

## News & Events

### *at Petersburg Lutheran Church*

*"To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to Show the Love of Christ"*

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*November 2022*



### Council Highlights

The Council did not meet in October due to member travel, and we have moved the combined October-November meeting to Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Church Council Meeting:** *Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Meetings are open to all Congregation members.*

### 3% Benevolence

Every month, 3% of our General Giving goes to a different outreach ministry, divided evenly among charities in our community, Alaska, and national/international. The Council will vote on the final list of organizations at the November 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. **If you have suggestions for other ministries that we should consider, please give that information to a Council member as soon as possible, or please come and present your ideas at the November 9 Council meeting.**

The current list of ministries for 2022 is:

January - Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, Monduli, Tanzania

February - Trinity Lutheran, Dillingham, AK

March - Glacier Bible Camp, Juneau, AK

April - Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

May - Special Fund for Local Needs, Petersburg, AK

June - Good Beginnings Preschool, Petersburg, AK

July - Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – [Bev Siercks](#)  
(907-772-4330)

Vice President – [Bill Moulton](#) (907-518-1485)

Treasurer - [Robin Roberts](#)  
(907-518-0052)

Secretary – [Ginger Evens](#) (907-772-4392)

[Nancy Berg](#) (907-518-1098)

[Desi Burrell](#) (907-772-3665)

[John Small](#) (907-772-2718)

[Chris van Ettinger](#)

[Bridgett Wittstock](#)  
(907-518-1413)

*Newsletter Editor:*  
[Robin Roberts](#)

August - Kuwaa Mission Project, Liberia  
September - Prisoners for Christ, Woodinville, WA  
October - Humanity in Progress, Petersburg, AK  
November - “Crocheting Their Way” Ministry, Wildwood  
Women’s Prison, Kenai, AK  
December - Lutheran World Relief, ELCA



## All-Saints Special Celebration—November 6<sup>th</sup>

This year, in celebration of All Saints Sunday, we are inviting everyone to a special remembrance of loved ones who have died and gone on before us, not just this past year, but at any time. We will have tables set up in the fellowship hall where you can place pictures of loved ones and light candles in remembrance. Similar to the *ofrenda* tradition associated with the Day of the Dead, we will remember ancestors and family stories as well as the Petersburg Lutheran family story and our place in each. Start thinking about whom you would like to remember and looking for pictures to share!

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Help your clocks to fall back and gain an extra hour**  
**(otherwise you might show up for church an hour early!)**



***From the Pastor:***

## **November Days: An Ending and Just the Beginning**

When the calendar flips to November, we all get into a normal rhythm for this time of year. Once Halloween decorations are put away, we know that only moments later we reach the “holidays” which include so much.

We anticipate that the fourth Thursday in November is the American holiday of Thanksgiving followed quickly by “Black Friday” and the secular count-down to Christmas. Secularly, some might refer to that as “Good Friday” for all the sales that pop up everywhere with the day of Christmas as the final celebration of familial gift-giving.

But all of that secular “fat” has been slowly stacked upon the liturgical “bones” of the Church. The weekends before and after that start of Thanksgiving have a significance that far out-strips the commercialization that has only grown since Charlie Brown first pointed it out some 57 years ago.

The weekend before Thanksgiving is the time for some celebratory endings. November 20<sup>th</sup> is Christ the King Sunday and the ending of the liturgical year (not to mention the day before is when I turn 60 and end my time as a youth!). Christ the King not only ends our annual cycle of lessons on Sundays, but looks forward to the end of this old heaven and earth, giving way to Christ’s reign in the New Heaven and New Earth where all our sorrows will cease! It is an ending to be sure, but it is usually overwhelmed by the new beginning that comes on its heels.

You see, November 26<sup>th</sup> is what is often referred to as “low Sunday” because it falls on the weekend of Thanksgiving. It traditionally has the lowest attendance of all, but it really is the new beginning many look forward to each and every year. It is the START of a new liturgical year and the first Sunday in Advent. There is little lament for the previous year as every attention is turned to the wonder of a new Christmas to celebrate our God, Emmanuel, the God coming into the world to be with us! Don’t get me wrong, the presents help, but new and good beginnings are a much more powerful force pulling us forward with the gravity of new possibilities, rather than drawing us back to remain in the same old year we’ve already lived through.

November is about endings. The regular season that gives way to holidays. End of the world focus on the whole Universe that gives way to the microcosm cradled in a manger. Thanksgiving reflections that look at what families can be thankful for during last year, but so much conversation about what comes next!

My guess is that November will also present the looming reality of the ending of my time here in Petersburg. No details are in place now, but as many of us have realized, my time and my ministry are coming to a close. They come to a close not on a sad note, but on the triumphant realization that the goals that brought me here have been accomplished. And so soon, the new beginnings will come into focus.

The call committee is poised to discern the new settled pastor who will come and benefit from all we have accomplished this past year. What we have worked to set in

place will be a given for that person who will appreciate the results and have a firm place upon which to build ministry. What a great new beginning awaits!

As for me, I suspect that God will show me where to go next during these coming days. And I will be able to leave here with great experiences, great learning, and great friendships that will not see an ending. I expect we will be able to cherish the memories that we have shared, but realize that God is not done with any of us nor the ministry that will continue beyond this time.

Dealing with an ending and a beginning at the same time: that sounds like the very definition of transition that I started my time with you trying to explain. A letting-go of what was, while at the same time grasping onto the future that God has in mind. What better time to think of such things than when we look to Christ's ultimate victory over sin, death, and the grave; when we look to God being with us in something as simple as a baby born into the world; and when we can gather with Thanksgiving for the time that God has brought us together, and the wondrous things he has done through us as well as the wonders yet to come!

Though it seems a bit premature: Happy Holidays; Happy Holy Days, and a Great Thanksgiving all this coming month!



**All things work together for Good for those  
who love God.**

**- Romans 8:28**



## Good Beginnings Pre-School *by Hayley Short*



We have been having a lot of fun at school, with lots of great activities this month. We have time with Pastor Zach in the sanctuary on Tuesdays, which the kids really enjoy. We had a visit from Grandma Sally (Riemer) who shared some fun songs and games with us. Pumpkin Day was a huge hit, and the kids were able to tie dye and decorate their pumpkin shirts to wear while we carved and explored our pumpkins. We look forward to singing at the church service on October 30th, and can't wait to

celebrate Good Beginnings' 25th Anniversary on November 13th.



- Sally Riemer sings at Good Beginnings!

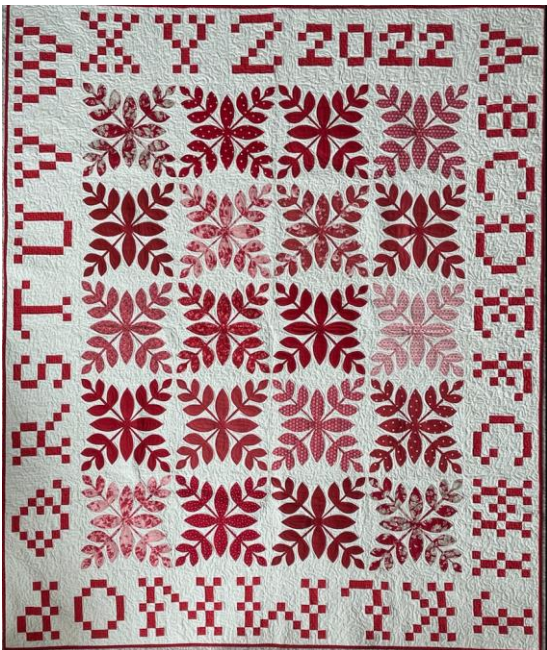


I can be reached at [goodbeginningsspsg@gmail.com](mailto:goodbeginningsspsg@gmail.com); please let me know if you would like to share any of your special talents with the students. We look forward to a great year and increasing the bond between our school and church. Yours in Christ, Hayley Short, Good Beginnings Director



## Good Beginnings 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 13!! We will have a special celebration for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Good Beginnings Pre-school after worship. Along with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of our beloved pre-school, we'll be raffling off a gorgeous quilt that was sewn by Sue Flint and quilted by Melissa Carraway. The quilt is on display in the Rexall window, and tickets are \$1, available from Lee's Clothing, Rexall, or from a GB Board Member. Drawing will be November 13, during the anniversary celebration.



## November 3%

The recipient of our 3% giving for November is “[Crocheting Their Way](#)” Ministry; Wildwood Women's Prison, Kenai, AK.

## Prayer Partner



November's Prayer Partner is [Lord of Life Lutheran](#) in North Pole, AK, led by Interim Pastor Curtis Matz.

## Financial Report

PLC continues this year “**in the red**,” – spending more than we receive in donations. Our expenses continue every month for salaries, utilities, and building maintenance, but giving to support the church has not been keeping up.

**Giving minus Expenses for the month of September were: **-\$1,915****

**Giving minus Expenses for the year so far: **-\$43,569****

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church or mailing it in. Electronic donations can be made using the [Online Giving button on the PLC web site](#), or on your mobile device by installing the [Vanco Mobile app](#) – just choose “Petersburg Lutheran Church” and make your donation.



## Large Print Worship Bulletins

If anyone needs large print Bulletins on Sundays, please let the church office know by Thursday each week so we know how many to print.

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**Petersburg Lutheran Church**  
**406 Excel Street, PO Box 709, Petersburg, AK 99833**  
**Pastor Zachariah Harris III, 540-288-4337 [plcakpastor@gmail.com](mailto:plcakpastor@gmail.com)**  
**[www.petersburglutheran.com](http://www.petersburglutheran.com)**  
**Office: 907-772-3114 [plcakoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com)**

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