



# NORTHLIGHTS

MARCH 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.



## Lenten Worship continues...

**Midweek Lenten Services every Wednesday through March 16**

**11:30AM (followed by lunch) and at 7PM**  
*(Sign up on the clipboard to make soup for the next lunch)*



## Easter Week Worship

**Maundy Thursday Worship ~ 7PM**

**Good Friday Worship ~ 7PM**

**Easter Celebration ~ 10am**

*Honor a loved one with  
Easter Flowers!*



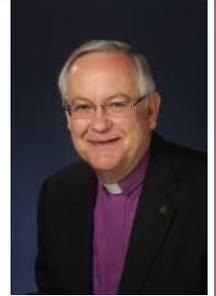
*Look for the sign up sheet  
in the Narthex.*



**NORTHLAKE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Has the Church Run Out of Wine?

Kirby Unti, NWWA Bishop  
*The Spirit*, March 2016



In January I had the joy of presiding at the installation of Pr. Tim Feiretag at Trinity Lutheran Church in Everett, WA. The Biblical Story for the day was the Wedding at Cana in Galilee. It was the assigned text and so fitting because in the Book of John the Wedding at Cana was Jesus' Installation service.

I began by telling the story of Johnny Carson interviewing a little boy who had just heard the Cana Story in Sunday school. When Johnny asked him what he learned from the story the little boy said, "If you are going to have a wedding you better invite Jesus!"

You may know the story. It was the third day of the celebration when the news reached Jesus that the party had run out of wine. Jewish weddings were known to go on for days. I can only imagine the number of guests who would have decided to call it quits and head home. I am confident others would have let their disappointment be made known. It must have been crushing for the bride and groom.

Jesus' mother knows that the hour has come for her son to do what he was sent into the world to do - to restore the world to the fullness of life. When she lets Jesus know, "They have no wine," Jesus tells the servants to take the six jars which held between 20-30 gallons of water for the Jewish purification rites and to fill them. Following the admonition of Jesus' mother, "Do whatever he tells you to do." They fill the jars to the brim. Jesus then instructs them to draw some out and bring it to the master of the banquet who discovers upon tasting it that it is the finest of wine.

This takes the master by total surprise because nobody brings out the best wine near the end of the party. You always serve the best wine first.

Not Jesus.

No, Jesus is at his best when we are desperate. When we finally run out. When we are empty. When our party is all but over Jesus appears. When Jesus comes he not only provides, he provides abundantly - to the brim.

Has it ever dawned on you that the best that life has to offer is still to come?

Risking this possibility - how might it change the way you enter the future?

Imagine how this could change the way we live life in our congregations and ministry sites.

The best is yet to come if we are willing to invite Jesus to the party!



*We began this Lenten season on Ash Wednesday with Psalm 51:1-17, and we continue to hear and speak this psalm every Wednesday through Lent. How does this psalm sound to you? What does it stir in your spirit? What a wonderful gift it would be if we all traveled through this psalm, digging within ourselves for what it brings, and shared those thoughts and words with each other.*



**From Pastor Anja**

### **Psalm 51:1-17**

#### **Have mercy, tender God, forget that I defied you.**

*Have you ever hurt someone and wished it could be forgotten? When I was in junior high school, I had some new friends who convinced me to prank call an old friend. When she picked up the phone, I said, "Snob!" and then hung up. My new friends thought this was hysterical. I called her again, and before I could say anything, she said to me, "Robyn, why are you doing this?" (She called me by my first name.) She knew it was me.*

#### **Wash away my sin, cleanse me from my guilt.**

*I was horrified. I'm not sure if it was because she knew, or because I knew, what I had done.*

#### **I know my evil well, it stares me in the face,**

**Evil done to you alone before your very eyes. How right your condemnation! Your verdict clearly just.**

*The next day, when I saw my friend, things were awkward. I stumbled through an apology, and she graciously accepted, but I could see her pain. Our friendship was never the same.*

#### **You see me for what I am, a sinner before my birth.**

*They say the more time goes by, the more our wounds heal. Not this one. Instead, the more time that went by, the more I knew how awful I had been.*

#### **You love those centered in truth; teach me your hidden wisdom.**

*Now, I look back on that time and still hurt for the pain I caused. I was wrapped up in my own world, my own need to be accepted, my own desire to be better than someone else. I still struggle with these desires. In seminary, I learned it is God's Law that condemns me. It points to all the ways that I keep myself emotionally, physically, and spiritually, at a distance from others. What if I am judged? What if I am rejected? And yet, God's hidden wisdom teaches that community, companionship, and love are found through my own vulnerability.*

*(Continued on page 4)*

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

**Wash me with fresh water, wash me bright as snow.  
Fill me with happy songs, let the bones you bruised now dance.  
Shut your eyes to my sin, make my guilt disappear.**

*Just as God's Law condemns me, so does God's Gospel save me. A few years ago, I found my old friend and reached out to her to bring my heartfelt apology. She responded with such joy of being reunited, having completely forgotten my trespass against her many years ago.*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me aside stripped of your holy spirit.**

*It is that Gospel, the good news that God loves me, just as I am, that brings hope. And so I am inspired to do better. To be better. I will never be perfect; God does not expect perfection. But I can push myself to strip away the barriers I have put up over time. I can ask God to create in me a clean heart, exposed and open to loving others, no longer keeping track of trespasses. That is what my old friend did for me. That is what God does for us all.*

**Save me, bring back my joy, support me, strengthen my will.  
Then I will teach your way and sinners will turn to you.  
Help me, stop my tears, and I will sing your goodness.  
Lord, give me words and I will shout your praise.**

*So many times, I know not which way is God's way. I ask for God to guide me, and I hope it is God's guidance that I follow. And I am grateful, shouting God's praise.*

**When I offer a burnt offering, the gift does not please you.  
So I offer my shattered spirit; a changed heart you welcome.**

*A shattered spirit is all I have to offer. Oh, how I know that God deserves much more. And yet, my shattered spirit is all God asks.*



### Thoughts on the NWWA Synod's *Worship Matters* Workshop

Often times it is difficult to commit a full day's time to a meeting, conference, etc., particularly a weekend day. But any doubts about attending the Synod's *Worship Matters* workshop last Saturday were erased within five minutes. The day's leader was nationally known Dr. Marcia McFee, and she was excellent. It was a joyful day of learning and worship. Briefly, the overriding message, to me, was that there are "layers" of worship, with the different layers speaking more strongly to different worshippers. In part, this layering consists of what we *hear* as well as what we *see*. The seeing, or visual, aspect was my main interest, and I was able to attend a breakout session that focused on Liturgical Art – art that helps to create an environment by which the gathering can more fully reflect on God in worship and praise.

"We need the ritual words, but we also need the here and now words."

It's not possible to share all that was a part of this day, but one sentence spoken by the leader with regard to worship has remained with me: "We need the ritual words, but we also need the here and now words." My translation: We need to embrace worship in various forms, keeping some traditional parts but also being open to newer worship components that might be more meaningful to our changing population.

If you would like to learn more about what we learned, and perhaps be part of a brainstorming process of how we put these learnings and our own ideas to practice, please join us on **Tuesday, April 5 at 6PM** in the Library as we challenge ourselves to think creatively and ritually about Pentecost.

~ Jeanie McBee



PERSONAL STORIES AND CONFESSIONS

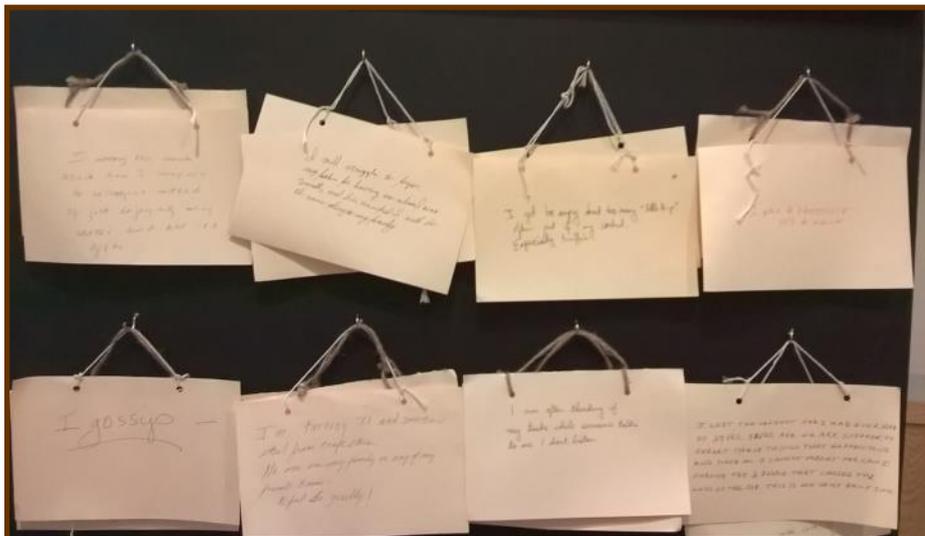
Personal Stories/Confessions Board appeared around the UW and Greenlake as a community building project last year. It was featured on a King 5 TV news story, and Sister Liz Colver and Pastor Anja decided to bring the idea to the Kenmore community.

People are able to write their story or confession anonymously on one of the cards and place it in the shoebox provided so that they remain anonymous. Later, Pastor Anja or Sister Liz posts the cards on the board. Passersby can then read the stories/confessions and, if they wish, add their own, helping each person feel a connection to their neighbors through the diversity of stories.

Our Confession Board has been at 192 Brewing Company, Third Place Commons, down on 185<sup>th</sup> street (near Northlake Lutheran), and at Spencer 68 Apartments. It is headed to Foundation House in Bothell and will continue to be moved around the community until March 26. Look for an article in the Kenmore Reporter about this community building project!



*"I still struggle to forgive my father..."*



**Bishop Unti Visits Northlake Lutheran!**

On Sunday, February 28, Bishop Kirby Unti came to Northlake Lutheran Church to preach at our Sunday worship service and to teach a class called *“Stop! They’re pushing my buttons!”*

As always, Bishop Unti’s message was inspiring. After worship, more than 20 people attended the very enlightening class and enjoyed lunch together.

*Thank you, Bishop Unti for sharing your wisdom, compassion and sense of humor with us!*



Bishop Kirby Unti and Pastor Anja Helmon

**NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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by the **20<sup>th</sup> of each month** to:  
[office@northlakelutheran.org](mailto:office@northlakelutheran.org)  
or drop them by the office.  
*Thank you!*

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**Pastor Anja’s Email:** [pastoranja@northlakelutheran.org](mailto:pastoranja@northlakelutheran.org)

## NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 2016 CALENDAR

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 11:15am ~ Coffee Hour meeting (Lib) 1 & 2pm ~ Irene King Viewing & funeral 7pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH)	<b>7</b> 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Social Ministries (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	<b>8</b> 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm ~ Redevelopment Team mtg (Library) 7:00pm ~ Property Committee (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	<b>9</b> 11:30am ~ Lenten Worship/Lunch 6:30-8pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL) 7pm ~ Lenten Worship	<b>10</b> 6:00pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room)	<b>11</b> Pastor Anja's Sabbath 8am-2pm ~ SDA Evangelism Week (FH)	<b>12</b> 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 10am ~ <b>Worship &amp; Music</b> Comm mtg (Conf) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Adventurers (FH)
<b>13</b> 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 11:30am ~ Reconciling in Christ meeting 7-9pm ~ SDA Evangelism Week	<b>14</b> 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Parish Education (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	<b>15</b> 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 7pm ~ Church Council (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	<b>16</b> 11:30am ~ Lenten Worship/Lunch 6:30pm ~ Cub Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Lenten Worship	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 6:00pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room)	<b>18</b> Pastor Anja's Sabbath 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	<b>19</b> 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH)  <i>Daylight Savings time begins Sunday at 2am!</i>
<b>20</b> PALM SUNDAY 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 3:30pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH)	<b>21</b> 6:30pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH & Sanctuary) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	<b>22</b> 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	<b>23</b> 6:30pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL & FH)	<b>24</b> Maundy Thursday 6pm ~ Daisy Troop meet (Youth Room) 7:00pm ~ Maundy Thursday Worship Service	<b>25</b> Good Friday 7:00pm ~ Good Friday Worship Service	<b>26</b> 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders
<b>27</b> EASTER SUNDAY! 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	<b>28</b> Pastor Anja's Sabbath 6pm ~ Constitutional Review meeting (Conf) 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	<b>29</b> 2pm ~ Bible Study (cancelled) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Happy March Birthdays to...</b> 22 ~ Ernie Coombs & Lynn Coffey 24 ~ Phyllis Albrecht & Bob Peterson 26 ~ Florence Lindstrom	

