

The Church Mouse

VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

April
2025

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

From the Bishop:

As you probably know, thousands of bison once roamed the plains of North America. In the late 1800s they were almost brought to extinction. Thankfully, due to conservation efforts, bison are back in the United States plains – even if they aren't nearly as ubiquitous as they once were.

You probably also know that bison are the largest mammals in North America. Male bison (called bulls) can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall, while females (called cows) weigh up to 1,000 pounds and can reach a height of 4-5 feet. Bison calves weigh 30-70 pounds at birth. These are large and powerful creatures.

But even though bison are formidable, the plains can still be dangerous. Their main predators are wolves and mountain lions (what we in the west call cougars), who prey on the weak and the slow – like young bison. Bison typically run when they sense danger, but when predators approach without warning, bison form a

multilayer circle of protection. The cows form a ring around the young, and the bulls form an outer ring surrounding the cows.

Just picture this for a moment. A wolf is coming ... the bison cannot run anywhere. And instantly, instinctively, they corral their young in the middle, the females encircle the young, and the males encircle the females. The two rings facing outward. It is a pretty powerful picture. The bison community automatically protects those who cannot protect themselves.

May I ask why we, as humans, seem to do a worse job of protecting the vulnerable than bison? We know God's imperative from Genesis to Revelation. I mean, who did the prophets cry out for? The laborer, the prisoner, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, the enslaved, the marginalized. Who did Jesus heal? The blind, the deaf, the paralyzed, the bleeding, the possessed, the outcast, the sinner, the forgotten. Again and again, God calls for each beloved person to be

“THUS SAYS THE LORD,
WHO MAKES A WAY IN THE
SEA, A PATH IN THE MIGHTY
WATERS, WHO BRINGS
OUT CHARIOT AND HORSE,
ARMY AND WARRIOR; THEY
LIE DOWN, THEY CANNOT
RISE, THEY ARE
EXTINGUISHED, QUENCHED
LIKE A WICK:

DO NOT REMEMBER THE
FORMER THINGS, OR
CONSIDER THE THINGS OF
OLD. I AM ABOUT TO DO A
NEW THING; NOW IT SPRINGS
FORTH, DO YOU NOT
PERCEIVE IT? I WILL MAKE A
WAY IN THE WILDERNESS AND
RIVERS IN THE DESERT. THE
WILD ANIMALS WILL HONOR
ME, THE JACKALS AND THE
OSTRICHES; FOR I GIVE WATER
IN THE WILDERNESS, RIVERS
IN THE DESERT, TO GIVE DRINK
TO MY CHOSEN PEOPLE, THE
PEOPLE WHOM I FORMED FOR
MYSELF SO THAT THEY MIGHT
DECLARE MY PRAISE.”

Isaiah 43:16-21

held safe – to be provided for and protected – and, when necessary, for those able, to encircle those who are defenseless, especially those society has called expendable.

This is the call God places on each of us – to protect and care for the most vulnerable. Yet, we are witnessing and experiencing the opposite in our society and through government actions.

Beloveds in Christ, do not be deceived. When food assistance and benefits are slashed, the vulnerable are left defenseless. When rights are stripped away from women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and others, they are being cast to the wolves. Jesus himself warns in Matthew 7, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

As followers of Jesus, in these times that may bring discouragement or a sense of being overwhelmed, in these times when it feels wolves are coming at you or for someone you love, may you feel encircled in love and protection – even as you are called to encircle others. May we advocate, love boldly, and protect those who are most at risk. Let us take heart in the promise of God’s justice and mercy. Let us be a people who uplift the weary, feed the hungry, and shelter the displaced. May we be a church that embodies Christ’s compassion and courage, refusing to look away, refusing to be silent, refusing to let the wolves win. For all people are beloved in God’s eyes.

I close with this. I have a little miniature bison on my desk in my office. I look at it often to remember that I am protected by God and that I am called by God. May you remember – as a baptized and beloved child of God, God has called you in this time and in this place. And you are not alone. For even as you protect others, God protects you. Amen.
eyes.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



On Wednesday, April 9, 2025, the
Sundays and Seasons Year C Planner
honors:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945 Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who at the age of 25, became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin. In 1933, and with Hitler’s rise to power, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, a resistance movement against the Nazis. He was arrested in 1943. He was linked to a failed attempt on Hitler’s life and sent to Buchenwald, then to Schonberg prison. After leading a worship service on April 8, 1945, at Schonberg prison, he was taken away to be hanged the next day. His last words as he left were, “This is the end, but for me the beginning of life”. Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes a hymn (ELW, #626) by Bonhoeffer, “By Gracious Powers”.



Announcements

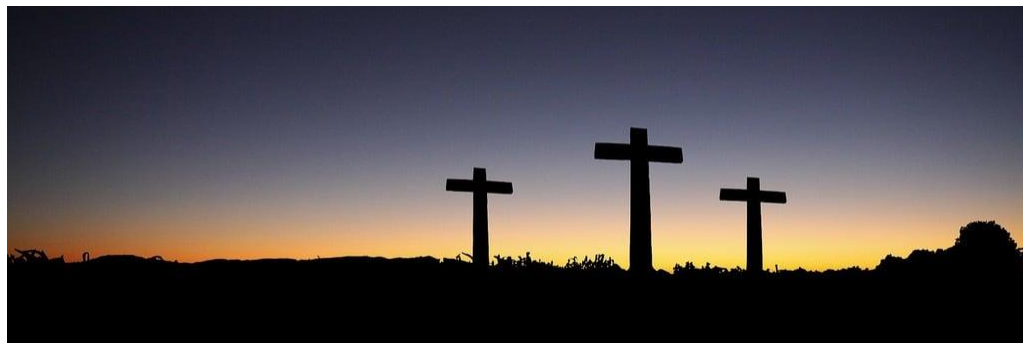
The Baptism of Theo Ryan Arnold – will take place at VLC next Sunday, April 13, during worship. Theo, born Oct. 6, 2024, is the grandson of Rev. Jeff and Gail Larson. Parents are Bri and Josh Arnold. Come celebrate this joyous event!

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 Cheryl Weise: cheryl.weise@gmail.com.

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.



LENT-EASTER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

APRIL 13 – Palm Sunday

APRIL 14, 15, 16 – 5pm 30 min Taize 30 min prayer service at Vashon Presbyterian Church

APRIL 17 – Maundy Thursday – 5:30pm at Church of the Holy Spirit with Vashon Lutheran Church Soup/Bread. 7pm Service

APRIL 18 – Good Friday 10am-5pm churches open for prayer 5:00pm at Vashon Lutheran Church with Church of the Holy Spirit – Service Together

APRIL 20 – Easter Sunrise 6:00am at Camp Burton – all churches invited, coffee at Burton Church afterwards

9:00am Easter Brunch at VLC – bring a breakfast dish to share

10:30am Easter Sunday Service



VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 2930

Vashon, WA 98070 Street

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Church Office Hours:

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Phone: (206) 463-2655

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Website: vashonlutheran.org

Our Faith In Action

SUNDAY

1st

10:30 AM

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Food Bank Sunday

Worship Service, followed by coffee & cookies

AA Group

MONDAY

4th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

VCN Board Meeting

TUESDAY

2nd, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

3rd, 10:00 AM – noon

Quilt Sewers Group

Vashon Quilting Group

WEDNESDAY

1st, 9:00 AM – noon

May 14, 10:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Lutheran Quilters Group

Community Blood Drive at VLC

THURSDAY

Apr. 24, 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

THE CHURCH MOUSE APRIL 2025

The Church Mouse/Vashon Lutheran Church

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