

The Quill

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



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**



A Place of Grace

Do you ever wonder why people act out in hostility? Psychologists have their reasons, but one always stands out to me: people respond with hostility when they feel a lack of acceptance.

Six years ago, we celebrated our 100th anniversary as a congregation. Pastor Wayne Bacus, my predecessor, spoke at the event. He called Queen Anne Lutheran Church “a place of grace,” and he gave a powerful example to illustrate his point. At a time when other churches ostracized members who had undergone divorce, he said, our congregation welcomed them. It set us apart in a positive and meaningful way.

I am proud to be the pastor of a church with a heritage of welcoming others regardless of something like their marital status. I love our mission to proclaim God’s love in Christ to *every person*, no exceptions. If you are reading this and find yourself at a place in life where you feel judged or excluded, I want you to know that you have a place here. You belong here.

One of my favorite stories about acceptance comes from Paul. In Galatians, he talks about his experience of how, despite having what he calls a “physical infirmity” related to a visual impairment, the Galatians “did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus” (4:14). They, too, had been a place of grace.

As we begin a new year, I invite you to join me in leaning *even more* into our identity as a place of grace. If you feel tempted, as I sometimes do, to judge or criticize another person, take a moment to remind yourself that you do not know what struggles in life he or she may be experiencing. Then remind yourself that, like you and me, they are a child of God through adoption in the spirit of Christ Jesus our Lord (Gal 4:5).

Leaning into our identity as a place of grace might not change the world, but it could brighten a small corner of it by transforming hate and hostility into love and gratitude through the medium of acceptance.

Wishing you all the best in the coming year,

Pastor Dan Peterson

pastor@queenannelutheran.org

Sunday, January 26—Save The Date

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26. It will be held in-person after our 10:30 worship.

The purpose of the annual meeting of the congregation is

- to review and celebrate the previous year's accomplishments;
- to elect officers and delegates for the coming year;
- to consider and vote on constitutional amendments to change the quorum requirement from a minimum of 35 voting members to one-third of voting members and to authorize electronic meeting participation; and to hear and vote on next year's guidelines for expenditures and any other proposals requiring the majority approval of the membership.

Look for further announcements in bulletins and emails as to when copies of the constitutional motions, the 2024 financials and the 2025 proposed budget, and eventually the full Annual Report, will be made available, in print and online in the website Members Area.

A quorum of members is required to accomplish our tasks, and of course we hope you will be able to attend.

Annual-Meeting-Day Forum: On January 26

Q&A with the QALC Finance Committee

Come to the Conference Room from 9 to 10 AM. Bring your questions about our "Guidelines for Expenditures" for 2025, concerns about income and expenses, and other issues you'd like clarification on before heading to our Annual Meeting later that same day.

Housing Matters

In 1986, Louise Robertson gifted Queen Anne with a \$100,000 gift to use for purchasing a house in the church neighborhood. For the next 26 years, the house on McGraw provided semi-independent housing for low-income individuals who were severely or chronically mentally ill. In 2013, the house transitioned to become a residence for young people in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps doing volunteer work in church-related agencies serving the neediest residents of Seattle. In 2016, it became the parsonage home of Pastor Peterson.

A professional inspection early this year found mold in the parsonage basement to which Pastor is physically sensitive. Special efforts have been made in recent months to ensure his continued good health while living in the parsonage, including addressing cleaning and ventilation issues in the second-floor bathroom, replacing the very old and dusty carpet in the second-floor bedrooms with new laminate flooring, cleaning air ducts and hiring licensed professionals to remediate the mold issues in the basement.

Unfortunately, the post-remediation inspection of the parsonage basement on December 17th found the mold issue has not been adequately abated. This has caused Pastor and the Council great concern. In the interest of Pastor's health, the Council has authorized the addition of a Housing Allowance to Pastor's compensation, in roughly the amount spent annually for operating the parsonage and contributing to a maintenance reserve. This will allow Pastor to make his own alternate, housing arrangements and move out of the parsonage. Council will next turn to consideration and planning for future action regarding this gift of property that has served Queen Anne and our neighbors so well for so long.

FROM OUR PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

Blessed Christmas season!

What a wonderful Christmas pageant our congregation performed/experienced on Dec. 22. While it was a lot of work to put together, it was wonderful to see it come to fruition during the service. I appreciated that so many of you happily took on a role. The laughter and joy were a wonderful way to welcome in the Christmas season. Many thanks to Aaron Boysen and Barb Bash who were particularly helpful in preparing for the pageant.

Thank you so all who attended my forum on Dec. 15. I enjoyed explaining the research behind the approach I am taking to planning programming at QALC. I also appreciated getting to fill in congregants on the various programs that began this fall.

I look forward to another Sip and Read event this winter and new programs soon to be announced.

—Lynn Hofstad

ANNOUNCEMENTS



QUEEN ANNE LUTHERAN CHURCH FINE ARTS PRESENTS

*Winter Joy
& Light*

EMERSON MILLAR, violin PAIGE ROBERTS MOLLOY, piano

JANUARY 12, 2025 • 4:00 PM

Freewill donations at the door to benefit QALC Fine Arts;
\$20 suggested—but pay as you can; all are welcome

Millar and Molloy return to lighten your hearts with the music of Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Kreisler, Paganini and Moszkowski.

Every-Member Visits Continue with Pastor Dan

Please set aside 30-40 minutes to welcome Pastor Dan to your home this winter to talk about your family, interests, and history at QALC, your feelings and dreams for this church, and anything else on your mind. God bless our work together with joy and understanding as we reconnect with one another. Thank you in advance for your hospitality. Sign up at the narthex railing for a time slot. Time slots will vary each week as Pastor's schedule permits.

Saturdays, Jan. 11 & Feb. 1 @10:00 AM: Seattle Seekers

Join us every month in the Conference Room for meaningful discussion and connection over a light breakfast as we delve into life's big questions and the quest for meaning. Our group offers a unique blend of insights, drawing from both secular perspectives and Christian teachings to cultivate a holistic understanding of spirituality, ethics, and purpose. Whether you're a believer, skeptic, or somewhere in between, all are welcome.

Living Lutheran Magazine Now Available for Print Subscriptions

"We heard you—and listened." The ELCA has found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community. The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription..

You can sign up today to let us know you would like to subscribe for the magazine. You will be invoiced for your subscription before March 2025. If your subscription had not lapsed at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when your subscription expires. If you have questions, please contact us at www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/ or call us at 800-638-3522.

Re: Plumbing Issues Dec 15

The first-floor men's urinal started spewing water Sunday, December 15 after late service. There were two issues, it turns out. When flushed, the water did not stop running; also, the urinal drain was somewhat plugged with long-term sedimentation, so that it could not allow large amounts of water to pass through. The excess water ran over the top of the bowl onto the floor. Tom McLauchlan found a screwdriver and shut off the water at the urinal. Others grabbed towels and mops, and helped mop up. (Useful information: The water turnoff for the entire building is next to the water heater in the basement janitor closet, if you see a leak that you cannot stop.)

Fans and dehumidifiers were subsequently used to dry the carpet and narthex floor over the next five days. The wood floor was damaged near the narthex kitchen—the flooring buckled at joints. Some water seeped down into basement restrooms. **Thanks to all of you who helped in any way!! You are all honorary Property Committee members for future fire drills!**

—Rich Mathes
Property Committee

SOCIAL ACTION

“Fifth Friday” Dinners at New Horizons Continue

Our next date to provide a meal is **Friday, January 31**. Please mark your calendar now, and contact Jim Margard if you are able to help; we will be needing a main course and side dishes, bread and dessert for 35 youth and young adult guests at this amazing youth ministry.

Ridwell Special Pickup Information Through February



January 5: Cords, chargers, and printer cartridges.

January 19: Bread tags.

February 2: Purses, handbags, belts, and wallets

February 16: Bras, new and gently-used

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

Ingrid Wysong attended the FAN Seattle gathering to discuss priority areas for advocacy for this legislative year. She will be in the online preview meeting January 12 to hear FAN's plans for focus areas in this session. Please contact her (ingridwysong@live.com) if you would like more info and/or would like to get notifications of opportunities to support key bills by signing in before or during WA House/Senate committee meetings.

Transforming Our Future through Advocacy

FAN has a full slate of opportunities for you to grow your advocacy skills and learn about our policy priorities, as well as an all-liaison meeting. Please go online at fanwa.org/events/ to find the registration links for these training sessions:

January 5, 4-5pm: Advocacy 101, [Register Here](#)

January 9, 12-1pm: *Legislative Preview, [Register Here](#)

January 12, 4-5pm: *Legislative Preview, [Register Here](#)

January 15, 12-1pm: FAN All Liaison Meeting: Organizing Your Faith Community for Advocacy, [Register Here](#)

*Please note that we have two time offerings--evening and afternoon—for the Legislative Preview. The content will be the same for both.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY FORUMS



JANUARY 5, 2025: My Time at Princeton

Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson

Join Pastor Dan in the Conference Room as he shares about his experience at Princeton Seminary, including the courses he audited, as well as the writing and research he's undertaken.

JANUARY 12, 2025: UW Campus Ministries Update

Rev. Chelsea Globe

Join **Rev. Chelsea Globe** in the Conference Room as she shares information about this vibrant ministry at the University of Washington. Zoom option available to attend as well. Pastor Chelsea will also be giving the sermon at both services that day.



JANUARY 26, 2025, ANNUAL-MEETING-DAY: Q&A with the Finance Committee

Bring your questions about our "Guidelines for Expenditures" for 2025, concerns about income and expenses, and other issues you'd like clarification on before heading to our Annual Meeting later that same day, after our 10:30 worship service.

FEBRUARY 2, 2025: The Language of Pronouns

Magdalena Phillips and Svea Phillips

Your Input Is Requested for This LGBTQIA+ Forum: Magdalena Phillips and her sister Svea are looking for input about what topics to cover in their February forum. The general theme is LGBTQ+ topics, but what specifically are you interested in? Let us know anonymously with this Google form or with a physical form (available in the narthex during all Sundays in January). We would love to hear from all of you!

Magdalena Phillips has been attending Queen Anne Lutheran Church ever since she was a small child. Since graduating from Duke University, she has become the Adult Education Coordinator and a member of Council. She has known that she was queer for more than a decade and is passionate about helping her fellow Lutherans better understand queer communities.

Svea Phillips is a recent graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut who grew up attending QALC. She transitioned in 2022 and has been active in LGBTQ communities in Connecticut and Seattle, including a student club for transgender folks, online meetup groups, and various in-personal events like last year's Pride Month.

FEBRUARY 9, 2025: Living Out Inclusivity

Nathan Todd

In this presentation, Dr. Todd will discuss the process that some Christian faith communities engage in to become and then live out being open and inclusive to the LGBTQIA+ community. The presentation is based on Dr. Todd's research where he has interviewed over 70 people across the U.S. from different Protestant Christian faith traditions. He also will discuss historical context and the broader movement within Protestant Christianity to create LGBTQIA+ open and inclusive faith communities. Overall, Dr. Todd looks forward to sharing his work and engaging with questions and conversation.

Dr. Nathan Todd is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In his research he focuses on religious spaces such as congregations to understand how they may provide places of belonging, connection, and avenues to engage in social justice. He also does research on LGBTQIA+ health equity and LGBTQIA+ religion and spirituality. Overall, he hopes that his work brings visibility and promotes constructive dialogue around issues of LGBTQIA+ inclusion in religious spaces and beyond.

FEBRUARY 16, 2025: Steps We've Taken

Magdalena Phillips

Examining together our journey as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

FEBRUARY 23, 2025: Making Communion a Safe Space

Dr. Mary Lowe

Dr. Mary Lowe, Professor of Religion at Augustana University and the author of numerous essays and articles on the intersection between Lutheran and Queer Theology, joins us for a conversation via Zoom on making communion a safe (or safer) space for members of the LGBTQ+ community.



Christmas and New Year's have come and gone and now it is time for **Ash Wednesday**, followed closely by the **Women's Lenten Brunch on March 8**. We are in the initial planning stages for the brunch. Your ideas and input are needed. Program and breakfast ideas are welcome, and your help would be greatly appreciated.

Come join us for our **Bible Study Circle**. We meet on Zoom, and some of us attend in person, at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of every month (January 21, February 18). Contact Barb Bach or Candy Mathes for details and Zoom links.



**Intro offer for new subscribers:
One year of Gather for just \$9.95**

Gather Bible Study for Winter/Spring 2025: "Faithfulness"

by Denise Rector.



(January) Session One: Ruth and Naomi

Ruth chooses to remain part of Naomi's family, even after Naomi has lost everything – including her husband and sons. This intergenerational story of faithfulness during emptiness and sorrow helps us learn how to rely on God in bleak times.

(February) Session Two: Psalm 22

David testifies that God is God, and worthy of praise, even as David is in despair. It's no wonder that Jesus cried out to God

during the crucifixion using these very words. In our worst times, this psalm gives us a way to contemplate God's holiness.

Quilting: On Wednesdays, Sewing and Service continues to meet in the Fireside Room at 10 AM. PDQ's meet on each second Monday after 5 PM. We gather for dinner (bring your own) at 6. Come join us as we make quilts for LWR (and some for Compass Housing Alliance).

Needed for Baby Care Kits:

- size 12-months t-shirts
- baby pajamas (no feet)
- size 2-4 socks (not the littlest)
- 12-18 months sweaters or sweatshirts (no fleece).

Your Women's Board,
Sallie Wilson, Barb Bach, Candy Mathes

Regular, Automatic Giving Is a Good Gift!



For a one-time or ongoing gift use the QR Code here, which links to our website's GIVE page. Please also 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 the church from your bank account. To enroll, pick up a form from the narthex railing or download online.

Office & Staff Hours and Away-Time:

Main Office: For the first few weeks of January, Barb is working remotely in Minnesota and can be reached by email or by text. She will return to work January 21 and resume her previous schedule of Tuesday–Friday, 9 to 5:30.

While she is away, the office is open Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Contact Pastor Dan if you need access or an appointment. Office phone is 206-284-1960, and voice messages will be picked up.

Cantor Kyle is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings. He will be on vacation through January 8, returning briefly to play organ in worship on Sunday, January 5. He will return on January 9 and lead choir rehearsal that evening.

Lynn Hofstad works from her library office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Pastor Dan has returned from his sabbatical and is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. To connect with him or to make an appointment, email pastor@queenannelutheran.org. If there is a pastoral emergency, he can be reached by text at 253.230.9695.

Contacts:

Pastor Daniel Peterson	pastor@queenannelutheran.org
For emergency pastoral needs only, text Pastor Dan at 253-230-9695.	
Cantor Kyle Haugen	cantor@queenannelutheran.org
Programming Coordinator Lynn Hofstad	programming@queenannelutheran.org
Parish Administrator Barbara Bash	admin@queenannelutheran.org
Office Phone:	206.284.1960
Sexton John Bryant	sexton@queenannelutheran.org

Mailing Address:

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

Street Address:

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



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might... Isaiah 6:3

Do you hear a song, or maybe a multitude of songs, when you read the words above? We know these words in hymnody— in traditional songs, in praise songs, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy, and more. These words are deep in the bones of the Church. Of course, like so many lyrics that we sing in church, they weren't created out of thin air. We first hear these words from seraphs during the strange and grand vision that Isaiah had when he entered the holiest of holy places in the Temple— the place that housed the ark of God, the place revered as God's earthly throne, the place where God was simultaneously present in the heavenly realm

and within the fabric of the world. We hear these words in Isaiah's call story in Isaiah 6:1-8. (Go ahead ... read the Isaiah story now before reading the rest of this article.)

As Isaiah enters into the Holy of Holies, God grants Isaiah a glimpse into God's celestial throne room. God is so magnificent and big that the hem of God's robe fills the temple. God is attended by fierce and fiery creatures – scary flying snakes with six wings called seraphim. These were not the cute cherubs holding flutes and harps. These were sea serpent-sized creatures singing (shrieking, screaming) in loud, ear-piercing voices, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty..."

Isaiah is overcome. He falls on his knees and cries, "Woe is me!" Isaiah knows, in that moment, who the Creator of the universe is and what this Creator can do. Isaiah knows he could be destroyed in the flash of a second.

It needs to be said, of course, that Isaiah's vision didn't happen in a vacuum. Isaiah entered the holy of holies when the Assyrians were attacking and the people of Jerusalem were trying to barricade themselves against this most formidable army. Outside of the Temple it was a dark and scary time. For Isaiah, and the rest of the Judeans, the world felt frightening and terrifying and out-of-control.

Do you know this feeling? This feeling of being so small and powerless in a world that seems so big and overwhelming. This feeling of the world being topsy turvy and unpredictable. This feeling of not knowing what to do next because everything seems like too much to bear.

For Isaiah, the next thing that happens in his vision is that a huge seraph comes at him with a piece of burning coal and presses it to his lips. The pain must have been brutal. But when the coal touches Isaiah's lips, things are clarified for him— he is cleansed and he is prepared for what is coming next and he instantly pledges to God, "Here I am. Send me." And Isaiah becomes God's prophet. (If only things could be made this clear for all of us.)

In any case, what do we do with this strange and beautiful story? What does Isaiah's call story mean for us today? Please know that I cannot wrap this story up in a tidy bow – nor do I want to – because this isn't how life works. (Also, Isaiah couldn't either ... as much as Isaiah pledged to follow God, if you read Isaiah 6:9-11 you'll hear Isaiah crying out, "How long, O Lord?"). But this is where I seize hope.

Above all things, God is God, and we are not. God is wholly other. We cannot know the mind of God. And yet, in this extraordinary story, there are glimpses beyond majesty and awe. God is fearful to behold, and God holds us as a mother holds a child to her breast. The touch of God burns, and yet it is with life-giving fire. God towers above, and God embraces us in inexplicable and earth-shattering tenderness and forgiveness. The One who creates all things also lives in the dirt and muck of life.

Dear Beloveds, may you always know and trust through all things: God is God. Almighty and Always. The One who shepherds you in life also tenderly holds you into death and beyond. The One who created the universe is as close as your next breath. For God gave you life, named you, and holds you near. Forever. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Amen.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee • bishop@lutheransnw.org

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)	2		3 10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
8:00am Worship 9:00am Forum 10:30am Worship	7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery (FH)	7:00pm Executive Committee (Conf./Zoom)	10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 12:30pm Staff Meeting (library) 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00am Seattle Seekers (Conf. Rm.) 10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
8:00am Worship 9:00am Forum 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Fine Arts Concert: Millar and Molloy	5:30pm PDQ Quilting (Fireside) 7:00pm Alzheimer's Support (Conf.) 7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery (FH)	7:00pm Church Council (Conf. /Zoom)	10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 12:30pm Staff Meeting (library) 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)	
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FEBRUARY 2025

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:00am Worship 9:00am Forum 10:30am Worship	5:30pm PDQ Quilting (Fireside) 7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery (FH)	7:00pm Church Council (Conf./Zoom)	10:00am Sewing & Service (Fireside) 12:30pm Staff Meeting (library) 7:30pm AA Counterbalance (FH)	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		10:30am Alanon Women (upstairs) 7:00pm Shanty Trudgers (upstairs)
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