

The monthly Newsletter of:

June 2021

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church

Gather in Grace

Grow in Faith

Go in Service



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

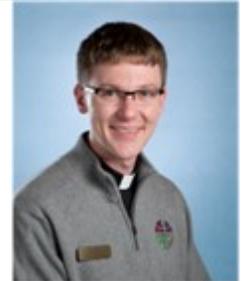


The congregation of Agnus Dei Lutheran Church celebrates the amazing diversity of God's beloved children. We welcome all, regardless of age, ethnicity, abilities, faith background, race, family configuration, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. We enthusiastically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



Pastor's Message

At our congregational meeting on May 16, I had the pleasure of announcing, on behalf of the Building Reopening Committee, that we have a tentative start date for in-person worship. Unless the situation changes drastically, we expect to be able to worship in our sanctuary beginning on July 25. There are still many decisions to be made and much work to be done and, of course, all of that needs to be approved by the Council, but we are beginning to make plans for reopening.



Pastor Seth Novak

Since the very beginning of this pandemic, our first concern as a congregation has been to care for one another. Though it pained us to do so, we moved our worship online so that we would not be putting either worshippers or staff at risk by gathering in-person, especially those over 60 who were more susceptible to the virus. We have worn masks in our daily lives to protect others from potential exposure to the virus. Many of us have been vaccinated in order to protect not only ourselves, but to protect those around us.

Now as we begin reopening, we will continue to be guided first and foremost by that love for our neighbors. Now, it is our youngest neighbors who are most susceptible since they cannot yet be vaccinated; along with those who are immunocompromised or who are not vaccinated for other reasons. We want to be able to see to the spiritual and emotional health of our community, but not at the expense of the physical health of our friends and neighbors. Our goal is to provide a safe and loving worship atmosphere for everyone: vaccinated or unvaccinated, online or in person.

Federal guidelines continue to change as our knowledge grows, just as they have throughout this entire season. That makes state guidelines a moving target that it's proving difficult to hit. In order to expedite opening, Agnus Dei leadership has decided to pick a plan and implement it with the expectation that, as we work through the transition, we can adapt our plans as the situation calls for it.

Here are a few things that we imagine about in-person worship at this point. Keep in mind, this is still a work in progress, and these plans may change. If you have concerns about any of these items, please contact me. I would be grateful to hear your feedback.

- Gathering at 50% of the capacity of the sanctuary and narthex combined, with family groups socially distanced, and a reservation system to ensure safe numbers. Use of the parish hall as worship overflow has been discussed so that we won't have to turn people away who wish to attend.
- Communing with bread alone will eliminate the question of hygiene with cups and also saves us from creating a mountain of plastic waste with the disposable communion sets many other churches are using. Sacrificing the health of our environment for the health of our people when we can easily adjust to accommodate both doesn't seem loving.
- Singing in worship may be done by soloists or small groups, while the congregation may be invited to

quietly hum along or read and reflect on the words of the songs. Music is an important means of worship for us, and we hope this will still be able to help us appreciate the gifts of our musicians and worship God with song.

- Temperature screening as people enter, and asking anyone who is not feeling well to please worship from home for the sake of others.
 - ◊ This means that entering the building will take a bit longer, so arriving early will be important to starting promptly and honoring the time of everyone gathering.

Although Governor Inslee has suggested allowing for vaccinated and unvaccinated sections in churches, I personally feel that this is not a good idea. It pains me to think of our congregation being divided in this way, with a physical marker of a person's vaccination status. I do not want to see us separate people and point out who has been vaccinated or not, allowing special treatment for some or imposing harsher restrictions on others. So far, the leadership of the congregation has agreed. What this means is that we will be a congregation in solidarity with one another. For the safety of all, we plan to continue to ask that everyone remain masked during worship, to refrain from singing, and to be screened. Eventually we will approach the herd immunity threshold in our area, and we can think about relaxing these restrictions, but until that time, we will ask everyone who worships with us to act out of love for the most vulnerable and susceptible among us.

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, St. Paul talks about whether it is permissible to eat meat sacrificed to idols. As a Christian who did not believe in idols, he had no problem with it; but he knew that there were some for whom his eating meat might be construed as idol worship, and so he chose to abstain. He opted to sacrifice his own liberty and comfort, one might say, for the benefit of those whom he loved. (1 Corinthians 8) I would humbly and lovingly ask us to consider what we are willing to sacrifice for our beloved friends when we choose to gather in person. Personally, if my wearing a mask or not singing may keep someone else from contracting COVID-19, as much as I dislike those things, I count them a small cost.

We will, of course, continue offering our worship online for anyone and everyone who wishes to participate. Online worship allows folks who might not otherwise be able to join us for reasons of health, transportation, employment, distance, or many other considerations to do so. If you are uncomfortable making these sacrifices for the others gathered, or if you are unwilling yet to take the risk to yourself or loved ones of gathering in person, you are encouraged to worship with the congregation online.

This pandemic has been teaching us what we must sometimes do to care for one another, but it has also shown us the lengths to which we are willing to go to show that care. I'm grateful for all of you and for the sacrifices you've made for each other in this time. When we gather again on July 25, it will be with lament for what we have lost, with celebration that we are able to move forward, and, most of all, with gratitude for the community with which God has gifted us.

I look forward to seeing you in July!

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
In an emergency, you can reach Pastor Seth at 253-448-3481.

June Greetings from the Church Council

Highlights of the May Church Council and Congregational Meeting

Reopening: In-person worship, with guidelines, is tentatively planned for July 25, 2021. More information to come.

New Elected Incoming Church Council Members: Linda Ribary, Marlene Bridgforth, Lynette Brentin, Marilyn Colyar, and Charlene Franz (re-elected).

Outgoing Church Council Members: Deb Brueckner, Julie Bell, Bob Nussbaum, and Beverly Buster.

Organ: The new organ debt is paid off (retired) thanks to the trade allowance of the old organ that was negotiated by Bruce and Shari Shull, additional organ donations, and the decision of the Council to use designated funds to save on interest.

Operating Reserve: The Congregation meeting gave approval to re-establish the Operating Reserve Fund with \$36,000. This allows for full mortgage payments (\$10,036) to be in place for January 2022.

Benevolence to the Synod: The November Congregational meeting will consider a return to 10%.

Outside Audit of Agnus Dei/Little Lamb Preschool Finances: The Congregation approved up to \$5,000. The Church Council will explore the best source to perform an audit. Currently, the audit is two years behind. An audit report should be presented at the May Congregational meetings.

Rental Property Committee: Denny Sapp requests volunteers to help decide how to proceed with the rental property. There is more information on property boundaries, and necessary repairs.

Affordable Housing Project: Sister Ann continues to work on gathering information and future guest speakers on the opportunity for Agnus Dei to provide affordable housing without being a landlord.

ELCA Grant for Church Community Garden: Sister Ann has applied for a grant of \$1500—2500 for materials such as irrigation, soil, wood, to build a community garden. If Agnus Dei is randomly selected, volunteers will be needed to decide on how to move forward with a community garden.

I am grateful for my time to serve as 2020—2021 President of the Church Council. This journey into uncharted waters began with the church building closed due to the pandemic, Pastor Seth on a three-month sabbatical, and a large financial deficit and now ends with a positive May Congregational Meeting, and newly elected Council members to join with those who remain to move forward to reopening our building.

Special thank you always to Pastor Seth, Sister Ann, Cindy (of course!), my VP Denny Sapp, Susan Whitney (my neighbor!) Julie Bell (wow!), Gene Kuest, Richard Ohme, Sherry Stava, Deb Brueckner, Charlene Franz, Bob Nussbaum, and Dave Marquardt. Thanks to the Property Committee for how the church sparkles, Worship Committee for moving the services online, Building Reopening Committee for pandemic policies and guidelines, Human Concerns, Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, Racial Justice, and individuals who offered guidance. Most of all, I thank God.

Peace, and stay safe.

Love,

Beverly Buster

Outgoing Council President.



Minister of Programs Sister Ann Shultz



SUNDAY SCHOOL KITS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CHURCH

Backyard Safari Exploring God's World 2021 Hybrid VBS

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School is Backyard Safari ~ Exploring God's World and it will be a hybrid experience. It will include 6 sessions for at-home use (Grab & Go style) beginning July 7th, followed by a one-day in-person event in early August. (date TBD). This year's VBS is appropriate for ages 4-12 - but all ages are welcome.

Volunteers are needed for the in-person event. Teenagers are welcome and encouraged to assist with VBS. Please contact Sister Ann if you are interested in helping out.

To register, please use the link below. Registration deadline is June 20th.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1GaUj6d39Y5joKh37cgXWGTv6fF5VD4uQnOLO2Ao-Vw_SyA/viewform?usp=sf_link



Fun faith formation downloadable resources are distributed each week in the all-church email, "This week at Agnus Dei." Watch for them!

Forum, Sundays at 8:30 AM via Zoom

Join forum from the link on the Events page of our website, or the weekly email, or you may join by phone by calling 253-215-8782, follow the prompts using meeting ID 889 7318 2418 and the passcode 507066

June 6th. Navajo author, speaker and activist Mark Charles will educate us in what is known as the Doctrine of Discovery. Named from Papal Bulls originating in the 15th century the Doctrine of Discovery was specifically referenced as late as 2005 in a Supreme Court decision. This Doctrine put in place many abuses and disparities that continue to plague Native American people. It also still plays a role in land titles in our country.

June 13th. Finally understanding the injustices created by the Doctrine of Discovery, the Episcopal Church was the first denomination to repudiate it in 2009. The ELCA subsequently did in 2016. We will look at these statements; the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2007); and the 2009 U.S. Congressional apology to Native Americans (SJ Resolution 14). Are you familiar with these actions? Let's explore them together.



Faith Community Nurses

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.
Proverbs 13:20*

In mid-May, our nation was given a change of CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines on mask wearing, the policy which has helped protect us from COVID-19 since March 2020. A majority of Americans have chosen not to show their faces, uncovered, in public, for over a year. Now, suddenly, there are options. The CDC's new requirements state that masks are no longer needed in most indoor and outdoor situations, if you are fully vaccinated. Some people are excited by these findings while others are anxious.

For many, there is confusion over this abrupt shift in the guidelines. For others, there is the issue of trusting the non-vaccinators to continue to wear masks in public. No matter how you look at the situation, one thing is certain: the new guidelines are causing turmoil within retail shops, restaurants, communities, and families.

In these uncertain times, it is always best to err on the safest side of any dilemma. I wish I were wise enough and educated enough, biblically, to quote a parable and insert it into this article right now. That would feel like the right thing to do.

But what I can do is give you some highlights from Ashley Abramson's thoughtful article from last Sunday's New York Times. In her article, she talks about how summer plans for some will mean resuming pre-pandemic times of frequenting bars, restaurants, and museums. While it may not be necessary to spend another summer watching movies on Netflix, perhaps we should pause and carve out some time to prepare ourselves for what may soon be called the "post-pandemic" life.

Staying at home last summer was not all bad. Downtime is important. (Okay, we did get more than we bargained for in 2020!) Studies do show that unscheduled time is good for the brain. Just as school children have scheduled recess time, adults need their own down time, for them to process unresolved issues. That's hard to do if you're on the go all the time.

In light of all this, before filling up your calendar with things to do, factor in some unstructured time. You'll be able to think more critically and creatively when you are not mentally and physically exhausted. Resuming a busy normal life while a pandemic is still going on, despite the loosening of guidelines, is not in your best interest right now.

You might feel some pressure to make up for lost time after being on hold for over a year. If you're a young person, maybe you feel behind in your career goals; maybe you haven't been actively dating; maybe you're thinking of beginning a family. If you already have a family, maybe you want your children to take advantage of rekindled sports activities.

According to Natalie Dattilo, psychologist and instructor at Harvard Medical School, there is a natural urge to "over-correct," which in our present condition may lead to impulsive decision-making, like booking too many activities for ourselves and our families. Remember this: downtime does not mean that you are doing "nothing." Recharging is "something."

Research suggests that routine activities can actually enhance your brain's ability to absorb information and form solutions to problems. The key is performing activities that you already know how to do, like gardening, cooking, biking, golfing, painting, knitting, whatever you enjoy doing. Pausing to rejuvenate is not lazy. In fact, it's just the opposite. It's a prudent way of slowly working toward resuming life in a better, safer way.

At some point, you'll start filling up your calendar, but there's no need to fill up every day of the month with activities. Keep in mind, for example, that if you'd recently healed from a foot injury, you wouldn't sign up for a marathon the follow week. You'd probably walk around the block a few times first to see how you feel. Then, in time, you'd increase your activities.

Check in your family's stress levels and emotions. I recommend that you check-in with your family on a weekly basis to find out what went well that week and what needs to be done differently. Children have especially been impacted. They're our thermometers, and barometers.

Slow, deliberate re-entry lets you keep the lessons in mind that you have learned this past year. Maybe you realized

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that you value intimate family time more than you do hosting big family gatherings every holiday. Don't put yourself on auto-pilot. Use the information you've gathered through the Covid Era to select things that will make you and your family content, and cut out the things that create stress.

After all, it doesn't matter whether you believe in masks, vaccines, or the virus. Ultimately, we all want the same thing: to have this pandemic under control so that we can once again move through the world without fear of contracting the disease that has already taken more than 586,000 American lives.

Zoe Holmes, RN



Thoughts on Stewardship in the Time of the Pandemic

by Randy Spitzer

Stewardship

This has been quite a year. The pandemic has been the defining factor in deciding what we could and could not do since March of 2020. We were forced to “hunker down” to protect ourselves and our family members.

Gone were opportunities for family gatherings, weekly gatherings at church, live concerts, frequenting movie theaters, attending sporting events, and pretty much any other group activity.

How to respond?

As Lutherans, we are taught the appropriate response to adversity is to look for ways to safely stay in community. So, in this time of pandemic, at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Zoom meetings replaced in-person social and church-business meetings; phone calls replaced in-person chats; and YouTube worship services replaced live worship services.

I'll be honest. In a virtual world, I haven't been as emotionally connected to the ADLC community during the pandemic as normal. I haven't regularly attended online services, or Adult Forums or post-worship gatherings. I have, however, maintained our monthly giving to Agnus Dei Lutheran Church.

Why?

Because, I have learned throughout my life that I have a responsibility to be a good steward even when I don't feel like it. I understand that none of the things I enjoy belong to me; they are gifts from God. And none of the things that challenge me (including my own emotional ennui) are sent by God. Thankfully, God provides me with the means to meet those challenges and to continue as a good steward.

The pandemic will come to an end. We will return to something close to “normal.” With the distribution of vaccines, it appears this may happen within the next few weeks or months.

I look forward to returning to in-person worship. I look forward to praying together and singing together without fear of infecting or being infected by those around me. I look forward to sharing a meal at the altar. I look forward to seeing and interacting with you.

Until then and after, with the help of God, I will continue with you as a fellow steward of this little slice of creation called Agnus Dei Lutheran Church.

Tithe.ly— When We Can't Gather in Person, We Can Still Gather Our Gifts

If you have not yet changed to our new electronic offering program, Tithe.ly, please take some time to do so now.

Tithe.ly is an easy system for givers to navigate simply by clicking the “Give” tab on our website.

If you are new to online giving you might just be surprised how easy it is. If you need help, Bob Nussbaum, our financial secretary, will be happy to assist in this process.

2021 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF APRIL 30, 2021

(prepared May 11, 2021)

RESULTS:

COMMENTS:

	Jan - Apr <u>Actual</u>	Jan - Apr <u>Budget</u>	% of YTD <u>Budget</u>	2021 <u>Budget</u>	
OPERATING INCOME:					<u>YTD as of April 30, 2021:</u>
General Offering	141,918	151,776	93.5%	405,000	* Total Unrestricted Offerings are at 93.5% of goal.
Paycheck Protect. Prog Loan	61,524	61,524	-	67,270	* Total Income for the first four months is 96.1% of goal.
Comm'ty Connect Contract	10,227	10,359	98.7%	31,076	
Other Income	1,218	-	-	1,000	* Total Expenses are 97.5% of budget.
TOTAL INCOME	214,886	223,659	96.1%	504,346	* Net Operating Gain is \$65,908**
OPERATING EXPENSES & LIABILITIES:					<u>April 30, 2021 Balance Sheet</u>
Ministry of Education	921	1,145	80.4%	4,100	* Current Assets (checking, savings, Accts Rec.) 214,573
Ministry of Mission	8,085	8,089	100.0%	22,250	* Fixed Assets (land, building, rental property) 3,213,901
Ministry of Programs	1,293	2,009	64.4%	8,500	* TOTAL ASSETS 3,428,474
Administrative Expenses	40,900	41,323	99.0%	140,609	* Current Liabilities (134)
Staff and Services	97,779	100,181	97.6%	292,666	* LongTerm Liabilities 1,315,371
TOTAL EXPENSE/LIABILITIES	148,978	152,747	97.5%	468,125	(Mortgage & Organ Loans)
NET OPERATING INCOME	65,908	70,912		36,221	TOTAL LIABILITIES 1,315,237
Total Reserves on Deposit at MIF		Balance			* Equity
Building Fund		32,096			* Retriected Net Assets (Designated) 117,153
Above & Beyond		33,040			* Unrestricted Net Assets 1,996,085
Rental House Reserve		33,947			* TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 3,428,474
Total Reserves on Deposit at MIF		99,083			* Detail financial reports are available upon request. Contact the Administrative Assistant to request a copy.



Operating Cash on Hand in Checking Account as of April 30, 2020	\$47,729
Operating Cash on Hand in Checking Account as of April 30, 2021	\$24,705
Operating Reserve Funds in Other ADLC Accounts as of April 30, 2021	\$61,653

****The net "gain" at the end of April 2021 reflects the Mission Investment Fund having allowed Agnus Dei to make "interest-only" payments for the first four months of the year, which reduced our costs by approximately \$19,002, as well as the federal PPP loan.**

We remember in prayer:

For comfort and for healing:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Marian Ano | * Toni Ortenzo |
| * Barbara Ausich | * Joannah and Rob Powers |
| * Julie and Loren Bell | * Anne Sapp |
| * Deb Brueckner | * Myra Snider |
| * Audrey Clinton | * Debbie Snowden |
| * Richard and Marilyn Hermstad | * Johnny Tierny |
| * Martha Johnson | * Rose VanderKlomp |
| * Jack Oakes | * Trudy Wagner |
| * George Mitchell | * Dick and Eunice Werner |

In service to our country:

- * CAPT. Jenny Nussbaum, US Public Health Service



Congratulations to the Carters!

Steve and Christy's daughter, Alicia, and family welcomed a new baby sister for Jane on April 23. Her name is Alexis Christy. Welcome, baby Alexis!

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 preceded by **Forum** at 8:30 am and followed by **Zoom Fellowship** at 10:30 am. All services can be viewed live at the appointed time by clicking the livestream link on our webpage. 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 Events page.

Serving in Worship, June

	Assist Min	Lector	Recording Engineer
June 6	D Schinkel	C Carlson	J Beaudette
June 13	A Ortenzo	B Shull	J Beaudette
June 20	V Hardison	M Duncan	J Beaudette
June 27	M Colyar	A Bakke	J Beaudette

Community Garden Project

Over the years the idea of an on-site community garden has been raised several times. Recently, Sister Ann learned of and applied for a grant available for just such an endeavor. A community garden is an exciting prospect for several reasons. Fresh produce can be made available to our local food banks, it could serve as a community outreach project for our neighbors whose yards are too small to accommodate a garden; and it could be utilized by Agnus Dei members who have need of garden space.



If you would like to be a part of exploring the possibility, please contact Sister Ann to let her know of your interest.

We Celebrate...

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Dick and Eunice Werner
- 6 Mary Beth Harrison and Doug Hettinger
- 7 Ellis and Ann Rousseau
- 11 Lyle and Sonja Miller
- 14 Lowell and Dorothy Haeffle
- 15 Keith and Ginny Eilers
- 16 Dick and Judy Baerg
- 16 Dick and Martia Ohme
- 21 Katrina Hay and Zachary Wiren
- 22 Jim and Linda Ribary
- 25 Brett and Kari Oliver
- 28 Terrence and Sarah Lofgreen
- 29 Bob and Marlene Bridgforth



Jamie Baxter

Jamie will be graduating from Peninsula High School on June 19, 2021. Jamie has an avid interest in history and will be attending Central Washington University this Fall. At this time, her intent is to major in Education with an emphasis on History.



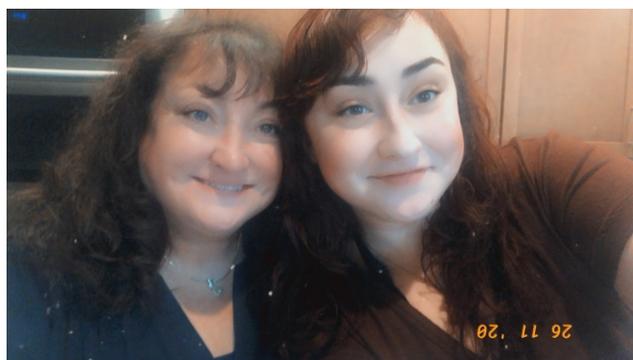
Alexis and Benjamin Nussbaum

Alex & Ben are graduating on June 19, 2021 from Gig Harbor High school. They have also been participating in the Running Start program through Tacoma Community College. Both Alex and Ben have been accepted to PLU for this Fall season. Alex is looking at pursuing a degree in Elementary Education and Ben is looking at Computer Science.



Keyan Gootkin

Keyan recently graduated from UW with a degree in astrophysics and was offered 3 different full ride scholarships for Masters and Doctorate. He decided on UH Honolulu and will end up with a Doctorate in Astrophysics.



Keely Gootkin

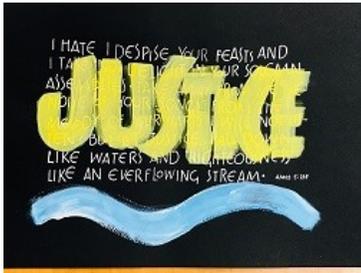
Keely has recently graduated from Master Esthetician School at Evergreen Beauty College and has passed all of her tests for WA State licensing. Shown here with her mom, Alynne.

In 2018, Agnus Dei and Peninsula Lutheran Churches worked together with Lutheran Community Services-Northwest to sponsor and support a family. Since first arriving from El Salvador, the family of four we sponsored have become homeowners and are fixing up a small house in Tacoma. It's been a remarkable journey to take with them.

Now we have the opportunity to do it again! Peninsula Lutheran Church is interested in sponsoring another family and would like to partner with Agnus Dei. There are folks who have indicated their willingness to help coordinate this project with Peninsula and LCSNW and to communicate to the congregation what the needs are. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Sr. Ann. Thank you for your generosity and for being welcoming people of God!



RACIAL JUSTICE – STEPS IN UNDERSTANDING CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH!



On June 19th, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with good news. ***Those who had been enslaved were now free.*** This message arrived in Texas a full two and a half years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Reasons for this significant delay vary from the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with news of freedom to the narrative that slave owners needed to reap one more cotton harvest before acting on Lincoln’s proclamation. Reactions to this news ranged from shock to joy. Some of those who had been enslaved immediately left Texas and fled to neighboring states, celebrating June 19th as a time for reassuring each other, for praying, and for gathering family members together. The day has traditionally been a celebratory holiday with rodeos, barbecues, and baseball along with prayer meetings and services recounting the events of the past and remembering those elders who led the way toward freedom. Observations of Juneteenth have ebbed and flowed through the years, and today, there is a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations. Juneteenth today “celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures” (Juneteenth.com). It is a national day of pride—and its 1865 Texas roots have grown all over the country. Governor Inslee recently signed a proclamation making Juneteenth a state holiday. Beginning in 2022, all state workers will enjoy a paid holiday on June 19.

The spirit of Juneteenth will be celebrated in Gig Harbor, and **you are invited and encouraged to participate.** The Gig Harbor Racial Justice Coalition is sponsoring an exciting and informative Juneteenth Event. There will be a Virtual Unity Gathering for Racial Justice featuring Erin Jones. Erin is a galvanizing, passionate speaker with 25 years of experience in education. She narrowly lost a bid to become the State Superintendent of Schools in 2016, and has used her expertise in education to work with schools across the state (including Peninsula School District) in issues of justice and inclusion. **REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL UNITY GATHERING AT <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oc-irrT0qGtKhITDbGp-0qKq7rG3uH0QP>**

Following the virtual gathering, you are invited to join an in-person mini-rally celebrating the day. Our Saturday vigil that day will be held at the Eddon Boat Park in the harbor at 12:15. **Meet at the church at 11:45 on Saturday, June 19th, to carpool down the hill to Eddon Park with our signs.** Join us as we observe this historic day as part of our commitment to “engage in work to end racism, to promote social justice, and to support others who seek to make a difference in the struggle for equity.” (Agnus Dei Statement on Racial Justice)



**Racial Justice Vigils
Saturdays 3 to 4 pm**

Racial Justice Vigils

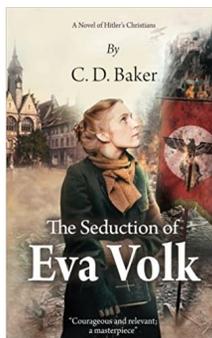
All are invited to join the Justice Vigils on Saturday afternoons to proclaim to our community what our deep commitment to racial justice leads us to do. We hold vigil on Peacock Hill on the sidewalk across from the church. As our statement on racial justice adopted last fall states, we commit “To engage in work to end racism, to promote social justice.” Meet at the church parking lot at 2:45 for organizing with the signs that are prepared: We Stand For...Equal Opportunity, Voting Rights, Respect for All, Racial Justice. All who embrace these values are encouraged to join in. **Vigil Schedule: June 5th and 12th same time, 2:45 PM June 19 at 11:45, last vigil before summer break.**

Agnus Dei Book Group

All are invited to participate in the book group!

In June, the group will meet on Sunday, June 20, at noon to discuss: The Seduction of Eva Volk by C.D. Baker

All are welcome, even if you haven't read the books, please join us! Please contact Susan Whitney or Linda Zehnder if you have any questions or to join the email thread for book group.





GOLF CLASSIC

Presented by
Walsh Construction Co

save the date

August 19, 2021
Highlands Golf Course

Join us for our 10th annual golf tournament to help benefit the eliseo foundation!

 \$500 Five-Some
 \$100 Individual Golfer

GOLF ENTRY INCLUDES:
 Putting Contest | Closest to the Pin | Hole in One | Awards Dinner
Sponsorships are available!

Please reach out to Audrie Jones, Director of Development at 253.756.7568 or ajones@eliseo.org for more information.




RISE ABOVE. REACH BEYOND.

<https://fb.me/e/Wm3se8V7>

Community Outreach—Projects Update

May Project

Community Clothing Drive Sponsored by Food Backpacks 4 Kids Thank you for your generous response to the ask for clothing. In fact, the response was so great we had to cut off our collection early! The clothing distribution was on May 22/23. And a big thank you to Ann Rousseau and Jerry Mjelde for their help organizing the clothing at the distribution site.



June Outreach Project

What would you need if you lived in your car?

In this time of Covid, this is not a fantasy question for many people. More and more people are suffering the effects of job loss and homelessness. Living in one's car is just a step away from being completely homeless.

Peninsula FISH helps folks in this situation on a regular basis. They provide water, ice, a cooler, food, toiletries, sanitation supplies, to mention a few items. They can even help coordinate safe overnight parking. But, with increased need, FISH needs help too.

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Housing and Homeless Coalition has a goal of making a number of "Vehicle Living Kits" to supplement the basic FISH items.

Agnus Dei has accepted the challenge to make 20 kits. We will be working with other churches in the area.

Here is a list of most needed items:

- ♥ Sleeping pad
- ♥ Blankets
- ♥ Towels
- ♥ Pens and pencil (new)
- ♥ Spiral notebooks
- ♥ Battery chargers for phone, computer
- ♥ Cigarette lighter charger
- ♥ Paperback books, magazines (current)
- ♥ Flashlight, headlamp
- ♥ Cash
- ♥ Gift cards for gas, fast food

Please leave your donations in the church office or in the labeled box by the front door during the month of June

Thank you for you generosity

Ronnie for the Community Outreach Committee

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL

a ministry of Agnus Dei Lutheran Church

NOW ENROLLING

for the
2021-2022
school year

www.little-lambspreschool.org

253-858-4702

10511 Peacock Hill Ave NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332





Please visit our website for registration information and a virtual tour
agnusdeilutheran.org

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30 AM Forum 9:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship	31 Church Office Closed Memorial Day	1 10:45 AM Church Staff Meeting	2 10:00 AM Text Study with Zoom 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 Staff attends Hybrid Worship Training 6:30 PM Refugee Resettlement Meeting	4	5 8:30 AM Men's Square 8:30 AM Women's Circle 2:45 PM Stand For Justice Vigil
6 8:30 AM Forum 9:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 1:00 PM Parking Lot Communion	7	8 10:45 AM Church Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting	9 10:00 AM Text Study with Zoom 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	10 Staff attends Hybrid Worship Training	11	12 2:45 PM Stand For Justice Vigil
13 Graduate Recognition Sunday 8:30 AM Forum 9:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Book Group via Zoom	14	15 10:45 AM Church Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Gather Bible Study	16 10:00 AM Text Study with Zoom 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (weather permitting)	17	18	19 Juneteenth Celebration 11:45 AM Stand For Justice Vigil
20 Commemoration of the Emmanuel Nine Father's Day 8:30 AM Forum 9:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship	21	22 10:45 AM Church Staff Meeting	23 10:00 AM Text Study with Zoom 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00 PM Worship Committee	24	25	26
27 8:30 AM Forum 9:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship	28	29 10:45 AM Church Staff Meeting	30 10:00 AM Text Study with Zoom 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	1	2	3 8:30 AM Men's Square 8:30 AM Women's Circle

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The monthly newsletter of
Agnus Dei Lutheran Church
10511 Peacock Hill Ave NW
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