



THE PROCLAIMER

DOES GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Does Grace Lutheran Church make a difference here in Everett, Washington? That is a difficult question. And depending on which perspective you come from, your answer may be different than mine.

For some here right now, the answer is no. The answer they give is arrived at with numbers, namely attendance and offering. It is true we have lost long-time members. Many of these were already planning to leave when I arrived, however. We have added 14 since December 2020, which during a pandemic isn't bad.

However, one thing that makes this more difficult is we have replaced long-time members with new members. Some of these members are still in their teens. What I have observed is new members take some time to get situated and comfortable in their new surroundings. When pressured to do things they are not ready to do, they leave, and what would have been a great future is lost.

I know it is heartbreaking to watch the numbers dwindle here, as well as the offerings. There are some other factors that play into this situation which make it more difficult than what is apparent to the human eye. Six years ago, this church went through a church split. Church splits—for whatever reason they occur—are extremely hard to overcome. I've seen churches split over the dumbest things. I watched my home church split over issues that probably could have been avoided.

If we decide to let the past dictate the future, then we need to lock the doors right now, period and end of story. If we choose to learn from the past, and not repeat it, then we have a viable future.

Years ago, my former secretary, Elisa Villegas, had planted a banana tree in her back yard. It was less than 6 months old. "Elisa, can I have a banana?" I asked her. "No," she replied. "Why not?" Her answer was "Because it is not ready." "What if I come back in 5 years? Can I have one then?" Her answer was, "You can have all the bananas you want."

Yes, the new members do not have the deep roots in this congregation that those who left had. It is asking the impossible for them to replace over 50 years of church membership in less than 6 months. Give them some time, and I believe every one of them will surprise you with what they can and will do for this congregation.

One thing we need to focus on is something beyond the numbers. We need to have eternity in mind. Jesus sure had it in mind when He went to there for you, for the new members, and for those we have yet to meet. Did Jesus complain about "throwing good money after bad" when He died on the cross? The answer is a resounding **NO**. Instead, we read these words:

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." 1 Peter 1:18-19

What does that make you worth? You are priceless! So is every new member! And so are those we have yet to meet!

Because of the blood of Christ, every soul has gone from worthless to priceless. If Jesus was willing to pay for every soul with His holy, innocent, precious blood, what does that tell us? It tells us that every single person that walks through our doors is priceless because of Jesus' blood on the cross. While we build up new disciples for Jesus, is it "throwing good money after bad?" A Presbyterian would have you believe that! They believe in such a way that some will be saved, and some will be lost, and it is predetermined. That is why we are Lutherans and not Presbyterians! We believe that **"God desires all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4).

Recently, we sang the hymn, "O Blest the House." Verse 3 closes with these words: "And weary not of care or cost; may none to them and heaven be lost." While the verse applies to our children, it applies to all! May we consider the cost to our Father in heaven of one person being lost! --Pastor Anderson



LENT SERMON SERIES: GOD AT WAR

March 2, 2022: (Ash Wednesday) “The Enemy”

March 6, 2022 (Lent 1): “The Battleground”

March 13, 2022 (Lent 2): “The Kingdom Taken by Force”

March 20, 2022 (Lent 3): “The War Against the Heart”

March 27, 2022 (Lent 4): “Allies in the Battle”

April 3, 2022 (Lent 5): “The Warrior’s Heart”

April 10, 2022 (Palm Sunday): “The Donkey and the Stallion”

April 14, 2022 (Maundy Thursday): “The Man Who Would Not be King”

April 15, 2022: “The Greatest War Ever Fought”

April 17, 2022: “Jesus, the Warrior/King”

COVID-19: What Has Changed

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people with a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

What Hasn't Changed

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You should still take steps to [protect yourself and others](#) in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:
 - In public
 - Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
 - Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at [increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) or who lives with a person at increased risk
- You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings, especially inside.
- You should still delay domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you'll still need to follow CDC [requirements and recommendations](#).
- You should still watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.

March 21, 2022, Governor Inslee has declared that the facemask ban will be lifted. If you wish to continue to wear one, you may do so. If you wish to no longer wear one, that is also permitted. The Church Council will discuss the feasibility of doing the "Greet One Another." We will abide by their decision.

UPDATE: Governor Inslee has removed the indoor mask mandate beginning March 11, 2022, at 11:59PM. That means we are free to not wear a mask beginning next Sunday.

WE ARE HEADED BACK TO NORMAL!

PRAISE GOD!

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God's blessings to
you both on your
birthday!
March

Margaret Dildine..... 6
Mike Ryan..... 9
Mary Wampler.....22



March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 2:30 Church Council 5:30: Supper 6:30 Ash Wednesday	3 ELDERS 6:30 PM	4	5
6 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	7 CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30 PM	8	9	10	11 MASK MANDATE LIFTED 11:59 PM	12 TURN YOUR CLOCK AHEAD ONE HOUR TONIGHT!
13 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	14	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19
20 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	28	29	30			





LWML Mission Statement:

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District is funding eight mission grants for the 2020-2022 biennium.

Our fiscal year ends March 31, 2022. Your contributions before the end of March are greatly appreciated in reaching our total mite goal of \$160,000, which includes our district and twenty-five (25) percent going to national LWML to help fund their mission grants.

Please visit our district webpage at wa-aklwml.org for a list of grants and news about the LWML women in our district.

The current national LWML fiscal year is April 1, 2021-March 31, 2023. Their mission goal is \$2,150,000.

Amounts received as of January 31, 2022, is \$1,119,686.94. LWML webpage is lwml.org.

A list of mission grants is in the narthex. Thank you for placing your donations in the mite box at church.



Marilee Ryan, President

LWML Washington-Alaska District



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