

Portal ght

the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

MAY 2024

PAGE 1

West Portal Lutheran Church Website:

westportallutheran.org

Inside this issue:

Message from Pastor Binz	1-2
Church Events	3
WPL Music Academy	4
Honoring Jan Lundquist	5-8
From the Principal's Desk	9-10
May Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
Calendar	12

From Pastor Binz

Pentecost Power from on High

"And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" Acts 2:12.

The day of Pentecost had arrived and as the people gathered there was a "sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them" Acts 2:3.

One time when I was in Guam it just so happen to be at a time when they had the strongest typhoon they had seen in many years. One hundred and sixty mile an hour winds and even though we had windows and doors boarded up water, wind and rain made its way into many buildings. Garbage dumpsters were rolling end over end in the parking lot like tumbleweeds. Cars were getting crushed like soda cans. If I was to ask myself at that time, "What does this mean?" My answer would be, if you want to live another day, stay in the brick barracks and don't



The Holy Spirit Descends on Pentecost

even attempt to go outside. I had never seen anything like this before especially coming from California.

I can't even imagine what the people were really thinking when they saw tongues of fire resting on them. "And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" Acts 2:4. Something new is happening; something different is happening. Now all of a sudden everyone is able to understand one another. "And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language" Acts 2:6.

In contrast to the Tower of Babel where everyone was dispersed not understanding one another (Gen. 11:1-11) here on the day of

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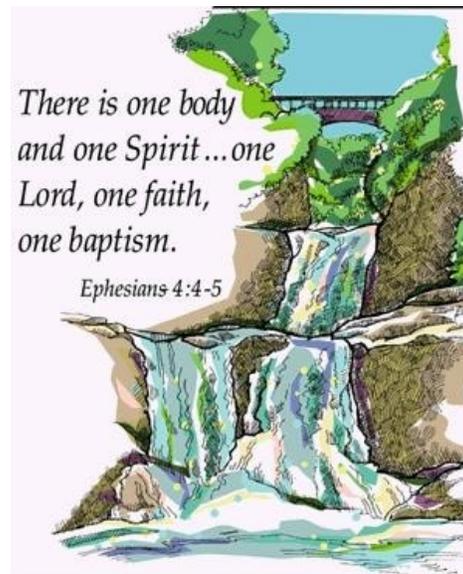
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Pentecost the people are together and understanding one another. The Holy Spirit is working and bringing people together. The Holy Spirit who calls, gathers and enlightens brings us together today through the means of grace and through the Word, in our baptism and Holy Sacrament-The Lord's Supper helping us to understand one another as we live in the body of Christ. *"There is one body and one Spirit-just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"* Ephesians 4:4-5.

As we live out our sanctified lives may we live with all humility, gentleness and patience with others as we remain eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit. And if you're struggling with the question, "What does this mean?" I remind you of Joel's words also recorded by Luke in Acts. *"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh"* Acts 2:17.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Binz



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Vincent Ammann, Beatrice Priest's father; Elfriede Bonfert; Paul Brase; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; William Chen; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Karen Goeglien, Bob Bok's cousin; John Hatcher, Bob Bok's brother-in-law; Ted Jones; Annissa Ma, Julia Tom's dear friend; Susie Marzolf; George Mogyorossy, Gilbert Mogyorossy's father; Sigrid Rogge; Art Spleiss, Ruth Stresow; Lisa Westermann; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong; Franklin Yee.

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Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor

May Luu, Administrative Assistant

Angie Holt, Church Secretary, PortalLight Editor

Ms. Sherise Lee, Principal

Worship Schedule

5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service-Lord's Supper

9:00 AM Sunday - Sunday School - Sanctuary

9:00 AM Sunday Adult Bible Study - Parish Hall

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service - Lord's Supper

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

Church Events



Altar Guild ladies and Virginia Ferry's grandchildren decorated the Altar for Easter: Becky Chan, Angie Holt, Virginia Ferry, Rhonda Short, Judy Law, Ernestine Gutter, Viviana Soper, Billy Biermann, Deanna Biermann, Darlene Hartman and Jing Li. Thank you to all who donated for the purchase of Easter lilies to beautify our Altar last Easter.

Confirmation of Aaron Wendt and Elizabeth Hanks on April 14th.



Pastor Binz performed the wedding of Joseph Man and Phuong Cooc on April 23rd. Joseph & Phuong joined WPL in June, 2022. Congratulations & blessings!



West Portal Lutheran Music Academy

The West Portal Lutheran Music Academy held its annual spring concert at Sanctuary Hall on April 28th, 2024, which turned out to be a great success. We extend our sincere gratitude to the students for their hard work and for sharing their beautiful music with everyone. We would also like to express our appreciation to the program director, Michelle Maruyama, and our teachers, Ruishi Chen, Cindy Zhou, Janet Lee, Amy Kao, Ada Leung, Victor Xie, and Tao Nordlicht, for their fantastic teaching.

At the West Portal Music Academy, we offer individual lessons for piano, violin, and flute. We are excited to announce that next semester, we will be adding new classes for recorder and flute groups. Our teachers have degrees from the Conservatory, and we believe in using God's love to support our students.

If you need more information or want to enroll in the program, please contact Michelle Maruyama, Program Director at wplsfmusic@gmail.com.

Amy Kao,
WPLC Music Director
amy.kao@wplsfc.com



Janet Elizabeth Lundquist

June 17, 1947 - April 14, 2024

A Christian memorial service to celebrate the life and faith of Jan Lundquist will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 1:00 pm at Christ For All Nations Lutheran Church, 465 Woolsey Street, San Francisco. A repast will follow immediately after the service. Parking is available via the entrance on Goettingen Street.

Jan was born in San Francisco California on June 17, 1947. She was the first child of Ina and Robert Lundquist. She was a life-long member of Bethel, Bethel-Grace and Christ For All Nations Lutheran Church. Most of her oldest friends are people she knew from Bethel Sunday School and Walther League. Over the decades, she served in various positions on the church council. She was the first female President to serve at Bethel.

Jan graduated from Balboa High School, and later from San Francisco State University in California where she majored in social welfare. She worked for various commercial real estate firms, but her last and longest job was as office secretary at West Portal Lutheran Church and School where she did her best to keep the office running like a well oiled machine until her retirement.

At West Portal Lutheran Church and School, Jan's title was Church Office Secretary and also officially or unofficially Assistant to Pastor Stechholz (and subsequent Pastors). She began work at WPLC in Feb. 1994. She signed a three-month contract....and stayed for 27 years. She worked full-time until June 2013 and then cut back to working three days per week for another 8 years until her retirement in June 2021.

Jan loved listening to and performing music. She played the guitar and the recorder with the Bethel Ensemble, and she also led and sang in the choir(s). She loved going with family and friends to the many arts and crafts street fairs in San



Francisco, Millbrae, Burlingame, Pacifica, Palo Alto and Half Moon Bay. She especially enjoyed going to the annual Harvest Festival in San Mateo each November. Christmas was her favorite time of year and she listened to Christmas music throughout the year. To Jan, it was never too early or too late in the year to listen to Christmas music.

Jan was a great hostess and loved entertaining family and friends with lunches and dinners at her home in San Bruno. She also enjoyed traveling with her family and friends whether to Europe, or California or other parts of the United States.

She is survived by her brother Jeff, and all of her family and friends from Christ For All Nations Lutheran Church and West Portal Lutheran Church.



Honoring the retirees in June 2021: Fred Jacob, Les Morris, Dan Holt, Michele Boyer and Jan Lundquist.

Remembering and Celebrating the Life and Witness of Jan Lundquist

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" Philippians 1:3

Perhaps it is best said by the great sage and philosopher Winnie the Pooh, *"We didn't realize we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun."* **Throughout life we meet all kinds of people and occasionally there is that one singular individual who brings a unique kind of purpose and joy into the lives of others. Such is Jan Lundquist.**

The first time Marilyn, and I met Jan Lundquist remains vividly clear in our memories even after twenty years. From the moment Jan answered the church doorbell on our first visit to West Portal Lutheran Church on a rainy spring day in 2004, Jan soon became not just a coworker, a fellow musician-church choir director, friend, and confidant. In so many ways Jan became like a big sister whose support and encouragement never failed to bring wisdom, joy, and strength to us even as her mortal life was failing.

Jan's vitality was a constant source of energy transforming the church office into command central as a steady flow of church members and school staff added their own contribution to the day's excitement. Combined with the Pastor Stechholz's infectious energy life in the church office never slowed down! Wednesday morning always began with school chapel followed by Adult Bible Study in the Church Library. But one Wednesday each month, was Portalight Day or as the staff called it "doughnut day". Enticement with pastries filled the church library with laughter and

stories as church members prepared the latest edition of the church newsletter for mailing.

Then of course there were the joint choir Christmas and Easter cantatas with Bethel-Grace Lutheran Church (later CFAN-Christ for All Nations) and West Portal Lutheran as well as other opportunities such as ordinations and other special services bringing the area churches together.

Even as she struggled with the effects of cancer Jan never stopped being Jan. During our regular phone conversations, she shared her faith and always wanted to know all about our new life in St. Louis and never failing to ask Marilyn if I was behaving. In typical Jan fashion she always ended the call with words of encouragement and looking forward to our next phone call.

There are so many memories and stories to tell, mine are just a few to add to the volumes waiting to be shared by family and friends. I encourage you to share them with each other and in doing so remember and take to heart the courage, the indelible faith, and the living witness of Jan Lundquist. The world needs more people like Jan Lundquist in their life because as Winnie the Pooh said, *"We didn't realize we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun."* **Thank you, Jan,** *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" Philippians 1:3.*

Peace and Joy in our
Risen Savior, Christ
Jesus!

Pastor J. Wayne and
Marilyn Kerr



IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAN LUNDQUIST

Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom and grace, has called out of this earthly life the soul of our sister in Christ Jesus, **Jan Lundquist**, long-time Secretary of West Portal Evangelical Lutheran Church. **How fitting that Christ took her to Himself during Eastertide!** Two weeks before her death, Jan and I were conversing over the phone. We joyfully reflected on many good times, blessings, and confidences that we shared in almost 13 years of ministry together.

Most importantly, though, Jan and I talked about her impending death. We both thought she would “hang in there” a bit longer. It is only a matter of time, beloved friends, when each of us will cross over that river from death of our mortal bodies to eternal life with the Lord Jesus in Paradise. Jan was not the least bit fazed in our phone conversation. She told me she knew exactly where she was heading as a gift of God’s grace through faith in Christ alone. She confessed that faith that she lived out day by day throughout her earthly walk. I wish you could have been a fly on the wall to hear that conversation between two dear friends who were committed to “*serve the Lord with gladness*” (Psalm 100). We had not lost a beat in the 18 years since I was called from West Portal to serve as your Bishop/President of the English District-LCMS. In many respects, “I left my heart in San Francisco.”

This you may not have known. During my nine years of serving the Lord and His Church as English District Bishop, I would occasionally contact Jan and ask for her professional and sisterly counsel. Even after I retired, and wife Janet and I decided we needed to stay in Michigan and buy our grave plots at Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park West in Livonia – I serve on the Glen Eden Board as Secretary – I would from time to time email or call Jan Lundquist. It was a joy to catch up on events in SF and at WPL Church and School. By the way, we did not always agree on political matters and politicians, and that was okay. She would also joke about her being 10 months older than me, and that

for two months I would finally have caught up to her! She would also kid me about my lack of ability to use tabs and indents properly!

But allow me to take you back to when Jan came on board at West Portal in 1993. I was not having much luck with secretaries at WPL, and I began thinking I was either too demanding in wanting quality and professionalism and Christian deportment. Ironically, after losing another secretary, I talked to a friend, Rev. John Cassidy, Pastor at Bethel Lutheran, pouring out my concerns and asking him, “What is wrong with me?” He told me, “Listen, I’ve got just the right person for you.” That person was his parishioner, Jan Lundquist. We brought Jan on board at West Portal in a heartbeat. Since then, there are lots of stories I could tell, but I shall not.

Suffice it to say, Jan was an incredible blessing of the Lord God to West Portal, to the Lutheran churches in SF, and to me personally and my family. We all loved Jan. I knew her also as a Christian woman of the highest integrity, honor, and common sense wisdom. She was a true “right arm” in ministry, and she was loved and appreciated by Vice Principal and later Principal Margaret Finley and our Church and School Staff. Former Minister of Music and later brother Pastor Wayne Kerr and I shared recently about Jan, whom we both knew for many years. I know Pastor Curtis Binz shared this same thankfulness to God for our sister in Christ, Jan, now fallen asleep and awaiting the great Day of Resurrection.

My concern in writing this article, though, is not merely to reflect on the past. Where are you, dear friend, in your walk with the Lord? Where have your shoes taken you on life’s journey? If you are still a faithful part of West Portal and her ministry, I am very happy. If you have slipped in the faith due to COVID, sins of the flesh, or just

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

spiritual backsliding, it's not too late to return to the fold of God's grace and to worship the Lord and receive His gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, salvation, peace with God and much more in hearing and studying together God's holy Word and receiving the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's true Body and Blood. It's not too late to go to Pastor Binz or another father-confessor to confess sins and then to receive Absolution. What a joy and blessing that is!

I would invite you to reflect on the life of one Jan Lundquist, a faithful servant of the Lord. You may not have her wit or abilities that she shared so naturally with us at West Portal Evangelical Lutheran Church and School and her own "BAG" (Bethel and Grace), later Christ for All Nations Lutheran Church and her Pastor, Rev. Dr. Terry Chan. You may not have Jan's deep Christian faith. But you do have in your Baptismal grace a faith that looks to "Jesus Christ alone, who did for all the world atone; He is our one Redeemer." And your faith and service can grow, no matter how young or old you are. Look to Christ; let the Holy Spirit guide you; remember Jan; and, "onward, Christian soldiers,...with the Cross of Jesus, going on before."

Yours in our precious Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, the Victorious Lamb of God,

Rev. Dr. (Pastor) David Stechholz

P.S. I just finished writing (soon to be published) my third book, *God's Acre: The History of Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Parks*. I hope you read book two, *The English District Saga: A Niche in the History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America*, in your Church Library.



2018 WPLC 75th Anniversary Dinner



WPLC staff, President, VP with Sunset Campus loan final check, March 2019



2019 Jan with Gary & Betty Lee, Pastor Stechholz and Janet; Pastor Kerr and Marilyn; Pastor Binz & Stacey

West Portal Lutheran School: News from the Principal's Desk

Dear West Portal Family of Faith:

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

We have arrived at the final month of the school year, and we end by celebrating friendship! As we work with our students to be caring citizens, one of the schoolwide learner outcomes we seek is for them to develop an awareness of the welfare of others around them and act in consideration of others. The years here at West Portal Lutheran are formative and so often form lifelong friendship (case in point - Ms. Fong, our 4th grade teacher and I have been friends since our days as students at West Portal Lutheran). To be a good friend is to love others as ourselves. Sounds simple, but so hard knowing that we are at heart selfish and need a Savior to help us love others well.

As we send off the Class of 2024, we look forward to celebrating the bonds of friendship that they have developed and the amazing work that God has done and will continue to do in their lives!

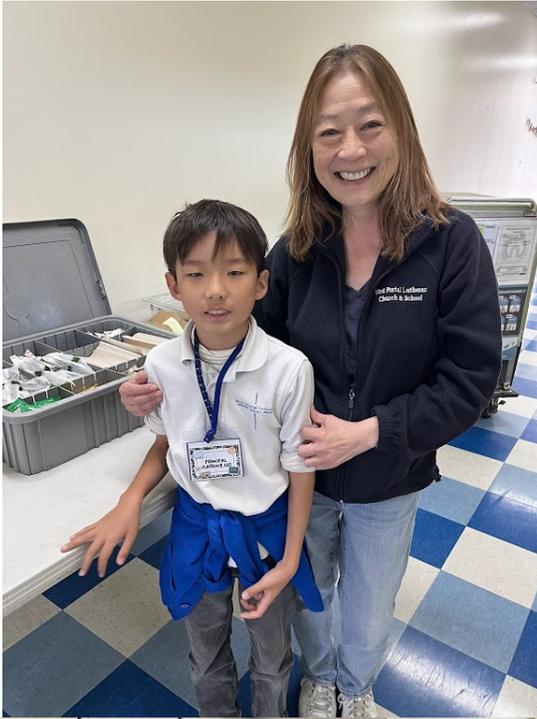
Sherise Lee
Principal

6th Grade leads Sloat Chapel on April 24th and also put together a musical ensemble



**8th Grade girls final CYO home game
(they won!)**

PTL Silent Auction winner Clarence Lee is Principal for the Day at Sunset Campus.



Kindergarteners Amelia Hom and Zoey Louie hold up a birthday book donation.



Sunset Campus Spring Concert - Joy Chimes and Lamb's Choir

May Birthdays and Anniversaries



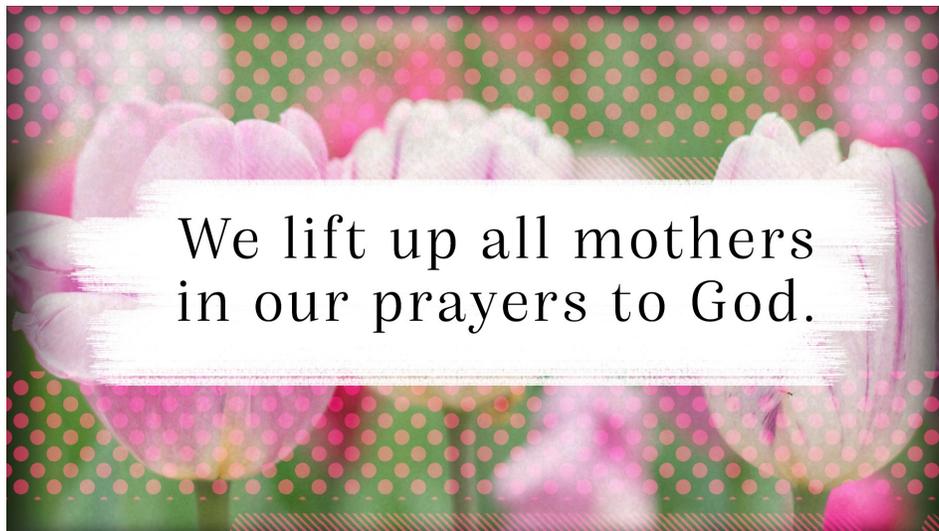
1	Naomy Che	17	Jonathan Chan	30	Peggy Chiu-Wong
5	Anton Mrabe	18	Evelyn Priest	31	Angie Holt
5	August Stofferahn	19	Benjamin Rumbaugh	31	Andrew Stranahan
5	Marcella Tinney Dorr	19	Ashley Kong	31	Rozanne Heinzl
7	Laila Mark	21	Christine Wong	31	Jeffrey Lee
9	Brianna Nulph	22	Lindsay Chan	31	Marsha Quan
10	Joshua Wu	22	Lucy Lew		
11	Frank Ouyang	22	Louise Jann		
12	Jackson Shadel	22	Robert Yee		
12	Beth Fox	23	Cheryl Wong		
12	Betty Wong	24	Kevin Chan		
12	Alijah Hutchinson	25	Jonelle Patrick		
14	Terry Hesselroth	25	Luke Toloski		
15	Angela Szu	26	Alicia Man		
17	Sarah Lee	27	Nan Still		
		28	Zono Cruz		
		30	Colum Toscano		
		30	Brandon Hwong		
		30	Jing Li		



11	Stanley & Julia Tom
16	Brian & Irene Michaud
22	Rudolph & Gail Frey
24	Steven & Christy Wood
25	Archie Wong & Peggy Chiu-Wong
30	Ron & Viviana Soper

"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 when we're unable to meet in person.





- Saturday, 5/4 10:00 AM Quilt Class
- Saturday, 5/4 5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper

- Sunday, 5/5 9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
- Sunday, 5/5 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, 5/5 10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
- Sunday, 5/5 12:00 PM WPL's Spring Social at the Lawn in S.F. Mission Bay Parklab

- Saturday, 5/11 5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
- Sunday, 5/12 9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
- Sunday, 5/12 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, 5/12 10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
- Wednesday, 5/15 11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class
- Saturday, 5/18 5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper

- Sunday, 5/19 9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
- Sunday, 5/19 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, 5/19 10:00 AM Baccalaureate Sunday - Lord's Supper
- Sunday, 5/19 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday, 5/22 11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class
- Saturday, 5/25 5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper

- Sunday, 5/26 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, 5/26 10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
- Sunday, 5/26 11:15 AM Altar Guild Meeting-Parish Hall



May 12th

