

# VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Dec. 24, 2023  
10:30 AM Worship**

Vashon Lutheran Church  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Dec. 24, 2023

**PRELUDE**

Marita Ericksen

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

**GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jack Kirkman, Lay Leader

**CANDLELIGHTING**

Frankie Ericksen, Acolyte

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, LBW, #34, vs. 1 - 4 & Refrains*

Dr. Gary Koch, Cantor

*Cantor: Verse 1 - O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

**Congregation: Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.**

*Cantor: Verse 2 – O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty and awe. Repeat Refrain*

*Cantor: Verse 3 – O Come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.*

**All Repeat Refrain (above)**

*Cantor: Verse 4 – O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.*

**All Repeat Refrain (above)**

**ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING:**

Sindy Rice, Reader

**Congregation stands as able**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Rev. John Michael Barich

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. C: Amen. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Everlasting God,

**C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. C: Amen.

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.  
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

*Song of Praise (next page):*

*ACS, p. 31*

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 yours is the ho - prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;  
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.  
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;  
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Congregation sits*

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Marlee Koch, Lector (L)

Lector: A reading from 2 Samuel, Chapter 7.

L: Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house

since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*“Annunciation & Magnificat”, Holden Evening Prayer, by M. Haugen*      Dr. Gary Koch, Cantor

**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

Marlee Koch, Lector

L: A reading from Romans, Chapter 16.

L: Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.** Please stand as able

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

ACS, P. 14

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

Rev. John Michael Barich

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 1. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation sits

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**APOSTLES' CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *Please sit***

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

June Langland, Assisting Minister (A)

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A: You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. We lift up all those in need, either silently or aloud...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **C: Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

P: (At the end of passing of the peace) Now is the time for the sharing of our gifts to God.

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY RESPONSE:**

*ELW, #262, (Sing 3X)*

### Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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## OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Congregation stands as able*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION/LORD'S PRAYER/COMMUNION:

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

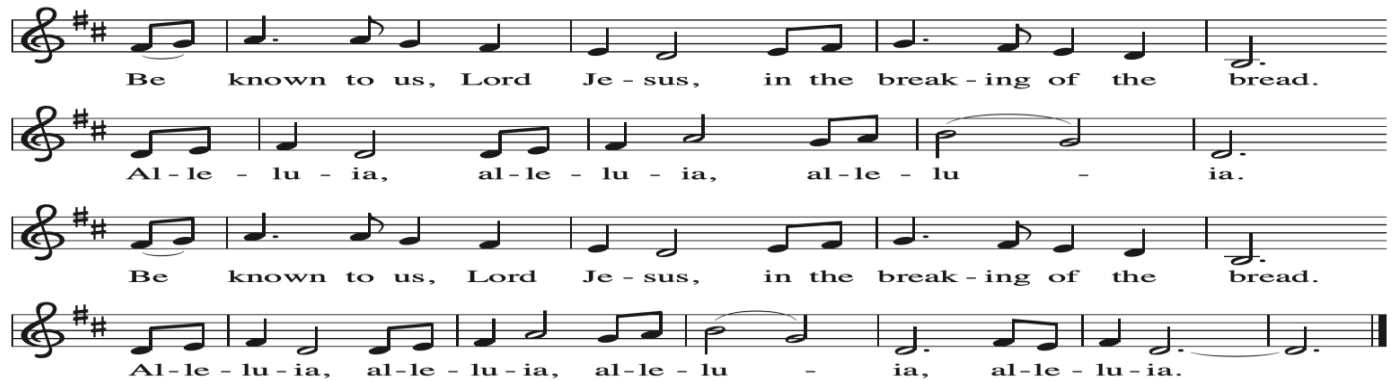
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

P: **Invitation to Communion:** In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table. Congregation Sits

*Communion Hymn #1:*

*ACS, p. 41*



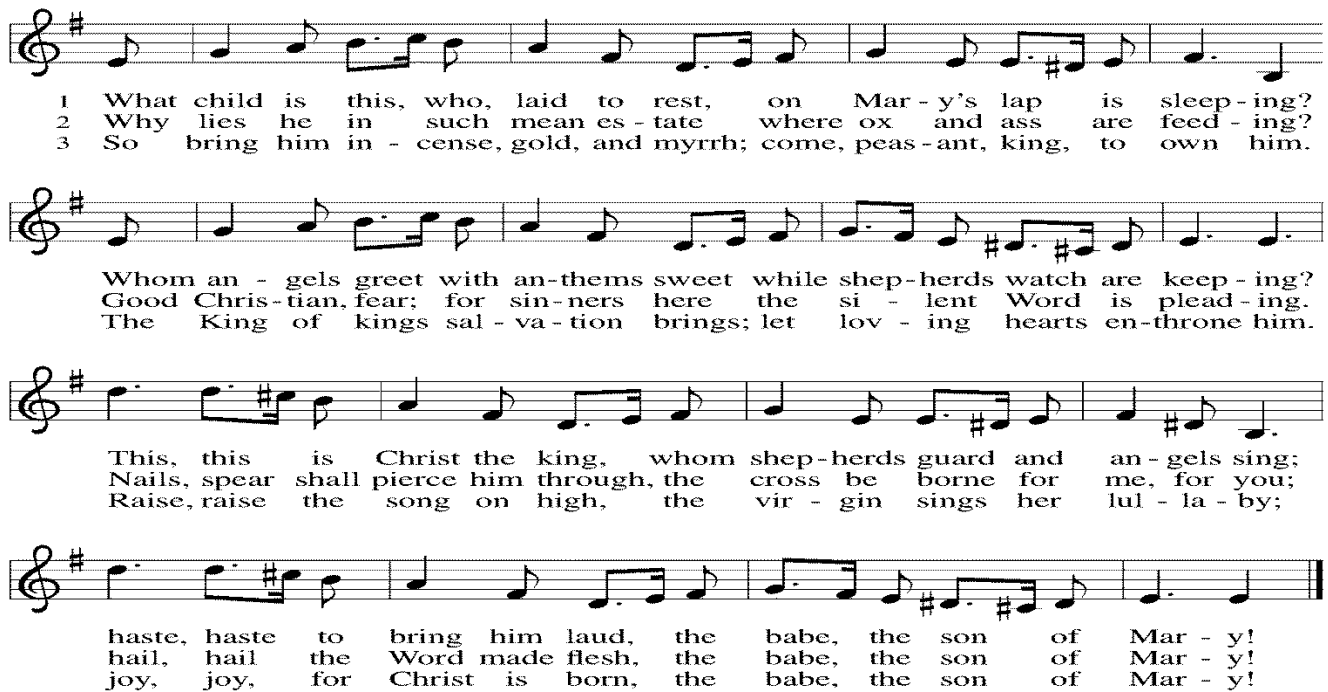
Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Communion Hymn #2:*

*ELW, #296*

### What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit  $\text{✠}$  remain upon you now and forever. **C: Amen**

*Sending Song:*

*ELW, #267, vs. 3 & 4*

**Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, and re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, and far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

**DISMISSAL:**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is with you. **C:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:**

Marita Ericksen

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Worship Assistants This Morning:

Care Pastor – Rev. John Michael Barich  
Assisting Minister – June Langland  
Lector – Marlee Koch  
Communion Assistant Marlee Koch  
Usher – Jim Dam  
Musician – Marita Ericksen  
Cantor – Dr. Gary Koch  
Communion Set Up – Cindy Rice  
Coffee Hour Refreshments – Marlee Koch

Worship Assistants, 12/24/23, 3:45 PM\* :

Readers– Marlee & Dr. Gary Koch, Elise Ericksen, Rev. Joe Kutzke  
Assistant Minister – June Langland  
Musicians – Marita Ericksen, Lauri Hennessey, Dr. Gary Koch, Dianne & Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, Nancy Lee Spears, Paul Colwell  
Ushers – Jim Dam, Elise & Frankie Ericksen  
Flowers – Poinsettias (see list in announcements below)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Rev. John Michael Barich for your participation in worship today at VLC!

\*Christmas Eve, Sunday, 12/24, 3:45 PM (Caroling Group Prelude) & 4:00 PM “Candles, Lessons & Carols” Worship Service. Bring the whole family and join in singing your favorite Christmas Carols!

Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) with your prayer requests.

Prayer & Healing Service – Rev. Jeff Larson PhD is offering a prayer & healing service on the first Weds. of the month at 6:30 PM, in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

IFCH Dinner Program: VLC provides hand out meals at Vashon Presbyterian Church at 5:00 PM the fourth Thurs. of the month. Contact Patte Wagner: [pattewags@aol.com](mailto:pattewags@aol.com) to help.

The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies – 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network – 206-473-8715. Email: [contact@vashoncarenetwork.org](mailto:contact@vashoncarenetwork.org); website: [www.vashoncarenetwork.org](http://www.vashoncarenetwork.org)

VCN FAMILY CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP - Vashon Care Network invites you to join other family caregivers in a safe, supportive space to share the experience of caregiving. Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM at VLC. ?? Call Kathy Shafel, [kshafel@comcast.net](mailto:kshafel@comcast.net), cell: 206.718-1458 or Tory Hayes, [victoriansmith@comcast.net](mailto:victoriansmith@comcast.net), 206.304-4544.

Poinsettias donated from:

Marita, Elise & Frankie Ericksen  
  
Roger and Martha Gebhard  
Dinah Helgeson  
Pr. Joe & Dianne Kutzke  
June Langland  
Jeff & Gail Larson  
Judy Lorange

In Memory/Recognition of:

Rev. John Ericksen, husband, father & grandpa and in recognition of Frankie, our young Acolyte!  
Ted & Doris Gebhard, Paul & Vene Marmont  
Loved Ones & in recognition of June Langland  
Marcy & Milton Beck, Ted Burger, Jack & Jean Kutzke  
Dwayne Langland  
Parents - Cherri & Lowell Larson & Karen & Dave Witte  
Husband, Richard Lorange

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

SUNDAY  
1<sup>st</sup>  
10:30 AM

Food Bank Sunday  
Worship

6:30 – 8:30 PM  
Dec. 24, 10:30 AM & 4:00 PM  
Dec. 31, 10:00 AM

AA Group  
Christmas Eve Worship Services at VLC  
New Year's Eve Worship Service at COHS

MONDAY  
10:00 AM  
4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Intercessory Prayer Group  
VCN Board Meeting

TUESDAY  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 AM – noon

Quilt Sewers Group  
Vashon Quilting Group

WEDNESDAY  
1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – noon  
1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM

Lutheran Quilters Group  
Prayer & Healing Service

THURSDAY  
6:30-7:30 PM  
4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM

VCN Family Caregivers Support Group at VLC  
IFCH Dinner prepared by VLC, served at VPC

FRIDAY  
7:00 – 8:30 PM

AA Group for Men



## **Vashon Lutheran Church**

**P.O. Box 2930, Vashon WA 98070**

**Street Address:**

**18623 Vashon Hwy. SW 98070**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Tuesday – Friday 12 PM – 3 PM**

**Phone: (206) 463-2655**

**Email: [vlc98070@centurytel.net](mailto:vlc98070@centurytel.net)**

**Website: [www.vashonlutheran.org](http://www.vashonlutheran.org)**

Hymns for Dec. 24, 2023, 10:30 AM

LBW, 34, v. 1 - 4	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
ELW, 267, v. 1 & 2	Joy to the World
ELW, 254	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
ELW, 262 (3X)	Wait for the Lord
ACS, p. 40	Be Known to Us, Lord
ELW, 296	What Child is This
ELW, 267, v. 3 & 4	Joy to the World