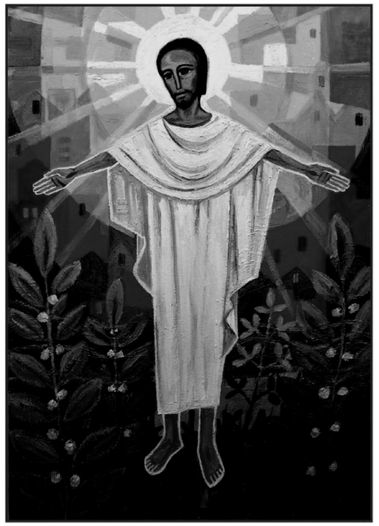
Easter Week Schedule

April 13th 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 14th 7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 16th	
10:00 am	Easter Worship Service Following service there will be a coffee hour hosted by Parish Life
11:30 am	The Northlake Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt



Northlake Lutheran Church
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Pastor ..... Anja Helmon
Office Administrator ..... Chris Hossienzadeh
Organist ..... Wendy DeLong
Security ..... Keith Hood
Community and Youth Outreach Coordinator ..... Katie Reardon

NorthLights editor is Chris Hossienzadeh.
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, 10am-2pm
Phone: 425-486-6977 | **Email:** office@northlakelutheran.org
Pastor Anja's Sabbath: Friday
Pastor Anja's Email: pastoranja@northlakelutheran.org

NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NORTHLIGHTS

April 2017

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!***

Reconciling in Christ Task Force Update

The Reconciling in Christ task force has been hard at work examining what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ church, bringing that information to the congregation, and planning next steps. The process to become a Reconciling in Christ church consists of only a few steps: form a task force; raise awareness in the congregation; write a welcome statement; vote as a congregation; and, if the vote passes, register with Reconciling Works. This update summarizes where we are, and where we're going.

But first, a little background on Reconciling in Christ. Following a meeting sponsored by the American Lutheran Church, Lutherans Concerned for Gay People was founded in June 1974. The group participated in the American Lutheran Church Convention for the first time in October of that year. As the movement spread, the group's name changed a few times, most recently in June 2012 to Reconciling Works (www.reconcilingworks.org), which administers the Reconciling in Christ program. Reconciling in Christ churches publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people into their congregations. As of March 23, 2017, there are 35 Reconciling in Christ churches within 25 miles of Northlake Lutheran.

On February 26th, task force members presented a temple talk to inform the congregation of what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ church, and personal experiences of task force members. From that day forward, the task force has staffed an information table in the narthex during coffee hour answer questions and listen to concerns.

On May 7th, Pastor Paul Pribbenow will deliver the worship service sermon. Pastor Pribbenow is the director of Open Door Ministries in Seattle which is an extended ministry of the N.W. Washington Synod of the ELCA and a member of the Lutheran Services in America. Bishop Untie states "families need resources, Open Door Ministries is a tremendous resource for our congregations and Synod".

After the service Pastor Pribbenow will be leading a forum (for information and questions) during the coffee hour which the Task Force will host on May 7th.

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures – then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:1-5

We are called to seek wisdom. Never does God implore us to stop seeking, but always to 'cry out for insight,' to 'seek it like silver.' If only we sought wisdom the way we seek wealth.

This Lenten season, we have been pondering. Pondering questions. We have been challenged NOT to answer those questions, but to ponder them. To keep them close. To treasure them. For it is in the pondering that we may continue to seek. Too often, we stop seeking because we think we have found the answer. But God knows… true answers are in the seeking itself.

As we come to the end of our Lenten season, I encourage all of us to not let the pondering end. Easter is not a time to settle upon one answer, but rather to come forth from the baptismal waters full of questions. For it is always in the questions that the new life continues to come. Let us continue to ponder…

- Why do you worship? Why do you participate in Christian rites?
- If you were to truly enter your wilderness, what would be the hardest thing to give up?
- How does knowing the difference between good and evil hurt us? How does it contribute to our rebellions?
- When have you experienced grace? How has that experience helped you understand what God is offering?
- What does it mean to be reborn?
- In our world today, what <living water> could be used to bring <life> to <unreconciled groups>?
- What does reconciliation look like? With Christ? With each other?
- What does it mean to see?
- What brings you restoration? How does Christ restore you?
- What is your Lazarus? What stone needs to be rolled away?
- How has the Spirit of God brought you renewal? What is God renewing you for?

All In (continued from page10)

This next month of April, I'm focused on continuing to stabilize and maintain the relationships with Spencer 68 and Northlake Grove. I have a big Easter outreach push April 8th in the neighborhood and an Easter Egg Hunt - many moving pieces. I know this might look like a lot, but it didn't come overnight. Slow and steady is the motto. Alongside the 8 families in our children and youth ministry I am in contact with 170 families a week. I'm all in, Northlake.

If you would like up to date information on any of the above projects each week -- Spencer KIDS! or Northlake KIDS! -- let me know and I will add you to the e-mail list. If you would like to meet and chat about any of the above projects let's get together!

KatieOut@northlakelutheran.org

April 13th at Southcenter Mall, a a screening of the movie "**Disturbing the Peace**." You can buy tickets at http://gather.us/screening/19346

Disturbing the Peace is a film about ex-combatants from both sides of the Israeli/ Palestinian conflict working together to end the status quo and force meaningful change in their community. These "combatants for peace" are the subject of this inspiring documentary, Disturbing the Pace. The movie is rated 100% on Rotten Tomatoes and 9.00 on IMDB.

All In

By: Katie Reardon
Community & Youth Outreach Coordinator

A little bit about me: whatever I do, I go all in. I always push my chips to the middle of the table for one reason: if I bet on myself I very rarely lose. A few years back, I was a much younger and unhealthy version of myself. I lost often because I couldn't follow through on my vision and ideas. I lacked know-how because I wouldn't listen to others who were trying to help me. I had too much energy, not enough maturity, and a lot of free time as a single 20-something that got in the way of productive fruitful ministry. Today, however, I'm playing with the house's money.

Back in October, I had a meeting with Pastor Anja about doing outreach for Advent. I asked her how the Church advertises for Advent? She said we don't have anyone doing that. So I said, I'll do it! I'm sure she had her reservations because I was a new member with no history.

I met with her and Rick Huiling and I shared my idea and strategic plan. I collected and bought candy. I designed and printed flyers. I provided a few of the meals on Wednesday nights. I singlehandedly knocked on 482 doors throughout the month of December. I went all in.

In January, I was with Rick and Pastor Anja talking about how Advent went. I told them I have 7 ideas for building authentic relationships this year in and around Northlake Lutheran. That meeting has now turned into a once a month meeting where we throw out ideas creating a wishlist of outreach. There are 11 ideas on our list. We have went all in.

In February, more people joined into the outreach. Jeannie McBee helped by making a brochure for Lent, LuAnn Stokke helped with decorations alongside other members of the Worship & Design Team. A team of 7 people gathered on a Saturday and passed out over 400 brochures to the neighborhood. During the week I went and passed out 200 more. We went all in.

In March, I started a 3 month internship designed to assist in building relationships with the Kenmore community and our surrounding neighborhoods. I started spending time at the Spencer 68 Apartments on Monday afternoons. Daniella, the site manager and coordinator, called me on the phone this week and wants to form a direct partnership with our church. She is excited for the presence I am having with the kids. The parents are excited for a place their kids can come and form friendships. Each week I send out an e-mail to the families I have met, very similar to the weekly Children & Youth ministry email I send out. It goes over what to expect the upcoming Monday, what happened last week, a look ahead, and how to contact me. **Daniella now sends that email to all 138 residents!** This is a big win for the church. Spencer 68 went all in with us.

It doesn't stop there. I am now attending Northlake Grove monthly residents meeting with another NLC member Jo Boyett. The church has had a strong relationship with Northlake Grove for the past 20 years. Northlake Grove has 24 apartments and between 14 and 17 youth. I wanted to know how I could join in personally so I met with property coordinator Kerri Berlin. I said; "Kerri, I want to know what you need. I want to know when you need someone to do your laundry, when you need someone to bring food, provide childcare, or do anything to help you do your job. Call me. I am here with zero strings attached. I'm here to serve you." It took a few weeks, but Kerri has found things for me to do. All in, in All Ways, at Northlake Grove!

Reconciling in Christ Task Force Update (Continued from page 1)

Earlier this year, the task force drafted a welcome statement. If the congregation votes to become a Reconciling in Christ church, our welcome statement will be:

Welcome

Believing that all are one in Christ, whether believer, doubter or seeker, and being aware that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons are excluded by some congregations, we welcome people of all genders and sexual orientations, as well as all who suffer discrimination in any form.

As followers of Christ, who calls us to reconciliation, we commit to being a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We pledge to strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and our outreach to the world. We welcome all to Northlake Lutheran Church.

Proclaiming to the community that Northlake Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ church is important to the task force members. You can find answers to frequently asked questions about Reconciling in Christ on the web site, http://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/faqs/. Don't hesitate to talk to any of the task force members if you have concerns or would like additional information:

Ernie Coombs (chair)
Justin Boyett
Becky Hancock
John Helmon
Molly Murdock
Allan Murdock
Jim Poland

Called to Speak Up

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, NW

These are difficult days when it comes to knowing how to navigate the world of politics as a Christian. I had the privilege of meeting with Governor Jay Inslee a few weeks back and he said in his three decades as a public servant he has never seen greater interest or concern than what we are now experiencing. People of every stripe are asking the question, "What can we do?"

The challenge is made more difficult because many of us were raised not to speak in public about religion or politics. Obviously we didn't get the clue from Jesus on this as he was quite outspoken on both.

Adding to the challenge in the United States is the confusion we have around the separation of church and state. The bottom line is the church is prohibited from completing the following sentence, "Vote for Candidate _____. We do not compromise our non profit status by speaking out on issues.

The Lutheran Church has a long history of speaking out on public issues. We certainly are following Luther's practice. Luther was very outspoken about public education and providing a community chest for the poor. He saw this as both the responsibility of the church and of the state.

It is okay to be political while striving not to be partisan. When it comes to party politics there is plenty of blame to go around on both sides of the aisle.

This is why it is important to me to hold the Office of President in high regard just as we hope people would respect the office of pastor, teacher or bishop. The office is to be respected even when you disagree with the politics.

When Lutherans speak out in the public square we do so from the point of our deepest held values. This is why, when the travel ban was first placed in front of us by executive order, many Lutherans spoke out regardless of which political party they supported. Lutherans know our own story of immigration and we have been key players in resettling people from around the world. We have been formed by countless stories in scripture that remind us of what it means to "welcome the stranger."

Today I learned from Lutheran Social Services to be aware of the impact that a reduction of Medicaid might have on our parents who are receiving care in a nursing home. 75% of our elders need Medicaid to access this care. Yes, I will speak out if I see this happening. Caring for our elders is embedded deep in my bones because of my Christian formation.

In our Social Statement on Church & Society we are reminded our our responsibility to

- speak out on timely, urgent issues on which the voice of this church should be heard;
- expect its pastors, bishops, and lay church leaders to pray for and to exhort those in positions of authority on the basis of God's prophetic Word;
- work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless, and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace, and the care of creation;
- mediate to achieve just and peaceful solutions to social conflicts;
- participate in local, national, and international ecumenical organizations, and interfaith and ecumenical partnerships in the service of common goals.

Friends, these are challenging times but my spirits are lifted knowing the gospel has something extremely relevant to say. Let's listen and act. Read more on the flip side of this edition of The Spirit for ways you (and your congregation) can pray, advocate, accompany, welcome, and give.

APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1 8:00am 12:30 pm SDA Worship & Saturday 4:00pm 6:00 pm SDA 6:00pm 10:00 pm SDA
2 10:00am 11:00 am Northlake Lutheran 11:00am Coffee Hour (Narthex)	3 6:00pm 7pm Youth 6:30pm 9:30pm SDA 6:30pm 8:00 pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm 8:00 pm Social	4 6:30pm Worship and Music Meeting 7:00pm 8:30pm SDA Prayer Group	5 6:00pm 7:00pm Lenten Meal (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm 8:00pm Lenten Worship (Sanctuary)	6 Chris' Vacation 7:30am 9am KBIG 8:00am 2:30 pm 5:00pm 6:30pm	7 Chris' Vacation Office Closed Pastor Sabbath 7:00am 6:00pm Murphy	8 Chris' Vacation 7:00am 6:00pm Murphy 8:00am 12:30 pm SDA 9:30am Lent Outreach
9 Chris' Vacation Palm Sunday 10:00am 11:00 am Northlake Lutheran	10 Chris' Vacation Pastor Anja's Sabbath 6:30pm 8:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm 8:00 PM Parish	11 Chris' Vacation 3:30pm Food Bank (F 7:00pm 8:30pm SDA 7:00pm Property	12 Chris' Vacation	13 7:00pm 8:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 8:00pm 9pm choir Rehearsal (Choir	14 7:00pm 8:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)	15 8:00am 12:30 pm SDA Worship & Saturday 4:00pm 6:00 pm SDA 6:00pm 10:00 pm SDA
16 10:00am Northlake Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Food for Easter & Egg Hunt (Narthex)	17 Office Closed 6:30pm 8:00 pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship 7:00pm 8:30 pm Knitters	18 4:00pm 5:00 Music Lesson 7:00pm 8:30 pm Church 7:00pm SDA Prayer	19 Pastor Anja's Sabbath	20 6:30pm 9:30 pm Dahlia Club meets (Fellowship Hall)	21 Pastor Anja Continuing Ed (CCD) 4:00pm 5:00 Music Lesson (Choir Room)	22 Pastor Anja Continuing 8:00am 12:30 pm SDA 1:00pm 2:30 pm SDA 4:00pm 10:00pm SDA
23 10:00am Guest Preacher 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am RIC Meeting 3:30pm Northlake Grou	24 Bishop Convocation-Pastor Anja 6:30pm 8:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm 8:30 pm Knitters	25 Bishop Convocation- 3:30pm Food Bank (F 6:30pm Parish LOPC 7:00pm 8:30pm SDA	26	27 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 622 (Lower level rooms)	28 Pastor Sabbath	29 8:00am 12:30 pm SDA Worship & Saturday 6:00pm 10:00 pm SDA Youth Group
30 10:00am 11:00 am Northlake Lutheran 11:00am Coffee Hour (Narthex)	May 1	2	3	4	5	6

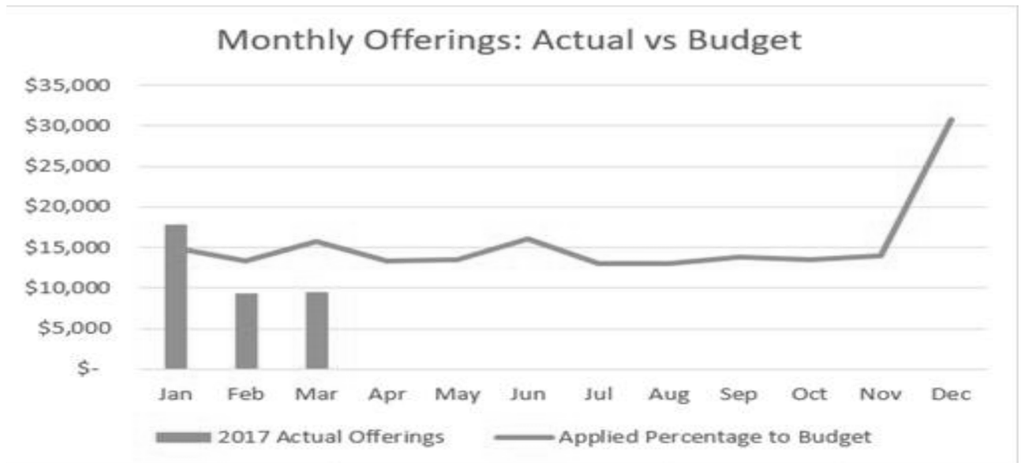
SHOWTIME continued from page 7

I came back from vacation excited to share with Pastor Anja and Wendy all the new developments in the way of music and what that would do to the order of worship. Wendy was so accommodating and flexible. Not only had she been practicing a special prelude for the service; she was very accommodating to my unique vision. Especially during this time of Lent and with her choir practicing each week.

Now we're 5 days away and I know everything is going to be amazing. I have come to respect the process a lot more by actually working through all the moving pieces with Pastor Anja, our office admin Chris, and Wendy. So much goes into a Sunday!

The stage is set. It's Showtime!

P.S. It is my hope to have a Family Worship Service each month during the academic calendar. If you enjoyed it say something and if you have suggestions let me know. I would love to hear all of your thoughts. Being that this was our first one I know we will need to adjust and make changes along the way until we find the right balance.



As of end of Mar:	
2017 Budgeted Offerings:	44,036
2017 Actual Offerings:	36,669
Budget to Actual:	-17%

Finance Reminder—If you have any questions concerning the church finances please contact Alan Murdock, Treasurer– Pro-Tem (Murdock.alan.nelson@gmail.com). He will be happy to help.

FAN
(Faith Action Network)

Faith Action Network is "an interfaith, statewide partnership striving for a just, compassionate and sustainable world through community building, education, advocacy and courageous public action." Many of us are asking in this time of ethical uncertainty, what can we do? FAN offers to people of faith, motivated by their faith, an opportunity to take action and work together for the betterment of our community. Rick Steves states "Faith Action Network through our support is turning up the volume on voices that don't get heard otherwise. This kind of work is a service."

On April 23rd, Joshua Sullivan, this year's FAN intern, will preach during our Sunday worship. Come meet Joshua and learn more about how we can join in this "partnership for the common good," whether it be in person, by phone, or online.

Inclement Weather Shelter status report

People associated with the various KBIG (Kenmore Bothell Interfaith Group) churches are working on getting the Inclement Weather Shelter up and running for next winter. There are efforts for permits, staffing plans and training, supplies, and guiding documents all in progress. We are being mentored by the team that runs a similar cold-weather shelter in Edmonds and the Congregations For the Homeless (CFH) in the Bellevue/Issaquah area.

As described before, the plan is that on days when the temperature is predicted to be below 33 degrees or so for the coming evening, the coordinator will notify local agencies that the Shelter in the Fellowship Hall at Northlake Lutheran will be open for the night. Vans will pick up local homeless people and bring them to Northlake. Some food will be provided by volunteers, and mats on the floor will be provided. Overnight, volunteers will maintain security, and in the morning some volunteers will ensure proper cleanup, and vans will return the guests to designated points in Bothell and Kenmore.

At Northlake, besides providing the physical space, we will need to prepare the “House Rules” for use of our facility. Things like rules for the kitchen, location of emergency exits and a dozen other points will need to be covered. If anyone would like to help with writing this document, please contact Rick Heinbaugh. And, if you would like to participate in the regular KBIG Shelter Steering Committee meetings (they’ve been on Saturday morning so far) you are welcome. For meeting information, contact Rick Huling, Rick Heinbaugh or Pastor Anja.

News from the Office
By Chris Hossienzadeh

Chris is out of the office for the next couple of days. She’ll be back on Thursday, April 13th. I’m sure that we all wish her well and will welcome her back with open arms!

—Vicky

Save the Time!

By Rick Heinbaugh

Beginning on Sunday May 7, the Education Committee is going to be providing a bible study session from 9:00AM until 9:45AM in the Library. We will begin with a series on the book of Galatians. This is a result of the diminishing attendance at the Wednesday evening sessions, and in an effort to continue providing study opportunities in addition to the Tuesday 2PM session.

We look forward to seeing you.

Compass Housing Alliance
by Nancy Martin

Thank you everyone for the donation of items to build our basket for the CHA (Compass Housing Alliance) Auction.

FYI look for our new white sock drive in April which will also benefit the Compass Housing Alliance.

—Social Ministry

Showtime

By: Katie Reardon
<KatieOut@NorthlakeLutheran.org>
Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator

This month we have been busy preparing for our first Family Worship Service! I'm not sure when you will be reading this, but there is a very high likelihood it will be after April 2nd. What a great time we have had this last month in the children & youth ministry. We have seen some new faces and are excited to see things continue to succeed.

If you would like to be added to my weekly Northlake KIDS! email for up to date information on the youth program just let me know. You can also read our monthly edition newsletter here or pick one up in the Narthex.

The worship plan is set and the kids are ready to go. Again, knowing this will not be seen before our service I want to tell you how God provided in some amazing ways. We all know that working with any child requires being flexible. Not just flexible with structure and routine each Sunday, but flexible in the way of expectations.

I had made a plan with Pastor Anja that I would deliver the outline to my sermon and all the materials I would like to use during the service a month in advance! I knew I was going to be asking for a pretty big wishlist so I wanted to give her more time to think and say yes than no. Change is hard - even the littlest bit of change in the service can feel like a lot.

How we got here: In February, I sat in my weekly meeting with Pastor Anja and said I would like to do a Family Worship Service - when can I preach? Pastor Anja, being one of the most open leaders I have experienced, says April. I looked at the topic and immediately felt God giving me the green light when I saw it was about Lazarus. Back in October, Pastor Anja and I had a meeting. She came to my house to talk more about doing outreach for Advent. I had then shared with her a sermon topic that was on my heart about what is dormant is not dead. What appears to be on its last breath is not always so. And here we are talking about April 2nd. It was God's divine planning. I was on cloud nine.

The next step: How am I going to wrangle my tiny - at the time - youth squad to pull off a youth infused service? Well, pretty easily actually. It wasn't long until we started seeing some new faces like Adam and Kai more regularly.

Then came the actual elements I wanted to use in the way of music. I spent hours making a video with pictures borrowed from an earlier project by Vicky Newland. The pictures were a bit fuzzy and I knew I would need to retake **all of them** before my sermon. How was I going to do this with one Sunday remaining at church - I had missed two previous Sundays due to vacation. Dang you, Jamaica!! My vacation couldn't have come at a worse time! However, God provided. I believe more people stopped by the office that week than I have ever seen before.

T-minus ten days to showtime, and I am somewhere out in the middle of the ocean when I get an email from a mom of one of our youth. Her daughter might want to sing a solo! "WHAT! Thats awesome!", I yelled. I just thanked God there at that very moment for filling our service with so many youth components. We are mightier than we look!

The kids had been practicing a song for the past two months. They were not interested in this song at all (it seemed) and I started to get worried! All three of our girls: Marie, Kylie and Lala like to dance when they are in the mood. :) So, I left it up to them to decide and to my relief they agreed to still perform.