



NORTHLIGHTS

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Reconciling in Christ
Redevelopment
Social Ministry
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Northlake Lutheran Church's Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome!

Our Mission

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

- † God
- † Each Other
- † Community
- † All of Creation



Members of Northlake Lutheran Church are committed to fulfilling the acts of Jesus Christ.

We are also part of a larger church; a church that believes in caring for all and advocating for those who don't have a voice.



Believing that all are one in Christ, whether believer, doubter or seeker and being aware that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender 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 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.

Pastor Anja Helmon

This year, we hear the good news of Easter through the Gospel of Mark. Early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome are walking to the tomb, full of grief and burden, preparing to anoint their beloved, Jesus. No one told them it was April Fools – Jesus was not there!

I love that Easter falls on April 1st this year. Just imagine the April Fools pranks we could play on Easter Sunday. One pastor told me he was considering hosting an adults-only Easter egg hunt this year since they don't have any children. He wasn't going to hide any eggs... just send them out, and when they returned frustrated, say, "April Fools!"

I wonder if Jesus ever played any pranks. Maybe he was the fun kid to hang out with when growing up. Just imagine the fun he could have... turning water into wine, telling the other kids they could walk on water if they just had enough faith....

Holy Week is such a heavy week. We need a little levity to brighten it up at the end. As if the resurrection itself wasn't enough. Maybe we need the levity because the resurrection doesn't really feel real. Not to us. Not today. Not anymore.

It's hard to put your faith in

everlasting life when we see so much life expiring around us. Young life. Student life. Hopeful life. Personally, it's even harder to put my faith in the concept of the *kin-dom of God being here and now when I witness, every day, political leaders hurling personal insults in an attempt to avoid the tough discussions that are needed. When it seems as though nothing changes from day to day, as though money continues to rule our hearts, our laws, and our relationships, I struggle to remember that He is risen! (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!)

I just returned from attending the annual Chrism mass, in which both the Episcopal bishop and Lutheran bishop preside and preach, giving pastors an opportunity to simply worship. This year, the Episcopal bishop preached, and he spoke of the current outcry against sending "thoughts and prayers" in response to the violence we see. As a pastor, it's hard to hear this. After all, we're in "the business" of sending thoughts and prayers.

We must remember that when the public decries thoughts and prayers, what they're really demanding is to stop using those thoughts and prayers as an excuse for delaying or avoiding actions. After all, "faith, by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17).

We, as Lutherans, are adamant that our salvation, our eternal life, is assured regardless of our works.

But somewhere along the way, we forgot that salvation in THIS life of those without money, without food, without homes, DOES rely on works. For when we do not share our food, people go hungry. When we refuse to help the stranger, people sleep in the rain. When we do not demand action from our legislators, nothing changes and people continue to die. Young people. Hopeful people.

And so, as we yell, "He is risen!" may we remember that the resurrection does not let us off the hook. For we are the body of Christ. We are the ones who are meant to continue the story. The story of healing. Of loving. Of turning the world upside down.

Jesus died and Jesus rose. Now it's our time. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work. And as we dive into the serious business of bringing the kin-dom of heaven to those on earth who desperately need it, let's not forget to have a little fun.

Anyone up for an adults-only Easter egg hunt?



*I often use the phrase "kin-dom" instead of "kingdom" to communicate the sense of God's world being one of being kin with one another, where all are included, loved, and empowered, regardless of whether they may be kings, queens, or none of the above.

And Who is My Neighbor?

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod
From the April 2018 edition of The Spirit

The story of the Good Samaritan is teed up with the question from a man of the law, "And who is my neighbor?" It seems an easy question to answer on first hearing it. After all, you know who your neighbors are. Right? I mean, you may not know them by name, but you know who they are. Right?

Growing up my neighbors were the Strucks next door, the Russells on the other side, and the Mendenhall's across the street. I could add the names to a few houses in each direction. They were our neighbors. It meant we greeted one another, we borrowed eggs and sugar, and, when there was a block party, you could count on them being there. When I became a teenager, they were the people who ratted me out for speeding in the neighborhood.

The Good Samaritan story quickly points out that "neighbor" has a profound meaning in the scriptures as it stretches most everyone's understanding of neighbor. Neighbor is any - and every - child of God.

You may have heard that in lieu of our traditional Synod Assembly Business Meeting, we are having two gatherings this spring: June 2 at Saint Andrews (Bellevue) and June 9 at Bethlehem

(Marysville). Everyone is invited to be a part of these gatherings as we come together under the theme of WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? These gatherings are not limited to "Voting Members" only. In fact, you are encouraged to bring a whole crowd from your congregation.



Throughout the day we will be exploring how to be neighbors in a world in which "neighbor" is approaching being placed on the endangered species list. There will be three forum times with over sixteen options from which to choose. They are designed to help us more fully understand how we can be "neighbor." The topics range from global music to earth ministry; from congregational hospitality to community partnerships; from listening to leadership; from human trafficking to being ally and advocate for our neighbors of different color, orientation, economic status, faith, or nationality.

Be sure to head over to www.lutheransnw.org/2018-Synod-Gatherings to review the complete listing of forums, talk it up with your church family, and get registered online between April 2 - May 15.

Serving as your Bishop I have discovered that there is a growing hunger in our territory to be together – to gather as neighbors. I sincerely hope I will see you at one of the gatherings.

*See page 7 for article on Synod Gatherings

RIC Update

Much has been happening in the background since the congregation's vote to join the network of Reconciling in Christ churches that welcomes LGBTQIA+ and all the other wondrous, diverse manifestations of our fellow human beings. Here's a sample of what we've been up to:

- Northlake now appears in a search for welcoming congregations on the [Reconciling Works web site](#). Can you find us??
- With a new Reconciling in Christ team meeting time, two new attendees added their passion and opinions to the discussion. Our next meeting is @ 5:30 on April 9th. We would love for you to join us!
- With Council's approval, the existing men's restroom's will be turned into family restrooms, each with a lock and the upstairs restroom will include a changing table and pad. Watch for this exciting change soon. This is a critical step in becoming a welcoming congregation.
- We've received our RIC certificate from Reconciling Works.
It will be hung in a prominent position in the church soon!

Written by: John Helmon



M.I.L.K. Money

Every May, the Northshore School Foundation collects spare change through a program called *M.I.L.K. Money* – Making an Impact on Learning for Kids. The money goes to help support students in the district experiencing homelessness by supplying school clothes, supplies and books, as well as yearbooks, school pictures, graduation fees and other school-related costs, like a sleeping bag for camp.

There are about 200 students who could benefit from the collected funds. Since 2010 M.I.L.K. Money has provided more than \$40,000 to vulnerable students who qualify for McKinney Vento Services*.

Look for the milk bottle in the Narthex and donate some change if you feel led to support this effort.

*The McKinney-Vento Act is federal legislation that has been in effect since 1987 to support children and youth experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. The intent of the McKinney-Vento Act is to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll and succeed in school. The school district receives no funding assistance to provide these programs and relies heavily on Foundation funding to meet the needs of students. Find out more at www.Northshoreschoolsfoundation.org/milkmoney

Written by: Cindi Engelhardt

Dear Northlake-

I am sadly writing you to let you know I am stepping down from my responsibilities as a staff member. I wish you all the best as I take time to discern God's call and plans moving forward in possible other roles.

I appreciate the many who came alongside me as we served the community over the last 15 months. I appreciate the many of you who gave me strength and energy to follow a unique vision to bring ministry inside and outside of Northlake Lutheran.

I wish you all the best and hope to cross paths again in the future.

Blessings
Katie Reardon.



Chuck's House –

In 2000, following the sale of property to Compass/LATCH of the property that was to become Northlake Grove, the church decided to buy a house to be used for developmentally disabled persons. It was named in honor of Chuck Brenchley, the son of one of Northlake's members. Chuck's House presently houses four persons, although over the years the residence has dipped as low as two persons. There is a fulltime staff member employed to care for the residents.

Northlake has used the services of a rental manager which also provides the staffing for the home. They collect the rent from the residents' families and make a payment to Northlake. The mortgage has been paid down significantly and we are now able to route a sum of money to our Chuck's House Reserve Fund, being saved to handle any unexpected repair expenses. This and all other expenses for Chuck's House, are maintained entirely separately from Northlake's general budget and funding.

Over the years, the Northlake congregation has shrunk and members have aged, leaving us less able to have working parties at Chuck's House to deal with routine maintenance and cleanup tasks. Overall, the Northlake members who are still aware of this ministry are very proud of the facility we have provided for the past seventeen years.

Recently, there has been some interest to buy Chuck's House from Northlake by a non-profit that owns other similar houses for the developmentally disabled. On May 6th after worship there will be a special congregational meeting to assess interest in selling the house.

Written by: Rick Heinbaugh

Food Bank Closes

On May 14, 2013 the Hopelink satellite food bank at Northlake Lutheran Church opened its door. This food bank replaced one that had recently closed in Bothell and was designed to continue service to residents at the north end of Lake Washington. Initially the food bank served 15 or so families totaling around 30 individuals twice per month.

Over the years, however, the number of clients decreased to the point where Hopelink and Northlake decided it simply was no longer a viable operation. After almost five years it closed on March 27, 2018. In its place Hopelink will supply Northlake with emergency bags of groceries to be distributed as necessary to people requiring immediate help.

Many thanks to the Northlake volunteers who gave of their time and talent to help run the food bank. Pictured here on the last distribution day are left to right, Rick Huling, Jerry Wagner, Molly Murdock, Ken Musgrave, and Jo and Al Boyett. Others who have recently volunteered include Sandy Rath, Cindi Engelhardt, Andy Houg, Nancy Huling, and Derek Huling.

Written by: Rick Huling



Synod Gatherings

This year, instead of the Synod Assembly that focuses on voting and policy decisions, the NW Washington Synod will be asking members to spend some time together to explore what it means to be a neighbor. There will be conversation, learning, worship and engagement around the theme of “Who is my neighbor?”

These Gatherings will be held on Saturdays from 8:30 to 4:30 at June 2 @ Saint Andrew's in Bellevue or June 9 @ Bethlehem in Marysville. There is a \$40 charge per person. If you are interested in going, please contact Pastor Anja and we should be able to cover the charge.

This is a great opportunity to connect with others to discuss this area of focus for us at Northlake, that we are created, called and challenged to be in relationship with our community.

Written by: Rick Heinbaugh

*See page 3 for Bishop's Message



The **Kenmore Community Garden** is underway! Our first work party was held on St. Patty's Day. We had over 40 people in our community all pitching in to build a new garden for the people of Kenmore. So far, we have 8 plots built and filled with a healthy soil including a truck load of free “Zoo Doo” from Woodland Park Zoo. We have two other plots built but not yet filled with soil. Gardeners have the choice to share a plot, decreasing their yearly work load and rent, by half. This gives us the ability to serve even more people in our community.

Currently, we have 7 plots spoken for and many more people that are enthusiastic about the prospect of tending to their own garden. Our goal is to have 22 plots for the gardeners in our community. Each plot will be 80 square feet of growing space. The cost of a plot is \$50.00 per year, as well as 8 required volunteer hours dedicated towards the betterment of the garden. We have 12 plots left to build and 14 plots to fill with soil. Our waiting list is growing which is a great testament to the sincere need we have for a project like this in our community!

We are hoping to raise enough money to continue building the plots, so that gardeners can begin their spring planting. The city of Kenmore may be donating as much as \$3000 towards our project. This money would be allocated to soil, as this is our biggest expense. We would be so very grateful and hope to have more donations from the local businesses and community members in Kenmore who believe in this worthwhile project.

One of our shared goals is to help feed the homeless and sheltered in our community. We look forward to the day when we can offer fresh fruit or vegetables picked from our gardens.

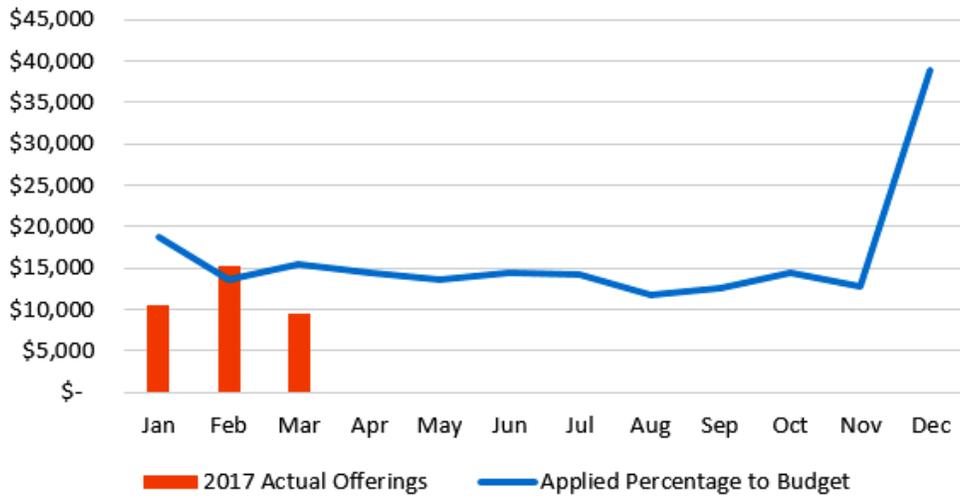
Thank you to our committee members, Hans Hoener, Jerry Wagner, Dave Lowe, Lisa Keller, Jim Poland, Heidi Braund and Pastor Anja for the group effort it took to get the beautiful project on it's way. **Thank you** to Vicky Newland for the delicious sandwiches we had on St. Patty's Day for our volunteers!

A special **thank you** goes out to Woodland Park Zoo for their gift of Zoo Doo!

Donations for the garden can be written out to “Northlake Lutheran Church”. Please specify “Garden” in your memo line.

Written by: Heidi Braund

Monthly Offerings: Actual vs Budget



As of end of March	
2018 Budgeted Offering	47,691
2018 Actual Offering	35,306
Budget to Actual	-26%

Hello Northlake Lutheran church,

I hope you all are coming out of Winter now and looking forward to a beautiful Spring.

I am personally very excited for what I am seeing around the church in regards to community involvement. I was so excited to see the community garden boxes up a few Mondays ago, and look forward to seeing all the fun things that get planted in them over time. One of my favorite Sundays with you all so far has been, of course, the annual Reconciling in Christ Sunday. I know those of you who have gotten to know me are not at all shocked by that. Creating the rainbow slideshow, inclusive bulletin, and helping serve communion that Sunday was a treasure that I cherish.



Nicole McKnight

The *NorthLights* editor is Nicole McKnight. Please send articles or calendar items you would like included in the Summer quarterly newsletter to:
 office@northlakelutheran.org
 by May 14th or earlier.
Thank you!



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Pastor Anja's Sabbath: Friday

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