



The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 16, 2018



PASTOR: The Rev. Eric Hullstrom

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9 am at the Meridian Habitat & Community Center
(Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study available during the school year)

14422 Meridian East Puyallup, WA 98374

LWLC Office: 11707 101st Ave E, Bldg B 253-445-4292 Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm, M-F

Mailing address: PO Box 732005 Puyallup, WA 98373

www.LivingWordLutheranChurch.com

Mission Statement: "We, God's people of Living Word Lutheran Church, grounded in Holy Scripture, are called to follow and share the inspired Word of God in Christ, to live as faithful and obedient servants, reaching out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ."

Motto: "Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Word Alone."

Affiliated with LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission For Christ)

ANNOUNCEMENTS /September 16-22, 2018

This week's activities:

Sunday	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am	Worship Service Coffee Hour Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School
Tuesday	6:30 pm	LWLC Board at the LWLC Office
Wednesday	8:00 am	LWLC Prayer for Guidance at the LWLC Office
Thursday	10:30 am 7:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study at the LWLC Office Choir Practice at the LWLC Office

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Jerry and Jan Halverson
in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary!**

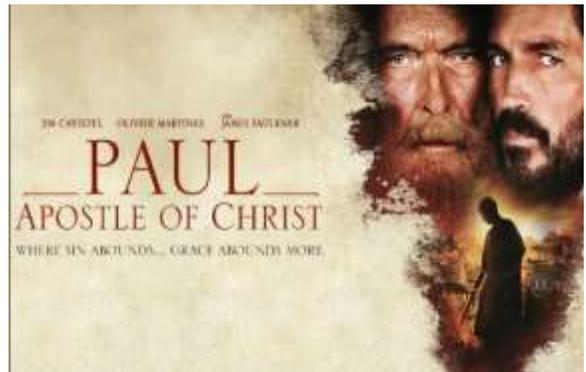
Today's Worship Assistants

Set up/Tear Down (Team 1)- Bill Zavadil, Andy Anderson, Skip Whelan, Dennis Krumwiede, Rick Fields, Larry Vollmer, Alex Burdick, Gary Heintz; **Ushers**- Ron Johnson, Kaye Sims; **Acolyte**- Kailan Burdick; **Lector**- Al Luberts;
Communion Set-up/takedown- Valerie Claiborne, Ardis Kilber; **Communion Assistants**- Tom & Denise Alvord, Carole Williams-Wood; **Comm. Bread**- Gayla Fenimore; **Tellers** – Linda Kupka, Judy Krumwiede; **Coffee Hour**-Sharon Johnson, Sharlene Parker; **Altar Setup/Take Down**-Mary Vollmer, Lorraine Stargel; **Sound System**-Alex Burdick;
Parking Lot Duty-Owen Loshbough, **Julian Estates**-Tony and Linda Deas

Next week's Scriptures:

Psalm 54 James 4:1-12
Preaching text Philippians 1:12-18

The president of the board has called a special congregational meeting to take place immediately after the service on September 23, 2018 . The sole purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and vote by paper ballot on whether to change the time of the Sunday service to 9:30 a.m.



Movie Night at the Church office

Movie: Paul, An Apostle of Christ (2018)

In Paul, Apostle of Christ, Luke risks his life to visit Paul, who is held captive in a Roman prison under Nero's rule. Together, they struggle against a determined emperor and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spread their message to the world.

When: Tuesday, Sep 25 Time: 6:30 pm

Soda, Juice and popcorn will be served! Bring family and friends.

Please silence all electronic devices, including cell phones, upon entering the sanctuary.

Living Word Lutheran Church
Order for Worship

When you hear the bell, please be seated for the announcements.

Announcements

Please sign the attendance register and pass it down the row.

***Our worship begins with the prelude as we enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Let us give thanks to him and bless his holy name!***

Prelude

Opening Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

LBW #518

We Worship with Confession.

Pastor: Remembering our baptism into Christ Jesus, we gather as we are to live – in the name of the Father, and of the (†) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for personal reflection and self-examination.

P (facing altar which symbolizes God’s presence): *Most Merciful God...*

C: have mercy on us. We confess to You that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted You with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In Your compassion forgive our sin and uphold us by Your Spirit that we may live and serve You in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

P: (facing the congregation declares God’s grace): With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

We are sent to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19). We begin by sharing the peace of the LORD with one another.

We Worship with the Setting from “Now the Feast and Celebration”

Now the Feast and Celebration, by Marty Haugen. © 1990 by GIA Publications, Inc. ARR. Reprinted under onelicense.net # A-717731

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie

Cantor: In peace, in peace, Let us pray to the...
C: ***LORD, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, LORD have mercy.***

Cantor: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all let us pray to the. . .

C: ***LORD, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, LORD have mercy.***

Cantor: For Your people here, who have come to give You praise, for the strength to live Your Word, let us pray to the. . .

C: ***LORD, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, LORD have mercy.***

Cantors: Help, save and defend us, O God.

C: ***Amen.***

Now the Feast*Refrain:*

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom:
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. **Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. (Refrain)**

2. **Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ, forever. (Refrain)**

3. **For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new. (Refrain)**

P: *The LORD be with you.*

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (we pray together):

Holy God, through Your grace You have called us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Through Your Holy Spirit You empower us to serve in Your kingdom. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You knit us together as a holy Church. May we, together, work to advance the Gospel; lifting one another up and bearing one another's burdens. To You be the glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Worship by Reading God's Word

This lesson is from the Prophet Isaiah, the 50th chapter (ESV)

Thus says the LORD:

"Where is your mother's certificate of divorce,
with which I sent her away?
Or which of my creditors is it
to whom I have sold you?

Behold, for your iniquities you were sold,
and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

²Why, when I came, was there no man;
why, when I called, was there no one to answer?
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem?

Or have I no power to deliver?

Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea,
I make the rivers a desert;
their fish stink for lack of water
and die of thirst.

³I clothe the heavens with blackness
and make sackcloth their covering."⁴The Lord GOD has given
me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to
sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me. ⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

(Here ends this reading)

This reading is from the Book of Psalms, the 116th Psalm. (ESV)

(to be read responsively)

Reader: I love the LORD, because he has heard

Congregation: my voice and my pleas for mercy.

R: ²Because he inclined his ear to me,

C: therefore, I will call on him as long as I live.

R: ³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

C: I suffered distress and anguish.

R: ⁴Then I called on the name of the LORD:

C: O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

R: ⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;

C: our God is merciful.

R: ⁶The LORD preserves the simple;

C: when I was brought low, he saved me.

R: ⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest;

C: for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

R: ⁸For you have delivered my soul from death,

C: my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

R: ⁹I will walk before the LORD

C: in the land of the living

This lesson is from the Letter of James, the 3rd chapter. (ESV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the

entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

(Here ends this reading.)

Hymn of the Day

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

LBW#370

The preaching text is from the book of Philippians, the 1st chapter. (ESV)

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my

witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

(Here ends this reading.)

We Worship by Confessing Our Faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

Pastor Eric Hullstrom

We Worship in Thanksgiving by Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

The offering is received.

The congregation stands as the ushers bring the offering forward.

As the Grains Of Wheat

Refrain:

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all Your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in You.

1. **As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of Your love. (Refrain)**
2. **Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with You. (Refrain)**

We pray together the offering prayer: P: Merciful God, **C: everything in heaven and earth belongs to You. We joyfully release what You have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to You, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church (Each petition ends with "LORD, in Your mercy"; the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer".)

We Worship by Receiving Our LORD in His Holy Meal

The Great Thanksgiving (Spoken):

P: *The LORD be with you.*

P: *Lift up your hearts.*

P: *Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.*

C: And also with you.

C: We lift them to the LORD.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and delight... (*Here the minister continues with the preface:*)

Holy, holy, holy are You, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in Your name.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

The Words of Institution & The LORD's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion: Lutherans believe the LORD's Supper is a holy sacrament in which Christ comes to us with His grace, love, compassion, and forgiveness. The crucified and risen Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine – He promises: "This is my body... This is my blood". Therefore, the Apostle Paul says we should examine ourselves lest we eat or drink in an unworthy manner (1 Cor. 11:27ff.). Martin Luther wrote, "Anyone who does not believe these words ('this is My body given for you... this is My blood shed for you. '), is neither prepared nor worthy; for the words, 'FOR YOU' requires simply a believing heart." Therefore, all (including children who have received instruction) who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD and who see His presence in the sacrament are welcome to commune with us.

As you come forward for communion, you are invited to dip your fingers in the water of the baptismal font and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead as a reminder of Christ's claim upon you through your baptism.
(For those with gluten allergies, we now have gluten-free wafers available for Communion on the Baptismal Font.)

Lamb of God

1. **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**
2. **Lamb of God, You break the chains of hatred and fear: have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**
3. **Lamb of God, You are the way of justice and peace: have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**
4. **Lamb of God, You are the way of mercy and love: have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**
5. **Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Communion Hymns:

FREELY, FREELY

1 God for-gave my sin in Je - sus' name; I've been born a - gain in
2 All pow'r is giv'n in Je - sus' name, In Earth and Heav'n in
Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name, I come to you To share His
Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name, I come to you To share His
love as He told me to. He said, "Free - ly, free - ly you have re-ceived;
pow'r as He told me to. He said, "Free - ly, free - ly you have re-ceived;
Free - ly, free - ly give. Go in My name, and be -
cause you be - lieve, Oth - ers will know that I live."

Words and Music by Carol Owens ©1972 Lexicon Music

FEED US NOW

1. Feed us now, Bread of life, In this ho - ly meal;
 2. Piece of bread, glass of wine: Lord, this food is good!
 3. God is here, O so near; Near - er than our thoughts.

Let us know your love a - new; We hun - ger _ for you.
 Love and mer - cy come to us; Your prom - ise _ we trust.
 Stay with us where - 'er we go; Lord, help us _ to grow.

Feed us now, Bread of life, Come and live with - in;
 Piece of bread, glass of wine; Who can un - der - stand
 God is here, O so near, In this heav - en's meal.

Let your peace be ours to - day, Lord Je - sus, we pray.
 How His mer - cy works in these? Yet, Lord, we be - lieve.
 May we al - ways feed on you - On the bread that is true.

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Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No
 2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing he
 3. His - Word shall not fail you— he prom - ised; be -

light in the dark - ness you see? There's light for a
 passed, and we fol - low him there; o - ver us sin no
 lieve him, and all will be well: then go to a

look at the Sav - ior, and life more a - bun - dant and free!
 more hath do - min - ion— for more than conqu'rors we are!
 world that is dy - ing, his per - fect sal - va - tion to tell!

REFRAIN

Turn your eyes upon Je - sus, look full in his won - der - ful
 face; and the things of earth will grow strange - ly
 dim in the light of his glo - ry and grace.

P: May the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ and the gifts of His body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle

*Praise to You, O God of mercy,
Thanks be to You forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
Thanks be to You forever!*

*From of old You loved and sought us,
Thanks be to You forever!
Truth and justice You have taught us:
Thanks be to You forever!*

*Strong is Your faithfulness,
Strong is Your love, rememb'ring
Your covenant of life with us.*

*Praise to You, O God of mercy,
Thanks be to You forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
Thanks be to You forever,
Thanks be to You forever!*

The Post Communion Prayer

C: Amen.

The Benediction (Pastor)

The congregation sings the **3-fold "Amen"**

On Our Way Rejoicing!

Closing Hymn

"Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

Verse 1

*Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing -You are my own.*

Verse 2

*Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.*

Verse 3

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.*

Verse 4

*I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace*

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We Worship By How We Live During the Week

P: Go in peace; serve the LORD! **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Musician: Mary Kaye Owen Choir Director: Dan Owen

Liturgical portions of this service reprinted from Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-717731

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!

If you are a visitor coffee hour will follow the worship service. Please join us.

Next week's (Sep 23rd) Worship Assistants

Set up/Tear Down (Team 2)- Al Auge, Ron Heilman, Gary Gjerstad, Joe Burdick, Jim Gronhovd, Daryl Olson, Ron Johnson
Larry Vollmer; **Ushers**- Don & Carol Brennan; **Acolyte**- Viviana Vashchenko; **Lector**- Kailan Burdick;
Communion Set-up/takedown- Nancy Martin, Lorraine Stargel; **Communion Assistants**- Al Auge, Lorraine Stargel, Carole
Williams-Wood; **Comm. Bread**- Gayla Fenimore; **Tellers** – Bob Martin, Al Auge; **Coffee Hour**-Clarice Liemohn, Judy Ostendorf;
Flowers-NO ONE SIGNED UP; **Altar Setup/Take Down**-Yvonne Olson, Sue Fields **Sound System**-Ron Heilman;
Parking Lot Duty-Al Auge, **Julian Estates**-Mike & Gayla Fenimore

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2Chronicles 7:14

Prayers for those who are serving our country (military, firefighters & police) and their families and keep them safe: Josh Jepsen, Chase, Seth Hearld, Powell, Evan Gregory Blodgett, Ken Solbrack, Michael Elliott, Chris Berentson, Cole Lufkin (Gjerstad's grandson), Brady Woodman (Relma Burmeister's grandson), Devlin Durkin; Curtis & Riley McKenzie, Jacob Ramsey (Fenimore's grandson), Richy (Larry and Mary Vollmer's grandson); **Keith Sandlier** (Irene Feller's great grandson). *Our prayers for all those in harm's way are urgently needed during this time of turmoil and strife in this country.*

Prayers for those who have recently lost a loved one -Pray for God's peace and comfort for the family of **Lee Swanson** (Morgan Olson's sister) on her passing.

Prayers for those with cancer or long-term illness. Roger (Gary Gjerstad's brother), Dixie (Sharlene Parker's sister). *Don Minnick* (Harold & Clarice Liemohn), *Bob Lungberg* (Bob & Nancy Martin), *Aunt Glenda* (Lorraine Stargel), *Cousin Sandy* (Lorraine Stargel), *Snookie Pankrantz*, *Taressa* (Dennis & Judy Krumwiede's daughter-in-law). *Tony Horne* (Bob Martin & Hal Martin), *Robert Hawthorne* (Jim & Mei Barker), *Wanee* (Sharlene Parker), *Mary Anne Horiskey* (Bonnie DeBord), *Suzy Davison* (Darlene Lubert) friend of Harold and Clarice Liemohn, *Pastor George Larson and his wife Norma*, *Dave & Judy's Ostendorf's daughter-in-law*. Pray for a health miracle and healing for **baby Eli** and comfort and strength for **his parents** (Jim & Sue Gronhovd). **Rich Bogle, (cousin's husband)** (Sharon Edwards) who is back on radiation chemotherapy after finding more cancer. 5-year-old **Lucas Bride** (Heidi Sturdivant) fighting brain cancer and prayers for strength, comfort in God's hands for his family.

Prayers for healing and strength for those with health concerns and those facing or recovering from surgery. **Thommy**, son of Dan and Mary Kaye Owen, who is suffering with various health issues. Prayers for **son Dave** (Morgan & Yvonne Olson) dealing with a severe leg wound. Prayers for **Dave** (Jim & Sue Gronhovd) for doctor's discernment, healing, strength after a motorcycle accident. Prayers for granddaughter **Annie** (Harold & Clarice Liemohn) with viral meningitis, pray for healing and relief from severe back pain and headaches. Prayers for **Howard Schmidt** (Dick Schmidt's father) whose health is poor. Prayers for **Tom's mother** (Tom Groce) who is recovering from a car accident, pray for healing, comfort and strength. **Brian Feller** (Irene Feller's grandson), pray for healing and strength after a beating. **Ron & Sharon Johnson's son & daughter in law** 's pregnancy is in crisis with inadequate blood flow to baby. Protect baby, peace for family, doctor's discernment on treatment.

Prayers. Safe travels to all the travelers in our congregation.

The Difference between Heaven and Hell

A man spoke with the Lord about heaven and hell. The Lord said to the man "come, I will show you hell." They entered a room where a group of hungry people sat around a huge pot of cooking stew. Everyone in the room was starving. Each person held a spoon that reached the pot, but each spoon had a handle so much longer than their own arms that it could not be used to get the stew into their own mouths. The suffering was terrible. "Come now, I will show you heaven" the Lord said.

They entered a room identical to the first, the big pot of stew, the group of people and the same long-handled spoons. But here everyone was happy and well nourished. "I don't understand" said the man. "Why is everyone happy here and miserable in the other room? Everything is the same."

"Here, said the Lord, they have learned to SERVE each other."

Addendum — Galatians 5:13-14 (NKJ) "For you brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love SERVE one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Author Unknown

Welcome New Members



Bonnie DeBord

12321 107th Ave. St. E. Apt. C-4
Puyallup, WA 98374
253.640.2882

Bonnie was born in Bremerton and grew up in Port Orchard. She managed a restaurant before becoming a caregiver for mentally disabled patients. Bonnie has endured considerable personal tragedy: her husband died of swine flu effects in 2009, her eldest of three sons died at 26, and she has had to overcome physical trauma from an accident and an assault by a patient. Bonnie has two living sons and nine grandchildren.

Faith Journey

Bonnie was born and raised Catholic, but she had not been practicing when her son, Jeff, “made it his mission” to bring her to Living Word. His insistence paid off and Sundays she accompanies Jeff, Sarah and their family to worship. “I am pleased to be able to express faith and celebrate with the congregation,” Bonnie says. She notes that because she works the night shift as a caregiver and must sleep during the day, she is unable at this time to participate in other church activities.

Al and Darlene Luberts

3305 94th Ave. E. #225 (Julian Estates)
Puyallup, WA 98373
Al: 253.777.6707
Darlene: 253.777.6868

Darlene was born in Kellogg, Idaho, and came west with her family as a young girl. In junior high school she met Al while both played in the school band. They graduated Renton High School together, but not as a couple. When her first marriage ended, Darlene found employment managing a franchise restaurant. Later, she obtained certification to work in mental health care. In the latter work, she unfortunately seriously injured her back and neck, hence her mobility difficulties. Darlene has four children and four grandchildren.

Al was born in San Diego, California, while his father was in the US Navy. After graduating Renton High School, Al joined the US Army as a band member playing the saxophone. After several years, he left the Army band, returned to college and became a computer programmer. He also rejoined the Army from which he retired as a reservist. Along the way he became an accountant and tax preparer, a service he continues to offer. Al has three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Faith Journey

Darlene was raised in a German-descended family of staunch Lutherans. Active in various Lutheran synodical churches, she has taught Sunday School, led Bible study and engaged in visitations. She and Al had grown dissatisfied with their previous congregation and having moved to Julian Estates, drew up a list of Lutheran churches they intended to visit. After experiencing the worship service conducted by Living Word members at Julian Estates, they attended our church first. As Darlene relates: “When I walked into Living Word, I felt like God was lifting me up. The Holy Spirit is all over this church.” She especially enjoys the men cantors.

Al was raised in the Catholic faith but had not been active in the church when he reconnected with Darlene when their class was preparing for their 45th high school graduation reunion. Discovering each other brought the two to the marriage altar 12 years ago. Darlene immediately “converted” Al, who performed many functions in their previous Lutheran congregations: treasurer, lector, cantor, call committee member, and choir and hand bell member. He says of Living Word: “It only took one visit to know where I wanted to be.” Al will become a lector and choir member at Living Word, and he and Darlene are convening a Friday morning Bible study at Julian Estates that will be open to the congregation.