

The Church Mouse

VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

November
2024

CONTACT US

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Tuesday-Friday 12-3pm

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

From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here – and for many, your vote has already been cast – I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American.

But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God's vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God's eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

1. Jesus is all about loving one's neighbor. Even when it is hard. When he is asked, "Who is my neighbor," Jesus expands his answer beyond imagination. In Jesus' stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor.

As you vote: Who is your neighbor?

2. Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

As you vote: Who is the stranger?



3. God's will and God's calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow."

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

4. The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

5. God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards. As we read in the ELCA social statement, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, we affirm that it is God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation.

As you vote: Who is caring for creation?

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of the country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. (And to be fair, the United States sometimes feels shaky and unmoored). But truly it comes down to this: God's love is unconditional and unending.

Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God's love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as baptized and sent children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God's love. As we hear in 1 John, *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us.*

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org





Announcements

Thank you, Rev. Thomas Aitken for your participation in worship today at VLC!

There's a Bible study group today, led by Roger Gebhard, 9:45 – 10:15 AM. All are welcome!

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

Vashon Care Network's Care Closet will host an open house and free giveaway of medical equipment and supplies on Sunday, November 17, 2-4PM. The Care Closet is located on the Lutheran Church's property. We have various types of walkers, canes, and crutches to give away as well incontinence supplies, PPE, wipes, gloves, no-water shampoo and washcloths, and lots of specialty items. Everything is FREE. Come enjoy a cup of hot cider while you look for what you need!

IFCH Dinner Program - VLC provides hand out meals at Vashon Presbyterian Church at 5:00 PM the fourth Thurs. of the month (except November 28). Contact Chery Weise: cheryl.weise@gmail.com to help.

The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies – 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network – 206-473-8715.

Email: contact@vashoncarenetwork.org; website: 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, cell: 206.718-1458 or Tory Hayes, 206.304-4544, victoriansmith@comcast.net.

“He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’”

Mark 12





VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 2930

Vashon, WA 98070 Street

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Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 12-3pm

Phone: (206) 463-2655

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Our Faith In Action

SUNDAY

1st

9:45 – 10:15 AM

10:30 AM

Nov 10, 3:30 PM

Dec 8, 3:00 PM

MONDAY

4th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Nov, 11, 7:00 PM

TUESDAY

2nd, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

3rd, 10:00 AM – noon

WEDNESDAY

1st, 9:00 AM – noon

THURSDAY

6:30-7:30 PM

FRIDAY

7:00 – 8:30 PM

SATURDAY

Nov 9, 1:00-3:00 PM

Nov 9, 2:00-4:00 PM

Food Bank Sunday

Bible Study w/ Roger Gebhard

Worship Service, followed by coffee & cookies

AA Group Gratitude Dinner

VLC In-person Council Meeting

VCN Board Meeting

Worship Committee Meeting at June Langland's

Quilt Sewers Group

Vashon Quilting Group

Lutheran Quilters Group

VCN Family Caregivers Support Group at VLC

AA Group for Men

VCA Youth Musician Rehearsal in Sanctuary

Care Givers' Party in Fellowship Hall

THE CHURCH MOUSE NOVEMBER 2024

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