

**"God's work. Our hands."**  
Sunday



# KENT LUTHERAN QUARTERLY

SEPT-OCT-NOV  
2023



**"God's work. Our hands."** Sunday



September 10, 2023

KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LIVES AND CELEBRATES THE ACCEPTING LOVE OF CHRIST

## OUR VISION

KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A CHRIST-CENTERED SACRED PLACE  
FOR SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT.  
KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A RIC (RECONCILING IN CHRIST) CONGREGATION.

# SOME THINGS OF NOTE



**Check out the NEW Kent Lutheran Church Website!**

**[www.kentlutheran.org](http://www.kentlutheran.org)**

## JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW

On the website there is a Facebook “f” at the bottom of each page. For those of you who don't know this, that “f” is called a social media widget. You can click on it and it will take you to the Kent Lutheran Facebook page where you will see all the current happenings we're planning at the church.

We have changed our behavior a little to keep the new website from being out of date which means all current events will be posted on Facebook (use the widget!)

You can also access the calendar from the website for current events. It's on the HOME page

You can also keep up with the current events at the church by looking at the announcement pages

which come in your email and are distributed in hard copy at church every Sunday.



Here are some links to places you might like to visit:

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

<https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/57804657/month>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/KentLutheran/>

# INTRODUCING PASTOR TORMOD SVENSSON

Thanks for your prayers as the Call Committee went through this process. We were looking for a candidate who would match with our congregational personality and downtown Kent focus and also move with us into the future. And we don't know what the future will bring. We, as your Call Committee, feel Pastor Tormod will walk that path with us.

What have we learned about Pastor Tormod?

In Pastor Tormod's Rostered Minister Profile, he said: "As a well-educated, experienced leader who has strong administrative and relationship building skills, a passion for mission, outreach, community building, social justice and stewardship, I feel called to bring such gifts to serve faith communities seeking a creative and transformational approach to ministry, to faithfully share God's unconditional, never-ending grace in their context." We see Pastor Tormod as an excellent match for Kent Lutheran Church.

Pastor Tormod was born and raised in Norway and speaks fluent Norwegian as well as English. Owning his own plumbing business, he always felt a deep calling to serve God and was active in his church serving on committees, church council, and volunteer activities.

As an ordained pastor, he found that the administrative and organizational skills he developed operating his own business were very helpful in his church responsibilities. Pastor Tormod has a Doctor of Ministry in Missions and Missiology. He has served congregations as pastor, re-development pastor, interim pastor, transitional pastor, and mission developer, building strong congregations, community service, youth programs, and outreach.

*Why is he a good match for KLC?*

When we gathered small groups to survey the congregation last November, we heard time and again about the pride we have in being part of the Kent community, particularly downtown Kent. We're proud of our community connections and our welcome of the diverse members of our community. We see ourselves as welcoming and accepting of people as they are.

Pastor Tormod in his Rostered Minister Profile talks about helping the church connect with the community by seeking to build loving, trusting relationships within, as well as with people in the community.

- To help equip people to be intentional in building genuine relationships.

- To be a visionary and mentor walking with people and congregations on their faith journeys, aiding them in growing in their relationship with God, their relationships within their faith community and their relationships with people in the community outside the church walls, as well as building ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

- To help faith communities to seek to discover where God might lead them, listening for the leading of God's Holy Spirit, applying creative and "out of the box" way of thinking about how to help connect God's love to all people.

Pastor Tormod has been active and visible in his community, having built many connections with community leaders, clergy and a variety of civic and charitable organizations, seeking to network in ways that are beneficial and helpful. He would like to see congregations move more faithfully into the world in ways that will be attractive to the un-churched and de-churched especially as we focus on connecting with and empowering youth and young adults, as well as people from cultures outside what has traditionally been seen as "Lutheran".

He has ministry experience to faithfully help lead the church into the future. To seek out innovative and creative ways to faithfully be the church in a rapidly changing world. Ministry is highly contextual and it is important for the pastor and congregation to stay connected to the larger community in life-giving and meaningful ways. He describes healthy ministry as relational, communal, Spirit-led and transformational. Healthy ministry is also teamwork, where we seek to encourage one another and build one another up, so we can work together for the greater good, seeking to empower all to use their abilities and gifts to make the world a better place.

As we have come to know him better, the Call Committee believes his Rostered Minister Profile is a good reflection of who he is and where he can lead Kent Lutheran.

You may find out more about Pastor Tormod on his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/tormod.svensson>

# GREETINGS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU FROM YOUR MISSION SUPPORT TEAM

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

**When I needed the LORD, I looked for Him; I called out to Him, and He heard me and responded. He came and rescued me from everything that made me so afraid.**

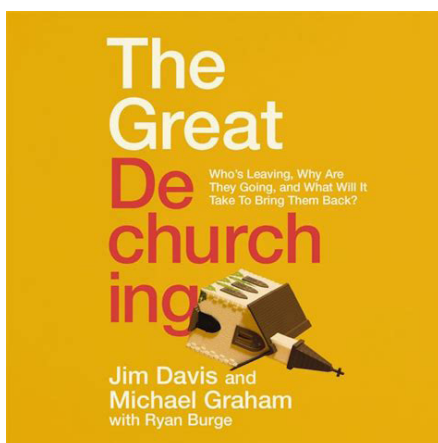
**Psalm 34:4**

Romans 8

<sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

When we, your Mission Support team, decided to use the theme "For Such A Time As This" about a year and a half ago, we hoped it would help us all focus on our present situation. Things seem to have settled to some extent, and we have been seeking what the consensus is among observers and scholars. At least we can listen carefully for some thoughts we can relate to or identify with.



There is a relatively new term in the parlance we have been looking at, and that is the concept of people becoming "dechurched". Part of our effort will be to read and discuss a book

titled "*The Great Dechurching*" by sociologists Dr. Ryan Burge and Dr. Paul Djupe. It is the first deep dive into the dechurched phenomenon and studies demographics, size, core concerns, church off-ramps, historical roots, and the gravity of what is at stake. We will take the dive, and then re-surface to tell you what we find.

We recently read an article in the Wall Street Journal where the drop-off in church attendance is very similar to a workplace phenomenon called "quiet quitting". During the COVID pandemic many workers found they could basically refuse to let work worries rule over them the way they used to. This is seen in the decline in church attendance particularly among people in their 40's and 50's. They identify with a religion but are raising kids, they are caregivers for parents and they may have jobs that spill into the weekend, thus free time is a premium concept. One interesting quote comes from a man who commented on the "quiet quitting" phrase saying "The most interesting part about it is nothing's changed." He just doesn't stress about demands on his time.

Let's each of us pray for personal peace and a future we will welcome. Amen

Your Mission Support Team

Clayton Anderson, Mike Ironside, Rick Vandermay



## PARTNERING WITH DON'S PLACE

## 2023 GIVING TREE

I visited one of the managers of Don's Place last week. They have about half of the toiletries left from our previous donation. It still looks like November 1st, will be a good time to deliver the second donation. They are more than grateful for the generosity of KLC. Their numbers have not increased significantly, but looking forward to making Don's Place a temporary housing for the unsheltered for more individuals in the near future. We will begin to ask for donations via the announcements in Mid-September.

mid-December.

More information will be provided as we get closer to the event.

If you have questions, please talk to a Social Concerns committee member: Mona Lee, Lanny Gleason, Rick Vandermay and Kathy Nixon

This has been an annual event for many years and is very much appreciated by the families and children in the program. We would not be able to do this without the support of the congregation.

\*ECEAP stands for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. It is Washington's pre-kindergarten program that prepares 3 and 4 year-old children from families furthest from opportunity for success in school and in life. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) oversees the program. ECEAP pre-kindergarten classes are held in Kent Lutheran's education building.

**2023 Giving Tree:** This year we will be collecting Christmas gifts for the ECEAP\* children. At the beginning of December there will be a tree in the narthex with gift tags which has the name of a child and gift ideas provided by the child's parent. There are usually about 40 ECEAP children so your support is appreciated. Gifts will need to be returned



Social Concerns put a little different twist on the event this year. There weren't any sign-up sheets for various projects throughout the community. We wanted to make it more personal than last year. So, we came up with the "Hands" project. There were yellow hands with ideas on what to do for your community or neighbor; there were hands with nothing written on them for people to come up with their own ideas, and there were pink hands for people who needed to have something done for them. It was a unique idea, and well received. We also asked the congregation to take pictures of them doing their project which we will then post on the Web Site.

We will keep you posted on the outcome of this new twist on God's Work, Our Hands.



# NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

## Outreach Committee

International Dinners will be continuing once a month on Wednesdays. All are invited to come, bring your friends, neighbors, relatives, and strangers if you wish. Here is the upcoming schedule:



September 13th. 5:30pm  
**The Harp Bar & Restaurant**  
24437 Russell Rd, Unit 117, Kent, WA  
Irish cuisine

October 18th 5:30pm  
**Cát Sang**  
20512 108th Ave SE, Kent, WA  
Vietnamese cuisine



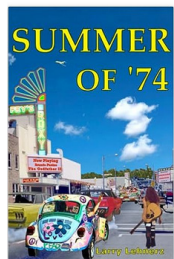
November 8th 5:30pm  
**Antigua Guatemala Restaurant**  
120 Washington Ave N, Kent, WA  
Guatemala cuisine

**Did you know that we have two, yes 2, published authors in our congregation?**

Now you have a chance to come hear them read from their novels.

On October 15th and November 12th after church, grab some goodies and coffee, then come to the old library room off the kitchen, we will start at 11:00am.

Irma Fritz will be reading from her latest novel on October 15: "When There Was No Moon"



Larry Lehnerz will be reading from his first novel on November 12: "Summer of 1974".

More details about the authors and their novels will be provided in the announcement pages.

All are welcome, so invite family and friends too

**Mark your calendar to join the Outreach Team going to Wolf Haven** (a sanctuary for wolfs). Sunday, September 24th. Reservation is at 1:30 maximum participants is 20. If we have 10 participants we get reduced entrance fee of \$10.00 instead of \$20.00/person.

We can car pool or just meet there at 1:15pm. Here is the information:

Wolf Haven  
1113 Offut Lake Road  
Tenino, Wa 98589

[Info@wolfhaven.org](mailto:Info@wolfhaven.org)

Please let Janice know if you are planning on coming,

[jhelgeson43@gmail.com](mailto:jhelgeson43@gmail.com)

206-491-3659 leave a message if I don't pick up.

Thanks, Outreach Team.



SAVE THE DATE FOR:

KENT YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

AUCTION:

THE 2023 ONE THING EXPERIENCE ON  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

6:00 PM

RENTON PAVILION

TICKETS ARE \$125 EACH TO SIT AT A TABLE FOR 8 PEOPLE FROM KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH.

SEND PAYMENT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE MARKING IT FOR THE **KYFS** AUCTION AND LET JODY KNOW YOU ARE ATTENDING THE AUCTION

CONTACT JANICE HELGESON IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RESERVING YOUR SPOT: 206-491-3659

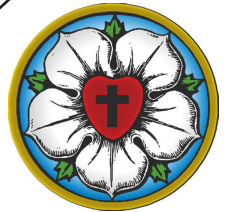
[jhelgeson43@gmail.com](mailto:jhelgeson43@gmail.com)

## GOD-GIVEN GUIDANCE

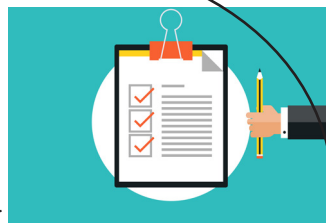
As we slip from summer to fall, we feel the need for greater energy to meet the changes/challenges before us. September begins with a call to action: "God's Work, Our Hands", an appeal to Lutherans all across this nation". KLC joined the movement nearly a decade ago. It has been a natural fit for KLC. Throughout this newsletter, you will read of opportunities to participate in special projects and/or work of KLC's standing committees.



The Fall worship theme, "God-given Guidance", is so appropriate for the time and place in which we find ourselves. We will have opportunity to explore the scriptures and rediscover the concepts that are just as timely today as when they were first given. And some may just surprise you.



If you filled out one of Worship and Music Committee's volunteer forms last month, you have already let us know of your willingness to help. If you did not have a chance to complete one of our surveys, contact the church office and Jody will send one to you. We still need volunteers in several categories. If you have an interest in serving but have never done one of the tasks, we will work beside you to train you. Just ask any member of the Worship and Music Committee.



October ends with Reformation Sunday (October 29 to be exact). Once again, we will celebrate the God-given Guidance that led Martin Luther to the teachings that assure us that we are saved by our faith alone. Raise your voices with ours as we sing some of our favorite songs of faith.

November 5<sup>th</sup> is All Saints Sunday, a time of remembrance of those family members and friends who came before us and have been physically lost to us this past year. We join together in a celebration of their lives and faith. We will light a candle and sound a chime for each of them. The office has begun to compile a list of individuals to be recognized. If you have someone you would like to include, send their name, date of death, and a photo (if you have one to share) to the KLC office any time before Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.



Fall ends with a special service on Christ the King Sunday on November 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a day for us to celebrate and recognize Jesus Christ is truly the ruler of all that we do — above everything and everyone earthly.



In addition to these services, our Worship and Music Committee is looking at upgrading our projection system because it is getting outdated and does not work seamlessly with the rest of our streaming systems. This is not inexpensive, but could significantly enhance our worship experiences.

Yes, Fall will be both a time of change and challenge for KLC. Yet, it is a time of treasured traditions and time-honored festivals that unite us in our faith. We invite you to participate fully and extend the invitation to family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

Worship and Music Committee

Barbara Anderon, Sean Haley, Nicole Hansen, Jody McCaw, and Barbara Strom



Besides the volunteer opportunities, a new paid position is in the offing — that of a Live Stream Production Technician. Proctor McCaw has served in this position since we began live-streaming our services, but his outside work is requiring him to work some Sunday mornings and that activity is only increasing. We are in the process of finalizing a job description for this position, and it will soon be posted. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let the office know.



November 23<sup>rd</sup> is an early Thanksgiving this year. Plans are under way to enhance our special time of gratitude for all the God-given Guidance and gifts we have received. Watch the bulletin for specific information.



## FALL PLANS



It's hard to believe it's back to school season already! And not only are the kids heading back to school during the week, but we have the return of weekly Sunday school at Kent Lutheran! We will be starting short weekly Sunday school lessons on September 17 and these will be offered during the church service. Parents do not need to attend with their children, but you are welcome to attend to help if you think your child will need some extra assistance. We will also be in need of Sunday School teachers. Lesson plans and any activity supplies will be provided for you. If you are willing to help out, please contact Cindi Bentz at [cindihappy@centurylink.net](mailto:cindihappy@centurylink.net).

There will be **two pool parties** coming up in September! Both pool parties will be at Janice Helgeson's lovely heated pool. On **Sunday, September 17 from 2-5, there will be a pool party open to all youth and families.** On **Saturday, September 16, there will be an evening/night pool party for the PAC group** in conjunction with a volunteer activity in the afternoon. These parties are a guaranteed good time, and we are so blessed that Janice is willing to host us!

## FALL PAC EVENT

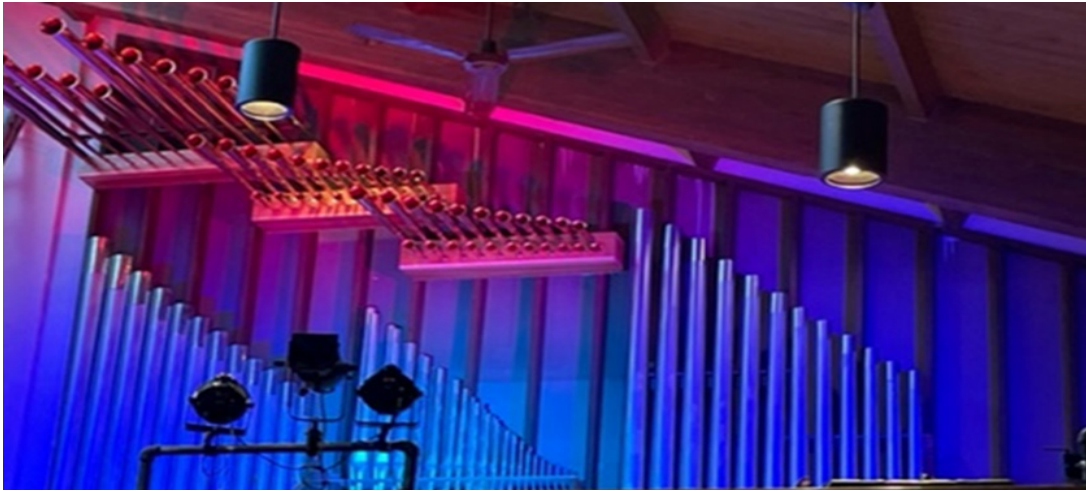
There will be a PAC (Pretty Awesome Cluster - a collection of youth from several area churches) event on Saturday, September 16. Everyone who will be participating will need to register by noon on September 8. The group will be meeting at Kent Lutheran at 12pm (noon) that day and then going to Food Lifeline to volunteer at 1pm before having dinner and heading to Janice's pool for an evening swim. There is a Google forms link with an RSVP form here: [PAC RSVP Form](#). The link to follow to register is in there, in addition to a parent consent form for all participants under 18 years of age.

If you have questions, please contact Michelle at 253.951.6153 or [mccormick1972a@hotmail.com](mailto:mccormick1972a@hotmail.com).





**JOIN OTHER YOUTH FROM PAC TO  
VOLUNTEER AT FOOD LIFELINE FOLLOWED  
BY PIZZA AND A POOL PARTY!  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023  
MEET AT KENT LUTHERAN, 336 2ND AVE S IN  
KENT, AT 12 PM. RSVP TO  
MCCORMICK1972A@HOTMAIL.COM.**

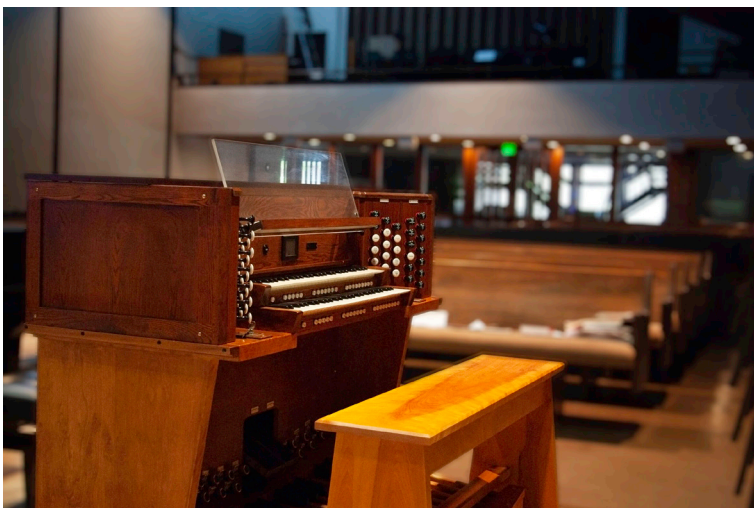


Our worship Liturgy has been greatly enhanced with the music from The Gallery Organ! A foretaste of the richness and majesty when The Kent Grand Organ is completely installed in the chancel. Projected completion is fall of 2024. The final payment on the Kent Grand Organ (due fall 2024) is \$52,848.00. Because of the generosity of KLC members and KGO Board members, as of May 18th we have \$24,520 to raise to complete our contract with Marceau and associates. You are invited to consider a gift to the Kent Grand Organ before the end of the year:

- a gift 'over-and-above' your regular church pledge
- a gift in memory of a family member or a friend
- a gift from your 2023 Required Minimum Distribution
- a gift of appreciated stock

For questions about your giving contact Mike Bentz, KGO Treasurer

Website: [Kent Grand Organ](#)



We have been appreciating each Sunday the wonderful music from The Gallery Organ (with 21 ranks, 1,290 pipes) the gift of Rene Marceau. Music created by the fingers of Organist Sean Haley at the temporary console. The KGO main chancel organ, at fall of 2024 completion, will contain 57 ranks, 3,448 pipes and the principal console. Both organs will total 78 ranks with 4,738 pipes. The Benaroya Hall Opus 114 pipe organ contains 83 ranks and 4,490 pipes.



## Centering Prayer Group A moment for quiet

Our small and welcoming group meets in person and by Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 10am to 11:30am. We talk, pray, and read and discuss a book. We're nearly to the end of *Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott and then we'll start our new book, *Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal*, by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. We'd love for you to join us!

September 9 & 23

October 14 & 28

November 11 & 25

Email: [emilybumpous@comcast.net](mailto:emilybumpous@comcast.net) for the Zoom link.

Emily



## Kent Community Supper News

The Kent Community Supper (Monday Night Supper) continues to serve meals in the Kent Lutheran Fellowship Hall. We serve around 100 people a week. We appreciate our great team of volunteers who cook a hot meal, set up tables and chairs, serve the meal, wash the dishes, clean the tables, put away tables and chairs, clean up the kitchen and Community Hall, haul trash, and pick up outdoors every week.

If you're interested in volunteering, you can work every Monday or choose a week of the month to come. If you have questions or you'd like to volunteer, call **Kent Lutheran office 253-852-2057** and leave a message with your contact information for **Emily Bumpous, Kent Community Supper**.

The Kent Community Supper is located at Kent Lutheran Church and is a 501c3 organization. **Dinner is served in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 5-6pm.**



Adult Ministry is contemplating a new approach for classes this coming fall and is looking for ideas and people who would like to lead a couple classes after service. Maybe something around a story in the bible or a book about a character in that you really like or want to learn more about. You can contact one of us, the Adult Ministry leaders; Lisa Kurth, Nicole Siver, Kristin Kettel, and Ruth Boaz, or you can leave a message with Jody in the Church Office.

## SHORT BUT SWEET (AND WORTH IT TO KNOW)

Tuesday Bible  
Study is on **HOLD**  
until there is a  
pastor to weigh in  
on it.

Love and Thanks from your Office  
Ministries Manager. You all offered  
me prayers and well wishes that  
filled me with the overwhelming  
strength of the Holy Spirit that got  
me through surgery and healing  
with flying colors!  
XO Jody



Mark your calendar to come help prepare and/  
or hand out hot chocolate at the Kent Winterfest  
Tree Lighting & Parade



December 2 @ 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Town Square Park 115 2nd Ave S, Kent

We will be making the hot chocolate in our church kitchen and transporting it to our booth.  
Let the church office or the Outreach team know if you have questions or would like to help.

### CROP Hunger Walk October 1, 2023

You can make a difference in local AND global hunger by walking in our CROP Hunger Walk this year. When you walk in the CROP Hunger Walk, you are raising money to help fight hunger, but you are also walking in solidarity with all of those people around the world who are walking for food, for water and for firewood each day. To sign up to be a Walker or to sponsor, please contact team captain Debbie Hunt or visit the team web page at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/kent-lutheran>.

We have a \$1,500 goal and need your help to get there. The CROP Hunger Walk is truly about us all fighting hunger in many ways throughout the world! Come walk with us!



## KENT DOWNTOWN PARTNERS



# Tickets on sale now

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Raise your glass and join us for an exquisite evening of indulgence at the Sip & Savor Tasting event. We are thrilled to extend an exclusive invitation to you for an unforgettable evening of wine, spirits and cideries, nibbles and delightful company!

### Event Highlights:

- Tasting stations will be located throughout downtown businesses.
- Explore selections that showcases the diverse and rich flavors of the region.
- Live Music: Immerse yourself in the ambiance as live music sets the perfect tone for a summer evening.
- Tax free bottle purchases

This event is more than just a wine tasting; it's an opportunity to help support KDP's work through your ticket and bottle purchases. Proceeds benefit KDP and are directed toward future events and programs. Help us keep them coming!

We look forward to seeing you at the Sip & Savor Tasting event, where every glass tells a story and every moment is a celebration of life's finer pleasures. Cheers to an evening of fun, flavors and shared joys!

June 6, 2023



By [Kathryn Haueisen](#) June 6, 2023 From Living Lutheran

I recently started my search for a new church. It was daunting. I posted about my experience to an ELCA Facebook group and got over 300 responses. It appears the search for a church is an issue for many folks.

As an ELCA pastor, for much of my life I've done the welcoming. I've visited congregations of all sizes, ages and settings. All had this in common: they believed they were friendly. Some were, some not so much.

After I retired, I moved to a new state. I'd forgotten how unsettling it can be to walk into an unfamiliar church for the first time as a visitor. Jesus was big on welcoming the stranger. Sometimes that stranger is the person in the narthex who is looking bewildered. When I moved, I became that person. Perhaps my experiences will help your congregation live up to its perception of itself as a friendly community.

I started my search for a church during Advent. I learned from a website that one close to me was offering a service that sounded especially appealing. I arrived for the dinner before the service

just as the servers were closing down the line. Though the information was available, I had misunderstood the schedule, thinking the order would be dinner, service, home. That's how all the other churches I attended did things. I was the last person served and sat with two couples just finishing their meals. There I learned that dinner is served until 6 because the pastor teaches a class between dinner and the service. Ah.

Jesus was big on welcoming the stranger. Sometimes that stranger is the person in the narthex who is looking bewildered.

One couple apologized, saying they needed to get to the class but assuring me I'd be welcome to join them when I finished my dinner. The other couple kept me company while I ate, then grabbed their coats and left me alone in a large fellowship space. Not wanting to sit alone for a half hour but really wanting to attend the service, I went to find the class. The couple had told me, "Can't miss it. Just down those stairs. Come on down. We'd be happy to have you join us." OK, that sounded good.

I followed their instructions and walked into what I presume was a 12-step meeting. Oops. When I did find the class, sitting in a circle, there were no chairs available and no way to sneak in unobserved. A woman got up, announced that she had to leave for choir rehearsal and told me to take her seat. "Conspicuous" comes close to describing that moment.

My first Sunday I went to the

early service and followed the crowd to the coffeepots. I sat at a table with several couples who, to their credit, included this stranger in their conversation. They seemed genuinely curious about how I came to be there that morning.

The next week I attended the late service and sat next to a woman who looked about my age. She scooted over and indicated I should join her. She chatted with me before and after the service and the following Sunday told me she was hoping I'd come back. When she spots me now, she makes it a point to introduce me to one or two other people. She gets hospitality to strangers.

Hospitality is about spotters and scooters. Spotters are those wonderful people who look out for people they don't know and make a point of introducing themselves. Scooters are the equally helpful souls who see a stranger approaching them and move over to invite the new person to join them.

On my first visit to another church, a woman greeted me with a bear hug. Perhaps she mistook me for someone she knows, or maybe she greets everyone that way. Even I, an extrovert, found that a bit much. If I were an introvert, I probably would have retreated to my car.

Hospitality is about spotters and scooters. Spotters look out for people they don't know and make a point of introducing themselves. Scooters see a stranger approaching and move over to invite the new person to join them.

June 6, 2023

Church folks believe they're friendly, and they often are toward those they already know. I've come up with a checklist to help congregations extend appropriate hospitality toward the people they don't know.

- Good signage throughout the building is important. Visit a church building you've never been in and see how easy or difficult it is to find your way around.
- Make worship times, location and church contact information the first thing web visitors see. Include links to staff and programs. Ditto for Facebook information. Make it easy to find the names, include a brief bio for each staff member and provide a way to get more information. Visit other church websites for good and not-so-good examples.
- Train spotters to take turns looking for folks they don't recognize. Should the unrecognized person be new, the spotter can accompany them to the fellowship time. Nothing says "I don't belong here" like standing alone with a cup of coffee in a room full of people chatting with each other.
- Preach and teach once in a while about our collective calling to welcome the stranger. We're taught as toddlers to be leery of strangers, so it takes intentional effort to counter that message with tips for how to relate to new people appropriately. Sometimes strangers are angels traveling incognito. These days churches need good security measures, but we also must encourage people to socialize. That's the only way to turn a stranger into a new friend.
- Don't point out visitors by making them stand. A generic "We're glad you're here" is good, but too much unsolicited attention can be threatening. A visitor gift is a nice touch, but people actually talking with guests makes

a bigger impression.

- Ask open-ended questions but don't pry. We have no way of knowing how this new person mustered the courage to enter the building. Saying things such as "Hi, my name is . . .," "I don't think I've had a chance to meet you" or "Can I answer any questions for you?" invites conversation without pressuring someone to disclose more than they would like.

The current decline in church attendance and membership is real. Equally real is our universal need to belong to communities that accept us as we are, pray for us, embrace us when we grieve and rejoice with us when we celebrate. Such communities welcome that new person who stands at the door, debating whether to enter.

"I was a stranger and you invited me in," Jesus tells his disciples (Matthew 25:35, NIV). Who among us doesn't know what it's like to be the stranger? Let us also be part of the inviting.

## A NEW MINISTRY OUT OF THE RUBBLE



Always reforming means always deconstructing  
by Darla DeFrance  
August 8, 2023

I walked down the street one

day this spring to watch the wreckers tear down the church building where I used to work. Here in Seattle, the streets are full of construction equipment and big square boxes of new luxury housing. People get sentimental about the old things passing away, even when it's an old church building they've never entered.

As the one who grabbed the mop when the toilets overflowed, offered apologies when the heat wasn't working (again), and prayed the earthquake wouldn't come when we were inside the rickety old place, I was less sentimental than most.

The church I planted, [Columbia City Church of Hope](#), had been meeting there for 13 years. Once the demolition

August 8, 2023

and construction are completed, we'll move back into a new, smaller space alongside 87 families in the affordable apartments that a community organization is building on the block.

It is, in every way, a change for the better. But change is always stressful, and I admit that I shed a few tears watching the giant mechanic jaw bite off and digest into rubble the place that held so many memories and stories.

The Church is called to be constantly reforming, and the first step of re-forming is un-forming, breaking down what has been before trying new ways of putting it all back together. It is what Richard Rohr calls the universal pattern—the order, disorder, and reorder that we see in the changing of the seasons, the life and crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and in the literal and metaphorical experiences all around us of construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction.

The deconstruction is the most painful. We would do anything to avoid it, to skip ahead to the exciting phase of rebuilding. But unless we deal with the fatal cracks in the foundation and clear away the rubble, nothing truly new will ever be built.

When I was called by my denomination to become a mission developer in my own beloved neighborhood, I embraced the challenge with delight. The synod let us have space in the building of a recently closed Lutheran congregation; we had support and freedom to create a ministry that took whatever

shape it wanted—a brand new thing!

And it has been a wonderful, challenging, inspiring experience to see a new church plant take root. We officially incorporated as a congregation in 2017, but it hardly feels like we've arrived. Even before the building came down, it almost feels like we're starting a new ministry every year or two.

Because people are complicated, and everyone is in the midst of their own cycles of order, disorder, and reorder (it is the *universal* pattern, after all). Some people are moving into this neighborhood as others are moving out. Some are starting grad school or having babies or retiring and moving out of the city to where the rent is cheaper. Some people are deconstructing theologies they've inherited and are ready to move on once they've healed from their religious trauma. Some are meeting actual Christians for the first time and working through long lists of negative stereotypes. Some people encounter God at church, but also on hikes and in community choirs and quiet contemplation at home and family gatherings—and there are only so many hours in a weekend.

The church is always reforming, in every generation and in every season. This can be exhausting when it feels like it's falling apart. But what if it's a necessary, ongoing part of messily overlapping cycles of change? The Church is bigger than the building, bigger than the congregation or the denomination. The Spirit moves

in mysterious ways, and part of coming together into a new thing is the undoing of old things.

The church is always dying, always rising, because we are—as individuals and as a body—made in the image of a crucified God.

Watching my old church building come down, the hungry beast with the long arm was making all the noise and all the dust, commanding all the attention. But when I looked down right in front of me, I could see there were steel beams already implanted in the ground, the corner pillars of the new space already taking form. As a pastor with 20 years of experience, maybe I should not be surprised by this evidence of living in the tension of the already / not yet. The old is always passing; the new is always coming into being. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Yes, God is doing a new thing among us! And God is undoing a lot of old things. And a bunch of middle-aged things just keep plugging along because that's what they need to do. For now. Always reforming, just like the Reformers said 500 years ago. And always deconstructing, because that's part of it. God is in the pile of rubble. God is in the corner pillars of the new foundation. And God is in the vision of a future that is only beginning to come into focus.



**Coffee Hour Assignments, 2023**  
**(Sept-Oct-Nov)**

Sept 3: Outreach  
**Sept 4: Labor Day**  
Sept 10: Property Management  
Sept 17: Social Concerns  
Sept 24: Youth & Family  
October 12: Adult Education  
October 8: Exec and Memorial  
October 15: Mission Support  
October 22: Outreach  
October 29: Property Management

**Reformation Sunday**

November 5: Social Concerns

**All Saints Sunday**

November 12: Youth & Family  
November 19: Adult Education

**November 23 Thanksgiving Day**

November 26: Exec and Memorial

**Christ the King Sunday**

December 3: Mission Support

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Ushering Schedule, 2023**  
**(Sept., Oct., Nov.,)**

Sept. 3 – Jim & Clay  
**Sept. 4 - Labor Day**  
Sept. 10 - Troutners  
Sept. 17 - Bill & Julie  
Sept. 24 - Nancy & Michelle  
Oct. 1 – Lisa & Tom  
Oct. 8 - Jim & Clay  
Oct. 15 - Troutners  
Oct. 22 - Bill & Julie  
Oct. 29 - Nancy & Michelle

**Reformation Sunday**

Nov. 5 – Lisa & Tom

**All Saints Sunday**

Nov. 12 - Jim & Clay  
Nov. 19 - Troutners

**Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving**

Nov. 26 - Bill & Julie

**Christ the King Sunday**

Dec. 3 - Nancy & Michelle

**First Sunday of Advent**

Dec. 10 – Lisa & Tom

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Financial Statement Analysis Recap  
2023

31-Jul-23

**ACTUAL**

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>JAN</u>
Income	201,723	21,736	28,277	27,089	24,100	25,933	29,309	45,279
Expense	197,565	19,629	29,889	22,004	23,393	24,217	41,794	36,639
<b>VARIANCE</b>	4,158	2,107	(1,612)	5,085	707	1,716	(12,485)	8,640

**INCOME**

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>JAN</u>
Actual 2022	216,331	22,696	30,378	29,708	27,757	32,401	26,393	46,998
Planned 2023	208,480	28,450	25,585	27,745	29,550	26,720	25,275	45,155
Actual 2023	201,723	21,736	28,277	27,089	24,100	25,933	29,309	45,279

**EXPENSE**

Actual 2022	185,721	23,856	27,759	25,790	27,543	29,150	27,755	23,868
Planned 2023	220,487	26,090	30,095	28,530	31,824	28,362	37,602	37,984
Actual 2023	197,565	19,629	29,889	22,004	23,393	24,217	41,794	36,639

**OFFERING**

Envelope 2022 *	157,973	15,864	23,658	18,298	18,745	23,182	18,716	39,510
Envelope 2023 *	154,932	15,633	22,407	20,317	18,897	18,324	20,315	39,039
Loose 2022	2,243	488	189	398	266	190	428	284
Loose 2023	888	36	105	177	130	137	142	161
Facility Use Fees 2022	51,970	6,295	6,515	10,680	7,430	7,165	7,035	6,850
Facility Use Fees 2023	41,254	5,975	5,760	6,490	4,180	6,820	6,380	5,649

## KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor.....Pastor Nisar Stephen  
Office Ministries Manager.....Jody McCaw      253-852-2057...      klcoffice@kentlutheran.org  
Seminarian.....Joseph Lual  
Chimes Editor.....Jody McCaw      chimes@kentlutheran.org  
Director of Music Ministries.....Sean Haley  
Custodians.....Vera and Vasil  
Church Treasurer.....Mona Lee  
Financial Secretary.....Kathy Nixon

### Lutheran Counseling Network Counselors:

Karen Klemetson.....425-271-9711, ext.3

## WE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

We value the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus;  
We value God's love as a gift to be shared with everyone;  
We value everyone as a child of God, and invite  
all to be embraced by God;

We value providing a loving, caring environment supporting spiritual needs;  
We value that all people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and community.  
We value the participation of people including all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identity, educational backgrounds, differing disabilities and economic conditions.

Kent Lutheran Church is a RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation.

## Kent Lutheran Church

336 Second Ave. South  
Kent WA 98032

Phone: 253-852-2057

Office Hours:

Tue-Fri 10:00am-2:00pm

Closed Mondays

E-mail: [klcoffice@kentlutheran.org](mailto:klcoffice@kentlutheran.org)

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

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

Visit us on Facebook:

*Kent Lutheran Church*

*Kent Lutheran Youth*

**Kent Lutheran  
Fall  
Quarterly**

### **Kent Lutheran Church Staff**

Pastoral Care

206-660-1199 \_\_\_\_\_ [klcpastor@kentlutheran.org](mailto:klcpastor@kentlutheran.org)

Office Ministries Manager ..... Jody McCaw

253-852-2057... [klcoffice@kentlutheran.org](mailto:klcoffice@kentlutheran.org)

Seminarian ..... Joseph Lual

Chimes Editor ..... Jody McCaw

[chimes@kentlutheran.org](mailto:chimes@kentlutheran.org)

Director of Music Ministries ..... Sean Haley

Custodians..... Vera and Vasil

Church Treasurer..... Mona Lee

Financial Secretary..... Kathy Nixon

Lutheran Counseling Network Counselors:

Karen Klemetson.....425-271-9711, ext.3

### **Sunday Morning Worship Schedule**



9:30 a.m. In the sanctuary

And on KLC's YouTube Channel

### **OUR MISSION**

***KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH***  
*lives and celebrates the accepting love of Christ*

WE SUPPORT

