

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)

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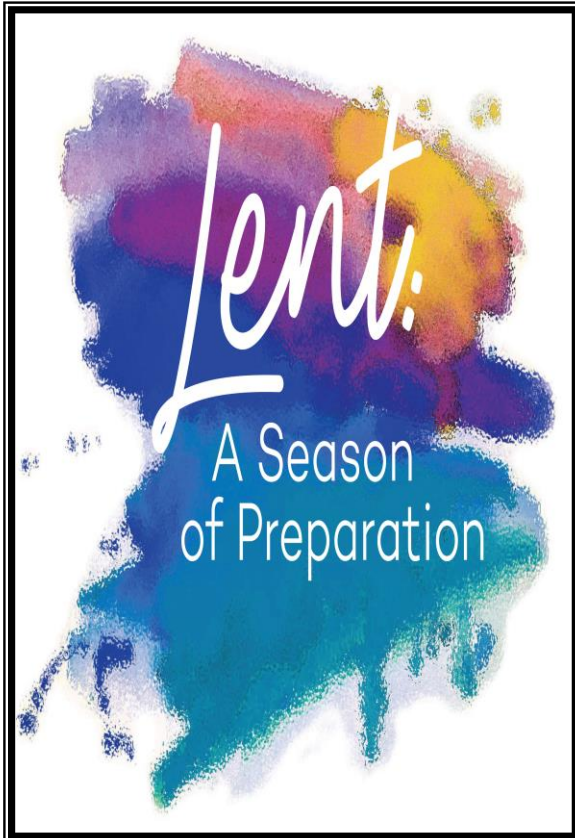
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OHLC Staff

Pastor: Jeffrey Spencer

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Youth & Family Ministry: Beth Stephens

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Newsletter Editor: Martha Ellis

Custodian: Salvador Carvallo

Worship times

Sundays, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

**Click on these links
for the February 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/2024/01/16/22/20/32/cac8e2cc-6e4e-4878-8ad8-2685825ca11c/FEBRUARY%20Spirit%202024.pdf>

OHLC's website:

www.oakharborlutheran.org

This issue was snail-mailed January 30, 2024

Pastor's Page: Candy Hearts and Ashen Foreheads

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:19b

"So teach us to number our days, that we might gain a heart of wisdom."

Psalms 90:12

The new year has been tinged with sorrow for my wife and me. We know four couples in our age cohort who have lost spouses in the past few weeks (cancer, car accident, cancer, suicide). This steady barrage of heartbreaking news has made us weepy and sad in recent days. It has also, however, made us more tender-hearted towards one another. It has made us more patient with each other, more appreciative, more grateful. Our involvement in Marriage Encounter, both as participants and as a presenting couple, has long equipped us to cultivate these qualities in our relationship, but these painful reminders of how fragile and fleeting life truly is have shaken us out of the self-centeredness which is the recurring default mode of human existence and towards each other with even deeper love and affection. It has made us see how easy it is to take each other for granted. And so we are sitting a little closer to each other on the couch. We are holding eye contact a little longer than usual. We are saying "I love you" with a little more urgency.

Being confronted with our mortality isn't fun. We live in a society which shields us from this reality most of the time, hiding it away as much as possible. "Age is just a number!" people say. "Not really!" the actuarial tables coldly respond. Our lives are filled with distractions, making it easy to live in denial of death. But sometimes things happen which make the reality of death impossible to deny. We are shaken out of our illusions, made to confront the truth that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

This isn't fun. It isn't pleasant. But it can be helpful. As the psalmist says, numbering our days can give us wisdom. Confronting our mortality can give us a perspective on our lives and our relationships which takes us out of ourselves and makes us more tender-hearted towards others. It can help us to be more patient, more grateful. It can help us live our lives with greater intentionality and purpose.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, which, of course, is also Valentine's Day. Many have chuckled at the odd juxtaposition of such a solemn day in the church year coinciding with the frivolity which marks our annual celebration of romantic love. Candy hearts and ashen foreheads don't seem to go together. But maybe they

go together better than it seems at first glance. While there is much to be critical of when it comes to Valentine's Day – the forced gestures foisted upon every couple, the lonely ache of those who wish they were in a romantic relationship, the tacky takeover of a saint's day by commercial forces – even so, at its best, the day in an intentional celebration of love, even beyond that of romantic relationships. Yes, couples are nudged to smooch and woo each other. But there are numerous other acts of kindness and love which take place. School kids are taught to be expansive in their kindness by giving a valentine to each of their classmates. Single friends often reach out to each other in solidarity. Parents often give a little something to their kids, reminding them of their steadfast love.

Ash Wednesday only sharpens the urgency of showing love to others, whether to spouses or children or friends. It reminds us that we won't be around forever, and they won't be either. The perspective we gain as we are reminded that our days are numbered is invaluable as it sharpens our focus on what is important and what is not, giving us the wisdom to love more freely and selflessly. Wearing an ashen cross on your forehead on Valentine's Day and seeing an ashen cross on the forehead of the people you love can only make you more tender-hearted towards them, moving you to deeper appreciation, deeper love.



Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance. We confess the stubborn self-centeredness that sullies our relationship with God and our relationships with others, even the people we love most. But just as candy hearts are inscribed with messages of love, the ashes on our foreheads on that solemn day are a message of love inscribed upon us. The ashes are imposed in the shape of the cross, the sign of God's selfless love for us, the sign of Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death. It is God's valentine to us, with the message that death will not have the last word for us.

In the meantime, friends, let us number our days, that we would gain a heart of wisdom and love one another well.

Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

New Member Class: A new member class will be held in the church library on **Sunday, February 4**, at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a member of OHLC is encouraged to attend. *Merely curious? You're welcome, too!* A light lunch will be served. Contact Pastor Spencer if you plan to attend, pastor@oakharborlutheran.org.

The Season of Lent

Lent is a journey. It begins with ashes on our forehead to remind us that we are going to die. It ends with seeing Jesus on a dusty path that will lead to his crucifixion.



The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church.” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love” – think of the popular spiritual practice of giving something up for Lent – Lent is also a time for deepening of community.

As we move through this journey from sacrifice to service, we see it all come to a climax on Passion/Palm Sunday when Jesus enters Jerusalem, and when the passion reading reveals Jesus’ ultimate act of service to us all: his death on the cross.

Journey with us this Lenten season as we are reminded of Jesus’ love for us and his commandment to love one another, and as we look forward to the good news that awaits us all on Easter morning.

Adapted from *Sundays & Seasons, Year B*, 2021 & 2024,
Augsburg Fortress Press

Ash Wednesday: the Lenten season begins



We mark the beginning of Lent on February 14 with **Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7:00 PM.** Services include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. **Please note there will be no soup meal following Ash Wednesday worship.**

Midweek Lenten worship, followed by meals of soup & bread

On the weeks after Ash Wednesday, we will continue our Wednesday gatherings for worship in the sanctuary at noon and 6:00 PM. A simple meal of soup and bread will follow immediately afterwards, 12:30 & 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

Sign-up sheets for bringing soup or bread and/or helping with set-up or clean-up will be available on the round table in the narthex.

OHLC to “Go Large” this Lent

The theme for our midweek Lenten services this year will be:

Down-to-Earth Discipleship

Meditations on Luther’s Large Catechism



Through scripture, sermon, and song, we will reflect on the essential teachings of the Christian faith as taught by Martin Luther in the Large Catechism, which for centuries has been cherished and celebrated as a down-to-earth guide to discipleship. (A copy of the Large Catechism is not necessary for these midweek services.)

This will also be our topic of study on Sunday mornings during Lent as we meet at 9:15 AM in the church library for:

Down-to-Earth Discipleship, Continued

Conversations on Luther’s Large Catechism

February 18: Introduction, Commandments 1-3

February 25: Commandments 4-6

March 3: Commandments 7-10

March 10: The Creed

March 17: The Lord’s Prayer

March 24: Baptism and The Sacrament of the Altar

A copy of the *Large Catechism* is necessary for this class. Extra copies will be available for those who did not order them ahead of time. A study guide with questions for conversation will also be provided. Participants are encouraged to read the pages noted above before the class in which they are to be discussed.

Confirmation class meets February 18

Confirmation class will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Sunday, February 18. At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend with their student. Mark your calendars and be sure and complete sessions 5-6 in your workbooks before we gather.



Growing & Learning

- with Beth Stephens

Youth & Family Night: *What is Love?*

Join us at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church from 6:00 to 7:30 PM on Sunday, Feb. 4, for a love-themed evening. We'll watch a short video about St. Valentine, craft our own Valentines, talk about the different kinds of love in our lives, and enjoy some love-themed treats.



Snowballs! Indoors!!

OHLC's 3rd annual Youth Indoor Snowball Fight will be February 18, 4:00 PM, with pizza following at 5:00 PM.

Middle and High School Youth are invited to compete to claim the **Coveted** (*but not in a breaking-the-commandments kind of way*) **Snow Globe Award**. Or maybe voted MVP! Sign up on a Sunday Connection Card or by contacting Beth, bethasteph@gmail.com, so we can guarantee enough pizza!

The "snowballs" are provided (they're crafted from remnants of our Blanket Workshop group's quilt batting), but the pizza will be real.

Join the Quest!

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.

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



Looking ahead:
March 3 is Youth & Family Pretzel Day!

Library Notes

This month, we are featuring a few of our most recently acquired books, which have been donated or purchased for the OHLC library. They are:

Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul

Chicken Soup for the Christian Teenage Soul

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul: Stories to open the heart and rekindle the spirit

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2: Stories of faith, hope and healing

Justin and the Bully and *Here Comes the Parade*

These two are Ready-To-Read books for young readers and are written by Lauren and Tony Dungy.

Quiet Strength, a spiritual biography of Tony Dungy

Tony is a retired NFL coach who teaches the importance of quiet strength, fierce determination and a humble heart. He tells his story about a life lived for God and family, while coaching his Indianapolis Colts to a win in Super Bowl XLI.

We hope you will stop by the library to see what's new and find something to check out and enjoy at home. Always have a look at the books on the display table!

Your library team:

Kathy Holroyd, Colleen Pedlar and Carol Reafs

NOTE: The One Thing Book Group will meet Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 PM in the home of Jan Heideger, 944 SW Kimball Dr., A-201, Oak Harbor. The book is *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Charbonnet.

Books fall open, you fall in,
Delighted where you've never been.

-- David McCord



OHLC News

Semi-annual meeting recap & election results

Thanks to all who attended our semi-annual meeting on January 21. Here's a recap of the business we conducted:

- + Our **2024 budget** was approved.
- + The proposed changes to our **by-laws** were approved.
- + Tom Piper, Sheila Ryan, Peg Fosnaugh, and Dave Fosnaugh were each presented with the **Servus Dei (Servant of God) award** for their many hours volunteering at OHLC.
- + Mary Brock, Kerri Totten, Al Wheeler, and Dave Fosnaugh were elected to the **Nominating Committee**.
- + Rita Carter and Kathy Holroyd were elected as our **Josephine** representatives.
- + Donna Aspery and Mike Dilley were elected as our **Lutherwood** representatives.
- + Mike Dilley, Gaye Rodriguey, and Bob Wall were elected as **voting members to the NWWA Synod Assembly**. *(OHC's allotment established by the synod this year consisted of two males and one female. At the next assembly we will send two females and one male.)*

Thanks to all our candidates, to our council for their hard work this past year, and to our council president for ably chairing our meeting.

We are grateful for your giving!

The final numbers are in on our 2023 budget and we had a strong finish, with offerings exceeding expenses by about \$9,000. Your weekly and/or monthly giving and your year-end gifts have been received with gratitude as a vote of confidence in our ministry together and are so appreciated.

What happens to that "surplus"? It remains in our checking account as a cushion for those months when our offerings don't cover our expenses, which typically happens from time to time during the fiscal year. It ensures that we can meet our financial obligations throughout the year.

Thank you so very much for your continued faithfulness and generosity in funding the ministry we share. We have many projects in the pipeline for 2024 which you will be hearing about soon, and so we

encourage you to keep up your generous giving. It is not only a way to support our ministry together; it is a spiritual discipline.

Giving statements for your 2023 offerings were sent out on January 19. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Servus Dei award recipients



Left to right:

Sheila Ryan, recognized for her attention to the kitchen duties and caring for all the indoor plants and those in the outside planters by the front door. She also serves as Assisting Minister and contributes to Lydia Circle's annual Bazaar.

Tom Piper, recognized for countless hours of work on the parking lot planter spaces (including seasonal watering and ongoing weed-pulling) as well as service as an Assisting Minister, leadership in the Old Dogs, and participating in Stephen Ministry and various aspects of Music Ministry.

Peg Fosnaugh, for coordinating funeral receptions with co-chair Judy Lycksell and making numerous calls to line up donations of food and help, teaching Sunday School, coordinating the flower chart responses, and activity with Lydia Circle, Munchy Monday, Blanket Workshop, and service as Assisting Minister and 8:00 AM usher. [\(See the note on pg. 21\)](#)

Dave Fosnaugh, for maintenance projects both inside and out (including January's broken water pipes!!), answering building emergency calls at all hours, shepherding the recent alarm system upgrades, and 8:00 AM usher duties.

Flowers for worship services

Continuing heartfelt thanks to everyone for sponsoring our chancel flowers and the occasional bouquets on the organ console. We are blessed to enjoy fresh flowers during our worship services. You may take them home after the 10:30 service for your own enjoyment or give to a friend, or leave them in the church office to brighten the coming week.

Please check the flower chart outside Pastor Jeff's office door and find a Sunday you'd be willing to sponsor. I'll contact you regarding your choice of colors and the wording you'd like listed in the bulletin.

Peg Fosnaugh

Easter 2024

On Easter morning, March 31, we would like to adorn our sanctuary with flowers in celebration of Jesus' resurrection. This year we will place a special order from the church office for **begonias**. We invite you to reserve one or more plants in memory or in honor of loved ones. **Although donations may be made in any amount, the suggested donation for one plant is \$22.00.**



The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 10. Order forms will be available as a bulletin insert during the latter part of February, or contact Janis in the church office, 360-679-1561, or you may use this page from the newsletter.

A bulletin insert on Easter will list names of those being honored or remembered. Please include the following information:

My Name _____

(circle one) In Memory of / In Honor of _____

Please note: Make a check out to OHLC or place cash in a pew offering envelope along with this form. Thank you! You may take your plant(s) home after the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Loving our Neighbors

- Gaye Rodriguez



Love As If...

- by Vinita Hampton Wright

Love as if loving is the first thing on your to-do list.

Love as if you have no other plan but to love.

Love as if you are confident that love makes good things happen.

Love as if this is your first opportunity to love.

Love as if this is your last opportunity to love.

Love as if loving can heal all wounds.

Love as if loving is your first purpose on earth.

Love as if loving is your favorite choice.

Love as if you have that kind of power.

Love as if it will keep the earth spinning in vast, beautiful space.

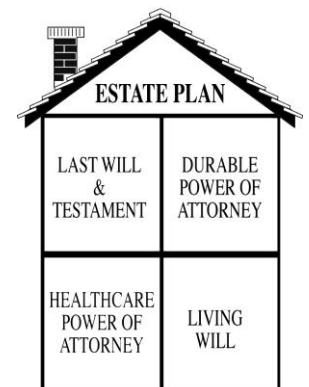
Vinita Hampton Wright is a veteran editor and writer of books and articles on Ignatian spirituality. She leads workshops and retreats on writing, creative process, and prayer. Vinita and her husband, Jim Wright, live in Chicago.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/authors/vinita-hampton-wright>

Planning ahead

Will seminar offered in February

An old friend of the congregation by this point, Lutheran attorney Brock Stiles will offer a will seminar on **Sunday, February 25 at 11:45 AM in the library**. A light lunch will be served. If you plan to attend, please make a note on a bulletin insert Connection Card or contact Bob Wall, bobcwall@gmail.com.



His Kids Preschool

A ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

January ushered in the New Year (Happy 2024!), and along with it came lessons and visits from community helpers. The students received classroom visits from both the Oak Harbor Police Department and Oak Harbor Fire Department. Students practiced when and how to call 911, how to stay safe in public, fire safety planning, got to tour a patrol car and fire engine, and were able to learn more about all the tools used by both Police and Firefighters to do their jobs. Other community helpers were discussed in class, including doctors, nurses, and dentists, among many more. Students spent time learning how these helpers keep us safe and healthy through the demanding roles they have taken on. Thank you to community helpers everywhere!

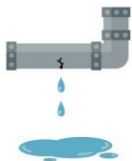


The class celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by learning about his important messages of acceptance, love for all, change, and equality. Students created doves to put up in class to represent his calls for peace.

Spending time learning the letter **S**, students cut out snowflakes and made wonderful paper snowmen. Considering the weather and snow days we had shortly after, I know several kiddos then got to make their own real snowmen at home. Other chilly topics for the month included learning about the Arctic and Antarctic, along with their popular inhabitants: polar bears and penguins.



January also started our Star Student unit, in which we celebrate an individual classmate each week. Students bring in posters that share some of their favorite things, family life, hobbies, and what makes them unique. Our star students are also given the responsibility of being our line leaders and bringing something special for show and tell on their week. **January's Star Students were Karter, Jomari, and Everett!**



Speaking of stars, we want to take a moment to thank those who were a part of keeping the preschool running as well as getting us all back on track after the pipes had burst during January's cold snap. Several hands went into this, and we are so grateful for the countless hours and expertise

brought to the project. Thank you especially to Dave F. (who spent what felt like days up in the ceiling crawlspace, locating the pipes that had been affected), Paul S, and Steve & Martha E. Without all four of you double checking on the preschool area, we would have been much more impacted by the leaks on our end of the building. Thank you for helping us mop up and dry out, returning working water and toilets to the preschool, and for dealing with my (*cough, cough* the preschool director's) stress laughter while trying to hold it all together. You are all so beyond appreciated!

Here's how our students completed the sentence, *"If I were a snowflake floating in the sky, I would like to land on..."*

Elizabeth: a Christmas tree

Reid: a giant rock

Jacob: an ice skating rink

Everett: my Christmas tree

Hannah: on another snowflake

Julian: a tree

Wren: a big puffy cloud

Theo: a frozen puddle to make my own ice skating rink

Celia: a rock

Brayden: a tree

Jomari: on my house

Abby: a house

Harper: a rock

Liam: a house

Karter: a tree

Happy January, and many blessings!

Ms. Jasmine



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

The deadline for articles for the March newsletter is Tuesday, Feb. 20.

OHLC's men's study & fellowship group, The Brotherhood of St. Bernard, (*a.k.a. The Old Dogs*) meets Tuesdays, Feb. 13 & 27, in the fellowship hall for lunch and Bible study.

Bloodworks Northwest will be with us again for pop-up blood donation clinics in the fellowship hall on **Thursdays & Fridays, Feb. 8&9 and 15&16** (*equipment remains in place on Thursday evenings*). Donations are by appointment only; visit their website for more information, <https://www.bloodworksnw.org>.

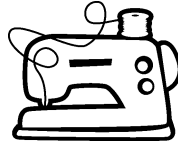
Women of OHLC

Opportunities for fellowship, study, service

Blanket Workshop

Blanket Workshop meets Tuesday & Wednesday, February 6&7, beginning at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Newcomers are always welcome, and a knowledge of machine-sewing isn't necessary.

Questions? Contact Leona McKee, 360-675-5712, bcmac68@comcast.net



Circle meetings in February

Women's circles at OHLC gather regularly for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and occasional service projects. Newcomers are always welcome.



Deborah Circle meets every Thursday in February (*This is a leap year – there are 5 Thursdays!*), 1:00-3:00 PM in the library.

We're continuing our study in 2023 issues of **Gather magazine**, a publication of the Women of the ELCA. Loaner copies are available if you don't have a current subscription of your own. Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguez, gaye@tobysuds.com, or talk to Martha Ellis in the church office.

- 2/ 2 Sept/Oct *Gather*, "Holy Places," Session 2, *Sanctuary*, pgs 34-36
- 2/ 8 Sept/Oct *Gather*, "Holy Places," Session 2, *Sanctuary*, pgs 36-37
- 2/15 Sept/Oct *Gather*, "Holy Places," Session 2, *Sanctuary*, pgs 37-39
- 2/22 Nov/Dec *Gather*, "Holy Places," Session 3, *Pilgrimage*, pgs 18-21
- 2/29 Nov/Dec *Gather*, "Holy Places," Session 3, *Pilgrimage*, pgs 21-23



Lydia Circle continues to meet at our new day and time, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 PM. We'll see you on Feb. 6 & 20 in the prayer room. We're studying Carolyn Nystrom's *Friendship: Growing Side by Side*, part of the *LifeGuide Bible Studies* series. We meet for an hour and there's always room for you! (You don't have to do crafts for Lydia Circle's annual bazaar unless you want to ☺.)

Questions? Contact Peg Fosnaugh, 360-675-2821, or Mary Brock, mkb1998@comcast.net.

Stephen Ministry

- Gaye Rodriguez

Stephen Ministry will meet on Thursday, Feb. 8, 4:00-5:30 PM in the library. The group will discuss module 19, Volume 2, Training Manual, *Ministering to Those Who Are Dying and their Family and Friends*, pgs, 511-520.

STEPHEN MINISTER RESOURCE

**Help Me Love Another, Lord,
As You Love Me**



There's a heart, waiting and wanting;

There's a heart filled with despair.

There's a heart, lonely and frightened

With need for one to care.

There's a heart, lost and forgotten

With a yearning for a friend.

There's a heart crying for healing, Lord,

That only you can send.

Help me love another, Lord, as you love me.

Help me touch a hurting heart so caringly.

And when I look into their eyes of pain or questioning,

Lord, may I see you looking back at me.

There's a soul that needs forgiveness;

There's a soul searching for peace.

There's a soul that's deeply hurting

And it cries for pain to cease.

There's a soul looking to me, Lord,

For my care, my listening.

There's a soul searching for wholeness;

Lord, please reach that soul through me.

Please help me love another, Lord, as you love me.

Help me touch a troubled heart so patiently.

Now when I look into their eyes, awakened by your grace,

I know I'm seeing you, Lord, face to face.


Marty, Stephen Minister | Birmingham, Michigan



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Compassion Ministry

February's *Ministry of the Month* is Camp Lutherwood

 One Bellingham Lutheran pastor's search in 1946 for an adequate place to hold a summer youth outing and the discovery of Captain Alexander Roy's fishing resort on Lake Samish began what today is known as Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center. In partnership with western Washington Lutheran congregations (including OHLC!), Lutherwood has grown into a year-round outdoor ministry, renewing all in the Holy Spirit through education, adventure, service, and prayer.

Information:

During February, we'll highlight some of their many and varied activities and opportunities. OHLC's own Mike Dilley, a recent Lutherwood board member, has issued an invitation for a **Lutherwood Q&A event in the church library on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 9:15 AM.**

Volunteers needed - Painting project at Lutherwood:

OHLC's Tom Piper is also issuing an invitation, but one of a more hands-on nature. On **Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 21&22**, the Brotherhood of St. Bernard is looking for volunteers to share some time and energy to help prepare and paint the interior of a cabin. Please consider which day – or if both days! – might work for you.



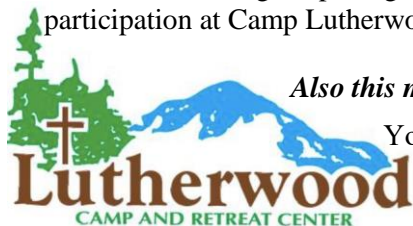
There will be a carpool leaving OHLC at 8:30 AM on both mornings, to head back south again by 5:00 PM. Volunteers will clean and prep on the 21st and paint on the 22nd. Wear appropriate clothing! Lunch will be provided. Please indicate your commitment to come by making a note on a Sunday bulletin insert Connection Card or contact Mike Dilley, mikedilley@comcast.net.

Several people are planning to stay overnight at the camp, so please consider that option. Let Tom know, so that on-site meals and accommodations can be arranged.

The Old Dogs hope to generate more Oak Harbor Lutheran participation at Camp Lutherwood throughout the course of the year.

Also this month at the camp:

You're invited to the annual meeting and installation of their new executive director on Saturday, Feb. 10.



Lutherwood Winter Celebration Installation & Annual Meeting Saturday, February 24, 2024

The Board of Directors at Lutherwood and Camp Staff have a full day around the corner on February 10! The schedule is set, and we want to make sure you know that all are welcome to a full day of obligation, activities and celebrations.



Continental breakfast, coffee and mingle:

10 AM in the chapel. Show up early and you might get to help set up chairs! Enjoy the elixir of life, and chat before business begins.

Annual Meeting:

11:00 AM in the chapel. All are welcome. Per the Bylaws, two congregants and one pastor from each member church are allowed to sign in and vote in the annual Lutherwood business meeting. [OHLC is a member church] But we do want everyone there! Please come.

Soup and Bread Lunch: 12:30/1:00 ish-2:00 in the dining hall. Free Time and Choice Time (between lunch and installation):

What's camp without free time and choice time? Walk and tour camp, or participate in indoor Activities and Crafts, coordinated by Nicole Klinemeier and crew from Peace Lutheran Church in West Seattle in the Upper Chapel. Lake Samish is open year round for fishing – go catch a bass! If you knit or like to sit and chat, the fire will be roaring in the dining hall, and there are some lovely rocking chairs to relax. Volunteers will set up activities to entertain extra family members if you choose to bring them along (and we want them! This is camp, after all!).

Installation:

3:00 PM will be the long anticipated installation of the Reverend Kevin Beebe as Executive Director, and Pastor of Word and Sacrament at 3:00 PM, Lutherwood's chapel. Dessert reception following in the dining hall. And this is camp! In winter! Wear warm clothes and bring good shoes! When Kevin asked what he wanted to do first at Lutherwood upon arriving, he said, "Worship and hold a celebration giving thanks for this place and its ministry." So come, join us, and give thanks for this place and celebrate its ministry – past, present and future!

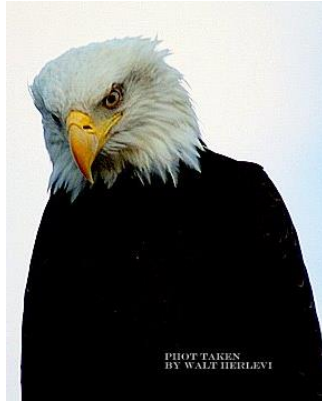
In loving memory

We offer prayers for our Lord's comforting presence with those who have recently suffered the loss of loved ones, including...

...the family and friends of Walt Herlevi, a longtime member of OHLC, who died on Dec. 29. Walt had been in failing health for some time and was receiving hospice care.

He made gallons of coffee-hour coffee over the years and greeted innumerable people in the narthex before services. He always had a camera handy – our local bald eagles were a particular specialty, along with Skagit Valley snow geese and tulips, bright spinnakers arrayed across Penn Cove, and so many things that caught his eye, including weddings and other pictures of OHLC congregational life.

Our hearts go out to Esther, their children, Michael, Patricia and Elizabeth, daughter-in-law Jennifer, and grandson Zachary.



...the family and friends of Krista Hays, who died on Jan. 13 after a battle of a year and a half with cancer. Krista, her husband Sean, and daughters, Alanda and Aubrey, were active OHLC members in the early 2010s when Sean was stationed at NAS Whidbey. Most recently they've made their home in Ohio, and have kept in touch with friends here all along.

Pastor Spencer spoke to Krista not long ago when he was in their area, and she shared how much they loved and missed OHLC. In Pastor Spencer's words, "Krista was a devoted and loving wife and mother, a beloved friend to many, and one of the kindest people many of us have ever met."



Blessed be their memory.

A note about peg f.

(Yes, she always uses lower-case letters for her name)

Peg Fosnaugh loves to talk, and she's known for the many phone calls she makes – lining up volunteers for memorial service receptions, various aspects of the annual Lydia Circle bazaar, checking and clarifying flower chart sign-ups and contacting the local Greenhouse florists, and various other duties and concerns. She's wondered when parishioners see that she's the one calling, do they think "NOW what does she want?" But as she mentioned after receiving one of this year's Servus Dei awards, "We don't do these things in order to be recognized; we've answered the call to serve."

Following a recent diagnosis with breast cancer, Peg will undergo a double mastectomy on February 13, with follow-up chemo and radiation. With great regrets, this means she'll have to set aside many of her volunteer commitments at OHLC, especially those that bring her into physical contact with people since her immune system will be compromised. She does intend to keep up on some of the less-stressful activities that can be done safely from home, so expect to still hear her voice on the phone, and to receive a birthday or anniversary card on behalf of the church when those dates come around.

Please keep Peg and Dave in your prayers.



1 John 4:7, NRSV

Worship assistants		
February 4		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Carey Acolyte: Abby Gray Healing Prayer: M. Stroud, G. Rodriguey	Computer: Tim Aspery Organ/Piano: V. Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Moira Bartrand Communion Asst: Rita Carter Healing Prayer: T. Piper, B. Miller	Computer: Anders Spencer Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
February 11		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Peg Fosnaugh Acolyte: Anna Richards	Computer: Lucas Stone Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Wall Communion Asst: Laurie Johnson	Computer: John Totten Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan
February 18		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Jeff Margraf Acolyte: Matthew Richards	Computer: Lisa Margraf Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Fitzgerald Communion Asst: Kim	Computer: Bruce Holroyd Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
February 25		
8:00 AM	Assisting Minister: Sheila Ryan Acolyte: Elizabeth Richards	Computer: Sam Richards Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud
10:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Kerri Totten Communion Asst: Louis Bartrand	Computer: Organ/Piano: Sue Stroud



Lesser Festivals & Commemorations

February

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 The Presentation of our Lord | 18 Martin Luther, renewer of the Church, 1546 |
| 3 Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark & Sweden, 865 | 23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156 |
| 5 The Martyrs of Japan, 1597 | 25 Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921 |
| 14 Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop 855; missionaries to the Slavs | |

This month's featured font is **Alliance**
drop caps are **VALTIN**.

Financial Report

December

	December	Year to date
Income	\$ 49,026	\$ 424,430
Outgo	39,217	414,950
	<u>\$ 9,809</u>	<u>\$ 9,480</u>

Worship Attendance

January

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Dec.31	38	75
Jan. 7	51	92
Jan. 14	38	92
Jan. 21	47	77
Jan. 28	41	83
Avg. Att.	43	84

Average Sunday attendance: 127

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN

Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.


STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.



ChurchArtPro, February 2023

FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.</p> <p>— Corrie ten Boom</p>				<p>1</p> <p>1:00 Deborah Circle 4:30 Exec. Committee</p> <p>7:00 NA 6:30 <i>She Sharps</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:00 QUEST CLUB</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 New Member Class 12:00</p> <p>Youth/Family Night 6:00 CA 7:30</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday</p> <p>6:30 WICAREs 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 Blanket Workshop</p> <p>1:30 Grief group 5:30 Al Anon 5:30 Lydia Circle 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 Blanket Workshop</p> <p>11:30 OHLC Staff</p> <p>4:00 Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:00 Adult Ed/Psalms</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall</p> <p>1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Council 6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 NA, ed wing</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Camp Lutherwood, Bellingham: Annual Meeting 11:00 Installation of Exec. Dir. 3:00</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Lutherwood Q&A 9:15 Worship 10:30</p> <p>CA 7:30</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday</p> <p>6:00 Lydia Circle 7:00 North Whidbey NA/library 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard</p> <p>1:30 Grief group 5:30 Al Anon 6:30 1 Thing book group 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>12:00 Worship</p> <p>4:00 Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:00 Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall</p> <p>1:00 Deborah Circle</p> <p>6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 NA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bloodworks NW 10 AM – 4 PM fellowship hall</p> <p>3:00 QUEST CLUB</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 3rd annual Youth Indoor Snowball Fight 4:00 Pizza 5:00 Confirmation 6:00 CA 7:30</p>	<p>19 Presidents Day <i>Church office closed</i></p> <p>7:00 North Whidbey NA/library</p>	<p>20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>1:30 Grief group</p> <p>5:30 Al Anon 5:30 Lydia Circle 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <div>Camp Lutherwood painting project</div> <p>12:00 Midweek worship 12:30 Soup & bread 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Midweek worship 6:30 Soup & bread</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:00 Deborah Circle</p> <p>6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 NA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 Library team</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Worship 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Ed 9:15 Worship 10:30 Will Seminar 11:45 CA 7:30</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday</p> <p>6:00 North Whidbey NA/fellowship hall 6:30 WICAREs 7:30 WIYS, sanctuary</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard</p> <p>1:30 Grief group 5:30 Al Anon 6:00 BSA Tr. 4059 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00 Midweek worship 12:30 Soup & bread</p> <p>4:00 Chancel Choir</p> <p>6:00 Midweek worship 6:30 Soup & bread</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1:00 Deborah Circle</p> <p>6:30 <i>She Sharps</i> 7:00 NA</p>	<p>HIS KIDS PRESCHOOL M,T,W 9:00/9:15 AM – 12:15 PM</p> <p>No school on Presidents Day, Feb. 19</p>	