TOWER ECHOES

PHINNEY RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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As people made one in the waters of baptism, we believe our lives and faith are strengthened by diversity. We strive to be a community that welcomes people of every ability, age, citizenship status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, Language circumstance, marital status, political perspective, race and sexual orientation. Whether you are a believer, doubter, or seeker, we openly welcome and value you. We celebrate God's unconditional love and respond joyfully to your presence here. All are welcome. You are welcome.

Anne Lohrmann, Associate Pastor

associatepastor@prlc.org

Patrick Meagher, Deacon of Outreach

outreach@prlc.org

David Roby, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries cyf@prlc.org

Ann Erickson, Parish Administrator

parishadmin@prlc.org

Cole McCrorie-McKnight, Communications Manager

office@prlc.org

Anthony Nelson, Custodian

custodian@prlc.org

Beth Ann Bonnecroy, Chancel & Handbell Choirs Director

Nick Abbott, Organist

Craig Hopper, Gospel Choir Director

Paul Georgeson, Youth Choir Director

Matt McKenzie, PRLC Preschool Director

preschool@prlc.org

Rebekah Heeg, Director of Family Services, PRLC Preschool

preschoolfamilyservices@prlc.org

Jenn Featherston, Director of Pedagogy, PRLC Preschool

preschoolpedagogy@prlc.org

This congregation worships on the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Coast Salish peoples. We recognize the profoundly sacred relationship that our Native siblings have with the land and ask for forgiveness for the ways we have violated that which is revered by them and sustains us all.

Congregation Council

Nancy Winder, President
Martin Kaste, Vice-President
Luci Baker Johnson, Secretary
Barb Mockett, Treasurer
Members-at-large:
Lori Chrisman
Ted Hunter
Theresa Magelssen
Linda Ramsdell
Cara Scheffler
Thea Kaste, Youth Member

PASTOR'S PAGE

At the beginning of summer, I referred to this liturgical season as the "Green and Growing" time of the church. That language of life, abundance, and nurture continues to suit us well at Phinney. As plenty of people have said, in plenty of ways, we are indeed in a time of transition. Transition is often bumpy, unknown, and even anxietyproducing. But this is a joyful time for Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, because as we think seriously about our need and opportunity for renewal and growth, we do that work from a place of strength!

Despite change and uncertainty, this community is thriving. We are green! We have much to be thankful for and solid, healthy ground from which to do our growing. This summer provided much evidence of the abundant life here (see this newsletter for a few examples!).

I've been so grateful for your presence in worship and fellowship this summer. I don't know if you noticed, but normally we sort-of take a "rest" in the summer months. We have fewer committee meetings, no classes, limited gatherings. We focus on Sunday worship and day-to-day ministry, and give our staff and volunteers a little break while people are busy and traveling anyway. But this summer, we have been intentional about our social gatherings, making time and space to gather to get to know one another, reconnect, and simply find joy in community.

Summer has also been marked by numerous volunteer musicians in worship, the addition of our Pray Ground in the Sanctuary (for littles and their grown-ups to worship more fully!), many hands sharing the hard work of caring for our building and grounds, the ongoing ministry of our food bank and support to neighbors in need, and so much more. It was not a "break" but it was exactly what we needed. We needed to be together, to invest in this place and each other, and to rejoice in what God is already doing among us. Thank you for all of it!

We have a strong congregation to be grateful for, and this is a time to renew our hope and put our minds to the creative work of growing even more. God has called us to steward this particular church community in this time and place, yes, and let's not forget Jesus' call to be looking outward, noticing who is missing, and meeting those on the margins. The seeds planted here are intended to grow and bear fruit not just for ourselves – but out into the world. Here we plant seeds, are nourished with word and meal, and are sent out to spread those seeds far and wide, continuing the work of God throughout the world in our own daily lives.

I'm so thankful for all of you who show up to worship, join us online, visit one another, volunteer in so many ways, give generously, and pray for our ministries. This is a joyful, hopeful, growing time, and God promises that the seeds we sew will bear fruit. We can scatter those seeds lavishly – why not?! As we turn to fall, we'll be inviting you into more opportunities for dreaming, wondering, planning and planting. Please be a part of this important visioning work, and our life together in Christ.

In Christ, Pastor Anne

Wondering about our staff and pastoral transitions?

Your congregation council has been working diligently through the summer to ensure a smooth transition since Pastor Hansen's resignation. We are working closely with the Synod and will be introducing you to two part-time transition pastors who will join our team soon. The work of deciding what comes next belongs to all of us - including you! There will be ample opportunity for you to have your voice heard, and for you to listen to other voices, as we make decisions about staff and budget over the coming weeks and months. You can look forward to a monthly update in worship from members of council, along with other correspondence and times to gather together. We aim to be as open and transparent as possible, and we want to know your needs, hopes, and dreams for Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church. Feel free to reach out to Pastor Anne, Deacon Patrick, and any member of the congregation council if you have questions or concerns.

FROM THE BISHOP

September 2023



I went to the musical 1776 a few nights ago where I learned some new things about how the Declaration of Independence came to be written. As I watched, I felt proud to be an American – to be part of a group of people who wanted freedom from tyranny, freedom to vote, freedom from an empire far away.

There were also moments in this play when I was horrified at some decisions made. At the last minute, the clause to abolish slavery was removed so that all of the representatives would sign the document. The most powerful song in the musical, Molasses to Rum, reminds the audience how all the colonies were complicit in the selling of humans – not just the south. (https://genius.com/John-cullum-molasses-to-rum-lyrics)

As an American, I hold two realities. First, I rejoice in the wonder and aspiration of the United States of America. I am grateful for this country and I love what it is striving to be. At its best, it is a country where freedom and liberty are supreme. It is a place where care is given to those arriving on its shores. It is a place where people can freely go to church and other places of worship (or not go at all). In short, the United States is a promise of what can be.

At the same time, I hold the truth of this country's sins. Enslaved men built the White House, the U.S. Capitol building, and others. Homes of former presidents including George Washington's Mount Vernon and James Madison's Montpelier were built by men "owned" by them. The land that we in the Northwest Washington Synod are living on was once land that belonged to Samish and Duwamish, Lummi, and Muckleshoot and many others. Japanese people were unjustly imprisoned during World War II. Sundown laws and redlining laws were written throughout this country. As a white woman, I know that I could not vote until 1919. For women of color, the right to vote did not come until later. People who are part of the LGBTQIA+ communities have been harassed and discriminated against, beaten up and killed in this country. And discriminatory practices and violence continue to this day. In short, the systems in this country have violated and harmed people since its inception.

This is what it means to be an American: to vote, to engage in civic society, to appreciate this country, to grieve past and present sins, and to truthfully stand up and speak when it falls short of its ideals.

But what about those of us who are American and also Christian? Unequivocally it means that as much as one might love this country, this is not where our ultimate allegiance lies. For we are part of the body of Christ that extends beyond the borders of any country. As Lutheran Christians, we know that we are named, chosen, and called by God through Jesus. We hold deeply the joy that we are freed from sin, and, because of this, we are called into radical love, acceptance, and welcome – far beyond being a citizen of any country. We are freed to live beyond racism, injustice, and bigotry. Martin Luther wrote that freedom is a gift from God, not just for our sake, or our country's sake, but for the sake of the world.

Tragically, there are those who want to distort this freedom. To somehow merge Christian and American identities. Rather than freedom, conflating religious authority with political authority leads to tyranny and marginalization - especially of minority groups. Christian Nationalism is neither patriotic nor is it faithful. You do not have to be Christian to be a "true" American. And you do not have to be American to be Christian. At its heart, it is idolatrous. As the First Commandment states, "You shall have no other gods."

Together, as faithful Christians, let us live into Jesus' words –into radical love, acceptance and welcome. Let us speak truth to power and stand with those without power. Let us follow Jesus who commands us to love everyone as our brothers and sisters and siblings including our fellow citizens, those of other belief systems, and those of other nations. Together, as faithful Christians, let us stand up and speak out against Christian Nationalism and any system that marginalizes, harms, and subjugates another. As Jesus announces in the gospel of Luke, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' For freedom Christ has set us free. May we live and dance and revel in the freedom of Christ.

DEACON DISPATCH

DEACON PATRICK MEAGHER

The Sneaky Truth of the PRLC Outreach Fund

You don't hear me asking for donations to our PRLC Outreach Fund very often. I know that's fingernails on a chalk board to my development friends! And I get it. I can be overly shy about this sometimes. My reticence at fundraising certainly contradicts the central role the Outreach Fund plays in our shared ministry of word and service. Every penny donated into the fund goes directly to a household so in need they have humbled themselves to ask for help from strangers. Just let that sink in... In their time of distress, the fund embodies *no less* than the tangible evidence of God's love on earth, and a balm for basic— and always intertwined— material and spiritual needs.

Another reason I don't do a lot of fundraising is that I don't really need to. Why? Well, you get it! So many of you regularly support our direct financial assistance program that things keep humming along, and my energies can be focused more on helping people than asking for money. Thank you, sincerely, for your ongoing support.

Unlike God's limitless love, there *are* some limits for how much and how often we can help a household. We administer the fund with the utmost respect for your donations, and embrace the responsibility and trust that comes with your partnership. We facilitate direct payments to landlords, utility companies, or gas stations, and thereby don't give cash directly to outreach clients. My position is designed to offer the time to get to know each situation, and collect the necessary (but not overly burdensome to the client) paperwork to verify the need. We usually have the budget to give away about \$3000 a month reaching 8-12 households with some form of assistance, but the demand is often 2 or 3 times this.

Ultimately, the sneaky truth of our PRLC Outreach Ministry is that we actually need our clients *more* than they need us. We *need* our hearts to be engaged with human suffering, softened, and formed into the heart of Christ by the precious gift of vulnerability our clients bring. We *need* to see our financial resources as the raw material that, when married with the machinery of generosity, forms into a great house of refuge in a world of storm. In this life, generosity is our only hope, and it changes everyone involved. If you'd like to participate in the generous exchange monthly or one time, please visit our online giving platform (prlc.org/giving) and select the Outreach Fund, put a check in the Sunday offering, or send your donation along to the church office.

Thank you for your generous support of the PRLC Outreach Fund!

PRLC Circle of Welcome Refugee Ministry Special Request

PRLC Circle of Welcome team needs job search assistance for our refugee family's dad. If you have any time to help look for a job in the Mukilteo/Lynwood/South Everett area please contact us. If you know of anyone who works or has a business in that area please contact us. Currently, our Dad works at a gas station for \$18/hour and we would love to improve the family's quality of life by helping him get a better, safer job. We have a resume for him already completed and can talk you through his strengths. He is a very hard worker and a really responsible human being. Contact: Cherry Snelling: 206-617-2120 or Joan Rice: 206-724-4576. Thank you!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Written by Barbara Mockett

Even though the days are getting shorter and back-to-school sales are everywhere, this is the best part of summer to me. Paul grills and we have dinner on the deck more often, and when we visit Mee-Kwa-Mooks Park (a little coastline gem in West Seattle), I imagine that all the pleasure boats we see are out for a few days of cruising. It's a time of a slower pace and fewer commitments before everything spins up again in September.

Though summer is also a quieter time in the offering plates of many churches, it's not necessarily a quieter time of expenses. Our staff is doing a good job of keeping spending in check, with all expense categories either right at (Salaries) or below what would be expected at this point in the year.

Thanks to a bequest received this spring, we can fund the two large repair items on our lists – the leak in the chapel roof and a replacement for our boiler. Many, many thanks to the Building and Grounds committee for leading the way on these repairs.

We are continuing to fulfill our transition support responsibility to Pastor Hansen. As you recall, our agreement is to provide his salary, pension contribution and healthcare premium for the twenty-week period that began on June 19. Ann Erickson, our parish administrator, has been working with our insurance provider to make sure our building and parsonage are adequately covered, and to mitigate risks noted in the carrier's review. We're expecting a somewhat higher premium as a result, but also a more fire-safe building.

We are so thankful for two extraordinary gifts received early in the year. Were it not for those gifts, we would be about \$58,000 below 2022 offerings at this point. Looking into the fall, as programs spin up, it's important that we all make efforts to fulfill our 2023 pledged giving. Thank you for all you do to support the ministry we share.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

Greeting from the BAG (Building And Grounds) committee.

The BAG committee, was formed in January of 2023 to provide solutions to the needs of the church property. Your committee includes David Cress, David Gehman, Cherry Snelling, Karen Clark, Ken Roscoe, Linda Thorson, Brian Kreger, Steve Moody, Steve Mockett, Scott Radford and Joel Maier.

Our church home is a beautiful facility, but it needs a lot of care, so we got down to business and have knocked out some of these upkeep requirements.

For example, you'll notice the pothole in the church parking lot has been filled in and the parking lot has been restriped. (Woo Hoo with a shout out to all the volunteers who helped prep the parking lot and to Ken Roscoe who striped it!)

In-flight projects include replacing the church boiler and repairing the chapel exit area caused by water damage. Future projects being researched include landscape design of our front lawn, lighting in the bathrooms and repairing a refrigerator and non-working stove burners in the church kitchen.

We've designated the second weekend of each month for work/fun parties for everyone. How is this fun you ask? It's fun folks building community and making an impact under the direction of the BAG committee. Mark your calendars and watch the midweek updates and church bulletins for additional details.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Come one, come all to the 2023 PRLC Engagement Fair, where you're invited to LEARN, SERVE, and CONNECT!

Whether you are a long-time member or a new face in the community, we encourage you to explore new opportunities to serve within our body and outside our walls.

If you already sing in the choir, consider coming early on Wednesday evenings to work with our children or youth or try your hand at organizing the community meal. We'd love to have more hands rowing the ship!

If you're a youth member, consider an evening at the Food Bank or helping us plan Sunday Forum learning opportunities. We can learn from you!



If you're in your first year or fiftieth at PRLC, tell us what kinds of opportunities you've heard or dreamed about. We welcome you to lead us in new areas of growth!

Engagement Fair dates are **September 10** & **September 17**, between services (10AM). Come learn about what we have going and where you can share your time and talents.

SEE YOU THERE, SCALAWAGS!

Spirited Women weekly book study group is starting back up on Thursday, Sept 21 after a summer break. Please consider joining this lively and inquisitive group, reading books on current topics with a spirituality lens. Join us for a book, a season or a lifetime;).

We meet in-person in the Tree of Life room (enter through 75th St door) as well as having a simultaneous Zoom session. Zoom Meeting ID: 872 5037 0297

We begin discussing our summer book (available through Seattle Public Library etc) on 9/21 & 9/28. The Book of Longings is a novel by Sue Monk Kidd that tells the fictional story of Ana, a well-educated daughter of a scribe in Herod's occupational government in Galilee, who falls in love with Jesus ben Joseph, an itinerant stonemason and part-time carpenter from Nazareth. The novel is a love story between Ana and Jesus, and is grounded in meticulous historical research. It is also a provocative feminist theological speculation. We will also choose our next book, so please bring suggestions.

If you wish to join us, please email Ardis Pilz at ardispilz@comcast.net to be added to our email list.



Flat Jesus at the summer Mariners game! (to the right).



Flat Jesus on Summer Walks (above and to the right).

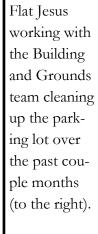


Flat Jesus enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in Mukilteo (below).



Flat Jesus at the farm (below).







So is this how Jesus got flat? On the farm with David and Jo-Ann Cress! (to the left).



Flat Jesus playing pickleball (below).







Flat Jesus at Disney Land! (to the left).















Flat Jesus out at some youth events.



Flat Jesus at a park in Kent, WA (to the left)



Janel with Jesus in Norway! (below).



Flat Jesus at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in the middle of Georgia. (to the right).



Flat Jesus on Lummi Island! (to the right).



Flat Jesus in London! (to the right).





Flat Jesus in in Las Vegas!! (to the left).

Check out some photos of the youth events that happened over the summer!













Great news! The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Task Force is thrilled to announce that we have hired David Roby to be our new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at PRLC! David's extensive experience teaching children and youth of all ages, his energy, his connection to this community, and his joy for this work are

among the gifts he brings us. The CYF Task Force and Congregation Council also acknowledge that we are still in a season of determining what our staff structure and budget should look like moving forward. For this reason, David has been hired for the specific term of September 2023 through May 2024. During these months, the CYF Task Force will be providing numerous opportunities for the congregation to weigh in about the vision and mission for our CYF ministry at Phinney. Please watch for information and ways to participate as we discern the long-term future of this ministry. But for now, we give thanks to God for David's eagerness to step into this position. Welcome, David! (Members of the CYF Task Force include Pastor Lohrmann, Erica Shutes-David, Julie Carr, Amy Radil, Kara Novak, Frank Kreikebaum, Theresa Magelssen, and Thea Kaste.)





Pastor Chelsea Globe, Pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Washington came to visit us.

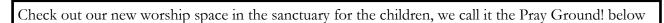




Installation of the council above.

Patty and Joel Maier's wedding vow renewal above.

Ice cream after service to the right.







ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Orleans, Louisiana, July 16-20, 2024

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students entering grades 8-12 this fall to gather with tens of thousands of peers from all over the place ...witness the power of voices and actions working together...see what the church is about now and how they can make an impact....to know and spread the radical love of God. The gathering offers large group events with amazing musicians and speakers, stadium -sized worship, and communion. (Communion with 30,000 sounds pretty cool), a service day, a day to gather with other churches from our area synod, lots of interactive learning and the opportunity to explore a new city. Gatherings have proven to be opportunities to strengthen group relationships, empower leaders, foster independence, encourage service, and of course ignite faith. **Next** summer seems far away, but the planning, preparing, and fundraising should begin now! Registration opens on September 15.



Blessing of the Animals

The annual blessing of pets will take place **Sunday, October 8** at the 8:30 a.m. service. This blessing occurs every year on or around the Feast of St. Francis.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Phinney Ridge 2023 Lutheran Church

All forums on Sundays 10-10:50am

9/10 & 17 in Narthex, rest in Fellowship Hall

Sept 10 & 17

PRLC Engagement Fair!

Come to the Narthex between services and explore how to LEARN, SERVE, and CONNECT during this new season at PRLC.

PRLC Preschool Update

Sept 24

Hear from Preschool Director Matt McKenzie with an update on one of our best outreach efforts to our neighborhood: our beloved PRLC Preschool.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

All are invited (not just youth and families!) to learn about the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans and explore how all of PRLC will be involved.

Transition Process

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Content TBD. These forums will be left open for our congregation's pastoral transition process. Stay tuned!

Friendly Water for the World Update

Remember our Lenten Offering? Well you generously gave, and one of our recipients-Friendly Water for the World-- took our funds to build a special project overseas. We'll hear all about it at this forum!

Interested in helping plan Contact Deacon Patrick future forums? outreach@pric.org

www.pric.org

IN THE FAMILY

FAITHFUL DEPARTED...

SALLY SHIPPEN, AUGUST 10, MEMORIAL OCT. 7 1PM EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN PORTLAND
GLORIA SWISHER, JULY 23
GLORIA W. SWISHER, MEMORIAL CONCERT AT UW SEPTEMBER 18
ARLENE ROWE, JUNE 27

VIRGINIA GABELEIN, JUNE 15

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO B. ANN HEINZ!

BETTY ANN (REINECKE) HEINZ WAS BORN AUGUST 27, 1923. ANN HAS BEEN A MEMBER AT PRLC SINCE 1997, WAS A QUILTER, LIVED IN THE PHINNEY RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR MANY YEARS AND SINCE 2008 HAS RESIDED AT THE NORSE HOME, 5311 PHINNEY AVE N, SEATTLE WA 98103.



September

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church

2023

Welcome to the calendar for Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church. We hope you find this useful in planning how you want to engage. We encourage you to cut this page out of your newsletter or print it from your digital version and put it on your fridge! Please let us know if there is something we have missed by emailing office@prlc.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						12pm AA Long- timer's 303/302
14th Sunday after Pentecost 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Worship Pastor Anne Out of the Office	10am Quilters	1:15-3pm Food Bank 7pm AA: MOB 301/302	6:30am Bible Study 6:15-8 pm Food Bank 7:30 pm AA: YANA 302/303			9am-1pm Congregation Council Gathering TOLR 9:30 am Landscape Group 10:00am Prayer Shawl group
15th Sunday after Pentecost 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2 worship services start up again 8:30 am Worship 9:30 2023 Engage- ment Opportunity Fair: Learn, Serve, Connect 11 am Worship 12 pm Landscape Group	10am Quilters Pastor Anne Out of the Office	1:15-3pm Food Bank 7pm AA: MOB 301/302 Pastor Anne Out of the Office	6:30am Bible Study 6:15-8 pm Food Bank 6:30pm Quench Youth group (Youth Room) 7:30 pm AA: YANA 302/303 5:30-8:30pm Choirs* Pastor Anne Out of the Office	Pastor Anne Out of the Office	Pastor Anne Out of the Office	8 am Seattle Choral Company Season Kick-Off Fellowship Hall
16th Sunday after Pentecost 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 am Worship 9:30 2023 Engage- ment Opportunity Fair: Learn, Serve, Connect 11 am Worship	10 am Quilters 6:30 pm NWCC Re- hearsal Sanctuary	1:15-3pm Food Bank 6pm SCC Rehearsal Sanctuary 7pm AA: MOB 301/302	6:30am Bible Study 6:15-8 pm Food Bank 6:30pm Quench Youth group (Youth Room) 7:30 pm AA: YANA 302/303 5:30-8:30pm Choirs*	10am Spirited Women TOLR		
17th Sunday after Pentecost 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 am Worship 9:30 Education Hour 11 am Worship 6:30pm Wellspring	10am Quilters 6:30 pm NWCC Re- hearsal Sanctuary	1:15-3pm Food Bank 6pm SCC Rehearsal Sanctuary 7pm AA: MOB 301/302	6:30am Bible Study 6:15-8 pm Food Bank 6:30pm Quench Youth group (Youth Room) 7:30 pm AA: YANA 302/303 5:30-8:30pm Choirs*	10am Spirited Women TOLR		

*Choir Schedule:

5:30pm Youth Choir Rehearsal (303-304)

6:30pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal (TOLR)

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)





Seattle, WA 98103

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