



NORTHLIGHTS

MAY 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!**



GREETINGS FROM THE MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We have been busy planning for Pentecost! A few of us have formed a Worship Design team, which is having fun considering new ways to plan, communicate, and participate in worship. Pentecost (May 15th) and the 7 Sundays thereafter have become our first experiment in this new approach.

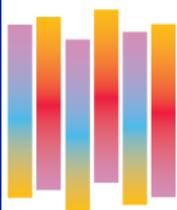


We are exploring the power of language as we consider the gifts God brings us with words... words of peace, covenant, forgiveness, and more. We hope to explore this power through the sights, sounds, feel, and words of worship. We are excited to share this eight week exploration with you. Please let us know what you think!

Our next season, where we will continue this experiment will be Advent, giving us more time to plan and execute the creative ideas fully. We would love to tap into your creativity! If you have any interest in joining this brainstorming team, please let one of us know. God works through every one of us, and we would be honored to receive God's gift through you.

Janet Loewen, Jeanie McBee, LuAnn Stokke, Wendy Delong, Ernie Coombs, and P Anja.

Happy May!



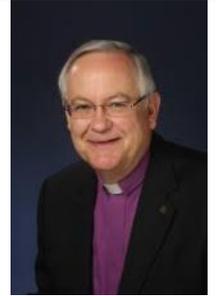
NORTHLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Is There Life After Death?

Kirby Unti, Bishop

Northwest Washington Synod

Article from *The Spirit*, May 2016



One of the questions that I assume many pastors are asked is, “Do you believe in life after death?” I just recently had this conversation with a woman whose husband, Andy, I buried at age 50.

It has always been important for me as both person and pastor to be honest about what I believe and not to give out “pat” pastoral responses.

The truth is I don’t know if there is life after death and I won’t know until I die. All I can go on are some clues that I have observed while living on this side of death.

Death has been one of my greatest teachers, as I have been privileged to be with many people as they are dying and breathing their last breath. It has often amazed me how many people go through a stage of dying where they are talking out loud to relatives that have gone before them. I experienced this with both my father and my mother. It appeared as if my father was working overtime to wrap up some unfinished business before he died. On several occasions he would say, “I am not done yet.” Such occasions may well be a clue that a person has one foot in this life and one foot in whatever is to come.

Likewise, I have had several occasions to talk to people who have had near-death experiences. Their stories are indeed quite compelling. What has amazed me the most is the reassurance such folk have in facing death when it comes. Perhaps the greatest clue for me about life after death is the joy of holding a new born baby in my arms. I know of no experience that equals this in magnitude. Holding one who has spent nine months being molded into a breathing, living, crying, and gurgling human beings speaks to me of a creative force that is beyond my imagination.

I remember how wowed I was in kindergarten when the seed that I planted in a Styrofoam cup of dirt

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²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. – Revelation 21:22



From Pastor Anja

How interesting it is that Revelation, the book that images the end times when Jesus has returned, portrays that nirvana as a time without a temple. At least, no physical temple. For the true temple, the true body worthy of worship, is the God Almighty and the Lamb.

How interesting, to have the God Almighty and the Lamb presented before us, side by side. The one, an image most high, far above us as though unattainable to us, mere mortals. The other, an image most vulnerable, inviting our nurture and care as though we are needed to ensure its survival.

How interesting, to consider these images in light of our world today. A world in which we pour our resources into a building intended to be our temple, our place of worship. And if we find that, in time, fewer people come, we become anxious, concerned, and even full of fear. Fear of death... but death of what? Death of the church? Can it be that we feel this fear needlessly? Our own Scriptures prophesy a beautiful time when the building is no longer present. And yet, God IS present. It is as if God does not need these conventions to which we cling.

How interesting, to consider these images in light of our world today. A world in which we hold up strength and might as that which is worthy of worship, while vulnerability and weakness are anxiously stuffed away in the hopes no one will ever see. And yet, there in that same prophesy, we see God, the only one worthy of worship, standing fully exposed, mighty and vulnerable, strong and needy, waiting for us to both worship and care for this full immortal body.

How interesting to witness these times, waiting and wondering if we will be awakened to the true will of God, enabling us to let go of our own wills, our own images of nirvana so that the true nirvana of which God wills may come.



Excerpts from Pastor Anja's April report to council ...

Next on my list that I am eager to start are planning a New Member Sunday and the Catechumenate. We have three new members to welcome and celebrate! All three of them are already involved in various committees; it is such a blessing to see this activity! It is fitting that the Catechumenate process, of which we did a small trial back in the Fall/Winter, will pick up again with the new members. This process is intended to be a way to welcome new people into a community, inviting them to express any of their doubts, fears, and questions in a safe space and community. The process builds community and helps us all get to know one another, while also teaching us how we can apply scripture in our own lives in a very personal and individual way.

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Excerpt from Pastor Anja's April report to council (Continued from page 3)

With this next continuation of the process, I am hoping to introduce a few more pieces of the process as I have learned it from training and reading.

Finally, I am hopeful about getting back into my community walks and spending more time out in Kenmore. The Redevelopment Ministry Review reminded me that my call is to spend about 50% of my time in the community. I took a look back at how I have spent my time over the past couple of months and realized I am nowhere near this goal! At the same time, I am also feeling fatigued from not getting the down time that is crucial to being an effective pastor and not burning myself out in the long run. This is completely my own fault, as I am enjoying the work I am doing, and therefore, it's easy to drive myself too hard. It would be wonderful if you can support me in this endeavor by holding me accountable to having reasonable work hours (I'm still figuring out what "reasonable" means). This means I need to do less, and doing less means either someone else does more, or some things will no longer be done. My hope is that, together, we can figure out the best way forward.

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!



Love. Grow. Serve.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY ~ WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM IN THE LIBRARY.

Beginning May 11, Rick Heinbaugh will lead a discussion on Galatians. Come once, or come every week. *All are welcome!*



COME, MARCH (OR RIDE) WITH US!



Please note June 26 on your calendars. Once again, we have the opportunity to take a stand as people of faith against discrimination and bigotry, and demonstrate our love for one another by participating in the Pride Parade. This year a few can even "march" while riding in Pastor Anja's jeep! Details will be announced soon.



[The article below, by Bishop Kirby Unti, was printed in The Seattle Times May 2, 2016.]

By Bishop [Kirby Unti](#)

Special to The Times

May 2, 2016

As pastor, a Christian and a parent, I oppose Initiative 1515's attempt to repeal our state's non-discrimination protections.

AS an evangelical Lutheran pastor, I've humbly tried throughout my life to live out Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves — including those who may seem different from us. It's a core part of how I live my Christian faith, and the example my wife and I want to set for our daughters.

Like many people, there was a time when I didn't know much about what it meant to be transgender. Because so few of us personally know a transgender person, the idea of a person being born one gender but knowing themselves to be another can sound unusual, confusing and may be a bit uncomfortable at first. I'll admit it was for me.

Then, through my ministry, my wife and I came to know some transgender people and their families and learned of the discrimination they sometimes face. That experience really opened my eyes to the suffering of folks in our community, whom I realized I knew little about.

I've reflected back on that experience recently as I've been hearing about other states that have proposed or passed new laws allowing discrimination against transgender people in public places, including in public restrooms. Now, a proposed Washington ballot initiative, Initiative 1515, seeks to roll back discrimination protections for transgender people — legal protections that have been in place for 10 years.

The supporters of I-1515 say safety and privacy are their goals. As a husband and the father of four daughters, it's only natural to worry about the well-being of our families and children, especially when we hear so many tragic stories about people victimized by physical assaults or sexual violence. When we're anxious or concerned, it's important to step back and get the facts.

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Bishop Unti's letter to The Seattle Times *(Continued from page 5)*

That's why I listen to our law enforcement and violence-prevention experts. These leaders, including King County Sheriff John Urquhart, former Snohomish County Sheriff John Lovick and the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, know that nondiscrimination laws permitting transgender men and women to use public facilities that match their gender are not, and have never been, a threat to anyone's safety. In fact, they say I-1515 would do nothing to improve public safety. It might even make things worse by encouraging strangers to confront and question others in public facilities and violate each other's privacy and safety.

As a pastor, Christian and parent, I oppose I-1515's attempt to repeal our state's nondiscrimination protections. Doing so would single out our transgender neighbors for different treatment and potentially put their safety at risk and would have unintended consequences for all of us.

My wife and I have prayed about this and come to believe that protecting people from discrimination is about treating others as we want to be treated. We're all God's children — including people who are transgender — and we should all be treated equally under the law.

As you search your heart, I hope you'll join me and many other parents and faith leaders who are standing up against I-1515's repeal of Washington's discrimination protections for transgender people. Support Washington Won't Discriminate: WashingtonWontDiscriminate.org.

***Is There Life After Death?***

Kirby Unti, Bishop

Northwest Washington Synod

Article from The Spirit, May 2016 (Continued from page 2)

turned into a bean sprout. Bean sprouts are pretty impressive - but come on - a baby?

My reasoning goes like this, "Whatever force is behind the creation of a baby surely has the capacity to create new life when death comes. to create new life." The force for me is the God I have come to know as the Life Giver in so many facets of my life.

I must add that May is my month to believe in the power of life. It is the month that restores my soul after a long, dark, cold and very wet winter. Winter is when everything dies for me and I have to fight extra hard against the darkness. May is life in full bloom. The yard is still green, the rhododendrons are in all of their glory and the trees are thick in leaves, needles and green.

Death and life are baked into all of the creation giving me great cause to believe that, when death comes, be prepared for the likelihood that life will follow.

I loved Andy in life and there is nothing more that I want for my friend Cheryl than to see him again. Will it happen? I don't know. This is what faith is all about for me - trusting the clues that God provides along the way.

I do know this about the death of my own parents – If I never see them again I will not mourn because they gave to me in this life time enough blessing to last the all of my life.

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH MAY 2016 CALENDAR

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 7pm ~ SDA Worship (Sanctuary)	2 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Social Ministry (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library) 7pm ~ SDA Worship (Sanctuary)	3 12:30pm ~ Finance Committee (Conf) 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 6:30pm ~ Parish Oversight Committee (Conf) 6:30pm ~ Boy Scouts (downstairs) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	4 6:30pm ~ Evening Bible Study (FH) 6:30-8pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL) 7pm ~ SDA Worship (Sanctuary)	5 8am ~ Hilltoppers Garden Club (FH) 6pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room) 7pm ~ SDA Worship (FH & Kitchen)	6 <i>Pastor Anja's Sabbath</i> 12pm ~ Executive Committee (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Worship (Sanctuary)	7 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 12pm ~ Betty Burton Memorial (FH) 5:30pm ~ SDA Adventurers (FH) 6-10pm ~ Youth Group (FH)
8 <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i> 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	9 6pm ~ Constitution Committee (Conf) 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	10 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7pm ~ Property Committee mtg (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	11 6:30pm ~ Evening Bible Study (Library)	12	13 <i>Pastor Anja's Sabbath</i> 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 10am ~ Worship & Music (Conf) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Adventurers-FH 6-10pm ~ Youth Group (FH)	
15 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	16 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	17 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 7pm ~ Church Council mtg (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	18 6:30pm ~ Cub Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Evening Bible Study (Library)	19 6:00pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room) 6:30pm ~ Dahlia Club (Fellowship Hall)	20 <i>Pastor Anja's Sabbath</i> 2pm ~ Lander Memorial Service	21 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 3-5pm ~ Sokol Recital (Sanctuary) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH) 6-10pm ~ Youth Group (FH)
22 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 11:30am ~ RIC Core Team meeting (Conf)	23 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6pm ~ Constitution Committee (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	24 12:30pm ~ Finance Team meeting (Conf) 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	25 6:30pm ~ Evening Bible Study (Library)	26 4-6pm ~ Nativity Luth meeting (Library)	27 <i>Pastor Anja's Sabbath</i> 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH)	
29 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	31 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)				



Happy May Birthdays

5 - Beverly Peterson & Bob Rowbottom
11 - Sandy Rath
27 - Alan Murdock

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE



Watch this space in future NorthLights for congregational financial reporting ...

A GLOBAL MUSIC AND WORSHIP EVENT!

Saturday, May 21, 10am to 12pm
Xfinity Conference Center
2000 Hewitt Avenue Suite
Everett, Washington



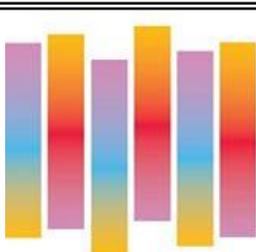
Music: A Language that Speaks to Others

If you're not attending the Synod Assembly (May 20-21), please plan to attend a global music and worship event! This is an excellent opportunity to incorporate the 'GLOCAL' theme of the Synod Assembly into our local context.

The gathering will focus on using creative liturgy and global music to communicate mission in our congregation.

Cost is \$15 per person.

For more information or to register, contact the Synod office at 206-783-9292



NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Thank you!

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