

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER

June 2022

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Pastor's Ponderings

Since last September, we have been following what is known as the *Narrative Lectionary* (NL) to guide our Sunday morning scripture readings. You may have noticed that most weeks there is only one longer reading, rather than three to four shorter readings, and some of the festival Sundays didn't use the scriptures "heard every year" when we use the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL). In the fall we experienced what it's like to stay only within the Hebrew Scriptures. Advent (December) transitioned us into a prolonged walk through the Gospel of John. After Easter Sunday, we moved into the book of Acts and the letter from Paul to the Philippians until the last Sunday of the season, Holy Trinity on June 12.

Over the past year several people at different times remarked on how much the lingering withing the "Old Testament" and then the book of John, captured their attention and moved them to think about the Bible stories in fresh or new ways. For my part, I enjoyed considering familiar readings at times of year I wasn't used to hearing them; I felt that I, too, experienced scripture anew, including becoming more appreciative of the various "through lines" this way of engaging scripture revealed.

To "mix things up" a bit, the NL keeps the summer a bit more flexible. There *are* readings available, but also encouragement to try something creatively different, or to start a series. After conferring with the creative worship planning group, we will have three one month "series".

- In June we will use one of the favorite readings I alluded to above, 2 Cor 8:1-15, as our grounding scripture (paired with a gospel reading); our "theme" will be *Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity*.
- In July we will delve into exploring how the Bible speaks to matters of economic justice.
- Then in August we will do a first of what I'm considering being an annual celebration of creation, and our interrelatedness with and entrusted responsibility for stewarding creation.

The whole summer is going to be a bit of an experiment in and of itself, as we wander a bit from a more familiar path. I hope you will join me in a differently shaped "dwelling in the Word", then let me know what "works" and what doesn't quite fit who we are.

In the fall we will again delve into *Narrative Lectionary* appointed scriptures. It is the year of Matthew (when we get to the gospel). If you want to know what else we will cover, you may check out a scripture that is across the hall from the congregational timeline (hopefully the lighting will soon improve). I wonder what we will learn with the coming year's focus? How about you?

Blessings as we continue this faith journey together. *Pastor Jean*

Special Congregational Meeting on June 5 (starts between 12:15-12:30) Submitted by Nancy Kingston, Council President
The council is calling a special congregational meeting for Sunday, June 5, after the 11:00 service, to provide general conversation about BSLC at this time in our life, and to vote on two important items: a change to our bylaws about when



newly elected council members become active, and after discussion about the state of our church building and necessary repairs and/or replacements, a vote for funding reallocation and possible need for an appeal. *Please plan to attend this important meeting to help in our collective decision making.*

Pending Spring Clean-up “Purge”

Over the years a number of things have come to be stored in our facility. Accumulation of "stuff" dates back years, but was added to during the COVID lockdown. Items have been gathered in the middle part of the fellowship hall. Now that the building is back in more active use, we need these things removed so we may use all of our meeting space again. If you believe some of the things being stored belong to you, please take a look, and take home anything of yours that find. **After the Special Congregational Meeting June 5th, the remaining items will be disposed of.** Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. *Your Property Committee*

Youth Leader Search update:

While we have received an e-letter of interest from a promising looking candidate, we need to have deeper conversation as a congregation about the level of commitment (financial and participatory) that exists to support this ministry. HR needs your input (youth, young adults, and all active participants of the congregation).

During the special congregational meeting on June 5, there will be limited time for making comments, but we will not take a vote or make motions on this matter. A special meeting for youth and their families, young adults, and others with passion to support youth and young adult ministry (and planned outreach), will be shared on June 5, if not before.

Summer Schedule for Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Because a good portion of our congregation delights in the opportunity to worship outside, but others have some trouble walking on the uneven ground, we will have a summer of “both/and”! We will alternate worshipping inside or under the tent (but outside needs to always be weather dependent for safety and comfort).

- June 12 is inside so that we are best positioned to enjoy the last musical offerings of our voice and bell choirs until the fall.
- June 19 we will be under the tent
- June 26—guess! (You are right—we will be inside)



Campfire Wednesday Worship

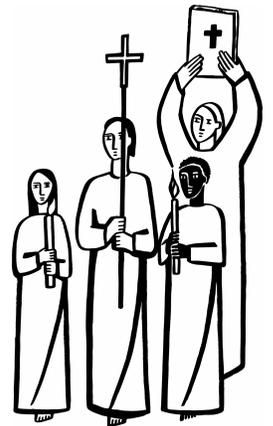
Are Sundays full of outside activity for you in the summer so participating in worship doesn't quite fit as well, but a week without worship doesn't feel right either? A Summer Alternative is on its way! Evan and Pastor Jean are starting a summer worship experiment around a fire pit, under the tent, once it is up, or under the evening sky.

At 7:00 PM on Wednesdays starting June 15 (weather permitting), we will share in Holy Communion, hear and engage with scripture together, and sing (if the people gathered are comfortable lifting their voices in song. If you play an instrument, you can bring it, too, to help us make a joyful noise. Bring your lawn chairs and flexibility and we'll discover together what works for those who gather.

Worship Leader Training (*Acolyte, Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, Reader*) *Young and old and all in between are welcome!*

Interested? Weigh in whether Sunday 19 after worship clean up (about 11:30), Wed. June 22 at 5:30 or Sat. June 25 at 10:00 works best for you.

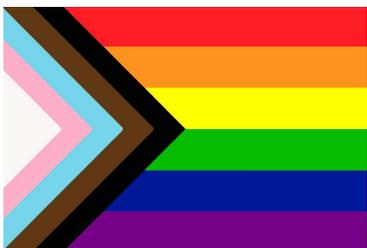
Usher and Greeter training also possible for interested people



Home Visitor & Communion Team Training

With an increased number of people unable to participate in worship services on site or through technology, Pastor Jean would like to train a team of people to participate in home visits and share communion "from the table" of those who are able to gather. Whether you are already experienced (and trained) or not, please join Pastor Jean on **Saturday, June 11, 2022** at 10:30 to find out more about this very important and needed ministry opportunity.

"Summer of Pride Clark County"



As we turn the calendars to June, I think of "Gay Pride Month". Yes, we all know about Portland's big gay pride parade on June 19, BUT what is happening on this side of the river?

Well, the first event I found was "Pride Block Party" on Saturday, June 11, 1pm - 7 pm. The gathering starts in front of the Dandelion Teahouse & Apothecary located at 107 W. 7th street, Vancouver.

Admission: FREE. Activities include music, fashion show, food, and just an overall opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones.

In Vancouver, there are ongoing open mic events at two locations for the LGBTQIA+ community. So, you might ask, "what is an open mic"? These venues offer an opportunity for you to read your favorite poem (perhaps one that you wrote?), a short story (maybe 3-4 minutes in length), play a musical instrument, or belt out some vocals!! Don't find yourself in any of these talents? Another super way to participate is being an audience member to cheer, clap, or snap your fingers.

The two locations are:

Mon Ami....weekly on Thursdays, 5:30-7 (1906 Main St.)

Dandelion Teahouse & Apothecary...third Sat. of each month 3:45-5:30 (109 W. 7th St.)

Happy June, everyone./Janelle Petersen

P.s. from PJ: Support the La Center LGBTQIA community by participating in **Rainbow Walk 2022** on June 4th, 2022. The festival is from 11-4 at Holley Park and Community Center, with the walk beginning at 12 the west end of the La Center Bridge.

And on **June 19**, we hope to have a group of us at the **Portland Pride Parade**, ideally IN the parade with other ELCA Lutheran representatives behind a banner! Stay tuned for more (or step up to organize us!)

BSLC's Congregations Lead Team's Report

What is the Congregation Lead Initiative?

The Congregations Leads Initiative seeks to unleash & harness the collective genius of congregations as we discover new & useful ministry innovations for the sake of this work

that God so loves. This two year program is about rekindling our passion/joy for the work of God in our midst for those of us already here and as a way to welcome new and younger folks into our midst. **Who is involved?** Representatives from approx. 28 ELCA synod congregations nationwide.



What we've done so far –

- Learning Event 1 – Nov. 11th – 13th – (Zoom)
- Meeting with our Coach – Meridith Harber – Dec. 21st - Zoom
- *Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community!* – (aka Strength Finders) – Feb. 23rd (Zoom and on our own)
- Learning Event 2 – April 29th -30th – (Zoom)
- Monthly meetings with our team – Pastor Jean, Kathie Fitzgerald, Ann Giles & Karen Cleveland – *in person and Zoom*

Our **“assignment”** from our Learning Event 1 was to conduct at least 14 one-on-one interviews. At least 50% of these interviews were to be with individuals who are not a part of our existing congregational community. Our topic for our interviews was focused on

“Forming Community”. (The questions we are asking are below, so that you have them to weigh in if you’d like!)

Our team met in person In April to do a “How Might We” exercise. We took the notes from our interviews and looked at common themes and insights, then came up with these categories for recurring responses:

- Play & Fellowship
- Inclusivity
- Expand a sense of Holy
- Rethink Worship
- Define a sense of Direction/Purpose
- Online presence

At our Learning Event 2 we learned how to try and expand on these ideas. We practiced how to Brainstorm & Mashup. Now the really fun part begins! Until the end of the year we will be doing three “experiments” with BSLC. Might sound scary but it’s not – we promise! Our first event will be a BBQ with a Twist on August 14th after service – we’ll be providing the main course – watch for more information.

How can you get involved?

- Pray for us as we go through this process
- Ask questions – contact any or all of us with your questions
- Be open to these experiences – we are trying things that may or may not work
- Know that it’s okay to not be successful – not all of our “experiments” will work – and that’s okay – it’s all part of a learning process.
- Feedback – please feel free to give us your comments & feedback – that’s how we will learn & grow
- Contact one of the team to participate in a one-to-one conversation about the questions below. (*Have you been wanting to be asked? We acknowledge that we did not get as many interviews done as we would have liked – life can get busy!*) We do want to hear from you! Please give us a call, email or grab us when you see us in the building, to share your thoughts. We would love to generate some good conversation with you.

Share with us Your Responses to these Expanded Community Conversations Questions

1. What makes you feel part of the community? What makes you happy?
What is a challenge?
2. What are some happy memories about being part of a community? (*Any community*)
3. What are some things you are missing from “community” now?
4. What are some things that might be good to include in our church community?
(*no answer is wrong – let’s dream big and share ideas!*)

Excited to be on this journey with you!

Karen Cleveland, Ann Giles, Kathie Fitzgerald, Pastor Jean

Timeline Activity Expansion Thank you for all who have added notes to the timeline board. The first “prompt” was to write about what was going on in the congregation, community, and country (aka history) around the time you first began participating at BSLC. You are asked to add notes about later times, as you have time.

To broaden the picture this activity is beginning to provide, let's expand a bit more. Please add information about **key events and changes**, as you remember them (i.e., **building expansion, community garden established, winter overflow shelter began, crisis points—yes—these are important to note, extra special celebration points, etc.**). If you remember when the various **youth leaders** served (or when members took on that role), please add that information, also (that info is not all recorded in the history). **What else would be interesting for those of us not here at the time to know?**

TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES



Bringing the City sewer line to the Church's property line required removing a number of large pine trees within the Iron Gate Storage property line. (*Thanks to everyone who donated toward this general project!*) The City requires that BSLC plant 14 new replacement trees on BSLC property to complete the project. These trees must be 6 ft tall, a certain diameter, and we are required to plant them this year. It is estimated that each tree will cost about \$200.

If you wish to sponsor a tree in memory or honor of someone in your life, those contributing \$200 per tree may have a marker or small plaque placed with "their" tree. **ANY AND ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME.** Flyers to indicate memorial or honor designations are available at the BSLC building, and will be included with e-blasts in June.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

+ Last All Congregation Faith Formation until the fall

Sundays-- 9 & 11 **Worship through June 5;**
(*Summer schedule starts June 12, worship at 10:00*)
3:00 **Antiracism Study Group**

Wednesdays-- 10:30 AM **Bible study** via zoom (link from pastorjean@beautifulsaviorlutheran.com) 6:00 PM **Youth Group**

Thursdays--10:00 **Bible study** in person; 10:00-2:00 **LWR quilting**

Monthly Meetings:

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

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

BIBLE & BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Jean meets via Zoom at **10:30 AM**. Request Zoom link from 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. *It Could Happen Here: Why America Is Tipping from Hate to the Unthinkable—And How We Can Stop It*, by Jonathan Greenblatt. We meet on Zoom. For the link, contact Pastor Jean.

All Congregation Faith Formation

June 5th - Journaling: Do I See What You See?

We don't always see (or feel) the same way others do. Let's explore how our views can differ, and how we can be more accepting of differences. Bring your journal and a pen or pencil.

What animal do you see?
(There are two possibilities.)

For more information please contact
Karen Cleveland 360-931-2189 or karenc@windermere.com



Lutheran World Relief -- Gifts of Hope!

Hope remains in the forefront of our minds as we travel through the season of Easter heading toward renewal at Pentecost. We see flowers, trees and shrubs bursting forth with new leaves and beautiful flowers and we see Hope surrounding us.

Lutheran World Relief sends Hope and Love abroad wrapped into kits and quilts each spring and fall. Our Spring contribution was 58 quilts, 97 school kits, 50 personal care kits, 8 baby care kits and 11 fabric kits. Many lives will be touched with these gifts. Many futures are made brighter just as spring flowers brighten our lives.

Once again, we are also making quilts and market bags for the families receiving houses built by the Mexico Mission Team.

We invite you to be part of this Hope and Love by supporting your LWR teamwork as you have done in the past. LWR faces demand for Personal Care kits that far exceeds the supply created by congregations such as ours. The developing world continues to be burdened by many needs created by Covid 19 and LWR shelves are nearly bare!

Our fall Personal Care Kit goal is typically 100 kits. To help meet the increased demand faced by LWR, we would like to increase our kit numbers. This is only possible with your support. For 100 kits we need 100 bath towels (27" x 54"), preferably in darker colors, 300 four ounce bars of soap. AND One toothbrush, one sturdy comb and one nail clipper per kit, often purchase the last 3 items in bulk. We try to purchase towels for about \$3 each. Good quality towels are available on special at JC Penney's, Kohl's for about this price and at Target.

School kits, Baby Care Kits and quilts remain in our fall shipping plans!

School kit needed items Per Kit:

- **Four 70 page spiral notebooks**
- **16 – 24 box Crayons**
- **5 Unsharpened pencils**
- **5 ballpoint pens/ blue or black**
- **LWR Backpack bag**
- **Student Scissors**
- **Handheld pencil sharpener**
- **Baby Care Kits – Goal 15: New or gently used items** can be used for kit items. Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used.

Please wash and mend used items

- **Need lots of T-shirts**
- **2 or 3 bath size bar of gentle soap per kit**
- **Jacket (with hood preferred)**
- **Pull-on pajamas – no snap crotches, please (2 per kit)**

Lutheran World Relief work days continue Thursdays, 10 – 2

***Thank you for your continued support. You are important partners to the work we do.
Many hands (and hearts) make light the work!***

MEXICO MISSION 2022 *GRACIAS!!*

Where do your donations go?

All donations go to the Mexico Mission to build houses for those with no shelter. Nails, paint, wood, windows, doors, and roofing plus small cash disbursements go to each family. There are no administrative costs.

2021: Single mom with 2 children gets a house and BSLC quilt

How much did we earn at the Mexico Mission Dinner?

We earned \$7,300.00 at the Mexico Mission Dinner and Auction. Thank you!

What do we still need?

We always need your prayers and support. This is God's work on earth, and we are honored to participate.

Money not spent in the current year is rolled into the next year so we can build as many houses as possible.

What are the challenges?

The price of wood has gone up, amigos! It cost \$1,950.00 to build a house in 2019. It is now \$3,000.00!

What do the Mexican Mission Volunteers pay out-of-pocket?

Each person pays \$200 + plane fare out of pocket toward:

1. Plane fare, food, and all personal expenses
2. Housing fee in a safe compound associated with the Lutheran Church across the street.

Please consider joining us in 2023! Youth over 16 are especially welcome. The date of the next trip will be decided soon. (Possible dates: June 17-23; June 24-30; or July 8-14)

How do the Mexican Mission Volunteers raise money for the mission?

1. Mexican Mission Dinner
2. **Shred Day events in the church parking lot. The next one is June 18th from 10:00–1:00.**

Gracias Amigos! Members of the 2022 team give gratitude for your prayers, support and donations.

Ray Smith, Jim Mansfield, Chad Hertle, Xan Hertle, Jim Montgomery, Rebecca Bafus, Brent Bafus, Asya Valentine, Austin Esparza, Laurie Langieum, Kathleen Murphy, Heidi Maize, Bev Questad & Kathy Esparza

Next Community Shred Day - Saturday, June 18, 10 AM

Two banker-size boxes are the limit, \$5 donation suggested/box.

Proceeds supports the Mexico Mission house building project.





RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD

1:00 PM - 6:30 PM

CONTACT: Sue Nolan/ 360-903-1644 / nolansuzy57@comcast.net OR go directly to redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment!

Lutheran Disaster Response - in Ukraine

Lutheran Disaster Response supports refugees and displaced people around the world. According to a recent publication, more than \$4 million is now helping people in Eastern Europe.

ELCA's Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla shares this statement:

"I see God walking with the refugees, with the people who have been displaced. I see God at work in the families opening their homes in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania. I see God in the volunteers serving with churches, the Red Cross and other institutions, giving of their time to care for those now coming their way. I see God dying in the streets of Ukraine. But I have hope, because I see God in the midst of God's people....We will walk with the people of Ukraine to rebuild their homes and their lives. That's where I see God. That is where our hope lies -- in the God of life, who is present, even amid death."

Donations may be made through BSLC or directly to Lutheran Disaster Response. A specific designation may be noted on the memo line, such as "Eastern Europe Crisis Response."



God's Work Our Hands Sunday (Sept. 11)

As part of the ELCA, we are invited to participate with other congregations across the nation, in a Lutheran Day of Service. The idea is to be visible in the community en masse, fulfilling some need (or needs) within our "neighborhood". Some congregations organize "outdoor" (i.e. trash clean up, community trail maintenance, ...) and "indoor" opportunities (packing meals or making sleep

mats and delivering them, or whatever need a community partner suggests). This initiative provides a fun way to build community among our members, to make connection with people outside our faith community, and provide some visibility for our congregation.

Is one of your gifts comfort in talking with others (to call and check in on needs with a few possible community partners)? Or are you gifted with an ability to organize others in a joint event? Do you have the vision to identify short term/one-off needs in the community that our congregation is equipped to respond to? Let's get a team formed and try out a day of impact (and fun!) together! Contact Pastor Jean or a council member to step up.

Membership is Optional! However, if you want to find out more about faith matters as seen through a "Lutheran Lens" or have general faith questions, don't hesitate to let Pastor Jean know so she can arrange conversation—either as a group or one to one in a coffee (?) shop.

Baptism Preparation: If you want to explore being baptized, or you wish to have a child baptized, let Pastor Jean know so a date can be arranged!