

# The Quill

J U N E 2 0 2 0



## Queen Anne

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The Quill is available the in narthex and at [www.queenannelutheran.org](http://www.queenannelutheran.org). If you would prefer to have a copy mailed to you each month, just contact the church office! Likewise, if you receive The Quill in the mail and would prefer not to, just contact the office.



# the Pastor's WORD

## Is Church Essential?

Memorial Day Weekend has a double significance this year. Not only does it mark an opportunity to honor those who have risked their lives in service to our country and died; it also marks a time when certain church leaders are inviting their congregants to *risk their lives and the lives of others* by gathering in person for worship well before the threat of the coronavirus has abated.

Perhaps you have read about this in the news. According to the *San Bernardino Sun*, evangelical pastors throughout the state of California have vowed—against regulations established by Governor Gavin Newsom—to reopen their churches on the last day of May, Pentecost Sunday. Indeed, some have already begun.

The timing could not be more appropriate, at least according to Pastor Danny Carroll, who plans to reopen the doors of his Southern California megachurch on Pentecost against the governor's regulations. After all, Pentecost commemorates the birth of the church, a day when the apostles, newly empowered by the Holy Spirit, converted 3,000 people to faith in Christ. What better way to signify being “born again” as a worshipping community, Carroll thinks, than by gathering again in-person to worship on Pentecost just as the disciples did?

A plethora of other Southern California evangelical pastors agree. They see the ban on in-person worship as unfair. If “essential businesses” like Costco can remain open, they wonder, why not churches? Others among them appeal to the constitutional “right” to worship, apparently even if it risks human life and spreads disease. Still others insist they—not the government—should be able to decide what is safe and govern themselves. “We want to be treated as adults and citizens,” says Pastor Matt Brown of Riverside. The government allows us to gather for community service, he points out, so why won't it let us gather for worship too?

Pastor Brown's perspective is especially telling and should give us pause. One can certainly sympathize with his wish to be treated as an adult, but the best way for that to occur, in my opinion, is to *start acting like one!* Here's how: when it comes to the ban on in-person worship as a matter of safety, stop complaining that “it's not fair.” Stop putting yourself, your desires, and “your rights” before the safety of others, and stop grumbling that the world doesn't view you and your church as “essential.” The church's worth does not depend on what the world values—and at its best it never has.

Once we Christians stop thinking about ourselves, our rights, and our “needs,” we can get back to the business of what being church is all about, namely, the needs of our neighbor. Instead of pretending to be “reborn” on Pentecost by asserting our “right” to gather and put others at risk, we can observe the holiday this year by remaining apart. What a grand testimony that would be to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the power that transforms us from being men and women who live only for ourselves into men and women who live for others (see Philippians 2:4).

By transcending our own interests for the sake of others, it turns out, we not only potentially save lives. We also become “essential” to the world, not by providing certain goods or services, but by offering a counter-example to the pervasive “me first” mentality, especially when it helps spread Covid-19.

May God through the Holy Spirit empower us to make the safety of others our highest priority, this Sunday and every Sunday thereafter, so long as it be necessary.

—Pastor Dan

## FROM THE CANTOR

I know you're feeling this just as much as I am: *It's been a strange couple of months.*

We're keenly aware of *absence*. An empty building. A family gathering delayed. A summer vacation cancelled. As your cantor, the suspension of community song is especially unsettling—even a small group gathered to sing for recordings hasn't been possible for weeks. And, as I write this, we also must mourn the loss of dear ones in the absence of one other. (And please know that I do grieve with you.)

As the Body of Christ, nothing is natural about the absence of community. Christians *gather* to receive God's gifts. It's what the Spirit would have us do—who “calls, *gathers*, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith,” as Martin Luther explains the third article of the Apostles' Creed (emphasis mine). Whether in upper rooms or in great cathedrals, we *gather*. And when the people of God gather, they *sing*. As Luther puts it, “For God has cheered our hearts and minds through his dear Son, whom he gave for us to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. He who believes this earnestly cannot be quiet about it. But he must gladly and willingly sing...” (*Luther's Works*, Vol. 53, p. 333).

When will we sing together in community again? Or offer instrumental music together? As your cantor, together with Pastor Dan, the staff, and all the QALC leadership, I'll be keeping an eye on the phased re-opening of our area. I hope that we can gather small groups to record music for *Word Out* soon, when it's deemed safe and appropriate to do so. In the meantime, I'll continue to record music and hymns for *Word Out*, and there may be possibilities to include some home recordings from QALC members, too. Plus, keep an eye out for my “Handwashing Hymn” videos of hymn stanzas lasting about twenty seconds to help you (and your kids!) scrub well per CDC guidelines (special thanks to Terry for the excellent suggestion). And, I've recently completed the first in a series of videos featuring some of the great organ repertoire on our world-class instrument. You'll be kept up-to-date about music in the Friday emails, and be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel.

Even in the absence of our gathered community, we still sing as individuals, as families sheltering together—as *temporarily* isolated members of the Body of Christ—awaiting the time when we can gather together again and sing God's promises to each other. One of my colleagues on Facebook shared part of a favorite hymn stanza for a recent church newsletter article. In fact, it's from a hymn that was in the “suggestion box” last summer at QALC:

My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing? (ELW 763)

Keep singing in the endless song of new life through the Spirit! Pentecost joy and peace to you.



Kyle Haugen, Cantor  
cantor@queenannelutheran.org

*"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace."*

2 Corinthians 4:16 (MSG)

It's a relief to hear that others, even the disciples, felt discouraged and felt that things were falling apart on them. Don't know about you, but life isn't easy for me right now.

There is the good, like Sunday worship, going out for a walk, a fun (though distant) contact with family, the sunny days and blooming flowers, or sharing a particularly good meal with my hubby. Love the morning cups of coffee, reading the paper and sharing comments, and watching something fun on TV.

The not good is working in isolation, wondering if what's posted on line for [forkids@home](mailto:forkids@home) is helpful to anyone or even looked at, thinking how to reach out to neighbors or to help in the community, wondering if my postcard writing encouraging people to vote is worth the time, and connecting to siblings and family in distant places.

Not good is missing summer travel and having to cancel events like a high school graduation and family reunion. Not good is frustration in trying to cancel tickets and the time consuming process of calls or emails to get results, and watching discouraging news in order to stay informed.

If you've heard the saying "Change is the only constant," thank the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who believed that the universe is meant to be perpetually in flux. Seasons keep changing, rivers keep flowing—even our cells replace themselves. We've got change!

## Peace.

It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.



"What I like most about change is that it can be a synonym for 'hope.' If you are taking a risk, what you are really saying is, 'I believe in tomorrow, and I will be part of it.'" —Linda Ellerbee, journalist

The disciples probably felt unsure, scared, and feared for their safety in their changes, but they stayed motivated to be a part of a new tomorrow. The good news is that the same Holy Spirit, guiding and inspiring the disciples, is with us today in our changes.

Can we stumble along, learn patience and what really matters, do what's possible in creative ways, and remind ourselves that not a day goes by without God's unfolding grace to help us live in the new tomorrow, in change.

How are YOU? Let's stay connected. And Peace be with you.

*Terry Anderson,*  
Children's Ministry Coordinator



## Families Enjoy ForKIDS@HOME Activities

Every week, new ForKIDS activities can be found on our website. Look for the "ForKIDS@HOME" button, or click the link on the **Word Out!** page. Worship at home brings families together and closer to God. Look for Terry's weekly letter to parents for additional ways families can serve others during this challenging time.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND FAITH

### Marking the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day (April 22, 2020), came and went with little fanfare. We were all busy with another crisis, COVID-19. Many scientists, environmentalists and activists have been sidelined or distracted. While restrictions of the pandemic have led to significant lifestyle changes that have benefited the environment, some were accepted reluctantly, and most may be eagerly forgotten when things get “back to normal.” Even though the travel ban and “stay at home” orders have led to a cleaner planet, scientists are still predicting the hottest year on record globally.

Despite the suffering caused by the pandemic, we have the opportunity to take advantage of this time. “COVID-19 has forced the world to pause and take stock, providing us with a unique opportunity to make changes that will benefit the planet and all the people on it,” says Annette Kennedy, president of the International Council of Nurses.

One way to think about the COVID-19 pandemic is that “it is climate change at warp speed....That speed focuses the mind and offers lessons in how to think about risk in an interconnected world,” says Gernot Wagner, a climate environmentalist at New York University. “For years climate scientists have been calling on governments to “flatten the curve” – that is to reduce emissions to lessen the likely catastrophic toll global warming will exact on societies in decades to come.”

### So what are we to do when we are unable to gather?

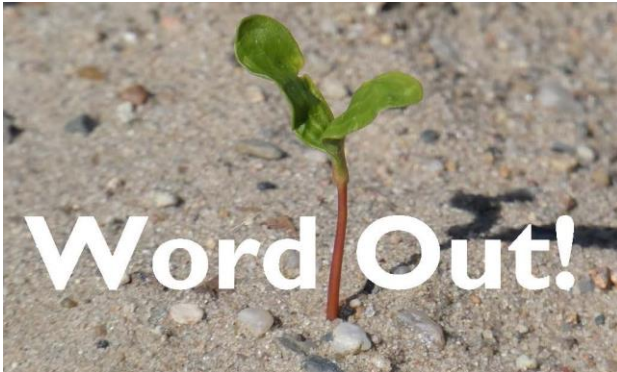
- You can still speak out at every level of government to remind them that climate change is a priority; for example, you can ask that funding to combat climate change be a priority in Pandemic Recovery legislation.
- With extra time at home, look at what you can do in your own back yard – add a compost bin, a rain barrel, improved irrigation. Make your own alternatives for Round-up and other commercial gardening products.
- If you have moved, make sure to update your voter registration.
- And finally, get informed! If you have children, grandchildren or are a teacher, *The Parents' Guide to Climate Revolution: 100 Ways to Build a Fossil-Free Future, Raise Empowered Kids, and Still Get a Good Night's Sleep*, by Mary DeMocker has wonderful ideas. For a deeper dive, *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken, offers 100 techniques and practices that can have the most significant impact on climate change.

For me, COVID-19 has resulted in a slower pace, an appreciation of my neighborhood, time to garden and resurrect a long dormant compost bin. Spinach, lettuce, peas, and radishes are all ready, and with any luck I will have fresh grown tomatoes in a few months' time! May this time be a gift. Let us all use it wisely!

—Lisa Kjaer Schade



# ANNOUNCEMENTS:



## **Worship Continues**

Our latest worship service is posted online every Friday on our **Word Out!** page. Services are audio recordings, and on festival and Family Sundays, videos.

Download and/or print the bulletin transcript to use while you listen to the liturgy—you can sing along with the hymns at home.

We give thanks to our staff and the members who are making **Word Out!** happen. You can also listen to our

podcast, “Queen Anne Lutheran Podcast” for access to the worship service. All services also have a printed transcript available online and mailed out to households without Internet. If you would like to receive the printed services, please contact the church office and Barb will get one to you.

A letter was sent out at the end of May explaining our decision to continue to limit our worship to online and printed “Word Out” services until the State of Washington’s Phase Four of Reopening takes effect (gatherings of more than 50 people permitted), unless circumstances at that time indicate otherwise. By waiting to resume live worship, we continue to love our neighbor by minimizing, to the greatest extent possible, the risk of exposing someone to the coronavirus at QALC, and the severe illness or loss of life that the virus may cause. We are working in the meantime to find ways to make online worship more meaningful and inclusive, and to use it to communicate and carry out our mission. Here are some plans we are working on:

Starting in July, we will create a video service on the first Sunday of each month following the same format as our Pentecost worship, and as “Family Sunday” we will also include a children’s message. We are also exploring the possibility of an online Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesdays in August. We hope to provide more music in addition to worship, which may include a mid-week devotion featuring a short message by Pastor Dan and music by Cantor Kyle.

## **Staying Connected**

Staff, Visitation Team members and others have been connecting regularly with various church families. We are in the process of reconfiguring our **Phone Tree**. Would you like to have a regular call to your household? Would you like to take part in making a call every week or every other week to another member? Please let the office know, and we will make you a part of our Phone Tree! Similarly, if you are getting too many calls, let the office know how, when and if you would prefer to be contacted.

Are you receiving **emails from the church**? Contact the church office if you would like to be added to our email list to receive weekly updates, links to Zoom gatherings and more. If you do not have good Internet access and would prefer to receive announcements on paper, let Barbara know and she will add you to our household mailing list instead.

## **A Note from the Visitation Team:**

This is such a frustrating and tumultuous time, good grief. The Visitation Team is not able to visit anyone due to COVID19, but we are keeping in touch with members of the church with phone calls and cards. I know there are church members who are doing grocery and medicine pick up for folks. God bless them all. Thank you.

Peace to all, *Connie Wurm*

PS I can't wait to get back to church; I miss everyone so much.

## Join Us via Zoom for Our "First Wednesday" Bible Study



All are invited as we continue with our online "First Wednesdays" Bible study at noon on June 3. Susan Evans will lead our discussion with an introduction to the Book of Jonah, one of the most entertaining yet often misunderstood texts of the Old Testament.

Look for an email link to join First Wednesdays Bible Study via Zoom,  
Or call in by phone at 1 253 215 8782  
with Meeting ID: 840 7482 4857  
and Password: 622720

### Did You Miss Our Forum Series?

The four Wednesdays of **RESURRECTION: New Life, Renewal and Hope from a Jewish Perspective** are over. Happily, the third and fourth sessions were taped, and audio is online on our Forum page if you would like to listen. Links to video of the Zoom sessions are in the Member section of our website as well.

### Missing Coffee Hour?

You're invited to a Sunday Coffee Hour hosted online via Zoom every Sunday at 11 AM by Pastor Dan. Bring your cup of coffee to the screen and have a conversation. Look for a link to join in your weekly emails. Those who can't or would rather not use the Internet may dial in to join the meeting by phone.



To dial in by phone: 1 253 215 8782  
Meeting ID: 836 467 061  
Password: 420371

### Hymns for Handwashing

Cantor Kyle Haugen sings our first "Hymn for Handwashing," now posted online. You can find the link in your Friday email, or go to the ForKIDS@HOME section on our website. Sing along while you scrub!

Hymns for Handwashing

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

ELW 413, st. 1

Sing while you scrub!



### Spirit Stories for Our Synod

The Northwest Washington Synod publishes occasional "Spirit Stories," stories of how and where the Holy Spirit is moving and dancing in our synod. The Synod hopes these stories will inspire us in our lives - to wonder, to imagine, and to experiment. This month's Spirit Story is about a place we have been a part of for many years: Community Lunch on Capitol Hill. Find the story online by searching for "Spirit Stories – Northwest Washington Synod."

## Remembering Lois Unseth



As some of you know, our dear Lois Unseth passed away last Saturday of a sudden aneurism. Lois will be laid to rest June 3, with Pastor Dan and Pastor Erik of Ballard First Lutheran presiding at the gravesite (this is a family-only service for reasons of safety). A memorial for Lois will be planned for a time when we are all able to gather together once more. Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg of Ballard First Lutheran gave a brief remembrance: (His video is posted online; see your May 29 email for the link.)

*A Note from Pastor Erik: Lois Unseth died on the morning of May 23, 2020. This is the transcript of remarks that I made in the early evening hours of that same Saturday. I filmed it as something of a coda to the worship service that would go online the next day, Sunday morning. It was at the end of a day of recording and it came about very spontaneously. For obvious reasons, I wanted to film it with the Ballard First Lutheran Church Child Care Center as a backdrop. It was getting dark so I did not have time to prepare a script. But I had an idea of what I hoped to say. And, as I look back on my words, there is so much more that could—and should—be said about Lois. Yet, as I thought about her legacy at Ballard First Lutheran, this is what was on my mind and in my heart at that moment...*



Normally this—the front play yard of our Ballard First Lutheran Childcare Center—is not nearly so quiet. But, on this Saturday night, I'm glad that it is. It gives me a chance to reflect on my good friend, Lois Unseth. Lois lived a full life, and you can't really talk about the fullness of her life without including the years she spent here as the founding director of this childcare center. In September of 1976 she opened the place and served well into the 90's.

When I came here, following my predecessor and her husband, Malcolm Unseth, as pastor, Lois was one of the first people to welcome me and show me every kindness. And those kindnesses continued all through the years. I'm going to miss her and I am thankful for the foundation that she established. I'm glad that her legacy lives on, Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

God bless her memory and God bless us in our remembering of her.

—Pastor Erik R. Wilson Weiberg



**It is hard to lose a friend.** The Women of QALC are mourning the death of Lois Unseth. For years she was the driving force behind the collecting of items for LWR baby care kits. She was concerned that moms worldwide had the things they needed to care for their children. We will miss her faithful attendance in Sewing and Service.

**Northern Lights** has moved to Zoom meeting. If you would like to join them, call Dolly Smith. The Evening Circle that meets at Barb Bach's has not been ready to make that commitment.

**Sewing and Service and PDQ's** continue to work from home. The women are not ready to commit to returning to church before September. Pastor, the Church Council, and Facilities are working on how to proceed on building usage.

**Do you like to write?** Join the Women of the ELCA letter exchange (you will get one in return!)



## DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST

Want to sustain the community that is a hallmark of Women of the ELCA? Then join **Dear Friend in Christ**, a unique letter-exchange project to which all participants are invited.

### How does it work?

1. Write a letter. Use the "Dear Friend in Christ" salutation. Fill a page or two, however you are inspired. Among other things, please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?
2. You can handwrite or type the letter.
3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope.
4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient.
5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous.
6. Print and sign the **Dear Friend in Christ release form**. (Back page of this *Quill*) You may also use the [WELCA online form](#). We cannot exchange letters without a release.

Mail both your letter and signed release form to  
**Dear Friend in Christ,  
Women of the ELCA,  
8765 W Higgins Road,  
Chicago IL 60631.**

Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.

### What else do I need to know?

1. When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like.

*(continued)*

2. Dear Friend in Christ is open to all participants, although writers under 18 must have parental consent. Download the release form.
3. Letters are paired at random, and we will try to match participants with someone in a different geographical part of the ELCA. Women of the ELCA staff read all letters before the exchange happens.
4. Letters will be mailed to participants on a rolling basis, beginning in June 2020. We will continue exchanging letters received through All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.

Stay safe in this changing world.

Your Women's Committee

*Sallie Wilson, Pat Sobeck, Barbara Bach, and Candy Mathes*

## Our Mandala Project



**These are Mandalas.** They may be made using different media, rocks, sticks, flowers, chalk, or paint, and they all are made in a circular design. Mandalas are traditionally used as an entry into prayer. Our sidewalk mandala has been greatly enjoyed by neighbors walking by as well.

Dan Erlander, writer of the curriculum *Manna and Mercy* used during our ForKIDS time last year, explains their symbolism:

“God gives us circles to live in, our family, church, country, earth. God asks us to be in covenant partnership with God, but this requires trusting God. We rely on God’s people and God’s laws, such as love and friendship, to support us—these being about connected community.

Humans choose to trust or not. Humans choose to connect or not.

When humans trust God and connect with each other, wonderful and beautiful things happen. In this way we are God’s covenant partners, choosing to honor God by living according to God’s directions for loving God, one another, and creation.

Prayer can be listening to God or talking to God. Mandalas are a quiet, prayerful activity, designed to help us be quiet with God. The activity comes to us from India and Tibet, countries in Asia.

When making or looking at a Mandala, focus on God and the concept of connected community, or think and pray for someone (another way to make a connection). The activity is a symbol of how God gives us a life that can be lived wonderfully and beautifully. “



### Want to get involved?

Come and see the Mandala Terry made on the sidewalk at Queen Anne Lutheran (shown at left).

We hope members will change the mandala’s design every few weeks. You may alter or add to the mandala, or create another one nearby. You may use the materials we have available, or add your own materials when you work on the mandala. This is a multi-generational activity – you don’t have to be a kid to contribute! Go to our website to sign up to help, or contact Terry with questions.

Make the circles in any beautiful way, and think about the circles in your life.

## Celebrating Our Grads

This June Mei Smith and Annika Lundsgaard are graduating from high school. It is a difficult spring for our seniors, with all the traditional markers of graduation cancelled or greatly changed due to the pandemic. It's challenging for them to find a way to say farewell to schools, teachers, and classmates, and they face uncertainty in the shape of their college life in the fall.

ALWAYS REMEMBER _____
DON'T FORGET _____
FOCUS ON _____
DON'T BE AFRAID _____
WE HOPE YOU _____

Here at Queen Anne Lutheran, we are doing what we can to give them a proper send-off. Sewing and Service has gifted each grad with a quilt, for which both girls expressed warm thanks. And our community is creating an online graduation card filled with advice and wisdom for them. *(If you haven't contributed to the card, there's still time. Complete the sentences and call or email the office with your advice!)*

Hello Everyone! Queen Anne Lutheran Church has been a huge part of my life for as far back as I can remember. I am a graduating senior from Roosevelt High School. I plan on attending Whitman



College this fall where I intend to major in biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology. I also plan on continuing my music studies and will participate in the Whitman symphony orchestra. I am so grateful for all the ongoing QALC community support you give me. I am especially thankful for Arletta Anderson as a musical and spiritual mentor, and the church and many members for sponsoring me at my three years of Lutheran Summer Music.

Thank you all for encouragement and love.

—Mei Smith



I'm graduating from Garfield High School this year, and next year, I'll be going to the University of Chicago. I'm still very undecided about what I'm going to study, but I'm mainly interested in math, art, and political science. I plan to continue playing viola and piano, and I hope to join one of UChicago's orchestras, but with the pandemic, it's unclear when on-campus activities like that will be possible.

Unfortunately, I am no longer playing the organ. I had a lot of fun with it, but I just didn't have the time after a while because I already play two instruments, and I've had a crazy amount of homework over the past few years.

Thank you for thinking of me!

—Annika Lundsgaard

*(pictured with her quilt and dog Zorro.)*



## Lutheran World Relief & CORE Tanzania supplies:

The Seattle spring LWR Ingathering was not held in May, due to the need to stay at home and practice social distancing. Quilts or kits that have been made will be sent whenever the next Ingathering occurs. Meanwhile, if you want to gather kit supplies to be used later, this is the current list of needs. Watch for school supply sales in July and August:

### School Kits:

- 15 blunt scissors
- 20 rulers, 30-centimeter length, either hard plastic, wood with a metal edge, or metal (rubber rulers melt in heat; wood-only rulers don't hold their edge)
- 25 erasers, 2.5"
- 10 boxes of 24 crayons
- 45 pencil sharpeners (with cover)
- 50 pens, black or blue; no gel, please

### Also Needed, for Personal Care Kits:

45 lightweight bath towels, darker colors, size 20" x 40" up to 27" x 52."

If you will not be able to shop, you can contribute funds to QALCW marked "LWR Kit Supplies" to defray costs. Call Rich or Candy Mathes if you have questions: 206-384-1183 or [lwrmathes@aol.com](mailto:lwrmathes@aol.com)



## A Note of Thanks from CORE Tanzania

Out of school since March due to COVID-19, Twegashe School kindergartners continue to make use of the wonderful backpacks and school supplies donated by Queen Anne Lutheran Church. Every week they travel to their teachers' house with their backpacks to pick up a new packet of "homework" and turn in the previous week's packet. The individual boxes of crayons are perfect for completing these "quarantine" assignments!

Thank you for helping us to keep Twegashe students engaged in learning during this pandemic!

—Jeannette Banobi



## Your Offerings Matter!

While we are apart, our staff and building continue to generate the usual expenses. We greatly appreciate your help sustaining the church. Donations can be made online on a one-time basis, or can be set up there as a regular monthly contribution. You can also just write us a check and mail it to:

**Queen Anne Lutheran Church**  
2400 8th Ave West  
Seattle, WA 98119

If you go to our website, there are several options for online giving as well. Go to "GIVE" to find them:

Write a check.

Direct deposit,  
from your bank to ours.

Donate via PayPal  
from our website

Donate via your  
personal PayPal account.





*From the Bishop*

*By Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee, NWWA Synod*

*From the June 2020 Edition of The Spirit*

Dear Beloveds of Northwest Washington Synod,

*By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept  
when we remembered Zion.* Psalm 137

When the people were exiled in Babylon, they grieved for what they once had. The practices and comfort of what they'd known through worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem were not available to them in that foreign land. In that time of exile, they were challenged by prophets and re-formed as God's people. When they returned to Jerusalem, the temple they longed to gather in did not exist anymore. Their homes were gone. Much had to be rebuilt.

This scripture speaks of our time right now.

Truthfully, we are not going to go back to what we had before. And I am grieving this as I am sure you are. The verse from Psalm 137 speaks so clearly to me as we all weep for what was. The longing to be with all of you continues and I hope for the day when we can gather bodily again.

But let me also say this: While we long for what was, we also are living now. We are in worship now. We are in community now. Yes, it feels different. Yes, it is not the same. But rostered ministers are preaching God's word, people are gathering together, the gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed and prayers, singing, community and fellowship have never stopped. As a faithful people, we trust that God is with us, even in this time that we are physically separated and we are still Holy Community—joined together by Jesus.

As your rostered minister and your leadership teams begin to make plans for re-opening church buildings, please keep in mind safety, vulnerable populations, and guidelines issued. I highly recommend listening to this online presentation hosted by the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod in which Dr. Michael Osterholm, a Lutheran, an epidemiologist and the Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, presented and answered questions about COVID-19.

I also strongly urge congregations and ministry sites to follow the guidelines of the CDC, the state, and each local municipality as well as recommendation from the ELCA the synod. (You can find links here: [www.lutheransnw.org/covid-19](http://www.lutheransnw.org/covid-19).) When we all follow these guidelines, we all benefit. Remember to be in conversation with your insurance provider about their recommendations for the use of your facility. Many insurance carriers are refusing to cover churches if they are going against state or local recommendations. *Please know that the Northwest Washington Synod highly recommends following CDC, Washington State, and local guidelines as well as the guidelines set out by this synod and the ELCA.*

I close this letter with another Psalm. While we hear the despair in Psalm 137 above, we also hear the hope in Psalm 121: *I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

Dear people of God, remember that we are people of faith, trusting in God's grace and providence, informed by science, who desire to respect, protect, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

Take care. Be safe. Trust in God. Be community for one another.

—Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



## ELCA reaffirms commitment to combat racism and white supremacy

5/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reaffirms its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy following the recent murders of Black Americans. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, and George Floyd were our neighbors. Ahmaud Arbery was chased down, shot, and killed by a retired police officer and his son while jogging in Brunswick, Ga. (Feb. 23, 2020). Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020). Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis died after being shot at least eight times by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer (May 6, 2020). George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis while begging for his life, a block away from Calvary Lutheran, an ELCA congregation (May 25, 2020). As the Conference of Bishops, we condemn the white supremacy that has led to the deaths of so many unarmed Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color in our country. We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy.

The ELCA's social policy [resolution](#), "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions." As church, together we must work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcize the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

On May 21, the ELCA Southeastern Synod hosted a [webinar](#): "Becoming the Body of Christ – Condemning White Supremacy" in response to the killing of Ahmaud Arbery. This is one of many strategic opportunities happening across this church to address white supremacy and racist rhetoric. On June 17, we will gather again as church to commemorate the Mother Emanuel 9 and to repent of racism and white supremacy. An online ELCA prayer service, including leaders from across the church and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as preacher, is being planned for June 17, 2020, marking the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9. We encourage congregations to reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and dismantling white supremacy that continue to plague this church by marking this day of penitence with study and prayer leading to action. <https://www.elca.org/emanuelnine>

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*  
Presiding Bishop

*Deacon Sue Rothmeyer*  
Secretary

Signed also by 64 Synod Bishops, including  
NW WA Synod Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee.

## Contacting Queen Anne Lutheran Staff

Our entire church staff is now working from home. Messages on the church office phone will only be picked up on Fridays; emailing is best to contact any staff member. You may still send mail to the church. Offerings and other items sent by mail will be picked up each Friday.

### CONTACTS for QALC STAFF:

Pastor Daniel Peterson

*Pastor Dan's days off are Mondays and Fridays. He is available, then, Tuesdays through Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. To contact him outside of office hours, emergency only: Text 253-230-9695*

Cantor Kyle Haugen

Children's Ministry Coordinator Terry Anderson

Parish Administrator Barbara Bash

Sexton John Bryant

Counselor Sarah Tatterson

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# Dear Friend in Christ

## Dear Friend in Christ Participant Information Form

Thank you for participating in Dear Friend in Christ. Please complete and sign this form and send it along with your letter to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. Letters must be mailed by **October 15, 2020** to be exchanged. We will not share any of your contact information without your explicit permission, so do not include your return address in the body of the letter unless you intend to share it with the recipient.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I grant Women of the ELCA permission to share my letter with another participant in Dear Friend in Christ and acknowledge that Women of the ELCA accepts no responsibility for the content of correspondence exchanged through Dear Friend in Christ.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friend in Christ participants will be added to Women of the ELCA's monthly e-newsletter (Bold Connections) mailing list.

☐ Please check this box if you **do not** want to receive our e-newsletter.

We post images and excerpts from some Dear Friend in Christ letters to the Women of the ELCA website.

☐ Please check this box if you **do not** want us to post content from your letter.

**If you are seventeen years old or younger, please have your parent or guardian complete the following:**

Parentor/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

I grant permission for my child (named above) to participate in Dear Friend in Christ.

My child may receive a letter from an adult. (Please note: we do not know how many Dear Friend in Christ participants will be under 18)

☐ yes ☐ no

Parentor/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_