

The Quill

JULY / AUGUST 2023



Queen Anne

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Quill can be viewed in full color online at queenannelutheran.org. If you would prefer to have a copy **mailed to you** each month, just contact the church office at 206-284-1960. Likewise, if you receive The Quill in the mail and would prefer **not** to, just contact the office.

Weekly, we are also mailing bulletins and sermon transcripts to households that are unable to attend church. If you would like to receive such a mailing, please let us know. And if you do **not** need to get the bulletin by mail, give us a call as well!

Please Note: All mail to the church must be sent to this address:

Queen Anne Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 17029
Seattle, WA 98127-0729



Why Attend Worship?

Summertime means many good things. Sunny skies, longer days, opportunities for travel, and farmer's markets all make it a great season. For the church, however, summertime can present a challenge. Attendance at worship typically dips below the yearly average. Giving declines. Fewer people sit in the pews.

When the Apostle Paul encountered a challenge (i.e., an obstacle to the spreading of the gospel), he did something instructive: he saw it as an opportunity. We can do the same. When we notice fewer people at church, we have the opportunity to reflect on why we are there. What makes attending worship (if we are able) important to us?

Here are three reasons for why I think church attendance matters.

1. Your neighbor needs you. Our culture encourages a "me first" mentality. This can affect the way we understand worship. If I say that I no longer attend church because I "don't get anything out of it," my "needs" presumably come before those of my neighbor. But life in Christ calls me to turn this way of thinking around: I attend church not simply for myself. I attend because my neighbor may need something (an encouraging word or helping hand) from me.

2. God needs you. What a strange thing to say, especially if we think of God as being in control of everything! Yet if we start at the foot of the cross, a different understanding of God appears. Here we find God in weakness and poverty, as Paul says (see 1 Cor. 1:25; 2 Cor. 8:9), a God who needs our hands for His work. We attend worship, therefore, to be inspired to respond to God's love by helping God make the world a better place.

3. The world needs you. Every day I marvel at the big difference a small church like Queen Anne Lutheran makes locally as well as across the world. Only people regularly nourished by God's Word, the good news that in Christ God has set us free from ourselves to live for others, can make the difference this congregation makes here and abroad. Worship gives us the opportunity once again to respond to God's love by serving those in need outside the walls of our sanctuary.

What reasons do you have for attending worship? May this be season of reflection as you ponder why worship matters in the life of faith and service to which you are called—whether you find yourself in the sanctuary on Sunday morning or out in the Seattle sunshine.

Pastor Dan

FROM THE CANTOR

As I write this, I've just returned from Philadelphia, where I attended the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conference held July 4–8. Postponed from 2021 due to the pandemic, attendees were excited to be together in the “City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection” for this gathering of church musicians, clergy, and church music aficionados from Lutheran denominations in the United States.

Taking a cue from Philadelphia's motto, the conference theme was “What Wondrous Love” (borrowed, of course, from the cherished hymn—see ELW 666). Three plenary sessions were devoted to each word of the conference theme in turn. The first speaker, Dr. Mark Miller, is a United Church of Christ parish musician, lifelong United Methodist, and professor of church music at Drew University. Dr. Miller invited attendees to consider “*What Wondrous Love*” as joy and justice expressed in radical

hospitality—where all who we serve through music in our congregations experience welcome. Deacon Jennifer Baker-Trinity, who holds a joint position with the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress in worship resource development, framed “*What Wondrous Love*” in terms of cultivating wonder in our worship as we engage the redemption story across the church year and as we savor opportunities for intergenerational relationships. “*What Wondrous Love*” was the topic for District President and Bishop of the Atlantic District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, with organist and music director Dr. Jean Boehler, who serve together at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx, New York. This final plenary reminded conventiongoers that Jesus Christ is the fullest example of God's love, expressed in willing self-sacrificial obedience and giving his life for us in the “great exchange” of our redemption.

In addition to the thought-provoking plenaries I described above, daily opportunities for Morning Prayer, two festival Eucharists, and an array of sessions and workshops “fed” your cantor on many levels! I'm sure that as I continue to reflect on my experiences there will be benefits for my service here at QALC. Not only did the programming at the conference exceed my expectations, but I found myself becoming re-invigorated socially as well (perhaps I've been more isolated than I realized since the pandemic). And, I was musically enriched in a very direct way through my invited participation as a tenor within the 17-voice choir that helped lead the conference hymn festival on Friday evening. Again, I am grateful to QALC for making continuing education and professional development a priority for the cantor. *Thank you!*

Summer “pickup” choirs: July 23 and August 27

I am delighted to see that the “pickup choir” signup sheet in the narthex gained several names while I was away! I'm looking forward to our upcoming “pickup” choir sessions. We'll meet at 9 AM in the nave to learn music together for about 45 minutes, and then participate in the 10 AM service July 23 and August 27. Even if you've never sung in a choir before, you're welcome to join us—ages 12 and up. Questions? Please come find me at church or email me at cantor@queenannelutheran.org.

God's blessings to you this summer season!



Kyle Haugen, Cantor
cantor@queenannelutheran.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapel Work Parties, July 23 & 30



Long-awaited new carpeting is being installed in the Chapel and its nearby rooms. We need your help clearing the areas. Can you help in any of these ways?

WORK PARTY I, JULY 23 AFTER CHURCH

We need some group muscle for a few large items. Please just stay after worship if you can help us move these pieces to the hallway:

The table in the Chapel Conference Room

The wardrobe in the Chapel Hallway

There may be other chairs and small items left to move as well

WORK PARTY II, JULY 30 AFTER CHURCH

Another Work Party will be needed to put everything back in place again! Stay after worship that day if you can.

Summer Sharing: July 23 & 30, Coffee Hour Is A “No-Host” Sharing Bar!



How does it work? Each church member is invited to bring “something” to share by placing an item on the coffee bar: fruit, cookies, breads, etc. (Without naming names, if you love Oreos and don’t want to eat the whole package, you could bring Oreos to share...) Hopefully, one of our die-hard coffee drinkers will make coffee, or it will be water for everyone!

We pray this will help sustain our Chapel Work Party crews!

July Book Group Plans



The July Book Group meeting for choosing books for the 2024 year will be held in Candy Mathes’s yard at 5:30 PM on July 31—the last Monday in July. We will also be deciding if we want to continue with the format of the meetings, or if we want to make changes. Bring any books that you have read this year that you would like to share with the group. Questions? Call Cathi Unseth or Candy Mathes.

Holden Evening Prayer—Four Wednesdays in August

August 2, 9, 16, and 23: Join us each Wednesday inside the church at 7 PM for a 20-minute service of Holden Evening Prayer—a modern adaptation of the ancient Vespers service with singing and reflection.

Laughter Yoga:

Iris Escobar, one of our quilters, invites you to her free “Laughter Yoga” sessions, Wednesdays 5:15 to 5:45 PM at Queen Anne Christian Church 1316 3rd Ave. West; see flyer on the narthex bulletin board



Regarding the Next New Horizons Dinner, Sept. 29

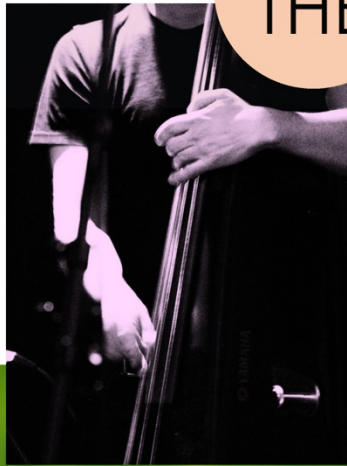
We provide dinner for 35 youth to New Horizons on all months with “Fifth Fridays,” with the next date being September 29. Jim M. thanks all those who have helped provide these meals. In September, Jim will not be able to participate to lead the project, and so we will need a volunteer to coordinate the food, pick up and deliver on Friday, September 29. If the main dish needs cooking, several people could work together to prepare the food. If you are interested in stepping up to be the point person in September, contact the church office and Barb will fill in the details for what is needed.

JOIN US FOR THE RETURN OF "JAZZ ON THE GRASS," ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Jazz Grass

ON THE

MUSIC!
FLOATS!
FREE!



WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 9

5:30–6:30PM

Garfield High School
Jazz Combo



**COME ENJOY SOME SUMMER JAZZ
WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**
YOU BRING: (optional) sack dinner; blankets
WE PROVIDE: free root beer floats; chairs

Photo credits: TheJazzRoom via Foter.com / CC BY-NC-SA; why the a via Foter.com / CC BY-NC-SA;

stay if you like...

Holden Evening Prayer*
is offered inside at 7:00 PM

*A 20-minute modern adaptation
of the ancient Vespers service
with singing and reflection.
Wednesdays, August 2 – 23.



Queen Anne
LUTHERAN CHURCH

on the grounds of
Queen Anne Lutheran Church
2400 8th Ave. West
Seattle, WA 98119
206.284.1960

www.queenannelutheran.org

Zero Carbon by 2050?

In 2015, almost 200 countries, including the United States, adopted the Paris Agreement with a goal of zero carbon by 2050. Although the USA exited from the agreement on November 4, 2020, it reentered it on January 20, 2021. How are we doing in our progress toward that goal? Is it even possible that we could reach carbon neutrality by 2050?

In April, PBS/NOVA aired a documentary showing that we have the technology to reach that goal. A green industrial revolution will take political will, good leaders, and a sense of urgency similar to the attitude that drove production in World War II. Here are some of the program's major points.

- Our current climate issues have been building since the dawn of the Industrial Age. Our primary fuel sources have gone from wood to coal to oil. Moving to renewable resources is the next step in the energy evolution of our society.
- Greenhouse gas emissions come from five sources: transportation, electric power, industry, buildings, and agriculture. In order to reach zero carbon, we need to reduce carbon emissions as much as possible and then capture and store the carbon we can't avoid emitting.
- Ford Motors has successfully built and introduced an all-electric F-150 pickup (the Lightning). In addition to having no emissions, the electric engine is 85% - 90% efficient compared to 40% efficiency in gasoline powered engines. The lack of EV charging stations is dampening consumers' enthusiasm to switch to electric vehicles.
- Converting furnaces to heat pumps drastically reduces carbon emissions from buildings. BlocPower (blocpower.io) manages and helps customers obtain financing for green building upgrades. Its selling point is that payments for new green systems are less than customers' current power bills.
- Induction cooking is superior to cooking with gas. In 2016, Chatham University opened its Eden Hall Campus near Pittsburgh. It successfully uses induction appliances for all of its food services. Induction cooking has caught on in Europe and Asia, but so far United States consumers have been reluctant to make the change.
- The Permian Basin spans 86,000 square miles in Texas and New Mexico. Fracking oil and gas from shale in this oil field releases huge amounts of methane. The nonprofit organization Earthworks (earthworks.org) supports the transition from fossil fuels to a 100% renewable energy economy.
- The University of Maine is developing fixed and floating wind turbines to increase sources of wind energy. Fixed turbines can only be used in water up to 200 feet deep. Floating turbines can be set up farther offshore, which will be especially useful on the west coast in the depths of the Pacific Ocean.
- Energy storage is also critical for reaching net zero emissions. Lithium-ion batteries are expensive, but an MIT professor has co-founded Form Energy (formenergy.com), a company that has developed an iron-air battery that uses rust for energy.
- Geothermal energy shows promise. Sage Geosystems (sagegeosystems.com) is working to find better ways to tap into this energy source in areas such as California's Salton Sea.

We have a lot of work to do to reach zero carbon emissions by 2050. But humanity has made big energy transitions before, and we can make the change to a green industrial revolution now.

OUR NON-PROFIT NEIGHBORS—EVENTS AND UPDATES

The Taste of Queen Anne is back!



Queen Anne Helpline

Serving Queen Anne, Magnolia, and South Lake Union

For the first time since 2019, we will be hosting an in-person, indoors Taste of Queen Anne to benefit the Helpline! Join us on October 14th for elegant tastes from your favorite local restaurants (including Eden Hill!) and the chance to bid on exclusive auction items and support the important work we do at Queen Anne Helpline. We're excited to see you there! Great news. An anonymous donor has purchased a table for 8 for QALC. Sets at the table are free—first come, first served.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest, in the Forefront

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) is in the forefront of a new national program for strengthening families of refugees.

Nearly 1,000 Afghan refugees have been resettled by LCSNW since their country fell to the Taliban in 2021. Teams in Tacoma and Vancouver, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, provided housing, food and other essentials, connections to government benefits, medical screenings, volunteer support, and more.

The Tacoma refugee resettlement office is one of the first in the country to roll out another layer of assistance to help Afghans cope with displacement, culture shock, and family stress. It includes skills classes for building healthy relationships, positive socio-emotional development, and a successful transition to the American way of life while maintaining their native culture.

Program leaders at LCSNW are themselves refugees from Afghanistan. “We can offer help from A to Z, but our main goal is to teach them how to hold their families together and not fall apart,” said Faiz Sharifi, LCSNW’s Family Strengthening Program Coordinator.

When Afghan newcomers land in a strange country having to start over from scratch, they sometimes have “a dark mind,” said Case Manager Ahmad Nesari. “We show them that they should turn and see the bright future for themselves and their children.”

The program was developed by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), the national nonprofit organization through whom LCSNW receives and places refugees.

LIRS launched Family Strengthening as a pilot project with three of its partner agencies, and Tacoma is the only site on the West Coast. The others are in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Afghan clients who were resettled in the past five years are eligible, with a target participation of 100 clients at each site over the next two years.

For info on LCSNW - programs and how to contribute - go to <https://lcsnw.org>

CORE Tanzania’s Celebration of Support

You are all warmly welcomed to a celebration of CORE Tanzania’s many wonderful friends and supporters:

Wednesday, July 26th, 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Banobi backyard, 6709 Earl Ave NW, Seattle

Brief presentation at 5:30 PM

Light refreshments (provided by Queen Anne’s own Carol Ann Davis, so we know they’ll be good!)

We would love if you could join us to celebrate all the miles we’ve come together and the many smiles you’ve helped to create along the way!



QALC WOMEN'S MINISTRY



This photo is one of our smiley and confident third-grade girls! (All children, boys and girls, wear their hair very short.)

The QALCW have been supporting **CORE Tanzania** for the last 4 years. Sallie Wilson recently received a thank-you from Jeanette Banobi:

“The amount the women have been contributing over the last few years is enough to support the education of several students for an entire year. And the children are definitely benefiting. We've seen lot of development in our current third graders since they began kindergarten as our very first students. They are now able to carry on conversations in English, and visitors remark how confident they seem to be in asking and answering questions inside and outside of class. This is not common among primary students in Tanzania, especially not in village schools. So, thank you to you and the church women for helping to make this happen!”



Many of you wonder how you can help with the **LWR kits and quilt making projects**. **Thread** is needed for Fabric Care kits—each kit requires 2 NEW spools of neutral, all-purpose thread. We hope to have 10–15 kits. So, up to 30 spools of thread would be needed. The fabric has been “gifted” as people have cleaned out their sewing rooms. We save the 3-yard lengths of 44” wide for sewing kits. These kits go to places like refugee camps, to teach women how to sew.

If you like to garage sale or go thrift store shopping, the baby care kits could use **12-month size light weight jackets/sweaters, 12-month size undershirts/t-shirts, and socks**.

As usual, your **monetary gifts** to support kit-making (buying personal care items or quilting supplies, including batting) and money to cover shipping costs are always needed and are greatly appreciated.

Sewing and Service will return on Wednesdays in August after a much-needed break. Come “sew” with us starting at 10 AM in the Fireside Room. We break for coffee around 11:30. All are invited to join us. (For someone who doesn't sew, there are towels for the Personal Care kits that need tags removed).

PDQ's continue to meet on the 2nd Monday evening (sometime around 5 or when people get off of work). When coming to PDQ's, don't forget to bring your “sack” supper.

Circles (Women's Bible Study) continue to meet via Zoom. If you would like to join us, contact Barb Bach or Candy Mathes. This summer we have been discussing a three-part Bible study about “Salvation now” and the Gospel of John. The Evening Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



Your support will be needed once again! If the weather cools down in Phoenix, Candy plans to participate in the Run, Walk, and Roll (5K walk). She will be looking for sponsors to help raise money for WELCA's Healthy Women and Girls projects. In August, watch for your chance to sign up as a sponsor! The WELCA convention will be held in Phoenix September 21 - 24. (Picture of Janice Stepp and Candy Mathes was taken at the 2017 Run, Walk, and Roll).

Your Women's Committee,
Pat Sobeck Sallie Wilson, Candy Mathes, and Barb Bach

LWR Kit Supplies Needed for Fall 2023 Ingathering:

Our QALC LWR Kit Making effort depends upon help from many of you. Please read below before you purchase any supplies.

We buy most **Personal Care Kit Supplies** online, in bulk. The combs, fingernail clippers and toothbrushes are uniform, toothbrushes individually wrapped. If you want to donate cash to pay for these, please write a check to QALCW with “LWR Kit Supplies” on the memo line. We can use bath towels or soap if you want to buy them; here are the criteria:

Bath towels need to be minimum of 20" x 40" (hotel size) up to 27" x 52," and dark colored. They do not need to be thick and plush, as they need to air-dry in hot, humid climates. Target now has their Room Essential Bath Towels (27" x 52") on sale at \$2.40. Please only buy dark-grey or some other dark color. Light colors are hard to clean in a refugee camp without washing machines. The \$2.40 price is now cheaper than 2018, when Target sold hotel size towels (20" x 40") for \$2.50.

Soap: Four-ounce bars of Ivory soap are best—each kit must include 8-10 oz, so we send two 4 oz. bars.

We prefer Ivory. Yes prices have increased a lot. I am paying 75 cents per 4 oz Ivory bar at Fred Meyers.

The **School Kit Supplies** that we need may not be available online. We depend upon some of you who visit Target, Kroeger, Staples, or Walmart stores during the July–August “back to school” specials. Office Depot also has some items. I prefer not to use the Office Depot brand of pencils. If you can find items online, that is fine—just verify that they meet the criteria below.

We do know that this fall we will need the following:

- **120 12-inch / 30 cm rulers**, with metric markings. Wood rulers need a straight edge that is metal. Hard plastic rulers are ok. But do not just pick up a handful of the “clear plastic” rulers. They come in too many colors. All the dark colors—purple, dark red, black, etc.—are useless. The user cannot see the tic-marks under any type of normal lighting. (See photo.) Anytime you buy supplies, ask yourself if you, or your grandchild, could actually use the item as intended. Please only buy plastic rulers that are transparent enough to see the dimensional tic marks. Usually 40–75 cents on sale. We will send at least 30 metal rulers to Twegashe school, via our “Banobi shipping company.” They’re \$1 each on sale at Fred Meyer.

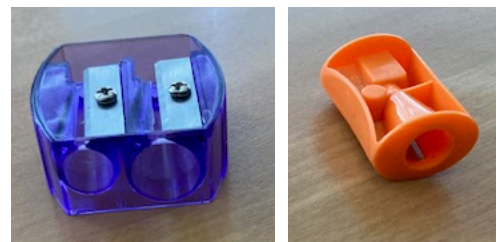
- **100 pencil sharpeners.** A recent and worthwhile innovation in pencil sharpeners is to include two sharpening holes—one for pencils, one larger one for crayons (we ship crayons also). The other good feature is a collection box for shavings that stays connected. (See photos.) If possible, only buy two-hole sharpeners. The ones to avoid only cost 10–20 cents; the ones we need cost 49 to 79 cents on sale. I did not include photo of a one-hole sharpener with collection box—try to avoid these also. Twegashe School will receive at least 30.



The standard wooden ruler at left is fine; the light-colored plastic ruler is fine—you can see the tic marks and use it. However, the dark-colored ruler on the right is not usable; you cannot see the marks in any normal lighting situation.



Above, good two-hole pencil sharpeners with a collection box. Below, sharpeners without collection boxes—please avoid these.





- **130 Blunt scissors.** Some come with sheath—even better. Prices vary for single vs two-pack from \$1 to \$2. Twegashe will receive 30.
- **600 #2 Pencils—unsharpened.** Sharpened pencils can break in transit—our kits are handled at least three times before being delivered overseas. Each kit contains 5 pencils. We will send at least 150 pencils to Twegashe school.
- **30 boxes crayons—the 24 pack.** Around 50 cents on special at Walmart/Fred Meyer. Twegashe will receive 30.
- **200 70-count spiral-bound notebooks—**college or wide ruled. 35 cents each at Walmart/ Fred Meyer/Target.
- **Thirty 2.5" gray erasers.** They are sold as singles, or packs of 2-5.
- **No ball point pens this year!** You did such a fantastic job purchasing pens last August that we have enough for the next two Ingatherings. We like to turn pens over every year to ensure the ink is fresh.
- We also donate some of the same supplies—or similar items—to Twegashe school (CORE Tanzania). Banobi's prefer the two hole, storage box pencil sharpeners. They prefer all metal rulers—metal rulers do not break. Unfortunately the metal rulers cost \$2, and are not always available on sale; although Fred Meyers had them for \$1 July 18th. We will need 50 metal rulers for Twegashe this year if you want a particular shopping target. We have not often shipped metal rulers through LWR because we never have enough.

If you ever have questions while in a store shopping, text me at 206-384-1183 (or call) or email me at lwrmathes@aol.com. Sometimes stores have variations that I have not seen myself. Thank you all for your help and support in this continuing effort to help those students in need overseas (LWR usually only send materials overseas). If you have any suggestions for good sources, please let me know.

—Rich Mathes

Annual Picnic a Success

The first Post-Covid19 QALC Church Picnic was held June 18 after worship, organized by our Church Council. We ate at tables in the narthex, as rain and clouds were present. About 50 people sat down for great food and conversation. It was the first time since Covid we had a "normal" fellowship with a meal, and folks stayed to talk.

Thanks in particular to Mark Dibble, who purchased meat and supplies; Barb Bash, who put up sign-up sheets; Don Thomas and Aaron Boysen who cooked burgers and hot dogs; Steven Burdick, John Bryant and everyone who set up; and thanks to all who supplied the excellent salads and other side dishes. And the cleanup crew! I may have missed a few citations, but thanks to everyone who made this a great success!

—*Rich Mathes*

A Celebration of Baptism

With joy we welcomed Theodore and Elisabeth K. into the family of God through their baptism in worship on Sunday, June 25. A reception with cake followed worship to cap the celebration.

Regular, Automatic Giving Is a Good Gift!

Please consider enrolling in QALC's "Simply Giving" EFT program. This provides a simple, hassle-free and secure way for you to make automatic donations to QALC from your checking or savings account. Giving in this way helps the church by ensuring that your offering is received even when you cannot make your donation in person. Giving in this way also helps ensure a steady income for the church over the course of the year. Enrollment forms are available on a clipboard on the railing in the narthex. For further details about the Simply Giving options, please speak with Jacqui Darroch, who administers the program for us, or Sallie Wilson, our Financial Secretary.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Office Hours:

Main Office (Barb Bash): The office is normally open Tuesday–Friday, 9:00–5:30.

Cantor Kyle is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and evening.

Vannady Keo, our Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, is out of office through August 4 as he is works with teens at GoodFoot Collective's summer program for Youth Development He will return in August to his previous schedule: Sundays 8:30 AM–12:30 PM, Wednesdays 3-5 PM, and Thursdays 2-4 PM.

Pastor Dan is available Tuesday through Thursday and Saturdays. Feel free to contact him by email if you wish to make an appointment at pastor@queenannelutheran.org. If an immediate response is needed, text Pastor Dan at 253.230.9695.

Contacts:

Pastor Daniel Peterson	pastor@queenannelutheran.org
For emergency pastoral needs, text Pastor Dan at 253-230-9695.	
Cantor Kyle Haugen	cantor@queenannelutheran.org
Children & Youth–Vannady Keo	children.youth@queenannelutheran.org
Parish Administrator Barbara Bash	admin@queenannelutheran.org
Office Phone:	206.284.1960

Mailing Address:

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P.O. Box 17029
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2400 8th Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98119

Some Important Updates to Our Covid Protocols

How do I notify the church if I was at an event and then tested positive for Covid?

As soon as you know there was an exposure, please **text Pastor Dan on his cell, 253-230-9695**. Leaving a message at the church office at 206-284-1960 and emailing both the office (admin@queenannelutheran.org) and Pastor Dan (pastor@queenannelutheran.org) are also useful, but the voice mail and emails are not monitored 24/7. Texting Pastor Dan will be most timely and effective.

How does the church notify those exposed, if someone has tested positive for Covid?

Barb Bash is training Pastor Dan and Cantor Kyle in how to send out an All-Church email notification, so that word can get out quickly to our faith community, even on a weekend. **One of these staff members will send word out.** When we can, we will work with event organizers to make sure we have notified all attendees. Members involved in the event who do not use the Internet will be informed by phone. The email will include a link to the Washington State Department of Health guidelines.

What do I need to know if I am hosting an event?

Because Covid has not gone away, we must still be mindful of the possibility that we will have to notify attendees after an event. For committees, it is often easy to remember who was present, but for other events, particularly when attendees may come from outside the congregation, **it is best practice to keep a list of attendees with their preferred contact information**, be it email or phone.

How do I decide whether to attend an event or worship?

For some, Covid symptoms can be mild. They may include headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, muscle pain, fatigue, fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, or loss of taste or smell. Other less-common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If you are experiencing *any* symptoms, however mild they may seem, and you have not tested yet for Covid, choosing to stay home from worship or an event is a caring response for yourself and others.

Our church still encourages, but does not require masking, as we follow the state of Washington Department of Health guidelines and there is currently no masking mandate. It is now up to attendees at an event to decide whether they do so; you need to determine your own level of risk and your comfort with those risks. Deciding to attend a meal at church, where masks will be off, is similar to deciding whether to eat at a restaurant. The exposure that occurred at the February event was a good reminder that Covid has not gone away, there *are* still risks involved, and individuals need to be mindful of that.



As I write this, I am still re-living a beautiful experience that I had last weekend. Five of my friends and I drove to the Gorge Amphitheatre and we saw Joni Mitchell in concert. For some of you, this might be interesting, for others, you might not even know who Joni Mitchell is. For me, the time was filled with joy, laughter, tears, friendship, and community ... not to mention amazing music and storytelling.

But this isn't about Joni Mitchell ... at least not entirely. For what struck me as I sat on the grass with 26,000 other people, was the church-like feeling that was there. Or perhaps I should say the "Jesusy" feeling that was there. Or maybe the Holy

Spirit in action feeling. And this came from the crowd itself.

As we all sat crowded together on blankets and chairs, people told stories, shared food and drink, sang songs, helped those who were having difficulty navigating the hillside, and together we became community. The little children sitting to the right of me danced, the young girls sitting to the left of me accepted blankets from my friend, and the man in front of me told me that he had traveled from North Carolina to see Joni. He told me that he was surprised to discover the Gorge was not located in Seattle!

There was one point in the concert, after it had gotten dark, when Joni was singing and people – one by one – started shining the flashlight from their cellphones towards the stage. Throughout the crowd, little points of light lit up the darkness. Now, if you have been to a concert in the last ten years, this is a common occurrence. Cell phone lights have taken the place of lighters being raised. However, because Joni has not performed in over twenty years, she was bemused by the lights. She turned to the person next to her on stage and said, "It looks like a fallen constellation. Where did they get all those lights?"

I thought her words and her surprise were charming. But as I looked around me, at the people sharing blankets, at those with arms around each other swaying to the music, at the cozy darkness around us and the lights looking like fallen stars, it was more than charming. It was holy.

For a moment, we were a cathedral. For a moment, we were community. For a moment, we were one.

At our best, this is what it means to be church. To be the Body of Christ. To practice hospitality and generosity, and grace. To see Christ in one another. To accept others' limitations and to be accepting of our own.

I confess that all was not perfect at the Gorge. There was a person close to me who insisted on singing every word to every song. While her voice was fine, I was not there to hear her but to hear Joni. There were people who cut in line after we had been waiting two hours to get inside. There was a driver who bullied his way into the front of the very long line of vehicles as we were leaving.

Perhaps this is like church, too. At least church as a human construction. Those of us who have been part of a church for a while, we know that church is not always sharing blankets and food, singing and joy. Sometimes, as humans, we hoard our stuff. We take offense at others. We refuse to listen. We bully. We push. Our voices sometimes drown out other voices.

And yet ... I pray that the moments of grace we receive this summer – from music at the Gorge to singing lustily in church, from sharing food on a hillside to receiving the body and blood of Christ – may we be church together. May we know and make it known that all are fully loved by God – in the times when we are like fallen constellations and in the times we are not.

May your summer be filled with holy moments.

✠ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
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AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10:00am Worship 11:00am Chapel Work Party	7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm QA Book Group (offsite)		10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)			10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00am Worship	7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery	7:00pm Church Council (Zoom)	10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 5:30pm Jazz on the Grass 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)			10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Worship	5:30pm PDQ Quilting (Fireside) 7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery	7:00pm QALCW Circle (Zoom)	10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 12:30pm Staff Lunch 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)			10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Worship	7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm Northern Lights		10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)			10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00am Pick-Up Choir! 10:00am Worship	7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery		10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)			