Council President’s Corner

During our November 10 Council meeting, we discussed the holiday plans for Ebenezer. Paul Brandstetter provided and explained a draft budget for 2021. We talked about our plans for our 2021 budget meeting as well as our annual meeting.

We will have two outgoing Council members and will need the Nominating Committee to recruit two new members for 2021.

May each of us be blessed during this joyous time of year, and may we acknowledge with gratitude our Heavenly Father’s unique gift to us—his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Merry Christmas,
Melissa Probst
Education

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS ...
It’s time for the color blue ... the mystery of Christmas is coming. The Church learned a long time ago that people need a way to get ready to enter or even come close to a mystery like Christmas. The Church set aside four weeks to get ready. This is such a great Mystery that it takes that long to get ready. During this time, we are all on the way to Bethlehem.

This season is a time to pause, slow down, reflect, and pray. A time to listen and notice and appreciate others.

As we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the true gift and meaning that is Christmas this holiday season, I invite all of you to watch the Godly Play® story of Advent that will be on the church YouTube and Facebook November 29, the first Sunday in Advent.

Families of the Godly Play® class will be receiving an Advent story kit to make their own version of the Godly Play® story together at home to help us all on this journey to Bethlehem.

Luke 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

ADVENT KID’S QUOTE
• “I see myself in the shepherd’s light, hearing the angels and being scared, and then following my gut and going to see the baby king.” –Everett, 5 years old

Confirmation

Confirmation students will be doing an Advent Project during December. Because of COVID, they can’t meet with mentors this Advent season. Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 6, at 7 pm on Zoom with Pastor Benson and Anya Almgren.

Pastor’s Bible Study

Pastor Benson’s Thursday Morning Bible Study will continue at 10 am December 3, 10, and 17 as a Zoom Bible Study. To join Pastor via Zoom, please check the Sunday announcements or call the church office, 425-334-0421, to obtain the link or the Meeting ID and Passcode.

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Class will not meet again until Tuesday, January 5. Pastor John Wesling will be teaching in the Choir Room on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 am. The topic is “The Journey of Jesus,” a study of the life of Jesus from creation to his return. Have a wonderful Christmas. See you in January.
Youth of Ebenezer

6th-12th Grade Youth Contacts:
Ray, Virginia, & Andi
Check your Ebenezer Phone Directory

DECEMBER’S EYC MEETING
Youth of Ebenezer families, please let Virginia know if you will be attending Sunday, December 13, at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

GOD’S CREATION CALENDARS
Twelve beautiful photos with scripture verses for 2021. Calendars are available now. Call Virginia to reserve yours. You can pick up your calendars on Fridays from 2-4 pm when Virginia will be available in Ebenezer’s office.

YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE EVENT
FEBRUARY 5-6, 2021
The Extravaganza is the premier event for faith formation leaders in ELCA congregations. The event is held by the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. Every (non-COVID) year, 700-1,000 adults who work with children, youth, and families gather for spiritual renewal, continuing education, networking, and support.

In 2021, because the event has been recreated to exist in both an online and onsite (in-person) environment, we anticipate an even larger community gathering.

Extravaganza 2021 will explore God’s call to “Hold Loosely” and to trust in the One who comes to create, to redeem, and to sustain. This is more important now than ever, as we live and do ministry in a time of pandemic, racial injustice and unrest, social division, and political turmoil.

Find registration deadlines and costs at www.elcaymnet.org/event-4014462.

Preschool

PRESCHOOL NEWS!
Thank you to all our Preschool families and church congregation families for supporting the preschool during our Evergreen Wreath Fun-raiser. The evergreen wreaths will be arriving the week of December 1. Preschool will notify you as soon as they arrive. The proceeds raised will go towards the ministry of the preschool. Your support is what helps us keep going.

December is such a special month. The Bible lesson will be on the Christmas story about baby Jesus our Savior. Check out our YouTube page to view the Advent story. Each student will be getting their own Advent story pieces so they can retell the story to their friends and families.

DATES TO REMEMBER
Curriculum Package pickup will be on December 1 from 10:00-11:30 am. We have filled each bag with fun learning activities, arts and crafts, and sensory items.

During our Zoom classes, we will continue with fun activities and, of course, practice Christmas songs and spread Christmas cheer. The birthday song to Jesus is a great one to sing with your family.

Happy birthday we sing, To Jesus our King, His birthday is Christmas, Let the happy bells ring!

Preschool’s Christmas break will be December 21 through January 4.

The January Curriculum Package pickup will be on January 5.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
May your Christmas be beautiful and bright filled with God’s love and precious memories to last a lifetime.
–Preschool Director and Staff

W.A.T.CH.
(Wednesdays At The CHurch)
WATCH resumes January 6, 2021. Check the January VOICE for more information.

FIVE MINUTE DEVOTION
Just a reminder, at Ebenezer we are reading through the Bible one chapter at a time taking about five minutes a day. Check the daily reading schedule on the back of the calendar, pick up a schedule on the counter in the Narthex, or go to www.ebenezerlakestevens.org and start reading with us.

Spread Warmth ...
Not all the quilts made go to LWR. We also give to local charities. This year we delivered 19 quilts plus the toiletries collected by you from hotels/motels: 8 went to the Everett Women’s Shelter and 11 to the Connection Center (Marysville School District’s program serving homeless students). Now that the cold weather is here, it is such a blessing to have a quilt for warmth.

We are so appreciative of all your support for this ministry. Questions? Please call Betty Bauer.

Special Thanks
Every year we want to especially thank all those who served behind the scenes at Ebenezer. Since March, “behind the scenes” has also meant preparation at home, coming in with face mask and disinfectant, and working “harder” to produce the same effect or the same amount as they did pre-COVID.

• Betty Bauer and the fabulous quilters for all the beautiful quilts and kits distributed locally and worldwide.
• All who helped sew the school backpacks for Lutheran World Relief and all who lovingly donated the supplies to fill them.
• Lynn Riggs and the Prayer Shawl Ministry ladies who have blessed us with comforting shawls.
• Betty McDonald continued to send out all the memorial gift acknowledgments.

Continued on page 7 Column 2
Events Page

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to everyone who completed their Estimate of Giving cards and their Time & Talent surveys. If you have not yet submitted them, please do so ASAP. They will assist our Church Council and our various church ministries as we plan for 2021.

–Thank you, Melissa

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

End-of-the-Year Giving 2020

Thanks for your generous support of Ebenezer Lutheran Church! If you wish to receive contribution credit for gifts in 2020, they must be received by Thursday, December 31, at 10 am. If you mail your gifts, please make sure they are received by Wednesday, December 30.

2021 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes will be available in early January. If you have not received envelopes in the past and would like to, let me know. Questions? Contact JoAnn Cross, Financial Secretary, finance@ ebenezeralkestevens.org.

CHRISTMAS BAKE & CRAFT SALE

Even though we aren’t having our 2020 Sale because we’re housebound, we are planning to have one next year. Now is a good time to make your crafts. Merry Christmas! –Pat Jackson & Betty Bauer

FACEBOOK

When you find Ebenezer Lutheran Church on Facebook, please comment or share it on your own page. This will cause our Facebook feed to be more widely shown in Lake Stevens and more visible to visitors.

EBENEZER’S BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 ~ 4 PM

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall the first Monday of every month following the COVID Mitigation Plan: sign in, wear masks, stay 6 feet apart, and spray used surfaces with disinfectant. Join us.

If you have read or are interested in reading The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin, we ask that you join us for a short discussion of November’s book.

During December, we will read Lab Girl by Hope Jahren. If you have questions or to learn how to get a copy of this book, please contact Jane Briske.

LIVING LUTHERAN

This is the month for food in the Living Lutheran magazine, November 2020. Articles titled “Together at the Table” include recipes of favorite family foods, stories of how food connected people to a group, examples of providing food for strangers and growing healthy food to share, and thoughts about our holy meal of bread and wine. As Bishop Eaton says, “There in our common brokenness we meet each other in Christ.”

November was the 50th anniversary of the first woman to be ordained as a Lutheran pastor in North America. It is also the 40th anniversary of the first Black woman to be ordained as a Lutheran pastor. The ELCA is honoring Rev. Elizabeth Platz and Rev. Earlean Miller with scholarships in their names. In the words of one woman pastor, “God has called me to walk alongside each of them [congregations of native people] in my journey as an Indigenous Native woman pastor in this church.”

There are many good articles in the Living Lutheran. If you are not already receiving a copy, you can subscribe with the Ebenezer group. Contact JoAnn Cross.

DATES TO REMEMBER

• Sunday, December 6 ~ Drive-Through Communion from 10:30-11:30 am.

• Sunday, December 27 ~ Christmas Sweater Sunday—an Ebenezer tradition. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater while watching our live stream service. If you would like to make a video of your family wearing their sweaters, send it to Pastor Benson to show following a future online worship service.

• Thursday, December 31 ~ This is the deadline for all committees to submit their annual reports.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 ~ 10 AM

All our shawls have been blessed, tied with yarn, have prayer cards attached from Ebenezer’s Prayer Shawl group, and are ready for anyone who needs a little comfort. PLEASE ask if you have a need for yourself or want to give a gift. Call Lynn Riggs or Roseanne at the church, 425-334-0421. We will meet inside with face masks in the Youth Room from 10 am -12 pm.

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Community Supper is currently serving FREE take-out only meals every Thursday from 4-6 pm. Since serving take-out meals, we have served an average of 400 meals each week with a minimal crew using all precautions. We will not serve meals on Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve, resuming January 7.

“Like” us at Lake Stevens Community Supper on Facebook to see what is happening. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support for this program. For more information, contact supper@ebenezeralkestevens.org.

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.” –Martin Luther
Our December Birthdays

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date (month/day)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delgado, Ray</td>
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<td>Large, Darra</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<td>Niemer, Michael</td>
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The Prayer Corner

If you have an urgent need, please call Prayer Chain leaders Ken Cross (who has agreed to take Margaret’s place), 425-760-1273, or Alice Werner, 425-334-6845. They’ll contact Prayer Chain members to begin praying for your request. Please pray for the following:

Members of the Congregation:
- Pastor Deb Benson
- Betty Brown
- Kirk Clapper
- Dave Gross
- Judy Hennig
- Ken Holmes
- Shirley Jacobson
- Emma Kosofsky
- Darra Large
- Betty McDonald
- Mario Muñoz Jr
- Carol Perry
- Margene Squires
- Leah Tate

Homebound or Special Care Residents:
- Hazel Johnson
- Dorothy Post

Extended Family with Needs:
- Elizabeth Johnson (Iris Ingram Forbus’ friend)
- Danny LaFave (Kathie Edney’s friend)
- Peggy Layne (Terry Lambert’s sister)
- David McDonald (Betty McDonald’s son)
- Hermann Papke (K & F Clapper’s friend)
- Susan Pratt (Fran Clapper’s cousin)
- Joy Selle (Jackie Herzog-Robertson’s sister)
- Bill Starnes (CC Kuehl’s brother)
- Martha Stuart (Lia Stuart’s mother-in-law)
- Carole Thorngate (K & F Clapper’s cousin)
- Dean Zevenbergen (H Hendrickson’s brother)

Extended Family with Cancer:
- Bunny (Kay Caulfield’s friend)
- Chris Bitnes (Arlene McDaniel’s daughter)
- Jodi Erickson (Judy Palmer’s friend)
- LeRoy Ettlin (Kirk & Fran Clapper’s friend)
- Chris Grigsby (Carol Perry’s great-grandson)
- Ron Gunter (Kay Caulfield’s friend)
- Lillian Hone (Kandi Shouman’s mother)
- Ryder Jacobson (Shirley Jacobson’s great-grandson)
- Macklen Probst (Melissa Probst’s grandson)
- Mark Rice (Alice Werner’s nephew)
- Elinor Shultz (A Werner’s sister-in-law) - ALS
- Liz Schilling (Korrine Gust’s friend)
- Sherry Stebing (Sandy Brandt’s sister)
- Sandy Tsiang (Cindy Sheppard’s mother)
- Rene Lund Vandervoet (Carolyn Lund’s niece)
- Meggi Ward (Susan Sheppard’s friend)
- Bridget Wellen (M Ren’s granddaughter) - MS
- Cale Werner (Alice Werner’s grandson)
- Fiona Werner (Alice Werner’s granddaughter)
- Tom Wood (Ken Holmes’ father)

Preschool Director, Staff, & Families
- Hunter Gardoski, Sid Hendrickson Jr, Daniel Nida, Jose Rivera, Ethan Stuart, Scott Viboch

For All Our Military and Their Families:
- Backstrom Family - Mary Backstrom passed away
- Caulfield & Blaylock Families - Kay Caulfield’s friend, Sgt. Everett Blaylock, passed away
- Eliason Family - Kathy Eliason’s niece Leah Hammersmark passed away
- Hendrickson Family - Helen Hendrickson’s brother Jim Winsor passed away
- Muchoney Family - Theresa Muchoney passed away

For Those Who Grieve:
- Hunter Gardoski, Sid Hendrickson Jr, Daniel Nida, Jose Rivera, Ethan Stuart, Scott Viboch
Readings for Worship

December 6 (Communion)

**1st Lesson:** Isaiah 40:1-11
**Psalm:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
**2nd Lesson:** II Peter 3:8-15a
**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

December 13

**1st Lesson:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
**Psalm:** Psalm 126
**2nd Lesson:** I Thessalonians 5:16-24
**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20

**1st Lesson:** II Samuel 7:1-11, 16
**Psalm:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
**2nd Lesson:** Romans 16:25-27
**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

December 27

**1st Lesson:** Isaiah 61:10—62:3
**Psalm:** Psalm 148
**2nd Lesson:** Galatians 4:4-7
**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

Church Office Hours

Monday Office Closed
Tuesday 9:00-12:30 & 1:30-5:00
Wednesday 9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:00
Thursday 9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:00
Friday Office Closed

Blessings, Seniors! Special Thanks Continued

*Good news from heaven the angels bring, glad tidings to the earth they sing: to us this day a child is given, to crown us with the joy of heaven.* –Martin Luther

We pray you have a blessed Christmas. We are thankful that our God is always with us no matter what we’re going through! We wish you His abundant love, good health, and the joy of this Christmas season!

*Continued from page 3 Column 3*

- Everyone who stocked the Sanctuary pews, counted offering, provided communion bread, and prepared the Sanctuary for services.
- Jack and Diane Champaigne, Delain Grohn, Ken Cross, Lynne Charlot, Linda Hurt, Lia Stuart, Loretta Gallagher, Betty Bauer, and Gary and Jane Briske who helped maintain the grounds.
- Carolyn Lund who supplied all the seasonal decorations and centerpieces.
- All those who have come every week to prepare and distribute Community Supper’s take-out.
- Ken Cross, Tara Erickson, and Grey Robinson who run the sound system and record the online services.
- Eric Bell, Website Manager; Paul Brandstetter, Bookkeeper; JoAnn Cross, Financial Secretary; and Kristin Sutton, Facebook Organizer.
- Prayer Chain captains, Alice Werner and Margaret Ren, who have worked together many, many years contacting the prayer warriors who pray for all of us, friends, and family members 24/7.

Dear Ebenezer Family

Thanks so much for your loving and caring thoughts while we waded through these past months of tests and more tests and waiting for answers. We are so relieved to say they did not find cancer or even pre-cancer in any of the biopsies. The doctor even got a second opinion before she called us. The problems they did find are minor and not life threatening. Kirk will continue to have a special diet with lots of supplements to help him gain weight and strength. He is to go to physical therapy for help with balance and strength building. I feel a burden has lifted off my shoulders.

—Fran Clapper

God Bless You All

I want to thank my Ebenezer family and Pastor Benson for all your prayers, get well cards, and phone calls during my recovery after surgery. —Pat Jackson

Food Bank Baskets

On Saturday, December 12, from 1-4 pm in Ebenezer’s parking lot, the Lake Stevens Community Food Bank will distribute holiday baskets to everyone who signs up to receive one. Sign up right away.

They will also hold the Food Bank’s Toy Give Away at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 9 from 12-5 pm on Saturday, December 19.

*Continued on page 8 Column 1*
In the News

Continued from page 7 Column 3

Thank You All!
Thank you to my church family for all the beautiful cards, the calls to check on me, and your thoughts and prayers. Doctor says it will be a few more months before swelling dissipates, but I’m improving. –Carol Perry

We Thank God for Margaret
Margaret Ren has been a co-captain of the Prayer Chain with Alice Werner for approximately 35 years. Richard Edmonds was pastor at Ebenezer. All these years she has faithfully passed on prayer requests for all of us, our friends, and our family members to the faithful, caring members of Ebenezer’s Prayer Chain. She says it’s time to “retire” as captain, but she will continue as a member of the team. We want to thank Margaret for all the prayers, time spent, her caring heart, and her unchanging belief that God hears and answers our prayers.

You Are All a Special Blessing!
THANK YOU to all the wonderful partners who help with the bulletins, proofread, and prepare bulk mailings: Donna Holm, Marilyn Peterson, Dee Anne Williams, Sandy Marks, Betty Bauer, JoAnn Cross, Virginia Dutcher, Melissa Probst, Sue Wilson, and Dotty Ronnestad. I am blessed by your faithfulness! And thank you to Pastor Benson and Ken Cross who keep my computer up to date and running.

God Bless Each One!
For several years, the students and faculty members of the Lake Stevens School District have honored our military—active and retired. This year the schools were closed for in-person events. BUT ... we want to honor all of Ebenezer’s military members and to thank them for their service.

Our veterans: Gary Briske, Bob DeFrang, Jeff Gust, George Hughes, Don Lundquist, Debbie May, Arden Olson, Truman Peterson, Bernadette Quinn, Don Ren, Harold Ronnestad, Mike Shephard, Clay Volkman, Don Wilson. Our active duty military: Hunter Gardoski, Sid Hendrickson Jr, Daniel Nida, Jose Rivera, Ethan Stuart, Scott Vibo.

Blessed Again
Alice DiMonda was born October 17 weighing 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 20½ inches. Her parents Logan and Mallory and her brother Dominic live in Houston, TX. The blessed-again and very happy grandparents are Bill and Janine DiMonda. Janine says, “She’s very serene and chubby.” Congratulations!

Christmas Eve Service
Joining us for our Live Stream Christmas Eve Candlelight service? Candles and bulletins will be available right outside the front door of the church beginning December 15 to help you celebrate in your own home.

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