

The monthly Newsletter of:

September 2022

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

With the school break, summer is a season for vacations and adventures, for rest and relaxation. Many of us depart from our regular routines to visit family, travel or simply to try something different for a while. Especially here in Western Washington, everyone is eager to get out and take advantage of the good weather to explore the outdoors.

With September, our attentions turn back to those routines. Whether or not your family has children in school, the rhythm of the academic year beckons us all back from a season of rest to a season of return. Our hearts and heads once again turn to the projects and programs we have to accomplish this year.

Among our congregation, this is the time of year when we refocus ourselves before heading into the holiday season. Education programs like Forum and Sunday School typically begin starting back up, and our attention turns to budgeting and preparation for our November congregational meeting and planning for the coming year.

This year more than most, that work takes on a new tone. While I hesitate to say that we've come "through" the pandemic, we have weathered the most disruptive part of it (I hope!) and are beginning to find our "new normal." With over a year back in our building after the shutdown, we've gotten our feet under us, so to speak, and now we are left to decide what to do with them.

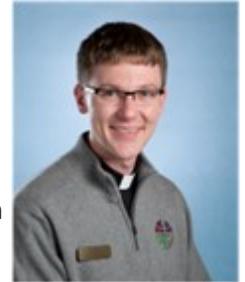
This year, for the first time at least since I've been serving this congregation, our Council went on retreat. The focus of this retreat was to think about the Mission and Vision of the congregation—not to set it, but to begin talking about how to guide that process with the members of Agnus Dei. We had some very good discussion and learned more about the task at hand, and now we are ready to begin helping that conversation happen on a wider scale.

One of the things we learned is that this is not work that happens overnight. I think some of us believed that we could, in a single afternoon, come away with a clear direction for the congregation; but it soon became clear that, even among only 12 people there were a lot of different ideas to process and questions to ask. Imagine what that will mean as we expand that conversation to include the rest of our community!

Nevertheless, though the task before us is large, it need not be daunting. Many of us have already been thinking about what we imagine, hope or long for at Agnus Dei. Now is simply the time to begin sharing those things. Soon, the Council will begin arranging gatherings at which we can have these conversations.

The process will take time. For some, it will likely seem too slow and drawn out, and for others, it will probably seem like we're rushing. There is no deadline for this work; in fact, I believe it will probably be ongoing work that will continue even after we've officially "completed" it. The most important thing is that we take the time to make sure we are doing this together. In order for the process to work, it needs to belong to all of us. I invite and encourage you to look out for these opportunities to participate and engage however you can. I look forward to taking this journey with you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Seth



Pastor Seth Novak



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.

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCIL: September

Council held our retreat in August to take time to reflect and celebrate what we have accomplished together, and to set goals for the coming year. Pastor presented an excellent program on the Golden Circle, helping us to detail the Why, How and What for our congregation. We had a day filled with thoughtful reflection and relationship building and a view of how to present this to all of you to gather information that you feel is important and describes who we are as a congregation. To redefine our Mission going forward. You will see an invitation shortly for you to begin to participate in this effort.



Lynette Brentin
Council President

A very interesting proposal has come to the Council. We met with the Homestead Community in August. This is a non-profit organization that provides “hope and homes for youth.” They work with the foster care system to provide homes and foster families for kids. They are interested in purchasing our rental house to remodel and create a foster home. We also have a separate offer of a purchase of the home. Watch for more information from Council in the near future.

The Safe Parking Program is off and running. Look for some changes and additions to the back of the building that will be available for the program participants. A hand-washing station and portable toilet have been placed on the property. The parking slots for the program are located behind the church building under lights. For more information contact Denny Sapp.

Reminder of council reps to committees. If you are interested in getting involved, or just finding out more, contact: Worship: Sherry Stava, Faith Formation: Marilyn Colyar, Property Team: Denny Sapp, Stewardship: Gary Gemar, Hospitality: Linda Ribary, Personnel: Lynette Brentin, Service Committee: Charlene Franz, Inreach/Outreach: Linda Olson, Endowment: Dick Ohme.

We are always looking to add volunteers to our Sunday worship. Here’s who to contact should you be interested in participating. Altar Guild: Kimberly Morgan; Assisting Ministers: Shari Shull; Lectors: Paula Davis; Stream Team/Sound System: Debbie Snowden; Ushers/Greeters: Lynette Brentin; Flowers (sign up in the hallway by the Parish Hall).

Enjoy these last sunny days of summer.

Thank you,
Lynette Brentin
Council President

Little Lambs Preschool **A Mission of Agnus Dei Lutheran**

Little Lambs Fall enrollment is the fullest we have seen in years! All the classes are full except for just a couple of openings in our 3’s class. This includes a second class for 2-year-olds that was added because of a wait list. Preschool Director Shannon Moore is already back at work and the remaining staff will return on August 31 to set up the classrooms. There will be an Ice Cream Social on the playground on August 29 for the children to come and play and meet their teachers and classmates. September 6 will be the first day of school.

Welcome Back, Little Lambs!



Who Were the Most Generous Christians in the New Testament?



Each year Agnus Dei takes part in a stewardship campaign that asks our members to make a financial commitment to support the ministries of the Church for the coming year. This year our focus will be on one of the groups that might be the answer to the question above. See if you can discover who those Christians were. The answer will become known during the service on Sunday, September 11. Research is suggested.

Recently, during a joint meeting between the Bylaws Committee and the Endowment Committee the topic of Required Minimum Distributions from a regular IRA was discussed. This can provide a great tax advantage for those of us in our 70s (72 ½ or older), but it must be done correctly. The funds must go directly from your IRA to a 501 (3) c charitable organization such as Agnus Dei Lutheran Church. If you think this is something for you, please talk to a financial person to make sure that you do it correctly. Our financial secretary, Bob Nussbaum (h. 253-851-1960 or c. 315-586-2883), can make sure that you follow the rules if you choose to give to our church.

Mike Snowden, Stewardship

| AGNUS DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2022 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT as of July 31, 2022 | | | | |
| | Jan -July <u>Actual</u> | Jan -July <u>Budget</u> | % of YTD <u>Budget</u> | 2022 <u>Budget</u> |
| OPERATING INCOME: | | | | |
| Cash on Hand | 15,867 | 25,000 | 63.5% | 25,000 |
| Unrestricted Offerings | 246,858 | 241,662 | 102.2% | 430,000 |
| Comm'ty Connect Contract | 5,420 | 5,421 | 100.0% | 5,421 |
| Other Income | 2,120 | 2,235 | 94.9% | 3,400 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 270,266 | 274,318 | 98.5% | 463,821 |
| NOTE: % Calculation only includes Income, not "Cash on Hand" | | | | |
| OPERATING EXPENSES & LIABILITIES: | | | | |
| Ministry of Education | 1,540 | 4,550 | 33.9% | 6,100 |
| Ministry of Mission | 15,967 | 15,550 | 102.7% | 28,050 |
| Ministry of Programs | 2,352 | 3,490 | 67.4% | 9,200 |
| Administrative Expenses | 96,451 | 96,561 | 99.9% | 172,000 |
| Staff and Services | 153,955 | 152,834 | 100.7% | 250,019 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE/LIABILITIES | 270,265 | 272,985 | 99.0% | 465,369 |
| NET OPERATING INCOME | 0 | 1,333 | | (1,548) |

| Giving to Others (year-to-date) | |
|--|--------|
| ELCA Mission Support | 14,911 |
| ELCA World Hunger | 7,321 |
| ELCA Disaster Relief | 1,000 |
| FISH | 2,143 |
| Key Peninsula Food Bank | 672 |
| Immigrant Lunch Project | 1,101 |
| Food Backpacks 4 Kids | 2,726 |

| TOTAL RESERVES | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Building Fund | 33,245 |
| Above & Beyond | 28,434 |
| Rental House Reserve | 50,186 |
| Operating Reserve | 40,000 |
| Gifts and Endowments | 121,279 |
| TOTAL, ALL RESERVES | 273,144 |

*** Detailed financial reports are available upon request. Contact the Office Administrator to request a copy.**

Prepared by Julie Bell August 25, 2022

Season of Creation 2022

Each year from September 1 (which is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to October 4 (feast of St. Francis of Assisi), the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures, and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it.

During this season, you are invited to participate on your own, in addition to our collective focus in worship. Some suggestions for observing the Season of Creation include:

- Pray specifically for the health and wellbeing of our planet and the people who inhabit it
- Write letters to lawmakers to advocate for climate justice or fossil fuel divestment
- Take action in your community to work on a project for the care of our local environment
- Log onto <https://elca.org/advocacy> to see what national projects you can support for the care of creation
- Visit Earth Ministry (<https://earthministry.org/>) and get involved in a local project
- Take action to support our neighbors in the Puyallup tribe in their opposition to the Tacoma tideflats LNG facility (<http://news.puyalluptribe-nsn.gov/say-no-to-tacoma-lng/>, also <https://www.healthybay.org/>)

St. Francis recognized that when we are commanded to love our neighbors, this means ALL our neighbors, including the non-human ones. God's love for us extends to all creation, and as people created in God's image, our love is meant to do the same. Thank you for taking this journey with Agnus Dei and the whole Church!

News From Our Community Outreach Team

August Outreach Wrap Up—School supplies!



So many school supplies!

Gail Brandt is hard at work sewing the 45 backpacks which will hold the school supplies you have donated for Lutheran World Relief.

Additional donated items will be given to the YWCA and the Crystal Judson Family

Justice Center, both serving the needs of single parents and children in distress. We will hold a backpack filling party in September when we will assemble the school supply kits, assembly line style. Watch for the date to be announced soon.



September Project

Again we will support the YWCA and Crystal Judson Family Justice Center with their most needed items- **laundry detergent, baby wipes, toilet paper, diapers, lotion, dish detergent and kid's underwear.**

Please bring items to the donation station during the month of September. More info on the recipients:

- ♥ **Crystal Judson Family Justice Center** Established in 2005 through an agreement between Pierce County and the City of Tacoma, the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center (FJC) serves the needs of domestic violence victims and their children by providing comprehensive victim services in one, central, safe location in downtown Tacoma. <https://www.familyjusticecenter.us/>



- ♥ **YWCA Pierce County** Established in Tacoma in 1906, YWCA Pierce County has devoted over a century to creating opportunity and safety for adults and children in the greater Tacoma community. After opening Washington State's first emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in 1976, YWCA became a forerunner in the domestic violence service provision field. As an inclusionary non-profit organization, YWCA Pierce County provides assistance to survivors of domestic violence and their children. All survivors are welcome regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, or sexual orientation. Bilingual staff and interpretation services eliminate language barriers and ease transitions for all of our clients. The YWCA serves more than 11,000 adults and children annually, who are seeking help due to domestic violence. [YWCA Pierce County](#) is dedicated to transforming lives through safety, healing, and empowerment.



We remember in prayer:

For comfort and healing:

- * Sonja Miller
- * Barbara Ausich
- * Deb Brueckner
- * Chiarra Buster
- * Audrey Clinton
- * Richard and Marilyn Hermstad
- * Connie Hummel
- * Ardith Johnson
- * Martha Johnson
- * Jack Oakes
- * George Mitchell
- * Toni Ortenzo
- * Michi Ouichi
- * Joannah Powers
- * Ellis Rousseau
- * Johnny Tierny
- * Trudy Wagner
- * Eunice Werner

In service to our country:

- * CAPT. Jenny Nussbaum, US Public Health Service

In their grief:

- * Denny Sapp and family as they mourn the death of Anne.



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

There is a group that gathers in the community room here at the church each Monday afternoon at 1:00 pm to tie quilts for LWR. The group is pictured here with a newly finished quilt that was pieced together offsite by Audrey Bakke. The quilt making is a year-long effort and twice a year the quilts are gathered together, blessed and sent off to LWR to be sent wherever there is a need. Fabrics and quilt batting come from donations, bed sheets for backing are always needed. There are several ways you can be involved in the effort. If you enjoy sewing and would like to put together quilt tops at home, packets of fabric are available. If you would like to help tie the quilt tying (no previous experience necessary) just come to the community room at 1 on Mondays. If you have questions, call the church office or Ronnie Kulman.

We Celebrate...

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ann Rousseau
- 2 Tim Wilson
- 3 Rob Powers
- 4 Kathy Stark
- 9 Margie Anderson
- 10 Leslie McDonnell
- 11 Brittani Oliver, Kyle Gootkin
- 13 Keely Gootkin
- 16 Martha Johnson
- 18 Bob Babare
- 20 John Stava, Carolyn Heinz
- 21 Tom Chakerian
- 22 Kristofer Henderson, Joanne Bucholz
- 23 Bryan Rousseau, Benjamin Brueckner, Paul Miller, Sophie Alvestad Anthony
- 25 Jeannette Racette, Marlene Bridgforth
- 27 Jack Chakerian, Sarah Lofgreen
- 29 Bryan Humlie
- 30 Sharon Smith, Fiona Peterson, Chris Hogeberg

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

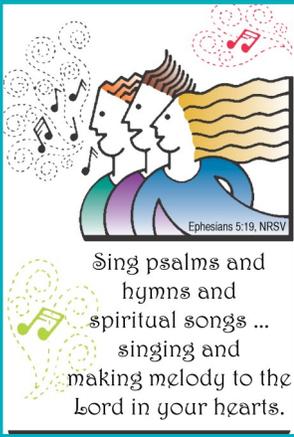
- 2 Dennis and Ardith Johnson
- 6 Robert and Cindy Beals
- 18 Bob and Jenny Nussbaum
- 20 Martin and Denise Iversen
- 30 Keith and Nancy Johnson



KIDS. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

The Food Backpacks 4 Kids program in Gig Harbor is currently seeking Board Members. There is an immediate need to fill the position of Treasurer. For more information, please contact ADLC member Beverly Buster (current FB4K Board President) at 253-861-5529.

<https://www.foodbackpacks4kids.org/>



Music News

Shari Shull, Minister of Music

All are invited to join in the Music Ministry of Agnus Dei.

Wednesday evening Choir rehearsals begin on Sept 7 @ 7:00 PM. New singers are always welcome to join the choir as we raise our voices together in praise and prayer.

This fall the Choir will sing for both worship services on a rotating basis. Sundays in September you will hear the Choir at 11 AM, in October at 8:30 AM, November at 11 AM and December at 8:30 AM. We hope this schedule will offer an opportunity for new singers to join us and give the entire congregation an opportunity to be enriched by our choral music and musical leadership.

Sing to the Lord a new song!

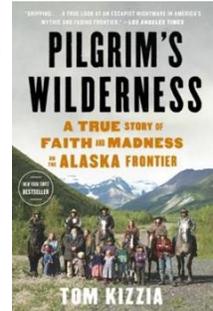
Monday evening Handbell rehearsals begin on Sept 26 @ 5:30 PM. New ringers are always welcome. Each time we ring takes a commitment of three rehearsals. Contact Shari Shull for more information.

Praise God with the sound of the bell!

Agnus Dei Book Group

Book group will be meeting in the Couch Room at 12:30 on Sunday Sept 25 to discuss: *Pilgrim's Wilderness* by Tom Kizzia. Please join us whether or not you read the book! All are welcome!

When Papa Pilgrim, his wife, and their fifteen children appeared in the Alaska frontier outpost of McCarthy, their new neighbors saw them as a shining example of the homespun Christian ideal. But behind the family's proud piety and beautiful old-timey music lay Pilgrim's dark past: his strange connection to the Kennedy assassination and a trail of chaos and anguish that followed him from Dallas and New Mexico. Pilgrim soon sparked a tense confrontation with the National Park Service, fiercely dividing the community over where a citizen's rights end and the government's power begins. As the battle grew more intense, the turmoil in his brood made it increasingly difficult to tell whether his children were messianic followers or hostages in desperate need of rescue.



In this powerful piece of Americana, written with uncommon grace and high drama, veteran Alaska journalist Tom Kizzia uses his unparalleled access to capture an era-defining clash between environmentalists and pioneers ignited by a mesmerizing sociopath who held a town and a family captive.

Race for a Soldier Road Closure Information

September 11, 2022



Below is from Chief Kelly Busey regarding the 12th Annual Race for a Soldier Half Marathon and 5k.

- We will close the roads from North Harborview/Harborview northward (toward the YMCA, Borgen Boulevard, Harbor Hill, etc.) at 7:35.
- We will close all of Harborview Drive at approximately 8:00 a.m.
- All other roads will remain open during the race. We will open all the closed roads behind the last runner (marked by the trailing bicyclist).
- The runners will cross to the east side of Soundview Drive at The Tides. Two lanes of traffic need to be marked with cones (shifting the traffic east on the roadway surface).
- Burnham Drive will be blocked intermittently by an officer as they cross the roadway and make their way back up the sidewalk on Harbor Hill Road.

The actual 2022 Race Route will be posted on their website soon, this the advanced information provided to us by the race coordinator <https://ptsdfoundation.org/race-for-a-soldier/>

September Serve in Worship Schedule

| | | Altar Guild | Assisting Minister | Lector | Stream Team/ Sound | Ushers/ Greeters | Flowers |
|--------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| September 4 | 10:00 AM | Costanzo, Higgins | Marilyn Colyar | Ralph Costanzo | Bob Nussbaum | Costanzo | |
| September 11 | 8:30 AM | Joy McCraw | Dave Schinkel | Chuck Carlson | Don Krump | Brentin | |
| | 11:00 AM | Marlene Bridgforth | David Salge | Margaret Duncan | Rob Powers | | |
| September 18 | 8:30 AM | Suzanne Shema | Randy Spitzer | Kathy Gemar | Don Krump | Beals | |
| | 11:00 AM | Rebecca Crow | Daryl Daus | Lynne Zematis | Doug Page | D. Sapp | |
| September 25 | 8:30 AM | Sue Lubash | Kathy Gemar | Debbie Snowden | Mike Snowden | Ohme | |
| | 11:00 AM | Elsa Nesbit | Marilyn Colyar | Ghita Lorenz | Linda Zehnder | D. Johnson | |

**Thank you to the volunteers who serve in worship.
More volunteers are needed in all areas
and training is readily available.**

The following are the folks who are currently scheduling:

Lynette Brentin—Ushers and Greeters
Debbie Snowden—Stream Team and Sound System
Shari Shull—Assisting Ministers
Paula Davis—Lectors
Kimberly Morgan—Altar Guild

Please contact the office or call these folks directly if you are willing to serve.

Flowers for worship are needed as well. The sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway across from the nametag board.

Important reminders for In-person gatherings

We Share the Air – Please Keep It Fragrance-Free and Healthy for All

In our effort to make everyone welcome, please be aware the chemicals used in scented products make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. We ask our entire community to be mindful of this and refrain from using perfume/cologne and other scented products when coming to

Let's Wear Our Nametags

As a sign of hospitality to visitors, please remember to wear your nametag! If you are in need of a new nametag, please call or email the church office or leave a note on Cindy's desk.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 28 10:00am Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion | 29 Cindy on vacation this week 1:00pm LWR Quilters | 30 10:30am Church Staff Meeting | 31 Little Lambs Staff Return 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In- Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry | 1 6:00pm AA | 2 | 3 8:30am Men's Square 8:30am Women's Circle |
| 4 10:00am Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion | 5 Labor Day, Church Office Closed 1:00pm LWR Quilters | 6 First Day of Preschool 10:30am Church Staff Meeting | 7 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In- Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 8 4:00pm Little Lambs Board Mtg 6:00pm AA | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Race for a Soldier note road closures 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion | 12 1:00pm LWR Quilters | 13 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm Worship Committee 7:00pm Council Meeting | 14 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In- Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 15 12:00pm Together Women Rise 5:30pm Theology on Tap at Round Table 6:00pm AA | 16 6:00pm Kids Night Out | 17 |
| 18 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Faith Formation 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion | 19 1:00pm LWR Quilters | 20 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm Gather Bible Study 5:30pm Peninsula Art League | 21 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In- Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 22 6:00pm AA | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Faith Formation 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 12:30pm Book Group | 26 1:00pm LWR Quilters | 27 10:30am Church Staff Meeting | 28 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In- Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 29 6:00pm AA | 30 | 1 8:30am Men's Square 8:30am Women's Circle |

Hybrid: In-person and Online

All hybrid services are left on [Agnus Dei's YouTube channel](#) for viewing at any time after the service.

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
Church Musician: Susan Luebeck
Church Administrator: Cindy Beals
253-851-6222, office@agnusdeilutheran.org
Congregational President: Lynette Brentin
Congregational Vice President: Linda Olson
Council Secretary: Marlene Bridgforth
Financial Secretary: Bob Nussbaum
Treasurer: Julie Bell
Faith Community Nurse: Position Open
Faith Community Nurse: Position Open

Council

Lynette Brentin, Marlene Bridgforth, Marilyn Colyar, Charlene Franz, Gary Gemar, Dick Ohme, Linda Olson, Linda Ribary, Denny Sapp, Sherry Stava

Little Lambs Preschool

Director/Teacher: Shannon Moore
Email: lambs@agnusdeilutheran.org
Financial Secretary: Kimberly Morgan
Little Lambs Board: Cathy Adair, Sue Horton, Nancy Johnson, Salli Middleton, Jerry Mjelde, Eiko Park