



# Lamplighter Weekly

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 29, 2020

**Spanaway Lutheran Church**

16001 A St. South – PO Box 1300

Spanaway, WA 98387

(253) 531-7000

office@spanawaylutheran.org

## During These Troubled Times



*A note  
from the pastor*

*25 Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 ... but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25*

Monday evening Governor Inslee officially decreed that all people in Washington State not performing essential functions should shelter in our homes. The suggestion that we shelter in our homes sounds non-threatening, innocuous, almost vacation like, but in reality most people will find themselves isolated, and away from their support network of friends, neighbors and colleagues. Living in imposed isolation during uncertain times provides a fertile environment in which doubt, anxiety, and depression can take hold.

The best way to prevent too much time by ourselves from leading to cycles of emotional distress involves maintaining regular human contact with people from outside our circumstances. The letter to the Hebrews instructs the faithful in the first generation of believers to encourage one another, even provoke each other to good deeds. The intent is to provide a hope and purpose believers as they awaited liberation from the imprisonment in this sinful world at Jesus' return.

Their circumstances being not so very different from ours at the moment, it seems that the same course of action prescribed for them in Hebrews would be an appropriate course for all of us in the present crisis. The council is of a mind that during this time we should set up an intentional phone network so that we can check on each other, encourage one another, and remind ourselves that we are neither alone, not lacking purpose in these unusual days. Members of the Church Council are willing to take a lead role in contacting members of the congregation regularly, but you may also discern that this is something you would also wish to participate in. Envision this as

an opportunity to become better acquainted with members of the congregation you may not know well. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact the church office (253-531-7000) and let Stefanie know you would like to participate.

If you are opposed to being contacted by another member of the congregation, we would also like to have that information, so that your wishes can be honored. I envision the calls to be brief check-ins, occasionally spreading important information, and ways of encouraging and fostering new bonds of friendship and support within the Spanaway Lutheran family.

Once we set the parameters of this shepherding ministry in place, all those who have expressed an interest in participating will be contacted, and provided with a group of members to contact regularly, and the basic guidelines and expectations for sharing in this work.

I will also be reaching out to members by phone for all the same reasons, but I encourage your participation, because there can never be too much of a good thing. *“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ... encouraging one another.”*

Peace,  
*Pastor Schier-Hanson*

*Should any need arise, please feel free to call me on my cell phone (253-365-1757).*

## Food for Families

April Serving Dates are Apr. 12 & 26



## Hours of Operation

Church Office M – F closed

Preschool closed

BASE M – F 5:30am – 6:00pm

# March Birthdays

Ealane Wollin	March 2
Angela Rivera	March 2
Jeris Ockfen	March 3
Jeannette Frieson	March 4
Kevin Shearer	March 4
Tim Drewes	March 6
Jennifer Newman	March 11
Marlys Nessel	March 12
Jenna Frieson	March 15
Iver Eliason	March 16
Marlys McDowell	March 16
Suzanne Gayda	March 16
Cheryl Drewes	March 17
Genevieve Hovey	March 20
Carrol Shearer	March 22
Dennis Sanborn	March 22
Tyler Montague	March 23
Diane Kraus	March 26
Britt McCracken	March 27
Frank Wise	March 28
Sharon Vormestrand	March 28
Taylor Pedersen	March 29

*There will be NO birthday luncheon this month!*

## Readings for March 29, 2020

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*The dry bones of Israel brought to life*

**Psalms 130**

*I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)*

**Romans 8:6-11**

*Life in the Spirit*

**John 11:1-45**

*Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus*

**We have cancelled this year's Easter flower order as it is unclear if we can hold our Easter Service in the sanctuary this year.**

**All monies will get refunded via check, unless otherwise instructed.**

## +++COVID-19 UPDATE+++

### How it affects us here at Spanaway Lutheran Church!

BASE remains open and operates on full days now that schools are shut down.

Food Bank operates Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 2pm until mandated otherwise.

Food for Families operates 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11:15am until mandated otherwise.

Outside Groups have been suspended until further notice.

Church Activities have been suspended until further notice, this includes all committee meetings, office volunteers, rehearsals etc.

The Church Office will remain closed but will be available by phone and/or email Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Pastor, Council and Worship & Music are working on providing some form of worship community for future Sundays. In the meantime, we will email you our weekly bulletins, modified Lamplighters and Pastor's sermons. All documents will also be posted on our website no later than Monday.

Stay well!

Peace,  
Stefanie



*We are praying for...*

<i>Kim Cleveland</i>	<i>sister of Angela Aponte</i>	<i>lung cancer, MS, in stable condition</i>
<i>Dave Percy</i>	<i>friend of many at SLC</i>	<i>Parkinsons</i>
<i>Lenville Sutherland</i>	<i>friend of Laurie Howe</i>	<i>healing and strength</i>
<i>Angie Rivera</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>cancer</i>
<i>Justin &amp; Adri Wright Osborn</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>strength and resolution</i>
<i>Glen Ruediger</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>healing and death of brother</i>
<i>Kathy Olsen</i>	<i>our BASE Director</i>	<i>insomnia and pain due to pulled groin, receiving physical therapy</i>
<i>Richard Olsen</i>	<i>father of Kathy Olsen</i>	<i>health issues</i>
<i>Michael Luberts</i>	<i>congregation member</i>	<i>recovering from heart problems</i>
<i>David Yu</i>	<i>regular visitor</i>	<i>diabetes</i>
<i>Natalie Yu</i>	<i>regular visitor</i>	<i>Safe delivery of her baby</i>
<i>Rose Raben</i>		<i>unknown</i>

*Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.*

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## Stewardship Options While Sheltering at Home

As a result of the corona virus we have all now been asked to shelter in our homes until further notice. That obviously makes gathering for worship impossible for the foreseeable future, as has been the case for the last two Sundays. Even so, the work of the congregation goes on as Stefanie, Cheryl and Pastor pioneer new forms for providing worship online; as SLC's BASE childcare continues to care for the children of essential workers; and as the food ministries of the congregation and Spanaway Food Bank continue uninterrupted. Even as the world seems to have ground to a halt, the bills and obligations of the congregation continue on as before.

Unfortunately, our normal patterns for giving offering have been interrupted by the suspension of Sunday worship. The council has a few suggestions on how we might continue to make our offering to the work of the Church during these unusual times. Please consider using one of the following options for making your offering as we await returning to gather together as the Body of Christ in person:

1. Mail your offering to Spanaway Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 1300, Spanaway, WA 98387.
2. Contact your bank and have your offering automatically sent as a regular weekly or monthly check; this option involves no additional fees, needs to be done only once, and can be cancelled at any time.
3. Electronic giving through a Website Donate button we are developing; cost is typically \$ .30 per transaction plus 1% of the amount – 2.7% if a credit card is used;

In order to assist members of the congregations, in the next week or so you will receive a mailing from the church with offering envelopes and/or mailing labels along with offering designation slips. To make the best use of congregational funds, your quarterly giving statement will also be included in the mailing. In addition we will provide instruction from major financial institutions on how to set up automatic giving through your bank or savings and loan. The "Donate" button may take a week or two.

The Church Council thanks you for your faithfulness in supporting the work of the Church.

# Spanaway Lutheran Church

(253) 531-7000

[www.spanawaylutheran.org](http://www.spanawaylutheran.org)

## Contacts:

### **Pastor**

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## Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9 am to 3 pm

### Office is closed on:

New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Easter Monday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

