continues forever. In Romans 1, St. Paul describes this gospel as "the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." Here it is, friends. Here's our power source.

The actual Greek word translated as "power" is *dynamis*. That's right, like dynamite. The gospel is an explosive message. It explodes in people's ears, firing synapses in the brain and creating faith in the heart. The gospel is powerful! It is what drives faith. It is also what drives the church. Our calling is to unleash this power by sharing the gospel, proclaiming the message, setting the charge that sustains faith in us and creates faith in others.

I believe a major factor in the energy crisis in the church is that we've lost confidence in the power of the gospel. Too many think it is insufficient as an energy source, that it must be combined with something else. Too many are ashamed of the gospel and seek to replace it with something different. As long as the gospel is treated as an afterthought, or worse, as an embarrassment, you can expect the energy crisis in the church to continue.

But I'm optimistic. As other power sources prove insufficient, the church will continue to grow dim. But in the darkness, more and more will come to see the true light. The gospel is the power of salvation to everyone who has faith, scripture tells us. It is the dynamite that, when harnessed through Word and Sacrament, fuels the church. As we try in vain to plug into other energy sources, we will come to see once again that the Good News of the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ provides us with all the power we will ever need.



+ Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

## GROWING & LEARNING

### Adult Education during November

#### HEBREWS: *Encouragement for Discouraged Christians*

It isn't too late to join us for our study of Hebrews! We meet Sunday mornings in the church library from 9:15 to 10:15, with the same class being offered again on Wednesday nights at 7:00..

Here's what we have in store as we wrap up the class:

Oct. 30/Nov. 2 *The Call to Faith* (10:19-11:40)

Nov. 6 & 9 *The Call to Endurance* (12:1-29)

Nov. 13 & 16 *Final Exhortations* (13:1-25)

Then, beginning the First Sunday of Advent (November 27), we will begin a new four-week study:

#### Luther and Bach on *The Magnificat*

Using Martin Luther's brilliant commentary and a magnificent performance of Bach's cantata, we will explore Mary's song through words and music. What better way to prepare for Christmas than to immerse ourselves in the song Mary sang when she learned she would give birth to the Savior?

Please note that during Advent our Wednesday Bible study will go on hiatus as we will gather instead for worship on Wednesday evenings. (The theme for our midweek worship will also be the Magnificat.)

#### Confirmation class meets November 13

Confirmation class will meet 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Sunday, Nov. 13. At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend with their student. Mark your calendars and be sure and complete sessions 4-6 in your workbooks before we gather!

## ADVENTURERS WANTED!

The first Quest Club meeting is tentatively set as Friday, December 2, 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Open to Youth of all skill levels, ages 12 and up. We'll create characters, vote on a group name, and – we hope – start our adventure. **Please contact Beth Stephens ([bethasteph@gmail.com](mailto:bethasteph@gmail.com)) by November 20 to confirm the day and time will work for those interested. Sign-up ahead is preferred but not required.**

## ADVENT AT OHLC

### Youth & Family Night

Join us for an Advent-themed Youth & Family Night on Sunday, November 27, 6:00 to 7:30 PM, featuring a special Advent devotional, an Advent calendar craft, and our famous hot chocolate bar! All are welcome! Questions? For more information, contact Beth Stephens, [bethasteph@gmail.com](mailto:bethasteph@gmail.com).

### Fair Trade Winds coming to OHLC on Nov. 27



Our friends from Fair Trade Winds will be visiting OHLC once again on Sunday, Nov. 27, offering gift items from artists, craftspeople, and farmers from developing nations.

Their pop-up store will be in the fellowship hall between and after worship services.

Come do some Christmas shopping where you can find unique items while supporting people in need. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

### Midweek Advent worship begins November 30

Starting on Wednesday, November 30, we will gather for a series of 4 midweek Advent worship services at 12:00 noon and 6:00 PM.

This year, Pastor Jeff will be preaching on Mary's song, *the Magnificat*, and *Holden Evening Prayer* will be our liturgy.

Services will be followed at 12:30 & 6:30 PM by simple meals of soup and bread in the fellowship hall.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex so you can indicate your willingness to bring soup and/or bread or help with set up and/or clean-up. Our midweek services will continue on Wednesdays through December 21.



*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior!*

## LIBRARY NOTES - WITH KAREN PASEWARK

Thanks to all who stopped in to check out your church library on October 2, during our Open House! We signed up many potential borrowers, checked out several books, and appreciated your suggestions for reading materials you would like to see added to the library. We're already at work, exploring some of the themes, genres, and authors you mentioned.



We thought you might like more information about some of the books we already have available for check-out, and we will try to feature at least a book or two every month in this newsletter.

Instead of one or two individual books, for November, I'd like to encourage people to take a look at our *Guideposts* fiction series. There are several series, with multiple titles in each, available in the OHLC library. Though the main characters tend to be adult women, online reviews from male readers suggest they can enjoy the books too, and several series have young adults in supporting roles, which might appeal to teens. Because characters and relationships develop over the series, books in the series are numbered on their spines, and it is suggested that at least the first few books in each series be read in order. All the books are wholesome, and they tend to reflect ways in which God works in and through the lives of people who love and worship Him. Lots of great examples of spontaneous prayer!

The *Grace Chapel Inn* series features three women who inherit their father's home, next to the church where he was pastor for many years, and turn it into a bed and breakfast. A variety of visitors pass through their doors, many in need of a relationship with God and/or his healing.

In the *Patchwork Mysteries*, a middle-aged quilter is the sleuth, often dealing with family-centered mysteries, sometimes across generations. Additional books in both the *Grace Chapel Inn* and *Patchwork Mysteries* collections have just been added this fall!

The *Home to Heather Creek* series describes adjustments in a multi-generational family living on a farm, as Nebraska grandparents become guardians for their three urban grandchildren, ages 10-16, when their mother dies.

Books in the *Miracles of Marble Cove* series actually tend to focus on miraculous experiences, both in its main characters' lives and in God's use of them to facilitate miracles for others.

*Hope Haven* books deal with a hospital and the people who work there, facing various crises and supporting their patients and each other, with the help of God.

*Mysteries of Sparrow Island* are set on a fictional island in the San Juans, with mentions of many places familiar to us Whidbey people. The main character – a female ornithologist – has come home to where she grew up, to support her sister through adjustments to a crippling accident. Birds often have important roles!

Hope you'll come in and browse these and other books! We look forward to seeing your names show up on book cards soon! For questions, catch Kathy Holroyd, Colleen Pedlar, or Karen Pasewark.

## CONGREGATION NEWS

### OHLC AND THE ARTS

Owen Brannon, 7-year-old youngest son of OHLC's office manager Rekann, will be appearing in the upcoming Whidbey Playhouse musical comedy *How to Eat Like a Child* in mid-December. *How to Eat Like a Child* (And Other Lessons in Not Being a Grown-Up) is based on Delia Ephron's delightful remembrance of the joys – and tricky ploys – of childhood. Tickets go on sale in mid-November; check the Whidbey Playhouse website for information.

### IN SYMPATHY

Our hearts go out to those in our church family who have suffered the recent loss of loved ones, including...

...**Sara & Matt Harbaugh and family**, following the death of Sara's dad, Orville Franke, just three months after the loss of her mom, Bernean.

...**John & Bobbi Miller and family**, following the death of John's mom, Geraldine Miller.

### LUMINARIA WALK

To honor and remember those we have lost, we will have an indoor luminaria walk on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6, 6:00-8:00 PM. You're

Invited to decorate up to 3 paper bags in remembrance of those you have lost recently, and not so recently. The walk will include a projected slide-show of some of the saints we are remembering.

Luminaria bags are available in the narthex; please return your decorated bags by noon on Nov. 6. To include a picture for the slide-show, e-mail it to Beth Stephens, [bethasteph@gmail.com](mailto:bethasteph@gmail.com), by Nov. 4.



## OHLIC WOMEN

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, STUDY & SERVICE

### Blanket Workshop

Thank you to the workshop members who helped set out all the quilts for display and blessing in the sanctuary for Reformation Sunday, October 30!



**Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, November 1&2**, beginning at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief. *New volunteers are always welcome*, and you don't know have to know how to sew to participate. Materials are provided.

*Are you interested in assembling quilt tops at home?* Contact Leona McKee, 360-675-5712, [bcmac68@comcast.net](mailto:bcmac68@comcast.net), or leave a message in the church office.

### Circle meetings in November

**Deborah Circle** meets Thursdays, Nov. 3, 10 & 17, at 1:00 PM in the church library. *ALL are welcome!* Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguez, [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com).

Nov. 3: *Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith*, November/December Gather magazine, Session 3, pgs. 24-26, "Creatures"

Nov. 10: Session 3, pgs. 26-28

Nov. 17: Autumn birthday celebration

Nov. 24: *Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Lydia Circle** meets at 6:00 PM in the education wing:  
Monday, Nov. 7, for a bazaar wrap-up  
Monday, Nov. 21 for Bible study

**A mystery:** The Lydia Circle Ladies found 4 different pieces of fabric from Tanzania in their room in the education wing. Before passing the pieces along to the quilting group or finding another home for them, they want to be sure the pieces don't already belong to someone. If you have any information about the fabric – or if it belongs to you! – please contact the church office.



*Lydia Circle invites you to their  
10<sup>th</sup> annual*

# Christmas Bazaar



**Saturday, November 5,**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

*Set-up begins Friday, Nov. 4, 5:30 PM*

*Handmade gifts, wonderful crafts, knitted  
items, holiday décor, and more!*



## HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL

A MINISTRY OF  
OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

**O**ctober was a full month! We learned about the letters **O**, **B**, **X**, and **P**.

As we made projects geared towards the season, we learned about the autumn harvest and how busy farmers are at this time of year. We easel-painted large orange circles or ovals, and later turned them into jack-o-lanterns by adding cut-out shapes that we'd previously studied in class. We cut out and assembled black spiders and finger-painted brown bats to add to our room's decoration. We marble-painted maple leaves and glued our students' family pictures on them to make our His Kids Family Tree for the education wing bulletin board display.

These projects and more kept us busy, along with completing the 7 pages of each student's *All About Me 2022* book in preparation for our annual open house! Open house is when we invite our preschool families to return to school in the evening and the children show them the projects they've completed so far in class. It's a fun evening for the kids because they get to come to school at night, show off everything, and maybe even convince mom and dad for a special treat afterwards!

Here are our students' answers to *"What is your favorite color?"*

<b>Everett:</b> Green	<b>Celia:</b> Pink	<b>Asher:</b> Black
<b>Cecily:</b> Yellow	<b>Samara:</b> Purple	<b>Sela:</b> Orange
<b>Dean:</b> Red	<b>Lona:</b> Yellow	<b>Julian:</b> Red
<b>Julilanna:</b> Pink	<b>Victoria:</b> Light blue	<b>Leslie:</b> Orange

During October, we learned about how our bones help us stand and move. We made a paper skeleton to help us understand how those parts fit together, and we discovered that skeletons aren't really scary.

Our second field trip of the school year took us to Case Farms north of Oak Harbor, where we helped "harvest" some pumpkins and see all the great farm animals. Mr. & Mrs. Pumpkin are always the best hosts and welcome us back every year for one of our favorite field trips.

We ask that you keep Ms. Elva in your prayers during these next few months, as she will be having surgery on Nov. 9 for new cancer concerns. She won't be returning to class until the new year. Our teams of teachers – current and retired – are joining together to help support her during this time and keep the activity going in the classroom for His Kids Preschool.

God's peace, Ms. Sara, Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION FOR THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING

**U**nited with your saints across time and place, we  
*pray for our shared world.*

*We give thanks for the church in every land.* Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. **Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

*We give thanks for the earth.* Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment, especially our local Puget Sound waters and the nearby Skagit River. **Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

*We give thanks for leaders in our communities.* Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. **Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

*We give thanks for all who provide for others.* Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts, especially. Provide homes food, employment, and medical care to all who are struggling. **Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

*We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship.* Guide our pastor, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. **Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

**Almighty God our Father,** your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Sundays & Seasons for 2022, Year C, Augsburg Fortress, 2021*

## COMPASSION MINISTRY

**Josephine Caring Community** is our ministry for the month of November. Josephine is a premier, non-profit Lutheran senior living community in Stanwood. They also offer home care and transitional rehab, as well as preschool, Pre-K, and before and after school care. Did you know that Josephine is expanding to active retirement options by 2024?

**We are delighted to welcome Paul Shoup, from Josephine's Board of Directors, to OHLC on Sunday, November 6.** He will speak briefly at both services and make a presentation and answer questions in the library following the 10:30 AM service.

You are invited to donate to Josephine Caring Community, payable to OHLC, with Josephine on the memo line and the outside of your envelope. This gift would be beyond your usual offering support for our church. Thank you!

Kathy Holroyd



*Kathy Holroyd and Laurie Johnson are OHLC's Josephine delegates.*

### North Whidbey Help House: *Holiday Basket Project*

**N**orth Whidbey Help House is our local food bank, providing food to those in need on northern Whidbey Island for over 45 years. Thank you to all who make regular contributions of nonperishable food for Help House via the donation bin in the narthex!

They've let us know they're anticipating an increase in requests for both Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets this year. Can you help out? OHLC's office has information about donating specific items for these baskets. There's also the option of "adopting" a family – Help House will provide the name of a family and you would be responsible for purchasing the food and delivering it to them. **There's a form to fill out and a deadline of Nov. 8 to sign up to help. Check with Rekann in the OHLC office!**




### Grief support options are available

**A** 5-week support group, *Living with Loss*, is offered by WhidbeyHealth Hospice, designed to help you process the normal feelings of grief that follow the death of a loved one. The group is limited to 10 participants and facilitated by (OHLC's own) Laurie Johnson, Bereavement Coordinator for WhidbeyHealth. Pre-registration is required. E-mail [johnla@whidbeyhealth.org](mailto:johnla@whidbeyhealth.org) or call the hospice office, 360-914-5635, and ask for Bereavement.

**The upcoming series will be Mondays, Nov. 7 through Dec. 5, 2:00-3:30 PM in the library at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church.** A series on Tuesdays, Nov. 8 through Dec. 6, 1:00-2:30 PM, will be held in Freeland.

### A request to our generous congregation:

 As our cooler weather returns, we are thinking of our neighbors in need of warm clothing, here on the island and across to the Skagit Valley. With that in mind, we're collecting warm, preferably-washable coats (clean and gently-used coats are welcome, too) in all sizes, children through adults, along with mittens, gloves, hats and new, warm socks.

**This year's coat drive runs through mid-November. All items may be placed in the designated bin in the narthex.** Thank you for your continued generosity and warm hearts!

Gratefully yours, OHLC Compassion Team

### Camp Lutherwood's annual auction (*Live!*) is November 5!

Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center near Bellingham is celebrating 75+ years of ministry. Help support them by participating in their annual fundraiser auction, held this year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 215 Mukilteo Blvd., Everett, at 4:00 PM on Nov. 5. Admission is \$40 per person, includes dinner. Register via their website, <https://www.camlutherwood.org/>.





## CARE for Ukrainians:

A group of North Whidbey island community members met in early September to explore the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family from Ukraine to come to the United States, through the Sponsor Circles organization. We are *CARE: Community Advocates for Refugee Efforts*.



As devastating as the war in Ukraine is, there's just so much that US citizens can do. Sponsoring a family to be able to come to the U.S. is one way to step up in a profound way. The severe trials and tribulations of leaving one's country for another, with hopes of a peaceful and freer life, are fraught with obstacles and make for a sometimes-dangerous, arduous journey.

Our part of the process will include fundraising, meeting legal requirements, and gathering resources including housing, education connections for children, medical expertise, and job prospects.

To sponsor a Ukrainian refugee, we need to raise \$2,500 per refugee. Funds can be sent to Oak Harbor Lutheran Church with the memo *Refugee Support*.

You are invited to get involved with us. Although we're meeting at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, we are a non-denominational committee that wants to help a family have a better life. This can happen... but it does indeed "take a village" to make it possible!

The committee's next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 1. For information on meetings beyond that date, please contact Bob Wall, 310-991-7830, [bobcwall@gmail.com](mailto:bobcwall@gmail.com).

Bob & Carol Wall

## Help wanted for a Landscape Event!



On Saturday, Nov. 12, between 9 AM and noon, you're invited to come help trim lavender plants, separate grasses, and plant 500 daffodil bulbs on the church property. Bring garden gloves, clippers, and a shovel!

If you can volunteer, please contact Tom Piper, [tomreflexpiper@gmail.com](mailto:tomreflexpiper@gmail.com) or 360-675-4739, or make a note on the Connection Card in your Sunday morning bulletin on Oct. 30 or Nov. 6. Green Thumb Tom sends his thanks!



On **Sunday, November 13**, after the early service and during the Sunday School hour, and **Sunday, November 20**, after both services and during the Sunday School hour, the congregation will have another opportunity to support women worldwide in their entrepreneurial pursuits.

Bracelets, necklaces and earrings made from rolled paper beads will be available for purchase in the fellowship hall...in time to begin your Christmas shopping! Better yet, all items will be discounted 50%.

Proceeds will be donated to the Street Business School/Bead for Life to continue their work of training women in impoverished communities to open successful businesses in order to feed, house, clothe and educate their families.

Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguey, [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com).

## Kits and quilts to be shipped for Lutheran World Relief



After display in the sanctuary on Sunday, Oct. 30, quilts made by our Blanket Workshop group will be packed up for shipment. We'll also be sending along the school kits assembled in by our Sunday School classes and personal care kits assembled by Deborah Circle, all from supplies

donated by our very generous congregation.

The fall ingathering for Western Washington is November 4&5 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Seattle. Our thanks to Mike Dilley who is making the delivery for us again this year! We'll include details about our shipment in next month's newsletter.

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Brock Stiles, a Lutheran attorney from Sedro Woolley and a good friend of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, will offer an **Estate Planning Seminar on Sunday, Dec. 11**, at noon in the church library. Mark your calendar and watch for more information.



# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

- WITH GAYE RODRIGUEY

For over 80 years, **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service** has been a champion for refugees from around the globe. Their legacy has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have found safety and hope in America's communities.



Their history reflects American Lutherans' deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need. (from the LIRS website, <https://lirs.org>)

## Hope for the Holidays program: Messages of hope and love

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to welcome you to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hope for the Holidays™ program. Year after year, our amazing communities across the country come together to share hope with those seeking safety in the United States.

Since September 2021, LIRS and our network has welcomed tens of thousands of new American individuals and families seeking safety, including Afghans and Ukrainians. Our new neighbors have persevered through incredible challenges to get here—and while many are no longer in immediate danger, they are still navigating life in their new communities and the legal challenges of their parole or asylum status. Many have not been or will not be able to reunite with their families.

This holiday season, your messages of hope and love, along with your generous donations to purchase gifts for the children in LIRS's care, remind our friends that they are not forgotten.

As we begin to plan our own celebrations, let us remember the importance of true connection. Let us remember our friends whose lives have been impacted by persecution and war, to the point that they had no choice but to seek safety elsewhere. Let us remember to spread hope for the holidays.

Together in Service,  
Kristin Witte, LIRS, Director for Mobilization and Faith Relations

How can *we* participate in this program of hope and love? Just follow these simple steps:

**Step 1:** Write messages of hope and encouragement in English and/or Spanish on holiday cards. Draw a picture or share your favorite poem, quote, or scripture to personalize the card. Sign the card (first name and city/state). DO NOT put cards in individual envelopes. Please place all cards in one large manila envelope or box.

**Step 2:** Invite your family and friends to write their own cards!

**Step 3:** Bring your envelope or box of cards to the church office, marked *LIRS/Gaye Rodriguez*. I'll pick them up and mail them to an address that will be provided by LIRS.

**In order to reach LIRS in time for distribution, I'll need collect your cards from the church office by Tuesday, November 29.**

If you'd like some help with writing in Spanish, stop by the office for a handy list of sample greetings, or contact Martha Ellis, [martha@oakharborlutheran.org](mailto:martha@oakharborlutheran.org), and she'll e-mail you a copy.

Donations are accepted through their website, <https://LIRS.org/GiveHope>, or may be mailed to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, PO Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297-1467, *Memo: Hope for the Holidays.*

Shalom, Gaye

**Included in this newsletter** are *Prayer Ventures* and *The Spirit* for November.

**The deadline for articles** for the December newsletter is Monday, November 21.

**The Brotherhood of St. Bernard (a.k.a. *The Old Dogs*)**, OHLC's men's group that gathers for lunch, fellowship, and Bible study, meets Tuesdays, Nov. 8 & 22, at noon in the fellowship hall. For more information, contact Tom Piper.

**Stephen Ministry meets Thursday, Nov. 10**, 4 PM in the library to discuss Chapters 2 & 5 of *When & how to use mental health resources*. Questions? Contact Gaye or Gail.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY: A JOB DESCRIPTION

**S**tephen Ministers are congregation members who are recruited, selected, trained, and commissioned to provide one-to-one lay caring ministry to people experiencing life difficulties in our congregation and community. They participate in supervision and continuing education twice a month. They initially commit to serve for two years and may renew their commitment.



**Stephen Ministers focus on carrying out these activities:**

### *Pray*

Stephen Ministers pray daily for their care receivers and strive to worship God always in word and deed. They rely on the love and compassion of God to provide care to others.

### *Care for the Care Receiver*

Stephen Ministers are assigned to care receivers — people in crisis who need caring support. The Stephen Minister's care helps the care receiver resolve the difficulty and achieve growth. Most Stephen Ministers meet once a week with their care receivers for about an hour at a time. During these visits, Stephen Ministers use special skills to care for their care receivers. Among the most important are the following:

**Listening.** Most care receivers need someone simply to listen—really listen—as they talk through their difficulties.

**Dealing with feelings.** Stephen Ministers reflect the care receiver's thoughts, feelings, and ideas and ask open-ended questions to help the care receiver recognize, express, and accept their feelings.

**Sharing distinctively Christian caring resources.** Stephen Ministers may share a prayer, a Bible verse or story, or other caring gestures that the care receiver would welcome.

**Remaining focused on the process.** Stephen Ministers do not try to fix care receivers or their problems; they focus on the process of caregiving and trust God for the results.

**Relating assertively.** Stephen Ministers respect both the needs of the care receiver and their own needs.

**Maintaining boundaries.** Stephen Ministers set appropriate boundaries in the caring relationship, helping the care receiver

remain as independent as possible while being there for the care receiver as needed.

**Recommending professional care when necessary.** Stephen Ministers are not trained to care for those who are at risk of harming themselves or others or who may be in a situation involving abuse. If Stephen Ministers recognize that their care receiver's needs fall outside the care they are equipped to provide, they see that the care receiver receives professional care.

### *Maintain Confidentiality*

Stephen Ministers understand that confidentiality is crucial in any caring relationship. The care receiver needs to know that what they say to the Stephen Minister will remain in confidence. Stephen Ministers maintain confidentiality and support one another in doing so.

### *Help Identify People in Need of Stephen Ministry*

Stephen Ministers act as ministers of referral, helping to identify people who would benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister and then connect them with that care.

### *Participate in Regular Supervision and Continuing Education*

Stephen Ministers participate faithfully in regular supervision and continuing education, coming prepared to every supervision session unless illness or emergency makes attendance impossible. Supervision provides Stephen Ministers with the ongoing support they need for their caring relationships.

### *Help the Congregation Understand and Appreciate Stephen Ministry*

Through their service, Stephen Ministers help our congregation appreciate Stephen Ministry and encourage members to become ministers of referral, helping those in crisis receive the care they need.

## **O**HLC's Stephen Leaders are Gaye Rodriguey and Gail Dobbyn.

If you are interested in receiving training to become a Stephen Minister or feel it would be helpful to receive the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact either of them, talk to Pastor Spencer, or call the church office, 360-679-1561.

Gaye Rodriguey, [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com)

Gail Dobbyn, [zayan.kanjo@gmail.com](mailto:zayan.kanjo@gmail.com)

Pastor Spencer, [pastor@oakharborlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@oakharborlutheran.org)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
<b>November 6</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Paul Senness <b>Communion Asst:</b> Wendy Wilson <b>Healing Prayer:</b> M. Stroud, M. Nowicki	<b>Computer:</b> Donna Aspery <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Sue Stroud
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Carol Fitzgerald <b>Communion Asst:</b> Carol Reafs <b>Healing Prayer:</b> B. Wall, T. Piper	<b>Computer:</b> Bruce Holroyd <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Jan Ernst
<b>November 13</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Gaye Rodriguey <b>Communion Asst:</b>	<b>Computer:</b> Sam Richards <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Sue Stroud
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Moira Bartrand <b>Communion Asst:</b>	<b>Computer:</b> Anders Spencer <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Sue Stroud
<b>November 20</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Jeff Margraf <b>Communion Asst:</b> Tracey Tomlin	<b>Computer:</b> Lisa Margraf <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Verna Morgan
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Trudy Decker <b>Communion Asst:</b> Laurie Johnson	<b>Computer:</b> John Totten <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Verna Morgan
<b>November 27</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Tom Piper <b>Communion Asst:</b> Sheila Ryan	<b>Computer:</b> Connor Norman <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Jan Ernst
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Carol Fitzgerald <b>Communion Asst:</b> Gisela Hawley	<b>Computer:</b> Kale Totten <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Jan Ernst

**Little Lutheran bags in November:** Wendy Wilson

This month's decorative font is **DEROOS**.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE OCTOBER

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Oct. 2	43	64
Oct. 9	40	69
Oct. 16	41	88
Oct. 23	46	77
<b>Avg. Att.</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>75</b>

*Oct. 30 will be included in next month's statistics.*

Average Sunday attendance: 118

## LESSER FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS NOVEMBER


- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 All Saints' Day  | 23 Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100, Miguel Austin Pro, 1927, martyr                           |
| 3 Martin de Porres, renewer of society, 1639   | 24 Justus Falckner, 1723, Jehu Jones, 1852, William Passavant, 1894, pastors in North America |
| 7 John Christian Frederick Heyer, 1873, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, 1719, Ludwig Nommensen, 1918, missionaries | 25 Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748  |
| 11 Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397, Søren Kierkegaard, 1855, teacher  | 30 Andrew, Apostle  |
| 17 Elizabeth of Hungary, 1231, renewer of society  |   |

## FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER

	<i>September</i>	<i>Year to date</i>
Income	\$ 30,017	\$ 319,816
Outgo	<u>35,789</u>	<u>328,048</u>
	\$ <u>(5,781)</u>	\$ <u>(8,232)</u>



# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9:30 Blanket Workshop  5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 CARE/Ukrainian refugee support 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 9:30 Blanket Workshop  11:30 OHLC Staff 12:30 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday 4:00 Choir 7:00 Hebrews study	<b>3</b> 11:00-5:00 Bloodworks Northwest/fellowship hall 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i> 7:00 Compassion Team ed. wing 7:00 NA, library	<b>4</b> 10:00-4:00 Bloodworks Northwest/fellowship hall <b>Deadline for photos for the Luminaria Walk; e-mail to Beth Stephens</b>  5:30 PM Set up for the bazaar	<b>5</b>  Christmas Bazaar 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  4:00 Lutherwood's annual auction, Our Savior's Lutheran/Everett
<b>6 All Saints Sunday</b> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Paul Shoup/Josephine 11:45 All Saints Luminaria Walk 6:00-8:00 CA/library 7:30	<b>7</b>  2:00 Grief support group  6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	<b>8</b> 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard  5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b>  11:30 OHLC Staff 12:30 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday  4:00 Choir 7:00 Hebrews study	<b>10</b>  1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i>  7:00 Council 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	<b>11 Veterans Day</b> <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>12</b>  9:00 Daffodil planting project, to noon
<b>13</b> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>  Confirmation 6:00 CA/library 7:30	<b>14</b>  2:00 Grief support group  7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	<b>15</b> 12:30 Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers  5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b>  11:30 OHLC Staff 12:30 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday  4:00 Choir 7:00 Hebrews study	<b>17</b>  1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i>  7:00 NA, fellowship hall	<b>18</b>  5:00 Brass rehearsal 7:00 In Concert: Harbor Brass & Penn Cove Brass	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Christ the King</b> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> CA/library 7:30	<b>21 Newsletter Deadline</b>  2:00 Grief support group 6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	<b>22</b> 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>23</b>  11:30 OHLC Staff 12:30 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday  4:00 Choir	<b>24 Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Church office closed</b>  7:00 NA, fellowship hall	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 Advent 1</b> <i>Fair Trade Fair</i> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Hebrews 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>  Youth/Family Night 6:00 CA/library 7:30	<b>28</b>  2:00 Grief support group  6:00 North Whidbey NA/fellowship hall	<b>29</b>  5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>30</b>  12:00 <b>Advent worship</b> 12:30 Soup & bread 1:00 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday 4:00 Choir 6:00 <b>Advent worship</b> 6:30 Soup & bread			
						<b>HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL</b>  M,T,W 8:45-11:45 AM  <b>Thanksgiving break</b> 11/23-11/25,