

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



HARBOR BEACON

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December 2022

OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
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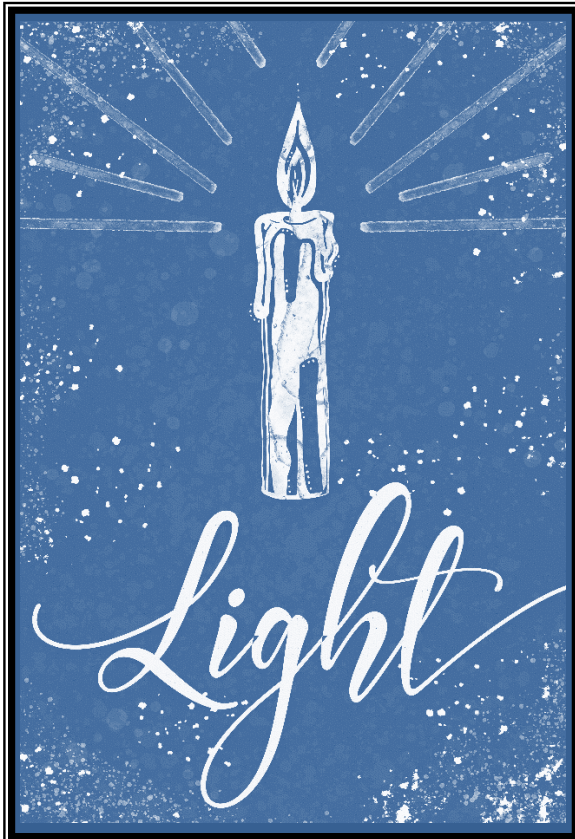
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**Click on these links
for the December newsletter inserts:**

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

The Northwest Washington Synod's insert, *The Spirit*:
<https://dq5pwpg1q8ru0.cloudfront.net/2022/11/15/16/33/22/5fa094ce-f9c0-4ad9-87f3-eb06c9da1fb1/DECEMBER%202022%20Spirit.pdf>

OHLC's website:
www.oakharborlutheran.org

This issue was snail-mailed November 29, 2022

Pastor's Page: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

"And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow; look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!"

Edmund Sears, *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

John 1:5

Is there a more emotionally fraught time of year than the Christmas season? I doubt it. Worries seem more worrisome as the pressure is on for everything to be a certain way. Economic anxieties creep up as even modest indulgences take a toll on household budgets. Minefields of guilt lie underfoot, just waiting to be stepped on, as families negotiate who will be with whom, and when. Loneliness and longing are all the more profound for those without families at all. For those who have lost a loved one, grief triggers seem to lurk behind every tradition, every recipe, every song, every ornament. The rampant sentimentality of the season tends to play our heartstrings in ways that can become exhausting. I'm not trying to be Scroogy here. I love Christmastime. But I also know that for many people, it can be a lot. Sometimes it is for me too.

At our Christmas Eve worship services, hymn verses take the place of most of our liturgical music. I have long used verses one and three of "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" as the Gospel Acclamation. I love how the lyricist, Edmund Sears, invites those who are bearing the weight of "life's crushing load," those "whose forms are bending low," those who "toil along the weary way, with painful steps and slow," to "rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing." Mr. Sears knows who the Gospel is for. He knows who needs to hear it most.

As we sing this verse at our 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM services on Christmas Eve, I find myself looking out at the congregation. There are many familiar faces, people whose stories I know. I know much about the pain behind their eyes and the weight on their shoulders. I know the details, the specifics. Other faces belong to people who have been disconnected from our church, people I haven't seen in a long time, but who find their way back to our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Sometimes they look noticeably older. I'm sure that's how I look to them too. Still other faces belong to complete strangers. We have more strangers come worship with us on Christmas Eve than any other time of year. Some look nervous, even edgy. Some have clearly been dragged there by a

family member. Some smell like alcohol. Some just look around with patronizing grins, soaking in the nostalgia.

The Gospel is for all of them, for all of us. It is for the OHLC faithful. It is for the prodigal sons and daughters. It is for the strangers with their mixed motives for being there. As we all stand and sing Sears' words, we are all the "you" beneath life's crushing load. Together we rest beside the weary road to hear the angels sing. As I prepare to read from St. Luke, I usually need to swallow down the emotion which has grown thick in my throat, both from the heaviness in the room and the joy which is about to leap off the page. "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people..."

In St. John's poetic rendering of the Nativity, he describes Christ's birth as a light coming into darkness. In Biblical idiom, darkness represents despair, fear, and sin, among other things. It represents the kind of struggles which add weight to life's crushing load. It represents those adversities which get our forms bending low. It represents the spiritual, emotional, and physical hardships which sometimes make our steps painful and slow. A light has come into this darkness, John writes. And the darkness did not overcome it.

It came upon the midnight clear. It comes in the darkness. It comes in the grief and the anxiety, the loneliness and the longing. It comes in the a lot-ness of the season. It comes when we despair of ourselves and know our utter need. It comes in the dark of night on Christmas Eve, but you don't need to wait until then to hear it. You don't need to pretend Christ hasn't been born yet. So take some time even now to sit beside the weary road and hear the angels sing. In this emotionally fraught time of year, hold fast to the good news of great joy that Christ the savior was born for you. You are forgiven, redeemed. He is Emmanuel, God with us, and so you are never alone. You are loved and you are his, now and forever. A light shines in your darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.



+ Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

Advent & Christmas at OHLC

Midweek worship and fellowship



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

On Wednesdays during Advent we are gathering for midweek worship services at noon & 6:00 PM, followed by meals of soup and bread. This year Pastor Jeff will be preaching on Mary's song, *the Magnificat*. Holden Evening Prayer will be our liturgy.

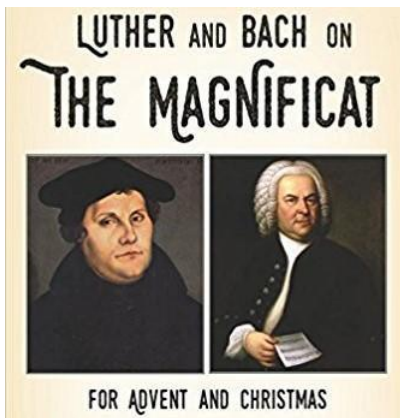
Please sign up to bring soup and/or bread using the sign-up sheets in

the narthex. Midweek services and soup suppers will continue on Wednesdays through December 21.

Sunday morning adult education for Advent

It was more than a surprise pregnancy – the Maker of heaven and earth was becoming incarnate in a young woman's womb. In response, Mary sang a song which has been a cherished canticle for Christian worship and a source of profound inspiration, both musical and theological, for centuries.

Join Pastor Spencer in the library from 9:15-10:15 on Sunday mornings during Advent for a special Bible study on *the Magnificat*. We'll make use of a book which weaves together insights on *the Magnificat* from Luther's brilliant commentary and Bach's magnificent cantata. Come listen to Mary's song – both in scripture and set to Bach's beautiful accompaniment – in a unique Bible study opportunity for the Advent season.



Come and see!

The Sunday School Christmas program will be presented as part of the 4:00 PM worship service on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24.

Rehearsals are held during SS class time on Dec. 4, 11 & 18.

Questions? Contact Martha Ellis, martha@oakharborlutheran.org.

Visit the Sharing Tree



Throughout the month of December our Sharing Tree will be on display in the narthex, decorated with tags. Each tag includes a gift suggestion for someone in need. These needs have been gathered from Josephine Home in Stanwood, El Camino de Emaus in Burlington, and from our local community on Whidbey Island. You are invited to review the tags and choose one or more to take with you. After you have purchased the item on the tag, please wrap it and bring it back to OHLC with the tag on the outside. All gifts must be received by Sunday, Dec. 18.

Skip & Judy Lycksell, our Sharing Tree coordinators, have included some specific guidelines for these gifts – see their article on page 8 of this newsletter.

Thank you for helping our friends in need this Christmas!

Christmas season worship schedule

Share the joy of Christmas! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for worship this Christmas! Please note that on December 25 and January 1, we will only be having one service, at 10:30.



Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 PM: Family Worship Service (nursery provided)

7:00 PM: Traditional Service (nursery provided)

10:00 PM: Traditional Service (no nursery available)

The 7:00 PM service will be livestreamed.

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

ONE SERVICE: 10:30AM

Sunday, January 1: The First Sunday after Christmas

ONE SERVICE: 10:30AM



December news

Adventurers wanted!

Quest Club is open to youth of all skill levels, age 12 and up. The first meeting is Friday, December 1, 3:00-5:00 PM. We'll create characters, vote on a group name and – we hope – start our adventure. For more information contact Beth Stephens, bethasteph@gmail.com.

Confirmation class meets December 11

Confirmation class will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Sunday, December 11. At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend with their student. Mark your calendars and be sure to complete sessions 7-10 in your workbooks before we gather!

2022 offerings: Help us finish in the black! (and note the December 25 deadline!!)

Help us wrap up the fiscal year in the black by making a special year-end gift to OHLC! **In order to count towards your 2022 taxes, all financial contributions must be received by the end of worship on the last Sunday of December... which this year falls on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.** Any offerings that arrive after the 25th will be credited to you for 2023.



Offerings in 2023: Contact Rekann with your preferences!

Boxed sets of numbered, paper envelopes will be available for the coming year's giving. **If you give regularly to OHLC using cash or checks**, these envelopes are extremely helpful for our offering counters ensuring that your gifts go where you intend – for example towards the general fund or for a specific designated account or monthly emphasis – and for Rekann Brannon, OHLC's financial secretary, who records your giving for your coming year's tax records. Please let her know if you'd like us to reserve a set of envelopes for you!



Are you doing your giving online or through your bank? Please contact Rekann in the office. She'll make sure you're assigned an offering number to reflect that method of giving, which will also ensure accuracy in your copy of the year-end report.



Poinsettia orders:

We look forward to adorning our sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas season! Large plants in 6" pots will be ordered through Oak Harbor's local Greenhouse Florist.

Although donations may be in any amount, the suggested donation for one plant is \$25. Pick up an order form in the narthex or contact Rekann in the office, 360-679-1561, office@oakharborlutheran.org. Make your check to OHLC, with the designation "Poinsettia."

The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 11. Poinsettias may be taken home following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 25 for your enjoyment during the remainder of the Christmas season.

Coming up in January

January 6: Epiphany potluck & worship service

Plan on joining us on Friday, January 6, for an evening of fellowship, fun, and worship. We'll gather first in the fellowship hall at 5:00 PM for a potluck and entertainment. At 7:00 PM, we'll move to the sanctuary for an Epiphany worship service. More details will be announced soon!

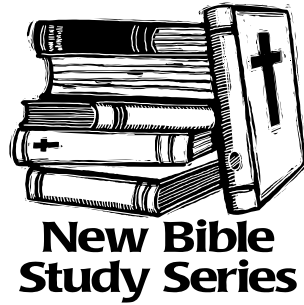


Beginning January 8: Bible Study, 1 Peter

New Birth, Living Hope

Kick off the new year right by joining us for a five-week study of First Peter. This class will be taught in the church library both on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15AM, and again on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Bring your Bibles and learn what it means to be given a new birth into a living hope!



Jan. 8/11	1 Peter 1	<i>Living Hope and Holy Living</i>
Jan. 15/18	1 Peter 2	<i>The Living Stone and a Chosen People</i>
Jan. 22/25	1 Peter 3	<i>Marriage, Discipleship, Baptism</i>
Jan. 29/Feb. 1	1 Peter 4	<i>Stewards of God's Grace, Part 1</i>
Feb. 5/8	1 Peter 5	<i>Stewards of God's Grace, Part 2</i>

Semi-annual meeting set for January 22 at 9:15 AM



Mark your calendars for our semi-annual meeting! All voting members of Oak Harbor Lutheran are encouraged to attend as we consider our congregational budget for 2022

and attend to other items of business [see below for one of those items]. An agenda for the meeting will be made available on Sunday, January 15.

Constitution and Bylaws update.

When the Council was reviewing the church's Constitution (2017) and comparing it to the Synod Model Constitution, we found that there had been an update in 2019 and in 2021. We have now updated our Constitution to the model and have it available to look at in hard copy or electronic copy. This is your notice that the updated Constitution will be

voted on during our January Semi-Annual meeting as per guidelines below.

A. REVISING A CONSTITUTION

When the Church wide Assembly amends provisions in the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *C16.04. specifies the way in which a congregation may incorporate those amendments into the congregation's constitution:

This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

Amendments that conform to the Model Constitution for Congregations are effective upon adoption by the congregation, and a copy of them is submitted to the synod.

Michael Dilley
Council President
Oak Harbor Lutheran Church



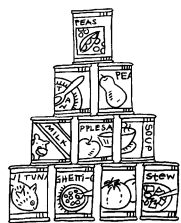
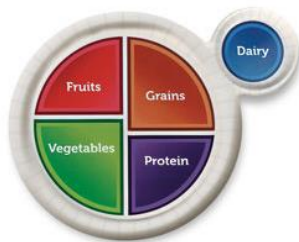
His Kids Preschool

A ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

We did a lot of learning and growing in November in the His Kids Preschool classroom! We focused on the letters **N**, **G**, **T**, and **F** – let's see where you can pick up those key letters as you continue to read about our activities!

The main theme of the month was nutrition, helping us understand that the food we eat works to keep our bodies healthy, growing, and strong. We made a nutrition plate with all 5 food groups colored in its own color (purple for protein, green for vegetable, red for fruit, orange for grains, and blue for dairy) and showing the daily serving amounts. Over the course of the month we did projects with an example of each food group. The protein group's project was a paper shell that opened to reveal a paper nut. For the fruit & vegetable group we made a paper bowl with marker-colored cutouts of those items, and you can see them on the education wing hallway bulletin board. For the dairy group, kids got to finger paint large paper milk jugs with chocolate pudding (made with milk). And to tie up the nutrition discussion, we made paper sandwiches with cutout layers representing each group – bread, ham lettuce, tomato, and cheese. We also colored a book about good manners and read a book about setting the table.

With all this in mind, we had an actual feast day where the kids enjoyed yummy Thanksgiving food from all 5 food groups!



During our nutrition month, we collected nonperishable food items to donate to Help House, our local food bank. Thank you to our preschool families for giving to this wonderful cause. The children helped count and sort all the items; as of November 22, we had received the following: 21 veggies, 8 fruit, 15 grains, 6 dairy, and 10 protein, for a total of 60 items.

Some of the other activities included easel-painted large turkeys, which are now decorating the classroom walls, as well as small turkeys made from our handprints. We also had a funny hat day in the midst of the month!

For Election Day, the kids voted on whether to have juice or milk with snack, and milk received the most votes.

November's field trip took us to Grocery Outlet, where Jesse and Miguel welcomed us back and showed the children the store – including 'behind the scenes' – and pointed out different foods from the 5 groups. To finish it off, the children got to pick out items from a special display just for them and were able to "check out" the item with play money and take it home. What a fun time we had!

We ended the month by reviewing letters, shapes and colors. We also asked each student *what their heart was thankful for*. Here are their responses, for your enjoyment:

Everett: my Pokémon

Julian: my brother

Victoria: Lona

Julianna: mom and dad

Reid: my toys

Leslie: my Nerf guns

Steven: my Transformer police car

Cecily: my mom and dad and grandma and grandpa

Celia: my friends

Lona: my mommy and daddy

Dean: my cats

Asher: my toys

Samara: my mom

Selah: my mom and dad

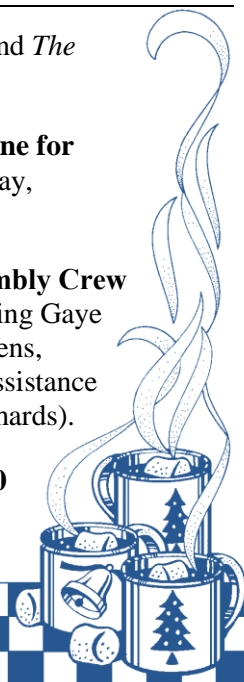
God's Peace,
Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Sara

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

❖ Start out the New Year well informed! **The deadline for articles** for the January 2023 Harbor Beacon is Tuesday, December 20.

❖ **Thank you to OHLC's faithful Newsletter Assembly Crew** who have helped at various times during 2022, including Gaye Rodriguey, Debbie Reetz, Gisela Hawley, Beth Stephens, Miria Stephens, and Trudy Decker (with occasional assistance by Harper Reetz and Matthew, Elizabeth & Anna Richards).

❖ **Stephen Ministry will meet at China City at 4:00 PM on Thursday, Dec. 1**, to celebrate with food and fellowship the blessings of the Ministry and the perseverance of the Ministers, especially since the year 2020.



Library Notes

Book reviews from *your* library

– Kathy Holroyd

We received a recent donation of *The Purpose of Christmas*, by Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, which we also have in the OHLC library. This book was a delight to read! Warren describes how God formed Christmas to meet your three deepest needs. This small but powerful book will help you to receive God's three Christmas gifts that will change your life!

I was looking for a book about a contemporary Christmas song and found just what I liked in the library – the inspirational *The Christmas Shoes*, by Donna VanLiere! She wrote this novel based on the #1 single, *The Christmas Shoes*, by NewSong. A successful lawyer, Robert, has spent his life focusing on material rewards and lacks substance and faith in his life. A boy, Nathan, has a loving mother, Maggie, who is dying of cancer. In a store on Christmas Eve, the two meet and their lives are forever altered. This book is heart-warming, and, we also have the DVD, based on both the song and the book!



We hope to see you in the library! Contact me if you have questions, or talk to Karen Pasewark or Colleen Pedlar.

Christmas music in the community

★ *I Wish You Christmas*: After a 3-year hiatus, the **Whidbey Community Chorus** will perform 2 live concerts: **Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:00 PM and Sunday, Dec. 11, 4:00 PM, at First Reformed Church**, 250 SW 3rd Ave. Choristers Mary Kay Hallen, Barb Wilson & Tom Piper send a special invitation to fellow OHLC members! Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

★ **The All Island Community Band** will present a concert (including carol-singing!) **on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2:00 PM at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church**. Donations of nonperishable food items benefit Help House.

★ **The Bells of Whidbey** present *Christmas Bells Are Ringing*, **Saturday, Dec. 3, 3:00 PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**. Admission by donation of items for SPiN Café. See the poster in the narthex for suggestions of particular items, or call 360-682-2194.

OHLC Women

Opportunities for fellowship, study & service

Blanket Workshop

Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 6&7, beginning at 9:30 AM to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We'll cut things a little short on Wednesday because of the midweek Advent worship, with lunch in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Deborah Circle in December

Deborah Circle meets on Thursdays at 1:00 PM in the library. All are welcome! For more information, contact Gaye Rodriguez, gaye@tobysuds.com.

- 12/ 1 *Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith*, Nov/Dec 2022 issue of *Gather* magazine, session 3, "Creatures," pg. 28
- 12/ 8 Advent devotional, *Good things come in small packages*, Nov/Dec 2022 *Gather*, pg. 38
- 12/13 Advent devotional, Nov/Dec 2022 *Gather*, pg. 40, and Christmas potluck lunch and white elephant gift exchange!

There will not be a meeting on Dec. 22 or 29.
Merry Christmas and Happy 2023!

Lydia Circle

Thank you to all who participated in making our November 5 Christmas Bazaar such a success! We received lots of good feedback from the community, including many comments about OHLC's being "the nicest bazaar!" We were delighted to be able to include baked goods this year, and they were an instant hit.

Remember, all donations received from the bazaar benefit the OHLC congregation.

The Ladies of Lydia will take some time off to enjoy the Christmas season (and rest up from the bazaar). We'll meet again starting Monday, January 16 to resume our study in *Advent of the Savior*, by Cindy Bunch, part of the LifeGuide Bible Studies series.

Another mystery: Dishtowels and dishcloths have been vanishing from the church kitchen! They're a rather motley assortment, all with *OHLC* written on them. If some kind soul took them home to wash (*thank you!*), we'd appreciate their return!

– Sheila Ryan

Compassion Ministry

Ministry of the month: The Sharing Tree

As you read on page 3 of this newsletter, our annual Sharing Tree has gone up in the narthex. Tags list gift requests for residents of Josephine Caring Ministries in Stanwood, for members of El Camino de Emaus Lutheran Church in Burlington, and for some local concerns.

General directions: You're invited to take one or more tags, purchase the gift/s or gift cards listed there, and **return them to church by Sunday, Dec. 18.**

Please consider including a Christmas card with a greeting from you with your gift or gift card!

Gifts for Josephine Caring Community residents: This year, their tags list a 3-part bundle consisting of a throw blanket, a neck pillow, and non-skid socks (each tag includes specific size for the socks).

Extra, non-food items may be included in the gift bag, or a separate bag. Always-appreciated items might include playing cards, adult coloring books, colored pencils or art supplies, hair decorations, lotion, wall decorations, etc.

Please use only gift bags with tissue when you're wrapping gifts for Josephine residents.

Tags for El Camino families list specific gifts, or Walmart gift cards which will be used for groceries or specific items family members may need. The cards will be distributed by the El Camino team, based on family size and need.

All gift cards should be returned to the church office along with the tag from the tree.

Are you unable to shop but would still like to help? Take a tag from the tree and bring it to the church office along with cash or a check to cover the cost of the item/s and a purchase will be made on your behalf. Make the check out to **OHLC**, with **Sharing Tree: Josephine** or **Sharing Tree: El Camino** on the memo line.

If you know of someone who should be included on the tree, please talk to Pastor Spencer or the church office staff.

Thank you for caring and sharing!
Joyfully, Skip & Judy Lycksell

CARE Team: Community Advocates for Refugee Efforts

This committee continues to meet and plan for inviting a Ukrainian family to come to Whidbey. Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM in the education wing. (Note that this month's only meeting will be Monday, December 12.)

As a part of the Sponsor Circle Program organization (<https://sponsorcircles.org>), the committee is working to raise an initial \$2,500 per refugee. Contributions may be made through Oak Harbor Lutheran Church; please designate your gift *Refugee Support*.

Other concerns are meeting legal requirements and gathering resources including housing, education connections for children, medical expertise, and job prospects.

You're invited to get involved with us. For more information, contact Bob Wall, 310-991p-7830, bobcwall@gmail.com.


Heads up for blood drive dates!

Bloodworks Northwest will be using our fellowship hall again this month for pop-up blood donation clinics. The fellowship hall will be occupied on Thursday & Friday, December 22 & 23, 10 AM to 4 PM, and Wednesday, Dec. 28, 11 AM – 5 PM, and Thursday, Dec. 29, 10 AM – 4 PM.

Hannah McNutt of Bloodworks, sent word in mid-October that at that point OHLC had hosted 10 blood drives, which had brought in 252 units of blood. They're thankful of our continued support in the community and look forward to scheduling further dates in 2023.

Please note that donations are being made through scheduled appointments. Call 800-398-7888 or follow this link: <https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/GroupLanding.aspx?s=531B>.



 Oak Harbor Lutheran Church's Stephen Ministers receive ongoing support from our Stephen Leaders and our congregation. This support includes:

Training

Our trained Stephen Leaders provide Stephen Ministers with 18 modules of initial training for this ministry before they are assigned a care receiver. Afterward, Stephen Ministers receive regular, continuing education for as long as they serve. The training is comprehensive, and Stephen Ministers can feel confident in their skills not only for this ministry but for their everyday caring and relating.

Commissioning

Our congregation formally commissions Stephen Ministers at worship services. This allows the community to recognize their efforts, affirm and support their ministry, and pray for them as they begin their caring ministry.

Supervision

Supervision provides Stephen Ministers with encouragement and ensures that no Stephen Minister will ever have to carry the responsibility for a care receiver all alone.

Prayers

Stephen Ministers rely on the prayers of the Stephen Leaders and the rest of the congregation for keeping God's presence foremost in their caring ministry. They benefit greatly from knowing that others are lifting their needs as caregivers to God in prayer.

Stephen Leaders

Our congregation has had key people trained at a weeklong training course to serve as Stephen Leaders. As part of their responsibilities, these Stephen Leaders in turn provide guidance to Stephen Ministers. They train them and ensure that supervision and continuing education progress smoothly. Stephen Leaders match care receivers with Stephen Ministers. They are available to consult with Stephen Ministers when they have questions, face challenges, or suspect that the care receiver's needs are outside the care they are equipped to give. Stephen Leaders offer support, advice, and affirmation to the Stephen Ministers

and ensure the smooth operation of Stephen Ministry in our congregation.

Recognition and appreciation

OHLC regularly recognizes and appreciates Stephen Ministers for the dedicated service they give the congregation.

OHLC's Stephen Leaders are Gaye Rodriguey and Gail Dobbryn.

If you are interested in receiving training to become a Stephen Minister or feel it would be helpful to receive Stephen Ministry care, please contact Gaye or Gail, talk to Pastor Spencer, or leave a message in the church office, 360-679-1561.

Gaye Rodriguey, gaye@tobysuds.com

Gail Dobbryn, zayan.kanjo@gmail.com

Pastor Spencer, pastor@oakharborlutheran.org

In Sympathy

Our hearts go out to those in our church family who have suffered the recent loss of loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers.

Part of OHLC's early history...

We received word that **Elsie Hunsakor** died on Nov. 14 in Bellingham. She was 94. A daughter of Hartvik & Jenny Otterlei and part of our congregation's Alaska connection, Elsie was born and baptized in Ketchikan. She married Marion Hunsakor in 1949, youngest son of OHLC charter members Carl & Hilda Hunsakor. Graveside services were held on Nov. 29 at Maple Leaf Cemetery in Oak Harbor.

Loss of a longtime member...

Erwin ("Dugie") Dugin died on November 18. He was 81. Dugie was baptized as an adult in 1984, a few months after his wife, Bobbi, had transferred her membership to OHLC. Although his health had worsened in recent years, Dugie was a participant in the Brotherhood of St. Bernard ("Old Dogs") men's group.

On the bulletin prayer list...

Damaris Sexton had been on our health concerns list in the bulletin since last year. The sister of OHLC's own Miria Stephens and Beth's aunt, she died recently in California.

Our Story

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." - Luke 1:46-55 NRSV



Mary's response to the angel Gabriel's news that she would bear a son is most unusual.

The young teenager goes from apprehensiveness and curiosity in one moment to joy and exuberance the next. Her song, also known as *The Magnificat*, delivers to us a poetic recounting of God's story through the ages. It is this story — the story of God — that animates Mary's words and imbues within her a sense of wonder and awe.

All of our lives tell a story, but not all of those stories harmonize with the story of God. When we oppress the weak, trample on the down-trodden, and allow our actions to be controlled by fear, our lives embody a counter narrative to God's story of justice, deliverance, and peace. But when our lives embrace as kin our neighbors and strangers alike, we find our lives echoing with the cadence of the divine. We, like Mary, have the opportunity to not only proclaim God's story with our lips but with our entire lives. Let each and every day be our own *Magnificat* to the great things God has done and desires to do in this world.

*Lord, may I be like Mary
and welcome all that you wish to bring into my life.
May my life tell your story
of peace, justice, and compassion in this world. Amen*

Devotion by Rev. Kevin K. Wright;
Strong for a Moment Like This, Rev. Dr. Bill Shillady, page 21

Fundraiser update: Bead for Life/Street Business School

A big thank you to my beloved community of OHLC for supporting the women of Uganda through your recent purchases of beaded jewelry and your monetary gifts and donations.

With the \$285.00 we are sending to Street Business School, more women will increase their income and eventually own their business, therefore lifting themselves and their children out of poverty.

Ubuntu*,
Gaye Rodriguez

*(invoking the essential human virtues of compassion and dignity for all)

If only...

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

LOVE
YOUR neighbor
AS YOURSELF.
Mark 12:31

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

—Martin Luther

Members & friends on the move

Please note the new address for **David & Becky Peattie**: 5055 E Viola Ave., Youngstown, OH 45515.

Carolyn Kroon, who had been a regular attender especially at the Saturday evening services in Coupeville, sent word of her recent move to Texas. She underwent hip surgery in November and anticipates surgery on the other hip once she's recuperated, and appreciates our continued prayer support. Her new address is 2603 Holly Walk Lane, Spring, TX 77388.

Worship Assistants		
December 4		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Carey Communion Asst: Wendy Wilson Healing Prayer: T. Piper, G. Rodriguey	Acolyte: Abby Gray Computer: Donna Aspery Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Sharon Erickson Communion Asst: Kerri Totten Healing Prayer: G. Hawley, C. Reafs	Acolyte: Computer: Bruce Holroyd Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
December 11		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Paul Senness Communion Asst: Sam Richards	Acolyte: Sam Richards Computer: C. or K. Norman Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Reafs Communion Asst: Laurie Johnson	Acolyte: Computer: Kale Totten Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
December 18		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Jeff Margraf Communion Asst: Tracey Tomlin	Acolyte: Abby Gray Computer: Lisa Margraf Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Fitzgerald Communion Asst: Janet Smith	Acolyte: Computer: John Totten Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
December 24 – Christmas Eve		
4:00 PM	Assisting Minister:	Acolyte: Computer Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
7:00 PM	Assisting Minister: Rita Carter Communion Asst:	Acolyte: Computer: Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:00 PM	Assisting Minister: Sheila Ryan Communion Asst:	Acolyte: Computer: Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
December 25 – Christmas Day – One service!		
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Piper Communion Asst:	Acolyte: Computer: Anders Spencer Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst

Financial Report

October

	October	Year to date
Income	\$ 40,429	\$ 360,065
Outgo	<u>38,238</u>	<u>366,286</u>
	\$ <u>2,011</u>	\$ <u>(6,211)</u>

Worship Attendance

November

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Oct. 30	61	72
Nov. 6	40	80
Nov. 13	35	86
Nov. 20	56	86
Nov. 27	49	80
Avg. Att.	42	81

Average Sunday attendance: 123



Lesser Festivals & Commemorations December

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552 | 14 John of the Cross, renewer of the church, 1591 |
| 4 John of Damascus, theologian, hymnwriter, c. 749 | 20 Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, 1552 |
| 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342 | 26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr |
| 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397 | 27 John, Apostle and Evangelist |
| 13 Lucy, martyr, 304 | 28 The Holy Innocents, martyrs |

Little Lutheran bags for December: Gaye Rodriguey

This month's featured font is **Kingthings Christmas** with assistance from Kingthings Petrock Light.



<div> <div>DECEMBER</div>  </div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL M,T,W 8:45-11:45 AM Christmas Break: December 19-30	 <i>Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him</i>			1 1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry at China City 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i> 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	2 3:00 Quest Club	3
4 Advent 2 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/ <i>Magnificat</i> 9:15 Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> CA/library 7:30	5 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	6 9:30 Blanket Workshop 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts Tr. 4059/library	7 9:30 Blanket Workshop 12:00 Advent worship 12:30 Soup & bread 1:00 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday 4:00 Choir 6:00 Advent worship 6:30 Soup & bread	8 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i> 7:00 Council 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	9 1:00 Library Committee	10 11:00 NA Christmas gathering
11 Advent 3 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/ <i>Magnificat</i> 9:15 Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Student Recital 1:30 Confirmation 6:00 CA/library 7:30	12 5:00 Brass rehearsal 6:30 CARE/refugee supp. 7:00 Concert: Penn Cove Brass/Harbor Brass 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 12:00 Advent worship 12:30 Soup & bread 1:00 W.W. set-up 1:30 Welcome Wednesday 4:00 Choir 6:00 Advent worship 6:30 Soup & bread	15 12:30 WIGS Christmas gathering 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i> 6:00-ish All Island Community Band reh. 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	16	17
18 Advent 3 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/ <i>Magnificat</i> 9:15 Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> Concert: All Island Community Band 2:00 CA/library 7:30	19 7:00 Vocal Recital 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	20 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 12:00 Advent worship 12:30 Soup & bread 4:00 Choir 6:00 Advent worship 6:30 Soup & bread	22 Bloodworks NW, fellowship hall, 10 AM-4 PM 1:00 Deborah Circle 5:00 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i> 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	23 Bloodworks NW, fellowship hall, 10 AM-4 PM	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 Worship/S.S. Christmas program 7:00 Worship/ Holy Communion <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> 10:00 Worship/ Holy Communion
25 Christmas Day Worship 10:30 <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> DEADLINE FOR OFFERINGS for 2022 CA/library 7:30	26 Church office closed 7:00 North Whidbey NA/fellowship hall	27 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 Bloodworks NW, fellowship hall, 11 AM-5 PM 11:30 OHLC Staff	29 Bloodworks NW, fellowship hall, 10 AM-4 PM	30 6:00 Council Christmas party, fellowship hall	31 7:00 NA New Year's gathering