



JANUARY 2016

NORTHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Member Congregation of the Northwest Washington Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Newsletter editor is Susan Frederick. Please send articles by the 20th of each month to: office@northlakelutheran.org or drop them by the office.

Our new Church Council for 2016!

President ~ Beverly Peterson
Vice President ~ Nancy Martin
Secretary ~ Jeanie McBee
Al Boyett ~ Parish Life
Jo Boyett ~ Social Ministries
Rick Heinbaugh ~ Parish Education
Rick Huling ~ Stewardship/Outreach
Justin Boyett ~ Youth
Ken Musgrave ~ Worship & Music
Janet Loewen ~ Property Maintenance

A hearty thanks to these volunteers for the gifts of their time and talents to Northlake Lutheran Church!

Welcome!

Our Mission

To share with all people the presence of God and the love of Christ



Members of Northlake Lutheran Church are committed to fulfilling the acts of Jesus Christ.

We are also part of a larger church.; a church that believes in caring for all and advocating for those who don't have a voice.



Love. Grow. Serve.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Game Night with Northlake Grove Families

Sunday, January 17 at 4:00pm

Come and share in the fun! We'll play games and enjoy fellowship with our neighbors. All are invited.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31 at 11:15 (following worship)

This year, we will have additional items regarding finance, redevelopment and our constitution. We want to hear from you! Please plan to attend.

Ash Wednesday

February 10

Worship at 12pm and 7pm

Midweek Lenten Worship on Wednesdays

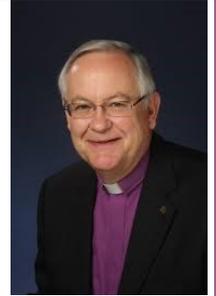
11:30am (lunch to follow)

7:00pm



Entering the New Year Well

Kirby Unti, NWWA Bishop
The Spirit, January 2016



What shall you bring with you into the New Year and what shall you leave behind?

I met the cutest couple in their eighties. They lived just down the street from the church. I had been asked by their neighbor if I would be willing to officiate at their wedding. I agreed, as I seldom turned down the opportunity to share the gifts of the church with the people of the community.

They invited me over to their home and graciously shared their story with me. Both of them had lost their spouses whom they deeply loved. I knew this when they invited me to see the family pictures in the hallway. On one side of the hallway were pictures of his family - his former wife, their children and grandchildren. On the opposite wall hung the photos of her former husband, their children and grandchildren.

This couple had accomplished what I have not often experienced. They were able to appropriately hold the memory of their former spouses *and* still fully embrace one another. Neither had met the other's spouse when they were living but each had shared enough about their love and respect that they felt like they knew them. I was thrilled that this couple could celebrate what had gone on before them and begin a new chapter in life with great gratitude for each other's companionship and love.

It sure made it easy for this couple's adult children and grandchildren to be in the home of these newlyweds. They knew that their past was being appropriately honored and they could rejoice in the new beginning for their parents.

It takes wisdom and confidence to know how to carry the bones of those who have gone before us.

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From Pastor Anja

Here we are, January of 2016. We find ourselves in a new year, a new liturgical season, new beginnings.

I never make resolutions with the new year. Do you? I choose not to make any resolutions on January 1st because January 1st is just a day, like any other. Yes, it is the beginning of a new year, but that is an arbitrary selection. In truth, every day is the beginning of a new life. For we are reborn. Every day. Every hour. Every minute.

We often think of baptism as occurring once in our lifetime. And it is true that the physical rite in which we participate is a once in a lifetime occurrence. The spiritual rebirth, though... that is a constant renewal in which we participate every moment of every day. For it is through our experiences, our trials, and our joys, that we are formed through rebirths.

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2015 Redevelopment Summary

Rick Huling

Yes, 2015 is gone and we are moving into a new year. Much has happened in revitalizing Northlake. We called a new pastor at the end of 2014, and when Pastor Anja arrived in Feb of 2015 redevelopment went into high gear. I take this opportunity to recap some of the major events/processes we have started and some questions for 2016. I have used a bullet format to keep this short, so some things are not explained, although most everything has been talked about in earlier articles. You will hear more about these topics as the year progresses. This list is not comprehensive.

First, two assumptions:

1. Growing congregations have a clear sense that God is active and using them.
2. Spiritual change precedes mechanical change, especially for leadership.

Year overview**Spiritual growth:**

- experimented with evening bible study - good turnout, will continue.
- began experimental catechumenate process (lectio divina). Good results, interest in continuing and expanding this.

Comments: bible study is the foundation of any meaningful change.

Mission:

- Living Local, 18-month process, begun. Conducted interviews with congregational members last summer. Now talking with community people. Will begin conversations with the congregation in Jan/Feb about connecting with

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Hopelink Food Bank

Northlake is in the third year of operating a Hopelink satellite food bank here at the church two days a month. It's small, but very important for Kenmore residents who have difficulty making it to the main distribution center in Kirkland. Many thanks go to the following people who faithfully volunteer to distribute food, set up and clean up, listed alphabetically:

Al Boyett; Jo Boyett; Cindi Engelhardt; Andy Houg; Derek Huling; Nancy Huling; Rick Huling; Janet Loewen; Molly Murdock; Ken Musgrave; Sheila O'Connell; David Osborne; Sandy Rath; Connie Wolter.

Thanks also go to people who bring in food for distribution, and those who have organized food drives benefiting us, especially Grocery Outlet in Kenmore and Rick Heinbaugh and his colleagues at ATT.



A note from Susan in the church office...

As you may have noticed if you've been in the office lately, it's been a very busy time! Advent, Christmas, and year end tasks have combined to fill my days with preparing worship materials, entering weekly offerings in Access and Quicken (two computer programs I'm still learning), getting out this newsletter on time (!) and trying to be present and welcoming to all who visit the church office. If you've stopped by and I seemed busy and preoccupied, please forgive me. As I begin my seventh month here at Northlake, things are becoming more familiar, and I hope to share more conversations and get to know better those who grace this lovely church.

Thanks for all you do, and blessings in this new year! Susan

From Pastor Anja*(Continued from page 2)*

What an amazing gift we have been given! To have the opportunity to reform ourselves at any time. To choose the pieces of ourselves that we cherish, and the pieces of ourselves that we will leave behind us to die... what a gift we have. And just think... when God is at our center... when Jesus is the one we embrace as we pray and discern the pieces to keep and the pieces to leave... then we truly are born into the body of Christ.

We have this gift as individuals. We also have this gift as communities. Here we stand, the community of Northlake Lutheran Church, approaching a new year, a new liturgical season, a new beginning, and a new life. It is time. For us to reform ourselves. For us to choose the pieces of ourselves that we cherish, and the pieces that we will leave behind us. We do so with God at our center. With Jesus wrapped in our embrace, we embark upon the journey of discernment. So that we can be born into the body of Christ.

We have so much going on right now in this rebirth as a community. We are reviewing our constitution – that political document that defines so much of how we do things. We are brainstorming redevelopment ideas – that committee that holds so much of our future in its excitement and energy. We are moving out into our larger community to witness what God is already doing, looking for ways we can join and become part of it – the Living Local process that is just now beginning to learn. Through all of this, it is time... it is time for us to begin building a vision, our vision, of our own rebirth.

Beginning with the Congregational meeting in January, I hope we can embark upon an ongoing exploration of ourselves. Who we are, and who we hope to be. May we prayerfully consider where God is calling us as a community. May we feel Jesus' guidance as we take our next few steps. And may we do it all together, for the gifts of every one of us is needed. For it is only through our individual gifts that we may become one body of Christ.

Emergency Pastoral Care in Pastor Anja's absence

Pastor Anja will be out of the office from January 7 through January 15. Should you need emergency pastoral assistance during that time, please contact Nancy Martin (425-823-5935) or Ernie Coombs (425-485-5710).

Letter from Bishop Kirby Unti *(Continued from page 2)*

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for Joseph had solemnly sworn the people of Israel saying, "God will visit you; then you must carry my bones with you from here." -- Exodus 13:19

How well are you carrying the bones of your past? The New Year gives us the opportunity to be intentional about what we carry forward. For far too many of us, we tend to bring grudges, hurt feelings, jealousies not yet overcome, and anger still clutched. You *do not* have to carry that weight for another year. Letting go of the ugly past can be the best weight loss program there is.

Knowing how to carry the past and enter the future allows to live life in the present to its fullest.

Happy New Year!



2015 Redevelopment Summary (continued from page 3)

the community.

Tactical work:

- financial restructure - underway.
- maintenance/property committee identifying short and long-term property needs - underway.
- constitutional review - to start in Jan.

Future Issues

- youth - do we revitalize a youth ministry or don't we, and if we do, what will it look like?
- music, particularly choir - do we or don't we?
- using living local to begin experiments in community, possibly using social justice issues to draw interest.
 - neighborhood garden
 - tent city
 - neighborhood dinners
 - sponsoring educational opportunities (perhaps with other congregations)
- mission review: discussion of what are our core mission activities, are they consistent with what God is calling us to do? Look at elements like Chuck's House.
- communication: finish website, social media opportunities, find someone to oversee communications.

Overall: begin the process of developing a strategic plan.

Ten Ways to Get the Most Out of Your Church

A note from Pastor Anja: It seems to be a tradition at the end and beginning of every year, we see all the lists of "10 best..." or "100 worst..." Well, I stumbled across this list of 10 ways to get the most out of church on the website, and although I'm not sure I agree on every point, I thought it was worth sharing. If you are the resolution-making type, pick one to include in your new year's resolutions. Or, consider... what would be **your** 10 ways to get the most out of church?

1. Show up.

Some things really are that simple. Show up in worship. Be with the gathered people of God Sunday after Sunday. Not when you feel like it. Not on the Sunday morning when you feel like you need to be there. Every Sunday, or Saturday or whenever your church worships. You get the point. Be with the people of God and make it a regular part of your life.

2. Tithe your income.

By tithing I mean give 10% of your income to the church. Sound like a huge commitment? It is. Trust me, I know from experience. If you can't just go to 10% start smaller, 5% or 6%, but set a percentage and work to increase it over time.

Why? Because giving generously frees you from the hold money can have on your life. Because we care for and support the things we give money to. Because our spending and giving habits reveal priorities.

3. Volunteer, take a class, be part of a group.

Don't just be generous with your money, be generous with your time as well. Find something in the church that interests you, something that speaks to things you care deeply about. Maybe it is feeding the hungry. Maybe it is learning more about the Scripture. Maybe it is singing in the choir. Whatever it is give your time, be with the people of God and make a difference in the lives of other people.

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Ten Ways to Get the Most Out of Your Church *(continued from page 5)***4. Help lead worship.**

Most congregations have lay people (people who are not pastors) help lead worship. Do this. Lead worship. After you lead worship a few times you will forever experience worship differently. You will understand the flow of the worship service. You will pay attention differently. You will be changed.

5. Bring food and eat with people.

Sharing a meal helps connect you with other people. Sharing a meal makes it easier to talk to others. If nothing else you can start with, "How about that Jell-O salad!" And see where the conversation goes from there.

6. Start something new.

Have a passion? Is there something you care about that the resources of your congregation could contribute to? Organize it. Lead it. Plan it. Talk to your pastor and other leaders. Start something new, but be willing to put your efforts into making it happen as well. People with great ideas who are only assigning tasks to other people are rarely appreciated. Take initiative and lead. Find an outlet for the things you care deeply about through your church.

7. Wear a nametag and introduce yourself to people you do not know.

First let me be clear, I realize many people, myself included, are not terribly interested in walking up to people and saying, "Hi, I'm Paul, what's your name?" But when you show up at church you are surrounded by people who all claim to be your brothers and sisters in Christ. You get together in a group and you pray together. You sing together. The least you could do is risk introductions. At churches with multiple worship services the most common excuse for not talking to strangers is this: I do not want to be embarrassed when I find out they have been members for ten years and usually go to the other service. So own it. Lead with: You have probably gone here forever and just attend the other service, but I do not know you...

8. Read the Bible.

Start with the gospels. Start anywhere you want, but read scripture. Make that a regular part of your life, day in and day out. Let those holy words become part of your vocabulary. Read the Bible regularly and as you do reflect on your experiences in worship, listen for connections and for those moments when the still small voice of God might be speaking to you.

9. Pray for the people at the church.

Use the church directory. Picture directories are even better. Pray for the people. One by one, day by day. Lift each person up in prayer. Even pray for the people who challenge you, the people you have a hard time being with. Pray for God's people and discover how you are changed.

10. Take your pastor out to lunch.

Okay, as a pastor maybe this one is a little self-serving, but the idea remains. Spend some time with this person. Share who you are. Share your hopes and dreams. And ask questions. Every wonder why something is in the Bible? Ask. Not quite sure about an illustration in the sermon? Ask. Ask theological questions, that is, questions about how God is alive and active in the world. Just be prepared to share a few of your insights as well.

In other words: if you want to get something out of your church, see it as a gift, but don't forget to lift.

Finally this: Ten things you can do makes for a nice list, but this is hardly definitive. **What do you do to get the most out of your church?**

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This article has been reprinted from the davidhousholder.com website and was written by Paul Walters, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Troy, Michigan. To read the full article, go to <http://www.davidhousholder.com/10-ways-to-get-the-most-out-of-church-0256-life-liberty/>.



+ PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP +



Pastor Anja shares a laugh with members of the congregation.

Candles were lit in honor of loved ones.



"A quiet, reflective and spiritual worship experience."

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 2016 CALENDAR

Key: FH = Fellowship Hall Conf = Conference Room LL = Lower Level SDA – Seventh Day Adventist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
3 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 11:30am ~ Lay Ministry Guild (Conf)	4 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7-9pm ~ Knitters (Library)	5 12:30pm ~ Finance Committee (Conf) 7-9pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	6 5:00pm ~ Worship & Music Comm(Conf) 6:30-8pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL)	7 Pastor Anja vacation 8:00am ~ Hilltoppers Garden Club (FH)	8 Pastor Anja's Sabbath 10:30am ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	9 Pastor Anja vacation 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1-4pm ~ Potluck 4-10pm – SDA Pathfinders (FH)
10 Pastor Anja vacation 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	11 Pastor Anja vacation 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Social Ministry Concerns Committee mtg (Conf) 7-9pm ~ Knitters (Library)	12 Pastor Anja vacation 2:00pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm ~ Girl Scouts (FH) 7:00pm ~ Property Committee mtg (Conf) 7-9pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	13 Pastor Anja vac.	14 Pastor Anja vacation	15 Pastor Anja's Sabbath 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	16 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1-4pm ~ Potluck 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH) 6-9pm ~ Youth (FH)
17 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 2:00pm ~ Boy Scout event (Sanctuary) 4:00pm ~ Game Night with Northlake Grove (FH)	18 6:30pm ~ Parish Education mtg (Conf) 6:30pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH & Sanctuary) 7-9pm ~ Knitters (Library)	19 2:00pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 7-9pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary) 7-9pm ~ Church Council (Conf)	20	21 6:30pm ~ Dahlia Club (FH)	22 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	23 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 4-6pm ~ Pathfinders (FH)
24 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	25 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7-9pm ~ Knitters (Library)	26 2:00pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7-9pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	27	28 10:30am ~ Cluster Meeting (Library)	29 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	30 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms)
31 10-11am ~ Worship 11:15am ~ Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)	Notes				CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS! 3 ~ TOM REGELEIN 6 ~ BERNIE BIDGOOD 10 ~ RICK HULING 22 ~ CRAIG WINDISH	