

# VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Oct. 1, 2023**

**10:30 AM Worship**

**Vashon Lutheran Church**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Oct. 1, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

Marita Ericksen

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

**CANDLELIGHTING**

Frank Ericksen, Acolyte

**GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Patte Wagner, Lay Leader

*Congregation stands as able*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Rev. Mel Jacob

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn (next page):*

*ELW, #526*

## God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991  
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 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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:

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 prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - 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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation sits

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

Patte Wagner, Lector (L)

Lector: A reading from Ezekiel, Chapter 18.

L: The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

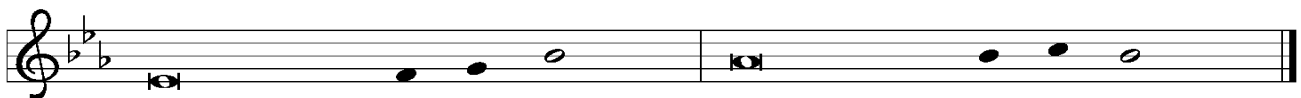
Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9**

Dr. Gary Koch, Cantor



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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To<sup>1</sup> you, O LORD, \*I lift<sup>1</sup> up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be<sup>1</sup> put to shame,**

**\*nor let my enemies triumph<sup>1</sup> over me.**

Let none who look to you be<sup>1</sup> put to shame;

\*rather let those be put to shame<sup>1</sup> who are treacherous.

**Show me your<sup>1</sup> ways, O LORD, \*and teach<sup>1</sup> me your paths.**

Lead me in your<sup>1</sup> truth and teach me,

\*for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all<sup>1</sup> the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compas-<sup>1</sup>sion and love, \*for they are from<sup>1</sup> everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and<sup>1</sup> my transgressions; \*remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-<sup>1</sup>ness, O LORD.

You are gracious and up-<sup>l</sup> right, O LORD; \*therefore you teach sinners<sup>l</sup> in your way.  
You lead the low-<sup>l</sup> ly in justice \*and teach the low-<sup>l</sup> ly your way.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

Patte Wagner, Lector

L: A reading from Philippians, Chapter 2.

L: If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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: Matthew 21:23-32**

Rev. Mel Jacob

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 21. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.** Congregation sits

**MESSAGE:**

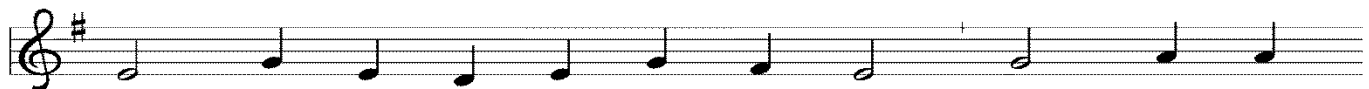
Rev. Mel Jacob

Congregation stands as able

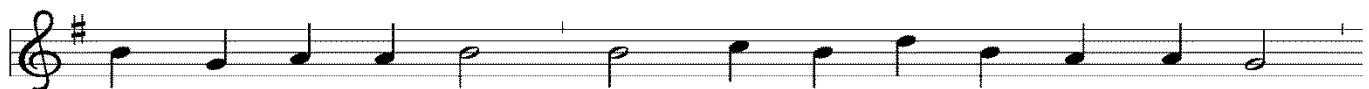
**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

*ELW, #517*

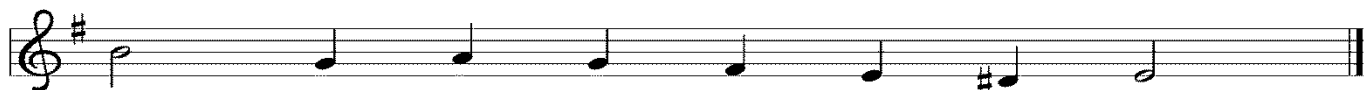
**Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

**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:**

Gail Larson, Assisting Minister (A)

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A: We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. We lift up all those in need, either silently or aloud...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **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 (next page):**

**ACS, #970**



## We Come Now to Your Table, Lord

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Come Now to Your Table, Lord'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread. We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed. You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed: and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C).

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop  
Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013  
Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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### OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:** This is the table, not of this church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little; come, you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. Come, you who have never been before; come, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because the church invites you; this is Christ, and he invites you to meet him right here.

Congregation Sits

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, #483

Taste and See

Refrain - All

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. Oh,  
 taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Leader or All

1 I will bless the Lord at all times.  
 2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with . . me.  
 3 Wor - ship . . . the Lord, all you peo - ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;  
 To - geth - er let us all . . . praise God's name.  
 You'll want for noth - ing . . . if you ask.

my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;  
 I called the Lord, . . who an - swered me;  
 Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;

Refrain

for God has been so good to me.  
 from all my trou - bles I was set free.  
 in God we need put all our trust.

Text: James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34  
 Music: TASTE AND SEE, James E. Moore Jr.  
 Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com  
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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. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

P: The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

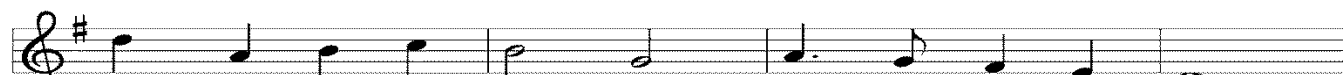
*Sending Song:*

*ELW, 537*


**On Our Way Rejoicing**



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

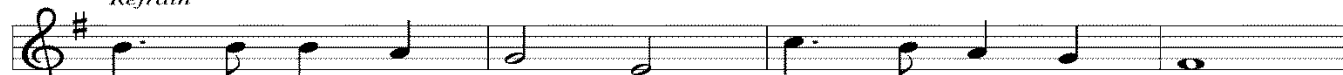


Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,




who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

**DISMISSAL:** P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**

Marita Ericksen

**Worship Assistants Today:**

Guest Pastor – Rev. Mel Jacob  
Assisting Minister – Gail Larson  
Lector – Patte Wagner  
Communion Assistant – Gail Larson  
Usher – Jim Dam  
Musician – Marita Ericksen  
Cantor – Dr. Gary Koch  
Communion Set Up – Gail Larson

**Worship Assistants next week (10/8/23):**

Guest Pastor – Rev. Kristy Daniels  
Assistant Minister - TBA  
Lector – TBA  
Communion Assistant – TBA  
Usher – Jim Dam  
Musician – Dinah Helgeson  
Cantor – TBA  
Communion Set Up – TBA

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you, Rev. Mel Jacob** for your participation in worship today at VLC!

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

**IFCH Dinner Program:** VLC provides five 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 healing service on the first Weds. of the month, beginning Sept. 6, 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. 8<sup>th</sup>, 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**

1<sup>st</sup>  
10:30 AM  
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Food Bank Sunday  
Worship  
AA Group

**MONDAY**

10:00 AM

Intercessory Prayer Group

**TUESDAY**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Quilt Sewers Group

3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 AM – noon

Vashon Quilting Group

**WEDNESDAY**

1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – noon

Lutheran Quilters Group

1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM

Prayer & Healing Service

3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 PM

VLC Council Meeting

Oct. 18, 12:30 PM

VLC Ladies Farewell Lunch for Hazel Nelson

**THURSDAY**

6:30-7:30 PM

VCN Family Caregivers Support Group at VLC

Oct. 26, 5:00 PM

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 Oct. 1, 2023

ELW, 526

God Is Here!

ELW, 517

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ACS, 970

We Come Now to Your Table

ACS, p. 40

Be Known to Us, Lord

ELW, 493

Taste and See

ELW, 537

On Our Way Rejoicing