



THE GRAPEVINE

POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER '22/JANUARY '23



VISION STATEMENT
People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

A MEMO FROM JESUS

My Beloved,

I know you're tired—
weary of the steps from here to there day after day,
weary of the struggles and losses,
and wary of the news. We're all weary.
So take a moment.

Breathe in slowly. Hold it for a moment. Breathe out.
Remember when I rose from the dead and breathed into you?
It's still there.

Remember what I said to you:

*I am in God, and you in me, and I in you.
The one who trusts in me
will also do the works that I do and, in fact,
will do greater works than these.*
(John 14.20, 12)

Feel your heart beating. It's my love,
flowing in you like a great river.
Remember what I said to you:

*The water that I will give
will become in you a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life.*
(John 4.14)

Beloved, I know sometimes you are tired of gushing.
So rest a moment. I wish for you Sabbath time,
time of rest, time to be Beloved, being without doing.
I am grateful for your presence, at work or at rest.
So rest. The river will still flow.
Remember what I said to you, and be at peace:

*Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
(Matthew 11.28-30)

Love,
Jesus

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT December 11

2:00pm Onsite and online

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

3:00pm Onsite and online

5:00pm Onsite

11:00pm Onsite and online

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

11:00am Onsite and online

(Note: There will not be an 8:30am service.)

DECEMBER/JANUARY GENEROSITY MOMENT

Throughout the fall months, we heard biblical stories in which God reminds the Hebrews of all the things God has done for them. "I saved you." "I brought you out of the land of Egypt." "I made you a people." Each time, God then reiterates the promise that God will always be with them, will always save them.

These are stories that illuminated God's hesed. This is a Hebrew word that has no firm translation in English, but some approximations include "kindness," "mercy," "faithfulness," or "generosity." Hesed's connotation is that God is too big for our imaginings. God's kindness goes above and beyond. God's faithfulness is so steadfast, we shouldn't even have to mention it. God's generosity knows no bounds.

So God reminds us of all God has done for us: Jesus, Immanuel, the cross, the empty tomb, the present Spirit, baptism, communion, etc. And God says, "Now is no different. I am always here, always abundant in grace and love for you."

Two BIG life perspectives this brings:

1. God is so generous with me, I can surely turn that generosity onto others, and
2. It is good to remember the ways we have been faithful in generosity.

So I want to remind you first of the ways you have been so faithful in generosity and thank you for being generous to PFLC in these last hard years so that PFLC can continue to share the good news of the faithfulness of God with people in ways tried and true and ways new and abundant. Thank you for your benevolence. Thank you.

And also, in these days leading up to Christmas, when there will be many requests for financial generosity landing in your inbox, in your mailbox, in social media, in mainstream media, and in front of stores, and opportunities to live out your faith abound, please remember the good you have done at PFLC and can continue to do with your financial and personal gifts. Together we are doing wonderful kin-dom work in the world. People are experiencing the love of God through our worship, through our serving, and through our community partnering, and your generosity is the thing that gives these ministries life. Keep up the good work!

POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STATEMENTS**VISION STATEMENT:**

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

How can we best demonstrate the love of Christ?

CORE VALUES:

JESUS IS LORD. The world continues to change; God's love for us does not, and Jesus remains our center and core as he leads us to share God's love, acceptance, and hope in our changing culture and community.

WORSHIP: God seeks you out. Daily, weekly, individually, communally...in worship we receive what God has provided and offer ourselves in return.

COMPASSION: God calls us to walk with our neighbors seeking peace and justice...to freely do for one and all what Christ has done for us – to tear down walls of division, and to serve our neighbor in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

SERVICE: The heart of Jesus' ministry. We walk alongside our neighbors as the hands and feet of Christ with graciousness, acceptance, hope, and love.

As WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Just as we receive communion in two kinds, the PFLC community worships in two places, expanding the ways God can speak love and grace to the world.

As we gather onsite for worship:

All people are welcome to come to the building for worship.

- ⌘ All COVID restrictions have been lifted, but we still encourage mask-wearing, especially in close spaces. Please evaluate your own health and its impact on those around you as you prepare for worship on Sundays.
- ⌘ There are opportunities to help in worship and fellowship time. Check out the ways to serve below.
- ⌘ The children's play and pray area is available in the side chapel where kids accompanied by their adult can get the wiggles out and still be present in the room during worship. Children do worship with a joyful noise, and that is a welcome sound!

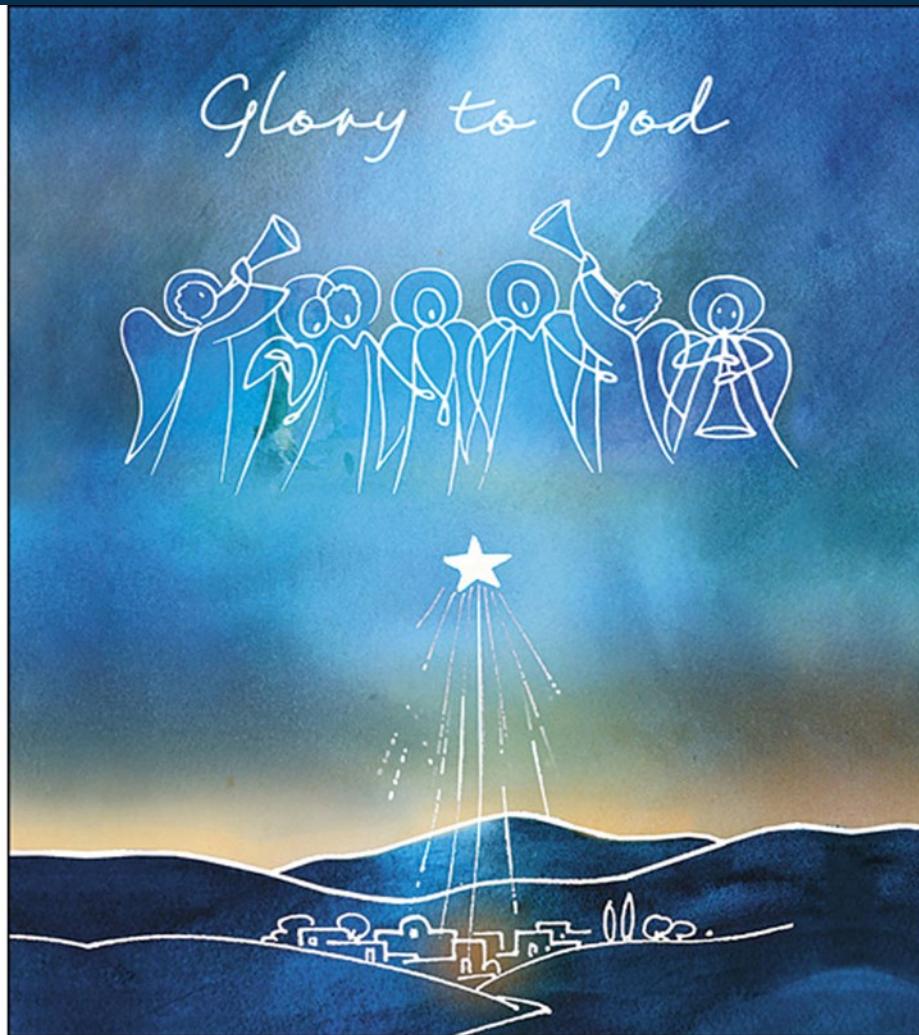
As we gather online for worship:

The worship service will be livestreamed at 8:30am every Sunday. Access the service at pflc.org or [Facebook](#) at that time. After the service is over, the recording will remain available on Facebook under "videos" and on our website until the following Sunday. In order to receive notifications for and links to live worship, FB users need to "like" and follow PFLC's page.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES IN WORSHIP

- ⌘ Onsite worshippers: please consider serving. You can be an **usher** (bulletin hander-outer and counter of people), an **acolyte** (candle-lighter people), or/and a **worship assistant** (lead the talky parts in worship and serve communion), **help clean up after worship**, or **set up the coffee table after 8:30 service or clean up the coffee after 11:00 service**. There are sign-ups with descriptions of each volunteer position at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex.
- ⌘ Are you planning to upgrade your iPhone for Christmas? Would you be willing to donate your old one to the church? We are constantly working to improve the online worship experience and having another couple of cameras would be a great help. The software we use works with iPhones and requires a good camera and WIFI connection. A cell plan is not required. If you have an iPhone 10 or newer and would like to donate it or some money to purchase a new one, please email pauldavis@pflc.org.
- ⌘ Paul Davis is also looking for more people to help with the livestreaming of worship and special events. We have an awesome team of volunteers but can always use more!





POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11, 2022 2:00pm

PFLC Cathedral Choir will present a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 11th at 2:00pm in the sanctuary. Admission is free; donations of non-perishable food items are welcomed. These items will be donated to North Kitsap Fishline to benefit families in the immediate community. After the concert there will be hot cider, coffee and cookies. It has been 3 years since our last Christmas Concert, so we are so excited to be able to share this afternoon of music and fellowship. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to start the Advent and Christmas Season.

HELP IS NEEDED for the reception following the December 11th choir concert. A signup sheet will be in the narthex if you would be willing to donate cookies or breads for the reception after the concert or to help set it up after church. Coffee and hot cider will be served, and it will be a time of fellowship for all. Please label any items with nuts, as some people are allergic. If you have questions, please contact Carin Nelson at 360 -509-8831. Thank You!

COUNCIL UPDATE

The next council meetings are scheduled for December 15 at 6:00pm and January 19 at 6:00pm via Zoom.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation is tentatively set for January 29, 2023 at 12:30pm.

If you would like a copy of the latest council minutes, please email Melinda at welcome@pflc.org or you may find them in the folder on the bulletin board across the hall from the main office.

FAITH FORMATION PRACTICE:

LEARNING

MINISTRY HEAD, LAUREN EYER

LEARNING GOALS FOR PFLC:

- ⌘ Provide opportunities for community for PFLC attenders
- ⌘ Provide opportunities for the people of God to live out their faith and engage their community (near and far) through service and witness
- ⌘ Proclaim the love of God to kids and adults; to encourage kids and adults to proclaim the love of God to each other
- ⌘ Equip parents to be the primary faith-giver for their children
- ⌘ Give teenagers the community they need during adolescence
- ⌘ Equip teenagers to articulate their faith
- ⌘ Equip adults to articulate their faith



FAITH EDUCATION 2022

Sunday morning faith education classes for all ages starts at 9:45am. Check out the new options available for your families!

- ⌘ **K-5th grade:** Lisa Hutcheson will lead these kids in Room 203
- ⌘ **6-8th Grade:** Paul Davis will lead this group in the Mountain View Room.
- ⌘ **High School and beyond:** Pastor Alison will lead this class in Room 201.
- ⌘ **Adult Study:** Led by Pastor Kent in the sanctuary—Study of the book of Matthew beginning Sunday, December 11. We'll learn about Matthew's story of Jesus because we will be hearing Sunday scriptures from the gospel of Matthew in the new year.



LIBRARY SELECTIONS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Christmas Books to Explore

- # **A Simple Christmas on the Farm** by Phyllis Alsdurf. The author "takes us back to the true spirit of Christmas and invites us to step through the doors of a little red barn where we are reminded of what this holiday should really be about."
- # **The Little Shepherd** by Elizabeth Jaeger. "The Savior is born! Come and see! This is a gentle Christmas story told from the perspective of a young shepherd."
- # **The Christmas Cat** by Melody Carlson. The main character, who is allergic to cats, "must sort out his grandmother's belongings, including six cats. According to his grandmother's instructions, he must match the cats to the perfect new owner."
- # **The Animals Speak, A Christmas Eve Legend** by Marion Dane Bauer. "The Child is here. The author delights readers of all ages with this fresh telling of a classic Christmas legend."
- # **Amelia Bedelia – Good things come in small packages** by Herman Parish. "Amelia wants to give her parents a special holiday gift, but she has no money. She starts the Holiday Elfers, to help friends and neighbors tackle their holiday to-do-lists."
- # **Merry Christmas, Amelia Bedelia** by Peggy Parish. "Amelia is in charge of getting Christmas things ready."

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Your homes continue to be the most important place for faith formation. I pray you are able to use at least some of the options below for connecting with your family and friends in caring conversations.

Advent Devotional from Luther Seminary is available to download by [clicking here](#).

FAITH 5 is one of those resources that works in a variety of ways and locations.

How does it work? Thanks for asking! Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless. Share your high and low for the day. Read some scripture and see how it applies to your day. Pray for each other, and then end with a blessing. How easy is that? Find out more at faith5.org



God's Story Our Story is another great way to help engage your family and friends in short devotions, longer caring conversations, and random service projects. You can find it on the confidential page of the PFLC website ([click here](#)) along with the children's bulletin, and more!

Pray as You Go is an online prayer site that offers several options for listening to a new meditation Sunday-Friday each week. It offers soothing music, a prayer, a scripture, and a couple of questions to ponder all in 10-12 minutes. You can access this wonderful tool here: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

I would like to partner with you in your faith formation, so if you have any questions or want to share some ideas on faith formation at home or away please contact me.

Your partner in faith,
Paul Davis
Pauldavis@PFLC.org.



"It is better to think of church in the ale-house than to think of the ale-house in church."
— Martin Luther

BIBLE AND BREW is a weekly bible study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. We gather to read and discuss the upcoming scripture text while enjoying a favorite brew. The group is now meeting in the back room of Western Red Brewing on Jensen Way. Please email Paul Davis at pauldavis@pflc.org for more information.



Resolute Guest Writer

Photo by Lora Shinn

While at PLU, Angela Pierce-Ngo '12 was worried by a troubling pattern. After the first year of college, many peers and friends — especially classmates of color — left school or took an extremely long break.

Even as she worked as a diversity advocate and progressed toward her degree in social work, she felt concerned about those missing from classrooms. She wrote a paper on why students of color might leave school and college. Pierce-Ngo assisted in coordinating the Students of Color Retreat and encouraged more peer support.

"I'm proud of the work we have done in supporting students, long-term. Data shows that the program works, too. Thanks to the unique one-on-one support model, the students were three times more likely to pursue post-secondary education." - Angela Pierce-Ngo '12

But she found her true calling after graduation when Northwest Education Access hired her through Americorps.

She says there's a stigma associated with leaving school. She's more interested in turning a judgmental statement of "school not working for the student" into two tough questions: Why didn't school work for this student? And how can we better support a population that often falls through the cracks?

While many programs support struggling high school students, fewer programs exist for those aged out of the high-school population or who face significant barriers, such as early parenthood. "How can we support young people that traditional high school doesn't work for, and continue to support after high school ends?" Pierce asks. "Why are students of color and students with more barriers leaving? How can we continue to provide and do better? Who are we not including, not asking?"

To find out more and how Angela answered these questions go to <https://www.plu.edu/news/archive/2022/11/03/questioning-barriers/>

LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY GROUP

At the congregational meeting in October, we shared the Welcome Statement that we have been putting together with the help of several groups in the congregation, our synod, and the national church. There has been very good support so far, and soon you will have a chance to take a survey about it before we would take an official vote. Below is the Welcome Statement as we have it now.



Welcome Statement

As people gathered and sent in the love of Christ, Poulsbo First Lutheran Church (PFLC) celebrates, welcomes, and affirms the great human family God has created in all its diversity and complexity. "Indeed, the whole earth is mine..." (God - Ex. 19:5b)

God has called everyone to love, celebrate, invite, include, affirm and welcome people:

- ⌘ in all our divinely created diversity: LGBTQIA2S+, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, race, age, neurodiversity, physical form, and mental health;
- ⌘ in all our situations in life: relationship status, family configuration, nationality, citizenship status, economic status, occupational status, education, and theological perspective, and
- ⌘ in all other facets of God's beloved humanity.

Following a God who liberates and works in favor of the persecuted and oppressed, PFLC stands against hate, prejudice, violence, and harmful ideologies, seeking instead to be antiracist, open and affirming, reconciling and forgiving. We strive to succeed, while giving and receiving forgiveness when we fail.

All people at PFLC are invited to participate and serve in all aspects of the community:

- ⌘ in baptism and communion, in education and fellowship, in leadership and service, and
- ⌘ in celebrating life's milestones: weddings, funerals, confirmation, etc. God sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbor, to be advocates and accomplices in justice, and to share the grace of God.



FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – President John F. Kennedy

"We will, because we are people gathered and sent in the love of Christ!" – You and me, at the end of every PFLC worship service.

As worship concludes most every Sunday, we agree to go and live our calling: proclaiming Christ through word and deed; serving all people and the world God made; striving for justice and peace in all the earth. We utter the words and then walk out into the world. I know, as for me, some weeks, that's where the story ends, right at those doors. I say the words, but I do not live by them. Some weeks are different and I lean into and truly do live my calling, in the unique and wonderful way that God has called me. Those are really good weeks.

I believe, and perhaps you might agree, that avenues to do that are abundantly obvious in December and January. Bell ringers at grocery store entrances, donation requests in the mail and in our media, internal and external expectations, it seems as though everywhere I turn, I am offered an opportunity to give, whether it is of my time, talents, or treasures.

The challenge is, I suppose, to not become overwhelmed by so many requests, and to be both discerning and generous all at the same time. No matter where you focus your generosity as you practice it, do it with love and wisdom.

In the coming year at PFLC, each month will have a focus on community and global opportunities to serve. In December, we have historically participated in Fishline's Christmas Child Drive, taking tags off of a Christmas tree, purchasing the requested items, and then returning them for distribution. Last December, 438 children received gifts due to the generosity of North Kitsap residents and businesses. Fishline has revamped its program, taking only monetary donations so that Christmas Child parents will receive a \$50 Walmart card and \$60 in "Holiday Bucks" to be used at local shops, which helped both Poulsbo businesses and families offset the economic devastation brought on by the pandemic. They also expanded their program to include holiday meals for families. Donations may be made online at <https://fishlinehelps.org/get-help/children/christmas-child/> through December 31, 2022.

In January, PFLC focuses on The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, whose mission is to harness the power of community and partnerships to feed, clothe, house, and heal individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. We will be collecting warm layers and new socks for the folks whom they serve. Collection spots will be in the narthex or you may contact Elizabeth Vander Esch at (408) 891-0136 for a pick-up at your home. Use the dark winter evenings to clean out a closet or drawer and serve our community at the same time.

No matter what you do, friends, no matter how or who you serve, do it in the love of Christ.

**Granting Children's Wishes***Since 1984***Christmas Child****DONATE
TODAY!**



COFFEE OASIS

The Family Christmas Project for Coffee Oasis is accepting donations now through December 31 to help youth in need. \$50 will provide gifts for one youth. For more information or to donate, go to

https://thecoffeeoasis.com/christmas/?mc_cid=e184594786&mc_eid=6ea6f25388

**ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS**
CATALOG



ELCA Good Gifts

How is your Christmas shopping going? What do you buy for the person who has everything? How about a goat? Or maybe a couple chickens, or even a cow? Instead of doing all your shopping at the mall this year, you can do good while you do some shopping through the ELCA Good Gifts website. There you can purchase sustainable gifts for our neighbors around the world that will truly make a difference for a whole community. A few weeks ago in a children's sermon, Paul suggested you ask for wisdom instead of stuff; through the Good Gifts program you can provide financial aid to students, giving them the gift of wisdom! There are paper catalogs at PFLC or you can visit the website: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

DECEMBER/JANUARY CIRCLES

Circles are women of the church who come together and engage in action that makes a difference in the world, including bible study, knitting for the homeless, and making quilts for people in developing countries. At PFLC we have Quilters, Knit Wits, and Deborah/Lydia Circle.

- ⌘ **PFLC QUILTERS:** Fireside Room, 10:00am, Tuesdays —The quilts that were on display and blessed on October 30 were delivered to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Ballard by David & Ann Wetter. The 80 quilts weighed 308 lbs. and the 15 baby care kits were 51 lbs. The cost to ship the quilts and kits to those in need was \$269.25. If you are interested in helping with the next batch of quilts or have questions, please call Pauline Ostehler at 360-598-2239 or email lady.osth@gmail.com or you may contact Sharon Brown at 360-731-5014 or ahbrown@comcast.net. The quilters always appreciate donations of fabric or batting for their quilts. Please call Pauline or Sharon to make arrangements to donate items.
- ⌘ **KNIT WITS:** Social Hall, **2:00pm**, 2nd Saturday—The KNIT WITS meet in the Social Hall. **Notice the new time.** If you would like more information, contact Lisa Hutcheson at amcourtright@comcast.net or 360-620-8219.
- ⌘ **DEBORAH/LYDIA:** Social Hall, 2:00pm, 2nd Thursday—DEBORAH/LYDIA Circle will meet for Bible study using the Bible study in Gather Magazine on **December 8 and January 12, 2-4pm**. Two copies of the magazine are in the folder by the WELCA bulletin board in the Social Hall, or you may find the study online at gathermagazine.org. To receive a reminder email before the meeting please contact Carin Nelson at 360-509-8831 or email tractrm8tz@comcast.net. All are welcome!

TROLLS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR CONCESSION UPDATE

The TROLLs (Tired and Retired old Luther Leaguers) provided the food concession during the Christmas Bazaar on November 4 & 5 in the Christian Center. The concession ran from 9am to 4pm both days. A Thrivent Action Team grant helped provide funds to purchase concession food. Thank you to ALL who helped plan and organize, who worked for a shift or two, brought needed items, helped with clean up, baked delicious pies and coffee cake (while abiding by the Health Department's regulations). Additional thanks go to the soup- and chili-makers; those who helped with the food preparation, including our faithful chef who worked both days at the hot grill making breakfast sandwiches, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and other tasty dishes; those who contributed soft drinks, potato chips, and other needed supplies; the front counter crew, pie cutters and cashiers. Thank you All! The \$950.00 net proceeds from the concession were donated to NK Fishline to help with their holiday contributions.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Christ in our Home and Our Daily Bread devotionals are available to pick-up in the narthex. If you would like one but are unable to get to church, contact the church office to have one mailed to you.



FREDERICKSEN WILDERNESS PARK

Fredericksen Wilderness park on Big Valley Road is 60 acres of forest, trails, wildlife and disc golf. Anytime is a perfect time to take a walk in the forest! The first snowfall of the winter is a magical time in the forest. Head on up and enjoy the beauty. Take some time out of your busy day and enjoy some time in nature. While you are out enjoying the park please follow these few simple rules.

While you are out enjoying the park please follow these few simple rules:

1. Drive slowly when entering and exiting the park.
2. The gate will be locked at sundown.
3. As always — if you pack it in, pack it out.
4. No smoking or open flames of any kind.

Find out more on our Facebook page! Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/PFLCFWP> to "Like" and "Follow" the page.



TUESDAY NIGHTS ARE SCOUTING NIGHTS!

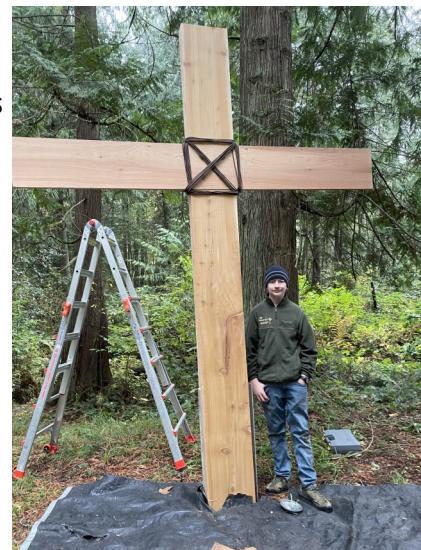
The Christian Center is now full of Scouts every Tuesday.

Cub Scout Pack 4571 is open to boys and girls from Kindergarten—5th grade and meets from 5:15-6:30pm. For more information you can contact Cub Master Sarah Krugerud at pack4571poulsbo@gmail.com.

Scout Troop 1571 is open to boys and girls ages 11-17 and meets from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information you can contact Scout Master Lucas Reber at Troop1571poulsbo@gmail.com.

EAGLE SCOUTS

Many thanks to August Jaber and the Scouts from Troop 1571! They cleaned up the Cedar Cathedral and built a new cross at Fredericksen Wilderness Park. They did a great job completing August's Eagle Project.





Back in 2019, a group from PFLC ventured up to the mountains to a place known as Holden Village. The group had a wonderful time and made plans to return the following summer. And then COVID happened and those plans were cancelled. It is time to start talking about heading back up the mountain next summer for some rest and renewal.

If you have not heard of Holden before it is Christian retreat center in the heart of the Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest of the Cascade Mountain range north of Central Washington.

While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythm each day according to your interests. There are youth programs, faith formation classes for all ages, hikes, crafts, daily worship opportunities, recreational option, napping options, and lots of great food. You can learn so much more by visiting their website: holdenvillage.org

Check out the website and email pauldavis@pflc.org if you are interested in taking a trip up the mountain.



OLYMPIC LUTHERHAVEN NEWS

The Annual Meeting for Olympic Lutherhaven will be on Sunday, February 5th at 2pm at Vinland Lutheran Church. We will be voting on the 2023 budget and a request from Evergreen Lutheran Church to become a member of Olympic Lutherhaven. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.

Planning ahead: Next summer we have the camp side of the park reserved for our congregation the week of **June 30—July 6**. Please let Paul know if you would like to organize an event for the weekend or maybe the entire week.

Olympic Lutherhaven is seeking a Volunteer Coordinator to help identify, recruit and coordinate volunteers and the resources needed to support Olympic Lutherhaven and organize work party activities. If you are interested or want more information please email pauldavis@pflc.org

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD...

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." - Micah 5:2 (NRSV)

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him." - Luke 2:25 (NRSV)

Advent, as a season of the church, is the reflective preparation for the birth of Christ and his expected return in the Second Coming. It's all about waiting, but waiting thoughtfully, prayerfully, and intentionally.

Waiting...

This is not something we do very well. We are an impatient folk, for sure. Think about waiting at a stoplight, or when your Amazon Prime delivery gets put off by a day.

Any study of the history of God with his people takes note of the waiting and the "living in the story" with no clear arrival of the last chapter nailed down anywhere for those in the story. From the beginning of God's covenant with Abraham, through the sojourn in Egypt, through the Exodus and histories of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, through the Exile and back, through the revolts and the "foreign" rules of the Greeks and the Romans, the people of Israel looked for God's plan and salvation. We have the relative advantage in our place in history of knowing of the birth of Christ, but they had no idea. They were still "living in the story" and waiting. They knew the God of Creation, the God of the Covenant, was good for the promises; the covenant still held. The waiting, despite the everyday reminders of the crushing rule of the Romans and questionable leaders like Herod, the councils and some of the high priests... the waiting was what one DOES with God. Our God has ALWAYS been about his timing and not ours.

So, as a citizen of the kingdom today, what does this kind of waiting at this season of the world look like? I am a witness... **how** do I witness in the midst of waiting without knowing the end-point of my waiting? If the past is memory and the future is conjecture, then the present moment is where I am and where I have the only agency available to me.

Waiting has the available fruit of patience, trust, faith, hope and love. God's living from us into this world of those fruits to all things, all people, ourselves and God, of course, continues upon the foundation of the covenant, our redemption and baptism.

We don't come to waiting easily, but we have the life of Christ in us by the Spirit that makes the witness in waiting not only doable, but one of innumerable Advent candles the Spirit lights in this world right now.

Wait well, in light, grace and peace.



CELEBRATIONS, SYMPATHIES, AND MORE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 12/1 | Lorena Maxwell |
| 12/2 | Evelyn Levey |
| 12/4 | Elise Erickson |
| | Cyndi Gilman |
| 12/5 | Rachael Zeigler |
| 12/6 | JJ Waller |
| | Rick Gunderson |
| 12/7 | Michael May |
| 12/9 | Eric Overby, Sr. |
| 12/10 | Elaine Aske |
| 12/11 | Jack Stamm Metrick |
| 12/15 | Anders Overby |
| 12/16 | Robbie Eisenhart |
| 12/17 | Gail Black |
| | Linda Leibold |
| 12/19 | Karin Klein |
| 12/23 | Joyce Becker |
| 12/26 | Pr. Alison Shane |
| 12/27 | CathyAnn Berg |
| 12/29 | Jessica Trondsen |
| | David Severud |
| 12/30 | Pr. Paul Black |
| 12/31 | Curtis Trondsen |

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1/1 | Chris Gracey |
| 1/2 | Sheri Juszczak |
| 1/3 | Gordon Stenman |
| 1/4 | Rayna Dirik |
| 1/5 | Justin Zeigler |
| | Elijah Kashike |
| 1/7 | Jessie Lê |
| 1/8 | Noah Misuda |
| | Becky Reiter |
| 1/12 | Cassie Clark |
| 1/13 | Karli Widhalm |
| | Dominic Widhalm |
| | Carin Nelson |
| 1/18 | Noah Hinz |
| 1/21 | Meredith Musick |
| 1/23 | Asjah Jett |
| 1/24 | Glenn Gracey |
| 1/25 | Jerry Deeter |
| 1/26 | Justin Pennington |
| 1/29 | Norma Bailey |
| 1/31 | Isabel Skistimas |

DECEMBER/JANUARY HOLIDAYS AND OFFICE CLOSURES

The church office will be closed for the following holidays:

December 26—Christmas Day observed

December 27-30—Office Closed

January 2—New Year's Day observed

January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

VISION STATEMENT

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

CORE VALUES

Jesus is Lord—Worship—Compassion—Service

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 12/1 | Gary & Joanne Erickson |
| 12/5 | Lisa Edge & Derek Parkhurst |
| 12/5 | Ian & Ariel Hovey |
| 12/11 | David & Ann Wetter |
| 12/13 | Robert & Maria Ratcliff |
| 12/20 | Brian & Nancy Coffee |
| 12/28 | Michael & Sally Donohue |
| 12/29 | Bill & Kitty Urban |
| | Rich & Ellie Frederickson |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1/4 | John & Gerry Stamm |
| 1/8 | Kyle & Jamie Green |
| 1/11 | Michael & Linda May |
| 1/24 | Michael & Deborah Fancher |

SYMPATHIES TO:

- † The family of Doug Peterson who died November 1.
- † The family of Sandra Kreis who died on November 1.
- † The family of Matt Mesaro who died November 3.
- † The family of Sharon Travis-Shaw who died November 3.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11

2:00pm Onsite and online

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

3:00pm Onsite and online

5:00pm Onsite

11:00pm Onsite and online

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

11:00am Onsite and online

(Note: There will not be an 8:30am service.)





MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF, AND PFLC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ministry Staff

Alison Shane, Pastor
Kent Shane, Pastor
Paul Davis, Director of Faith Formation
Melinda Madamba, Office Manager
Debbie Collier, Music & Choir Director
Miriam Haddon, Organist & Choir Pianist
Alison Hutcheson, Nursery Staff
Hannah Ronning, Custodian
Mary Corbett, Bookkeeper

Church Council & Ministry Leaders

Danielle Priest, President
Tom Driscoll, Vice President
Sheri Juszczak, Secretary
Karen Aldana, Treasurer
Paul Jose, Facilities Ministry
Lauren Eyer, Learning Ministry
Elizabeth Vander Esch, Serving Ministry
Carin Nelson, Supporting Ministry
Jeff Hora, Witnessing Ministry
Cyndi Gilman, Worshipping Ministry



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Let us again add beauty to our church with poinsettias. If you wish to lend a poinsettia to the church in honor or memory of someone, please turn in a completed form to the office by Monday, December 19. More than one person or family may go together to loan a plant. Plants can be brought to the church beginning December 20. Please label your plant so you can pick it up after the Christmas services. If you would prefer your poinsettia to be taken to one of our shut-ins, please label it for donation.

Print Your Name _____

Phone: _____

#of plants lent: _____

Memory or Honor:





POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
18920 4TH AVENUE NE
POULSBO, WA 98370
PHONE: 360-779-2622
EMAIL: welcome@pflc.org

pflc.org

[f PoulsboFLC](#)



THE GRAPEVINE

DEC. '22/JAN. '23

MINISTRY STAFF

Alison Shane, Pastor
Kent Shane, Pastor
Paul Davis, Director of Faith Formation
Melinda Madamba, Office Manager
Debbie Collier, Music & Choir Director
Miriam Haddon, Organist & Choir Pianist
Alison Hutcheson, Nursery Staff
Hannah Ronning, Custodian
Mary Corbett, Bookkeeper

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Danielle Priest, President
Tom Driscoll, Vice President
Sheri Juszczak, Secretary
Karen Aldana, Treasurer
Paul Jose, Facilities Ministry
Lauren Eyer, Learning Ministry
Elizabeth Vander Esch, Serving Ministry
Carin Nelson, Supporting Ministry
Jeff Hora, Witnessing Ministry
Cyndi Gilman, Worshipping Ministry

To contact the church office, please call
360-779-2622.

Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 10am-2pm,
Fri, 10am-noon

Staff may be in the building outside of these
hours; call the office for availability

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00am
Participate online at pflc.org or
[PoulsboFLC](#) on Facebook

Please submit articles by email to
welcome@pflc.org.

Articles are subject to editing.
Submissions due by the 20th of each month.