



NORTHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER

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!**



Love. Grow. Serve.

Community Serve Day Report

By Jeanie McBee

When the August 21 Community Serve Day was first announced at church, it was something I was drawn to. Our church was assigned to Kenmore Elementary School, and this made it more appealing as this is where Todd and Tanya attended school -- it was familiar territory where I had spent many volunteer hours during those years.

There were jobs for all ages and physical abilities. Years ago I would have eagerly been a part of the outdoor crew, shoveling bark, raking debris from the landscaping, etc. But at this point in life, I chose to be in a classroom helping a teacher ready her room for the first day of school. There were a variety of classroom needs, depending on the teacher.

One fifth grade teacher spends personal time collecting books from Goodwill, Value Village, etc., so a variety of reading materials are available in her classroom. There were boxes and boxes of books (more books than in our church library), and each needed to be marked with a reading level code. I was at one of three computer stations, looking up the book titles on a web site to obtain the reading level code; then my work partner would label it and bring more books.



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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!



"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

[Romans 12:2]



From Pastor Anja

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. [Psalm 51:10] -

As I waited, this morning, to turn onto 192nd St, I was surprised to see so many cars. Most mornings, I barely come to a stop at that stop sign before making my right turn. But today, I waited for at least a few minutes while the cars drove by. What's going on? Then I remembered... today is the first day of school.

The first day of school signifies many things in our culture. Yes, it is the day that parents rejoice as their children are, once again, out of the house during the week! It is the day that children often feel bittersweet as they rejoice to see their old friends and meet new ones, to meet their new teachers, to try on their new school clothes, while also grieving the loss of their free time, play time, and lazy days. The first day of school, here in North America, also represents a change in weather, a change in tempo, and even a change in mood.

As we enter this month of September, I am struck by how quickly this change comes upon us. It seems like just yesterday that we were basking in the sun, watching the children play in the lakes, at the playgrounds, in the parks. And now, the rain has returned, the blackberries are dried up, and the glorious sunlight has escaped behind the dampened clouds. My mood changes every autumn. I move slower, always ready to crawl under a blanket somewhere and read a good book.

In some ways, I dread these seasonal changes. And yet, I am aware that they are gifts. Gifts from God to not only experience the diversity of life, weather, and crops, but also to engage in our own self-reflection. The change of a season is a blessed opportunity to look inward, acknowledge our own struggles, our own self-centeredness, and to ask God for help. Help adjusting our center, to be not within our selves, but within that Spirit that dwells among us and yet outside of us, within that Spirit that is larger than our selves, within Spirit of God. For it is when we center ourselves on God that we tap into the true gifts that God offers, companionship, love, and community.

And so, as we enter this new season. A season of turning, a season of change, and a season of new learnings, I invite you to cry out with me,

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."



A note from Susan in the church office...

Just a note of thanks to every single person at Northlake Lutheran for your kindnesses to me over the past fifteen months. Special thanks to Pastor Anja, the Church Council, and those of you I've been blessed to get to know as visitors to the office, church members, and volunteers (*and you know who you are!!*).

I am so excited (and just a little nervous) to begin the next chapter of my life. Vicky Newland will be absolutely perfect as the transition person over the next few months -- she is talented, quick to learn, and has a fantastic sense of humor; all important traits when working in a church (or any place else)!

Please know that each of you will be in my prayers, and I hope to see you again soon.

Thanks and blessings!

Kids Korner

Hello congregation!

This coming school year is going to be a beautiful time of regrowth for the garden that is our Youth Program. The many programs which we hope to reinstate this year include Kid's Church, After-school Programs, and Pioneer Club - - but with God's help, we will have the opportunity to see so much more.

Kid's Church / Family Worship

The first of these programs to kick off will be **KID'S CHURCH**. Beginning September 11, the students of our congregation will be invited to study the bible and to learn about God in a way designed to meet them where they are. Kid's Church will begin with a Children's Message in the sanctuary, after which we will go the Sunday School Room for our lesson and crafts. We will hold Kid's Church 3 weeks out of the month.



Family Worship will offset Kid's Church, and will be held on the first Sunday of the month. The purpose of Family Worship is to provide an opportunity for our congregation to experience Worship as a complete family, and to share with our students the joys of communal praise.

Future Programing

In anticipation for additional programing, there are a number of ways in which the Congregation can assist. That is why we are asking the members of this congregation to consider supporting this program in the following ways:

- 1) Volunteer your time to assist and serve in special events, such as community/social events, afterschool programs, and Pioneer Club.
- 2) Donate games (especially video games), and movies for use in our Activity Room during social and community events.
- 3) Assist with the cleanup of the Activity Room (Date and Time TBD)

If you would like to do any of the above, or if there is another way that you feel that you can assist with these programs, please speak with Justin Boyett at JRBoyett@Hotmail.com

Don't Miss the Gifts of Fall

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop

From The Spirit (September 2016)



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... --Ecclesiastes 3:1

I love the summer! Summer comes with longer days and wonderful displays of sunshine. It is the season to sit out on the back deck with drink in hand and, when the sun sets, light the outdoor fireplace. Summer is when we launch the boat and spend time on the water. It is when we try to grab a week at Chelan and a few days at the beach.

I used to think that things slowed down in the summer. I am not sure this is true but summer time does have a different rhythm to it. There is something that is so kind about summer.

This is why I cling to summer and resist the fall. In the Fall the days grow shorter. The mornings are cold. It is hard to know what to wear. What works well in the morning needs to be shed in the afternoon. Fall is when the fog settles thick and some days it refuses to depart.

Fall does have its special gifts. The excitement of Husky Football and the return of the Seahawks. When I was a kid it meant new school clothes and listening to my corduroy pants make noise as my legs scraped together. And there is a smell in the air that happens only in the fall.

Fall colors compete with the burst of spring flora. It was my mother's favorite time of the year. It was one of the last joys she experienced in her life.

I like the crispness of Fall. It wakes one up without the piercing pain of winter. Winter is what I dread. It can be summed up in one word, dark. What makes it worse is you then have to add cold and wet. The three combined I don't find friendly. The best that winter has to offer is fresh fallen snow, a rare phenomenon in Puget Sound - and of course my daily ritual of gathering at the fireplace.

I count the days of winter hoping they will past. Unfortunately, the more I count, the longer winter seems. Each day brings a kind of effort with it. Winter is the longest season of the year. Winter hangs on and only reluctantly yields to spring. Spring is a season of delight. It begins for me on the first early morning when I hear a bird song. The birds are Spring's prelude. Spring is when I believe that life once again will mean me well. Spring is when death gives way to life and life abounds.

I thank God for the seasons, even winter. How boring life would be to live with but one season. There would be nothing to look forward to and nothing to overcome.

May you be blessed with a wonder-filled fall. For the church it is a time to be gathered again. It is a time to return. It is a time to regain our balance and enter the journey of another year.



Community Serve Day (Continued from page 1)

All the books, regardless of reading level, would be placed together on shelves, and when the children would choose books, they could tell by the label which books were at their reading level. This system is used rather than having all the low reading level books in one section and all the higher level books in another section. It saves those who are reading at a lower level the embarrassment of being singled out to go the "low" section

There is a person close to our family who spent her school years dealing with dyslexia. She has mentioned the years of embarrassment she felt because she wasn't reading at grade level. And there were various ways kids like her were unintentionally segregated, like putting all the "dummy" books in one section, being told to leave the classroom for reading help, etc. As I worked helping to accomplish the goal of coding the books, I thought of this dear person who grew up thinking she wasn't smart and feeling embarrassed every single day -- in school of all places, where all students should have the joy of learning without feeling inferior. If one child who has a learning problem can now select some reading materials from the shelves where all the other books are stored together, just by looking at the book code and not feel inferior or be teased because of reading at a lower level (let's face it -- teasing about such things does happen; sadly, this is where the "dummy" word comes into play) then that's a tremendous reward for the few hours of work on that day.

The teacher was so grateful for the help. Someone asked her how she would have finished this job before school began, and she said it just wouldn't have been done. It was too daunting a task for one person to do.

This was a very uplifting day for me. It was particularly meaningful to be with friends on this Northlake team, putting scripture into action by going beyond our walls to be of service to others. Thanks be to God!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN?

September 11th Sunday School starts at Northlake Lutheran Church. The first Sunday of the month we will celebrate Family Worship. The other Sundays we'll have Kid's Church (Sunday School) and the kids will start out in the Sanctuary and will be dismissed for Kid's Church.

September 16 Pastor Kristy Daniels from the Church of Steadfast Love will come and preach on Sunday. She will also bring along raffle tickets so everyone of us could have a chance to win a small quilt. The ticket sales will support Hammond House a women's emergency shelter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

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/



Lutheran Community Services Fundraising Luncheon

Sunday, October 23 1pm at the Lynnwood Convention Center
Join us for this annual event - this year we welcome travel expert (and local Lutheran) Rick Steves as our keynote presenter. 1pm - Social Hour. 2pm - Program. There is no admission fee, but you will be asked to support our North Puget Sound work: Foster Care and Adoption Immigrant and Refugee Services Family Support Centers. To RSVP or for questions, contact: Julie Kissick Malloy

jmalloy@lcsnw.org (253) 298-9170. We need Volunteers, Tables Hosts and Sponsors for our event.

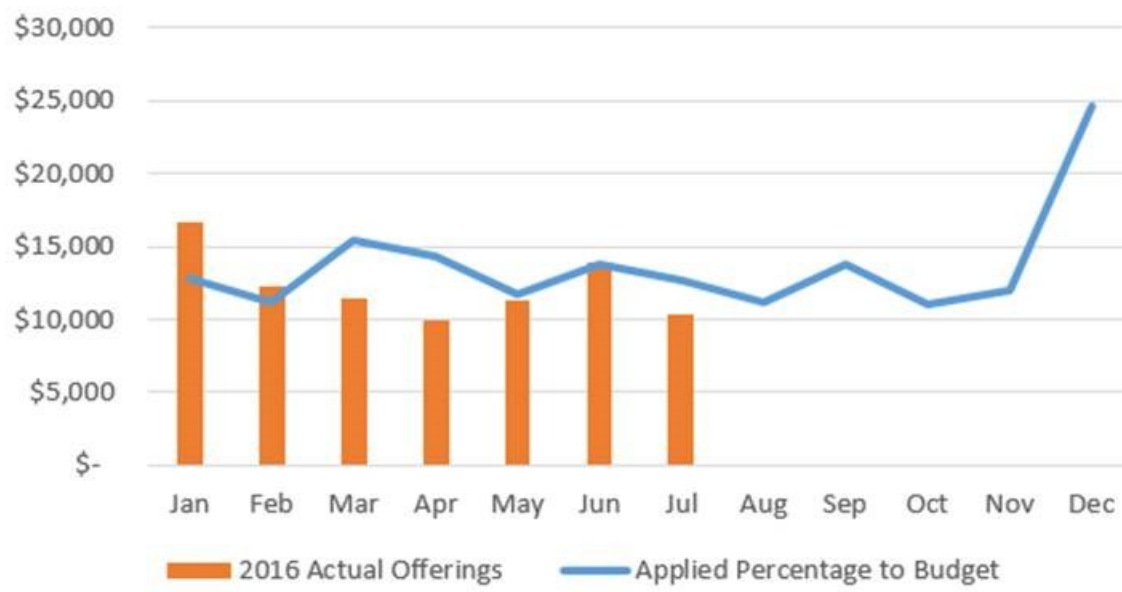
Open Door Ministries Gala and Auction

November 5, 5-9:30pm at the Brockey Center, South Seattle Community College. We are currently accepting donations for auction and taking ticket purchases. Information is at the "auction" tab on our website: www.opendoorelca.org. If you have questions contact Auction Chair Jill Bossen, odmauction@gmail.com or Procurement Chair Fred Row, fred-row@comcast.net.



SNAPSHOT OF NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN'S MONTHLY OFFERINGS

Monthly Offerings: Actual vs Budget



		As of end of May:	
	2016 Budgeted Offerings:		79,337
	2016 Actual Offerings:		67,630

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Thank you!

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