



NORTHLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NORTHLIGHTS

MAY 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!**



The Leaders Continue with Training

By Rick Huling
Redevelopment Team

On the 21st and 22nd of April five members of Northlake continued their journey with the College of Congregational Development (CCD), an Episcopal-sponsored training program which meets four weekends a year for two years. Alan Murdoch, Rick Heinbaugh, Katie Reardon, Pastor Anja, and Rick Huling traveled to Federal Way and met with lay and clerical representatives from several other Episcopalian and Lutheran congregations. This program aims to train church leadership for the purpose of maintaining healthy, faithful, and sustainable congregations fulfilling their calling to be the body of Christ.

To do this, CCD equips us to do three things. First we need to look at our current reality: who are we? what are we? where are we? Second, we discern our future: what is God calling us to be at this time and in this place? Finally, we work on strategy, goals, and actions to get to the future: how do we get there?

This weekend we learned first about gathering data in the congregation. Our homework for this session was to interview people at Northlake (some of you may have been interviewed). We debriefed this experience and discussed various data collection methods such as surveys, polling/testing, direct observation, and more. Overall, data gathering helps us to understand what is going on in the congregation. Feedback to the congregation is important in that it completes the cycle.

Second we explored personality types using the Myers-Briggs

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As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. Isaiah 66:13 NRSV

While our tradition embraces the image of God as Father, Scripture brings motherly images, as well. A personal favorite is Psalm 123, in which God is both master and mistress, an image that is not genderless, but gender-ful. For we have one true Parent, one true Creator, who mothers and fathers us all.

In this month of Mother's Day, may we probe the motherly images further. Images such as Deuteronomy 32, describing God as mother eagle (v. 11-12) and one who gave birth to us (v. 18). Images brought forth in Isaiah, where God avows to comfort us as a mother comforts her child, and to be to us as a nursing mother (49:15), and to cry out for us as a woman in labor (42:14).

Hosea 11 speaks of God teaching Ephraim (i.e. Israel) to walk, carrying and leading Israel with **CORDS** of kindness, bringing images of that cord upon which we all once depended, binding us to our mothers through the sustenance and nurturing it brought while we were still in the womb.

Our images of mother in Scripture comes not just from God, but also from Gods people. We begin with Eve, an adventurous mom, wanting to learn and grow, testing the boundaries (Genesis 2-3). And Sarah, a mother who knows herself, confident enough to laugh before God, and who learns firsthand that it is never too late (Genesis 18+). We also know mothers who never gave birth. There is Naomi, who cares for her daughter-in-law Ruth so well Ruth cannot imagine leaving her (book of Ruth). And Pharaoh's daughter, who cares for Moses as though he is her own (Exodus 2). Speaking of Moses, there are the mothers like Jochebed (v.3), painfully and heartrendingly giving their children up for a better life.

There are those who lead nations, such as Deborah (Judges 4 & 5), a "mother in Israel" (5:7) and patriot who spoke out, judged wisely, and fought as a warrior for her people. And there is Eli, a priest who took in Samuel and raised him, without a woman to mother him. Eli must have served as both father and mother to Samuel, one of our greatest prophets.

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Thoughts of a Temple Talk

By Jerry and Janet Wagner

We were asked if we would share what we thought of the Temple Talk and information given by members of the committee that is exploring the possibility of our congregation becoming a RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation.

First, we would like to thank Alan and Becky for their willingness to share with us on a subject that is sometimes difficult to discuss. However, their approach to it on a personal level was meaningful and informative to us.

One of the things that comes to mind, is that acceptance of a person's sexual preference is easier to do if it is someone you have known for a long time, or is a family member. That person is still the same one you have known and loved for years, it is just that now you know another thing about them.

We were saddened by the fact that folks were not welcome in some church communities. It is our job to love, not judge people who were created by God. Scientific studies have shown that people are created as they are and rehabilitation to change that causes more harm. Acceptance and love is what we need to do.

We need to recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and to welcome all people just as God created them.

(Continued from page 1) From Redevelopment Team

Type Indicator assessment. We all took the assessment ourselves to better get to know our own personalities and how that can affect interactions between people. What's important to understand here is that personality types can collectively describe an organization such as a congregation.

This all sounds very theoretical, and much of it is. But the program, through various exercises, shows how we can apply this learning in a practical way. All of this works for a better understanding of ourselves and our congregation, and helps us to manage change. The next weekend session in 2017 will be in September.



Social Ministry by Beverly Peterson Social Ministry Chair

Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over.
Luke 6:38

There many ways that we can give to help others:

We will be collectng new white crew socks for the Compass Housing Alliance from now until the end of May. There is a basket in the Narthex. Last year we collected 156 pairs of socks. Let's see if we can beat that amount. These socks are very needed by the Compass Housing Alliance.

We continue to collect the following. You can put them in the small set of plastic drawer that is usually in the narthex on the coffee bar.

Campbell's soup labels and Education coupons: These are for school education

Tags from pop cans: These are given for Fisher House. Fisher House is a place for families to set when a family member is in the veteran's hospital.

Used or new eyeglasses: These are recycled by the Lion's club for low income individuals. Put the glasses in a Ziplock bag on top of the plastic drawers.

We also continue to collect food in baskets at the front entrance to the church. People need food every day. Please help feed them.

Another project the Social Ministry Committee is working on is a community garden. We need people who like to garden to help set up the above ground plots. We have a number of people that want to garden once the plots are set up. This is something we need to do soon so the gardening can start.

A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)

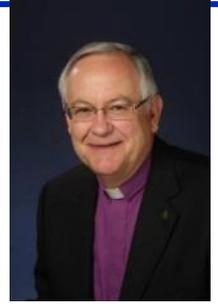
ARCH and the City of Kenmore is asking for the Kenmore Bothell Interfaith Group (KBIG) support to promote and encourage participation from our faith communities in an upcoming Affordable Housing Week educational forum that the City of Kenmore is holding on the evening of Monday May 15th at City Hall.

They are booking the panelists now. The plan is that they will do a presentation on the local needs (including more

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Let Anyone with Ears Listen!

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, NWWA Synod Bishop - From the May 2017 edition of *The Spirit*



What does it mean to hear?

During seminary, my New Testament Professor Harry Mumm tried to impress upon us the importance of being able to hear God's word. He shared a story about his grandson Ivan, who he and Mrs. Mumm were raising. When dinner time came around Mrs. Mumm would call out with a loud voice, "Ivan, it is dinner time!" Ivan would ignore her call.

A second time she would call out. "Ivan, come to the table - dinner is on." "Yes, grandma, I'm coming." But no Ivan. By the third or fourth time the appeal was more urgent, "Ivan, if you are going to get any dinner, you need to come to the table now."

Dr. Mumm went on to explain that Ivan had not heard his grandmother, until he appeared at the table. Luther had a similar understanding of God's word. For Luther, God's word was a dead word - until it addressed one's life in a way that demanded a response.

One of the precious gifts of serving the Office of Bishop is I frequently find myself in various houses of worship. Week in and week out, I watch people recite the liturgy, sing hymns, enter into prayer, and attend to the sermon. The words are powerful - proclaiming God's love, calling us to seek justice, encouraging us to be peacemakers, inviting us to be about forgiveness, and to become agents of reconciliation - there is even an invitation to come to the table.

The question I am pondering is, "Have we heard the word?"

Are these words just noise in the background that annoy us and otherwise interrupt our own personal desires? Like Ivan do we say yes and then carry on as if no word has been spoken? Like Ivan do we plan to eventually respond but not until we have to? Has the word in our time just become ritual? Has it become a word for Sunday only? Or does it still have the power to disturb us and inspire us.

The cornerstone of the Synod's Living Local movement is learning how to listen to God's word that we might hear it. Dwelling in the word is the discipline that teaches listening. We commit to reading the same text over a long time span always listening for what we haven't heard before. We become like little children who want to hear the same story read over and over again. In our household, it was Good Night, Moon. Kim and I knew it so well we would try on occasion to leave out a page. Believe me, we didn't get away with it.

The practice of learning to hear God's word is, in turn, applied to listening for God in the community by engaging our neighbors. This is so important because we never want to miss out on God's invitation to join in - in what God is already up to.

Grandma Mumm did not call Ivan to the table just to make his life miserable. Grandma Mumm called Ivan to the table that he might share in all that she had prepared for him. Not just the meat and potatoes, but the deep love of knowing that he was the apple of their eye.

Friends, join me in learning to hear the word of God. A word that continues to invite all of us to the table.

How was our Walk for Autism?

By Chris Hossienzadeh

This was a first for us. We did it though, through team effort. The walk went well. It was a cool, beautiful morning and didn't start raining until the walk was done. We even made it to church before it was over.

There is a lot involved with raising money for a cause. It is more than just mentioning what you're doing and what you believe in, but actually stepping out of your comfort zone and asking people to empathize with your cause, to care enough to stand with you for financial and moral support. It was our first of hopefully many more efforts to raise awareness for autism children and the need for support to those of us faced with the challenges that come with raising children who are truly special, who are unique and beautiful in their thinking. These children will grow up and change the world in a wonderful way.

A Glimpse into our lives

Our son, along with many, many others, both children and adults, face challenges daily, it is part of their lives. They are singled out sometimes, not called to be part of a group with others, talked about, have to deal with sitting in a classroom and doing activities that are not friendly to their overloaded sensory issues, internal issues, visual processing and stimuli but are still expected to go with the flow or else be judged and criticized. Can you imagine having to deal with these things all day long? Hold it together in front of your peers so you "fit in" and then come home and meltdown and shutdown, sometimes not talking at all because you have to process it all? Some days are way more challenging than others depending on what's going on in their environment and some days seem almost "normal". We thank God for good days and for medication that is working.



When I say these things, I am speaking personally, but please know that our story is not the only one, so many others are on a similar journey. Our intentions for raising awareness is so that others who don't deal with these issues are aware that they are happening. We would like for others to realize that help is needed greatly because many families, including ours, struggle to pay for supports needed for our children. Many times insurance does not cover the necessary (feels like a luxury when they're covered) care that is needed to help those with autism lead a thriving, productive life.

There is counseling, life skills therapy, medication, doctor visits, psychologists, evaluations, food restrictions, clothing (sometimes the texture of it is intolerable due to sensory issues), computer applications to make reading and writing more tolerable. The list keeps going. When we are trying to raise funds, these are the things that are helping families to be able to get these much needed services. Without the kindness and empathy of others who are able to assist, many families go without.

Thank you so very much to those who helped make this Autism Walk successful with your donations, time, thoughts and kindness. Please keep autism in your scope of awareness and stand with us in our journey.

Thank you

Ben, Chris and Adam Hossienzadeh

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Community Check In

By Katie Reardon

Community & Youth Outreach Coordinator

I am excited for May! As I enter into the last month of my internship I am currently managing three Kids Clubs in the area: Spencer 68 Apt, Timbers Apt and Northlake Grove. I have enjoyed the challenge working beside apartment coordinators and letting them set the speed for the growth of their respective Kids Club. Every apartment has a different need for an after school program during the year and finding that equilibrium to not force everything to be the same has helped. I once had a softball coach tell me, "Katie it doesn't matter how hard you throw it to first base if the first baseman can't catch the ball!" That's true with programming. It will not matter how fast I set things up or efficiently knock on the doors, IF the community isn't ready for it. I've said this a million times: Slow and steady.

In addition, to youth outreach I have also started to walk the neighborhoods on Thursday mornings 9:30-10:30. I use this time to reflect and pray on how I can have a bigger impact and where God is calling me to invest more of my time and NorthLake's resources. If you would like to come out on Thursdays to walk and chat for an hour or so I would love your company and to hear your ideas and thoughts as we walk!



Community Resource Day - Monthly Event!

If you are experiencing needs for resources in the areas of healthcare, housing, mental health, domestic violence, substance abuse, transportation and more, or have a serve to offer, then Community Resource Day is for you. This 2 hour event on **the last Friday of each month** brings together agencies who provide a variety of human services. If you need the services, or you would like to learn about the available services, please come to the next event on Friday, May 26th from 2-4pm at Cascadia College. Free parking is available in the North Garage. <https://communityresourceday.com/> Also, like us on Facebook to get all the latest information. <https://www.facebook.com/communityresourceday>

Northlake KIDS! By Katie Reardon Children & Youth Coordinator

April went by a little too fast for me! We can all feel summer getting closer and I am excited to continue encouraging our children and youth to explore and grow alongside Jesus! I am excited to build another step onto our CYFM this month. We are starting to plan fun events such as joining other youth groups for Whirlyball outings and creating events for our elementary group with Sunday movie matinee hangouts!

It's been humbling and exciting figuring out how to build our ministry to not just consistency; but also relationally and socially. This has not been the most fluid process and has taken a lot of work. It takes time. A lot of time. Really cool to look back over the last 4 months and see how God slowly built us up.

If you would like to read our monthly newsletter you can pick up a copy in the Narthex or click [here](#) to read online. Also, if you would like to be added to weekly Northlake KIDS! e-mail please contact me to do so. Katieout@northlakelutheran.org



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than just Kenmore), and what they see as priorities. They will have a panel that will be experts on the various approaches for affordable housing (private developers, housing authority, accessory dwelling units & non-profit developers). The point is that the public really needs to be there to hear about priorities of the cities and the approaches that are out there.

ARCH would like us to come up with questions for them:
What kind of data do we want to see?
What would be useful at the forum?
What questions do you think you or other people will have?

Email Bev Peterson at madrinabev@hotmail.com if you are interested or would like to present questions. Also let Bev know if you are interested in preparing gardening plots.

Foss Home

Foss Home is having Jeannie Opdyke Smith speak on "Story of a Holocaust Rescuer". Jeannie is an international speaker for the Jewish Federation of North America, a member and speaker from Oregon & Washington Holocaust Speakers Bureau, and speaks to various groups across the United States, Canada and the UK. The story speaks of the power of love and encourages the fact that "One person can make a difference!"

The time is 3:00pm on Sunday, June 4th. It will be held at the Shoreline Community College, Main Dining Room – Bldg 9000, 16101 Greenwood Ave N, Shoreline, WA. There will be a \$10 admission. There will be light refreshments. Seating will be limited. Contact Kim Hardwick at 206-834-2581 or khardwick@fosscare.org or the Foss website www.fosscare.org.

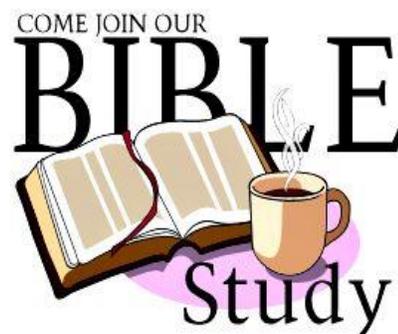
The Social Ministry Committee will be meeting on the 1st Monday of each month. Come and join us. We are looking into a number of other projects. If you can't make the meetings, please put any suggestions in the Social Ministry mail box in the work room.

(Continued from page 2) Pastor Anja

So many diverse images of what it means to mother, and I have not even mentioned Hagar, Hannah, Bathsheba, Rebekah, Rachel, Elizabeth, Mary, and many others. We tend to think of mothering as the softer side, and yet we are taught, through our Scriptures, that mothering means so much more. And so we learn we are blessed through this diversity of what it means to mother. And that, of all mothers, God is ultimate, bringing the most protection, the most compassion, and, of course, the most love.

To all you mothers out there, be you subversive, aged, bold, stubborn, compassionate, "butch," alluring, or any of the other shapes, sizes, and genders represented in Scripture... a most spectacular Mother's Day to you!

Tuesday afternoon Bible study will be starting again. Our first one will be Tuesday May 9th at 2:00 and every Tuesday following. Please join us as we continue the book of Matthew and explore God's word more in depth. Everyone is invited for this time of learning together!



The Surveys and the Mission Statement An Update The Redevelopment Team

A while ago we, the Redevelopment Team, prepared questionnaires for you to complete. We had a great response. Thank you!

While examining the results we learned that your number one priority is worship and prayer. Not far behind came everything else. It seems that we would like to prioritize it all. There's nothing wrong with that. It just leaves us with a serious challenge.

So, armed with those results we started to work on our mission statement again. Although you haven't heard from us lately, we are still working diligently. Having gotten through Lent and Easter we are meeting again and focusing on the surveys and the mission statement. Stay tuned we'll have another update in a month or two.

Save the date: August 13th 2017 Block party picnic at Northlake Lutheran Church



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