

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



HARBOR BEACON

Volume 70, Issue 9

September 2023

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)
1253 NW 2nd Avenue 360-679-1561

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

office@oakharborlutheran.org

www.oakharborlutheran.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

Holding fast,
pg. 2

We return to 2 services
on Sunday, Sept. 10,
pg. 3

Why Do We...?
pg. 3

Munchy Monday returns,
pg. 47

Congratulations to the
Fir-Conway Lutherans!
pg. 5

It's time for the Watoto
garage sale,
pg. 7



OHLC Staff	Home Phone
------------	------------

Pastor:

Jeffrey Spencer	360-320-4041
-----------------	--------------

Preschool Director:

Jasmine Hendricks	360-929-1760
-------------------	--------------

Youth & Family Ministry

Beth Stephens	619-729-3031
---------------	--------------

Office Manager:

Janis Powell	360-672-0059
--------------	--------------

Newsletter Editor:

Martha Ellis	360-678-2264
--------------	--------------

Custodian:

Salvador Carvallo	360-675-3957
-------------------	--------------

Church Phone

360-679-1561

**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/2023/08/14/15/00/31/7de33f4b-9460-42a0-96b0-170e17041d64/September%202023%20Spirit.pdf>

OHLC's website:

www.oakharborlutheran.org

This issue was snail-mailed August 30, 2023

Pastor's Page: Holding Fast to God and God's Gifts

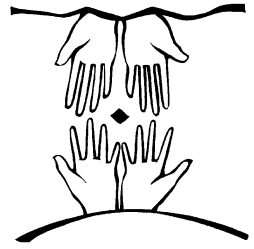
Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who has promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:23

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."
John 10:27-28

My youngest son has a pair of hand exercisers he keeps on an end table in our family room. Sometimes when he's watching TV, he'll pick them up and give them several rounds of squeezing. I noticed these hand exercisers there the other day and wondered to myself why it was so important to exercise your hands. Dumbbells for biceps I get. Doing sit-ups for abs? Sure. But why the hands? Then it dawned on me. He's a golfer. And a tennis player. In both of these sports it is important to be able to have a strong, firm grip. You need to be able to hold on, tight and steady, to your racket or club.

Because I am an inveterate theologian and can't help but turn just about anything into a spiritual metaphor, I started thinking about how those hand exercises are a good way to think about an important aspect of the Christian life. There are tons of verses in the Bible which encourage us to hold fast to God and to God's gifts, keeping a good firm grip. In Deuteronomy 10:20, Moses tells God's people: "You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall *hold fast*." In Psalm 119:31 the psalmist invites us to sing and pray these words: "I *hold fast* to your statutes, LORD." St. Paul encourages us to "*hold fast* to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21) and to "*hold fast* to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 1:13). The author of Hebrews really likes the phrase "hold fast," using it multiple times. We are told in Hebrews 3:6 that "...we are Christ's house if we *hold fast* to the confidence and the pride that belong to hope." We are exhorted to "*hold fast* to our confession" in Hebrews 4:14 and then, for good measure, we are told again in 10:23 to "*hold fast* to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." The phrase is found in the book of Revelation on the lips of Jesus himself, who says: "I am coming soon; *hold fast* to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown." (Revelation 3:11) You get the picture. With remarkable frequency, the Bible teaches us that an important aspect of the Christian

life is holding fast, keeping a firm grip on what God has revealed to us, both in law and in gospel, God's commandments and God's promises.



We exercise our grip through the practices of the Christian faith. These practices include daily prayer and time in the Word. They include weekly, or at least frequent, attendance in worship, where we literally take hold of Christ as we grasp the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. They include digging deeper into God's Word through Christian education, which ought to be considered a life-long practice for every disciple of Jesus, regardless of age. After all, *disciple* literally means *student*.

As we begin a new program year here at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, our schedule will once again ramp up with more opportunities to exercise your grip. Perhaps after the lazy days of summer and its different pace, routine, and schedules, it is time for you to get back into a habit of daily devotions and weekly worship. Perhaps it is time to deepen your understanding of our Christian faith as our Sunday school for all ages – including adults! – starts back up this month, including a Wednesday night option for adults in addition to the Sunday class. As fall routines begin again, be sure to include these essential faith practices into your schedule.

There are many things in our lives which threaten to loosen our grip on God and God's gifts to us. Apathy peels our fingers away, one by one. Distractions leading to a lack of attendance and participation in the life of the church causes those spiritual muscles to atrophy, and people find it harder to hold on. This is why it is so important to exercise your grip by participating in the practices of the Christian faith.

But know this too: even if your grip has failed, Christ's never does. His hand is infinitely stronger than yours, and even now he is holding fast to you. He has you in the tight and steady grasp of his grace, and he promises that no one will snatch you out of his hands (John 10:28). This is the promise. Hold it fast and never let go, for he will never let go of you.

- Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

Worship Notes



Regular worship schedule resumes Sept. 10!

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

Also, beginning September 10 we will be returning to communion around the altar, kneeling as you are able.

September 10: Blessing of the backpacks



Hey kids! Bring your school backpacks (or other school bags) to church on Sunday, Sept. 10 (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.

New member class set for September 10 at noon

Those interested in becoming members at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church are invited to our fall new member class, held in our church library at noon. A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to pastor@oakharborlutheran.org.

Music rehearsals begin!

Join us as we lift our voices in praise to God, rehearsing anthems for our Sunday morning worship services. Weekly practice for the **Chancel Choir begins Wednesday, September 13, 4:00-5:00 PM.**

Jubilation Ringers, our handbell group, also begins weekly rehearsals, **Wednesday, September 13, starting at 5:15 PM.**

Verna Morgan, our Director of Music, is working on organizing a **Children's Choir**, to rehearse briefly on Sunday mornings. Further information will be forthcoming...

Fall's adult Bible study: *Why Do We...?*

This fall, Pastor Spencer will teach a new topical Bible study called "Why Do We...?" Each week we will dig into scripture and the Lutheran confessions to explore why we do things the way we do them. This series will run through November, and suggestions for topics are welcome! Just e-mail your suggestion to pastor@oakharborlutheran.org.

This class will be held in the church library on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 and on Wednesday nights, 7:00-8:00 PM. Here are the topics scheduled for September:

Sept. 10/13 – Why do we worship like we do?

Sept. 17/20 – Why do we have pastors?

(And why do they dress like that?)

Sept. 24/27 – Pastor out of town – no class



Included in this newsletter are *Prayer Ventures* & *The Spirit* for September.

The church office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 4.

The Library Team meets Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 1 PM in the library.

A memorial service will be held for Agnes Christensen Balda Bos at 10 AM at OHLC on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The Brotherhood of St. Bernard, OHLC's men's fellowship & Bible study group, meets at noon in the fellowship hall on Tuesdays, Sept. 12 & 26.

The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Lydia Circle's Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, Nov. 4!!!

Peg Fosnaugh sends her sincere thanks for all the phone calls, prayers offered on her behalf, and all the other expressions of concern as she recuperates after breaking her ankle.

Growing & Learning

Sunday School news

Another exciting program year of Christian education for all ages is about to begin! The first day of Sunday School is **Sunday, Sept. 10**, starting at 9:15 AM.



Kindergarten 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. ***Please wear your God's Work. Our Hands. t-shirt if you have one!*** 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 ASAP.

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.

Youth and Family: Floats and Fellowship

Join us on Sunday, September 10, to kick off a new program year with Floats & Fellowship! We will 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 family-friendly board game to share. All are welcome!

And for the months beyond September, save the evenings of the 1st Sundays for fun future events with Youth & Family!

Confirmation Pizza Party set for Sept. 17

All new and returning confirmation families are invited to a confirmation kick-off pizza party on Sunday, September 17, beginning at 6:00 PM. Burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. We will discuss the program and distribute the schedule and materials for the year.



Munchy Monday returns!

(and volunteers are needed!!)

Our student outreach program for Oak Harbor High School will start on Monday the 11th of September. Barring the holidays, we will again provide a safe hangout space at the church for students on early release Mondays between the hours of 1:00 & 3:00 PM. Kitchen set-up begins at 12:30 on Monday afternoons; shepherding is from 1:00 to 3:00. We are looking for volunteers to set up in the kitchen and shepherd the students as well as those willing to donate food and/or supplies. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity or would like to learn more please sign up on the Connection Card insert in your Sunday bulletin or contact me, bethasteph@gmail.com.



An orientation and Child Protection Policy training will be held both Monday, Sept. 11, at 12:30 PM and Sunday, Sept 17, at 11:45 AM for all prospective volunteers.

This month Munchy Monday is the ministry of the month! Check out the bulletin board in the narthex for info and photos from past years and consider volunteering. Welcoming people are greatly needed to keep this ministry going. You can also make an offering above and beyond your support of OHLC. Please put **MM** on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support!

- Beth Stephens

ADVENTURERS WANTED!

QUEST CLUB is open to youth of all skill levels, age 12 and up. Join the Dead Sea Squirrels adventuring party in a TTRPG game based on Dungeons & Dragons as they travel through the lands and time of the Bible on a quest to track down the missing Magi and discover more about a mysterious prophecy. For more information contact Beth Stephens, bethasteph@gmail.com.



New players: Sign-up ahead is preferred for character creation but not required.

We meet in the education wing at church. This month's meeting will be **Sunday, September 24, 5:00-7:30 PM**.

His Kids Preschool

A ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

Welcoming in the 2023/2024 school year has been filled with adjustments, excitement, and blessings! Learning and guided along, our new director has felt overwhelming support from YOU the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church community and is enjoying her new position immensely. We have conferences coming up August 5 & 6, the parent handbook has been updated, calendar dates set, a Facebook page has been established (go give us a like at [His Kids Preschool OHLC](#)), and we've been scheduled for our first field trip of the year to the library.

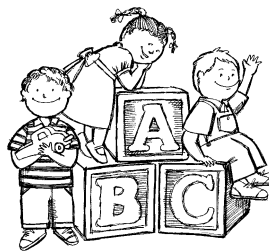
Our to-do list will be completed after some final classroom organization, beautification of our playground, and added decorations for our hallway information boards! Anticipation for our incoming class has been growing throughout the summer, as we step out of summer "rest" and into new school adventures.

We do still have a couple spots available in our class but look forward to growing later in the year as families continue to move and shift as they do here in Oak Harbor. As for now please let us welcome...

**Brayden D., Abigail F., Hannah H., Julian J., Atena L.,
Reid M., Jomari P., Jacob P., Harper R., Theo R.,
Karter S., Celia T., Wren W.**

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the program, our teachers, our volunteers and staff, the students, and their families! We look forward to an amazing year!

God is Good,
Ms. Jasmine, Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Debbie,
Ms. Gaye and Ms. Martha



Welcome to
Preschool

Loving Our Neighbors

- with Gaye Rodriguey

A Prayer

Dear God,

As you draw me ever deeper into your heart,
I discover that my companions on the journey
are women and men

loved by you
as fully and as intimately as I am.

In your compassionate heart,
there is a place for all of them.

No one is excluded.

Give me a share in your compassion, dear God,
so that your unlimited love
may become visible
in the way I love my brothers and sisters.

Amen.

Henri J. M. Nouwen,
You Are The Beloved,
page 233, "With Open Hands"

...and speaking of neighbors...



Fir-Conway Lutheran Church
stands as a distinctive landmark in
our nearby Skagit valley (and they
also receive OHLC's newsletter).

We rejoice with this sister
congregation and we offer prayers
for God's continuing blessings
as they celebrate their
135th anniversary in September!

OHLC Women

Opportunities for fellowship, study & service

Blanket Workshop

Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, Sept. 5&6, at 9:30 in the fellowship hall to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Newcomers are always welcome!

Circle meetings in September

Deborah Circle meets each Thursday in September, 1:00-3:00 PM in the church library. The group will discuss the book *The Gift of Empathy* by Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haugk. Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguey at gaye@tobysuds.com.

9/ 7: Introduction – Chapter 3, pgs. 5-24

9/14: Chapters 4&5, pgs. 25-40

9/21: Chapters 6&7, pgs. 41-58

9/28: Interlude – Chapter 9, pgs. 59-86

Lydia Circle meets as a group on Monday, September 18, at 6 PM in the education wing to work on projects for the upcoming bazaar. Remember to keep working at home on these projects for the rest of the month!

In our prayers

Please keep **Jan Heideger** and **Gaye Rodriguey** in your prayers as they travel with 35 other women from our NWWA Synod to the Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in Phoenix, AZ, being held September 19-24.

Northwest WA Synodical Women's Convention & Gathering

When? Saturday, October 21, 2023

What time? 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Where? Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Everett

The Theme: GOT FAITH?

The Speaker: Beth Lewis – *Your Faith Journey: Called to Serve, Serve & Share!*

Meals: Morning treat, box lunch, water/coffee/tea

Cost: \$30(What a bargain!)

**Registration forms
are available in the OHLC office.**

Questions?: Contact Gaye Rodriguey, gaye@tobysuds.com.



Stephen Ministry News

Stephen Ministry will meet on Thursday, September 14, 4:00-5:30 PM in the church library. Module 5, “A Process Approach to Caring” found in Volume 1 of the Training Manual, pages 79-87 and Chapters 1 & 12 of Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life will be the focus of the group’s discussion.

The Source of Comfort:

When you find yourself in pain, it’s natural to seek comfort. Everyone wants the agony of injury, illness, or heartbreak to disappear as quickly as possible.

If you touch a hot stove, you might grab an ice for your burn. If you get caught in a rainstorm, you might immediately look for shelter. If you experience the loss of someone you love, you might do whatever you can to distract yourself from grief.



God can bring us comfort through others:

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT

When Paul and Timothy use the word “comfort,” they’re describing a God who comforts, consoles, encourages, helps, strengthens, instructs, and refreshes. That’s the God He was to Paul and Timothy, and that’s the God He still is. No matter how bad things get, God can comfort you. And because God’s Spirit is within His people, His people can also comfort others. He works in them and through them to offer a hope that’s beyond any present or future pain.

Are you hurting physically, mentally, or emotionally? There’s a God who shows care for you through Stephen Ministers, who are available right now, who are ready to sit with you, to listen to you and to help you process your pain.

If you would like to be connected with a Stephen Minister, please contact Gaye Rodriguey, Gail Dobbryn or Pastor Jeff.

Compassion Ministry

Update from Josephine

On behalf of the Josephine Caring Community, we wish to express sincere appreciation for your donations to their birdseed fund. We have collected a total of \$295.02 to date this summer, and will continue to accept contributions of funds (*no actual birdseed*) through Sunday, Sept. 3. We will be sending these monies to Josephine very soon to help fund this life-enhancing project for their residents.

Kathy Holroyd & Laurie Johnson
OHLC's Josephine delegates



Wrapping up the Baby Bottle Boomerang

James 1:17 – *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*



As Liaison for the Whidbey Island Women's Clinic, I would like to thank Pastor Spencer for his help in setting up the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser at church. The Clinic exists to save lives and help families – physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting God's work. No doubt, God will reward you for every penny given and used to meet the needs of the women and men that come to the Clinic looking for help and support. God bless.

Morrie Parker, liaison

Ministry of the Month: *Munchy Monday*

Our focus this month is OHLC's almost-weekly, early-release Monday outreach to Oak Harbor High School students. A ministry we've offered for quite some time now, the name was changed to *Welcome Wednesday* last school year when the early-release day was shifted. That move resulted in a few challenges, especially with the quick fellowship hall changeovers necessary to accommodate midweek congregational meals during Advent & Lent. It's good to be back to Monday.

Beth Stephens is our Munchy Monday coordinator; see her article on page 7 for more information.



Bloodworks Northwest returns to OHLC in September

Please note that our fellowship hall will be used on 4 days this month for blood donation clinics by Bloodworks Northwest:

♥ Thursday & Friday, Sept. 21 & 22

♥ Thursday & Friday, Sept. 28 & 29

The fellowship hall will not be available for any other use during this time, and their equipment will remain in place on both Thursday evenings.

Blood donations are by appointment only; visit their website, <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/> or call 1-800-398-7888 for more information.

Coming this month:

Watoto Garage Sale

Mark your calendar for the Watoto Garage Sale, **Saturday, September 23, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will go towards the care and education of the Watoto children in Uganda.



Your donations of garage sale items are needed and much appreciated (*no electronic devices, clothing or furniture!*). **Keep these items stashed at home until Friday, Sept. 28, when we'll be able to start setting up in the fellowship hall at about 4:30 PM** after Bloodworks NW moves out. See above!)

If you have a question about donating a possible garage sale item or would like more information about OHLC's longstanding relationship with Watoto, contact Skip & Judy Lycksell, 360-679-2010, or talk other Watoto Team members.

Started in 1994, Watoto Child Care Ministries is a branch of the Watoto Church in Uganda that builds villages with schools, churches, medical centers and homes, and populates them with new families built from orphans and widows.

Dear Church Families,
Greetings from Lutherwood!

We are having a great summer welcoming campers from 5 years old to 71. Everyone is welcome at Lutherwood!



August 15, 2023

Here are some camper quotes from today:

I come to Lutherwood for the community. It's a fun Christian atmosphere.

I love that it's an inclusive camp.

It's getting better and better.

It's a fun way to spend a summer and hang out with friends I wouldn't otherwise see because we live far apart.

I love that they accommodate my dietary restrictions.

I love cookies!

Inner tubing was so much fun today!

I love hanging out with Hailee [cabin leader].

You always make good friends at camp.

We Have Been Busy

We have enjoyed seven weeks of summer offerings of youth and family camp. Additionally, the camp has been filled with weekend church groups in all the campout areas!

Many folks have been coming for years and new folks often refer to Lutherwood as "a hidden gem that I never knew about." Whatever brings folks to Lutherwood, the staff are happy to help them "Explore Grace in Creation".

People Power

Putting together a program and hosting guests requires a huge amount of work and human power.

Lutherwood has been gifted with an incredible group of summer staff this year. Like most the country though, we have been running camp shorthanded with a limited staff.

The core staff have been augmented with many fabulous volunteers who have brought wonderful energy and gifts to help keep everything moving. We are grateful for all of our amazing volunteers! (Looking to volunteer? Let us know!)

We Need Your Help

We are reaching out to you to help us fulfill our commitments to the staff.

As the camper said today, "I come to camp for the community." You are part of the community that has a positive impact on campers lives!

We need your help! In our effort to have fair wages, we increased the summer staff salaries to \$400/week this year. We need to raise \$30,000 more (\$100,000 total) in gift income from individuals and churches.

Will you consider a gift to Lutherwood to help keep the commitment to the staff? A gift of \$25/month (\$300 annually) makes you a charter member of our new Giving Club. A gift of \$3,600 pays 1 summer staff member's salary. Every gift is welcome!

We are truly grateful for all the people who make Lutherwood what it is. It takes a village! The staff, volunteers, donors and camp cheerleaders. You!

Giving your gift is easy!

- ✓ Donate by Paypal
- ✓ Donate by Credit Card
- ✓ Donate by Check: Mail check to Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center, 1185 Roy Road, Bellingham, WA 98229

Thank you for your consideration and for your partnership in the ministry of Lutherwood!

In God's Loving Grace,
Judy Eng
Interim Executive Director

Disaster response highlights Maui wildfires

Wildfires on Maui have claimed over 100 lives and destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and all the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season. The ELCA's **Lutheran Disaster Response** is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners, working with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery among the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Contributions may be made through OHLC; please write your check to OHLC, with U.S. Wildfires on the memo line.

You may also give via the ELCA website: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>. Scroll down to the *Domestic* appeal list and click on *Wildfires*.

Worship Assistants		
September 3		
9:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Moira Bartrand Communion Asst: Rita Carter Healing Prayer: M. Nowicki, B. Wall	Acolyte: Abby Gray Computer: Donna Aspery Organ/Piano: Kris Bruland
Regular schedule resumes -- 2 services!		
September 10		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Piper Communion Asst: Mary Brock Solo: Miria Stephens	Acolyte: Anna Richards Computer: Sam Richards Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Kathy Holroyd Communion Asst: Louis Bartrand Solo: Miria Stephens	Computer: Ted Smith Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
September 17		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Jeff Margraf Communion Asst: Tracey Tomlin Solo: Karen Lesetmoe	Acolyte: Matthew Richards Computer: Lisa Margraf Organ/Piano: Kris Bruland
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Jan Heideger Communion Asst: Solo: Karen Lesetmoe	Computer: Kale Totten Organ/Piano: Kris Bruland
September 24		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Sheila Ryan Communion Asst: Anthem: Chancel Choir	Acolyte: Elizabeth Richards Computer: Lucas Stone Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Kerri Totten Communion Asst: Rita Cline Anthem: Chancel Choir	Computer: Bruce Holroyd Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan

Little Lutheran bags in September: Marge Verburg & Kim
Thank you to Trudy Decker for volunteering in August!

This month's decorative font is Imprint MP Shadow.

Financial Report

July

	July	Year to date
Income	\$ 40,570	\$ 257,977
Outgo	<u>32,894</u>	<u>256,180</u>
	\$ <u>7,676</u>	\$ <u>1,797</u>

Worship Attendance

August

Date	9:30 AM
July 30	121
Aug. 6	108
Aug. 13	109
Aug. 20	106
Aug. 27	136
Avg. Att.	116

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 |

Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.

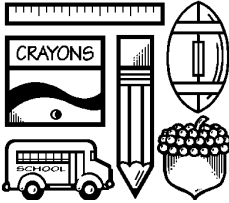
Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

ChurchArt Online, published in [September 2019](#)



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL M,T,W 9:00/9:15 AM – 12:15 PM Class starts Sept. 11!					1	2
3 Worship 9:30 CA/library 7:30	4 LABOR DAY Church office closed 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	5 9:30 Blanket Workshop 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	6 9:30 Blanket Workshop 11:30 OHLC Staff 1:00 Library Team	7 1:00 Deborah Circle 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	8	9 10:00 Memorial service, Agnes Balda Bos
10 Blessing of the school backpacks Worship 8:00 Sunday School Rally Day Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 New Member class 12:00 AA/Unity mtg. 2:00 Youth/Family Night 6:00 CA/library 7:30	11 12:30 Child Protection Policy training 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:00 Munchy Monday 6:30 WhidbeyCAREs 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	12 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:15 Jubilation Ringers 7:00 Adult Ed.	14 1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Council 7:00 NA, fellowship hall	15	16
17 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 Child Protection Policy training 11:45 Confirmation 6:00 CA 7:30	18 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:00 Munchy Monday 6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	19 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scout Court of Honor	20 Newsletter Deadline 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:15 Jubilation Ringers 7:00 Adult Ed.	21 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall 1:00 Deborah Circle 7:00 NA, library	22 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall 4:20-ish Watoto Garage Sale set-up	23 9 AM – 3 PM Watoto Garage Sale
24 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 (no Adult Ed) Worship 10:30 QUEST CLUB 5:00-7:30 CA/library 7:30	25 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:00 Munchy Monday 6:00 North Whidbey NA/fellowship hall 6:30 WhidbeyCAREs	26 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:15 Jubilation Ringers (no Adult Ed.)	28 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall 1:00 Deborah Circle 7:00 NA, library	29 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall	30 6:00 Boy Scout Court of Honor