The monthly Newsletter of:

May 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

Pastor Seth Novak

Dear siblings in Christ,

It is a funny quirk of the Easter season that, as we progress through it, the lectionary readings go backwards. On Easter morning, we, of course, get the story of the resurrection, and then the story of "Doubting (or Confessing) Thomas" the week after that; but from there on, the lectionary begins to turn to stories from *before* Jesus' Passion. The stories in the last few weeks of the Easter season are actually focused on how Jesus prepares his disciples for his death.

As I consider this, the Easter season almost seems to be the recognition and acknowledgment of a second loss. Jesus' disciples felt deep grief over his death until he revealed himself alive, and the joy and exuberance of Easter almost seems to transition back to grief again as the season slowly ebbs, along with our awareness of the presence of the risen Christ. Real life, with all its challenges, concerns and fears once again intrudes into our celebration of the resurrection.

What I can't help but notice, though, is that in this quirk is a profound truth: there can be no resurrection without death. We can't even make it seven weeks celebrating resurrection without also acknowledging the reality of loss. I suspect that, if we tried, the final weeks of the Easter season would feel forced and empty, a saccharine substitute for real joy. Easter isn't Easter without the crucifixion, the loss, the grief. Easter doesn't deny these things, it *redeems* them, reclaims them, makes them, if not good, then at least holy.

This is why Easter is good news. There is no part of life in which we do not experience death on a regular basis: aging, illness, broken relationships, life transitions, not to mention all the myriad ways in which we see the mark of sin on our world. Death is ubiquitous—but so is resurrection. In the Northern Hemisphere, we celebrate Easter in the heart of spring, when nature is awakening from seeming death and bursting to new life with vibrant colors and fragrances, the buzzing of bees and singing of birds, and warm weather drawing weary people back outdoors. Death and resurrection is the pattern of creation. It always has been, and always will be. Easter recognizes this.

Very often, our focus is only on one or the other. Part of Easter's power is helping us to see both. Even as the joy and celebration of Easter wanes and turns back to loss, it is turned once again to celebration as we observe Pentecost. The loss of the resurrected Jesus among us gives birth to the ministry of the Church. The end of one chapter of the story is the beginning of the next. Easter works to train us to look with fresh eyes at death in all its forms and wonder where the buds of new life are already breaking through.

This is not to deny grief or pain or suffering, nor to somehow rationalize or justify them—it is simply to remember, as Frederick Beuchner writes, that "resurrection means the worst thing is never the last thing." It is likewise a good reminder that the best thing is never the last thing, either. In God, there is always something new coming next. This is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Yours in that hope,
Pr. Seth

Pastoral Care

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.

Greetings from your Church Council:

Lynette Brentin
Council President

Council met on Tuesday, April 11th. Minutes of our meetings are posted in the hallway by the Parish Hall. Take a moment to read all about what the Council is doing.

I was looking at the newsletter article I wrote in April of 2018 when I was last president of Council. We were working on gathering or updating email and personal information from our members. We were also encouraging everyone to investigate and enroll in online giving. We have come a long way since then. Since the change in our offering procedures during service, which happened on April 2nd, Palm Sunday, it feels better to have the offering plate pass through my hands on Sunday. It is a reminder of our commitment to support this congregation, either through our giving or our time and talents.

Another way to support ADLC is to attend this month's Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 21st @ 12:15. We will be voting to elect new Council members and members to the Endowment committee. There are By-Law changes to approve as well. Those include adding a third congregational meeting to the year. In addition to May and November, we propose adding January as a regular meeting to approve the budget for the coming year. Changes to the Audit committee schedule and the individual items that need to be addressed at each of the 3 meetings will also be presented. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Check the Thursday email for more information.

Pastor Seth and several members from ADLC attended the memorial service for a loved member of our congregation, Mavis Moore. Today the arrangements for receiving a gift from her estate are being finalized. Council will be looking for meaningful ways to share that gift. If you have an idea, please let a member of Council know.

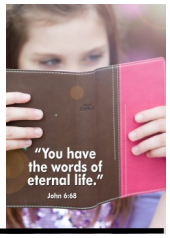
I am happy to say that the progress of finding an individual to fill our newly developed position of Financial Services Administrative Assistant is about completed. The interview committee consisted of Pastor Seth Novak, Julie Bell, Treasurer, and David Marquardt, Personnel committee chairman. Interviews were conducted and a recommendation to hire has been made. Watch for more information coming soon.

During the interviews, several candidates commented on how beautiful, well thought out and informative our website was. They were amazed at how many opportunities there were to be involved at Agnus Dei. If you have not visited the website recently, take a moment to check it out!

Blessings,

Lynette Brentin

Bible Sunday– June 4



Each year our congregation gifts a Spark story bible to all children turning three in the current year. Watch for a table in the narthex soon for everyone to write a message inside. It is also an opportunity for us to give children and youth who are ready to advance a new version of the bible. Please let us know if this describes your child. Pastor Seth is happy to explore options to be sure the new bible is a good fit.

Graduate Recognition Sunday– June 18

Do you have a graduate in your family? This could be high school, college, trade school or post graduate studies. We will be honoring our graduates during worship on Sunday, June 18 and we would love to honor your graduate's accomplishment. Please let us know by calling (253-851-6222) or emailing the church office.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 28

We will have one service only, at **10 am,** from Memorial weekend (May 28) through Labor Day Weekend (Sept 3). This service will also be livestreamed.

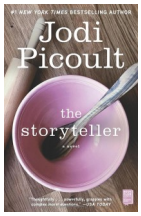
Tutoring Help Needed

Harbor ELL, a ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church that provides small group tutoring to English language learners, is seeking substitute volunteers who can serve on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:15. We are hoping to establish a list of kind, compassionate, culturally sensitive people who are flexible, adaptable and willing to follow our established curriculum. Teaching experience of any kind would be a plus. If you would enjoy being part of this community, please contact Marilyn or the church office at St. John's. Please include your name, telephone number, and short description of pertinent experience.

Grief and Loss Small Group

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church will continue the Grief and Loss small group May 8 and 15, from 1:00 to 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.

Agnus Dei Book Group



Book Group will be meeting on Sunday May 28th at 12:15 in the couch room to discuss: *The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult. All are invited, and please contact Linda Zehnder if you'd like to be added to our email list.

We remember in prayer:

For comfort and healing:

* Barbara Ausich
* Deb Brueckner
* Beverly Buster Jr
* Chiarra Buster
* Audrey Clinton
* Rich Cook
* Harlan and Pat Damron
* Richard and Marilyn Hermstad
* Connie Hummel
* Ardith Johnson
* Jack Oakes
* Sonja Miller
* George Mitchell
* 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:

* *The family of Carl and Salli Middleton as they mourn the death of Carl's sister.*
* *Elida Barron, son Manny, and their family as they mourn the deaths of her nephew and his wife.*

ADLC Care Team

The following 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 Fellowship Hall for further information. Any questions, or to sign up to help, let us know.

Gwen Daugs and Marlene Bridgforth, Care Team Co-chairs

ADLC CARE TEAM SERVICES AND 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

News From Our Service Committee

The month of April was busy!

Agnus Dei hosted the Joint Youth Group on April 11th when the kids made over 225 ham and cheese sandwiches for the Tacoma Rescue Mission. The ingredients were donated by church members and the youth and member of the service committee supplied the labor. They also made a few all cheese sandwiches for the clients who don't eat ham.

A lasagna dinner was served at Peace Lutheran on the 20th of April. It was wonderful to go back to the pre-covid manner of serving at tables with clients eating communally. During covid, meals were served take-out style. Nothing beats the connections made sitting together and sharing conversation over a tasty dinner.

The twice yearly in-gathering for Lutheran World Relief also occurred in April. 86 quilts, 53 baby kits and 22 fabric kits were blessed during worship on April 16 then made ready for LWR. This "all time high" number was the result of super industrious work by all quilters and the generous donations of baby clothing by many Little Lambs families and donations of quilting fabric by many community members. Two new quilters were welcomed—Pam Martin and Tracy Clark.

May Outreach Focus: The Diaper Derby, Swiftwater rides again!

The Diaper Derby is an event benefitting the Bremerton hub of Kidvantage (formerly known as Eastside Baby Corner West Sound). Diapers of all sizes and baby wipes are collected for local families in need. We will partner with Gig Harbor Kiwanis to back a "horse" to run the derby and the more diapers and wipes donated in the horse's name, the faster our horse gallops toward the finish line, the end of May.
You may remember that Swiftwater was our horse in the diaper derby last year and was deemed the winner of the derby. This year he will run in the Belmont Stakes category. The more diapers and wipes we contribute, the better Swiftwater's chances will be of becoming a two-time winner. You can bring diapers/wipes anytime. Diapers are expensive! So, if you find good sales, let Cindy know.

Team: Debbie Snowden, Phyllis Brandt, Linda Zehnder, Linda Ribary, Sheryl Costanzo, Ann Rousseau, Jerry Mjelde, Charlene Franz and Ronnie Kulman

Ascension Day Evening Potluck

Gather in the parish hall at 5:30 pm on May 18 for an Ascension Day potluck. Ascension Day is a Christian holiday on Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter when we commemorate when Jesus ascended to heaven.

Congregational Meeting May 21st at 12:15 pm

All voting members are encouraged to attend the May congregational meeting where we will hear updates from our church council, vote on revisions to the bylaws, and elect new members to our church council and Little Lambs board. Copies of the proposed bylaws amendments are available in the church office and an electronic version has been included in the recent Thursday emails. The meeting may be attended in-person in the parish hall or on the Zoom platform using the link found on the events tab of our church website.

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.

May 7th – The first Sunday of the month is devoted to community building time. This Sunday we will separate into talking circles and share where we are on our own end-of-life planning. A time to reflect on the ideas of others to further enhance our own. Bring your ideas and suggestions.

May 14th – Research of Fuller Youth Institute's "Growing Young" study of over 250 congregations learned key concepts and behaviors congregations are doing to actively engage youth and young people. "Six Core Commitments" were practiced by these congregations. Any congregation can be successful in ministry with youth and young people, no matter what size, age, demographics, and location. On Sunday, May 14th, Gary Gemar will present the "6 Core Commitments" congregations are doing to actively engage 15 -to 29-year-olds.

May 21st – Sharon Ebelt and George Unruh attended the Revolutionary Love: Freedom Rising conference in New York at the end of April. Forum will look into some of the things they learned during the event. The conference is a multi-faith, multi-ethnic gathering that is inspired and inspiring.

May 28th – Memorial Day weekend – No forum

June 4th – Another installment of our community building time. This Sunday will be spent reflecting on our own experiences as youth within the church. What memories do you have? Did you attend Sunday school, youth groups or youth camps? Or maybe you were an outside observer. What did you notice in others who acknowledged their attendance at such activities. Everyone is welcome to share the influential moments of their upbringing—an upbringing that brought them to where they are today.

Sunday Morning Family Book Club

Next meets on May 7, 9:45 am

The fifth meeting of the Sunday Morning Family Book Club took place on April 2, Palm/Passion Sunday; with a theme of "Holy Week." There was a large group of 31 in attendance; children, parents, grandparents, and friends, all gathered together in the couch room for a book and discussion about the events of Holy Week interspersed with segments of Holy Moly videos that sparked even more discussion!

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

Jess Gomez
Youth Minister

Joint Youth Group

Hello everyone!

This month was so packed with fun and events! We discussed holy week, how He has risen, and what to do when we are doubting Thomas! We made apple pies and made over 200 sandwiches in our Sandwich Brigade that were sent to the Tacoma Rescue Mission! Each one of our students puts their heart and soul into every activity and conversation. I am consistently inspired by them.

We went bowling this month and had so much fun! It is a joy to watch every student connect with someone in the group, knowing that they are building relationships and friendships that will last. I am extremely grateful to each student who makes the time to come to youth group and its events. Even if it isn't every week, I appreciate the effort you all make and the knowledge that you share with the group!

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

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.

A Reminder from Jess:

- 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

We Celebrate...

MAY BIRTHDAYS*

1	Alex Beloate
4	Bev Sherfey Tamara Jackson
5	Dave Marquardt, Keith Johnson
6	Sunday Wilson
9	Christy Carter
10	Turi Abbott
14	Ada Novak
15	Jerry Mjelde
17	Dave Schinkel
18	Wayne Stark, Ray Vallenga
20	Randy Spitzer
21	Katrina Hay
22	Mary Gossler
23	Patti Christensen
24	Debbie Snowden, Neal VanDerVoorn, Arlene Stang, Aidan Moore
29	Alex Sobie, Nate Sobie
30	Jeff Henne
31	Emilee Seames

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

04	George and Mary Mitchell
20	Paula and James Davis
21	Rob and Joannah Powers
29	Stephanie and Pastor Seth
30	John and Dorothy Barelli

Congratulations to Ann and Ellis Rousseau on the birth of their first grandchild, Thea Esther. She weighed 6lbs 8oz and was 17" long.

Her middle name, Esther, was Ellis' mother's name.

Welcome precious little Thea!

Serving in Worship, May 2023

		Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Stream Team/	Ushers/ Greeters	Prayer Writer	Flowers
May 7	8:30 AM	S Lubash	A Ortenzo	R Spitzer	B Nussbaum	Ohmes	K Gemar	
	11:00 AM	E Nesbitt	G Eilers	D Daugs	R Powers	L Colyar		
May 14	8:30 AM	S Shema	R Spitzer	B Shull	B Beals	C Beals	D Waite	
	11:00 AM	R Crow	D Salge	M Beert	L Zehnder	L Baxter		
May 21	8:30 AM	S Costanzo	B Beals	C Carlson	D Krump	S Shema	S Whitney	
	11:00 AM	K Morgan	P Brandt	G Lorenz	R Powers	R Crow		
May 28	10:00 AM	J McCraw	D Schinkel	A Bakke	M Snowden	Costanzos	P Waite	

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.

BEWARE OF FRAUD

Please don't be fooled by 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 ever 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Forum 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion	1 1:00pm Grief and Loss Support Group 1:00pm LWR Quilters 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	2 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel	3 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 Synod Assembly	6 Synod Assembly 8:30am Men's Square 8:30am Women's Circle
7 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Family Book Club 9:45am Forum 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 5:00pm Joint Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm Joint High School Youth Group	8 1:00pm Grief and Loss Support Group 1:00pm LWR Quilters 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel 2:00pm Council Meeting	10 9:00am Little Lambs Mother's Day Tea 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00am Little Lambs Mother's Day Tea	12	13
14 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 Mother's Day	15 1:00pm Grief and Loss Support Group 1:00pm LWR Quilters 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	16 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel 12:30pm Worship Committee Mtg 1:00pm Gather Bible Study 5:30pm Peninsula Art League	17 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 12:00pm Together Women Rise 5:30pm Ascension Day Evening Potluck 6:30pm Joint Youth Group Board Mtg	19 5:30pm Kids Night Out	20
21 Green Team Recycling Event 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 9:45am Forum 11:00am Worship with Holy Communion 12:15pm Congregational Meeting (Hybrid) 5:00pm Joint Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm Joint High School Youth Group	22 1:00pm Grief and Loss Support Group 1:00pm LWR Quilters	23 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel	24 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	25	26	27
28 Memorial Day No Joint High School Youth Group 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid)	29 1:00pm LWR Quilters	30 10:30am Church Staff Meeting 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel	31 10:00am Text Study with Zoom and In-Person 11:30am Little Lambs Chapel 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	1	2	3 8:30am Men's Square 8:30am Women's Circle

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.

A Life of Stewardship

Our Offerings as Worship

Last month's stewardship article introduced the idea that the offering on Sunday is a time to worship God. When you go back in history before there was a Church before there was a temple; the people showed their love for God by bringing the things they valued and sacrificing them to Him by burning them or pouring them out on the altar.

As the Jewish religion progressed and a temple was built the sacrificial offerings became more than just a way to worship God; they also became a way to support and maintain the temple. In much the same way, the offering has become a way to support the Church and its ministries. Although supporting the Church in this way is a good thing, many Christians (including myself) have not always understood that the real reason for making these offerings is to worship God through sacrifice.

The offering is a time of worship because we are invited to give up something that we value (for many of us this is money) as a sacrifice to God. This sacrifice shows our love for God and makes the offering the high point of the liturgy.

(Mark Allan Powell is the source for most of the ideas given above. A much more complete and better written explanation of these ideas may be found on pages 9-13 of his book, ***Giving to God***.)

Mike Snowden

Stewardship Committee

AGNUS DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT as of March 31, 2023

OPERATING INCOME:	Feb - Mar 2023 Actual	Feb - Mar 2023 Budget	% of YTD Budget
Unrestricted Offerings	76,804	79,000	97%
Interfaith Youth Program Offerings	4,000	4,000	100%
Rental House Reserve Reimb.	8,317	7,838	106%
Little Lambs Preschool Tithe	3,000	3,000	100%
Community Donations	243	350	69%
Other Income	1,015	300	338%
TOTAL INCOME	**93,379**	**94,488**	**99%**

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Ministry of Education	181	600	30%
Ministry of Mission	8,608	8,740	98%
Ministry of Programs	1,476	1,330	111%
Administrative Expenses	32,988	32,655	101%
Staff and Services	41,300	51,374	80%
TOTAL EXPENSES	**84,553**	**94,699**	**89%**
NET OPERATING INCOME	**8,826**	**(211)**	

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

Giving to Others Feb - March 2023[1]	
ELCA Mission Support	16,900
ELCA World Hunger	1,722
ELCA Disaster Relief	99
FISH	209
Food Backpacks 4 Kids	1,178
Food Pantry GH Rotary	300
Refugee Resettlement Prog	99

[1]These funds are pass-through and not part of the Operating Budget, except ELCA Mission Support. The monthly donation to ELCA programs is 6% of Unrestricted Giving for the month. Also, $12,292 was sent for Mission Support from an Estate Gift.

Endowment Fund and Reserves	
Above & Beyond Endowment	58,426
Building Maint. Fund	29,061
Rental House Reserve	17,004
Operating Reserve	64,009
Music & Technology Reserves	31,748
Reserves - Other Designated Use	19,316
Reserve for Future Uses	34,120
TOTAL, ALL RESERVES	**253,683**

Prepared by Julie Bell April 10, 2023

Kids Night Out

The May Kids Night Out event will take place on the third Friday, the 19th of May, 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.

The craft in April was assembling bird feeder kits provided by Denny Sapp. The children were so excited to build and decorate their bird feeders. Linda Ribary even brought small bags of bird seed to send home with each of the kids so the feeders were ready to use.

The kids show off their beautifully decorated bird feeders.

The Mason Bees are Here!

After several weeks of waiting for Spring, we finally had a week of daytime temperatures above the 55° requirement for our bees to come out of hibernation. They waited patiently in the refrigerator until April 24, when it was safe to place them in their bee house at the front of the church.

It was an exciting morning for the Little Lambs who enjoyed learning about the bees and the positive impact they will make in the gardens at Agnus Dei. They even got to take turns holding a baby bee cocoon in their hands.

Surprisingly, only a few minutes passed before we were able to watch the first tiny male bees begin to emerge from their tubes, they must have been very hungry and waiting to bust out of their cocoons! It shows we humans weren't the only ones longing for the sunshine and warmer temperatures. By the end of the first day the front of the pvc tubes were covered with scent markers bees use to return to their home after their pollinating work is done for the day. Be sure to stop and take a look at our busy bees the next time you come to church.

Our Little Lambs are learning about the benefits of bees in our environment.

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

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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

Council

Lynette Brentin, Marlene Bridgforth, Marilyn Colyar, Gary Gemar, Dick Ohme, Linda Olson, Linda Ribary, Denny Sapp, Suzanne Shema Deb Waite

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