

PortalLight

the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

JUNE 2021

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From Pastor Binz

The Kingdom of God is like.....



The Parable of the Sower

It was always this time of year when, as a young person, my attention would be directed to the local lakes in Northern California for fun and recreation. Whether it was Lake Tahoe, Donner Lake, or Lake Almaden, I have so many fond memories of those places in the summer months.

Jesus' teachings are in the form of parables and He is sharing with His disciples and others the rule and reign of God and in some parables what the life of a Christian looks like. In Mark's gospel these parables are recorded and they begin with Jesus by the lake. Important things

happen at the lake and "Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge." He taught many things in parables.

Jesus begins with the parable of the sower about a farmer who goes out and scatters the seed. It always helps when the parables are explained and Jesus does just that and Mark records this in chapter 4:13-20. "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you." Mark 4:11. Then we hear of the parable of the lamp on a stand really focusing on the life of a Christian. But the parable I want to focus in on is the parable of the growing seed in Mark 4:26-29. "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain - first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:26-29.

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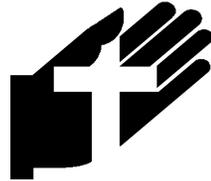
God's Word goes out and the "seed" is scattered as it goes out and accomplishes God's purpose. God causes the growth and in God's timing when it is time for harvest the wheat is harvested. This parable should be a tremendous comfort for us. Knowing that God is in charge. He causes the growth, He determines when the grain is ready for harvest. An earlier parable explains the parable of the sower and how our hearts (the soil) if hardened to the Word of God nothing will grow. But in this parable the seeds take root in the soil and the growth appears. Being receptive to God's Word will give us hope for the future when Christ returns for the final judgment, and we will be separated out from the "chaff" that will be discarded. But the grain will inherit the kingdom of God.

All of this is made possible because of the work of Jesus Christ. His suffering and dying and rising on the third day makes us righteous before God and we have no fear of the last day (harvest). We know that our names are written in the book of life and we'll be with the Lord forever into eternity.

I don't get to those lakes much anymore but I do go to the depths of God's goodness and mercy found in the reservoir of God's Word for forgiveness, life and salvation. "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:38

Grace and peace,
Pastor Binz

God's people pray...



Let us pray to the Lord for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Elfriede Bonfert; Art & Dorothy Bridgeman; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; Lois Carlson; William Chen; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Frank Gelini; Martha Hoelter; Lorraine Holmes; Charlotte Lew, Eva Wong's sister; Susie Marzolf;

Mary Pon, cousin of June Wong; Lee Ramage; Sigrid Rogge; Art Spleiss; Nettie Stewart, Michele Boyer's mother; Ruth Stresow; Lisa Westermann; Marilyn Wong.

For those mourning the loss of loved ones: Bennette Nulph and her family on the death of her husband and their father, Vernon Nulph; Daniel Latimore and family on the death of Daniel's father, Elmer; and the family of Nadine Gustafson on her death.

Portal ght is the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

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Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor
Rev. J. Wayne Kerr, Associate Pastor
Jan Lundquist, Church Secretary, PortalLight Editor
Mickey Angerman, Principal
Melissa Murphy, Assistant Principal

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 10:00AM.

Saturday Service, Sunday Adult Bible Study, and Children's Sunday School continue to be suspended.

West Portal Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



West Portal Lutheran School Graduating Class of 2021

Rishi Bhat
 Jeanie Chan
 Matthew Chang
 Mason Alexander Char
 Vivian Chen
 Nicholas J.W. Cheung
 Daniel Cheung
 Melissa Teresa Chiao
 Hailey Chin
 Aaron S. Chiu
 Cecilia Chow
 Charlene Ho
 Brevin Casey Hom
 Kelly Nicole Hom
 Rachel Hu
 Fiona Huang
 Natalie Xin Yee Huang
 Valerie J. Huang

Chloe Cynne Hui
 Snowy Tan Jue
 Iris Kuang
 Cameron Kwok
 Amos On Hei Kwong
 Zachary On Yau Kwong
 Isabelle Yan-Sum Lam
 Cameron Lao
 Evelyn A. Law
 Krystal Le
 Darren Charles Lee
 Kathryn Ley
 Jaden Jon Hay Li
 Jett Li
 Stephanie Mintong Li
 Curtis Walter Lim
 Prescott Matthew Mai

Lucas Akio Masuda
 Jonathan Nguyen
 Kate Chen Quach
 Sasha Simonova-Udler
 Cayla Szeto
 Alvin Tam
 Jessica Ka Wing Tam
 Josephine Ka Man Tam
 Mabel Tan
 Scarlett Tong
 Caitlin Tran
 Kate Wai
 Sophie Wei
 Caitlin Wong
 Myles Yan
 Ellie Sayaka Yoshikawa
 Tiffany Zeng

Congratulations, WPLS Class of 2021. We, the members of West Portal Lutheran Church, want you to know that we are proud of you and that you will always be a part of the West Portal Lutheran family. We wish you God's richest blessings in the years ahead, and we know that He will be with you every step of the way.

West Portal Lutheran School: News from the School

The 2020-2021 school year is drawing to a close. It has been one for the history books. WPLS students spent either the entire school year learning from home or at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of it doing distance learning. Our teachers were forced to learn an entirely new way of delivering their lessons. Everyone had to adapt – and they did. We were able to maintain our academic standards while educating from a distance. I am very proud of our students and teachers and the way they handled this past year.

8th Grade Graduation

This year's 8th grade class is getting ready for graduation. Even that will be different. Because of the limitations on worship services, we are not able to have our traditional Baccalaureate service. Instead, we are planning to have a Baccalaureate/ Graduation service at the Scottish Rite on Thursday, June 10. We will combine the worship parts and promotion parts of the two services into one. Due to Covid we will not be able to have a reception either. Even though graduation will be different, the purpose is still to recognize and honor our 8th grade students and the work they have completed during their time at WPLS. A list of our graduates is on page 3 in this PortaLight.

261 Years of Service!

The end of a school year always brings change in the faculty and staff. This year we have several members retiring after many years of service to WPLS. We wish them a well-deserved rest. Those retiring are Michelle Boyer – 37 years, Fred Jacob – 46 years, Eugenia Kolsanoff – 19 years, Les Morris – 36 years, and Diana Yee – 21 years. We are also recognizing two teachers that retired at the end of last year but were not recognized. They are Dan Holt – 36 years and Irene Sandvik – 39 years. Even though Jan Lundquist is not on the school staff, we consider her a part of our team and honor her re-

tirement after 27 years of service. This is a combined 261 years of service to West Portal Lutheran! We have truly been blessed by these servants.

Even though they are not retiring, several other members of our faculty and staff either left at the end of the last school year or are leaving this year. A few have moved out of the area and others have heard God calling them to serve somewhere else. Those not returning are Mickey Angerman – 7 years, Jocelyn Frazier – 2 years, Madeline Garrity – 4 years, Daniel Latimore – 13 years, Elaine Mills – 26 years; Jordan Merrifield – 2 years, and Lisa Ohashi – 3 years. We ask God's blessings on the work that He is calling on them to do in another place.

The Knowledge Bowl

Last Thursday our students competed in the St. John Lutheran School Knowledge Bowl. Despite the late notice and minimal practice time, our students did amazingly well. The questions came fast and hard, but that did not intimidate our West Portal students. We had a couple of ties and we played sudden death and came out in third place. Cheers could be heard ringing up and down Janssen Hall.

Please join us in saying congratulations to our 2021 Knowledge Bowl Team:

5th/6th Grade

Katlyn Ngan
Soraya Steger
Jaymond Lin
Leah Radack
Lindsay Chan
Karen Ngan
Carina Wu
Elisha Huang

7th/8th Grade

Deron Lew
Lucas Liang
Kevin Chin
Cody Luu
Kate Quach
Mason Char
Caitlin Tran

The Upcoming School Year

With the 2020-2021 school year at an end, work has already begun on the 2021-2022 school year. Enrollment looks good, new administration is in place, and new teachers and staff are being hired. We are hopeful that the pandemic remains under control so school can return to some form of "normal."

May God continue to bless WPL and the work that is being done in the school and church.

In His Service,
Mickey Angerman, Principal

Dear West Portal members,

I want to let you know that I have received and accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Wykoff, Minnesota. I have been called to serve as Principal/Teacher. Thank you to the voters for the peaceful release.

Tom and I plan to move toward the end of June.

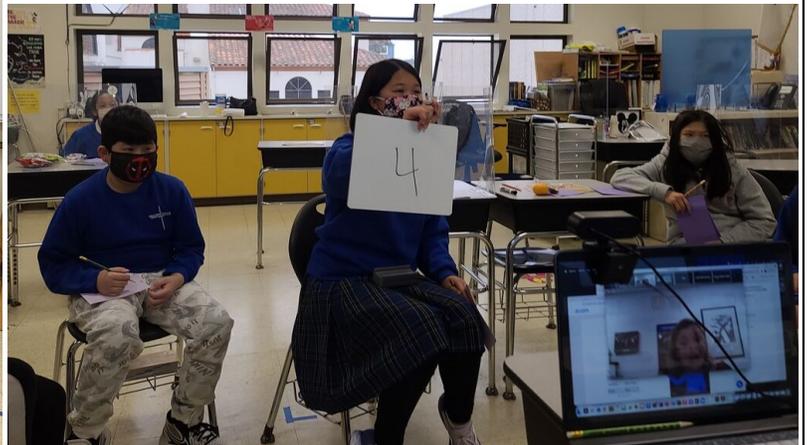
His faithful servant,
Mickey Angerman

Knowledge Bowl Competitors

7th & 8th
Grade Team



5th & 6th Grade Team





Congratulations!

Congratulations to Justin Wood as he graduates from Concordia University-Irvine and enters Concordia Seminary-St. Louis in the fall.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday, 6/6	10:00AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
	11:15AM	Reception Honoring Faculty & Staff Who Are Leaving West Portal Lutheran School & Church
Wednesday, 6/9	11:00AM	Midweek Bible Class
Thursday, 6/10	7:00PM	WPLS Baccalaureate/Graduation Service at Scottish Rite Auditorium
Friday, 6/11		Last Day of WPL School
Sunday, 6/13	10:00AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
	2:00PM	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, 6/16	11:00AM	Midweek Bible Class
FATHERS' DAY		
Sunday, 6/20	10:00AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Wednesday, 6/23	11:00AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 6/26	2:00PM	Tinney/Dorr Wedding
Sunday, 6/27	10:00AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Wednesday, 6/29	11:00AM	Midweek Bible Class

70th Anniversary of WPL School

During 2021, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of West Portal Lutheran School, we have asked a number of former students, faculty, staff and friends to share their memories of WPL School. This month we feature comments from Mrs. Michele Boyer, Pastor Binz, and Pastor Kerr.

Before we share the thoughts of faculty, pastors, and former faculty, we have a quiz about the school that you might find fun to take.

- 1) What year was the school founded
- 2) How many students were originally enrolled?
- 3) How many classrooms were part of the original school and where were they located?
- 4) By 1954, how many students attended the school?
- 5) Enrollment increased again in 1955 - to how many students?
- 6) When was the dedication of the new school building?
- 7) At the time of the new school building dedication, how many students were enrolled?
- 8) When was the site for the Moraga campus bought for the school expansion?
- 9) How many students were enrolled on the school's 30th anniversary in 1981?
- 10) When was the Moraga campus first renovated?

From Mrs. Boyer

I would like to take this time to say "Thank You". Thank you for all the love and joy that you have given to me during my 36 year tenure at WPL. I have been overwhelmed at times by the outpouring of love and respect given to me over my years of service. As I prepare to retire I am reflecting on the many wonderful memories that I have gained over the years. I have so many experiences to relate that I realize that I could write a very large book. I even have a great title "Life with My K-2 Kids". I am ever so grateful that my life has been enriched by knowing my K-2 Friends and their parents. I have made many wonderful friends over my years at WPL. I love watching my former students and their families on Facebook and knowing that they have grown up to be wonderful successful adults. But my greatest joy has been being able to share my love of God through Bible stories, Christian songs and helping my K-2 students share God's love by singing in church. I love telling the story of God's love for all people and His free gift of salvation. My career at WPL began because I sat next to our late Principal Mrs. Shirley Merrill at the ballet while on a field trip with Patty George's first grade class. She noticed how well behaved my children Stewart and Michi were. Because I graduated from Concordia Teachers College in Illinois, we discussed my being a called Lutheran teacher. She invited me in for an interview, hired me and the rest as they say is history.

I have loved every year of teaching and every child that has graced my life and classroom.

Blessings to all,
Mrs. Michele Stewart Boyer

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Answers:

1) 9/1951
 2) 59
 3) 4 rooms located in the church kitchen, the Parish hall, and the church nursery
 4) 179
 5) 200
 6) 8/25/57
 7) 300
 8) 8/74
 9) 560
 10) 1991

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70th Anniversary Ponderings

"Your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing." 1 Thessalonians 1:3

In just the short amount of time I have been at West Portal Lutheran Church and School I'm continually amazed at the wonderful children that attend our school. They are conscientious students, academically driven, and have a real heart for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is a true joy for me just to be involved in teaching God's Word and Luther's Catechism to these young people and watch them grow. Knowing they are growing intellectually, and of course physically and emotionally but they are growing spiritually as well.

Not only have I witnessed this growth in these young people I have seen their true love for learning. I have also witnessed their love for their families, their love for their teachers and classmates, but most important their love for God.

I am reminded of Apollos in the New Testament. Paul says to the Corinthians that he "planted the seeds, and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." 1 Cor. 3:6. Similar to Apollos I have only watered for a short time. Many people before me tilled the soil, planted the seeds and watered. There have been many pastors, teachers, administrators and staff that have helped these young people grow in the grace of God. But thanks be to God for He is the one who causes the growth. Not only is it a joy working with these students, it is a joy when former students return and share their memories of West Portal Lutheran. May the love of God in Christ Jesus continue to grow in the lives of those who have been a part of West Portal Lutheran Church and School.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Binz

With a Voice of Singing

"...with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed His servant Jacob." Isaiah 48:20

With one phone call on a Saturday afternoon in early spring 2004, at our home in Little Rock, Arkansas, Rev. David Stechholz, invited Marilyn and me to visit West Portal Lutheran Church and School. That one conversation and our subsequent visit resulted in a call to serve West Portal as Kantor for both church and school. Our decision to accept the call to West Portal changed our lives forever in the most remarkable ways. After an intensive catechesis experience with Pastor Stechholz, we became Lutherans, Marilyn became a 3rd grade teacher in the school, and I settled in to building what had to be one of the most unique music programs in the SF Bay area. Working with Pastor Stechholz was awesome. It was one of those remarkable rare life moments so filled with a spirit of belonging in and sharing in a ministry that nurtured creativity and collaboration. In the beginning one of the most challenging hurdles, not only with Pastor Stechholz but the entire congregation, was the assumption that Marilyn and I automatically knew everything!

For several years I felt like I had missed over half of an important conversation and had to fit the pieces together rather quickly and move on. More than once Head Teacher Les Morris saved me when it involved the school and Jan Lundquist, the church office administrator saved me from blundering into a disaster. However, occasionally there were those moments when the congregation was confused. For whatever reason, for at least two years, the church leadership called me Bob Keck, a one-year term music director to whom there was absolutely no resemblance! Eventually they figured out who and what our names were.

As Kantor I served as the principal organist/pianist; directed the adult choir and played keyboards with

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the church's praise band, the Master Musicians. With the help of my wife Marilyn we developed an incredible handbell program beginning in the 3rd grade with Joy Chimes which progressed through each grade with at least one if not two handbell choirs. Normally, handbell choirs consist of 12 to 13 ringers. Thanks to supportive parents, an awesome PTL (Parent Teacher League) and the school Principal Mrs. Margaret Finley, we were able to expand the handbell set from three octaves to five. A set of duplicate handbells and chimes were purchased to allow student membership in each choir to increase to 18-27 ringers!

One of the great joys for the seventh and eighth grade handbell choirs each March was participating in the Lutheran School Handbell Festival at Concordia University, Irvine. Without fail, the WPLS ringers were judged and performed with distinction achieving high honors through the day-long festival. Of course no trip to southern California was complete without spending the Friday before the Festival at Disneyland, riding Space Mountain, floating along with a wild band of students in the Pirates of the Caribbean, and countless trips discovering just how much "It's a Small World After All"!

The Advent Season is always one of my favorite memories with the food, fellowship and grade classes singing at the School Christmas Faire. The Annual Christmas Program always provided two nights of excitement as both campuses presented programs of festive holiday music. For my first two years, the long programs were held in the packed, standing room only Sloat campus Gym. Eventually we moved the holiday programs next door to the Scottish Rite which over time also became the home for the Fall and Spring Concerts and the 8th Grade Graduation.

Other fond musical memories are the joint church adult choir cantata's we performed with Bethel-Grace (later Christ for all Nations) Church under

the direction of Ms. Jan Lundquist. The fellowship and spirit of family nurtured among those special people will always be carried with us the rest of our lives.

So many experiences, so friendships, so many students and school families have shaped our memories of the past fifteen years. I am eternally grateful to have served West Portal Lutheran Church and School first at Kantor and later as Associate Pastor. Wherever the Lord leads us, West Portal Lutheran Church and School will always be our home.

The dream of a faithful, Christ-centered school born 70 years ago lives on not only through the lives of today's children and those who teach but also those whose future voices will fill the school. Through the witness and ministry of West Portal Lutheran School, "*The WORD of the Lord will endure forever*" 1 Peter 1:25

Rev. J. Wayne Kerr

Associate Pastor/WPLS Superintendent

+Pax et Bonum+



June Birthdays and Anniversaries



1	Faye Close	16	Paige Bitonio
1	Kaitlyn Michaud	17	Elle Arikawa
2	Grace Man	17	Jan Lundquist
2	Wayne Kerr	17	Bill Primozic
2	Olivia Leung	17	Aevlyn Toscano
3	Brad Still	18	Kaylen Canardo
5	Dona Fuchiwaki	18	James Cheeseborough III
5	Michaelyn Miyagishima	19	Charlene
6	Pat Allen		Bruggemann-Wong
6	Twilight Reyes	20	Sherie Wong
7	Linda Chao	20	Lorraine Holmes
9	Elia Badra	24	Grace Yuen
9	Kelsey Parnian	24	Linda Wade
10	Aaron Wendt	24	Kimberly Yee
11	Anna Porter	24	George Mack
11	Sierra Wang	24	Evelyn Shadel
12	Elaine Mills	25	Kit Ma
12	Stacy Ohmura	25	Joshua Young
13	Lonnie Yee	26	George Moore
13	Lindsay Woolward	26	Margaret Twomey
14	Hailee Wu	26	Eileen Crouse
15	Walter Lew	27	Noah Stofferahn
15	Khalil Huey	28	Lee Rampage
		29	Kimberly Lew
		29	Leonna Hutchinson
		30	Bret Cornell
		30	Eric Jung
		30	Jason Wendt



1	Edward & Naomi Ray
7	James & Cheryl Wong
10	Tom & Mickey Angerman
12	Erik & Teresa Hansen
14	Pastor Wayne & Marilyn Kerr
17	Ray & Kathy Holstead
17	Will Ji & Lauren Jann
17	Ronald & Brenda Rumbaugh
19	Brian & Margaret Twomey
21	Gary & Betty Lee
21	Raman & Christine Edwards
24	John Hoch & Elissa Choun
29	Gerald & Jennifer Char
29	Edgar & Michele Boyer
30	Philip & Shirly Go

"Pray for one another" (James 5:16)

Let us follow this command of God's Word. Use the birthdays and anniversaries list each month to hold up one another to the Lord in prayer. You may wish to keep this list on your refrigerator, in your Bible, in your Portals of Prayer, or in some convenient place. What strength we receive from Almighty God when we sincerely pray for one another! And in these "interesting times," a call to a member wishing him/her birthday or anniversary greetings would probably be appreciated. It's particularly important that we keep in contact with each other these days.

In Memory of WPL Church Members

Joseph D. Holmes

December 15, 1926 — April 6, 2021

Born December 15, 1926 in Jefferson, Missouri. He was a long time resident of San Francisco, coming from Missouri with his family at the age of 16. Joe attended Lowell High School and upon his graduation enlisted in the US Army Air Corp. He was stationed in the Aleutian Islands where he met his future wife Lorraine Cleveland. Both returned to SF at the end of WWII. Once in SF they kindled their courtship and married on December 12th, 1948. They had two children, Pamela and David, and three grandchildren, Bart, Bret and Joseph, and two great grandchildren, Declan and Maya.

Joseph began his professional working career with Oroweat Baking Company. He rose through the ranks over the next 40+ years, while the company experienced several acquisitions. Upon retirement both Joe and Lorraine traveled all over and enjoyed life. Joe did volunteer work for the City of SF, Child Protection Guardianship Program. In addition, he was a faithful member of the West Portal "PortaLight Crew," meeting each month to assemble the PortaLights for mailing.

Joseph was a hard worker, generous and a fun-loving man. He was very devoted to his wife Lorraine of 72 years. He will be deeply missed and loved by family and friends

Bernd Lienhardt Christian Rogge **June 3, 1933—April 11, 2021**

Bernd Lienhardt Christian Rogge, 87, longtime resident of San Francisco, peacefully went home to be with the Lord and join his son Mark after a long battle with cancer, on April 11, 2021.

Born in Berlin and raised in Munich he moved to the United States in 1957, making San Francisco his new home. He joined the Army from 1958 to 1964. He then worked as a machinist for the American Can Company in San Francisco until they closed the facility in 1980. He became an accountant at the Broadmoor Lumber Company until his retirement in 1998.

Volunteering was his way of giving back to the community and, as such, he was the editor for the American Legion newsletter, a secretary for the Boys Scouts of American and a council member at his Church. His devotion to music and the Church started at a young age, when he was a member of the choir and played the trumpet and accordion. As an avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed hiking and skiing. His love of nature came back to bloom in his late years by turning his garden into a refuge of peace.

Bernd is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sigrid Rogge, and his family.

Nadine Meta Gustafson **December 20, 1919 – May 11, 2021**

Passed away peacefully at the age of 101. Lifelong Bay Area resident. Nadine was born and lived most of her life in San Francisco. Raised in the Mission district, she attended Mission High School, City College of San Francisco and U.C. Berkeley where she received her bachelor's degree and teaching credential. After serving a short assignment as student teacher for San Francisco Unified School district, she joined Coffin-Reddington, a pharmaceutical wholesaler. During that time, she met her husband John at the Russian River and was married on May 14th, 1949. They were married for 63 years, most of

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which was spent in the San Francisco Sunset District.

Nadine was a stay-at-home mom, where she raised her two sons, David and Paul. She was an avid reader. She enjoyed being with family and friends and raising a family. Nadine also enjoyed spending time at the Russian River in Rio Nido, where John's family had a summer home for 65 years. When her children entered high school, she took up golf and golfed on a weekly basis with seven other close women friends she met during World War II.

She is survived by her sons David and Paul, her daughter-in-law MaryEllen and her two grandchildren Kevin and Laura. She was preceded in death by her husband John and her parents Louis and Elsie Lillis.

**West Portal
Lutheran
Church Website:**
westportallutheran.org



Sunday
June 20, 2021