



The monthly Newsletter of:

October 2026

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 worshipping congregation as we strive to share God's inclusive love with everyone in our community and in our world.



From Our Pastor



A Season for Letting Go

There are certain things that announce the arrival of fall whether we are ready for them or not. The mornings become a little darker. The air carries a familiar chill. Leaves begin their slow transformation from green to brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and red. And, of course, pumpkin spice lattes mysteriously appear on coffee shop menus everywhere, whether or not anyone actually asked for them!

Fall is a beautiful reminder that change is simply part of life. The trees that have spent the spring and summer growing, reaching toward the sun, now enter a season of letting go. Leaves that once seemed essential are released, making room for what comes next.

Perhaps there is something for us to learn in that.

Our lives are filled with seasons. There are times when we are growing and flourishing, times when we are resting, and times when we are called to let go of something we have known so that something new can emerge. Sometimes we welcome those changes. Other times, we hold on tightly, wishing that things could remain exactly as they were.

Faith reminds us that we do not move through these seasons alone.

The prophet Isaiah writes:

"For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."

Isaiah 61:11

God is present in the changing seasons of creation and in the changing seasons of our lives. The falling leaves are not a sign that the tree has failed. They are part of the tree's natural rhythm. Letting go is not always an ending. Sometimes it is how we make room for new life.

The same can be true for us as a community of faith.

As we enter October, perhaps we can ask ourselves: What are the things we need to let go of? What old assumptions, fears, resentments, or habits keep us from becoming the people God is calling us to be? And, just as importantly, what new possibilities might God be inviting us to embrace?

At Agnus Dei, our faith is not simply something we believe; it is something we live. We are called to love our neighbors, care for creation, seek justice, welcome those who have been pushed to the margins, and serve the world around us. Every season gives us new opportunities to practice that love.

So, as the leaves begin to change and the pumpkin spice returns once again, may we pay attention to the lessons creation is offering us.

Change is inevitable. Letting go can be holy. New life is always possible.

And through every season, God continues to call us to grow in love, not only for one another, but for the sake of the whole world.

May this October be a season of grace, transformation, and faithful service.

And yes... perhaps even a pumpkin spice latte or two.

Pastor JT



Pastor JT Burk



Please let Pastor JT know if you are in need of pastoral care. If you would like to be contacted, please call the church office at 253-851-6222, extension 2 or email jt@agnusdeilutheran.org

President's Message

Gary Gemar



*Gary Gemar
Council President*

When we read the gospel lessons we continually see how Jesus supports widows, orphans, the sick, the homeless, and outcasts in his ministry. The ELCA teaches that faith is active in showing God's love and love seeks justice in public relationships and social structures. In our call to care for society and creation, the ELCA supports members' daily vocations, encourages learning and moral discernment, develops social teaching and policy, and bears public witness.

There are three kinds of social teaching documents used by the ELCA. **Social statements** address significant social issues (such as racism or genetics) and institutions (such as healthcare or economic life) and are adopted by a two-thirds Churchwide Assembly vote. **Social messages** address narrower, timely topics of contemporary concern and are based on the framework provided by statements. Social messages are adopted by the ELCA Church Council. **Social policy resolutions** are the third type of social teaching documents. These are typically brief and establish specific policy-related directives on matters of immediate social concern. You can review these documents at the following link. [Understanding Lutheran Social Teachings](#)

I recently became aware that the social message **Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment** written in 1990 is being updated and members of the church are welcome to suggest edits to the newly revised document. I find this very timely because of the book *There is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America* by Brian Goldstone that the ADLC Book Club will read for our November discussions. It is heartbreaking to read the stories of 5 families in Atlanta and the struggles and challenges they go through to keep food on the table and a place to call home. The book makes clear that there are many barriers in local, state, and federal governments and other institutions that are not helping us reduce homelessness in America.

I asked our Book Club to consider reading the revised social message and make suggested edits from the knowledge we learn reading the book. This is still to be determined as a group. The revised social message can be found here: [Homelessness Draft](#). If the Book Club does not meet as a group and make suggested edits, you are certainly welcome to read the message and make your own suggestions. I recommend you read the book. It will give you a good foundation to make your own edits. Edits can be made using the survey at this link: [Homelessness Social Message Feedback Questionnaire](#). Public editing is open until November 30, 2026.

Highlights from the September Council Meeting:

- ◇ Reviewed the Little Lambs financials (July 1st – August 31st – New fiscal year). Income in excess of expenses -\$3,883 due to summer break. Cash on hand \$71,075.
- ◇ Accepted reports from the Council Committee Liaisons and acted as necessary on requests.
- ◇ Reviewed the ADLC fiscal year finances (February 1st – August 31st) that shows income less than expense by \$38,810. **Please review the complete financial report in the newsletter.**
- ◇ Approved a motion to not renew the CD that matures in October to support cash flow until the end of the fiscal year.
- ◇ Approved a motion to replace the broken piano microphone cabling, including a lift rental using funds from the IT budget.
- ◇ Appreciated the good news that the amplifiers did not need to be replaced in the sanctuary. A software upgrade resolved the issue with the sound system.
- ◇ Received a thank you note from Heron's Key Green Interest Group for the \$150 donation given by the church for the shed they donated. It was unexpected and appreciated.
- ◇ Approved a motion to allow Altrusa to use the church's Parish Hall on the second Monday of each month for their meetings between 5 and 7 PM.
- ◇ Approved a motion to allow Cora Voce to use the church on Sunday, February 7, 2027, for their winter concert at 3 PM.
- ◇ Reviewed a request by Bob Volbracht, GHKP Housing and Homeless Coalition, if we would consider putting a Trailer/RV on our lot to support homeless families with children. No decision. Much to explore before making a recommendation to the congregation.
- ◇ Heard a report on bugs in the Little Lambs classroom light fixtures that Long Pest Control will investigate and make a recommendation on how to treat.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

AGNUS DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT				
	FEB 1-AUG 31 ACTUAL	FEB 1-AUG 31 BUDGETED	FEB 1-AUG 31 % BUDGET	Endowment Fund
OPERATING INCOME:				ADLC Endowment Fund 95,295
Unrestricted Offerings	262,225	259,723	101%	
Community Donations	1,372	1,382	99%	
Miscellaneous Income	5,424	3,395	160%	
TOTAL INCOME	269,021	264,500	102%	
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Administrative Expenses	84,535	90,000	94%	
Ministry of Education	823	1,808	45%	
Ministry of Mission	17,108	16,937	101%	
Ministry of Programs	3,589	6,842	52%	
Staff and Services	201,776	207,623	97%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	307,830	323,210	95%	
NET OPERATING INCOME	-38,810	-58,711		
				Reserves
				Mortgage Reduction 1,550
				Future Needs Reserve 30,511
				Operating Reserve 27,401
				Reserves - Other Designated Use 21,172
				TOTAL, ALL RESERVES 80,635

OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSES:	AUGUST ACTUAL	AUGUST BUDGETED	% OF AUGUST BUDGET
Unrestricted Offerings	34,670	33,037	105%
Total Income	36,168	33,605	108%
Total Expenses	43,913	45,460	97%
NET OPERATING INCOME	-7,745	-11,854	

GIVING TO OTHERS 2026-2027	
Associated Ministries	1,400
Community Assistance Fund	1,250
ELCA World Hunger	1,600
ELCA Good Gifts	-
FISH	890
Food For All formerly FB4K	2,384
Key Peninsula Foodbank	809
Little Lambs Preschool Donations	2,000
Monthly Outreach*	2,001
Total Giving to Others from Individuals	12,335
ELCA Mission Support (Budgeted)	13,653
Total Giving to Others from ADLC	25,989

2026-2027 BUDGET AT A GLANCE	
Unrestricted Offerings	487,000
Total Income	494,917
Total Expenses	561,535
NET OPERATING INCOME	-66,618

WHERE ADLC STANDS FINANCIALLY AS OF 8/31/2026
For the past several months, our income has been significantly lower than our expenses. Based on current giving patterns, we expect this shortfall to continue through November, with contributions rising substantially in December. Lower monthly mortgage payments will help narrow the gap, but we may encounter cash-flow challenges in late September or October. To maintain sufficient funds, we will need to transfer money from our higher-interest account at Mission Investment Fund to our First Citizens checking account.





NEWS FROM OUR SERVICE COMMITTEE: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

September Outreach Wrap-Up: Relief Programs for Wildfires

In September we contributed to victims of wildfires in Eastern Washington, either through Lutheran Disaster Response or Thrivent. To date, \$500.00 has been given.

God's Work Our Hands

On September 13th, during worship, we worked together to assemble the school supplies that were collected in August into 124 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Earlier in the month Ronnie Kulman delivered some of the supplies to an organization in Tacoma that supports students in foster care.

Peace Lutheran Dinner

On September 18th, we served a lasagna dinner at Peace Lutheran along with some extra meals delivered to shut ins. Many thanks to Linda Ribary who organized and shopped for the ingredients; to the volunteers who cooked and helped serve the meal; and to Thrivent who contributed funds for food.

October Outreach Project– Toiletries and Hygiene Items for the YWCA

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We will be collecting toiletries and personal hygiene supplies for the YWCA Pierce County. "The YWCA transforms the lives of domestic violence survivors through safety, healing, and empowerment; providing safe shelter and comprehensive services for survivors of domestic violence, regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, disability, race or religious affiliation." ywcapiercecounty.org

Please bring the following hygiene items to the Donation Station in the Narthex or you may purchase items online to be delivered directly to the church.



The year end is approaching and some of us may have unused Thrivent grant funds. If you would like a project and/or help making an application, please see Ronnie. We hate to see \$ go unused.

Recently Phyllis met with some folks from St John's Episcopal Church to tell about our service projects. They liked the fact that we do a project monthly and really liked the Hard-to-Recycle Project.

Thank you ever faithful friends.

From Phyllis, Linda R, Linda Z, Jerry, Ann, Debbie, Ronnie and Charlene



ADLC Book Group

Book group will be meeting on Sunday, October 18th, in the front room following Forum to discuss: *Heart of a stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging* by Angela Buchdahl. This book is a stirring account of one woman's journey from feeling like an outsider to becoming one of the most admired religious leaders in the world. All are welcome!

Everyone is welcome for this discussion whether or not you have read the book. We hope to see you there!



News from Green Team—

As our Season of Creation comes to a close, we know that creation moans under the strain of human activity on our beloved planet. Some would say that action is an antidote for anxiety, which certainly applies to climate anxiety!

Have you heard of Lutherans Restoring Creation?

Lutherans Restoring Creation exists to inform, encourage, and uplift the discipleship practice of caring for the environment throughout the ELCA. This is accomplished by cultivating a network of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all. Agnus Dei is working toward creation care in many ways and becoming a part of this network is something Green Team hopes you will all embrace!

The website is currently being updated by Gabrielle Irle, staff member for [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#). We are fortunate that she is a Pierce County resident! Gabrielle will be presenting more information here at Agnus Dei during Adult Forum on November 1st. Green Team hopes you will take a look at the 'Taking Action' page of the Lutherans Restoring Creation website. Can you find practices in other congregations that we may want to explore? What actions may be unique to Agnus Dei that we can share with other congregations? Please share your thoughts with any Green Team member and be ready to learn and participate when Gabrielle joins us on November 1st!



LUTHERANS
RESTORING
CREATION



SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

FORUM

Forum meets each Sunday morning at 10:45 am in-person in the parish hall and on the Zoom platform. The recordings are available to watch later on our YouTube channel.

October Forum Schedule

October 4: Suzanne Crawford O'Brien, Ph.D.

Suzanne Crawford O'Brien teaches at the intersection of religious studies, environmental studies, and Indigenous studies at Pacific Lutheran University. She'll join us to share highlights from her new book *Climate Anxiety and Spiritual Resilience: A Guide to Kinship, Justice, and Hope*. A central argument of the book? If you care about climate, you ought to care about religion, because religious and Indigenous traditions can help us build resilience and guide us toward just solutions. We'll consider how we can build daily contemplative practices that are good for us, good for the community, and good for the planet. Copies of the book will be available and they may also be ordered online, through the Holden Bookstore's website.

October 11: One Parish, One Prisoner (OPOP)

One Parish One Prisoner is a two-year re-entry ministry that connects a local church community with an individual preparing to return home from prison. Through relationships, community, and mutual transformation, a small team from the congregation walks alongside someone before and after release. OPOP is built on the belief that successful re-entry is about more than resources—it is about relationships, belonging, and having a community that welcomes people home. On October 11th, Candice Baughman from Underground Ministries will join us to share more about OPOP, her own connection to re-entry, and how our congregation can become involved.

October 18: Ascending the Double Helix: Uniting With God in Achieving this World's Future

Please join **Don Heinz** at our forum on October 18th as he leads the first of two classes based on his recent book, *Ascending the Double Helix: Uniting with God in Achieving this World's Future*.

Most studies of science and religion give us conflict and treat symbiosis as an afterthought. Don offers both evolutionary vision and collaborative eschatology in which God and humanity are ultimate actors, and that's precisely why this book matters. The double helix isn't just a clever metaphor, it's the entire architecture of

(continued)



the argument. Don offers a theological metaphysics featuring God's Becoming and Human Becoming together in a collaborative eschatology as ultimate meaning in this second millennium. I offer a genuine collaboration instead of the usual conflict narrative between science and faith. I think that crossover reaches theologians, scientists, ecologists, eschatology scholars, and anyone interested in the convergence of science and faith all having a genuine claim on this work.

October 25: Ascending the Double Helix: Uniting With God in Achieving this World's Future

Please join **Don Heinz** at our forum on October 25th as he leads the second of two classes based on his recent book, *Ascending the Double Helix: Uniting with God in Achieving this World's Future*. Imagine Pastor JT and a group of troopers from Agnus Dei going door to door within two miles of church with this opening line at the door: Please consider joining us in auditioning to become actors in the ultimate drama of the second millennium. The grand play begins when you are invited to join us in betting the farm on God as the *leading* actor and director of this new play and prepare ourselves to be auditioned by God for important roles in the unfolding Becoming of God and the universe. Our Logos Christology grounds this play, uniting the Word spoken at creation with the Word-become-flesh in Jesus Christ, who sources all Being and Becoming. We promise you will leave the theater with us having recovered your present lost course in a world that seems to be going nowhere.

For further information on Don's book, he has provided the following synopsis:

Using the contemporary DNA meme as a suggestive means of re-introducing the God-conversation into everyday life in an age of genetic science and religious eschatology, this book decodes the genome of the Hebrew Bible from which a liberating God emerges, follows the Christian phenotype in the New Testament going public in historic Christianity, and challenges uncomfortable modernists and too-comfortable Christians to consider God our ultimate wager. This would come to mean not missing out on the grand evolution of the universe and not being left out of the play. Along the way we are surprised to see that we are *auditioning God* to become our inheritance of divine DNA, the genetic instructions required for our development and functioning. So, our Becoming is joined with God's ultimate Purpose as the ultimate meaning of the universe. There is a cosmic drama afoot in the world, a play in which we are all actors. But this means that we discover *God is auditioning us* to play our roles in the Universe's Becoming. On this grand journey there are bows to contemporary science-and-religion rapprochement and a Logos theology grounded in early Christianity and later traditions which came to see all reality grounded in Christ as God's ultimate purposeful Word. This leads to a vision of God-Becoming in the Christ event and uniting with Human-Becoming through humans as the agents of Christ, and the universe's grand project to achieve the world's future. Out of this comes a proleptic ethic (what we are logically required to perform) that derives from fresh understandings of Christianity and anticipates a more just earth in God's and our Becoming. All together this can be imaged in an ascending double helix expressing our evolutionary participation in God's creative work. Imitating a liberating God joining with a liberated humanity evokes a grand movement transcending our present lost course in an unliberal world that seems to have lost its direction. Essential to this venture is not just new imaginings of religion, but vigorous and fresh arguments for a modern Christianity and for the social justice ethic that directly derives from it.

Humans rise to the occasion by wagering on God as the supreme actor in our lives. This venture becomes historic Christianity, founded in the phenotype of a God who risked Incarnation to join our project. And then to life in the Church, which becomes a wagering community. And reading the Bible while finding God reading us, in a hermeneutical circle. This grand wager leads to contemplating the human prospect and then leveraging hope as the vehicle for human Becoming. Such contemplation must turn into Action. And so, we find ourselves expressing a liberal Exodus-God and setting out on a wilderness journey of addressing the challenges of earth as the seat of God's and Human Becoming uniting. All that remains is the fully realized decision to follow God into the future and ascend the double helix of a long-awaited collaborative eschatology.

NOTE: *Purchasing this book is by no means required for this class. But if you would like a copy, the Amazon cost with tax and shipping is \$43. But instead, copies for sale in the church office or any Sunday right after church are only \$30.*

FRONT ROOM KIDS

On Sundays during worship, children ages three through ten are invited to the Front Room after Storytime to enjoy a Bible story and related activities. They return to the sanctuary around the time of the Sharing of the Peace to be present for Communion and the remainder of the service.



CONFIRMATION

Middle school students meet with Pastor JT once a month in the Front Room after the service. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor JT.

Faith Formation, continued

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL—A MINISTRY OF AGNUS DEI

The first month of school has flown by! We have loved getting to know our new preschool friends and are looking forward to a great year. October is sure to be a fun month with many activities to be excited about. We have dads coming to preschool to carve pumpkins, a field trip to Harvest Fest at Miracle Ranch and of course, our annual Trunk-or-Treat. We can't wait to see all of our friends in their costumes, and church members are invited to participate too! If you know someone that is looking for a high-quality preschool program, we still have a couple of spots available. Send them our way! As always thank you for your continued support of our program.



Shannon Moore, Little Lambs Preschool Director

For comfort and healing:

- * Chuck Anderson
- * Margie Anderson
- * Barbara Ausich
- * Julia Bell
- * Gail Brandt
- * Marlene Bridgforth
- * Robert Bridgforth
- * Beverly Buster
- * Beverly Buster Jr
- * Chiarra Buster

- * Audrey Clinton
- * Connie Hummel
- * George Mitchell
- * Michi Ouchi
- * Joannah Powers
- * Ellis Rousseau
- * Johnny Tierny
- * Neal Van Der Voorn
- * Trudy Wagner
- * Eunice Werner

In their grief:

- * The family of Jack Oakes as they mourn his death. There will be a service at Tahoma National Cemetery Oct 1, 1:30 pm
- * Lyn and Mollie MacLean as they mourn the death of Lyn's sister, Mary

In Service to Our Country:

- * CAPT. Jenny Nussbaum, US Public Health Service



ADLC Care Team

These services are offered by our care team volunteers. If you or another need assistance, please contact the 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 Parish Hall for further information. Any questions, or to sign up to help, please contact us.

*Marlene Bridgforth,
Care Team Coordinator*

ADLC CARE TEAM SERVICES AND COORDINATORS:

- ♥ TRANSPORTATION: TRACY CLARK
- ♥ HOME VISITS: GHITA LORENZ
- ♥ CARDS/TELEPHONE CALLS: MARY MARQUARDT
- ♥ GRIEF SUPPORT: DEBBIE WAITE
- ♥ BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS: DAVID SALGE
- ♥ HOME COMMUNION: MARLENE BRIDGFORTH
- ♥ HOSPITALITY: DEBBIE SNOWDEN
- ♥ MEALS: ANN ROUSSEAU
- ♥ MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: ANN ROUSSEAU
- ♥ PRAYER CHAIN: CINDY BEALS

We Celebrate October Birthdays and Anniversaries!

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Margaret Duncan, Ben Nussbaum, Alexis Nussbaum |
| 3 | Clara Paini |
| 7 | DeDe Boerger |
| 10 | Linda Zehnder |
| 12 | Ken Fearn |
| 13 | Sherry Stava, Debbie Waite |
| 17 | Emmy Horton |
| 18 | Jens Luebeck |
| 19 | Mary Marquardt, Carl Middleton |
| 21 | Jeannie Haugen, Zachary Wiren |

24 Al Abbott

26 Tom Leacy

27 Rita Anderson

29 Lynnette Brentin, Leif Dobszinsky, William Iversen

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Dave and Sue Horton

10 Rebecca Crow and David Salge

16 Jeff and Beverly Henne

20 Randy and Laurie Spitzer





October Serve in Worship Schedule



OCTOBER		Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Stream Team/	Ushers	Greeters	Security	Prayer Writer	Front Room Kids
4	9:30 AM	A Keyl S Lubash	A Bakke	P Borg	Nussbaum	L & M Colyar	L & D Brentin	P Waite	K Gemar	L: Kathy H:
11	9:30 AM	N Johnson L Brentin	L Spitzer	C Franz	Kusche	D Sapp L Olson		L Colyar	P Waite	L: Maggie H: Susan
18	9:30 AM	A Conley M Bridg- forth	K Eilers	A Keyl	Carter	P & D Waite	A Carter	G Gemar	D Waite	L: H: Laura
25	9:30 AM	J McCraw E Nesbitt	P Waite	M Beert	Snowden	D & S Krump	M Beert	G Gemar	M Colyar	L: Marlene H: Kathy

Serve in Worship:

Would you like to be more involved in our worship service? Volunteers are needed in all areas and training is readily available.

The following are the folks who are currently scheduling:

Council—Security

Debbie Snowden—Stream Team and Sound System

Marilyn Colyar—Assisting Ministers

Paula Davis—Lectors, Greeters, and Ushers

Kimberly Morgan—Altar Guild

Please contact the office or call these folks directly if you are willing to serve. The schedulers are more than happy to schedule around any travel plans you may have.



Hospitality: Please consider joining with others to provide light treats and make coffee for our Sunday fellowship after worship. Have fun and team up with a friend.

*If you have any questions call Debbie Snowden or Linda Ribary.

THIS AND THAT:

♥ Missing Tablecloths

We are missing two of our **round white tablecloths** from the church kitchen, maybe someone took them home to wash and forgot about them?

♥ Let's Wear Our Nametags

As a sign of hospitality to all visitors, newcomers, and just the plain forgetful, please remember to wear your nametag! If you are in need of a new nametag, leave a note on Cindy's desk.

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

We ask our entire community to be mindful of folks with scent sensitivities and refrain from using perfume/cologne and other scented products when coming to Agnus Dei.

♥ Phishing Scams! BEWARE OF FRAUD

The scams will continue so we will continue to remind you... Be aware of phony emails arriving your inboxes. Please remember: **ADLC staff will never contact you for money, gift cards or financial information of any kind.**



Grief Thoughts for October— By Debbie Waite

In the last 6 months, I have done some reading on the role that spirituality can play in how we integrate loss into our lives. Most of us are familiar with the work done by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross (1926-2004) on grieving, but continued research has provided an expanded set of approaches that help normalize grief. We know that grieving is not a rigid linear experience, nor is it simply an emotional experience. It affects our whole life—body, soul, and spirit. This year, I hope to cover some of the newer material on loss and bereavement.

The first model to introduce is the Dual Process Model of Coping (DPM). Rather than looking at stages of grief, this model describes two types of coping. *Loss-oriented coping* is described as focusing on the pain, missing the person, crying, etc. Of course, there are more descriptors that fit here, these are simply an example. The second type of coping is *restoration-oriented coping*. This includes learning new skills, handling finances, building a new identity. When we experience loss, we can move back and forth between these two areas. It recognizes that people often feel relief when they “take a break” from grieving and choose to do the normal everyday tasks of life—that it isn’t denial. It is a “both/and” way of looking at the experience. Next month I’ll share some examples of what this can look like. Stay tuned ...

Opportunities from our SWWA Synod Office:

De-Escalation Training Session

October 13, 2026
5:30pm
ZOOM

Great opportunity for rostered leaders, church staff, ushers and other volunteers!

[Register](#)

If you attended any of our in-person events in either Longview or Tacoma on May 16th, please contact Stefanie (stefanie.dezarn@swwasynod.org) to get you signed up for FREE!

Women of the ELCA

Annual Convention
October 10, 2026, 10am
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Lacey WA

[Register](#)



OCTOBER

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid)	28 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	29	30 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 10:00am Worship Committee 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	2 Church Office Closed on Fridays 10:00am Properties Team Meeting in the Front Room	3 8:30am Men's Square Bible Study 8:30am Women's Circle Bible Study
4 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid)	5 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 1:30pm Stewardship 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	6	7 8:00am Little Lambs School Pictures 10:00am Text Study 1:00pm Endowment Committee 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 8:00am Little Lambs School Pictures 10:00am Finance Committee 1:00pm Council Executive Committee 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	9 Church Office Closed on Fridays	10
11 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid)	12 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	13 10:00am Worship Committee 5:30pm Little Lambs Pumpkin Night	14 10:00am Text Study 12:00pm Retired Clergy Lunch in Front Room 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Little Lambs Pumpkin Night 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 5:30pm Theology on Tap 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room 10:00 am Care Team	16 Church Office Closed on Fridays	17 1:00pm Nar Anon Family Groups Luncheon
18 Blood Pressure Checks after worship 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 12:00pm Book Group 1:30pm Cello Recital	19 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	20 3:00pm Council Meeting	21 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 Preschool Field Trip 4:00pm Forum Committee in Front Room 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	23 Church Office Closed on Fridays	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid)	26 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	27 1:15pm Gather Bible Study	28 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 10:00am Trunk or Treat in Parking Lot 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	30 Church Office Closed on Fridays 10:00am Trunk or Treat in Parking Lot	31

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, ext. 1 office@agnusdeilutheran.org

Church Staff

Pastor JT Burk, 701-969-0809

Office 253-851-6222, ext. 2, Email Pastor JT

Church Musician: Susan Luebeck

Office: 253-851-6222, ext. 4, Email Susan

Church Administrator: Cindy Beals

253-851-6222, ext. 1 Email Cindy B

Financial Services Administrative Assistant: Cindy Hart,

253-851-6222, ext. 5, Email Cindy H

Little Lambs Preschool Director, Shannon Moore

253-851-6222, ext. 3, Email Shannon

Congregational President: Gary Gemar

Congregational Vice President: Lance Colyar

Council Secretary: Debbie Snowden

Financial Secretary: Bob Nussbaum

Treasurer: Mike Snowden

Congregation Council

Gary Gemar, Tracy Clark, Lance Colyar, Ronnie Kulman, Mollie McLean, Debbie Snowden, Rhonda Sobie, Randy Spitzer, Jody Viscardi, Phil Waite

Council Liaison Positions

Communications and Connections—Tracy Clark

Endowment Committee—Lance Colyar

Finance Committee—Randy Spitzer

Faith Formation—Mollie MacLean

God's Work/Our Hands, Congregation—Debbie Snowden

God's Work/Our Hands, Community—Ronnie Kulman

IT Committee—Randy Spitzer

Little Lambs Board—Jody Viscardi

Stewardship Committee—Rhonda Sobie

Properties Team—Gary Gemar

Personnel Committee—Gary Gemar

Worship Committee—Phil Waite

Little Lambs Preschool

Director/Teacher: Shannon Moore

Email: lambs@agnusdeilutheran.org

Financial Secretary: Kimberly Morgan

Little Lambs Board: Maria Beaudette, Katie Dobszinsky, Peggy Mickelson, Jenn Paini, Susan Whitney, Neal Van der Voorn