

# GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

March 2022

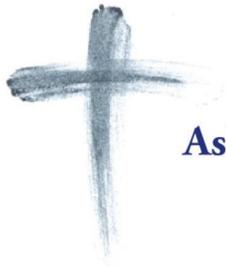
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## Pastor's Ponderings

A couple of months ago I suggested that the Ghanaian concept of sankofa could be meaningful for the Church today. In a book study this week I learned that the concept holds the importance of reaching into the past to discover what has been forgotten but essential for wellbeing. That is part of what the intention is for what we will do in our midweek Lenten worship this year; we will “reach back” to retrieve spiritual practices to reconnect and recenter ourselves as people of faith now and provide grounding from which to grow into the future together.

Lent is traditionally a time when believers “give up” something to help ourselves focus more intentionally on our relationship with God. The three areas of typical focus are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charity, providing for “the poor”). Sometimes rather than giving up meat (or chocolate or alcohol), what is “given up” is time—through the addition of new activity (i.e. serving, committing time to devotion or study, or other spiritual practices). Our Lenten Wednesday services will encourage you to add spiritual practices to your life as the theme of this coming Lenten season. BSLC’s fledgling Creative Worship team has chosen this focus as a way to help us back into community in a way we hope rejuvenates both our spirits and souls after such a long time apart.



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

As such, and assuming COVID rates will stay down, our Holden Evening Prayer worship will be wrapped around various spiritual practice “tasters” (brief introductory experiences) inspired by Psalm 103: “Let all of me kneel before God’s Holy Name” (based in a series by Rolph Jacobson, found on Luther Seminary’s Working Preacher website). As Rolph writes: “This Lenten series focuses on our bodily worship of the Triune God. When we come to worship, we are to engage all of your bodies in the art and act of worship — our heads and our hands, our knees and our arms, our lips and our eyes, our ears and our flesh. Biblical worship is not a disembodied activity, but an embodied reality.” Each week we will engage briefly in spiritual practices that you may choose to practice more fully over the weeks of Lent and beyond, to enrich your own spiritual life.

On Ash Wednesday our frame will be body and breath. We will use “breath prayer” as a reminder of life in addition to the ashen reminder of our mortality. The following weeks we will use spiritual practices highlighting other parts of “all of me” coming before God:

3/9	mouth	Taste and See	3/30	eyes & knees	Examen Me
3/16	ears	Holy Listening	4/6	feet	Blessed Are the Feet
3/23	hands	Mold Me & Make Me			

I hope you will “come and see!” *Pastor Jean* ([pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com](mailto:pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com))

## From Evan Snyder, Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministry

It is with much sadness that I must share that the ELCA Youth Gathering has been canceled due to complications related to COVID. Please be with the youth in their disappointment and be with them as the search for an alternative summer retreat is explored. The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be in 2024. We plan to do something extra fun with the youth this summer to “make up for” missing out on the gathering.

The search is still on going for a new Youth Director, may God guide them to us. Thank you for all your guidance and support during these times of transition.

~Evan Snyder, Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

Sundays-- 9 & 11 **Worship**

10:10 **Faith Formation**--children

12:00 **HS Youth Group**

3:00 **Antiracism Study Group**

5:00 **Confirmation Class**

Wednesdays--10:30 **Bible study** via zoom

4:30 **Children's Choir** 5:30 **Bell Choir** & 6:30 **Adult Choir**

Thursdays--10:00 **Bible study** in person; 10:00-2:00 **LWR** (quilting & more)

Monthly Meetings: 1st Sundays **All Congregation Faith Formation Event** 10:10ish AM

2nd Sundays **Council Meeting** 12:30 PM

3rd Thursdays **Peace & Justice Meetings** 6:00 PM

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### **Volunteer Contributions (Accounts Receivable) Data Entry Person Sought!**

After 19 years of volunteer service, Sue Calvert is “retiring” from being our Contributions Secretary. We are so grateful for her years of dedicated service! (please share your gratitude with her!)

We are looking for someone (two ideally) to data enter weekly contributions into our software program, PowerChurch. Knowledge of Excel is helpful. If this is something that interests you, please contact Sue: 360-892-7553, or email at [sue\\_ric@outlook.com](mailto:sue_ric@outlook.com). This volunteer position only takes a couple of hours a week and Sue can train you.



**First Communion Class** for anyone wanting to learn or to be refreshed in their learning.

**March 20 at 1:00 PM.** Let Pastor Jean know if you are interested in yourself or a family member participating so that she has the right number of resources.

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### **BIBLE & BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** with Pastor Jean meets via Zoom at **10:30 AM**. Current focus: moving on in Genesis. Receive a Zoom link from Pastor Jean [pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com](mailto:pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com)

**Thursday Gather Bible Study** meets in person at BSLC, **10:00 AM**. For more information contact Nancy K. (contact information available through the church office).

**The Anti Racism Zoom Study Group:** Sundays from 3 - 4pm. Current book *Jesus and John Wayne*  
This group is open to all willing to engage in frank but respectful conversation. People have come and gone as their schedules have allowed. It's a fruitful way for us to wrestle with our values as people of faith and to work toward greater justice in our nation. For the Zoom link, contact [pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com](mailto:pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com).

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### Next All Congregation Faith Formation Event (March 6<sup>th</sup> between worship services)

#### ***“What I/we learned/tried during the pandemic ...”***

In recognition of our having made it through two years of COVID limitations, for our March event we will share stories with one another about what we've learned (learned to do, learned about yourself or some new interest...). If you have tangible things to bring for some show and tell time—great! If some of you learned something that you'd like to demonstrate or teach (*like just how DO you create sourdough starter?*), please let Pastor Jean or Karen C know in advance, so plans may be made accordingly. **Let's celebrate how we have not only survived these two years, but grew!**

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### Lenten Musical Meditations @ Beautiful Savior

Stephen Janzen, our church musician, has planned the Annual Three Musical Meditations for Lent. Please join us on Thursday, Mar 10, 12:15 PM; Thursday Mar 24, 12:15 PM and on Thursday, Apr 7, 12:15 PM with special guest, Karl Albrecht on viola/violin. These free musical events, about ½ hour in length, will also be live streamed via Facebook (uploaded to YouTube for later viewing).

**Thank you, Stephen, for sharing your gift of music with us!**



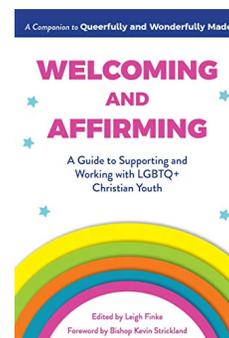
We are currently looking for folks who would be interested in serving on the church **Stewardship Committee**. This is critical work that helps put together the annual giving campaign. We would really like to see this committee grow beyond the campaign and focus on stories highlighting the great work in the community that is supported by BSLC. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Church Council liaison to this committee, Bill Oman at [bill.oman2@yahoo.com](mailto:bill.oman2@yahoo.com) or call 360-241-6455.

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### Vancouver BOOK STUDY hosted by The Jubilee Collective & Messiah Lutheran

Members of the Jubilee Collective community (a new start congregation associated with Messiah Lutheran) will be hosting a weekly study this Lenten season and the invite us to participate. They will be using Leigh Finke's book, ***Welcoming and Affirming, a Guide to Supporting and Working with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth***, to shape Zoom conversations **Thursdays, March 3 - April 7, 5:30 PM.**

The *Welcoming and Affirming* discussion group is for anyone who wants to learn more about LGBTQ+ people and create space and relationships (especially with youth) that



reflect the unconditional love of God and celebration of LGBTQ+ identities in a Christian context. It will also be an opportunity to familiarize oneself with LGBTQ terminology, including what that acronym itself stands for, why many LGBTQ+ folks use the term queer, why pronouns are important, how to handle difficult conversations, and how to be an ally for queer adults and youth. **Here is the link to register:**

<https://bit.ly/welcomingandaffirming>

Various members of the collective will lead the sessions each week. For example, pastoral intern Jae will lead a session on the Bible verses historically used to ostracize and condemn the LGBTQ + community of believers. The reading will also reveal passages that affirm the presence of queer identities and relationships within the scriptures. Supplemental videos and articles will be included in the sessions, but participant conversation will be the primary goal and substance of the sessions.

Evan will participate in the study group, and will be available if you want to have further conversation after a session. **The *Welcoming and Affirming* book may be [ordered here](#).**

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### **So Let's Talk SOGI (Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity) Workshop**

**Participate as a group onsite at BSLC or from your home**



- Have you ever wondered about the difference between *sexual orientation* and *gender identity*?
- Are you curious about vocabulary that may be new to you, such as: *gender expression*, *cis-gender*?
- Are you wanting to expand the holy work of welcome, inclusion and celebration of LGBTQIA+ people in church and society?

**THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!** On Thursday, **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5 PM** the SWWA synod invites you to join an online training provided by our partner, ReconcilingWorks. During this 90 minute workshop we will learn helpful vocabulary, skills and tools to support us in our ministry of welcome. This workshop is for everyone with an open heart and mind! Registration is \$35 and can be completed through this link:

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/talksogie/> (If this cost is a challenge for you right now, please reach email Pastor Rebecca Shjerven, Bishop's Associate to find out about partial reimbursement for your fee: [shjervrl@plu.edu](mailto:shjervrl@plu.edu))



**The Winter Shelter at BSLC** is starting to wind down for the season. Our last night of the shelter is March 15. *We are so incredibly grateful for your past and present support of this caring and vital ministry.* Thank you! Cheryl Pfaff **Check out the Sign-Up Genius to find open dates still needing filled:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0849A4A623A2FC1-bslc2>

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### **Love Letter to the Earth by Thich Nhat Hanh**

Dear Mother Earth, Each morning when I wake up you offer me twenty-four brand new hours to cherish and enjoy your beauty. You gave birth to every miraculous form of life. Your children include the clear lake, the green pine, the pink cloud, the snow capped mountain top, the fragrant forest, the white crane, the golden deer, the extraordinary caterpillar, and every brilliant mathematician, skilled artisan, and gifted architect. You are the greatest mathematician, the most accomplished artisan, and the most talented architect of all. The simple branch of cherry blossoms, the shell of a snail, and the wing of a bat all bear witness to this amazing truth. My deep wish is to live in such a way that I am awake to each of your wonders and nourished by your beauty. I cherish your precious creativity and I smile at this gift of life. *Vietnamese Buddhist monk and Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh died on January 22, 2022. This letter was shared through the online Emergence Magazine, with permission of the publisher.*



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## Lutheran World Relief

Our BSLC LWR team, and LWR at large, has been blessed with a terrific partnership gift from Immanuel Lutheran's LWR group. Due to many factors, the Immanuel group is taking a hiatus from completing quilts they have been working on since before COVID. Not wanting to have completed quilt tops continue to accumulate and sit in their closet, they reached out to us to ask if we would take the quilts and backs that they had paired. With a bit of negotiation concerning batting, an agreement was reached. Yesterday, 68 completed quilt tops and backs and two rolls of batting were delivered to Beautiful Savior. [They still have 73 which they did not bring to us!] A wonderful gift for the world community!



I would like to set up some extra quilt tying days, in addition to our regular Thursday work days, so that we can move this bounty out of the storage tubs and into shipping boxes in May and October. The congregation will be asked to support this effort, too, as we will need many more hands than we currently have as regular participants. PLEASE, give me your feedback about participating in preparing this bounty of quilts for needy recipients across the globe.

Are you available to come in during the week (M, Tu, W, F)? What do you think about Saturday work sessions? Sunday after church?

It would even be possible to pick up a "laced" quilt and take it home to tie then return to the church for finishing. (We had a young couple in the past who used to do this once a month - initiated by the young husband who used to tie LWR quilts with his mother and grandmother.)

**Also, we can definitely use some sheets for quilt backs. In good condition. Cotton preferred or cotton blend. Flannel is OK, too Regular size is great. NOT white, please. [We have plenty of white sheets which need to be dyed and the dye factory is not functioning very well right now.]**

So, PLEASE let me know your ideas, availability, etc. Blessings! Sharron



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## Gathering and Building Use Updates

As long as the rate of COVID infections remain on the steep decline or they stabilize at a low rate as anticipated, we are moving back to less restrictive practices. There is hope that we will be able to gather without masks when the Governor's mandate is removed March 21st. We plan to again have people receive communion from the front of the sanctuary.

It has been asked "Why can't we share food again if the shelter folk are able to eat in the same room." People sheltering our building eat for survival, fellowship related eating and drinking is not in that category. For the time being we will continue to not gather around food, even as we have strong hopes that we will again be able to do so before too many more months pass (dare we hope for Easter treats?!).

With that in mind—are you willing to organize teams to handle coffee hours or potlucks when we are again able? Unless there is leadership identified to facilitate, we won't be able to move forward. (our former organizer is now working Sundays).

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## Two Years In...

It's now been two years since my family and I arrived in Vancouver, and very near the time when we closed down on site activity two years ago, thinking it'd just be for a few weeks. A lot has happened and changed on one hand, while alternately, so much has been stalled, including our coming into fuller relationship. With being cut off from you, the congregation, and also the need to learn, adapt, and juggle on the fly, I know I missed making important connections these years. This was especially so with those who were unable or uncomfortable participating in virtual gatherings or studies. For some folks, it's turned out to be too late to make those connections.

Our congregation experienced a significant number of people who have died over the past two years. My own family has experienced the loss of several family members over these two years—some quite unexpectedly, none directly of COVID but a number part of the extended effects of isolation in COVID. That's made me wonder how much loss your families have faced, including as repercussions of the pandemic times, that haven't been comfortably shared with a basically unknown pastor. Kept apart for so long, we haven't been able to process grief as a faith community or easily "be there" in support of one another. We've had to go through hard times "alone" much too often and spirits are lagging. Is there personal grief that you are still holding on to from that time that I could receive and process with you now? Are there other conversations you would like to have with me about what you've experienced these years—struggles and growth stories?

Having had five to seven people come together to make virtual worship happen once a week from the beginning of isolation meant we were among those never as fully isolated as some of you, I know. How did you cope? What strategies helped you through the worst challenges? What did you learn about yourself/ves when interactions were so limited?

The first year brought about the most disconcerting sense of disequilibrium. And yet this last year has had its own dampening effect upon our lives. Though the second year offered more opportunity to see people in person—and for more than half the year we were able to gather in worship again, things just haven't "felt the same". Some of you were especially not happy with mitigation processes such as signing up to make sure we didn't have too many people show up for worship, but overall we adapted to new realities just so we could be present with one another. After coming together in increasing numbers for a while, new variants of COVID brought new limitations for a few weeks. None of this is news to you, just reiteration of so much we've gone through, mostly apart. What are you looking for in the months ahead? What ideas do you have to help us all reconnect with one another? We've never "been here before" and so it is going to take our collective thinking to create the most conducive conditions for moving beyond languishing and surviving so that we are again thriving. Together we have a "collective genius"! Let's come together to share!

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## Refugee Restart Kits

Most refugees arrive in the United States with next to nothing, but you can help them rebuild their lives by putting together a restart kit. We are collecting for bed kits. Please purchase new items and if you pack a full tub, do not tape the tub closed. We also encourage you to include a hand-written, unsealed note welcoming the family.



A Century of Health, Justice and Hope  
Est. 1921

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**Bedding Kit** Choose to create a twin, full or queen kit.

Write size on kit label. Each kit is to include:

- Comforter
- Blanket
- Sheets & pillow cases
- Pillow(s) (1/twin, 2/full or queen)
- Mattress pad

Questions? Please contact BSLC Coordinator Nancy S: (541) 810-3029 or [nancylutz.scott@gmail.com](mailto:nancylutz.scott@gmail.com).

**Update on the Afghan family in case you missed the eblast with this:**

*Mr. and Mrs. P and their 2 beautiful children moved into an apartment within Bill S's elegant condo. It was outfitted with donations from the church for bedding and other restart kits from the LCSNW storage. They were moved in from the Extended stay hotel by Lynda H, Leslie Q, the care manager Shirshah of LCSW and myself. Bill's neighbor Nancy P welcomed the family with a big bouquet of flowers and Leslie Q provided toys for the children, I left nuts, chocolate and oranges and Bill provided juice and pastries. Bill plans to buy a vacuum and Chad H will give Mr. P a tool kit so he can do repairs in the neighborhood for extra money. I will bring over a TV and lamps my friend has donated. Sharron B has offered quilts and baby items for the baby which is due in about 5 months. So you see, our village of a church is surrounding them in loving care already. I will hope to share a photo of the family later on when it feels appropriate to ask to take a picture of them. In the following weeks the family will be busy with medical appts., education through Clark Community college to learn English and Mr. P will be working on finding employment. Thank you for all the support and open heartedness for this growing family. Nancy S*

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**BSLC's Next Red Cross Blood Draw *Friday, March 4th, 2022***

**QUESTIONS about donating blood? THINKING about it but not sure yet?**

**Over the age of 16?** Check out [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or contact Sue N.

First-time donors are welcome, and treated with TLC!



Our February 5th Shred Day Fundraiser was a success, and we thank everyone for coming out to support it. 217 cars dropped off boxes/bags of paper for shredding. \$1,720.00 was raised for building materials for homes in Tijuana. **BSLC's next Shred Day is Saturday, April 16th, 10 AM - 1 PM or until the shred truck is full. \$5 suggested donation per banker size box (two box limit).**

## MEXICO 2022

**New Opportunity! A Silent and Live Online Auction** will be another way that Mexico Mission 2022 will raise funds. There will be various items available for bid online (more about that soon). *If you would like to donate new items for bidding that would be much appreciated!* Please contact Rebecca Bafus at [rebecca.bafus@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.bafus@gmail.com) or call Kathy at 503-329-8075 with questions.

The mission is scheduled for July 30 - August 5, 2022. We feel hopeful and pray we will be able to raise enough to build three more homes in Tijuana, Mexico. We need your help and support to make this happen. (Due to the pandemic lumber prices have gone up tremendously.) Also: you are welcome to join the team and attend planning meetings preparing for the summer trip. As always, thank you for your support. Kathy Esparza

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**ELCA GLOBAL MISSIONS: STARS, with Greetings from Pastor Chris Manisto and Steve**

Hi everyone! Pastor Chris and Steve here. We just had a great ten days here in Cairo sharing this place with Rick and Ann Giles. We are sure they will share stories of their adventures with you. Somehow, we

managed to pack a ton of sightseeing, food tasting and life experiences into what seemed like a few short days which was just awesome! The thing you mostly need to know is that they did some amazing work here for which we and the community are so grateful. Providing hearing aids to 33 people (including kids)



which was a miracle for the families touched by this gift. They also spent time with staff and were all around great sports no matter what we threw at them. Thanks to all who supported them through prayers and through donations for their trip here. So we had this idea that we wanted to write a bunch of notes to people to say Hi but wow there were too many to write. So here's a hello to you all! We had some time to catch up on how things are going there with them both and it sounds like while COVID has been hard (in some cases impossibly so) y'all with your wonderful Pastor Jean have weathered it well and just keep going

which is an amazing miracle in itself. If anyone else wants to visit Cairo our doors are always open. In the meantime have fun hearing about Rick and Ann's adventures. In peace, Pastor Chris and Steve PS. One shout out to Griffin--we saw the Columbian article! Way to go!!!! We try to keep up on all the confirmation kids and are always so amazed at what everyone is doing!

Pastor Chris and Steve serve the St. Andrews Church in Cairo Egypt and if you would like to support the important work of their ministry here's how:

- Prayer is always welcome and so appreciated!
- Financial support is also necessary for the continuing work and is greatly appreciated.
  - Individuals may make donations via their missionary sponsorship page [community.elca.org/Egypt](http://community.elca.org/Egypt). Please include the giving code: **GS 2061**.
  - **Or through snail mail:** ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO box 1089, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

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## “WORDSMITHING” with Kathe Yorkers

Let's look at some “church words” that people “in the know” know and others may have to guess. These refer to parts of the church building so they are architectural terms.

The first word is **narthex**. The definition of *narthex* reads: “In early Christian and Byzantine church buildings, a porch or vestibule just inside the main entrance, and at the opposite end from the altar.” And further “Any vestibule leading to the nave of a church building.”

Which leads us to the word: **nave**. Its definition reads: “The main body of a church building, situated between side aisles and usually having a clerestory.” (from the Latin *navis* meaning *the ship*). Many churches incorporated the visual element of a ship in their design.

Which calls us to look at **clerestory**, also an architectural term: “The highest story of the nave and choir of a church building, with windows opening above the aisle roofs, etc. for light and ventilation.” It is from the word for clear + story. Perhaps our highest platform in the room with the altar would possibly qualify even though it has no ventilation except the nearby exit door.

The fourth word is **sacristy**. Its definition reads: “A room in a religious house for the sacred vessels and vestments; vestry.” We would call it an altar guild room, ideally with storage for altar cloths, communion and baptism vessels and supplies, candles, banners, and robes. Also the place where communion would be prepared and worship leaders might robe, or vest.

