

**The Church Mouse/Vashon Lutheran Church**  
**18623 Vashon Hwy SW**  
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**OCTOBER 2023**



# The Church Mouse

## From the Bishop:

“Sometimes it’s boring. Sometimes it’s thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry.”

(Quote from “The Wonderful Ordinarity of Congregational Life” by Cheryl Fullerton, Christian Century, March 2022)



Recently I was thinking about church. (Full disclosure ... I think about church quite a bit.) But, in particular, I was thinking about the rhythm of church life. And I think the above quote from Cheryl Fullerton sums it up pretty nicely.

Sometimes it’s boring.

I admit, sometimes there is something that is uninteresting about church. Perhaps it is the repetitive nature of it. Perhaps it is the cyclical nature of things. Perhaps it is seeing the same people in the same pew week after week and year after year.

We know that Fred will sing the hymns out of tune ... every time. We know that Mary will cluck her tongue at someone’s tattoo peeking out from their sundress. We know that Mike will fall asleep during the sermon and we know that Dan will try to share the peace with every single person. We know that the children will fidget. We know that the baby might cry. We know that we have rituals and sacraments and prayers that we say each week. We know that sometimes we won’t hear the utter preposterousness and absurdity and utterly amazing news that Jesus loves each of us and all of us – that sometimes this message sails over our heads because we’re too busy looking at the bulletin.

And yet ...

Sometimes it’s thrilling.

I always get goosebumps when I hear the words, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” I rejoice each Easter when we all shout, “He is risen! He is risen indeed!” Candles lit in darkness bring hope and light on Christmas Eve. When I am privileged to place bread in people’s hands and I see young, old, wrinkled, black, white, brown hands reaching out for Jesus, it is truly miraculous.

Office Hours  
Tuesday-Friday 12-3pm  
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## VLC Council Members

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We know that Fred cares for his wife with Alzheimer's. We know that Mary still grieves her daughter. We know that Mike works the late shift and we know that Dan only leaves his group home for church. We know that the children will hear of Jesus. We know that the baby will grow up in the community of elders. We know that sometimes we will hear and understand, if even for a moment, the utter preposterousness and absurdity and utterly amazing news that Jesus loves each of us and all of us.

And so ...

Sometimes it makes me cry.

Church is not for the faint-hearted. Church is not for people who only want to be with their own kind. Church is for the young, the middle-aged and the old. The healthy and the sick. The spiritually depleted and the spiritually full. Those who are seeking, those who are exhausted, and those who are filled with fire for justice. We all come together. The Freds and Marys and Mikes and Dans. And we sing and we pray and we receive Jesus, in community, together.

Church is wonderfully boring and thrilling. We catch glimpses of the divine amongst the coffee pot and petty disagreements. We see Mary hug the tattooed young girl after she is baptized. We see Mike exchange high fives with Dan. We see Fred with tears singing at the top of his lungs, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives."

There is nothing like church.

"Sometimes it's boring. Sometimes it's thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry."

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) 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 Patte Wagner: [pattewags@aol.com](mailto:pattewags@aol.com) to help.

**The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies – 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network – 206-604-3253.**  
Email: [contact@vashoncarenetwork.org](mailto:contact@vashoncarenetwork.org); website: [www.vashoncarenetwork.org](http://www.vashoncarenetwork.org)

**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!

**VLC Women's Farewell Luncheon for Hazel Nelson, Wed., Oct. 18, in the Fellowship Hall.**

**All adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities are invited to a Harvest Party Sun., Oct. 8th, 2-4 PM.** Hosted by Hershey Housing with Granny's grant funds. Our goal is to create social opportunities for this community & this will be our first. Any adults with IDD are welcome to come with their caregiver to enjoy music, crafts & snacks. Blythe Deines, phone: #719-650-1364; email: [hersheyhousing@gmail.com](mailto:hersheyhousing@gmail.com).

**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. Support circles are Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM at Vashon Lutheran. For a time, leave behind your responsibilities & make space for yourself. Come together to share your concerns & struggles, make meaningful connections, find inspiration & new energy. If you need someone to stay with your loved one so you can participate, please let us know. Join us for coffee, tea, cookies & community. ?? Contact 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

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION****SUNDAY****1st, Food Bank Sunday****10:30 AM Worship****6:30 – 8:30 PM AA Group****MONDAY****10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Group****TUESDAY****2nd, 9:00 – 1:00 PM Quilt Sewers Group****3rd, 10:00 – noon Vashon Quilting Group****WEDNESDAY****1st, 9:00 AM – noon Lutheran Quilters Group****1st, 6:30 PM Prayer and Healing Service****3rd, 7:00 PM VLC Council Meeting****Oct, 18, 12:30 PM VLC Ladies Farewell Lunch for Hazel Nelson****THURSDAY****Oct, 26, 5:00 PM IFCH Dinner prepared by VLC, served at VPC****FRIDAY****7:00 - 8:30 PM AA Group for Men**

“For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.”  
Philippians 3



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