



NORTHLIGHTS

JUNE 2016

OUR MISSION

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

Our Vision

To foster a caring congregational community that challenges its members to recognize and utilize their gifts and abilities so that it is a magnet, drawing a variety of people to Christ by providing diversity in worship, education, service and fellowship.



We are an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) congregation, where people of faith celebrate, learn and connect with one another and others around the world through service and weekly worship. **All are welcome!**



REDEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE

by Rick Heinbaugh, Redevelopment Committee Chair

It's been fifteen months since the congregation voted to work with the Synod on redevelopment of our church.

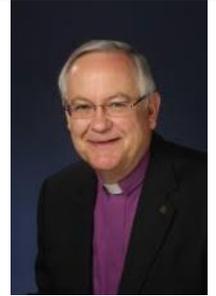
Last month a Synod ministry review team came and talked with us. They had four separate sessions: one with Pastor Anja, one with the church Council, one with the Redevelopment and Living Local Guiding teams, and one with a handful of people from our community who are not part of the Northlake congregation. The review team asked questions and listened as we explained what we have done and how we do things. We will be receiving their report soon and will share that with the congregation, so we all know where we are and where we are headed.

As our team prepared for the review, we asked ourselves how we are doing in respect to the Redevelopment Covenant that is the foundation of our efforts. We agreed that the greatest growth to date has been in the spiritual strength of the congregation. Simple growth of numbers is not the goal, although we have added several new members, and there are a few more to be added shortly. We have become more aware of the people in the neighborhoods around us and we are working to discern ways that we as a church can help provide for their needs of all kinds.

We are looking forward to receiving the ministry review report to see their perspectives on our progress.



NORTHLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

When Strangers Become Friends*Kirby Untj, Bishop**Northwest Washington Synod**Article from The Spirit, June 2016*

There is a golden thread that has been woven through my life. It is the thread that moves me from being a person who is usually frightened and uncomfortable to a person who is blessed with new friendship.

I can tell you countless stories beginning with my childhood family. My father worked for the Easter Seal Society which is a non-profit advocating and providing services for people with incredible physical and mental challenges. It was my dad's habit to invite the people he was working with to our home. Imagine how my eyes lit up as a little boy when Harold Wilke, a man with no arms, was able to sit at the dinner table and use his feet as effectively as I use my hands. This once strange man became a highly respected family friend.

I remember in High School participating in a week long exchange program with Cleveland High School. We are talking about my nearly all white high school visiting a very integrated city school. It began with a parent orientation where the anxiety was off the charts. It took the parents from Cleveland to correct the many misperceptions and fears that the suburban parents held. I was so fortunate to have been selected as one the students to participate in the exchange. Yes, I was afraid and it would take weeks for the fear to turn into another great blessing in my life. Not to mention I developed a crush on a Chinese girl whose parents would not allow me to talk to her on the phone.

Moving to my internship year in Bellevue, I discovered the opportunity to take a group of High School kids to a group home in Renton where the residents were children who were mostly bed confined and with no speech skills. This was not only challenging for me but a brand new experience for most of the kids in the youth group. When I run into these kids who are now adults they often comment about how significant this ministry was.

Fear has often been a show stopper in my life and every time I give into it my life becomes constrained and limited. This is not to say fear doesn't have its rightful place. One of our daughters had a scary encounter with a large dog when she was quite little and developed a real fear of dogs. When we discussed this with our pediatrician she said, "She should be afraid of dogs. It will help protect her until she learns the necessary judgment skills to know when it's ok to engage a dog." It is a lesson I have not forgotten. I am still trying to learn to honor the rightful place for fear in my life without letting it trump the golden thread of blessing that comes when I learn to welcome the stranger.

Friends, this has been one of the great gifts of serving the office of bishop. It continues to afford me the opportunity to be in the presence of people who first appear to me as strangers, often creating discomfort but almost always ending up as being gifts in my life.

It should come as no surprise that one of the most repeated admonishments in scripture is, "Do not be afraid!" Fear that surprises us with blessing is one more expression of God's grace.



La Paz Sea Contigo (Peace be with you)

This past Wednesday, I had the pleasure of watching an ELCA webcast with some of you on how to be more welcoming. After the webcast, we gathered in our Fellowship Hall for dinner and discussion.

Towards the beginning of the webcast, Presiding Bishop Eaton said that when she asked a group of Lutherans what makes us Lutheran, they gave answers such as lefse, jello salad, and hot dishes. But then, one Lutheran in this group who was a person of color said, "None of those answers describe me." She pointed out that these are all cultural answers, and as much as we value that cultural heritage, if we want to be welcoming to those of other heritages, we must define Lutheranism multi-culturally.

What a great point! But how? I have seen churches take steps such as actively searching for images in artwork and decorations that reflect other cultures, or including the languages and cultural rites of other groups in our worship (a more permanent version of our current 8 week experiment).

Presiding Bishop Eaton told us about a church with strong German heritage who noticed many African-American residents moving into the neighborhood. While thrilled with the opportunity this presented, they were also disappointed to see that none of these neighbors were attending their church. They, like many churches, wanted to better reflect their neighborhood, and so they called an African-American pastor.

(Continued on page 6)



From Pastor Anja



Christ in Our Home for July, August & September has arrived! It's the devotional resource that encourages people to live out their faith daily. They're in the Narthex — pick up a copy for yourself and for a friend. (They're a nice gift for someone who is homebound, too.)



THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP!

The property committee is in need of some tools for the maintenance of the church building and grounds. If you have, wish to purchase, or wish to donate toward the acquisition of any of the items listed below, it would be greatly appreciated:

- √ gas powered blower
- √ weed whacker
- √ sensor operated bathroom faucets (4 needed @ approx \$250 each)
- √ automatic soap dispensers (4 needed @ approx \$100 each)
- √ garden rakes (2 needed)
- √ work bench vise

Thank you for any help you can provide in acquiring these much-needed items!

PENTECOST LINGERS AT NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN!



~ ~ ~ NEWS AND INFORMATION ~ ~ ~

PRESENTATION OF REDEVELOPMENT MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

A few weeks ago a synod ministry review team chaired by Pastor Jerry Buss visited Northlake and interviewed several groups about our redevelopment progress. The groups were the redevelopment and living local teams, the church council, and several members of the local community who had interacted with Northlake in some capacity, but weren't members or attendees.

Pastor Buss will be visiting Northlake to present the results of the interviews and recommendations for the way forward. This is a great opportunity for the congregation to get updated on our redevelopment efforts and where we may be headed. We don't anticipate this being a one-way presentation, but rather an important opportunity for a two-way conversation.

The meeting with Pastor Buss will occur on Wednesday, June 29 at 6:00pm, and will be a dinner meeting. As it turns out, this meeting will be almost exactly two years since the Northlake congregation voted to go into redevelopment.

Please mark your calendars for this important milestone in our congregation's desire to do what God has called us to do.

Rick Huling, Redevelopment Committee Chair

PAT JOINER GRADUATES FROM LUTHERAN SEMINARY!

Pat Joiner, Northlake's Youth Director for several years, graduated from Luther Seminary this past weekend, after completing his seminary academic studies and internship. After he is assigned to a Synod and receives a call from a congregation, he will be ordained as a pastor in the ELCA. Please keep Pat in your prayers as he continues his ministry.



PRIDE PARADE PERSPECTIVE

by Molly Murdock

As a person of faith I feel "obligated" to participate in Seattle's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26 in downtown Seattle.

Bishop Unti has asked that we stand with him against the discrimination of our transgender population by opposing Initiative 1515. I feel this can also be done by "publicly" supporting our entire gay community.

We have the opportunity to march again this year with the Open Door Ministries and Reconciling Works Lutheran group. Pastor Anja will be driving her jeep so some can even ride.

The parade begins at 11:00am. Please let us know if you are able to join us so we can car pool if needed. My email is murdock.molly@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Molly



IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

Your help is needed at Sunday worship. Please sign up on the clipboard to greet, usher, help with Coffee Hour or run the worship slideshow.

Don't know how? Don't worry...someone will show you!

TO ALL THE WORLD**October 15 at 5pm** at Phinney Ridge, Seattle

The Church of Steadfast Love's annual fundraiser! Delicious food, wonderful raffle, awesome music featuring the Uncle Pens and more! The suggested donation is \$25.

Please RSVP by **September 25** to Pastor Kristy (pastorkristy@compasshousingalliance.org)

www.compasshousingalliance.org/who-we-are-top/church-of-steadfast-love/

**2016 GATHERING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CATECHUMENATE**

"Sing a New Song: Unpacking the Mystery of Faith" - featuring Marty Haugen is the theme of the gathering taking place June 28-30 at the Bosque Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Haugen will serve as the principle musician for the gathering and, along with Dan Benedict and Lizette Larson-Miller, a keynote presenter. Worship leaders, lay leaders, pastors, seminarians, musicians and teachers will benefit from rediscovering this ancient process of forming disciples and nurturing a community of faith centered in baptismal living.

For more information and registration, contact the NAAC website at

www.catechumenate.org, registrar Devra Betts at devrabetts@gmail.com, or Pastor Bryon Hansen, Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church at pastor@prlc.org.

Letter from Pastor Anja *(Continued from page 3)*

Guess what? It worked! But then, the unexpected happened. More and more of the German, white members of this church left to find a new church. They were no longer comfortable in this church. Why? Because it was changing. Because when the community changes, so does the worship style, the sermons, how the congregation responds to the sermon, the prayers, and, of course, the music. Eventually, one gentleman said to the pastor, "Well, if this becomes an all-black church, I'm going to leave." The pastor responded, "If you leave, it's going to become an all-black church!"



How do we become more open to the diverse gifts of other cultures? Especially when they feel awkward to what we are used to? I recently checked the last two Kenmore censuses, and they show the Hispanic population more than doubling. Yet we, like that German church, do not reflect any of that cultural shift within our church walls. And if we were able to be welcoming to **all** our neighbors, thereby

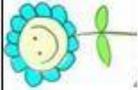
changing our church population accordingly, would we be open to seeing our worship style, sermons, responses to sermons, prayers, and especially music, change? Or would we, like the others, realize that we don't want to be part of an all- or mostly-Hispanic church?

The last comment of the night still has me thinking... one participant stated his belief that it is the culture that brings us to Northlake, not the theology. If this is true, then what does this say about our chances of inviting and welcoming people of other cultures into our family? What does it say about our ability to become more diverse, not only celebrating and respecting the cultures of all people, but being open enough to them to allow them to change us? To change how we worship? And maybe even how we come together as a community? Perhaps, the first step in becoming a more welcoming church is pondering the question for ourselves... what **does** make us Lutheran?

To watch the webcast from home, [click here](#).

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH JUNE 2016 CALENDAR

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

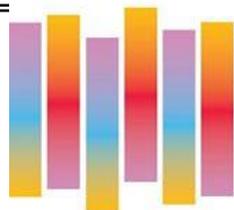
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour			1 6:30pm ~ Evening Bible Study (FH) 6:30-8pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL)	2 8am ~ Hilltoppers Garden Club (FH) 6pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room)	3 P Anja's Sabbath	4 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 4-6pm ~ SDA Adventurers (FH) 6-10pm ~ Youth Group (FH)
6 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Social Ministry meeting (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)		7 ~ P Anja vacation day 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	8 6:30pm ~ Evening Bible Study (Library)	9 6pm ~ Worship Matters (3 rd Place Books)	10 P Anja's Sabbath	11 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 9am ~ NLL Book Review (Jay's Café) 11am ~ Worship & Music (Conf) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Adventurers-FH 6-10pm ~ Youth Group (FH)
12 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 11:30am ~ Nom. Comm. mtg (Library) 2pm ~ Celebration of Life for Florence Lindstrom	13 7-9pm ~ Boy Scouts Spring Court of Honor (Sanctuary) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	14 12:30pm ~ Finance Committee mtg (Conf) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7pm ~ Property Committee mtg (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	15 6:30pm ~ Redevelopment Living Local Joint Team mtg (Lib)	16 6:00pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room) 6:30pm ~ Dahlia Club (FH)	17 P Anja's Sabbath	18 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH) 6-10pm ~ Youth Group (FH)
19 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 2pm ~ Church Picnic!	20 P Anja @ Cont. Ed. 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	21 P Anja @ Cont. Ed. 7pm ~ Church Council mtg (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	22 P Anja @ Cont. Ed.	23 P Anja @ Cont. Ed.	24 P Anja @ Cont. Ed.	25 P Anja @ Cont. Ed. 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH)
26 P Anja @ Cont. Ed. 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	27 P Anja @ Cont. Ed. 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6pm ~ Constitution meeting (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	28 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	29 6pm ~ Presentation of Redevelopment Ministry recommendations (FH)	 30	Happy June Birthdays! 4 John Helman, 18 Bonita Lorch 23 Linda Musgrave 25 Ken Musgrave 30 Al Boyett & Molly Murdock	

A quick note from Susan in the church office ~

I just wanted to take a moment to thank those who gifted me with cards in celebration of my one year anniversary on June 1 here at Northlake Lutheran. A first year in any job is challenging in many different ways, and this first year at Northlake Lutheran was no exception! Even after more than thirty years working in various for-profit and non-profit organizations, there was still lots for me to learn. Connecting names with faces, learning new software systems, and becoming more familiar with the finance side — have provided an opportunity to continue growing and learning. For this I am extremely grateful.

You have been so warm and welcoming, and I thank each of you for your prayers, your patience and your kindnesses. As I get to know more of the wonderful people here at Northlake, I feel ever more grateful to have had this opportunity. Please know that you are in my prayers.

Blessings!
Susan



NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

P O Box 82603
6620 NE 185th Street
Kenmore, Washington 98028
www.northlakelutheran.org

Pastor Anja Helmon
Office AdministratorSusan Frederick
Organist Wendy DeLong
Security.....Keith Hood

NorthLights editor is Susan Frederick.
Please send articles or calendar items by the **20th** of each month to:
office@northlakelutheran.org
or drop them by the office.
Thank you!

Church office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9am-2pm
Phone: 425-486-6977 | **Email:** office@northlakelutheran.org
Pastor Anja’s Sabbath: Friday
Pastor Anja’s Email: pastoranja@northlakelutheran.org

