

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



HARBOR BEACON

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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

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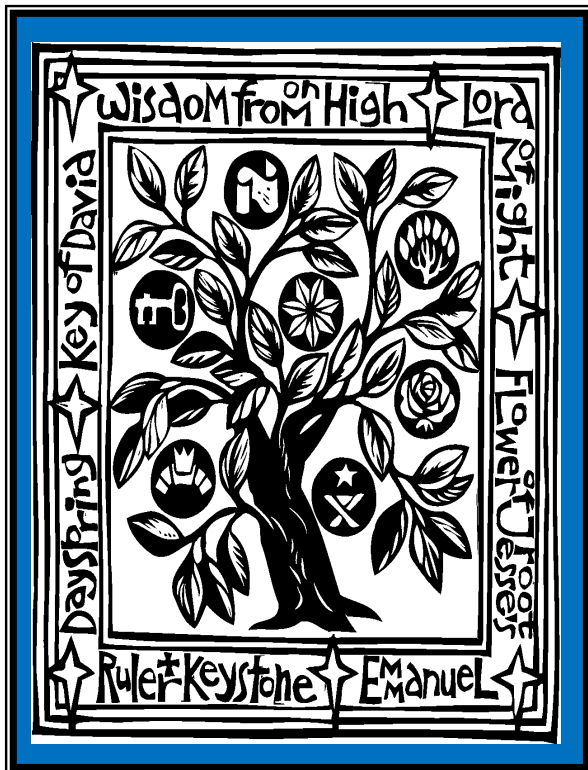
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**Click on these links
for the December newsletter inserts:**

The ELCA's monthly *Prayer Ventures*:

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

The Northwest Washington Synod's insert, *The Spirit*
for December:

https://www.lutheransnw.org/df_media/W1siZiIsIjIwMjMvMTEvMTUvMTgyMTkvNDgvZDEzYzlmOTgtMmZjZi00ZDU2LWUwMzEtOTY1ODc5M2I3MWEzL0RFQ0VNQkVVSIDlwMjMgU3Bpcml0LnBkZiJdXQ/DECEMBER%202023%20Spirit.pdf?sha=a16c9a4c98c9bea6

OHLC's website:

www.oakharborlutheran.org

This newsletter was snail-mailed 11/29/23

Shaking the Branches of Jesus' Family Tree

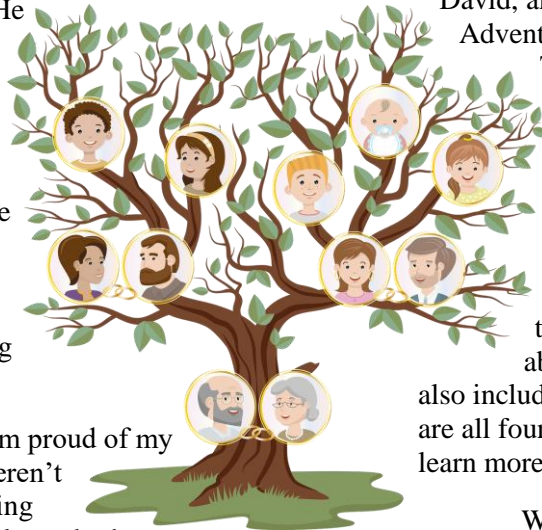
"An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

Matthew 1:1

I've been into genealogy for many years. I've always loved history, which is what my undergraduate degree is in, and being able to place family members in specific times and places just makes it all the more fascinating to me. On my dad's side there is my tenth great-grandfather, Thomas Spencer, born in Stotfold, England, who in 1633 at the age of twenty-six crossed the Atlantic to help establish the Massachusetts Bay Colony. There is my fifth great-grandfather, Diah Manning, who spent the Revolutionary War in the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, a unit specially commissioned at Valley Forge to protect General George Washington. There is my third great-grandfather, Henry Harding Spencer, who fought for the Union in the Civil War. He died in camp in Beaufort, South Carolina, and is buried there, never making it back home to his wife and two young children in Connecticut. On my mother's side there is Reinert and Andrine Nodland, Norwegian immigrants who founded and built Vang Lutheran Church in Dunn Center, North Dakota, where generations of my family were baptized, including my grand-mother. Their branches can be traced back to a cluster of farms in Stavanger, Norway, with family records going back deep into medieval times, including contemporaries of Martin Luther.

I hope I don't sound like I'm bragging, but I am proud of my genealogy, my family history. I know these people weren't perfect. While I think the current obsession with judging past generations by modern, often narrowly ideological standards is ridiculous, unfair, and a perfect example of what C. S. Lewis called "chronological snobbery," I recognize that no human beings are without sin. Even so, I treasure these names, these people, this history. In learning about them, I come to better understand myself.

The Bible includes two genealogies of Jesus, one in Matthew and one in Luke. Matthew's genealogy is especially fascinating. Some names are obscure, while others represent well-known biblical figures like David and Solomon, Jacob and Abraham. There are women mentioned by name in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. This is surprising,



as Jewish genealogies in the ancient near east traditionally only recorded the male lineage. Matthew knew what he was doing, though. These women have stories to tell which point us to the significance of their great-great-great (and so on) grandson. Before he tells the story of Jesus' birth, Matthew is already dropping clues about who Jesus is and why he has come. They are everywhere in his genealogy. This genealogy is not a common resource for Bible studies or devotional materials. Who wants to wade through all those begats? However, these are names and stories and histories to be treasured. Those who dive into this genealogy are richly rewarded. In learning the histories of these people, we learn much about Jesus.

The season of Advent is upon us, and our theme this year at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church will be "Shaking the Branches of Jesus' Family Tree." On Sunday mornings our adult Bible study will explore several of the names in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. At our midweek Advent services at Noon and 6 PM we will hear dramatic portrayals of Ruth, David, and Joseph telling their stories. At our Youth & Family Night Advent kick-off on December 3 we will learn more about the "Jesse Tree," which is a nickname for Jesus' family tree. We will send people home with their very own Jesse Tree to decorate with ornaments representing people in Jesus' family tree, as well as an Advent devotional book I wrote around the theme. (Copies of the Advent devotional book will be available in the narthex as well.)

Before we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will shake the branches of his family tree, seeing what they can tell us about him. These branches include heroes of the faith. They also include scoundrels, sinners, and scandals. Oftentimes these qualities are all found in the same person! In learning more about them, we will learn more about Jesus.

We will learn more about ourselves, too. For we have been grafted into this family tree. In Holy Baptism we were reborn into the family of God, joined to Christ forever. And so his relatives are ours. In learning about them, we come to better understand ourselves.

I'm glad you are part of the family of God, and especially that you are part of the branch that gathers here at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church. We aren't perfect, but we are forgiven, and we are loved. Let's come together this Advent to explore the knotty branches of our shared family tree.

-- Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

ADVENT 2023



Join us this Advent season for our adult Bible study on Sunday mornings and midweek Advent services on Wednesdays as we “Shake the Branches on Jesus’ Family Tree” (see Pastor’s Page). Our midweek services will include a midday liturgy at Noon and Holden Evening Prayer at the 6:00PM service. Soup suppers will follow.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM in the library

December 3: *Unlikely Great-Grandmas: Tamar & Rahab*

December 10: *Jesse: From Sons to Stump*

December 17: *A Jagged Royal Line: Jehoshaphat to Zerubbabel*

Midweek Advent Services:

Noon & 6:00 PM, soup suppers following at 12:30 & 6:30 PM

December 6: Ruth, *The Grafted-In Gentile*

December 13: David, *A Great Sinner with Great Faith*

December 20: Joseph, *Plucked from the Dustbin of History*



Youth & Family Night: Advent in Heart & Home Sunday, December 3, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Come learn how you can make this holiday season a time of spiritual growth for you and your family. There will be...

SONGS: We’ll learn a few new Advent songs!

SNACKS: Enjoy our annual Hot Chocolate Bar!

CRAFT: Learn to make a Jesse Tree to help count down the days until Christmas!

DEVOTION: Pastor Spencer has written a family-friendly devotion book to use along with your Jesse Tree.

Cue the singing sheep...

The Sunday School Christmas program will be presented as part of the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, Dec. 24. **Rehearsals are held during SS class time** on Dec. 3, 10 & 17. Program participants, please meet in the fellowship hall on the 24th at 9:30 AM to get into costumes and have (we hope) one more run-through in the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Martha Ellis in the church office, 360-679-1561, martha@oakharborlutheran.org.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT OHLC

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, and so we have adapted our worship schedule as follows:



Sunday, Dec. 24 (No 8:00AM service)

10:30 AM: Worship, including the Sunday School Christmas Program

7:00 PM: Candlelight Communion Service (nursery available)

10:00 PM: Candlelight Communion Service (no nursery)

Monday, Dec. 25, 10:00AM: Worship

Sunday, Dec. 31, Back to two services, 8:00 & 10:30AM

IN DECEMBER...

Fair Trade Winds coming to OHLC

Our friends from Fair Trade Winds will be visiting OHLC once again on **Sunday, Dec. 10**, offering gift items from artists, craftspeople, and farmers from developing nations. Their pop-up store will be in the Fellowship Hall between and after our worship services. Come do some Christmas shopping where you can find some unique items while supporting people in need. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.



In Concert: Whidbey Community Chorus at 1st Reformed

The Whidbey Community Chorus presents *The Colors of Christmas* on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 PM at the First Reformed Church at 250 SW 3rd Ave in Oak Harbor.

OHLC’s own Tom Piper, Barbara Wilson, Leslie Improtta, Mary Kay Hallen, and Sandee Allen plus 80 other singers invite you to come hear some beautiful music to help stir a joyful mood for you as the Christmas season begins. Free admission; donations gratefully accepted.





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

Quest Club's holiday schedule is Fridays, Dec. 1 & 15, 3-5 PM.

OHLC's card makers, the **Church Mice Stampers**, meet on Tuesday, **Dec. 12**, starting at 10:00 AM in the library.

The Brotherhood of St. Bernard, OHLC's men's Bible study fellowship, meets Tuesday, **Dec. 12**, at noon in the fellowship hall.

The One Thing Book Group meets at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, **Dec. 12**, in the home of Judy Fantauzzi-Rhodes, 660 NW 12th Lp, Oak Harbor, to consider *And the Mountains Echoed*, by Khaled Hosseini.

Confirmation class meets Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend with their student. Mark your calendars and be sure and complete sessions 8-10 in your workbooks before we gather!

Munchy Monday will not meet on Mondays, **Dec. 18 & 25**.

Get the New Year off to a good start! The deadline for articles for the January 2024 newsletter is Tuesday, Dec. 19.

As 2023 draws to a close...

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 2023 taxes, all financial contributions must be received by the end of worship on the last Sunday of December... which this year handily falls on December 31.**



Offerings in 2024: Make a Connection Card note or contact Janis 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 Janis Powell, OHLC's office manager, 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!

Envelope sets will be available in the narthex in mid-December. Please note that your number will probably have been changed from the previous year's.

Are you doing your giving online or through your bank?

Please contact Janis 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.

Building use in December:

Bloodworks Northwest will be with us again for pop-up blood donation clinics in the fellowship hall on Friday, Dec. 1 as well as Thursday & Friday, Dec. 7&8. Donations are by appointment only; visit their website for more information, <https://www.bloodworksnw.org>.

Pipe organ repair will be underway in the sanctuary Dec. 11-14, so please be patient with any inconveniences during this much-needed project.

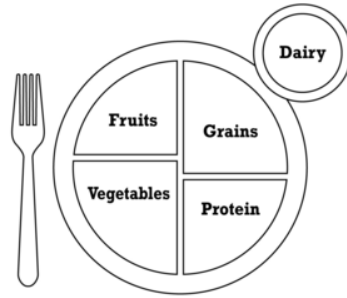


HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL

A MINISTRY OF
OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

His Kids Preschool had plenty to be thankful for this November, as we excitedly started the month by gaining several students – new faces and a familiar returnee from last year.

Students spent time learning about **nutrition** and the food groups, discovering how important each is to our bodies, what foods and drinks fit into which categories, and how foods create a well-balanced diet. They also practiced their lessons by collecting, categorizing, adding up 51 nonperishable items to the food bank for the holidays.



Dairy was explored by finger-painting paper pictures of chocolate milk bottles, using chocolate pudding as the paint. **Protein** group and the letter T were represented through easel-painting large, colorful turkeys! Brown construction paper cornucopias full of colored and cutout paper **fruits and vegetables** helped us see the wide variety and colors of these foods – you can enjoy those on the education wing bulletin board. **Grains** found their way into the lesson as we cut out and glued together paper slices of bread, which also reminded us that God is the Bread of Life.

On Nov. 7, our students learned about voting, and practiced this important duty by casting their very own votes in a highly political race of Juice vs. Milk for snack. In the end Juice was the landslide winner, 10 to 3.



Grocery Outlet of Oak Harbor hosted our field trip this month, and the students were given a tour of the store, front and back. The children practiced identifying food groups, worked on shopping skills, and got to explore the back rooms including the fridges and freezers! This was a very COOL place to be after all!

The classroom celebrated Thanksgiving on the 21st with our annual Feast Day. Supplies to create a mini-Thanksgiving meal were brought in, and the students enjoyed getting to try new foods as well as savor some favorites.

Here's how the children finished the sentence, "*My heart is thankful for...*"

Wren: doggies

Hannah: a rainbow

Jacob: my mom and dad

Reid: my mom

Julian: riding on scooters

Elizabeth: my daddy

Theo: Mom, Jackson, Dad, and Parker

Celia: when mom asks me to go to bed at nighttime

Karter: apples

Harper: milk

Abby: hearts

Jomari: Mom

Brayden: giving people cakes

Everett: toys

Following Thanksgiving break, we jumped into preparing for lessons of Christmas by starting to learn the stories of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, and lessons about JOY.

We hope that your Thanksgiving and upcoming holiday season are as bright as the His Kids Preschool kiddos!

Much love, Ms. Jasmine, Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle, and Ms. Debbie

COMING UP IN JANUARY:



Saturday, January 6: Twelfth Night party

Plan on joining us on Saturday, January 6, for an elegant evening of food, fellowship, and chamber music. Save the date!

More details will be announced soon!

Semi-annual Meeting set for January 21, 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 2024, vote on an update to our by-laws, and attend to other items of business. An agenda for the meeting will be made available by Sunday, January 14.

OHLC WOMEN

FELLOWSHIP, STUDY & SERVICE

Blanket Workshop

Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 5&6, beginning at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Circle meetings in December

Deborah Circle will meet December 7 & 14 at 1:00 PM in the library. This month's Bible study is from the Nov./Dec. *Gather* magazine. Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguey, gaye@tobysuds.com.

12/ 7: Weeks 2 & 3, *The Appearance Illusion* and *Lifting Up the Lowly*, Nov/Dec 2023 *Gather*, pgs. 33-35.

12/14: Week 4, *Abraham and his Descendants*, pgs. 35-37.

December 21 – Merry Christmas!

December 28 – Happy New Year!

Lydia Circle will be taking a break in December, but we'll start Bible study again with a new book on Jan. 8 at 6 PM in the prayer room. Come join us! Let us know if we should order a book for you, too! Contact Peg, Fosnaugh, 360-675-2821.

Lydia's Bazaar wrap-up!

- from peg fosnaugh

God sent us some rain squalls on bazaar day, Nov. 4, but he also sent loving and generous hearts to shop. Shoppers were greeted with so many treasures, handmade items, the aromas of delicious baked goods, and our smiles. In return, we heard so many tell us, "You have the best bazaar!" and "We come every year and we can't wait until the next one."

We, the Lydia Ladies, can't thank **you** enough for your help to make the bazaar such a success! You so graciously answered our calls and offered your gifts of crafts, baked goods for our sale. We are blessed to have such a loving and giving church family.

All proceeds from the bazaar stay at our church. As an example, your support is helping to make it possible for us to fund the recent installation of the new and much-needed tankless water heater. We couldn't do this without you.

Don't forget, the annual bazaar falls on the first Saturday in November, so mark your calendar for Nov. 2, 2024!

LIBRARY NEWS

The holidays (meaning holy days) are almost here! Our library has a variety of Advent and Christmas materials for adults and for children. One such book is *The Purpose of Christmas* by prolific author Rick Warren. This gem will warm our heart and remind you of the true reason for the season. Warren explains how God designated Christmas to meet you three deepest needs, and how understanding and receiving God's three Christmas gifts to you will transform your life!

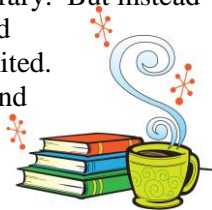
Perhaps you're considering doing more Bible study in 2024. Did you know that you may borrow devotional materials for a full year from our library?

We do appreciate donations of books to our library. But instead of bringing them to church, please contact one of us and make a list of the materials first. Our shelf space is limited. Also, please keep some free space between the chairs and the library shelves for easier access of the materials.

Thank you!

Your Library Team:

Kathy Holroyd, Colleen Pedlar, Carol Reafs



AT THE ALTAR

Thank you to everyone who so generously sponsored chancel and organ flowers for this past year. Because of you, flowers were a beautiful part of every Sunday's worship.

The new calendar has been posted in the hallway beside Pastor Spencer's office door. Be sure to peruse it and choose the dates to commemorate events or honor loved ones. Is your particular date already taken? Please let me know, and we'll work something out.

-- Peg Fosnaugh

IN SYMPATHY

We received word that **Hal Richardson** died on November 18 after an extended time with hospice care and a brief hospitalization. He was 86. The Richardsons joined OHLC in 2018. Please keep Lynette in your prayers, along with their family and their many friends.

Our hearts also go out to Jasmine & Zach Hendricks and family following the recent death of Jasmine's dad, **Mike Case-Smith** on November 10. Mike (also known as *Mr. Pumpkin* and beloved by many pumpkin patch field-trip preschoolers) was a well-known part of the historic Case Farms family on north Whidbey.

COMPASSION MINISTRY

Sharing and caring

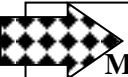
OHLC has been busy all year long, sharing and caring in many, many ways – now and then, big and small, here and there and (almost) everywhere! With that in mind, **please lend a hand with the interactive bulletin board in the narthex as we highlight some of the many aspects of our congregation's Compassion Ministry.**



And now the Christmas season is upon us, and the annual **Sharing Tree – December's Ministry of the Month** – is ready for action, by you, of course!

Here's how it works. **Take a tag** from the tree, **purchase the gift/s** listed on the tag, and then **bring the gift AND the tag back to church** by the designated time.

There's also a **No Shop Option:** Take any tag from the tree and return it to the church office with cash or a check donation to cover the cost, and someone will purchase items and deliver them for you.

 **Please return all gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 17. Make sure the Sharing Tree tag is visibly attached to the gift, whether the gift is wrapped or not! ALL GIFT CARDS should be taken to the church office along with the tag from the Sharing Tree.**

This year's gift recipients include:

1. **Josephine Caring Ministries** – Tags for the residents list a 'bundle' of 3 particular items they would like. Please purchase all 3 items (*there are 2 different bundle variations to choose between*) and then return them, unwrapped, in a Christmas bag with tissue inside and with the original tag attached. We encourage you to include a personal Christmas card for 'your' resident!
2. **El Camino de Emaus Lutheran Church families** in Burlington – We are asking for some specific gift items that can be wrapped or bagged with the Sharing Tree tag attached, and some Walmart gift cards that can be used for groceries, etc., as needed by the families. The cards will be distributed by their team, based on the family size and need.

3. **Our OHLC-sponsored Ukrainian family, supported by the WICAREs committee** – there will be designated cards on the Sharing Tree, requesting VISA gift cards that the family can use as they would like.

4. **Holiday House teen gifts** (also sponsored by the Oak Harbor Lions Club and Toys for Tots) – these cards will ask for gifts for teenage recipients. **Please return these gifts as soon as possible, unwrapped, with the Sharing Tree card attached. There will be a designated box in the church office.**

Thank you for sharing!

Joyfully,
Skip & Judy Lycksell

A BIG thank you

We so appreciate your prayerful and financial support of Josephine Caring Community! Board member Ernie Fosse shared an inspiring and exciting presentation on November 19 as part of Josephine as our Ministry of the Month for November.

Pastor Laurie Johnson & Kathy Holroyd
Congregational representatives for Josephine Caring Community

Dear OHLC Friends,

You have generously signed up to save household items for our Ukrainian family. If you can, please just hold on to them for now and we will reach out to you if items are needed. The house they are currently living in is furnished with much of their needs. Their names are also being added to the Holiday House list and our own Sharing Tree.

Your WICAREs Team

Stephen Ministry's December schedule

Stephen Ministry will meet on Thursday, December 7, at 4:00 PM in the library. The first hour will be spent celebrating the Christmas season with fellowship and food. From 5 to 6 PM, we will watch together *Building a More Caring World*, presented by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, founder and Executive Director of the Stephen Ministries.

Gaye Rodriguey

Three Essentials for an Empathy Mindset

Empathy is a powerful way to better understand others, forge stronger relationships, and care for those who are hurting. If everyone empathized with each other more often, it could go a long way toward overcoming the division, isolation, and misunderstanding that are so prevalent today.

But empathy doesn't just happen on its own. To see benefits in our lives and the lives of others, we need to be intentional about putting this skill into action. That means developing and maintaining an empathy mindset.

Here are three essentials for doing that:

1. Be Open to the Other Person's Experiences: The starting point is simply being open to listening to and learning about the other person's experiences and feelings. Be open to hearing what the other person has to say about their experiences. That's the right frame of mind to have as you seek to understand, as best you can, what the other person is thinking and feeling.

2. Be Willing to Make a Personal Connection: True empathy only occurs when we make a personal connection—when we directly interact with someone by listening, asking questions to encourage more sharing, and being present as they tell their story. A personal connection lets the person know we've heard them, understand what they're saying, and care about what they are going through.

3. Be Focused on the Other Person: When we maintain an empathy mindset, we keep the other person, and their needs at the center of the conversation. Empathy happens in a space where the other person's experience is the most important thing, and we create that kind of space when we make the other person the priority.

When you want to empathize with someone, come with an empathy mindset – stay open to people's experiences, committed to making a personal connection, and ready to make the other person the priority. Using these principles will put you on the right track to empathy that demonstrates compassion, brings comfort and enriches relationships.

Adapted from a "Caring Tip from Stephen Ministries." You can learn more about the book, *The Gift of Empathy* at <https://www.stephenministries.org> or talk to a member of Deborah Circle women's Bible study group.

Shalom, Gaye Rodriguey, OHLC Stephen Leader



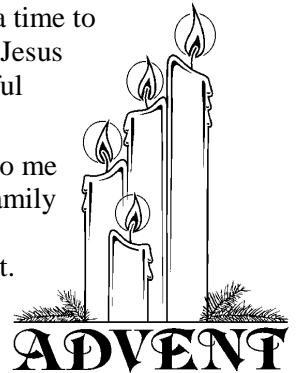
LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS - WITH GAYE RODRIGUEY

I light this candle for the Love which came to us on Christmas

I've always enjoyed the time of Advent – a time to prepare my heart for the celebration of the birth of Jesus through scriptures, seasonal devotional books, joyful songs, and special calendars.

I think the joy of Advent was a gift given to me by my parents. Each evening during Advent my family would read scripture, a story and a prayer from the devotional booklet put together by the women of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue, WA.

I've shared this special time and this special devotional with my children and grandchildren. Now I want to share with you the First Sunday in Advent prayer from this decades-old devotional. I encourage you to pray these words as you begin your journey of preparation.



Dear God, we come to Christmas the birthday of your Son.
Help us remember what Christmas means.
Jesus came to show your love for us and for all people.
He taught people to love you
and love their neighbors as they love themselves.
He told us that our neighbors are all who need love and care.

Dear God, help us get ready to keep Jesus' birthday.
May we think about our neighbors who need to know your love-
Even our neighbors half way around the world;
Little children, hungry and cold,
Girls and boys who want to learn but have no schools,
Men and women who are fearful and unhappy.
Old people—even in our own town—who are lonely.

Jesus lived in such a way that he showed people your love.
May we too learn to live in loving ways.
Then we shall be ready to come to Christmas, the birthday of your Son.
Amen.

Happy Advent,
Gaye Rodriguey

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Sunday, December 3		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Kim Healing Prayer: F. Leukhardt, G. Rodriguey Acolyte: Abby Gray	Computer: Donna Aspery Organ/Piano: V. Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Moira Bartrand Communion Asst: Kerri Totten Healing Prayer: B. Miller, C. Reafs	Computer: A. Spencer Organ/Piano: V. Morgan
Sunday, December 10		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Carey Acolyte: Anna Richards	Computer: Sam Richards Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Rita Carter Communion Asst: Louis Bartrand	Computer: John Totten Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
Sunday, December 17		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Jeff Margraf Acolyte: Matthew Richards	Computer: Lisa Margraf Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Wall Communion Asst:	Computer: Bruce Holroyd Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
Sunday, December 24		
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Piper	Computer: Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
7:00 PM	Assisting Minister: Peg Fosnaugh Communion Asst:	Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:00 PM	Assisting Minister: Sheila Ryan Communion Asst:	Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day		
10:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Communion Asst: y	Organ/Piano: Kim
Sunday, December 31		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Peg Fosnaugh Acolyte: Elizabeth Richards	Computer: Lucas Stone Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Communion Asst:	Computer: Ted Smith Organ/Piano: Jan Ernst

This month's decorative font is CAELDERA.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER

	<i>October</i>	<i>Year to date</i>
Income	\$ 45,152	\$ 364,722
Outgo	<u>43,442</u>	<u>362,969</u>
	\$ <u>1,710</u>	\$ <u>1,753</u>

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Oct. 29	69	86
Nov. 5	67	81
Nov. 12	43	86
Nov. 19	48	84
Nov. 26	53	103
Avg. Att.	56	88

Average Sunday attendance: 144

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

Thank you to all our volunteers for helping throughout the year with the fun task of replenishing our Little Lutheran bags each week for the coming Sunday. For the past few months, **Marge Verburg & Kim** have volunteered, and they'll continue for the foreseeable future. Kim says it's a way for Marge to continue feeling a part of our family by doing this regular duty. Thank you, ladies! You are a blessing to us!



Peg Fosnaugh

DID YOU KNOW...? Marge Verburg is a former longtime secretary of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, having served during the times of Pastors Aakre, Myers, Houghlum and Buss, interspersed and augmented along the way by several interim and associate pastors. She helped a certain fledgling OHLC newsletter editor find her way, too. I'll always be grateful for her continuing friendship and encouragement, even after all these years.

Martha-the-Editor

DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 ADVENT 1 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 Youth & Family night 6:00 CA 7:30	4 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:00 Grief support group 1:30 Munchy Monday 5:00 Brass rehearsal 6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary	5 9:30 Blanket Workshop 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Boy Scouts Tr. 4059 6:30 Cub Scouts	6 9:30 Blanket Workshop 12:00 Midweek Worship 12:30 Soup & bread 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 6:00 Midweek Worship 6:30 Soup & bread	7 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall 1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 NA, library 7:30 String Quartet, sanc.	1 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall 3:00 QUEST CLUB, to 5PM 8 Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall	2 8:30 Roadside clean-up; meet at OHLC to carpool Council Christmas party
10 ADVENT 2 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fair Trade Fair – before & after worship services Recital/Morgan 1:30 CA 7:30	11 <div>Organ repair project - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday</div>			14 1:00 Deborah Circle Christmas lunch 6:30 Community Band rehearsal 7:00 Council, library 7:00 NA, fellowship hall 7:30 String Quartet	15 3:00 QUEST CLUB, to 5 PM	16 12:00 NA gathering, to 5 PM
17 ADVENT 3 Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 Comm. Band concert 2:00 Confirmation 6:00 CA 7:30	18 6:00 Lydia Circle Christmas gathering 6:30 Recital/Mann 6:30 North Whidbey NA	19 Newsletter Deadline 12:30 W.I.G.S. 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Recital/Hendricks	20 12:00 Midweek Worship 12:30 Soup & bread 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:00 Jubilate Ringers 6:00 Midweek Worship 6:30 Soup & bread	21 1:00 Deborah Circle 7:00 NA, library 7:30 String Quartet, sanc.	22	23
24 ADVENT 4 <i>NO 8 AM service!</i> Worship/SS. Program 10:30 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 Worship 10:00	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 Worship 	26 5:30 Al Anon	27 11:30 OHLC Staff	28 Decker anniversary event, 5:00-8:00, fellowship hall 7:00 NA, library 7:30 String Quartet, sanc.	29	30 12:00 Michelle Tull's event, fellowship hall
31 1 CHRISTMAS Worship 8:00 Worship 10:30 Bunco 3:00-7:00 CA 7:30	<div> He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute. </div> <div>  </div> <div> - Augustine of Hippo </div>				HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL M,T,W 8:45-11:45 AM <i>Christmas Break:</i> December 18 – January 1	