



NORTHLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NORTHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 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



Ready. Set. Grow!

Katie Reardon

Youth Community Coordinator

Entering my tenth month leading Children & Youth Ministries is exciting! I am so thankful for this continued opportunity to grow personally and be challenged in more ways than one! The school year has started and our kids are back to the grind of figuring out how to juggle friends, school, soccer, football -- you name it! I love this time of year. Fall sparks a season reminding us that change is beautiful!

Children and Youth Ministry is always in flux. I am constantly reinventing how I do my job, literally season by season. If I am not changing something each week or month, then I am not doing my job well. The change I have seen in myself and this ministry from day one to now is beautiful. It's been messy and I have not *always taken the easiest route, but it has led us to a really beautiful place. Our children's ministry went from three kids to seven, our youth ministry went from zero to 17. This is just the beginning as we continue to grow and change together this fall.*

This fall I am being more strategic in how I use my time to connect with the community. What relationships show the most potential? Where is Jesus in those possibilities? How do I grow them? All questions I have tried to become more aware of before taking things on. As of now my community involvement is one weekly Kids Club at Northlake Grove and joining the PTA at Kenmore Elementary. Hopefully allowing me to connect with a broader stroke than individual apartments.

You can learn more about what is happening in Children & Youth Ministries by reading our recent Northlake KIDS! Newsletter. For other questions or comments please contact me at Katieout@northlakelutheran.org or 336-528-4378.



What an amazing time to be here at Northlake Lutheran Church! Have you noticed the miracles happening all around us? Miracles of sheltering people who have no home, planning new ministries like a community garden, continuing time-honored ministries like stuffing backpacks, and starting new faith formation processes like SEED... the miracles surround us, and they are happening because of you.



In last month's newsletter article (missed it? [Click here.](#)), I mentioned the Worship & Music Committee taking part in the ministry of our October shelter by inviting us to light candles to pray for our guests. This is one of our miracles...coming together to do ministry across committees. What if we collaborated in all our ministries?

Many churches have independent, siloed projects going on simultaneously, each sponsored by a committee. This enables the congregation to serve in a variety of ways, but often hinders big dreams from moving beyond one committee's purview. Small churches doing big, amazing things tell me the entire congregation came together to make it happen. Their mission statement helps them dream a dream they make reality. It brings focus, enabling the merging of disparate forces into one miraculous power.

Later this month, we will vote on our new mission statement, a statement about building relationships. What a beautiful statement upon which to dream. Imagine if we dream together as one body of Christ of the relationships we may build, and ministries are born out of that collaboration? We could brainstorm together how we may each contribute, and then separate to plan in small groups.

Now wait a minute, you might be saying... this sounds great, but how much additional time and commitment is this going to take? Will we need more meetings for the whole congregation to do this brainstorming together? I'm already on 3 committees, attending 3 meetings per month; I don't have time to do more!

I know. I'm tired, too. And so I've been thinking about how we might dream big, collaborate as one community, and find a better balance in our lives... and I have some ideas.

I have asked Council if I might spend a few minutes during our October congregational meeting exploring this challenge, and how we might embrace it. At a high level, these ideas involve two major changes: moving all committee meetings to one Committee Night, and restructuring our committees to align with our mission.

We would have only four over-arching committees, each focused on building relationship: 1) with God, 2) with each other, 3) with community, and 4) with all of creation. Our Committee Night would begin by gathering together to collaborate on the ministries to be planned that evening. We would then split into groups, and attendees could choose which ministry and relationship they feel most called that evening.

How could this possibly work, you might ask? How will the business of the church get done under this model?

I am hoping we will figure that out together over the next three months (October 29th – January 28th) in dialogs where each of us, with God's help, searches for answers to these questions. I am convinced that to find these answers, our questions must change from focusing on the blockers to focusing on the opportunities.

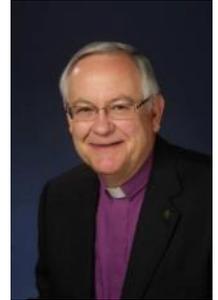
If we have the dream, God will show us the path.

What an amazing time to be here at Northlake Lutheran Church!!

Who's at the door?

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, NWWA Synod Bishop

From the October 2017 edition of *The Spirit*



Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. +Hebrews 13:2

It was completely dark outside when the doorbell rang repeatedly. Kim and I were watching TV and I said, "Who could that be?" It was clear from the look on her face that she had no idea. I was dressed in all my grubbiness with a head of hat hair having worked outside most of the day. I hurried to the door, open it, and did not recognize who it was. Slowly it became apparent to that it was my neighbor down the street. I had never seen him without his hat on.

Before I could say anything, he said to me, "Kirby, can you help me?" He immediately followed up with, "I need your help." I was prepared to answer him with "of course" when he placed in my hands a gallon sized zip lock bag filled with fresh tomatoes from his garden. By now my heart was beating pretty fast and I am sure my demeanor indicated my concern. It took me a moment to adjust to the fact that it was just my neighbor's spirited way of sharing the generosity of his garden with us. We had a good laugh and I knew he was delighted that he took me by surprise.

What makes this story even more delightful is that this is the neighbor that our kids had a fear of when they were little. He had a gruff way about him that was just rough enough to scare them. We didn't know then that he was truly a Teddy Bear in disguise. For years he walked the neighborhood with his dog. One day I noticed his dog was not in tow. He broke into tears as he explained that he had to put him down. Now every time I am outside my neighbor stops to chat.

What saddens me is that today we are living in a time when most of us don't know our neighbors - even at the most basic level.

I grew up in a neighborhood where we knew all the neighbors. It wasn't unheard of to simply place a light knock on the door, open it and announce yourself. These were the neighbors that if you needed an egg or a cup of flour you didn't think twice about asking.

As a teenager, I was none too pleased with how well we knew our neighbors. If I was squealing my tires or speeding, the report of my behavior often reached home before I did. It was bad enough having one set of parents let alone half the neighborhood.

We now live in a time where many people fear their neighbors or live in suspicion of them. The fear elevates even further if our neighbors are recent immigrants or people of a different color.

The scriptures are a powerful reminder that we never know who is knocking on our door and you, like me, might be surprised that the person knocking is hoping you will receive the gift they have in store for you.

What's Going On...

Congregation Annual Meeting

The annual congregation meeting will be held at 11:30 on Sunday 29 October 2017.

Some of the agenda items will include election of some new Council members, voting on the new Northlake mission statement and approval of Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church status.

Please make it a point to be with us on the last Sunday of October.

Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast of the United States and was one of the most catastrophic storms to hit the country in more than a decade. Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria were among the most powerful storms ever recorded in the Atlantic, leaving widespread damage across Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other locations in the Caribbean.

Give through your congregation or make your check out to "Lutheran Disaster Response." On the memo line, write "Hurricane Response" and further indicate a specific area if you desire (eg, Puerto Rico). Send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 ELCA Gift Processing Center
 P.O. Box 1809
 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

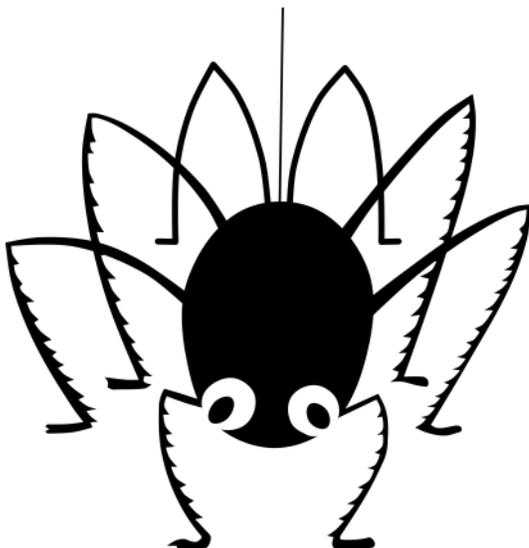
Mexican Earthquake (with relief directed to the hometown of Pastor Emilio Benitez and Pastor Esau Cuevas, who serve in our synod)

Emilio and Esau are from the small town of Jojutla in the state of Morelos. Jojutla is quite near the epicenter of the earthquake. Here is information about the destruction in Jojutla: <http://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/from-terror-to-grief-for-people-of-jojutla/>.

Relief often goes to the big cities, so this appeal is for support that will be used for assistance in Jojutla. All funds will go to Lutheran Disaster Response, who is working with its Mexico partner AMEXTRA. (<https://www.amextra.org/index.php/en/>)

Give through your congregation or send a check payable to "NW WA Synod." On the memo line, write "Mexican Earthquake." Send to:

Northwest Washington Synod
 5519 Phinney Ave. North
 Seattle, WA 98103



Monthly Offerings: Actual vs Budget



As of end of Sept:	
: 2017 Budgeted Offering	126,717
: 2017 Actual Offering	98,849
: Budget to Actual	-22%



Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Synod Family,

In 2013 we were gathered as the Conference of Bishops when the shooting at Sandy Hook took place. A dark cloud of dismay and grief took over the mood of the Conference. Together we wrote a public statement on violence. ([Read it here.](#))

It was a hot topic in the public square for weeks before cooling ... until the next shooting took place.

This morning I woke up to the horrifying news from Las Vegas trying to determine the hour of the shooting knowing my daughter was scheduled to fly out of Vegas Sunday evening. It was a relief to know she made her plane connections.

When we gathered as a Conference this morning our preacher Bishop Terry Brant of the Eastern North Dakota Synod had to rewrite his sermon given the tragic news. Again dismay and grief took over.

Friends, my heart breaks for the dead and injured and all who mourn.

I invite all of us to examine ourselves when it comes to our own acts of violence - whether it is the rhetoric we use over and against those who see the world differently than we do - or the gestures or voice we use when we are cut off in traffic.

Violence begets violence.

Peace begets peace!

We must be about peace.

Bishop Kirby Unti

Northlake Highlight

This is a new article in our monthly newsletter highlighting an individual or group who help create a warm welcoming environment every Sunday. Northlake is blessed beyond measure to have many hands working non-stop behind the scenes each week!

This month we recognize Ken Musgrave. Ken is literally a jack of all trades. He can be seen fixing electrical wiring, plumbing, painting, working media on Sundays and leading our property committee. There is rarely a week when we do not see Ken working after hours here on the building in some way or a Sunday where he isn't involved in a leadership role. Ken has been a member of the church since the late 60's. He and his wife Linda got married at Northlake Lutheran in 1971.



Thank you Ken for your acts of service and always jumping in when needed. We are so thankful for all you do and appreciate the sacrifice you make when spending time at church when you could be hunting or fishing!

SOCIAL MINISTRIES . . .

“God is able to do far more than we would ever dream.” Ephesians 3:20

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR NORTHLAKE GROVE

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection of school supplies for Northlake Grove and help fill the backpacks. We had 21 kids this year. The appreciation of the parents and kids makes this a really fun project. We delivered them on August 23rd.

HOPELINK - We will continue to have a basket just inside the front entrance of the church for ongoing food donations to HopeLink. Please continue to remember them on your trips to the grocery store or with a gift of money.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

“Nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted.” I Corinthians 15:58

You may have noticed in the fellowship hall there is a small 3-drawer plastic container. This is to collect items that will help the community. They include:

- Tabs from aluminum cans, which will be given to help support the Fisher House. The Fisher House is a place used by families of those in the Veteran’s Hospital.
- Education Top coupons that are found on grocery items. These are given to support our schools.
- Campbell’s soup labels also to support schools.

Volunteer . . .

As with all aspects of our lives, in giving we get so much more out than we put in. Volunteering is a blessing to us as well as those we serve. Put your time and talents where you feel they are most important in your life. Pray about it, listen to God, and then volunteer.





The Back 40

Katie Reardon

My daddy has a heart, mind & soul of a farmer - something for better or worse has been passed on to his four children in some way or another. Every story he tells usually goes back to a time when he built a bachelor pad out of a tobacco barn, and living there with no electricity. Or the time he grew watermelons, raised cows... you name it. Like most men from a small rural town everything comes down to owning land, working with your hands and usually raising something....

Last Spring, I took on the vision of revamping what I consider NLC Back 40. It started out simple with just me, a rake and shovel spending hours in the rain and mud. Then the project moved to organizing a community work day that brought Northlake partners together - over 40 people showed up for a long day of clearing out blackberry bushes and cutting grass!

That was phase one. The purpose of phase one was to allow me to run summer programs at the church. I needed space for kids to run around and I needed programs to keep up with them in the summer. So, I took this bigger than life project on to help me in youth ministry.

Phase two was the side portion of the woods that holds the trail which leads to Northlake Grove. Jerry Wagner has spent the entire summer spraying and spraying blackberry bushes to stop them from growing. Alas, through a lot of creative volunteer opportunities and resources that area got cleared out this month! It really is amazing! Phase two was to help make our wooded area safer for the community. I am hoping to put some picnic tables back there, solar lighting and what not.

Now I am onto phase three: which is the back side of the fence that holds my humble soccer field. Scheduled to be done before Spring with the help of a lot of volunteers. If you would like to know how you could help or if you want to share farming stories of your own please let me know.

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