



NORTHLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NORTHLIGHTS

AUGUST 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!**



Changes Coming in Pledge Process

Rick Huling, Stewardship Chair

Now it is time to once again prayerfully consider our financial commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ through Northlake Lutheran Church. Each year we prepare to offer our financial commitment responses to God in thanksgiving for all that we have received and continue to receive.

This year we will be adding an option to our pledge process as well as beginning the process much earlier. First, as in prior years, people will be able to fill out a pledge card, seal it in an envelope, and drop it in a box, which will not be opened by anyone until the end of the year when the envelopes are returned unopened. Your pledge is completely between you and God.

With the second option, people may return their pledge envelopes with the intention of informing the church what their pledge is. The point here is to help in planning the levels of our ministries for the coming year and also help people keep track of their giving throughout the year. This option, like the first, is anonymous; only the bookkeeper, who opens the pledges, will actually see them. This is the same person who tallies up everyone's giving to create a tax report in January.

We hope this change will help move us toward a more efficient and useable way to manage our financial resources. In addition, we are going to inform the congregation about other ways to give, such as electronic giving, automatic fund transfer and the like. Much of this information will be sent out to the congregation in August in a package that will include pledge cards and instructions.

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August 13th 11:30-3:30pm
2017 Block Party Picnic- Be prepared to have fun!



The Six Month Reorg



Soon after I started working at Microsoft, I found out we would be undergoing a massive reorganization. It seemed like I had just gotten comfortable, and now Microsoft was changing who we reported to, who called the shots, who had to be involved, etc. I remember complaining... “we are finally working more efficiently and **NOW they want to change things?!?”**

Since I was still the new gal at the time, my co-worker graciously informed me... “Oh, the reorg? Get used to it. We do them about every 6 months.” Every 6 months!!

Eventually, I came to understand why. No matter how many times managers would stress the value and need for collaboration between different teams, **the only collaboration that occurred was within each team.** This allows the team to do some great community-building internally, but almost always ended with different teams working in silos, forgetting to check in with others, looking for ways to benefit from the gifts of a different group.

Recently, I have come to realize that the same thing happens in churches.

It’s not that committees aren’t willing to collaborate with other committees – like the Microsoft employees, everyone thinks it’s a great idea! But somehow, when you aren’t meeting regularly with the other groups/committees, it becomes a huge amount of extra work and time to share information, brainstorm ways to work together, and **be creative in that thinking.**

Perhaps that is why the Redevelopment Report we received over a year ago recommended we reduce our number of committees. We decided to review and revise our mission statement before implementing this one to make sure all aligned. I am so glad this was the approach we all chose, because now, as I look at our new proposed mission statement, I am excited about some ideas of how to restructure how we do ministry here at Northlake Lutheran Church.

As a former Microsoft employee who had to undergo many reorgs, I know how hard it is to make structural changes to how we do things. And yet, **I also know how valuable they can be.** While an every-6-month-reorg habit is definitely overkill, I do think it’s time to consider a new approach, and **I’m excited to have it grounded in our new mission statement.** I look forward to receiving ideas and discussing with all of you how we might embark upon this new adventure!

COMMUNITY SERVE DAY

Here is the information provided by Rick Heinbaugh for Community Serve Day. I was told last year it was a great turnout by Northlake Lutheran Church and lots of projects were taken care of for Kenmore Elementary School. We look forward to another successful day!

1. **Sunday 20 Aug**
2. **We will be substituting our community work at Kenmore Elementary for the regular Sunday worship service**
3. **Signup list will be provided beginning Sunday 6 Aug**
4. **There will be all different types of work available**

Redevelopment Update

Rick Huling, Redevelopment Team

On July 23rd the congregation, led by the redevelopment team, met after the Sunday service to explore the proposed mission statement and to continue to learn more about who we are as a congregation.

The mission statement consists of four relationship statements, and the short version is this:

We are created, called, and challenged to be in relationship with...

- God
- Each Other
- Community
- All of creation

Using the relationship statements as a framework, the congregation was asked what they felt most called to do at Northlake. For example, some put assistant minister and choir under God, backpack ministry and food bank under community, home visitation and bible study under each other - and various configurations like this.

The relationship statements were posted on paper at physical locations around the room and the congregation was then invited to stand by the one they felt most called and least called to right now. They discussed the reasons for this and insightful ideas came out of this.

The basic conclusions did not really seem surprising, given Northlake's activities in the past and what is happening now. Having a relationship with God and each other was seen as basic to our life as a faith community. These are the foundations of whom we are, and our relationship with community and all of creation flows from this.

As a redevelopment congregation we have experimented with worship and study and are working together and caring for each other, and as a result are moving into the community establishing relationships in many areas. We are still in the beginning stages of a difficult process, but I think this mission statement will help sharpen our focus as we move forward. Discussing where we are going is something we need to be doing often; it's part of caring for each other.

The mission statement will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting in October.

PETERSON TOSCANO

By Molly Murdock, RIC Task Force

A Good Time Was Had by All!

The event featuring Peterson Toscano was filled with laughter and warmth! He describes himself as a public speaker (international), climate change advocate, bible scholar and performer. I would add talented comedian! Truly a unique person of God.

This hilarious "biblical comedy" was delivered with an obvious mission of understanding and compassion. I don't feel I can do his performance justice by describing it, "you just had to be there".

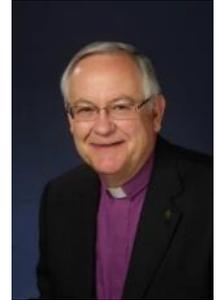
The message I took away from the discussion period with Peterson and members of the community was that people are hurting and physically being hurt. They need our understanding and support in every way possible.

Fortunately, the church has a copy of Peterson's DVD "Transfigurations-Transgressing Gender in the Bible" to share. An event for viewing it as a group is being discussed. Most importantly becoming a Reconciled in Christ congregation is being considered!



The Gift of Wonder and Wandering

Bishop Kirby Unti – from the August 2017 Edition of *The Spirit*



One of the gifts that I have received from Dwelling in the Word (a practice of Living Local) is the gift of “wonder.” Dwelling encourages the learner to ask questions of wonder about the biblical text. Wondering brings out the child in us by playing into our imagination.

I want to share with you one of my wonderings about the story of the Exodus. “I wonder why it took them forty years to walk from Egypt to Canaan when on foot it should have taken only two weeks?

I wonder, “Did they not know the way?” “Did they get really lost at some point?” “Was the destination not known when they took off?” “Did the destination change on them?”

My wondering makes sense when I think of other explorers like Lewis and Clark. It wasn’t like the Oregon trail was already on the map and all they had to do was follow the trail. The truth is what makes one a pioneer is when one must find a trail. Think of how many false routes Lewis and Clark must have explored. They would have reached rivers too swift to cross, mountains too steep to ascend, and cliffs that would have stopped them dead in their tracks. Pioneers know all about dead ends and U turns.

The Bible calls this wandering. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. They wandered in the desert because they failed to believe that God would show them the way.

My sense is we are living in a new time of wandering. The church is not always clear about where we are headed. We are as likely to depend on how we have always done it as we are to trust that God is doing a new thing. Living Local invites us to be intentional about trying to discern what it is that God is up to - and how we follow the pathway God is laying down.

Living Local believes we are being faithful when we experiment, probe, and try out new pathways of being a faithful church. It is a given that we will run into obstacles, have to backtrack at times, and forge routes unplanned for.

I would love for the Spirit to stir up in all our ministry sites a much greater sense of wonder and imagination. My hope is we will be willing to try, risk, experiment, and experience what it means to follow God down a new pathway.

There is no doubt wondering with God can be hard work but there is a reason the destination is called promised land. The reason is through wondering and wandering we come to learn what it means to trust God with the future.



Partnerships

by Katie Reardon
Youth and Family Coordinator

This summer has been all about partnerships. I have spent all my time partnering with organizations in the community and with people inside Northlake Lutheran Church to better serve the neighborhood. Although I still have one more month to go before summer is over, I am already overwhelmed with thankfulness. Community development and youth has depth that cannot be explained all in one article. We are a powerhouse. We are flowing into ministries throughout this church, throughout this neighborhood and this city. None of this would be possible if:

First, NLC hadn't taken a risk five months ago and given me a little freedom to create something God placed on my heart.

Secondly, nothing healthy happens alone. It takes many people and more mistakes than great ideas to build what so many of us have done here at Northlake.

I want to thank Kevin Murphy, who prepares a place every Sunday to take in kids I have met in the community through our programs and kid clubs to teach them music from 9-10. We have a great group forming! Kevin has been a gift to me in the way of having someone take a risk on a vision that was hard to grasp by many! Kevin, I couldn't do what I do without your easy-going personality.

I want to thank Ben Hossienzadeh, who has volunteered in our youth group on Thursdays called Rebel-ution since its beginning in May. Ben has invested in relationships with so many young men. He is looked up to and seen as a big brother figure to everyone who participates. His energy and competitive spirit has been a needed boost to children & youth ministry. Ben, you are both the knife in my side and my rock- appreciate all you are, big guy!

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A Fond Farewell

by Chris Hossienzadeh

I feel like Pastor Anja's article was a great lead into my news of leaving my position as Office Administrator at Northlake Lutheran. She's right, things are changing again!

It's only been seven short months but it's time to go! I am moving on to a position that I feel suits my desire to work with young people on a more personal, intimate level. I have taken a Social Work job at a non-profit organization that provides services for youth and their families. When this opportunity came along, I knew that it was for me and I had to follow my heart and go with it. I learned all about it, got out my old textbooks and brushed up on social work theories and terminology and applied for the position. After talking with the supervisor and a great interview, I got the job! It is what I went to school for.

I have always been passionate about working with young families. I used to do peer counseling at a women's center in AZ among other things.

I am hoping that things go smoothly in finding a replacement for this position. In the meantime, I will be around for a couple more weeks and also involved in the youth group activities with Adam and Ben.

Update on Education at Northlake

From the Parish Ed committee

Don't blink. You might miss something good.

Various education programs are continuing in high gear this year. The Lutheran interest in studying Scripture is alive here.

- Pastor Anja's Tuesday afternoon sessions have been studying books of the Gospel, going start to finish rather than specific readings per week, and going at whatever pace the class requires. If there is a lot of discussion, it will all be heard.
- On Sundays, we recently finished reading the book of Galatians, led by Rick Heinbaugh, also focus is more on the discussion than on any particular timetable.
- Next, Pastor Anja is just finishing a four-week look at "What is Lutheran", exploring Lutheranism in depth while providing a compare and contrast with characteristics of other Christian denominations. Each week had a different focus, looking at Worship & Prayer, Study & Learning, Action and Life in Community. (If you weren't able to attend these Sunday afternoon classes, you need to encourage her to present the series a second time.)
- In September, when school season begins again, Rick Huling will lead a series looking at the Epistle of James.
- After that, in observance of the October 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's proposal of 95 theses for discussion within the (Catholic) Church, which led to the Protestant Reformation, Rick Huling will teach a series of informational classes about the Reformation.

Don't blink. You might miss something good

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I want to thank Nancy Velie, Ernie Coombs, Janet Loewen, Dorothy Rooney and Chris Hossienzadeh who are the greatest sidekicks in the business! These sisters have rallied all summer to support children, youth and family development by helping with our yard sale fundraisers and so much more. This year we have raised close to \$1,800 for our programs with fundraisers.

I want to thank the current council members and finance team for I know I have been the highest maintenance committee at this church over the last five months. I appreciate your patience with my endless emails needing more clarification with budgeting and or asking, "Can I sell this?!" Thank you for your patience and often your willingness to let me use my best judgment on decisions being made.

I want to thank Rick Heinbaugh, who has jumped right in with a group at Northlake Grove sharing his passion with building models during the summer. I had no idea how amazing Rick would be with these kids. How much passion and knowledge he can share and give as they absorb everything up like sponges. What a gift Rick is to our church and our community!

Lastly, I want to thank the members of NLC. It's already been a long summer. I am already tired and ready for a break. I find my strength from you. The perfect timing in your hugs, the encouragement and affirmations goes a long way. Your willingness to jump in and donate whatever is needed is amazing! I am forever indebted to you for your generosity and desire to help make things easier by all that you do!

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We will have a Pledge Sunday in September where we will bring our pledges to worship to offer our commitment to God.

These changes reflect the goal of Northlake's stewardship ministry: to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them. Northlake is a missional church recognizing that everything belongs to God, including the mission itself.

God has a mission in this world and the church as a whole is used by God to accomplish this mission. (Think God's Work, Our Hands.) The community of faith does not think in terms of what they are doing for God, but rather is caught up in a profound and often surprising recognition of what God is doing for them, and to them, and through them.

Northlake's stewardship approach might entail making three moves:

- 1) a change in emphasis - from a narrow focus on faithful giving to a broader focus on faithful living.
- 2) a change in tone - from the demanding voice of obligation to the appealing voice of privilege.
- 3) a change in motivation - from giving out of a sense of duty to giving out of sheer delight.

A short-term approach views stewardship as a means for funding the church's mission - a long-term approach to stewardship does not view it as a means to an end, but as the end itself. Stewardship is our mission: it is a way of life marked by participation in God's mission.

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I am reminded by God's faithfulness when I look at these amazing partnerships.

One more month to go. God is not done yet!

If you would like more information on what is happening with Children & Youth Ministry or community development let's get together and talk! katieout@northlakelutheran.org

Community Block Party!

By Vicky Newland



Come and participate in our Community Block Party on Sunday, August 13th following service, from 11:30 to 3:30pm! We have so many fun plans. We have invited the neighborhood to come and join us. We also need the congregation to come and meet the neighbors. It should be really fun.

We've hired a local theater company to come and teach our children how to be pirates and to take them on a world tour! A world tour! How exotic. We are also renting a bouncy house, we'll have games, face painting, and other activities all of them free.

We will also serve a free lunch! We'll serve hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, potato salad and drinks. Our youth will have a dessert table with goodies for sale. So come and join us and support the church and meet the neighbors!

Monthly Offerings: Actual vs Budget



As of end of July:

: 2017 Budgeted Offering	99,958
: 2017 Actual Offering	81,160
: Budget to Actual	-19%



You undoubtedly have noticed the new mailbox on the street as you turn to come up the church driveway. This is now in use; the old Post Office box number is discontinued*. The Stewardship Team is reminding you to make any necessary changes with your bank if you currently use the *autopay* option for your offerings. Also, please use the new address if you mail your offerings to the church. The new mailing address is:

Northlake Lutheran Church
 6620 NE 185th Street
 Kenmore, WA 98028

*The Post Office will forward any mail sent to the old address for the remainder of this year.



Save the date, August 20th. All are invited to come enjoy the Annual Northlake Grove Potluck at NLC from 4:30-6:30pm. If you would like to come or need information, contact Katie at katieout@northlakelutheran.org

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