

# *The Message Newsletter*

## From the Pastor's Desk

We have a new Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. According to a news release from the ELCA:

"The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Church-wide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city

settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

'Perhaps I'm out there in one of you,' Curry said. 'I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.'

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries."

May God bless Bishop Curry as he leads our national church.



**ELCA Presiding  
Bishop-elect  
Yehiel Curry**

**Daylight Savings Ends,  
Sunday, November 9**

### WORSHIP

Every Sunday 9:30 am  
and Wednesday 7 pm

Sunday School:  
6th-12th Grade - 8:45  
am

Godly Play starts in  
the Sanctuary 9:30 am

## Council President's Corner

Fall is upon us, I am hoping everyone has had opportunities to be refreshed and enjoy our lovely PNW summer. Our VBS was wonderful; thank you to all the volunteers who helped provide this opportunity for the children and families we welcomed here at Ebenezer. I am seeing signs of Fall in our community. Fall decorations for sale and back to school sales.

Here at Ebenezer, we have Rally Sunday on September 7. We will resume many of our activities and learning opportunities for youth and adults. Our new crafting space is getting the finishing touches; I recently had a tour. It is amazing! Thank you to all the volunteers again for all that you have done to create this beautiful workspace. Blessings, Gretchen

## Education



Godly Play Kicking off September 7, 9:30 am-10:30 am  
Ebenezer Lutheran Church  
Children ages PreK - 5th Grade  
Come Hear a Story, Wonder and Play!

Godly Play 2025-2026 School Year is Kicking off Sunday, September 7. I will be telling the story of the Church Calendar Year. This story is always a hit with the children as it is a great way to start the season and help the kids understand how the church tells time. It has given me an even greater understanding as an adult! Godly Play has been such a gift to me as an adult, mother, spiritual being within this past year. Witnessing our children getting lost in wonder and play is so beautiful. It has given me permission to get

back to the beauty and mystery of Wonder, Curiosity and play myself. I have actually discovered some really cool stuff about myself along the way.

We always want to welcome new volunteers for our Godly Play circle. I encourage you to consider stepping up for a volunteer role. If you are curious, please reach out to me via email: [annier7280@gmail.com](mailto:annier7280@gmail.com) (Subject: Godly Play). I would love to speak with you more about it. This could not only be an opportunity for you to support and celebrate our amazing children's spirituality but also an opportunity to discover something new yourself!

Enjoy the last bits of your summer, and I am looking forward to seeing you this fall! ~Annie

Godly Play Family retreat in June in Union, WA



## VBS 2025

VBS True North – Monday-Friday, June 23-27, 2025

We had a fun-filled week at True North with 67 kiddos registered with 32 staff helping.

We learned about God and his love through games, science experiments, snacks, Bible adventures, Sticky Scriptures, and songs.

Our goal is to have VBS next year June 22-26, 2026





## Youth of Ebenezer

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Contacts:  
Virginia & Andi  
Check your Phone Directory

The Youth of Ebenezer creates and coordinates fellowship and events for Ebenezer youth in 6th-12th grades. Executive Youth Committee meetings are held on the 4th Sunday in the Youth Room. We encourage all youth and families to participate in meetings, generate ideas and vote as members of the group. Last fall, the YOЕ activities included:

September - Youth-A-Palooza

October - Swans Trail Farm Trip

November - Pizza and Game Night

November - December - God's Creation Calendar Sales

L. S. Food Bank Collection Shelves in Fellowship Hall

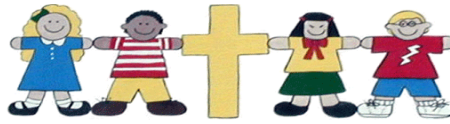
Volunteering at Norwegian Pancake Breakfast

### Youth Sunday School

6th - 12th Grade Students

The Middle School and High School class continue meeting in the Youth Room Sundays at 8:45 am. Our Illustrated Ministry discussions will begin on September 7 and continue the first three Sundays of each month. Treats are provided, contact Virginia Dutcher for details.

## Preschool



### GETTING READY FOR THE FALL 2025 SCHOOL YEAR!

We are so excited to kick start the school year off and to see our former preschool families and meet our new ones.

Preschool will start the school year off with a parent/child & teacher orientation week Sept. 2-4. Letters have been sent out to each preschool family specifying your special time and date. Parents, please plan to stay for your orientation with the Director to go over preschool policies, fill out any paperwork and to ask questions.

Regular classes will start the week of September 8

- PRE-K CLASS: September 8  
CLASS TIME: 9:45-12:30
- TOTS ORIENTATION DAYS  
September 9 & 10, regular class will start September 16, 9:55-11:55
- NEW BEGINNINGS CLASS:  
September 11, 9:45-12:15

OUR BIBLE LESSONS will be about how God made the world and all that is in it. He wants us to take care of it and be thankful.

OUR THEMES will start off with colors. Preschoolers will be experimenting with mixing colors using water and food coloring, mixing different play-doh colors together, making rainbow fruit loop necklace & balloon painting. September is sure to be a fun month. We hope all of you had a great summer and we look forward to seeing each of you.

There are still a few more spots open in our Pre-K & New Beginnings class. Call or email the preschool for more info. 425-397-6374 or [preschool@ebenezerlakestevens.org](mailto:preschool@ebenezerlakestevens.org).

## Worship & Music

### WOW (WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS)

Midweek Worship will continue from 7:00-7:30 pm. The worship style changes each week and is very different from our Sunday worship:

- Contemplative Prayer service
- *Holden Evening Prayer* service
- Unfailing Light service
- Festival of Hymns service

Join us to hear God's Word and receive His blessings. Holy Communion will be served at some of these services.

## Bible Studies

### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY ~ 10 am

Pastor Benson's Thursday morning Bible Study begins September 25. Join us in the Fireside Room as we dig deeper into the scripture lessons that will be read on the following Sunday.

### MAR-CILLA CIRCLE FIRST TUESDAY ~ 10:30 am

All women of Ebenezer are welcome for Bible Study, fellowship, and lunch with the Mar-Cilla Circle group. We meet at 10:30 am on the 1st Tuesday in the Fireside Room. Bring a lunch. Dessert and coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Julia Moen.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIRD TUESDAY - 10 am

All women are invited to join us for this Bible Study from *Gather*, the wonderful women's magazine of the ELCA. Questions? Please call Lynn Riggs.

## Events Page

### Sip 'n Paint ~ June 7



### Friday Harbor Trip ~August 18

We took a ferry ride from Anacortes to Friday Harbor on a beautiful sunny day. We enjoyed lunch while watching all the boats and seaplanes, did a little shopping, and had ice cream before returning for a ferry ride back home. What a beautiful day!



### Aquasox ~ July 4

Twenty-seven of us headed to the ballpark for an evening of American baseball game with fireworks following. What a beautiful, fun evening.



### Church Picnic ~ August 24

On a warm Sunday in August, fifty of us gathered for our annual church picnic at Lundeen Park. We enjoyed delicious food, fun conversations with friends and beanbag baseball. The "winner team" lost! Thanks to Fellowship Committee, BBQers Herb and Gary, and everyone who helped with setup and cleanup.



### Upcoming Events

**Exercise the Mind.** On October 6, we will be starting up Wits Workout again at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will play at memory, problem-solving, purposeful thinking, and of course laughing. We will not be graded or exercising anything other than the power of our minds. Join us and see what this is all about. Questions? call Jane Briske

**Book Club...** The first Monday of every month at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall Book Club meets. We talk about the book we read, other books that interest us and enjoy each other's opinions. Join us anytime for every meeting or just to check it out. Questions? Call Jane Briske

### Norwegian Pancake Breakfast

The third Saturday of every month 7:30-10:30 am begins on September 20. The all-you-can-eat pancakes are absolutely delicious! The cost is ages 13-99 ~ \$10, 5-12 ~ \$5, 4 & under ~ FREE, 100+ ~ FREE.

### Reformation Sunday ~ October 26

This special day commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, which was sparked by Martin Luther's bold actions in 1517. Third grade & Confirmation Bibles will be presented.

### Congregation Potluck Brunch Sunday October 26

Following our Reformation service, Bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship.

### All Saints Sunday ~ November 2

This special day is dedicated to honoring all the saints, known and unknown, who have gone before us in faith.

### Church Work Party ~ October 25

We're organizing a church work party 9 am-2 pm to spruce up our church. Your participation would be appreciated as we work on various tasks to enhance the beauty of our space. Lunch will be provided. Please join us and lend a hand.

### Trunk or Treat

Once again we plan to have Trunk or Treat in our parking lot on Halloween (October 31 from 4 - 6 pm). This is a safe trick or treat event aimed at younger children. Watch for details.

### Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 22, 2025 10 am - 3 pm

Mark your calendars! Many hands are needed to make this annual event successful. Start planning what you would like to contribute - baked goods, themed baskets, crafts, etc. Comments or questions, contact Betty Bauer.



# Ministries of Ebenezer

## EBENEZER MINISTRY FAIR

On Sunday, September 7, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's Work. Our Hands." This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

In observance of "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday, the Social Ministry Committee is hosting an Ebenezer Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 7, 2025, following worship. Members are invited to the Fellowship Hall to learn more about the many ministries here and how they serve our congregation, our community and beyond. Come for fellowship, come to learn, come to find new ways to help!

## ANGELS OF COMFORT

Our team of volunteers will continue stitching stuffed Angels of Comfort beginning in September. Our angels are made available at no cost to anyone in need of comfort, whether physical or emotional. It's a beautiful way to share the message of love and caring. If you know someone you would like to gift with an angel stop by our table at the Ministry Fair September 7 or contact Liz Smith. God bless!

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY SECOND FRIDAY 10 AM-12 PM

All are welcome to our meeting in the Craft Room. Supplies are provided. We have lots of pretty yarn for you to use. Questions? Call Lynn Riggs. Want a shawl to give to a friend or loved one? Just ask.

## COMMUNITY SUPPER

Community Supper is currently serving FREE take-out meals every Thursday from 4-6 pm. Since serving take-out meals, we have served an average of 350 each week.

"Like" us at Lake Stevens Community Supper on Facebook to see what is happening. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support for this program. For more information, contact [supper@ebenezerlakestevens.org](mailto:supper@ebenezerlakestevens.org).

Shout out to the community groups who help serve: Lake Stevens Lions Club, Hope Lutheran Church and Triple R Club.



## Confirmation Orientation

September 24 at 6 pm

Students and parents will meet in the Choir Room for orientation. Confirmation will continue weekly on Wednesdays at 6 pm with Pastor Benson. Questions? Please call the church office, 425-334-0421.

## MUSIC

During one Sunday, summer worship service, Martin Adams shared his gift of music with us for prelude and special music. Awesome job, Martin!



## Cara Harp Ensemble ~ Sunday, August 3

We were blessed to enjoy the Cara Harp Ensemble as they shared God's Word in music. We heard about the history of songs. What a beautiful worship service.



## Choir Room Dedication

The choir and council of Ebenezer is pleased to honor Marcella Bergerson during the service of September 14! She was a beloved choir member of Ebenezer and lovingly produced beautiful quilts which were raffled for the benefit of the music program for many years before she recently passed away.

## The Power of Prayer Warriors

Prayer warriors are spiritual soldiers—men and women who faithfully lift others in prayer, often behind the scenes. Though their work may go unnoticed by the world, it is deeply valued by God. Their intercession can strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and open doors for God's will to be done.

In Scripture, we are urged to “pray one for another” (James 5:16, KJV), reminding us that healing and restoration often come through the prayers of the faithful. A prayer warrior stands in the gap, bringing needs before the Lord with boldness and persistence.

The Apostle Paul recognized the power of prayer, often asking others to pray for him as he shared the gospel. In the same way, prayer warriors today uphold churches, pastors, families, and communities. Their prayers may be silent, but their impact is mighty. Never underestimate the difference a praying heart can make.

## The Prayer Corner

### Prayer Chain:



If you have an urgent need, please call Prayer Chain leaders Ken

Cross and Lia Stuart. They will contact Prayer Chain members to pray for your request. We're starting the list anew so if there are people you would like to add, please let Melissa know.

Please pray for the following:

### Members of the Congregation:

Lolita Mandel  
Paula Olson  
Kathy Spade  
Dee Anne Williams  
Sally Yates

### Homebound or Special Care

#### Residents:

Sheldon Hendrickson  
Marlene McSherry  
Marilyn Peterson  
Arlene McDaniel  
Nancy Poremba

### Family/Friends:

Levi Anderson (Lynn Moller & Dennis Anderson's grandson)  
Dan Bagwell (Melissa Probst's brother-in-law)  
Ruth Boneham (David Boneham's mother)  
Mary Jo DuBeau  
Bill Flansberg (Fran Clapper's brother)  
Aaron Gay (Helen Hendrickson's nephew)  
Debbie Jacobson  
Curt Johnson (Neil Brandt's nephew)  
Ron Koepsell (Betty Bauer's brother)  
Mary Koepsell (Betty Bauer's sister-in-law)  
Terry Lambert  
Sharon Lawrence (CC Kuehl's friend)  
Joann Millett (Sally Yates' friend)  
Joe Mulligan (friend of Herb Singleton)  
Dawn Nielsen (Kathy Larsen's granddaughter)  
Dianne Major Storey - ALS  
Lori Wight (Margaret Dildine's daughter)  
Natalie (Glenda Platz's friend)  
Steve - (Betty Bauer's friend's neighbor)

### Those Who Grieve:

Wendt & Vickery Families - Pastor Dick Wendt passed away  
Clapper Family - Norma Reynolds passed away  
DeFrang Family - Bob DeFrang passed away  
Storey & Doyle Families - Marilyn Doyle passed away  
Probst Family - Joe Probst passed away  
Ren & Troupe Families - Todd Staum passed away  
Peterson Family - Dina Peterson passed away  
Coryell Family - Ethel Coryell passed away  
Werner Family - Alice Werner and Fiona Werner passed away  
Herzog Family - Ron Herzog, Sr. passed away  
McDonald Family - David McDonald passed away

### All Our Military and Their Families:

Hunter Gardoski, Sid Hendrickson Jr, Tyler Perry, Faith Poor, Ethan Stuart, Alec Zimmerman

## Special Events

### Weddings

Abdiel & Ulyssa  
Oceguera  
Saturday, June 28, 2025

### Baptisms

Brooklyn Basten  
June 8, 2025

Serrefina Iffrig  
July 13, 2025

Henry Sellars  
August 31, 2025

### Confirmation & New Members

Confirmation ~ Sunday,  
May 18, 2025 - Max Herzog

New Members ~ Sunday,  
June 22, 2025

- David Boneham
- Neil Brandt
- Becky Brandt
- John & Winsor Edwards
- Jim & Charlene Hampton

---

### Living Lutheran

Does it make a difference when we invite someone to church? The newly elected Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America started his pathway to Lutheran ordination after someone invited him to worship. Bishop Yehiel Curry eventually became a lay mission developer and studied at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is presently the bishop of Metropolitan Chicago Synod and was elected presiding bishop of the ELCA on July 30 at the Church-wide Assembly in Phoenix.

Living Lutheran is the magazine of the ELCA and is available in both digital and print format. It includes articles about spiritual life, social issues, mission, voices of faith, and congregational life in the U.S. and around the world.

See [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org) ~ Julia Moen

### Thanks

Ebenezer family, Thank you from the depths of our hearts for your prayers, love, and support since Joe's passing. Your kindness - through prayers, comforting words, and generous acts, has been a beacon of God's grace for me and my sons, Michael and Scott, as we grieve our beloved husband and father. Your faith, reflected in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd," and your support as we prepare his September 6 memorial, lift us up. I am grateful to be part of this loving church family and look forward to sharing memories of Joe with you. With heartfelt gratitude, Melissa, Michael and Scott Probst

### Scholarships

Ebenezer Endowment provided High School scholarships to Cai & Asher for their future education. They also provided scholarships to Angelina, & Mia for their continuing education.



### Honor Graduates

The quilters of Ebenezer presented Cai & Asher a personalized homemade quilt in recognition of their High School graduation. Congratulations Cai & Asher!



RETURN SERVICE REQUEST-



JESUS LOVES ...



## New Office Manager

It is my pleasure to take on the role of the office manager here at Ebenezer. I look forward to serving this community. My professional career began at JPL, where I began as a department clerk and, over 20 years, advanced to the role of Member of Technical Staff. This experience not only shaped my skills in technology, but also taught me the value of dedication, curiosity, and teamwork in a dynamic environment. I moved on to AT&T in 2000 and relocated to Washington. My time there broadened my understanding of technology and deepened my appreciation for adaptability and efficiency. I am excited to leverage my experience in technology, organizational leadership, and problem solving as I step into this role. I am grateful for the opportunity to support our members, and ministries, ensuring our office remains a source of strength for our congregation. ~ Melissa

## Autumn: Entering the Season of Thanksgiving and Renewal

As September arrives and the air turns crisp, the church steps into a season shaped by gratitude, reflection, and the anticipation of new beginnings. Autumn in the ELCA tradition is not merely the start of the program year; it is a time when congregational life reawakens after summer's lull. Sunday School resumes, choirs gather in harmonies old and new, and the sanctuary welcomes parishioners returning from travels and rest.

Reformation Sunday, observed on the last Sunday of October, recalls Martin Luther's bold call for reform and the continuing renewal of the church.

Following close is All Saints Sunday. This is a moment in our year to remember loved ones who have passed into glory, to light candles in their honor, and to contemplate the communion of saints that binds us together across time and space.

Autumn also includes our stewardship campaign: not only the financial support of the congregation, but stewardship of time, talents, and creation. How does the changing season invite us into practices of gratitude? What does it mean to care for the earth in our daily routines?

We then look forward to Thanksgiving and an opportunity to extend our gratitude to God and spend time with our families.