

The monthly Newsletter of:

April 2023

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

It has been so very nice to begin reconnecting with you all after my leave. While I am still missing spending my days with Ada, I'm grateful to see you all again. I am slowly readjusting to being back in the office, catching up on three months of messages and emails, and getting back into the rhythm of congregational life.



Pastor Seth Novak

The best way I can describe my time at home on leave is to call it holy. It wasn't always fun, and it wasn't always exciting, but every moment of it was good and I wouldn't trade a single one. It's been a blessing to spend this time getting to know my daughter as she grows, watching her little idiosyncrasies develop, observing her personality develop.

Somebody asked me recently what the most important thing I learned about Ada during this time was. I learned that she loves asparagus and toast (not together, but we haven't tried that yet!). I learned that she has a specific habit of turning things over and over in her hands when she picks them up. I learned to distinguish between her genuinely sad or upset cry and her angry cry that will go away once she's distracted. I learned when to recognize that she was tired, even when it wasn't obvious. I learned dozens of other little things like this, none of them earth-shattering, but all of them precious to me because they are about her.



I learned a good bit about myself, too: about what brings me joy, about what love means, about how I measure my priorities, what kind of pastor I want to be, and what kind of parent. I have learned more about God. For these reasons and more, I am grateful and humbled not only by the opportunity to spend this time with her, but also for the enthusiastic support from you all. Thank you for recognizing how important this time is.

As I reacclimate to life at Agnus Dei, I will certainly bring these learnings with me. I am a different pastor coming back than I was leaving, and I think that's a good thing. I hope you do, as well. I'm looking forward to exploring what that looks like with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor 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.

April 2023



*Lynette Brentin
Council President*

Greetings from your Church Council.

During March, Council helped to coordinate our mid-week soup suppers, with one council member each week working with the various groups and committees in the church. The Lenten services have been a thoughtful time with the theme of “Simpler Living, Compassionate Life.” A theme suggested by our Green Team. We are thankful for the worship committee and our prayer writers for this meaningful look at our lives.

If you are here at church in the evening, you may have noticed a vehicle parked at Spargo House. The owners have given permission to a young father and son to use the driveway at our former rental house for safe overnight parking while they are waiting for an apartment placement here in town. The individual has been vetted by both Bob Vollbracht (GH homelessness coalition) and Sue Braaten.

The Stewardship Committee presented an offering card that will be available from the ushers on Sunday morning and can also be found in the backs of some seats in the sanctuary. These cards are to be used during the offering by those who give in other ways rather than directly, such as through Tithely. Beginning on Palm Sunday, the offering plate will be passed as we used to do it prior to Covid.

At our brief congregational meeting on Sunday, March 12th, we nominated and voted Kathy and Gary Gemar as our delegates to this year’s Synod Assembly to be held in Auburn on May 5th. Thank you to Kathy and Gary for their willingness to represent ADLC at the meetings.

The Nominating Committee reported to council that they have members to nominate to fill the vacancies this spring for council and the Little Lambs Board. We thank them for their assistance in the important job of finding individuals interested in the on-going operations of our congregation and preschool.

Council is beginning the search for a new Treasurer to begin on July, 2023. We are pleased to announce that we have applicants for the position of Financial Services Administrative Assistant and interviews will be set up in the next week or so. This person will be trained and will work with our new treasurer. If you are interested in the treasurers position, or know of someone who might be, please let any member of council know.

A reminder that council meetings are open to all members. Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the community room. Two o’clock is the start time. We would welcome your attendance. Come see how the council functions for the congregation.

We look forward to the journey through Holy Week and the joy of Easter morning. Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

God’s Blessings to you,

Lynette

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2, Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11:00 am

The Triduum, a single service spanning three days,
during which we celebrate Christ's Passion:

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil of Easter all at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9, Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11:00 am



Suspicious Visitor Alert

Early last year, on a Sunday morning, a man visited our church asking questions about our preschool so he could register his young child. He asked about our programs and took photos of the empty classrooms. At the time, the visit did not seem too out of the ordinary but it did raise some concern.

We have since learned that the same person has visited many church preschool sites taking pictures and his behavior has the attention of law enforcement. Although this man has not committed a crime, the incidents raise safety concerns and we have reported his visit here to the Pierce County Sherriff Department. If in the future, you see someone who raises concern, offer to introduce them to the Pastor or a council member.

Learning of this investigation and the alarming statistics of so many tragic school shootings has opened up dialog about safety in our own building. It raises questions about safety and how to balance security and protection with hospitality and convenience in our ever changing world. This is a conversation worth having. Our council and our Little Lambs board will be addressing these concerns.

We remember in prayer:

- For comfort and healing:*
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| * Barbara Ausich | * Ardith Johnson |
| * Deb Brueckner | * Jack Oakes |
| * Beverly Buster Jr | * Sonja Miller |
| * Chiarra Buster | * George Mitchell |
| * Audrey Clinton | * Michi Ouichi |
| * Rich Cook | * Joannah Powers |
| * Harlan and Pat Damron | * Ellis Rousseau |
| * Richard and Marilyn Hermstad | * Johnny Tierny |
| * Connie Hummel | * Trudy Wagner |
| | * Eunice Werner |

In service to our country:

- * CAPT. Jenny Nussbaum, US Public Health Service

In their grief:

The family and friends of Mavis Moore as they mourn her death.



Our Sister in Christ, Mavis Moore, died on March 14.

There will be a memorial on April 22 at 2:00 PM at Eliseo (formerly Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community)

1301 North Highlands Parkway, Tacoma

Rest eternal grant her O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Grief and Loss Small Group

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church is continuing the Grief and Loss small group this Spring. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Monday, from 1:00—2:30 p.m. in the Couch Room. Each meeting will include a short educational piece with time for discussion. The model used will be companioning one another in the bereavement journey as described by Dr. Alan Wolfelt (<https://www.centerforloss.com>). If you are interested, please contact [the office](#). Enrollment will be capped at 10 participants.

Remaining meeting dates in the current session: April 10, April 24

News From Our Service Committee



March Project Update:

Thank you so much for your donations of tuna, chicken and \$ for protein for Food Backpacks for Kids. With the rising costs of groceries, food budgets are very tight, especially for low income families and your donations will help to ensure good growth for our neighborhood kids.

April Projects

April 11: During Easter week we will be making sandwiches for the Tacoma Rescue Mission and we welcome the Joint Youth Group to help with this project.

How can you help? If you are able to shop at Costco, we are in need of these items: sliced ham, sliced cheese and sliced bread. Please leave them in the ADLC refrigerator prior to April 9.

There will be a reminder poster in the narthex with details, but the most important fact is we need donations by EASTER which is April 9th! Monetary donations are also welcome, so that we can purchase items. Please leave your food donations in the refrigerator.

Event details:

location: Agnus Dei Kitchen

time: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 11:00-12:30

Sandwiches will be delivered on the 11th ready to be given out to clients who can't make it to 5:00 dinner.

Extras will be stored in the Tacoma Rescue Mission freezer for future use.

April 20th: We will be serving a lasagna dinner at Peace Lutheran in Tacoma. Linda Ribary will purchase the elements of the meal. If you wish to contribute, please note "Peace Dinner" in the memo of your offering. All through the pandemic, Peace Lutheran (with contributions from area churches like ADLC) was able to continue to feed their neighbors. They switched to "take out" style rather than the pre-Covid practice of sit-down dinners. We are happy to learn that this month we will return to the old serving style, sitting together at tables with beverages included, a much friendlier model! If you have any questions, call the church office or Linda Ribary.

Coming in May, the Diaper Derby

In 2022 we partnered with Gig Harbor Rotary in the diaper Derby which benefited the Bremerton hub of Kidvantage (formerly known as Eastside Baby Corner Westsound). We collected boxes of diapers and baby wipes, a necessity for families in need. With increasing donations, our racehorse, Swiftwater, galloped faster toward the finish line. We were delighted to learn Swiftwater won the derby with the most diapers and wipes collected!!



We've said "yes" to an invitation to race again in May of 2023. We don't know our horse' name yet, but we can start looking for diaper sales now. Diapers of all sizes and packages of baby wipes are welcome.

Faith Formation



Forums are on Sundays at 9:45 am and may be attended in person in the parish hall or on the Zoom platform; the link is found on the events tab of our website.

April 2nd – Spiritual practices come in many forms. Sharon Ebelt and George Unruh will show pictures and provide details of their 440 mile backpack trip this summer along the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington. What can make such a trip a spirit filled and spiritual event? We will then participate in talking circles to share spiritual practices.

What have you found valuable in your spiritual walk? Perhaps that is just what someone else needs to hear to enliven their own.

April 9th – Easter Sunday. No forum.

April 16th – Funeral director and owner/operator of Cornerstone Funeral Services as well as author of the book *the Green Burial Guidebook*, Elizabeth Fournier will join us virtually from Boring, Oregon, to educate us on all our current burial options. She shares a breadth of knowledge and compassion as she takes people through end-of-life bodily transformations. It may surprise you how many options are available. And one of those options will be just right for you or a loved one.

April 23rd – With burial options covered, now it is time to plan a funeral/memorial service. Daryl Daugs will walk us through the actual planning of this process. Everything from scriptures, songs, liturgies and more will be considered. It is a privilege to plan ahead for the guidance of those who will prayerfully lay us to rest. There is a lot of stress after the loss of a loved one. Having a respectful plan to acknowledge that passing will be of great value to our loved ones.

April 30- Spiritual Direction has grown in practice in the last two decades. Once experienced primarily in the Catholic faith, it has expanded to many different religious practices and beliefs. A very broad description would be a "life coach for spirituality". Debbie Waite will share her experience with spiritual directors and provide resources on how to find a director that might match your needs.



Sunday Morning Family Book Club

Next meets on April 2, 9:45 am

The fourth meeting of the Sunday Morning Family Book Club took place on March 5; the theme was "Psalm 23." The group met in the sanctuary for fellowship and a fun search for a "lost" sheep. A book about Psalm 23 was read then the group moved down the hall to the community room for activities. The

participants had time to share and draw the things that we have to sooth us in times of trouble. The April meeting theme on April 2 will be Holy Week.

Family Book Club is a monthly gathering of families who share in fellowship, a book, and an activity. Each family gets to take home a copy of the book. The books are childrens' books and the activities appropriate for all ages. However, family is a big word that can mean lots of things. No need to have a child in tow to come and join the fun! All shapes and sizes of families (and people!) are most welcome!



Faith Formation continues on next page

Joint Youth Group

Hello everyone!

This past month has been amazing! We have transitioned out of our 'ism' series for now and into 'Who, What, Where and Why is God?' During our 'ism' series the students and I talked about how Jesus was an Activist and an Advocate for those in need. We have talked in depth about who Jesus is in the community, the weeks prior and now are talking about who God is to us and who God can be for us. I am excited about this month as Lent is coming to a close and Holy Week comes. I know that these conversations are important for the growth of young people.



Jess Gomez
Youth Director

I want to, again, thank the members of Agnus Dei and GHUMC for being my volunteers this month! I appreciate it so much and I know the students do too. If you're looking to volunteer, please reach out. My email is jointyouthgroup@ghumc.org. It is so important to me that the youth members be also connected with church members! I appreciate you all!

Blessings,
Jess

Joint Youth Group Service project in March:
Litter pickup on the Cushman Trail



JYG
Joint Youth Group
PRESENTS

YOUTH MISSION WORK CAMP

GRADES: 6TH-12TH
DATES: JULY 23RD-28TH
LOCATION: OCEAN PARK
COST: \$100

All students from the all four churches are invited.

Adults on the trip will help teach skills needed to do the work

\$50 first deposit will be due Sunday, April 30th

Activities

- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Wave Jumping
- ✓ Kayaking
- ✓ Low Ropes Course
- ✓ Campfire

Service Projects

- ✓ Chopping and Stacking wood
- ✓ Trail Improvement
- ✓ Soup Kitchen Serving
- ✓ Landscaping work for Elderly and Low Income Folks
- ✓ Decorating for Foster Kid Camp Bday Party

More Information Contact Jess @ Jointyouthgroup@ghumc.org

The Gig Harbor Joint Youth Group under the direction of our Youth Director, Jess Gomez, meets weekly on Sundays (except the last Sunday of the month). This joint youth group is a collaborative effort by Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor United Methodist, St John's Episcopal and the United Church of Christ. Middle School meets from 5 to 6:30 High School meets from 6:30 to 8 pm at Gig Harbor United Methodist, 7400 Pioneer Way, in GH.

Reminders from Jess:

- ◆ There will be no Joint Youth Group on Easter Sunday
- ◆ Monday April 3rd Coffee Shop Talk
For High School Students
At Cutter's Point from 3pm-5pm
5500 Olympic Dr
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
- ◆ Ocean Park Youth Mission Work Camp
Cost \$100 **First Deposit \$50** Deposit due April 30th

From the Green Team:

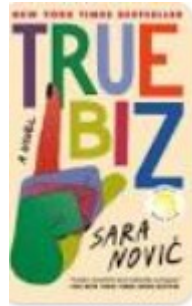


On May 21st the Green Team is sponsoring a “hard to recycle item drop off day.” On that day you can drop off any items listed below (sorted by the categories listed) to the church. Green Team members will then transport those items to the appropriate Recycling Center. We will have containers to drop the respective items into. Sorting them in your own bags, cardboard boxes, etc. will help you and the Green Team’s separation process. This is one way we can reduce the load on our landfills and get items back into the useful cycle of our lives. One of the three R’s (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). Mother Earth, God’s creation, deserves that sort of care. Join us to make this happen.

- ◆ Fluorescent lightbulbs
- ◆ Batteries (separate by alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lithium; further separate corroded batteries in baggies)
- ◆ Plastic lids
- ◆ Styrofoam blocks and foam blocks
- ◆ Loose metal - e.g. screws, nails, lids, etc.
- ◆ Printer and toner cartridges
- ◆ Cell phones and chargers
- ◆ Electronic cords, Holiday lights
- ◆ Colored glass beyond clear, brown & green
- ◆ Shredded paper (in a paper bag)
- ◆ Plastic bags, bubble wrap

Agnus Dei Book Group

Book group will be meeting in the couch room on Sunday, April 23 at 12:15 to discuss *True Biz* by Sara Novic. You may attend in-person or on the Zoom platform; you will find the Zoom link on the Events page of our church website. If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Zehnder to be added to the email list.



Kids Night Out in April

The April Kids Night Out event will take place on the third Friday, the 21st, from 5:30—7:30pm. Kids have fun at the church while their parents enjoy a couple of hours to themselves. Games, music, pizza and a craft are included. Register on the Events tab of our website.

We Celebrate...

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gail Brandt
- 3 Ginny Eilers
- 5 Kathryn Duncan
- 6 David Salge
- 8 Pam Martin, Daryl Daugs
- 9 Heidi Giles
- 11 Gloria Witt
- 13 David Moore
- 15 Austin Moore, George Unruh
- 16 Audrey Clinton
- 17 Olin Hogeberg, Virginia Witt-Abbott, Tim Sobie
- 18 Kathy Fox, Peter Wagner
- 20 Alex Meacham, Mary Francis
- 23 Olivia Iversen
- 24 Jenny Nussbaum
- 28 Susan Luebeck, Beverly Buster
- 30 Coni Liljengren

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES*

- 1 Leif and Katie Dobszinsky
- 3 Lance and Marilyn Colyar
- 9 Kimberly Morgan and Paul Gross
- 10 Al Abbott and Virginia Witt Abbott
- 17 Robin Winslow and Heinz Malon
- 20 Dave and Terri Schinkel
- 28 Salli and Carl Middleton

Serving in Worship, April 2023

		Altar	Assisting	Lector	Stream	Ushers/	Prayer	Flowers	
April 2	8:30 AM	J McCraw	B Shull	R Spitzer, C	M Snowden	Costanzo	S Whitney	x	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
	11:00 AM	S Costanza		G Lorenz, C	R Powers	R Crow			
April 6	7:00 PM	R Crow	M Colyar	K Gemar	B Beals	S Shema	P Waite	x	<i>Maundy</i>
April 7	7:00 PM	x	x	G Lorenz, K	J Beaudette		x	x	<i>Good Friday</i>
April 8	7:00 PM	M	D Salge	R Crow, M	Open	Beals	x	x	<i>Easter Vigil</i>
April 9	8:30 AM	J McCraw	K Eilers	R Spitzer	B Nussbaum	S Shema	K Gemar	Liturgical Arts Comm.	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
	11:00 AM	K Morgan	K Eilers	C Franz	R Powers	Crow			
April 16	8:30 AM	S Lubash	K Gemar	D Krump	B Nussbaum	Beals	D Waite		
	11:00 AM	S Sheema	D Salge	P Davis	L Zehnder	L Colyar			
April 23	8:30 AM	S Lubash	R Spitzer	C Carlson	B Nussbaum	Ohmes	S Whitney		
	11:00 AM	E Nesbit	D Daus	M Beert	R Powers	D Sapp			
April 30	8:30 AM	S Costanzo		R Costanzo	B Beals	Costanzo	P Waite		
	11:00 AM	R Crow	D Page	M Duncan	L Zehnder	D Sapp			

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:

- Sheryl Costanzo—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:



Let's Wear Our Nametags

As a sign of hospitality to all, 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.

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 Agnus Dei.






Phishing Scams!



BEWARE OF FRAUD

There has been another uptick in scam messages targeted at parishioners requesting monetary support for “people in crisis.” Emails and Text messages appearing to come from Pastor Seth, have been received by many in our Agnus Dei community. Fake email accounts using his name are being used. Please remember that neither **Pastor Seth nor any of our staff will never contact you to ask for money, gift cards or financial information of any kind.** Never reply to these messages—they are fake. Do not click on any links, block them if you are able, and most certainly delete them.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Holy Week</p>						<p>1</p> <p>8:30am Men's Square 8:30am Women's Circle</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Forum 9:45am Sunday Morning Family Book Club 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 5:00pm Joint Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm Joint High School Youth Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00pm LWR Quilters</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30am Church Staff Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00pm Maundy Thursday</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>7:00pm Good Friday</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm Easter Vigil</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>1:00pm Grief and Loss Support Group 1:00pm LWR Quilters</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30am Church Staff Meeting 10:30am Sack Lunches for Tac Rescue Mission 12:30pm Worship Committee Mtg 2:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00pm Personnel Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Quilts and Kits Blessing 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Forum 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 5:00pm Joint Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm Joint High School Youth Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00pm LWR Quilters</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30am Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm Gather Bible Study 5:30pm Peninsula Art League</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm Together Women Rise 4:00pm Peace Lutheran Dinner 5:30pm Theology on Tap</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30pm Kids Night Out</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:00pm Memorial for Mavis Moore at Eliseo</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Forum 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 12:15pm ADLC Book Group 5:00pm Joint Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm Joint High School Youth Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:00pm Grief and Loss Support Group 1:00pm LWR Quilters</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30am Church Staff Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Personnel Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Forum 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Joint High School Youth Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1:00pm LWR Quilters 5:30 Handbells</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am Church Staff Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30am Men's Square 8:30am Women's Circle</p>

Hybrid events may be attended In-person and online

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

ADLC Care Team

The Care Team of Agnus Dei is up and running! Thanks to many volunteers, the following services outlined below are offered to our members. The coordinator for each service group is listed as well. If you or another need assistance, please contact the service group coordinator, whose phone numbers and e-mail addresses are in the church directory. Please also check out the Care Team Bulletin Board across from the Fellowship Hall for further information. Any questions, or to sign up to help, let us know!

Gwen Daug and Marlene Bridgforth, Care Team Co-chairs

ADLC CARE TEAM SERVICES AND NAMES OF COORDINATORS:

- ♥ TRANSPORTATION: GWEN DAUGS
- ♥ HOME VISITS: GHITA LORENZ AND CHARLENE FRANZ
- ♥ CARDS/TELEPHONE CALLS: MARY MARQUARDT
- ♥ BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS: DAVID SALGE
- ♥ HOME COMMUNION: MARLENE BRIDGFORTH
- ♥ MEALS: ANN ROUSSEAU
- ♥ MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: REBECCA CROW



New Offering Cards for Electronic Giving

I was privileged to first get to know Pam Martin while she was part of the stewardship committee for several years. Over the years, Pam has passed several bits of wisdom along to me. One time she told me that it is just as important for me to wear my hearing aids for those around me, and this is something that I have tried to do ever since. One time we were talking about electronic giving. She said that it was something that she didn't want to do because writing the check and placing it in the offering plate was important for her. It was part of the way that she worshipped on Sunday mornings. I kind of understood what she was saying, but, more recently, I have learned that the offering should be an important part of every Christian's worship.

Before the Israelites had a temple, the community would gather around an altar to worship God. An important part of this worship was the offerings that each person brought to give to God. Grain offerings were placed on the altar to be burned, drink offerings were poured out on the altar, and birds and small animals were also sacrificed on the altar. The Israelites were worshipping God by bringing something that they valued and leaving it on the altar.

In this day and age of electronic giving, it is good to remember that the offering is much more than a way to provide for the upkeep of the church and support for its ministries. We are worshipping God during the offering because we are sacrificing something we value (not always money, some sacrifice their time) to show our love for God. On April 2, two changes in our worship Sunday services will help remind us that our giving is a way that we worship God through sacrifice.

First, the offering plates will be passed to everyone. Also, offering cards with the words, "I give electronically," will be available at the ushers' station (and on the backs of some chairs) so that people may participate in worship by placing a card in the offering plate. Everyone who gives by check on a bi-weekly, monthly, etc. basis, is invited to use the cards on weeks that they do not place an envelope in the offering plate.

I would encourage everyone to make a silent acknowledgement of the sacrifice you are giving to God by placing the card in the offering plate.

Mike Snowden
Stewardship Committee

AGNUS DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT as of February 28, 2023

	Feb-23 <u>Actual</u>	Feb-23 <u>Budget</u>	% of YTD <u>Budget</u>
OPERATING INCOME:			
Unrestricted Offerings	36,189	33,000	110%
Interfaith Youth Program Offerings	124	1,000	
Rental House Reserve Reimb.	5,100	2,100	-
Little Lambs Preschool Tithe	1,500	1,500	-
Community Donations	133	30	443%
Other Income	7	160	4%
TOTAL INCOME	43,053	37,790	114%

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Ministry of Education	12	250	5%
Ministry of Mission	3,171	2,980	106%
Ministry of Programs	475	240	198%
Administrative Expenses	16,972	14,629	116%
Staff and Services	19,248	25,686	75%
TOTAL EXPENSES	39,878	43,785	91%
NET OPERATING INCOME	3,175	(5,995)	

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

Giving to Others February 2023¹	
ELCA Mission Support	14,463
ELCA World Hunger	1,103
ELCA Disaster Relief	99
FISH	149
Food Backpacks 4 Kids	10
Food Pantry GH Rotary	300
Refugee Resettlement Prog	99
¹ These funds are pass-through and not part of the Operating Budget, with the exception of ELCA Mission Support. The monthly donation to ELCA programs is 6% of Unrestricted Giving for the month. In addition, \$12,292 was sent for Mission Support from an Estate Gift.	
Endowment Fund and Reserves	
Above & Beyond Endowment	58,426
Building Maint. Fund	31,193
Rental House Reserve	20,161
Operating Reserve	64,000
Music & Technology Reserves	28,400
Reserve for Future Uses	33,934
TOTAL, ALL RESERVES	236,114

Prepared by Julie Bell March 30, 2023

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

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Council Secretary: Marlene Bridgforth
Financial Secretary: Bob Nussbaum
Treasurer: Julie Bell

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