

# The Church Mouse

VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY  
2025

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## From The Spirit, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

### From the Bishop:

I thank you for calling me to a second term as bishop. I am honored and to be on this journey with you all. Below is a shortened version of the speech I gave during our last Synod Assembly.

Beloveds in Christ, there's a lot happening in our world. You know this. And it's easy to get overwhelmed or discouraged. But let me say this clearly: ***There is no better time than now to be the church.*** The world is complex and the work before us might be at times frustrating and messy and hard. And yet, I truly believe that in this complicated moment in time, for the sake of every beloved child of God, we are called to be the church of Jesus Christ.

And Christ is calling us for this moment – not to fear, but to love. Not to look backward, but forward. Not to hide, but to hope. Not to retreat, but to rise.

Not to hate, but to love. Now is the time. Rooted in God's presence and promise through Jesus the risen Christ - now is the time to stand in courage and truth. ***There is no better time than now to be the church.***

Six years ago, when you called me to serve as your bishop, I promised – through the power of the Holy Spirit – that together we would focus on four things:

1. We would walk alongside both traditional congregations and new ministries – honoring sacred practices while also innovating.
2. We would deepen lay leadership across the synod – building richer, more vibrant communities of faith.
3. We would strengthen relationships with our ecumenical and interfaith partners.
4. We would listen to and lift up the diverse voices around us and amongst us – especially those who have long been silenced or marginalized.

## From the Bishop (continued):

In these last six years we have made great strides in all of these four areas. We haven't always been perfect. We have learned, reflected, and grown. And yet, even through COVID and all the challenges and complexities that have come in these six years, by the Spirit's breath and power, we are practicing these things together. Thanks be to God!

Now, in these days and as we look ahead to the next six years, I feel the Spirit calling us to something more. Let us be the church that publicly leads in love.

- In a time of rising hate speech, we are called to speak boldly – in love.
- As Christian nationalism distorts our faith, we are called to publicly resist – in love.
- When people are erased or excluded, we are called to uphold every person's dignity and act for justice - in love.

Above all things, through all things, in everything we do and say, we are called to live and move and breathe in Christ's love and, in this love, love every person – even those we are tempted to call our enemies. For we hold the promise that no matter what comes, Jesus Christ who died and is risen lives and moves and breathes in us. And Christ calls us not to fear, not to hate, but to love – to radically love.

I look forward to partnering with you for the next six years. I am grateful to be church together. For truly, we are chosen, forgiven, gathered and sent in Christ's name and love for the sake of the world. Beloveds in Christ, let us show the world what it means to love in Christ. For there is ***no better time than now to be the church.***

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



**Featured faith based song leader/composer on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Hans Peterson will bring his liturgy for Earth keeping and music to share.**

### Hans Peterson bio

Born and raised in Alaska, Hans came to the Midwest to attend Luther College. Since graduation he has worked as a youth director/worship leader, lived with homeless men in a Catholic Worker House, been a full-time musician for 25 years, and earned two different degrees from United Theological Seminary and Luther Seminary. Hans is currently a pastor at River of Hope Lutheran church in Hutchinson, MN. As a songleader/songwriter he still ventures out solo and with the Dakota Road band, playing piano and acoustic guitar. Home is Belle Plaine township where he lives with his spouse, Heidi, on her family's farm and their two boys have almost made them empty nesters. If not connecting with people over a cup of coffee or writing a sermon, he might be found hiking, biking, weeding the garden, eating ice cream, pruning apple trees, or playing pickleball. In all that he does, Hans prays and works for a world where all creation is seen as sacred.



## Announcements

Sunday morning Bible study is led by Marlee Koch, 9:45 - 10:15 AM. All are invited to join in the study, which will focus on the scripture readings of the day.

Contact Gail Larson (206/852-4967) with your prayer requests.

IFCH Dinner Program - VLC provides hand out meals at Vashon Presbyterian Church at 5:00 PM the fourth Thurs. of the month. Contact Cheryl Weise: [cheryl.weise@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.weise@gmail.com).

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 Tory Hayes, 206.304-4544, [victoriansmith@comcast.net](mailto:victoriansmith@comcast.net).

Later Start Time at VLC, Sunday June 20 - Worship will begin 10:45 AM, Sun., July 20 to accommodate the Strawberry Festival Car Parade. The parade will begin at VCA & proceed North on Vashon HWY SW. Please give yourself extra time taking the detour coming from the north & expect slower traffic coming from the south to Vashon Lutheran Church. We hope to see you all here for worship and fellowship!



“Rejoice with Jerusalem,  
and be glad for her, all  
you who love her; rejoice  
with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over  
her— that you may nurse  
and be satisfied from her  
consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply  
with delight from her  
glorious bosom. For thus  
says the LORD: I will  
extend prosperity to her  
like a river, and the wealth  
of the nations like an  
overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse and be  
carried on her arm, and  
dandled on her knees.  
As a mother comforts her  
child, so I will comfort  
you; you shall be  
comforted in Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 66



## VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 2930

Vashon, WA 98070 Street

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Tuesday-Friday 12-3pm

Phone: (206) 463-2655

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

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

## Our Faith In Action

### SUNDAY

1<sup>st</sup>

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

10:30 AM

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Food Bank Sunday

Bible Study w/ Marlee Koch

Worship Service

AA Group

### MONDAY

4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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

Lutheran Quilters Group

### THURSDAY

July 31, 5:00 PM

6:30-7:30 PM

IFCH Dinner at Vashon Presbyterian Church

VCN Family Caregivers Support Group at VLC

### FRIDAY

7:00 – 8:30 PM

AA Group for Men

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**The Church Mouse/Vashon Lutheran Church**

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