



The monthly Newsletter of:

June 2020

# Agnus Dei Lutheran Church

Gather in Grace

Grow in Faith

Go in Service



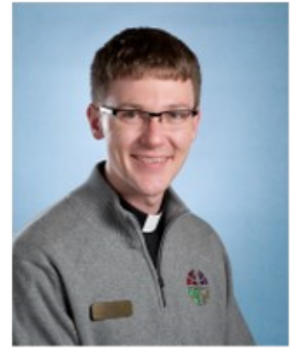
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

The congregation of Agnus Dei Lutheran Church celebrates the amazing diversity of God's beloved children. We welcome all, regardless of age, ethnicity, abilities, faith background, race, family configuration, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. We enthusiastically invite you into this worshiping congregation as we strive to share God's inclusive love with everyone in our community and in our world.



## From Our Pastor

Beloved, grace and peace to you. Earlier this year I had been preparing to take a Sabbatical this summer. A Sabbatical, of course, is about taking time apart from our daily routines for growth, learning and self-examination, but most of all, for rest. Then, in March, COVID-19 shifted my focus—along with everyone else's—to other matters: learning to worship digitally and gather virtually, planning for an ever-changing future, and trying to maintain the connections within our community. Because of travel restrictions and the stay-at-home order, I was not certain that my Sabbatical would be possible this year.



I now believe that, even in light of present restrictions, I will be able to accomplish what I had planned for my Sabbatical. The core of my planned Sabbatical experience—two directed retreats focusing on my own spiritual health—should still be possible. With the blessing of the Personnel Committee and Council, I will begin my Sabbatical on July 13 and return to service at Agnus Dei on October 11.

During these 3 months, I will not be at worship and I will not be reachable by phone or email. Our deacons, Shari Shull and Sr. Ann Shultz, will be providing pastoral care, and we will have guest pastors to preach. The staff are equipped to continue running the day-to-day work of the congregation, and the council and committees have the authority to handle any decisions that need to be made. In the coming month, the Council and I will be communicating more details about what my absence will look like so that you will know what to expect.

In some ways, this pandemic has presented us all with a kind of Sabbatical period—a time apart from our daily routines with opportunities for growth, self-reflection, and rest—making this an ideal time to take my time away. In spite of the added stress, we now have found our rhythm of communal worship and gathering virtually, and we finally have some sense of what to expect as we move forward through our phased reopening. Although I may be gone for some of the discussion as to how our congregation begins to reopen our building, we have very capable and thoughtful leaders in the Church Council and staff, and I trust that together, we will navigate this transition well.

Much like the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30), I fully expect this congregation to be busy at work using your gifts and growing in wisdom in my absence. Just as the master entrusted his money to his servants, God has entrusted this congregation to all of us—not just the pastor. We are each invited and expected to use this gift in a way that benefits God's world. You have been given all you need, and I know that you will use it wisely.

This Sabbatical time is for all of us—for you as much as for me. I pray that we will all use this opportunity to invest in and develop the gifts that God has given us so that, when our Master returns, we will have dividends to share with one another.

Yours in Christ,  
Pr. Seth



Please let Pastor Seth know if you are in need of pastoral care. If you would like to be contacted please call the office at 253-851-6222 or email [pastorseth@agnusdeilutheran.org](mailto:pastorseth@agnusdeilutheran.org)



*For comfort and for healing:*

- \* Marian Ano
- \* Barbara Ausich
- \* Deb Brueckner
- \* Audrey Clinton
- \* Alynne Gootkin
- \* Kyle Gootkin
- \* Richard and Marilyn Hermstad
- \* Dave Kulman
- \* George Mitchell
- \* Jack Oakes
- \* Joannah Powers
- \* Anne Sapp
- \* Hal and Myra Snider
- \* Johnny Tierny
- \* Rose VanderKlomp
- \* Trudy Wagner
- \* Dick Werner

*In service to our country:*

- \* Jason Barelli, U.S. Navy
- \* CAPT. Jenny Nussbaum, US Public Health Service

*For comfort in their grief:*

For the family and friends of Barb Heiskell as they mourn her death.

## A Message from Our Council President

The May council meeting was a very busy one as we had to discuss many things coming up in the near future. We talked about plans for what will be needed while Pastor is on his sabbatical plus the possibility of this being delayed due to the virus situation. We discussed what plans would have to happen if we have a shortfall in our budget. We discussed the types of electronic giving that members can use.



A group looked into Tithe.ly, which offers application management software and webhosting for about \$50/month. They may be able to consolidate other services and we would save money, plus it has the added benefit of being more user friendly. There are three levels that we can purchase: base level, just electronic giving is free and we can do the church management at another time. The council passed a motion to accept the concept of moving from current software to the Tith.ly management system and web hosting application.

We spent time on planning the May congregation meeting and considered the way folks will vote and ways for them to ask questions during the meeting as this is all new for most people. By the time this is published we will have had the congregation meeting. I was very pleased with the number of people that joined in and participated for our very first try. I thank you all for participating—what a wonderful group of Christians.

This will be my last newsletter as your council President. I was fortunate to serve with a great group of dedicated people. I thank all the committees of very dedicated people I have had the pleasure of interacting with.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve you as president. I am not finished though—I still have two more years on the council.

Gene Kuest,  
Council President

## Stay Connected

“Our building may be closed but the church is open”

We may not be able to gather in person but there are plenty of opportunities to stay connected.

Virtual Worship takes place on Sundays at 9:45 AM followed by zoom fellowship at 10:30 AM. Holden Evening Prayer is on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. All services can be viewed live at the appointed time by clicking the livestream link on our webpage

<https://www.agnusdeilutheran.org/connecting.html> The recordings will be left for viewing at any later time. All zoom meetings, Bible studies, and fellowship opportunities can be accessed from our church website’s socially distanced connecting page.

## Take the Survey!

Website changes are in the works! In our effort to improve and simplify our website, we would like to know how you are using it currently and how we might improve it. The survey is brief; it should take only a couple of minutes of your time. The link to the survey has gone out in our all church emails and we have posted it on our website.



## Minister of Programs, Sister Ann Shultz



Coming this summer! This will be a new experience for us all – a family Vacation Bible School opportunity that will be a combination of on-line via ZOOM, and at-home activities. Although we would all prefer to be together for VBS, as I have been trying out different technologies and learning new apps, I am excited about the opportunities this technology is providing.

The details are still being worked out and the publisher is still working on producing this program, so I will have more information available in June when I am able to read the whole curriculum.

What we will have is music, Bible stories, games, arts and crafts, and kid-friendly yoga. My plan is to offer VBS one afternoon or evening a week for 5 weeks – dates and time TBD. If you are interested in participating, please email me ([sisterann@agnusdeilutheran.org](mailto:sisterann@agnusdeilutheran.org)) and let me know the names and ages of those who will be participating. I will be sending out a survey to inquire of those interested what day and time works best for them. Everyone is welcome. There will be no cost to families to participate.

There are also opportunities to volunteer to help with VBS. If you would be interested in helping with music, yoga, or leading some activities for pre-school aged kids, please let me know. The time commitment would be about 20 – 30 minutes a week, and can be done live, or be pre-recorded.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to learn new ways of being church together.

Joyfully,

Sister Ann



## Little Lambs Preschool

### *A Ministry of Agnus Dei Lutheran Church*

As our 25th anniversary school year ends, "the Building is still closed, but the Agnus Dei Little Lambs mission is healthy and alive in the Gig Harbor community." During the final weeks of the virus closure, our Director Shannon Moore and teachers continue to interact with our preschoolers with story time read-alouds on Facebook, ZOOM "playdates", and class meetings.

In closing the preschool for the year, all parents with prepaid tuition were offered full refunds for the periods of closure.

- 56% of our parents chose a partial or full refund.
- 23% of our parents donated their full or partial tuition back to the Little Lambs program
- 21% of our parents chose to roll over tuition so that they could return in the fall for our 20/21 school year

The Board also unanimously agreed to continue our monthly tithe/offering to Agnus Dei through the closure and summer. With the unpredictability of the future virus closures, the Board will continue to meet through the summer so we can respond quickly to changes made by the school district. Our preschool family: children, parents, staff and board members, all report being healthy and safe. Thanks be to God!!! Our teachers all report that they plan on returning so we are very pleased for their continued support to Agnus Dei.

At the 17 May meeting, we celebrated the election and commitment of both Margaret Duncan and Rob Powers as they were elected to full terms on the board.

We are blessed with a small strategic reserve that we will carry over for next year and already we have 19 children enrolled. We pray for a healthy and safe 2020-21 school opening in the fall.

Dave Marquardt



## Don Krump, Properties Team

Even while we are not using our building, the grass and weeds continue to grow and maintenance tasks are still in need of attention. If you need some time out of the house and free of people, the church front yard could use your mowing talents as well as a flower bed or two, your weeding skills. If anyone prides themselves as exterior painters, we need the cross, some window trim and some storage shed doors painted. All tools and materials for these projects will be provided. Coordinate with me, Don, at (415) 676-9811. God's work is always rewarding.

A big thank you goes out to Paul Alvestad, who provided more than five yards of beauty bark for the church gardens and to Ellis Rousseau, Denny Sapp, Jim and Linda Ribary, John Stava and Gene Kuest, who spread it. The gardens look great!



## Endowment Fund

This is the first in a series of articles explaining how an endowment fund could be established for Agnus Dei Lutheran Church and how it would help the ministries at our church. This article is a very basic (meaning short) explanation of what an endowment fund is and how it can support the ministries of Agnus Dei.

An endowment fund at Agnus Dei would be a (hopefully, large) pot of money, which is invested so that each year there is a return on that money that would support different ministries within Agnus Dei and the community. The principal of the investment is never touched so that there is always money coming back to Agnus Dei's ministries.

Our endowment would be through the ELCA Foundation, which gives back 4% each year. That means that if the endowment fund has \$25,000 (which is the minimum to begin an endowment) invested the Church would receive \$1,000 each year.

Think about what this money could do for some of our ministries. It could supply batting for the quilters, provide support for Vacation Bible School and Backpacks4Kids. The principal is never touched, so the amount invested could grow over time as more donations are made to the Endowment Fund. This could mean a much higher amount would become available, and Agnus Dei could have an even bigger ministry that we can only imagine at this time.

Mike Snowden, Endowment Committee



## MAY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

		Number of devices watching live	Total Views
May 3	Sunday	62	125
May 10	Sunday	55	109
May 17	Sunday	66	142
	Ascension Day		
May 21	Compline		49
May 24	Sunday	56	143
May 31	Pentecost	64	





## FB4K MOBILIZES FOR GREATER RESPONSE

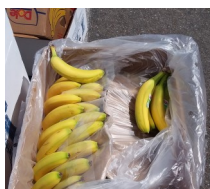
Requests for weekly 20+ lb. bags of food for families in our community have spiked to the highest number in the 11 years that FB4K has existed in this school district. Approximately **215 families** receive food each Saturday. That means **465 children** who would otherwise experience food inse-

curity. During the COVID-19 time an excess of **50,000 lbs. of food** has been distributed by a small group of amazing volunteers (since many previous volunteers are unable to participate).

Families pick up food on Saturdays at one of these locations: Evergreen Elementary, Gateway Park, or Henderson Bay HS. In addition, food is delivered to 25 families who do not have transportation. Plans are being made to continue this program throughout the summer months.

Community donations of **8,975 lbs.** of food indicate widespread understanding of the effects of job losses for local families.

Food donations can be placed inside the FB4K cupboard behind the fire station on Kimball Dr. Agnus Dei member **Paul Miller** checks the cupboard often and delivers the food to the packing site. Continued donations to the Agnus Dei FB4K account are also very much appreciated. Thanks for your continuing support as we anticipate increasing requests for supplemental food during this economic crisis facing families who are our neighbors.



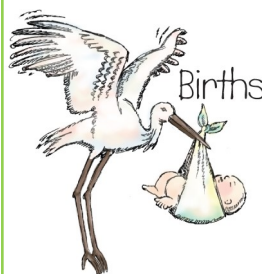
## We Celebrate...

### June Birthdays

- 3 Christina Iversen, Katy Peterson
- 6 Masaharu Ano, Pat Kuest
- 7 Nathan Page
- 9 Emily Beloate
- 10 Dick Brandt
- 12 Doug Hettinger
- 16 Marilyn Hermstad, Alex Mabe
- 17 Frank Witt, Maggie Rodgers
- 21 Lynne Zematis, Matthew Carlson
- 22 Judy Baerg
- 23 Barb Ausich
- 24 Holly Lewis, Anikka Abbott, Keith Eilers
- 27 Kennedy Brueckner
- 28 Dick Brentin, Pat Damron
- 29 Sonja Miller, Greg Jackson, Rebecca Crow

### June Anniversaries

- 6 Dick and Eunice Werner
- 6 Doug Hettinger and Mary Beth Harrison
- 7 Ann and Ellis Rousseau
- 11 Lyle and Sonja Miller
- 14 Dorothy and Lowell Haeffle
- 15 Keith and Ginny Eilers
- 16 Dick and Martia Ohme
- 16 Dick and Judy Baerg
- 21 Katie Hay and Zach Wiren
- 22 Linda and Jim Ribary
- 26 Don and Carolyn Heinz
- 28 Terrance and Sarah Lofgreen
- 29 Robert and Marlene Bridgforth



### Congratulations...

...to Rose VanderKlomp and family as they celebrate the birth of her new great granddaughter Rylee Mae on May 16. Rylee weighed 7lbs and has a head full of dark hair. Rose reported that big sister Cora Rose loves her new role and all are doing well.

# FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF APRIL 30, 2020

(prepared May 12, 2020)

## RESULTS:

	Jan - Apr <u>Actual</u>	Jan - Apr <u>Budget</u>	% of YTD <u>Budget</u>	2020 <u>Budget</u>
<b>OPERATING INCOME:</b>				
General Offering	126,273	126,273	100.0%	439,400
Growth in Giving - G.O.	25,697	28,666	89.6%	86,000
Special Event Offerings	15,826	-	-	-
Other Income	10,284	5,557	185.1%	23,900
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>178,080</b>	<b>160,496</b>	<b>111.0%</b>	<b>549,300</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES &amp; LIABILITIES:</b>				
Ministry of Education	1,455	2,604	55.9%	9,750
Ministry of Mission	16,932	15,495	109.3%	54,540
Ministry of Programs	1,806	3,020	59.8%	8,850
Administrative Expenses	64,434	66,860	96.4%	193,630
Staff and Services	86,680	88,605	97.8%	281,747
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE/LIABILITIES</b>	<b>171,308</b>	<b>176,584</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>548,517</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>6,772</b>	<b>(16,088)</b>		<b>783</b>
<b>Total Reserves on Deposit at MIF</b>			<b>Balance</b>	
Building Fund			28,257	
Above & Beyond			32,519	
Rental House Reserve			19,178	
Operating Reserve			10,822	
<b>Total Reserves on Deposit at MIF</b>			<b>90,776</b>	

## COMMENTS:

### YTD as of April 30, 2020:

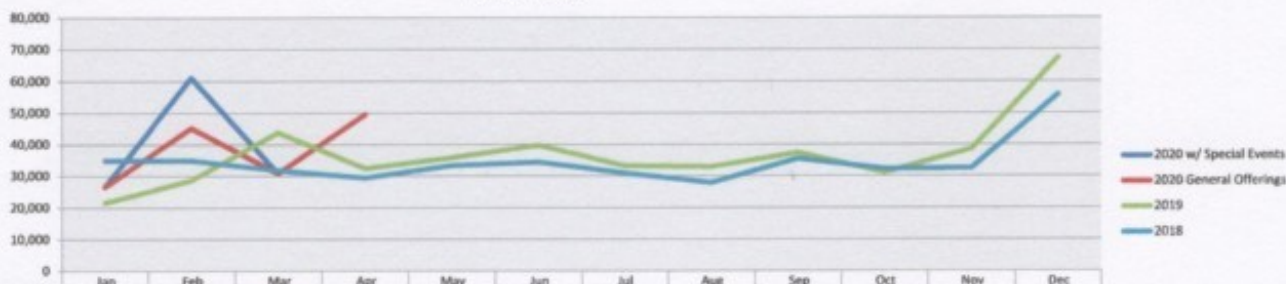
- \* Total Unrestricted Offerings are at 98.1% of goal.  
(with Special Event income, Offerings are at 108.3% of goal)
- \* Total Income is 111% of goal, although \$5,000 is offset by specific new expense.
- \* Total Expenses are 97% of target.
- \* Net Operating Loss is **\$3,491**

### April 30, 2020 Balance Sheet

* Current Assets (checking, savings, Accts Rec.)	162,378
* Fixed Assets (land, building, rental property)	3,213,901
<b>* TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,376,279</b>
* Current Liabilities	9,770
* LongTerm Liabilities (Mortgage & Organ Loans)	1,356,677
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,366,447</b>
* Equity	
* Retriected Net Assets (Designated)	110,042
* Unrestricted Net Assets	1,899,791
<b>* TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>3,376,279</b>

\* Detail financial reports are available at the Church Office.  
Contact the Administrative Assistant to request a copy.

## MONTHLY OFFERINGS TREND 2018-2020



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020 w/ Special Events	26,552	61,029	30,812	49,503								
2020 General Offerings	26,552	45,203	30,812	49,503								
2019	21,659	28,593	43,743	32,278	35,864	39,631	33,207	32,817	37,287	31,037	38,447	67,432
2018	34,935	34,968	31,839	29,411	33,306	34,332	30,930	27,868	35,412	32,227	32,374	55,831

Operating Cash on Hand in Checking  
Account as of April 30, 2019

\$13,257

Operating Cash on Hand in Checking  
Account as of April 30, 2020

\$47,689

Current balance in Checking Account  
includes the following Restricted Funds

Food Backpacks 4Kids

\$7,186

Operating Reserve Funds

\$19,178

\*these funds are not to be spent for any other purpose

\*this assumes that funds are noted to potentially replenish  
Operating Reserve

Available Unencumbered Funds as of  
April 30, 2020

\$21,325



## STEWARDSHIP IN PANDEMIC TIMES

With the approach of summer, under normal circumstances we would be looking forward to vacations, travel, and time away from the normal pressures of everyday life. Historically, regular giving to the Church declines during the summer, and pressure to meet the ongoing fixed expenses requires closer monitoring of cash flow (and often access to reserves) to ensure all financial obligations are met.

But these are not normal times. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to alter and adjust our lives, with social distancing and stay-at-home initiatives the new normal. The Church building is closed. Our Pastor now leads services virtually from his home. Committees are ramping up the use of ZOOM to meet virtually. Our annual General Meeting held virtually on May 17<sup>th</sup> had more than 65 participants as we elected new Council and Little Lambs board members and viewed the financial status of the first 4 months of 2020, presented by our Treasurer Julie Bell remotely from California.

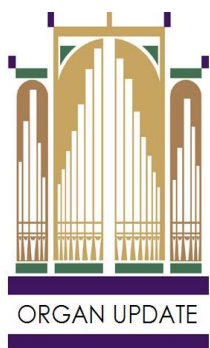
Remote participation in Worship and other Church activities/groups has been remarkable, and we as a parish have remained active and committed to the work of Agnus Dei. Giving, as Julie reported, has been positive, and our financial position at this time is better than one might have anticipated.

That said, it is imperative that if we are to survive as a Congregation and emerge from the pandemic as a stronger, more vibrant community of faith, we must continue a strong pattern of financial support during the summer months. We have no idea, at this point, when we will be able to meet face to face. As we continue to explore more sophisticated technology to support worship and meeting together virtually, there may well be a need for additional funds to adapt to a “new normal” virtual environment. As important as this may be, even more crucial is maintaining a healthy income stream to meet the challenging 2020 budget approved by the Congregation earlier this year.

Thank you for your strong financial support of the Church thus far in 2020. As the summer approaches, we would encourage you to continue this support. Give remotely through the ADLC website, the monthly Church Newsletter, and other email communications from the Church by clicking on the “DONATE” button and following instructions. Of course, you can always mail your offering using the pledge envelopes provided for 2020.

May we all prayerfully consider how we can help the Church emerge stronger as we continue to perform God’s work in the world. *“God’s Work; our Hands.”*

Stewardship Committee



### Organ Progress

The organ shop has been closed during the pandemic so there is no update this month. It was great to squeeze in the open house early in March before all the closures. There will be further updates when shop production resumes. We are hoping for some new photos of our organ in progress in the July newsletter.



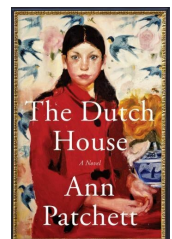


# JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion-Livestream <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Text Study with Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Staff Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Men's Square <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Circle
<b>7</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion-Livestream <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Faith Focus Meeting via Zoom <b>4:30 PM</b> Little Lambs Board Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Text Study with Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Staff Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion-Livestream <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship <b>Father's Day</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Gather Bible Study	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Text Study with Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer	<b>18</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Staff Meeting <b>5:30 PM</b> Theology on Tap via Zoom	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion-Livestream <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Faith Focus Meeting via Zoom	<b>24</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Text Study with Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer	<b>25</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Staff Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion-Livestream <b>10:30 AM</b> Virtual Fellowship <b>11:30 AM</b> Book Group via Zoom	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Text Study with Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Church Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> July 4th Holiday Observed, Office Closed	<b>4</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Men's Square <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Circle

### Agnus Dei Book Group Continues to Meet Via Zoom

All are invited to join the next book group discussion on June 21 at 11:30 AM. The link to the zoom meeting can be found on our church web page on the socially distanced connecting page. The book for June is "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett. For more information, contact Linda Zehnder.





Serving in Worship  
June

	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Lector</b>
June 7	Marilyn Colyar	Bob Beals
June 14	Bob Beals	Chuck Carlson
June 21	Ashley Ortenzo	Mike Snowden
June 28	Lyle Miller	Dianna Carlson

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church  
10511 Peacock Hill Ave NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*The monthly newsletter of*

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church  
10511 Peacock Hill Ave NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Submit newsletter items, subscription requests and address  
changes to Editor/Church Administrator: Cindy Beals  
253-851-6222 office@agnusdeilutheran.org

**Church Staff**

*Pastor: Rev. Seth Novak*

*253-851-6222, pastorseth@agnusdeilutheran.org*

*Minister of Music: Shari Shull, Deacon*

*253-851-6222, sharishull@agnusdeilutheran.org*

*Minister of Programs: Sister Ann Shultz*

*253-851-6222, sisterann@agnusdeilutheran.org*

*Church Musician: Susan Luebeck*

*Church Administrator: Cindy Beals*

*253-851-6222, office@agnusdeilutheran.org*

*Congregational President: Gene Kuest*

*Congregational Vice President: Beverly Buster*

*Council Secretary: Greg Jackson*

*Treasurer: Julie Bell*

*Faith Community Nurse: Zoe Holmes*

*Faith Community Nurse: Gwen Daugs*

**Council**

*Bob Beals, Julie Bell, Beverly Buster, Katie Hay, Greg Jackson, Gene  
Kuest, Larry Mjelde, Bob Nussbaum, Linda Zehnder*

*These new council members begin their terms July 1:*

*Dianna Carlson, Charlene Franz, Susan Whitney, Shari Stava, Deb  
Brueckner, Dick Ohme, Denny Sapp*

**Little Lambs Preschool**

*Director/Teacher: Shannon Moore*

*Email: lambs@agnusdeilutheran.org*

*Financial Secretary: Kimberly Morgan*

*Little Lambs Board: Margaret Duncan, Dave Marquardt, Nels Peterson,  
Rob Powers, Maggie Rodgers*