

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



# HARBOR BEACON

Volume 71, Issue 1

January 2024

## OAK HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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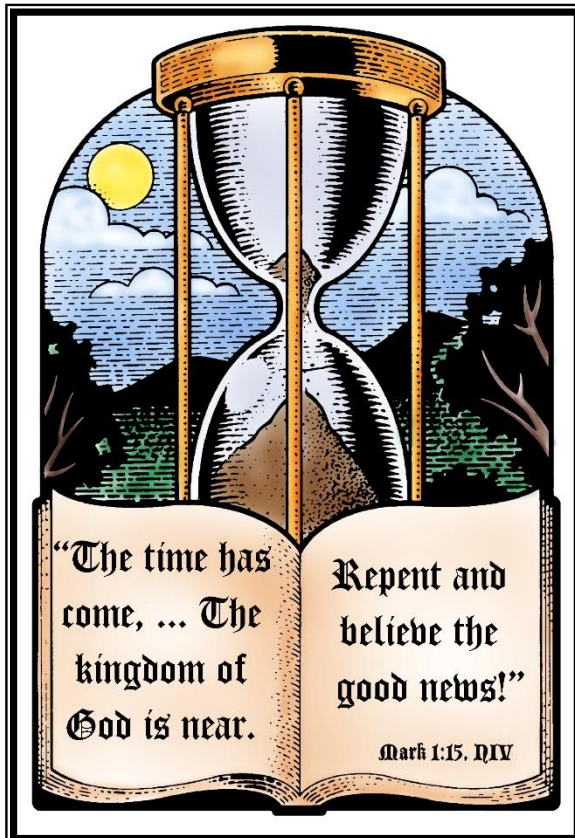
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"The time has  
come, ... The  
kingdom of  
God is near.

Repent and  
believe the  
good news!"

Mark 1:15, XIV

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**Click on these links  
for the January 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 January:

<https://dq5pwpq1q8ru0.cloudfront.net/2023/12/18/08/26/03/ec9a4815-b11f-4090-8612-811636a3fe3f/JANUARY%20Spirit%202024.pdf>

OHLC's website:

[www.oakharborlutheran.org](http://www.oakharborlutheran.org)

*This issue was snail-mailed December 28, 2023*

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

Hebrews 13:8

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"*

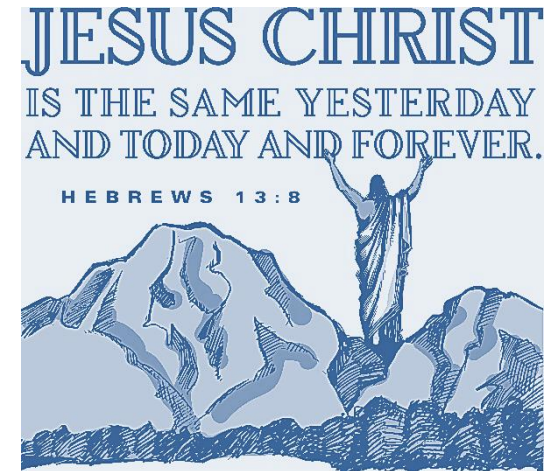
2 Corinthians 5:17

Country music icon George Strait was once asked by a music critic if he thought he was limited by the genre to make albums that all sounded alike. It would have been easy to have been offended by such a snarky question, but Strait's response was as smooth as his legendary voice. He thoughtfully explained that there were indeed similarities between his albums, certain trademarks that his fans had come to expect, but that there was also enough variation to keep things interesting. "My albums are always never the same," he said. Somehow, it made sense. In 1999 he released an album called "Always Never the Same." In the title track he applies the same idea to a long-term romantic relationship, playing with the notion that what makes such a relationship rewarding is a mix of continuity and newness, the tension between stability and surprise. There are some parallels here to what we experience in worship and in the Christian life. Both are always never the same.

Before services our ushers used to sometimes ask me, "Anything special this morning?" To which I would respond, "Every Sunday is special!" After all, Jesus is speaking to us and feeding us with his body and blood. Pretty special, right? After getting this response once or twice, they changed tack, instead asking: "Is there anything *different* this morning?" What I want to say in response is, "Yes! There are different readings from scripture today, and different hymns, and several different people than were here last Sunday, and the people who were here last week have different things going on in their souls. Yes, so much is different! But also, no – it's the same. We have the same liturgy, the same patterns, the same things happening as pretty much every Sunday. It's always never the same." That's what I want to say, but I don't, because I understand that what the ushers are really asking is whether they need to do anything differently, and I don't want to drive these wonderful volunteers away with my own snarky remarks. But behind the snark lies a lot of truth. Our worship, which follows the historic Christian liturgy with

Lutheran accents, features continuity from Sunday to Sunday. People know what to expect. They know many parts by heart, and so can participate fully every week. At the same time, every Sunday is different, with parts that change from Sunday to Sunday and season by season. There is both continuity and newness, stability and surprise. It's always never the same.

This is true in our Christian lives as well. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). His gospel of the forgiveness of sins is unchanging. It is something we always need. At the same time, our lives are always changing. The Old Adam or Eve in us continues to come up with new, increasingly sophisticated ways to sin alongside the old ways, while the Spirit continues to call out the new creation we are in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), coaxing out of us the fruits of the Spirit. As Martin Luther wrote, "This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified." In our Christian lives, some things never change. We never stop needing the gospel of the forgiveness of sins. But other things do change. We are indeed being made new. We are always never the same.



It's a new year. Some things will change. Some things won't. As we continue to gather for worship in 2024, our unchanging Lord and his unchanging gospel will continue to bring grace to our old selves, making of us a new creation, and we will always never be the same.

Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

## Notes for January

### Saturday, January 6: Twelfth Night party!

Plan on joining us on Saturday, January 6, at 6:00 PM for an elegant evening of food, fellowship, and chamber music. Dinner and dessert will be potluck. *RSVP requested; use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to let us know what you're planning to bring.*



### Semi-annual meeting set for Sunday, January 21

**M**ark your calendars for our semi-annual meeting, to be held at 9:15 AM! All voting members of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church 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.

We will also be seeking candidates for the following positions for election at the meeting:

- **Delegates (2) to Josephine Caring Community**, our Lutheran nursing home/care facility in Stanwood
- **Delegates (2) to Lutherwood**, our camp and retreat center in Bellingham
- **Voting Members (up to 3) to the 2024 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly**, held Saturday, May 18, at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, WA.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, let us know by calling the church office or contacting Pastor Spencer or a council member.



**Semi-annual Meeting**

**NOTE:** *Pastor's adult class will not meet on January 21 (or the following Wednesday, 1/24).* Sunday School classes will be held as usual.

## Growing & Learning

### Confirmation class meets January 21

Confirmation class will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Sunday, January 21. At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend with their student. Mark your calendars and be sure and complete sessions 1-4 in your "Sacraments" workbooks before we gather!

### Young Life Mondays!

Hey high schoolers! Did you know that Young Life events are held for high school students just about every Monday night at 7 PM? These events are held at various locations around Oak Harbor – sometimes at churches (including OHLC), sometimes in homes, sometimes even at Toppins Frozen Yogurt.

Find the Oak Harbor Young Life Facebook and/or Instagram pages to keep up with the latest opportunities for fun and fellowship with fellow Christians!



## ♦ ♦ Adult Education ♦ ♦

### Exploring the Psalms

Begin the new year by joining us for a four-session study of the Psalms. This class will be taught in the church library both on Sunday mornings, 9:15 - 10:15 AM, and again on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, beginning Jan. 7 & 10. Bring your Bibles and come explore the psalms! (Remember, there will be no class on Jan. 21 & 24 due to the semi-annual meeting.)

### Looking ahead to Lent

The Sunday morning adult class will do a book study on Martin Luther's *Large Catechism* during Lent this year, and we will place an order in early February for the version we will be using for the class.

Sign up for your copy through the Connection Card in worship or by contacting Pastor Spencer at [pastor@oakharborlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@oakharborlutheran.org). The books are \$12 per copy. Free copies will be made available to those who need them.



## Youth & Family Ministry

**Sunday School** has been on a break, but begins again at 9:15 AM on Sunday, Jan. 7.

**Youth & Family Game Night** is Sunday, Jan. 7, 6:00-7:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Enjoy a fun night of board games and snacks with us! Board games will be available, but feel free to bring one to share. All ages are welcome!

**Munchy Monday**, OHLC's outreach to Oak Harbor High School students on early-release Mondays, resumes on Monday, January 8.

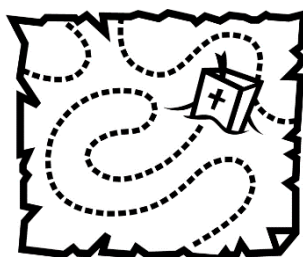
**QUEST CLUB** is open to youth of all skill levels, age 12 and up. Join the Dead Sea Squirrels adventuring party in a TTRPG game based on Dungeons & Dragons 5E as they travel through the lands and time of the Bible on a quest to track down the missing Magi and discover more about a mysterious prophecy. For more info, contact Beth Stephens, [bethasteph@gmail.com](mailto:bethasteph@gmail.com).

**New Players:** Sign-up ahead is preferred for character creation, but not required. January's Quest Club meetings are Fridays, the 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00 PM in the education wing.

### Mark your calendar for February fun!

OHLC's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Indoor Snowball Fight will be held next month, so watch for details!

Middle School youth and above are invited to compete to claim the **Coveted** (but not in a breaking-the-commandments kind of way) **Snow Globe Award**.



### Christmas program wrap-up

**T**hank you to all who helped out with the Sunday School Christmas program! The calendar threw us a bit of a curve with Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, so the show went on at the 10:30 AM service, which was observed as the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. With that in mind, our program was titled *Keeping Watch*, a script with more Advent overtones than usual.



Our post-pandemic Sunday School numbers are still fairly small, but the group did a great job. This year's cast included **Sam Richards** as the narrator, **John & Kale Totten** as watchmen on the city walls, **Lucas & Logan Stone** as prophets, **Saroya Wiley, Aubrey Gibbons** and **Elizabeth Richards** as the speaking angels and **Amara Wiley** and **Anna Richards** as the angel chorus. **Garrett & Isaac Gibbons** and **Matthew Richards** were the shepherds; sheep were played by **Alice Gray**, and **Cora & Molly Jones**. **Abby Gray** reprised her last year's role as Mary (same costume; different script), and **Martin Leukhardt** very kindly stepped up at the last minute to fill in as Joseph in place of an ailing **Dylan Totten** (adding some gravitas to the role as well as a great handlebar mustache).

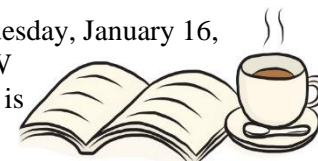
**Verna Morgan** was our accompanist; **Steve Ellis** kept the production from falling apart (including the scenery and the director); **Beth Stephens, Peg Fosnaugh & Fran Leukhardt** made sure entrances and exits were on cue and people were (mostly) quiet backstage. **Fran & Peg**, along with **Sheila Ryan & Angela Stone**, also helped cast members get in and out of their costumes.

Tremendous thanks go to **Zach & Kendall Gibbons and their family** for helping move scenery afterwards and dismantling the city walls so the Chancel Choir could have their chairs back in proper order for the evening services.

Peace,  
Martha Ellis

## Book Group Notes

**One Thing Book Group** will meet Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 PM in the home of Trudy Decker, 994 SW Kimball Drive, C-101, Oak Harbor. The book is *Mink River*, by Brian Doyle.



# His Kids Preschool

A ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

**D**ecember – as it always seems – was a busy month and went by too quickly for His Kids Preschool! Joy and learning were abundant, with the classroom filled to the brim with Christmas spirit and celebration. The students spent time learning about the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, concluding our classroom time on the 13<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful *Happy Birthday, Jesus!* party – ice cream, party hats, and all!

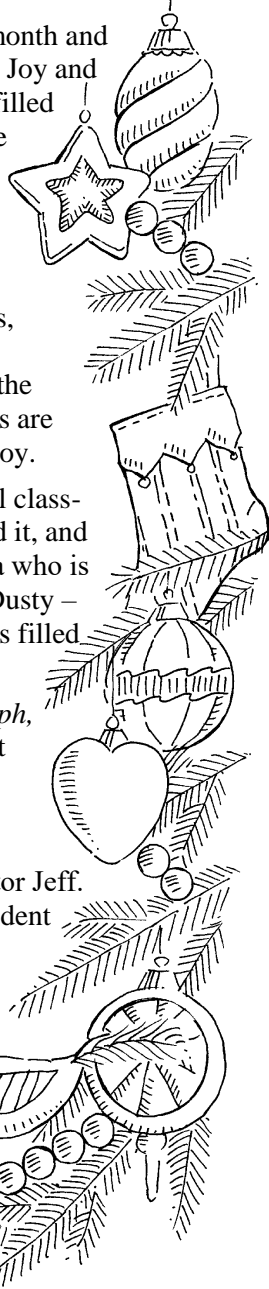
Our students also explored lessons on wreaths, Christmas trees, gingerbread men, reindeer (and their antlers), ornaments, angels, shepherds, and songs for the Christmas season. Watercolor angels and candy canes are displayed on the hallway bulletin board for you to enjoy.

On December 11, they received a very special classroom visit from Santa Claus. All the students enjoyed it, and we appreciate the gift of having “our very own” Santa who is so willing to connect with the students. Thank you, Dusty – oops, we mean *Santa* – for keeping these young minds filled with magic and cheer!

Parents celebrated as their kiddos sang *Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer* in costume (cut-out handprint ‘antlers’ of brown construction paper and a red dot sticker on everyone’s nose). They attended a special family chapel time on Dec. 13 and got a peek into the students’ weekly lessons, songs and prayers with Pastor Jeff. The His Kids director and teachers presented each student with the Christmas gift of a story Bible and a warm holiday thank you for being a part of the His Kids Preschool family.

Time was also spent practicing the spirit of giving, as students brought 7 hats, 2 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of mittens, and 20 pairs of gloves to be donated to the community. Families also helped us collect specially-requested items for the Sharing Tree (including a highchair!). We are so thankful for their giving hearts.

And speaking of giving hearts, our students also explored what



our own *Christmas gift for Jesus* might be. Here are their wonderful answers:

**Brayden:** a little toy

**Abby:** flowers

**Reid:** a blanket

**Julian:** a space rocket

**Theo:** a baby rattle

**Karter:** a toy dinosaur

**Liam:** a hat

**Everett:** an experiment from Lilo and Stitch

**Elizabeth:** a toy fairy

**Celia:** gloves

**Jomari:** a toy

**Jacob:** a sandbox

**Hannah:** a stuffed animal unicorn

**Wren:** a stuffed animal dragon

**Harper:** a gingerbread man

As I [Jasmine] explored the list of gifts our class would have chosen to give to Jesus, I found myself falling into a warm joy that they wanted to share a combination of their favorite things and things they felt baby Jesus would need.

We look forward to seeing the students again on January 2, and hope that they all have enjoyed a full and blessed holiday break.

Joy to all as we come to the end of the Christmas season, and may you have many blessings throughout the new year!

Ms. Jasmine, Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle & Ms. Debbie



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

**The deadline for articles** for the February newsletter is Monday, Jan. 22.

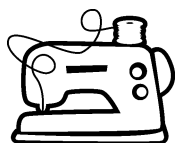
**OHLC's men's study & fellowship group, The Brotherhood of St. Bernard** (a.k.a. *The Old Dogs*) meets Tuesdays, January 9 & 23, at noon in the fellowship hall for lunch and Bible study.

**Statements of giving for 2023** will be mailed in early January and should be received by the end of the month. **If you haven't received yours by that time, or if you feel there is an error in your giving statement,** contact Janis in in the church office, 360-679-1561, [office@oakharborlutheran.org](mailto:office@oakharborlutheran.org).

*Did you make a New Year's resolution to do more Bible study and participate in occasional service projects?*

*Consider helping with Blanket Workshop or joining one of OHLC's women's Circles!*

### Blanket Workshop



Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, January 2&3, starting at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Newcomers are always welcome, and you don't have to know how to sew. Questions? Contact Leona McKee,

360-675-5712, [bcmac68@comcast.net](mailto:bcmac68@comcast.net).

### Circle meetings in January

**D**eborah Circle meets every Thursday in January from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the library. This month's study is printed in the September-October issue of *Gather* magazine. Loaner copies are available if you don't have a subscription of your own. Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguez, [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com), or talk to Martha Ellis in the church office.



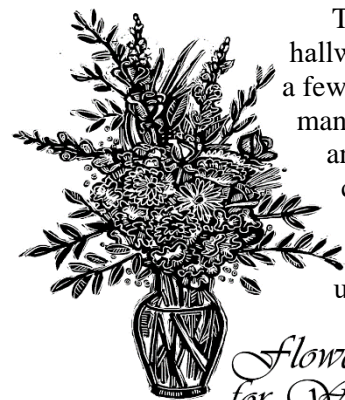
- Jan. 4: *Holy Places*, session 1, "Home," pgs. 16-20
- Jan. 11: *Holy Places*, session 1, "Home," pgs. 20-23
- Jan. 18: *Holy Places*, session 2, "Sanctuary," pgs. 34-36
- Jan. 18: *Holy Places*, session 2, "Sanctuary," pgs. 36-39

**L**ydia Circle is moving! After a dozen years of Monday meetings, we're moving to the **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays** of the month and starting at the **new time of 5:00 PM**. We'll avoid some Monday scheduling conflicts this way and we're hoping the earlier time (before it gets too dark) will encourage some new members to join us.

We meet in the prayer room in the education wing and we hope you'll be with us on January 2 & 16 as we begin a new book, *Friendships*. Questions? Contact Peg Fosnaugh, 360-929-1653.

### Flowers enhance our worship services

Thank you to all who sponsored the chancel and organ arrangements of flowers during the past year! Our sanctuary has been graced by the presence of these wonderful reminders of God's beautiful creation and by the acknowledgement of the blessings – whether in celebration or in memory – these flowers represent to the donors.



The flower chart for 2024 is posted in the hallway beside Pastor Spencer's office door. Quite a few spaces have already been filled, but there are many Sundays available, including one in January and several in February and March for your consideration. I look forward to seeing the chart filled with names and the sanctuary filled with beautiful flowers! Once you sign up, I'll be contacting you regarding your particular preference for colors and types of flowers and the wording you'd like to have printed in the bulletin.

Peg Fosnaugh

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## Good News!

### Welcome, Milli!




We were delighted to receive the news on November 30 of the safe arrival of Millicent Gangi, **It's a girl!** born to Rekann Brannon (OHLC's former office manager/bookkeeper) & Aaron Gangi. Everyone's doing fine, and Rekann's three boys are adjusting to life with a baby sister.

After Aaron's retirement from the Navy, the family moved to Texas to be closer to his connections. Their address is included in the OHLC directory – you'll have to look under B for Brannon since she kept the surname – and they're continuing to receive the *Harbor Beacon*. [Ed. Note: Hi, Rekann!]



## Ministry of the Month: His Kids Preschool

 This January we are accepting special gifts for the His Kids Preschool Reserve Fund. Like all preschools in our area, enrollment has been down in recent years. The reserve fund helps keep our preschool open and operational in times when finances get tight. We are grateful to have seen an upward trend in enrollment recently at His Kids, but reserve funds were used to carry us through and need to be built up again to ensure our preschool's future.

Thank you for supporting His Kids Preschool, a ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church since 1993, as our ministry of the month for January!

## Grief Support options offered


*Living with Loss*, a 6-week grief support group, is designed to help you process the normal feelings of grief that follow the death of a loved one. Each group is limited to 10 people and facilitated by Laurie Johnson, Bereavement Coordinator with WhidbeyHealth (who also serves as OHLC's Visitation Pastor).

Preregistration is required; e-mail [johnla@whidbeyhealth.org](mailto:johnla@whidbeyhealth.org), or call the hospice office at 360-914-5635 and ask for *Bereavement*.

### Upcoming group dates and times:

*Oak Harbor (meets at OHLC), Tuesdays, Jan. 16 - Feb. 20, 1:30-3:00 PM*  
*Freeland, Fridays, Jan. 12-16, 1:30-3:00 PM*

## Sharing Tree: a joyful report

 Once again, a big **"THANKS"** to you! You came, you saw, and very soon no tags were left on the Sharing Tree! And just as quickly, there was a steady gathering of gifts under the tree. Gifts kept coming – all shapes, sizes and colors! What a beautiful sight, forming a picture of overwhelming generosity (once again). Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success: tree and card assemblers, gift buyers, gift sorters, and deliverers. Also, a big THANK YOU to our preschool students and families for donating mittens, hats, socks and even a highchair. You have truly made a big difference for many people this Christmas. *Sharing = Caring* as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Many blessings,  
Sharing Tree Team 2023

## Stephen Ministry's January meeting

Stephen Ministry will meet on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the library. The group will discuss *Understanding Suicide: How to Help People Get the Care They Need*, Training Manual, Vol. 1, Module 14, pages 317-350.

Gaye Rodriguey,  
Stephen leader

## In the mail



*The following note came with a Christmas card from Tony Polubinski, currently incarcerated at the Monroe Corrections Center, Monroe, WA. He has deep roots with OHLC and is continuing to receive regular mailings with the newsletters, Sunday bulletins and sermons.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at OHLC,

It has been a year! I started the year at Stafford Creek [in Aberdeen]. In mid-April, God answered my prayers of 18 months, and I was transferred back to Monroe – Twin Rivers Unit. My transfer happened rather fast – on Monday my request was still awaiting a signature. By Wednesday, it was signed, and I was on the packout list for the following Monday's chain bus.

So in a matter of five days, I had to pack up for a transfer, including sending 2 boxes of books home, have an extended family visit and say goodbye to everyone at Stafford.

Since arriving at Monroe, I have returned to receiving weekly visits from various family members and returned to my twice-monthly church services. I'm having my 3<sup>rd</sup> extended family visit this month and have started my treatment program that I have been waiting almost 12 years for.

I am praying for and hopeful that upon completing treatment I will be eligible for graduated re-entry, which may get me home for my oldest nephew's high school graduation.

I thank you all for your continued prayers. Merry Christmas, and God bless.

Tony Polubinski



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

—Leo Buscaglia

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# Loving Our Neighbors

- with Gaye Rodriguey

## Keeping Christmas

*For the person who observes one day as especially sacred does it to honor the Lord.*  
Romans 14:6a, *The Passion Translation*

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of time and seasons, when people agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds us to set our own little watch now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is **keeping Christmas**.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your neighbors are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give life; to close your book on complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness – are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weaknesses and loneliness of the people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp that it might give more light and less smoke, and to carry in front so your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open – are you willing to do these things for even one day?



Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world – stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death – and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

Henry van Dyke

*1852-1933; American author, educator, clergyman  
The text has been slightly updated.*

**Note:** This is a reprint from an Advent devotional booklet prepared in 1969 by the women's group – which included my mom, Emily Clark – of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue, WA.

Shalom, Gaye

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## In Loving Memory

When **Jack Wilcox** moved to Nevada in 2022 to be closer to family, OHLC lost an outstanding congregational member and friend (and not just because of his height!). Jack & Betty joined OHLC in 2003. Over the years, Jack was active in many areas of church life, including the council, participating in regular worship and Bible study with his wife, Betty, and serving as an enthusiastic volunteer for Munchy Monday (especially appreciated for his ability to reach things on high shelves in the kitchen). We lost Betty in 2015, and this past month we received the sad news that Jack died on December 14. He was 95.

Our hearts go out to Nicole Bouvion following the death of her husband, **Dave Willis**, on December 2. Dave and Nicole joined OHLC in 2008 but have been much more widely known in the local musical circles. There will be a memorial service for Dave at OHLC on Saturday, January 2.

We also mourn with Verna Morgan and her family following the death of her mother-in-law, **Donna Trone**, in the early hours of December 27.

✠ Peace be to their memory ✠



<b>Worship assistants</b>		
<b>January 7</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Sheila Ryan <b>Acolyte:</b> Abby Gray <b>Healing Prayer:</b>	<b>Computer:</b> Donna Aspery <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Jan Ernst
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Moira Bartrand <b>Communion Asst:</b> Kim <b>Healing Prayer:</b>	<b>Computer:</b> Anders S. <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Jan Ernst
<b>January 14</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Peg Fosnaugh <b>Acolyte:</b> Anna Richards	<b>Computer:</b> Maddox A. <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Verna Morgan
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Rita Cline <b>Communion Asst:</b> Rita Carter	<b>Computer:</b> Kale Totten <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Verna Morgan
<b>January 21</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Jeff Margraf <b>Acolyte:</b> Matthew Richards	<b>Computer:</b> Lisa Margraf <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Sue Stroud
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Tom Piper <b>Communion Asst:</b> Louis Bartrand	<b>Computer:</b> Bruce Holroyd <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Sue Stroud
<b>January 28</b>		
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Peg Fosnaugh <b>Acolyte:</b> Elizabeth Richards	<b>Computer:</b> Emma Norman <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Verna Morgan
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Carol Wall <b>Communion Asst:</b>	<b>Computer:</b> <b>Organ/Piano:</b> Verna Morgan

## Financial Report

## November

	<i>November</i>	<i>Year to date</i>
Income	\$ 34,342	\$ 398,752
Outgo	<u>43,442</u>	<u>362,969</u>
	\$ <u>(9,101)</u>	\$ <u>35,783</u>

This month's decorative fonts are **Broadway**  
and **ACI-STAR**.

**Little Lutheran bags** are being cleaned out and refilled again this month by Marge Verburg and Kim. We appreciate you ladies so much!

## Worship Attendance

## December

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Dec. 3	54	95
Dec. 10	47	108
Dec. 17	59	89
Dec. 24	<i>no service</i>	126
<b>Avg. Att.</b>	53	105

Average Sunday attendance: 158

*Sunday, December 31, will be included with next month's statistics*

### Midweek Advent worship, 12:00 PM 6:00 PM:

Dec. 6	26	46
Dec. 14	27	63
Dec. 21	33	59

### Christmas Eve worship, Dec. 24

7:00 PM	130
10:00 PM	65

### Christmas Day worship, Dec. 25

10:00 AM	39
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## Lesser Festivals & Commemorations

## January

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 THE NAME OF JESUS  | 19 Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156                                       |
| 2 Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, 1872                         | 21 Agnes, martyr, 304   |
| 6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD   | 25 The Conversion of St. Paul<br><i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends</i> |
| 7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  | 26 Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries                                      |
| 15 Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968                       | 27 Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe witnesses to the faith                             |
| 17 Antony of Egypt, 356, Pachomius, 343, renewers of the church                    | 28 Thomas Aquinas, 1274, teacher  |
| 18 The Confession of St. Peter<br><i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins</i> |   |

# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL</b>  M,T,W 9:00/9:15 AM – 12:15 PM  <i>No school on Jan. 1 &amp; 15.</i>	<b>1 New Year's Day</b> <i>Church office closed</i>	<b>2</b> 9:30 Blanket Workshop  5:00 Lydia Circle 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>3</b> 9:30 Blanket Workshop  11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>  1:00 Deborah Circle  7:00 NA 6:30 <i>She Sharps</i>	<b>5</b>  3:00-5:00 QUEST CLUB	<b>6 Epiphany</b>  6:00 12 <sup>th</sup> Night party
<b>7</b>  <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Psalms 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 Youth & Family Game Night 6:00 CA/library 7:30	<b>8</b> 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday  7:00 North Whidbey NA/library 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary	<b>9</b> 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard  5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>10</b> 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir  7:00 Adult Ed/Psalms	<b>11</b> 1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry  6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 Council 7:00 NA/fellowship hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  2:00 <b>Memorial service,</b> Dave Willis
<b>14</b> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Psalms 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 CA/library 7:30	<b>15 Martin Luther King Jr.</b> <i>Church office closed</i>  6:30 WICAREs 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library	<b>16</b> 1:30 Grief group  5:00 Lydia Circle 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Book group	<b>17</b> 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir  7:00 Adult Ed/Psalms	<b>18</b> 1:00 Deborah Circle  6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 NA	<b>19</b>  3:00-5:00 QUEST CLUB	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Semi-annual mtg. 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 Confirmation 6:00 CA/library 7:30	<b>22 Newsletter Deadline</b> 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday  7:00 North Whidbey NA/library 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary	<b>23</b> 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard 1:30 Grief group 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>24</b> 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir  - - no Adult Ed. class - -	<b>25</b> 1:00 Deborah Circle  6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 NA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Worship</b> 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed/Psalms 9:15 <b>Worship</b> 10:30 CA/library 7:30	<b>29</b> 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday  6:00 North Whidbey NA/fellowship hall 6:30 WICAREs 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary	<b>30</b>  1:30 Grief group  5:30 Al Anon 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>31</b> 11:30 OHLC Staff 4:00 Chancel Choir  7:00 Adult Ed/Psalms	<p>The quickest way for anyone to reach the sun and the light of day is not to run west, chasing after the setting sun, but to head east, plunging into the darkness until one comes to the sunrise. ... Walk into the darkness rather than try to outrun it.</p> <p>– Gerald Sittser, <i>A Grace Disguised</i></p> 