



# Pastor's Page:

## Our Sanctuary, God's Greenhouse

*[Jesus said,] But as for [the seed] in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.*

Luke 8:15

*[Jesus said,] I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

*We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.*

Martin Luther, *Small Catechism*

I have long loved the enormous windows in our sanctuary stretching up to the ceiling, giving us a view of the beautiful forest outside. It only recently occurred to me, however, that those giant windows make our sanctuary look a little bit like a greenhouse. I know it is only on one side, but those windows dominate the space so much that once I thought of it in that way, I can't unsee it. It is fitting too, because our sanctuary is the place where God grows our faith, and the fruits thereof.

In the Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15), Jesus teaches us how faith is grown. The seed of God's word is cast. In some cases, the word is snatched away by the devil, like scavenger birds pecking at a freshly sown field. In other cases, the word is received with joy and begins to sprout into faith, but it is not watered with regularity and so it withers away. In still other cases, the word is heard, but it is overtaken by weeds as people let other things become more important. The seed which grows faith and its fruits, on the other hand, is the seed which lands in good soil, avoiding these spiritual blights. It is the seed which lands in a heart which hears the word and holds it fast. Our sanctuary is like a greenhouse in that when we are in it consistently, those threats to our faith are minimized and the conditions are at their peak for a healthy, growing faith, a faith which bears fruit.

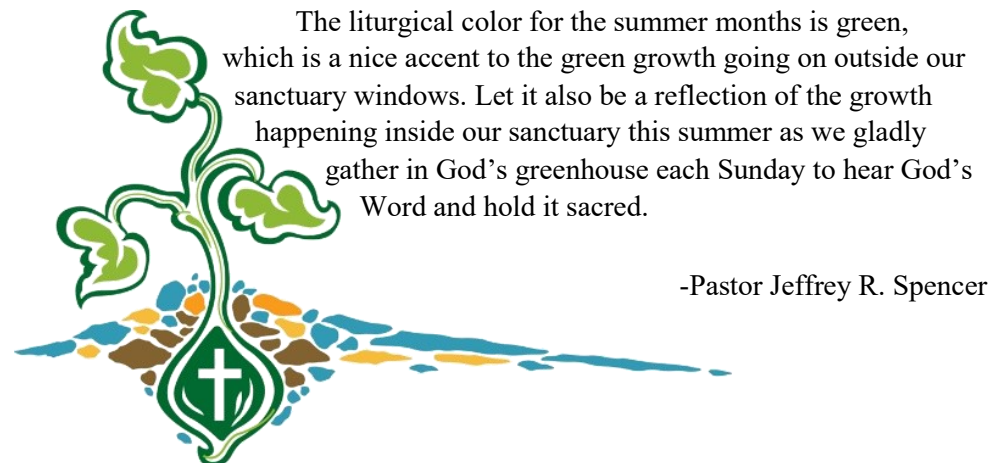
In another horticultural analogy, Jesus says that he is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5). In order to maintain the faith which bears fruit, we must abide in him. We must stay connected to him. Apart from him, we can do

nothing. Our sanctuary is the greenhouse where we stay connected to the vine. It is where his life-giving, faith-producing, fruit-bearing gifts are given to us in Word and Sacrament. If we are disconnected from these gifts for too long, faith weakens and fruits shrivel up.

The fruits of faith include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These fruits do not come naturally to us, nor do they come by our own self-improvement efforts. They are cultivated by the Spirit through faith, which comes by hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

All of this is to say that we need to be in God's greenhouse. We need to be in the discipline of daily word and prayer at home, too, to be sure, but the time we spend on Sundays in our sanctuary is vitally important. It isn't the building itself, of course, but what happens inside it. As Luther explains in the Small Catechism, we keep the Third Commandment by holding God's Word sacred and gladly hearing it and learning it. When God's people gladly gather together around Word and Sacrament, the conditions are ideal for growing faith and its fruits. The threats Jesus warns us about in the Parable of the Sower are reduced as the devil is denied entry, as regular waterings allow roots to develop, and as other things take a back seat on the Sabbath day, the Lord's Day.

There can be growth in the Christian life. Our faith can grow deeper, and our fruits can ripen into greater maturity. We never outgrow our need for grace and forgiveness, but we can grow into more gracious and forgiving people. None of this can happen, however, apart from Christ, and we abide in him through participation in the life of his church, through regularly receiving his gifts in our sanctuary, by spending plenty of time in God's greenhouse.



The liturgical color for the summer months is green, which is a nice accent to the green growth going on outside our sanctuary windows. Let it also be a reflection of the growth happening inside our sanctuary this summer as we gladly gather in God's greenhouse each Sunday to hear God's Word and hold it sacred.

-Pastor Jeffrey R. Spencer

# Congregation News

## SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 7

We are moving to our summer worship schedule of **ONE SERVICE at 9:30AM** beginning Sunday, June 7. Mark your calendars! Set a reminder on your phones! We look forward to being together as one congregation through the summer months.



## JUNE 14: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK BRUNCH



Our next semi-annual meeting will be held after worship on **Sunday, June 14**. The meeting will convene shortly after worship, at 10:45. We will be electing new council members and hearing updates and reports. An agenda for our meeting will be available the Sunday prior, on June 7. **All voting members are strongly encouraged to attend.** Our meeting will be followed by a potluck brunch, so please bring a dish to share.

## JUNE 14: GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 14 we will honor OHLC's class of 2026 high school graduates. We look forward to celebrating with Adam Carvallo, Emma Norman, Emelyn Payne, John Totten, and Kale Totten!



## BOOMERANG THOSE BABY BOTTLES!



For those who took home a baby bottle for the Whidbey Island Women's Clinic fundraiser, please remember to return them to the church office **on or by Father's Day, Sunday, June 21**. Thank you!

## SUNDAY, JUNE 21: DONUTS WITH DADS

After worship on Sunday, June 21, we will celebrate all the dads of OHLC, past and present, with a special fellowship time featuring a variety of donuts. All are welcome as we keep the other half of the fourth commandment this month by honoring fathers.



## OHLC SINGLE ADULTS FELLOWSHIP – JUNE 6

All Single Adults are encouraged to join us for the next Potluck Lunch and fellowship on Saturday, June 6, from noon to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring whatever you would like to contribute to the meal: appetizers, salads, entrées, desserts, snacks. (Whatever you bring does NOT need to be homemade!) And don't forget to bring containers to take home someone else's leftovers!

We enjoy having a meal together, visiting about a variety of topics, including books, movies, travels, and our various backgrounds and experiences. If you're interested in playing games and have a favorite game you could teach others, please bring it along. If you have questions or would like further info, please call Aloha Hart (360-672-5502) or David Allen (360-720-3174). We're hoping to see many of you at our June gathering!



## JUNE 20: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MYRNA HUMMEL

A memorial service for Myrna Hummel will be held at OHLC on Saturday, June 20, at 2pm, with a reception following. *Blessed be her memory.*

## JUNE 25: NEW WATER FOUNTAIN INSTALLATION WILL CAUSE UTILITIES INTERRUPTION

On Thursday **June 25th**, the bathrooms will be temporarily closed for the installation of a new water fountain and bottle refill station. Water and power interruptions are possible throughout the day. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. A huge thank you to Lydia Circle for orchestrating and financing this building improvement!



## CHURCH PICNIC SET FOR AUGUST 9



Save the date for our annual service at Three Sisters Farm! We will have one service at 11am, with a picnic lunch following. Please plan on bringing a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

# Youth & Family Ministry

## MUNCHY MONDAY FINISHES ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

**M**unchy Monday, OHLC's early-release Monday outreach to Oak Harbor High School students will come to a close for the school year with our celebration of Grads on **Monday, June 8.**

Thank you so much for your support, enthusiasm, delicious homemade and store-bought donations, and the giving spirit that makes this all possible. A special thank you to the volunteers who so graciously gave their time and talents (and snacks!) every week to make this a warm and welcoming sanctuary. In addition, a huge thanks to Deborah Circle for their ongoing support.

The High School kids appreciate this safe haven so much on early-release days; their smiles, gratitude, and positive energy liven up our hearts. It is a pleasure to provide this place of safety and fellowship.



See you all in the fall for the 2026-2027 school year of Munchy Monday!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

**T**hank you, Sunday School teachers and substitutes, who have put in so much time and effort to teach God's Word to our children and youth this past year! **Teachers: Martha Ellis, Sara Hogarth, Beth Stephens, Amy Spencer; Substitutes: Mary Brock & Tom Carey**

Our last day of Sunday School for the program year (and our end-of-year party!) was May 31. It's been a great year of learning together. See you in September!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE YFG SUMMER EVENTS!



**June 7 Bonfire Night!** Join us at 4pm in welcoming summer with a bonfire, roast hot dogs, and roast s'mores. Sign up now on the Sunday connection card if you plan to attend!

*Confirmation Class will follow at 6pm*

**July 19 Fun Run!** "Face Your Giants", featuring the story of David & Goliath. Walk or Run 1 mile or 5k. We will meet at the church at 4pm for our race and follow it up with food! Race medals will be awarded to all participants.

**Aug 9 Paint & Sip!** Join us as we learn to paint together and sip some lemonade. Our painting this summer is fireworks over the cityscape of Seattle. *Instructions for a background of mountains in lieu of Seattle skyline can be offered as an optional alternative if requested ahead.*

**All Ages, Everyone is Welcome!**



# Update from the Treasurer



Dear Church Family,

I'm grateful to share more good news about our church's finances. Through your generosity, prayer, and steady faithfulness, our deficit has continued to shrink—now down to **\$1,090** through the end of April. This is an extraordinary sign of God's provision and the shared commitment of this congregation.

Scripture reminds us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17), and we see that truth reflected in the way you give, serve, and support the ministries of our church. Thank you for your continued partnership in the work God has entrusted to us—worship, discipleship, caring for one another, and reaching out to our community with Christ's love.

While we still have a small gap to close, we move forward with confidence and hope. As Paul encouraged the early church, "Let us not grow weary in doing good" (Galatians 6:9). Together, we will continue to pursue the mission God has placed before us, trusting that He will supply what we need as we remain faithful.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your heart for this church. God is at work among us, and I'm excited for what He will continue to do through this community.

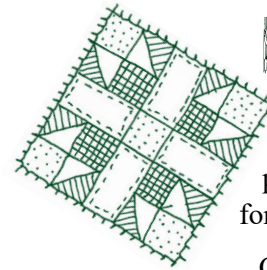
With gratitude and hope,

Your Treasurer Bruce Holroyd

# OHLC Women

Opportunities for Fellowship, Study & Service

## JOIN BLANKET WORKSHOP!



Please join us, **Tuesday & Wednesday, June 2 & 3, 9:30 AM** in the fellowship hall for some fellowship and quilt making. **No sewing skills are necessary!** Hop on board for some coffee, snacks, and social time as we pin together quilts with batting. There is always something for everyone to do!

Contact Jan Kammenga (360-675-3986) or Donna Aspery (360-675-9472) with any questions!

## CIRCLES IN JUNE

**Deborah Circle** will meet Thursdays in June at 1PM in the Library. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Gaye Rodriguey at [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com)

**June 4** "I am worthy", June/July/August 2026  
**Gather** magazine, Session 1

**June 11** "I am in God's image", June/July/August 2026,  
**Gather** magazine, Session 1

**June 18** *Grateful Gatherings*, "Live Fully Alive"

**June 25** "I am created in God's image. (No matter what anyone else says)", June/July/August 2026, **Gather** magazine, Session 1

**Lydia Circle** meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 PM in the Prayer Room. We finish the book: *Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* (LifeGuide Bible Series) by Douglas Connelly. Additional crafting meetings for the Annual Bazaar begin June 16th. All are welcome! Contact Mary Brock at 360-672-8966 if you have any questions.

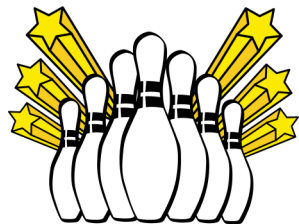
**June 2** Chapter 12: Darkness Before Deliverance:  
Daniel 11:36-12:13 (plus choose our next study!)

**June 16** Crafts for the Holiday Bazaar

# His Kids Preschool

## A Ministry of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

The month of May brought our final FULL month of preschool for students before summer vacation! Students stayed busy in class learning about spring time, farms, animals, Noah's Ark, and reviewing our alphabet skills. Students and their families participated in several end-of-the-year activities as well, including the annual bowling party on May 13<sup>th</sup>, Preschool Sunday on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and a special Chapel on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



Parents, siblings, and Grandparents joined our students for a fun night of bowling and pizza at Oak Bowl, food and strikes were enjoyed by all! Preschool Sunday brought families to our 10:30 am service. Preschool students and families were celebrated with sharing special songs, a display of the

preschool's history, a meaningful children's time lesson, special crafts, and, of course, cake and snacks afterward. A big

THANK YOU to those who helped with serving, snacks, clean up, and especially the dishes! Our final event for this month was a special chapel; families were invited to attend chapel time and celebrated as students shared chapel songs, bible lessons, and received certificates of participation for His Kids Preschool Class of 2025/2026.



This month's field trip was a visit to the amazing 3 Sisters Farm, where all things farm, animals, big tractors, and springtime babies were at the students' fingertips. A giant THANK YOU to the Muzzall family for allowing our students to witness their hard work, learn firsthand about the important animals on the farm, and see how they keep our community fed. We appreciate your care in answering all their questions!



Call for more information, scan QR code, or visit our website:  
<https://oakharborlutheran.org/his-kids-preschool/>

Here's how our students finished the sentence:  
*I love my Mom because...*

**Runa S.:** she share cake with me and plays with me in the snow and she decorates my hair

**Brian:** she takes me to the Blue Foz drive-in and night time

**Maverick:** she eats and plays and sleeps with me

**Fenway:** she gives me yummy lunches

**Dallas:** she makes me smoothies

**Ember:** she makes me food I like

**Runa H.:** she makes pictures with me

**Rylee:** she gives me paint

**Colton:** she takes me to restaurants

**Melodee:** she gives me flowers

**Luci:** she makes juice popsicles with me



Looking forward to an  
amazing summer!  
Ms. Elva, Ms. Michelle,  
and Ms. Jasmine

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

**The Brotherhood of St. Bernard**, OHLC's men's Bible study fellowship, meets Tuesdays, **June 9 & 23**, at noon in the fellowship hall.

OHLC's card makers, the **Church Mice Stampers**, meet on Tuesdays, **June 9 & 23**, starting at 10:00 AM in the library.

**The One Thing Book Group** will meet to consider: Your Choice! *Mysterious Affair at Styles* **OR** *And then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. Contact Lisa Margraf for details.

**Stephen Ministry** will meet on Thurs. **May 11** at 4pm in the Library. We will gather together as we welcome the newly commissioned Stephen Ministers with a time of sharing.

**The deadline for articles** for the July newsletter is **Monday, June 15**.



# The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

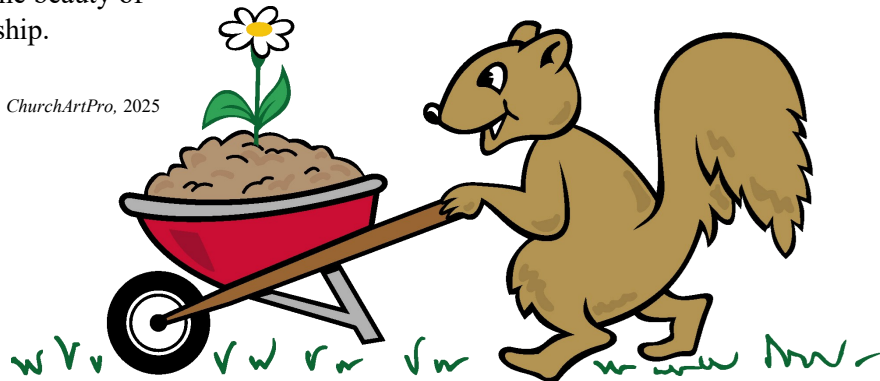
We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.



# Loving Your Neighbor

*“Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.”*

With the theme of “Brave” I giggled a little when I saw the scripture for today. Psalm 31 immediately reminded me of a time when I babysat a little boy and in exchange the lady babysat for me, each of us once a week. It was a 2-hour window. Let's just say, her little guy was rambunctious. I never sat down.

On the first day I looked at the clock and only 30 minutes had gone by. I was sure the clock was broken.

Two hours seemed like an eternity. I reminded myself that he was only three years old and told myself I could handle it. I put on my brave face each time. The child's name was Kevin and had very similar characteristics to the “Home Alone” Kevin. He had lots of clever ideas and an imagination to boot, and liked to bring in bugs and kick walls. So, if you have ever felt like running away, or counting the minutes in front of you until the sweet loves go home, then I, too, like others, have been there.

I am thankful to teachers who handle it and don't run away. May you feel Jesus with you, especially on those hard days; may you hear Jesus tell you take refuge in him. Jesus has got you today and tomorrow.

You can do it. You are brave. Thank you to all teachers and administrators for all your hard work and dedication. You are appreciated.

**Reflect:** How do you dig in on those harder days?

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you so much for wonderful days with children. Help me remember to reach out to you as my refuge and my strength on those days where I need to be brave. Amen.

Thank You,  
Teachers!

A stylized illustration of a red apple with a green leaf, positioned between the words 'Thank You,' and 'Teachers!' in the graphic.

*Pastor Susan Dollinger, Longview, WA serves a congregation that is passionate about supporting the public schools through grants and service.*

# Compassion Ministry

Ministry of the Month:

Mighty  to Save  
ministries


ighty to Save Ministry, our Ministry of the Month for June, is a non-profit organization based in Oak Harbor that began in 2011-12.

Mighty to Save assists young adults transitioning from a lifestyle of addiction to a life of sobriety by providing discipleship, mentoring, counseling, group support and transitional assistance. In June 2019, Jake's House, with 2 in-house leaders, began providing 7 men with a place to live as they continue their journey of sobriety.

Information will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex during June, and you'll have the opportunity to donate towards their Christ-centered, hope-filled outreach.

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. –Rom. 15:13*

## WATOTO GARAGE SALE JULY 25


ark your calendar for the Watoto Garage Sale, **Saturday, July 25, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will go towards the care and education of the Watoto children in Uganda.

Your donations of garage sale items are needed and much appreciated (*no electronic devices, clothing or furniture!*). **Keep these items stashed at home until Friday, July 24**



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

## CAMP LUTHERWOOD'S SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN


e have a wonderful Lutheran Bible camp right in our own backyard, on the shores of beautiful Lake Samish in Bellingham. Camp Lutherwood is currently taking registrations for summer campers! You can register online at [www.camplutherwood.org](http://www.camplutherwood.org). Through gifted funds from the OHLC Men's Group (The Brotherhood of St. Bernard) and other sources, **we're able to offer a limited number of camp scholarships**. Please contact Pastor Spencer if you are interested.



# Stephen Ministry

## JOIN US FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS, SUNDAY JUNE 7TH.



n Sunday, June 7th at the 9:30am worship service, **Mary Brock, Rita Bartell Drum, John Hermandorfer, Gaylene Reiten and Gabriela Walters will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers**. These lay ministers will be providing care for people in and around our congregation who are going through many kinds of difficulties in their lives .

Please show your support and appreciation for these dedicated people by your presence at the commissioning service and through your prayers. Following the service please join the new commissioned Stephen Ministers as well as the present Stephen Ministers and Leaders in the Fellowship Hall for a celebratory reception.

Worship Assistants		
<b>June 7</b>		
9:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Gaylen Smith Acolyte: Alice Gray Healing Prayer: C. Reafs & L. Improta	Computer: Donna Aspery Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan Altar Guild: Lori Gayhart
<b>June 14</b>		
9:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Tom Carey Acolyte: Elizabeth Richards	Computer: Sam Richards Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan Altar Guild: Karol Pulliam
<b>June 21 Father's Day</b>		
9:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Carol Fitzgerald Acolyte: Jack Forney	Computer: Kyleigh Butz Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan Altar Guild: Mary Brock
<b>June 28</b>		
9:30 AM	Assisting Minister: Paul Senness Communion Assistant: Mike Dilley	Computer: Lucas Stone Organ/Piano: Verna Morgan Altar Guild: Diane

Little Lutheran bags in June: Colleen Pedlar

Thank you to Sara Hogarth for May!

This month's decorative font is: *Secret Nature*

DropCaps are in: *Plants Letters*



Financial Report		April
	April	Year to date
Income	\$ 41,236	\$ 148,156
Outgo	<u>36,946</u>	<u>149,245</u>
	\$ 4,290	\$ (1,090)

Worship Attendance		May
Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
April 26	48	83
May 3	51	92
May 10	56	75
May 17	53	75
May 24	50	86
<b>Avg. Att.</b>	52	82

Average Sunday attendance: 134


May 31 will be included in next month's statistics

Lesser Festivals and Commemorations		June
1 Justin, martyr at Rome, c.165	21 Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931	
3 The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886; John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, 1963	24 The Nativity of John the Baptist	
5 Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, 754	25 Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the Church, 1560	
7 Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, 1866	27 Cyril, bishop of Alexandria, theologian, 444	
9 Columba, 597; Aidan, 651, Bede, 735, renewers of the church	28 Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, c. 202	
11 Barnabas, Apostle	29 Peter & Paul, Apostles	
14 Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, c. 385 Gregory of Nanzianus, Bishop of Constantinople, c. 389; Macrina, teacher, c. 379		

# June

2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday  7:00 North Whidbey NA	2 9:30 Blanket Workshop  5:30 Lydia Circle 5:30 Al Anon	3 9:30 Blanket Workshop  7:00 Jubilate Ringers	4 1:00 Deborah Circle  Stephen Minister Training 4:15pm-6:15pm 7:00 NA	5   6:00 Piano Recital/Viljoen	6   12:00 Singles Fellowship
7  Worship 9:30  YFG Bonfire 4:00 Confirmation 6:00 CA/library 7:30	8 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday  7:00 North Whidbey NA	9 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard  3:00 SPIN B.O.D. 5:30 Al Anon	10   6:00 Council 7:00 Jubilate Ringers	11   1:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 NA	12   3:00 QUEST CLUB	13   OHHS Graduation Overflow Parking
14  Worship 9:30 Semi-Annual Meeting 10:45  CA/library 7:30	15 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 12:30 M.M. set-up 1:30 Munchy Monday  5:00 Brass Ensemble Concert 7:00 North Whidbey NA	16   5:30 Lydia Circle 5:30 Al Anon	17   7:00 Jubilate Ringers	18   1:00 Deborah Circle  7:00 NA	19 <b>Juneteenth Church Office Closed</b>  1:00 Library Team Meeting	20   2:00 Myrna Hummel Memorial  Donuts with Dads set-up
21 <b>Father's Day</b> Worship 9:30 Donuts with Dads 10:45  CA/library 7:30	22   7:00 North Whidbey NA	23 10:00 Church Mice Stampers 12:00 Brotherhood of St. Bernard  5:30 Al Anon	24   7:00 Jubilate Ringers	25  Water Fountain Installation Day  1:00 Deborah Circle 7:00 NA	26  9:00 newsletter assembly  3:00 QUEST CLUB	27
28  Worship 9:30  CA/library 7:30	29   7:00 North Whidbey NA	30   5:30 Al Anon	 <p>“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” —Robert Louis Stevenson</p>			