



The monthly Newsletter of:

November 2025

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



Beloved ones whom God delights in,

Grace, peace, and mercy to you all.

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

---- 2nd Corinthians 9:6-7



Pastor JT Burk

As we journey through our stewardship campaign and envision the volunteer and financial resources it will take to embody God's love in the world, Paul's words to the Corinthians invite us to see giving not as a duty, but as a joyful response to God's abundant grace. In our Lutheran tradition, we understand that everything we have, our time, our talents, our treasure, belongs first to God. Stewardship, then, is not about paying the bills of the church; it is about participating in God's ongoing work of renewal and reconciliation in the world.

When Paul speaks of sowing generously, he is reminding us that God's economy is one of abundance, not scarcity. Gratitude opens our eyes to the blessings already around us, and generosity allows those blessings to multiply. Each act of giving, whether it's a financial pledge, a few hours of service, or a word of encouragement, becomes a seed of grace planted in our community.

At Agnus Dei, your gifts sustain worship that nurtures faith, ministries that serve our neighbors, and programs that form disciples of all ages. But beyond budgets and programs, your giving tells a story, a story of trust, gratitude, and hope. Together, we proclaim that love is stronger than fear, and that when we share what we have, there is enough for all.

Rooted in our Lutheran theology, we also understand generosity as justice. Stewardship is not only about what we give, but how we live, seeking equity, caring for creation, and standing with those whom the world overlooks.

This stewardship season, may we prayerfully consider how we can sow bountifully, trusting that God will bring forth a harvest of compassion and joy. For when we give freely and joyfully, we reflect the heart of God, whose grace is boundless and whose love never runs dry.

Know that God's love and grace surround you always.

Pastor JT



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 or Pastor JT at 701-969-0809 or email jt@agnusdeilutheran.org

President's Message

Gary Gemar

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When Kathy and I moved to Gig Harbor, our goal was to find a church to join that was focused on service to their members as well as the community, and world. We found that in Agnus Dei Lutheran. Of the three Lutheran churches we have been members, Agnus Dei has done inreach and outreach ministry the best!!



Gary Gemar
Council President

I am grateful and thankful for all the ministries we do for our members, community and the world. This was very apparent when I put together the introduction to this year's stewardship campaign "Because of You." Going through our monthly newsletters and weekly e-newsletters it was amazing to see all that we have done in the first 7 months of the year for each other and the community. It takes a beloved community to make these ministries work. Thank you for your dedication to our ministries to transform peoples' lives.

As you read this message we will be in the third week of our five-week stewardship campaign. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to our ministries in 2026 when you fill out the Time and Talent Surveys and complete your intent cards.

All that we have, all that we are, flows from the generosity, diversity, and abundant love of our creator. When we choose to share we open ourselves to extraordinary possibilities to bless others and be blessed. Continue excelling in this grace of giving as we minister to transform peoples' lives.

Highlights from the October Council Meeting:

- ◇ Little Lambs Preschool is still accepting student registrations to fill classes. The Trike-a-thon fundraiser was a big success. September started with a deficit of around \$6,000 because of expenses and no income in July and August when the school is closed. The deficit was covered with reserved funds. The board is starting to brainstorm fundraising ideas to upgrade the playground equipment.
- ◇ Accepted reports from the Council Committee Liaisons and acted as necessary on requests.
- ◇ Reviewed the ADLC financials for February–September for the fiscal year. Unrestricted offering was \$23,184, which was lower than the \$33,042 budgeted. \$20,000 was moved from the Operating Reserve Fund to cover the shortfall in giving to cover expenses. **Please review the complete financial report in the newsletter and review the comments from the Treasurer.**
- ◇ Approved a motion to provide the Select Copay 2000 Portico Health Plan benefits for Pastor JT and Cindy Beals for calendar year 2026 and reimburse Cindy Hart and Susan Luebeck for their premiums because they are on Medicare with supplemental insurance.
- ◇ Heard a report from the Faith Land Discernment Cohort members who continue to meet with community and church members to hear their ideas on how our facilities/land can be used to serve the community. Issues identified so far: affordable housing, a bus shelter, sidewalks, and more pedestrian crossings on Peacock Hill.
- ◇ Received the 2026 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers from the SWWA Synod. The guidelines will be passed on to the Personnel Committee which will make recommendations to the council on staff compensation changes for fiscal year 2026-27.
- ◇ Completed the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) application to renew our charter. An application for a grant to RIC will be completed and sent to the Endowment Committee for consideration.
- ◇ Reviewed the changes approved at the Churchwide Assembly this past summer for congregation constitutions. Edits to our congregation constitution will be made and presented in the January 2026 congregation meeting for adoption.
- ◇ Reviewed a request from the Green Team to get a yard waste/compost bin. The council requested the Green Team conduct a one-month trial to see how much food waste we would compost before a final decision is made on getting a yard waste/compost bin.

- ◇ Approved a motion for Susan Luebeck's vacation accrual rate.
- ◇ Reviewed a situation where an unauthorized vehicle was parked in our parking lot. A policy will be developed for the ADLC and Little Lambs staff on how to handle this situation in the future.

Blessings as you serve each other and our neighbors.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Because of You

During these five weeks of our annual Stewardship Campaign, we celebrate the many ministries of Agnus Dei and the ways our gifts—of time, talent, and financial support—help share God's love in our congregation, our community, and throughout the world.

Intent Cards are available for each family to complete, either electronically through the link in our Thursday emails or by filling out a paper copy found on the Welcome Table in the narthex. Time and Talent Sheets may also be completed in either format.

Together, through faithful giving and service, we continue to grow in faith and strengthen the mission of Agnus Dei.



AGNUS DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH FEBRUARY-SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT			
	FEB-SEP Actual	FEB-SEP Budgeted	% of FEB- SEP Budget
OPERATING INCOME:			
Unrestricted Offerings	296,306	317,315	93%
Community Donations	1,678	1,419	118%
Designated Funds	200	-	
Miscellaneous Income	13,375	3,970	337%
TOTAL INCOME	311,559	322,704	97%
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Administrative Expenses	97,857	101,521	96%
Ministry of Education	1,694	2,901	58%
Ministry of Mission	19,599	20,586	95%
Ministry of Programs	3,850	5,675	68%
Miscellaneous Expenses	250		
Staff and Services	242,373	251,461	96%
TOTAL EXPENSES	365,623	382,144	96%
NET OPERATING INCOME	-54,065	-59,440	91%

	SEPTEMBER Actual	SEPTEMBER Budgeted	% of SEPTEMBER Budget
OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSES:			
Unrestricted Offerings	23,184	33,042	70%
Total Income	24,166	33,677	72%
Total Expenses	44,940	46,587	96%
NET OPERATING INCOME	-\$20,774	-\$12,910	

Endowment Fund	
ADLC Endowment Fund	85,715
Reserves	
Building Maintenance Fund	280
Future Needs Reserve	22,706
Operating Reserve	67,122
Reserves - Other Designated Use	16,808
TOTAL, ALL RESERVES	106,916

WHERE ADLC STANDS FINANCIALLY AS OF 09/30/2025	
Our income for September was \$20,774 less than our income for the month. To offset this shortfall, we moved \$20,000 from our Operating Reserve into our checking account during the first week of October. Because of this, we now have \$47,122 in our Operating Reserve. This is not something that we can continue to do.	

Giving to Others 2025-2026		
Associated Ministries	1,600	So far this year, individuals from Agnus Dei have given \$11,203 to organizations that help those in need both here and around the world. When the members of Agnus Dei see a need, they always step up generously. Although not a part of giving to others, the Chair Affair raised \$20,037 which was more than enough to pay for the new chairs in the sanctuary.
FISH	1,400	
ELCA World Hunger & Disaster Relief	3,440	
Food Backpacks 4 Kids	1,513	
Key Peninsula Foodbank	700	
Monthly Outreach*	2,551	
Total Giving to Others from Individuals	11,203	*Through our Monthly Outreach, members have helped Lutheran Community Services Northwest support newly arrived immigrants and helped Turn The Page promote literacy in children from kindergarten to fifth grade.
ELCA Mission Support (Budgeted)	17,778	
Total Giving to Others from ADLC	28,982	

Grief Thoughts for November

Debbie Waite

Managing Your Grief Through the Holidays

It's November and the holiday season is approaching fast. This can be one of the most challenging times of the year when you have experienced a loss. Western culture puts such an emphasis on being happy and joyful, while ignoring the fact that it is hard to process the loss of a family member during this season. If there is one piece of advice I could give, it is to not hide from this season.

Take some time to think ahead and identify what you can handle, and what will be your greatest challenge. Have the conversations early with your family and close friends. Each one of you will be handling the loss differently. It is important that family and friends have some idea of the traditions you want to keep, change, or abandon altogether (even if it is just for this year).

It is helpful to allow space for last-minute changes in mood and plans. There are many resources online on how to do this. I've listed three sites below. Start early--the fewer surprises there are, the more likely it is that the holidays can still be meaningful, even if it's different.

[Coping with grief through the holidays](#) Vitas.com

[7 Tips for Navigating Grief during the Holidays](#) National Council on Aging

[Coping with Grief and Loss During the Holidays](#) Partners in Care



We remember in prayer:

For comfort and healing:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| * Barbara Ausich | * Audrey Clinton | * Johnny Tierny |
| * Paul Borg | * Margaret Duncan | * Neal Van Der Voorn |
| * Marlene Bridgforth | * Charlene Franz | * Trudy Wagner |
| * Robert Bridgforth | * Connie Hummel | * Eunice Werner |
| * Beverly Buster | * George Mitchell | * Gloria Witt |
| * Beverly Buster Jr | * Jack Oakes | |
| * Chiarra Buster | * Michi Ouchi | |
| | * Joannah Powers | |
| | * Ellis Rousseau | |

In their grief:

- * Gail Brandt and family and they mourn the death of Dick

In service to our country:

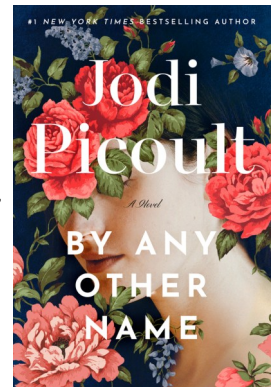
- * CAPT. Jenny Nussbaum, US Public Health Service



ADLC Book Group

Book group will be meeting on Sunday, Nov., 1 6th in the front room following the forum to discuss: By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult. All are welcome!

Overview in Thriftbooks: Young playwright Melina Green has just written a new work inspired by the life of her Elizabethan ancestor Emilia Bassano. But seeing it performed is unlikely, in a theater world where the playing field isn't level for women. As Melina wonders if she dares risk failure again, her best friend takes the decision out of her hands and submits the play to a festival under a male pseudonym. In 1581, young Emilia Bassano is a ward of English aristocrats. Her lessons on languages, history, and writing have endowed her with a sharp wit and a gift for storytelling, but like most women of her day, she is allowed no voice of her own. Forced to become a mistress to the Lord Chamberlain, who oversees all theatre productions in England, Emilia sees firsthand how the words of playwrights can move an audience. She begins to form a plan to secretly bring a play of her own to the stage--by paying an actor named William Shakespeare to front her work. Told in intertwining timelines, "By Any Other Name," a sweeping tale of ambition, courage, and desire centers two women who are determined to create something beautiful despite the prejudices they face. Should a writer do whatever it takes to see her story live on . . . no matter the cost? This remarkable novel, rooted in primary historical sources, ensures the name Emilia Bassano will no longer be forgotten.



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.

*Gwen Daug 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
- ♥ 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

The next meeting of the Care Team is Nov 20 at 10:00 AM in the Front Room. If you would like to know more the Care Team and how you can be involved, please plan to attend. All are invited!

We Celebrate November Birthdays and Anniversaries!



November Birthdays

1	Brian Knesal	23	Ashley Ortenzo
3	Ellis Rousseau	24	Beverly Henne
5	Marilyn Colyar, Mike Snowden	26	Ardith Johnson, Sharon Krump
6	Salli Middleton, Julie Johnson	27	Van Hardison
7	Laurie Spitzer, Alessandra Ortenzo	28	Alma Conlee
8	Judy Latimer		
11	Jo Anne Aitken		
13	Steve Carter		
16	Doug McDonnell		
17	Lorelle Leacy		
19	Don Krump		
20	Eiko Park		

November Anniversaries

22	Don and Sharon Krump
22	Dick and Lynnette Brentin
30	Steve and Christy Carter
29	Barbara and Michael Deák



Fall Back Not Behind

Turn clocks back
Saturday night, Nov 1
and join us in time for
worship on Sunday



SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Forum

November 2, 2025: A Characterization of Christian Nationalism

Please join us as **Steve Giles** presents on the topic "A Demographic Overview of Religious Affiliation by Political Affiliation and a Characterization of Christian Nationalism." Steve will report on two studies published by the Pew Foundation's Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) addressing the demographic trends

across a range of denominational groupings at the national and county levels of aggregation. Building upon those demographic trends, we will look at the topic of Christian Nationalism: How PRRI has characterized that topic; propositions indicating adherence to Christian Nationalism; demographic trends indicating adherence to those propositions; and the correlation of those propositions to challenges confronting American society, the ELCA, and Agnus Dei.

November 9, 2025: Lutheran Community Services NW

Justin Estep, director of Refugee and Immigrant Services, will be sharing with us about LCSNW

current undertakings supporting immigrants and refugees in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

November 16, 2025: Conflicts Surrounding the Nicene Creed in the year of the 1700th Commemoration of the Council of Nicea

A long, long time ago, on a continent far away, upwards of 1000 people met to argue about whose theology was right and out of that debate arose the Nicene Creed. Join Pastor JT as he talks about the history and development of the Nicene Creed and explore what it means for us today.

November 23, 2025: Book Reviews

In the ongoing, but intermittent, series of 'Book Reports' from ADLC members, **Phil Waite and Kathy Gemar** will each present a book they recently read and found to be meaningful.

Phil will present on Peter Enns' book: *Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming*. Dr. Enns, a professor at Eastern University, is a well-known American Biblical scholar and theologian. He has written widely on hermeneutics, Christianity and science, historicity of the Bible, and Old Testament interpretation. Along with Jared Byas, he hosts "The Bible for Normal People" weekly podcast.

Kathy will present on *The Prayer of UNwanting: How the Lord's Prayer Helps Us Get Over Ourselves and Why That May Be a Good Thing* by David Williams. Rev. Dr. Williams, a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), has authored several books, as well as articles in the Washington Post, WIRED, and Religion News Service, among other outlets. In this book he offers us an opportunity to encounter this very familiar prayer as if for the first time, asking *What if prayer is more about undoing our desires than indulging them?*

November 30th: No Forum. Thanksgiving Weekend

FRONT ROOM KIDS—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 will return to the sanctuary around the time of the Offering to be present for Communion and the remainder of the service. Our little ones love this time together learning from members of our faith community.



Front Room Kits November Schedule

Nov 2: "God Calls Samuel" Led by Salli Middleton and Ashley Ortenzo

Nov 9: "David is Chosen" Led by Susan Whitney and Laura Baxter

Nov 16: "Solomon Builds the Temple" Led by Ashley Ortenzo and Rebecca Crow

Nov 23: "Queen Esther" Led by Paula Davis and Marlene Bridgforth

Nov 30: "Daniel and the Lions" Led by Kathy Gemar and Joanna Stuen

Front Room Kids Little Free Pantry Collection

The Front Room Kids recently learned about manna, which sparked a conversation about hunger in general and how many of our neighbors rely on the little free food pantry in our parking lot. The children have noticed that often the shelves look bare because so many folks need help feeding their families. They would like to remind everyone that the pantry is an ongoing outreach program at Agnus Dei and we all can participate at any time. If you can help stock the pantry with non-perishable food and personal care items, you may place them directly in the pantry or you may bring your contributions to the box next to the donation station. Especially needed are easy-to-prepare, non-perishables such as canned soups, vegetables, proteins, shelf-stable milk, cereals, ready-to-eat individually portioned snacks, and personal hygiene items.

faith formation continues...

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes for middle school students are with Pastor JT on the third Sundays at 10:45am in the Front Room. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor JT.

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL



October was a terrific month for our Little Lambs. We learned about fire safety and how to stop, drop, and roll. Our preschoolers brought their dads to school to carve pumpkins and eat pizza. We had our first field trip of the year to Harvest Fest at Miracle Ranch. Fortunately, we were able to soak up the last few sunny days with some great recesses. October also brought our first few Chapel Times with Pastor JT. The kiddos love it! Next month, we get to learn about Fall and turkeys. We will end the month with our Thanksgiving Feast! Shannon Moore, Preschool Director



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

November Outreach: Christmas Gifts for Children served by the FISH Foodbank

As we begin getting ready for the Christmas season we think about the gifts we wish to give our loved ones. It is always the most fun to shop for children but for many families this is a financial strain. The FISH Foodbank assists families in our area by giving them the opportunity to "Shop" for their children for free. Our collection of gifts and funds in November helps FISH give their families this shopping opportunity in the month of December.

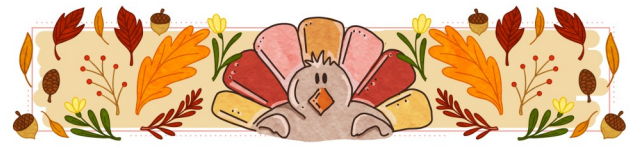
We will be collecting new toys, games, books, and clothing items to be donated to the foodbank. On the side of the Donation Station in the narthex, there is a pegboard with tags specifying needed items to take and shop with. This is our opportunity to help make Christmas a little brighter for some local children and their families. We have learned that, unfortunately, last Christmas FISH ran out of items for Christmas gifts; this year, let's help them to meet the needs of all families. Bring the unwrapped items to church and we will deliver them to the foodbank. If you wish to donate cash, someone will shop for you. If donating using Tithe.y choose "other" and on the next screen specify Monthly Outreach on the memo line. (If you simply choose FISH Foodbank the money will go to them to purchase food and we will not have access to the money to shop for you.) If you are contributing by check designate "Monthly Outreach" on your envelope and check.

December Outreach: ELCA Good Gifts

While on the topic of Christmas shopping, giving a gift to the ELCA Good Gifts program in someone's name is a wonderful way to honor those hard-to-shop-for people in your life. Catalogs are available on the publications shelves at the donation station now if you would like to get a headstart. The display will be out on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30. In Agnus Dei tradition, we will print the names of your honorees in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

Thanks from Ann, Jerry, Phyllis, Charlene, Linda R, Linda Z, and Ronnie

Serving in Worship November 2025



NOVEMBER		Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Stream Team/ Sound	Ushers Acolyte	Greeters	Security	Prayer Writer	Front Room Kids
2	Sunday 9:30 AM	J McCraw A Conley	G Eilers	P Borg	J Beaudette	D & M Ohme	C Carlson J Aitken	P Waite	M Colyar	Salli M Ashley O
9	Sunday 9:30 AM	N Johnson E Nesbitt	M Colyar	M Beert	P Kusche	B Nussbaum	K & N Johnson	P Waite	P Waite	Laura B Susan W
16	Sunday 9:30 AM	M Bridgforth L Brentin	D Daugs	L Brentin	B Beals	P & D Waite		D Snowden	D Waite	Rebecca C Ashley O
23	Sunday 9:30 AM	K Morgan S Lubash	L Olson	D Goin	B Nussbaum	T Clark	M Beert R Crow	G Gemar	M Colyar	Paula D Marlene B
30	Sunday 9:30 AM	R Crow A Conley	P Brandt	D Daugs	M Snowden	L & M Colyar	S Whitney	P Waite	K Gemar	Kathy G Joanna S

Serve in Worship:

Thank you to the volunteers who serve in worship.

More volunteers are needed in all areas and training is readily available. We currently have need of a couple more people who are willing to help with the livestream. Our system has become less complicated and more reliable, making it much easier to learn. Please consider helping provide worship accessible to those outside the building!

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.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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.



Recycle Event

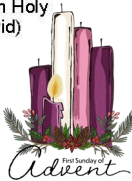
Our Green Team is sponsoring another "Hard to Recycle Event" on November 16. Bring those difficult items to recycle to church on that Sunday and the team will then transport to the appropriate places for recycling. See the list of accepted items on the bulletin board and in the Thursday emails.



Phishing Scams Continue! BEWARE OF FRAUD

The scams will continue so we will continue to remind you... Once again, phony emails posing as our pastor are arriving in inboxes. Please remember: **ADLC staff will never contact you for money, gift cards or financial information of any kind.**

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Front Room Kids after storytime Reformation Sunday 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Forum	27 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	28 11:45am Little Lambs Chapel 1:30pm Gather Bible Study	29 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 Lambs Trunk or Treat 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	31 Lambs Trunk or Treat	1 8:30am Men's Square Bible Study 8:30am Women's Circle Bible Study
2 Front Room Kids after storytime All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time- Fall Back 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Forum	3 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	4 11:45am Little Lambs Chapel	5 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	7	8
9 Front Room Kids after storytime Guest Preacher: The Rev. Tom Aitken 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Forum	10 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	11 10:00am Worship Committee Veterans Day No Little Lambs	12 10:00am Text Study 12:00pm Retired Clergy Lunch in Front Room 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00pm Homeowners Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00am Finance Committee 1:00pm Council Executive Committee 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	14	15 11:00am Memorial for Scott Duncan
16 Front Room Kids after storytime Blood Pressure Checks after worship Hard to Recycle Event 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Forum 12:00pm Book Group	17 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room 6:00pm Piano Recital	18 11:45am Little Lambs Chapel 3:00pm Council Meeting	19 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00am Care Team Mtg 5:30pm Theology on Tap 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	21	22
23 Front Room Kids after storytime Christ the King Sunday 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Forum	24 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	25 11:45am Little Lambs Chapel 1:30pm Gather Bible Study	26 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	28 Office Closed 	29
30 Front Room Kids after storytime Advent 1 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion (Hybrid) 11:00am Forum 	1 12:30pm Church Staff Meeting 1:00pm LWR Quilters 6:00pm Nar-Anon Family Groups in Community Room	2 11:45am Little Lambs Chapel	3 10:00am Text Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:15pm Advent Midweek Worship 6:45pm Soup Supper 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00pm AA Group in Community Room	5	6 8:30am Men's Square Bible Study 8:30am Women's Circle Bible Study

Looking Ahead to December: Advent Midweek
 Worship followed by Soup Supper
 December 3, 10, 17 at 6:15 PM



What’s Happening around our Southwestern Washington Synod:

PRACTICING FAITH *in Woven Ways*



IN THIS RETREAT WE’LL EXPLORE HOW FAITH IS LIVED, EXPRESSED, AND DEEPEENED ACROSS DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES. THROUGH STORYTELLING, SPIRITUAL PRACTICES, AND A SHARED MEAL, PARTICIPANTS WILL ENGAGE IN WAYS OF WEAVING TOGETHER DIFFERENT TRADITIONS, VALUES, AND VOICES TO NURTURE BELONGING AND MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION.

THIS RETREAT CREATES SPACE TO PRACTICE LISTENING, HUMILITY, AND HOSPITALITY—CORE CONDITIONS FOR BECOMING A MORE VIBRANT AND WELCOMING MULTICULTURAL CHURCH.

REV. LEILA ORTIZ
Retreat Facilitator

REGISTRATION:



NOVEMBER 1, 2025
RETREAT 2: 9AM-3PM
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,
DES MOINES



THE LIVE PROJECT

lutheransnw.org

Bishop’s *Advent Eucharist*

2025

DEC 3
10am - 1pm
ST. MARK
South Sound & Coastal Conferences
2109 College St. SE
Lacey, WA 98503

DEC 4
10am - 1pm
ELISEO
Tacoma SW, Tacoma Narrows, Evergreen & Mt. Rainier Conferences
1301 N Highlands Pkwy.
Tacoma, WA 98406

DEC 10
10am - 1pm
GLORIA DEI
Fort Vancouver & Lower Columbia Conferences
402 Crawford St.
Kelso, WA 98626

DEC 11
10am - 1pm
OUR SAVIOUR’S
Olympic & Peninsula Conferences
1015 Veneta Ave.
Bremerton, WA 98337





SACRED SOIL GARDEN PRAYER

**SECOND SATURDAYS
10:00 AM**

Shepherd’s Field
Community Garden
245 Valley Avenue
Sumner, WA 98390

Ground yourself in prayer as we walk the land at Shepherd’s Field Community Garden. Together we’ll listen for the Holy Spirit at work in the world around us.

Shepherd’s Field Community Garden is a vibrant garden of approximately 100 beds. It was originally a project of the City of Sumner before becoming a ministry of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Shepherd’s Field became a ministry of the Southwestern Washington Synod when Christ the King voted to dissolve as a congregation.

Continued on next page



Students grades 6-12 and adult leaders are invited to attend the SWWA Synod Youth Retreat this February.

This is the 1st one since 2020 and is a great event whether your congregation has 1, 3, 6 or 20 youth. It is time to come back together as synod youth and Ignite our Faith.

[Click here for more information, registration materials and answers to questions you might have.](#)

Registration closes February 1, 2026-- and there is a discount for congregations who register by December 15.



Learning Opportunity!

Creating Accessible Spaces on a Budget

Church should be a place where everyone feels welcome and included, regardless of ability. But making your facilities more accessible doesn't have to break the bank.

Join us on Monday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. Central time for "Creating Accessible Spaces on a Budget," a practical and inspiring webinar designed specifically for churches seeking to improve their accessibility with limited resources.

We'll explore affordable strategies to enhance physical, sensory and digital accessibility in your church buildings and programs. From simple upgrades to creative adaptations, you'll gain tools and ideas that can be implemented right away, no large renovation budget required.

In this workshop, you'll learn more about:

- Low-cost improvements that make a big impact.
- How to prioritize accessibility changes.
- Ways to engage your congregation in accessibility efforts.

To register, click here: <https://bit.ly/4qAHjnc>

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. 4, 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, Guy Johnson, Ronnie Kulman, Joy McCraw, Mollie McLean, Debbie Snowden, Randy Spitzer, 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—Joy McCraw

Stewardship Committee—Guy Johnson

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, Salli Middleton, Peggy Mickelson, Susan Whitney, Neal Van der Voorn