

The Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 29, 2025

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Longview, WA

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. **We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!**



Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

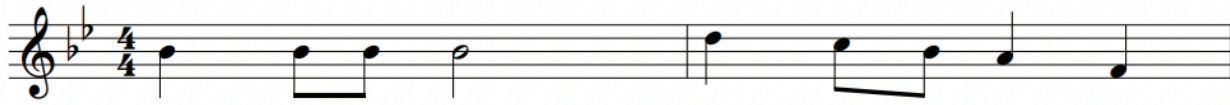
Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



Making Their Way



1. Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges,
 2. Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver,
 3. Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son,



Sin - ners and saints have heard God's call: Wealth-y and poor,
 Chris - tians as - sem - ble on this day, Hear - ing the Word,
 Pil - grims, we jour - ney till life's end, Trav - el-ing light,



pow - er-ful, low - ly, Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all.
 shar - ing the Ban-quet, Learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way.
 shar - ing the rich - es, Car - ing for stran - ger as for friend,



Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks, The great - est
 Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love, They seek our
 Till in the joy of long - ing ful-filled, To - geth - er



with the least Have come to share this feast.
 God to know, And so to - geth - er grow.
 we will come To our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b.1939, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: KOMT NU MET ZANG, 9 8 9 8 9 66; Valerius' *Neder-landsche gedenck-klanck*; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942

The Liturgy of the Word

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise & Children's Procession

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

Worship Leaders June 29, 2025

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Presider | The Rev. Michael Wright |
| Musician | Riki Davis |
| Altar Guild | Robin Swecker, Gretchen Niemi |
| Reader | Lauren Henricksen, Josh Carter |
| Greeter | Lauren Henricksen |
| Chalice Bearer | Bev Finlay |
| Usher | Greg Moore |
| Verger | Mary Hoover |
| Vestry Presence | Greg Moore, Lisa Sudar |

Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

$\text{♩} = 145$ Joyfully!

Mike Anderson

D G A D G A D *Last time to*

(clap, clap) (clap, clap)

Glo - ri - al! Glo - ri - al! In ex - cel - sis De - o!

5 A D A F#7

v.1 Lord - God hea - ven - ly - King, peace you bring to
 v.2 Je - sus, Sa - viour - of all, Lord - God, Lamb - of
 v.3 At the Fa - ther's right hand, Lord, re - ceive our
 v.4 Glo - ry Fa - ther and Son, glo - ry Ho - ly

8 Bm Em Em7

us! We wor - ship - you, we give you thanks, we
 God, you take a - way our sins, oh Lord, have
 prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly - One and
 Spi - rit! To you we raise our hands up high! We

11 Em A sus4 A D.C. G A

sing our song - of praise! In ex - cel - sis
 mer - cy on - us all!
 you - a - lone are Lord!
 glo - ri - fy your name!

15 D G A D

De - o! In ex - cel - sis De - - -

19

o!

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from **1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21**

The LORD said to Elijah, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."**
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.**
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.**
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.**
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.**
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.**
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.**
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

A Reading from **Galatians 5:1,13-25**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)
(Please stand as able)



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Luke 9:51-62**
Glory to you, O Christ.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Michael Wright

Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: We turn our faces to you in expectation and confidence that you will hear us when we pray, saying Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask your prayers for the church universal; for true revival to bring us new ways to reach those who are wary of faith and to embrace those who find their way to us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for those who lead this nation and all nations, for those who lead in towns and communities around the world that compassion and service will overcome fear and hatred and that we might have peace and relationships among all people.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for this assembly, that we might experience the living Christ and know, in our deepest selves, that we are loved and were created with purpose.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for the natural world and all who labor to preserve and protect it for all future generations.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for those who need healing of heart, healing of mind, and healing of body. Bless those we offer to you now David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Marlene Norman, Ina Edmiston and those we now name either silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for those who die alone and afraid; for those who die unexpectedly and tragically; for those who die surrounded by their families and full of faith. Bring all those beloved into your light perpetual, especially Shirley Isaacs and those we now name either silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: We offer all these prayers through Jesus Christ, our comforter, guide, and mediator. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins *(Please kneel as able)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *(Please stand as able)*

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The Offertory Hymn *(Please stand as able)*

Give to the virtual offering plate by scanning or online

@ sslv.org

Virtual Offering Plate



For Peace Between Israel and Iran

Merciful God, **we lament** the conflict **escalation** between the nations of **Israel** and **Iran**. In a world torn by **hatred and war**, help us **sow seeds of peace**. Grant leaders wisdom, courage, and compassion. **Protect the innocent**, heal the wounded, and comfort the grieving. Break the chains of violence and **lead** both **nations to reconciliation**. Jesus, transform fear into hope. May **justice and mercy flow** like a river **through the Middle East**. In Jesus' holy name, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

For Trans Youth Seeking Healing and Wholeness

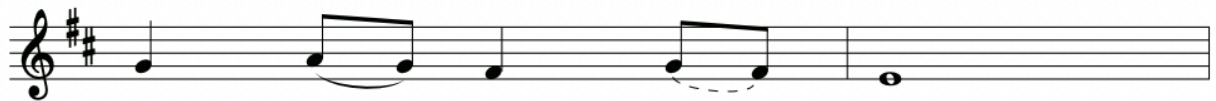
Gracious God, you created **all people** in your image, **diverse** and **united in dignity**, reflecting your boundless creativity and **unwavering love**. In light of the recent Supreme Court decision that allows states to prohibit gender-affirming care for minors, **we pray for the youth** who feel **afraid** and will no longer be able to **access the care they need**. We pray **for the parents** and family members who must now **seek new ways to care** for and **protect** their children. Grant us wisdom and courage so that **we may offer** support rooted in truth and **compassion**. May we, like Jesus, who welcomed the marginalized and restored the vulnerable, bear witness to your mercy and grace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

Seek Ye First



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
 3. You do not live by bread a - lone,
 4. Where two or three are gath - ered in my name,



and seek, his and right - eous - ness,
 but and you shall find,
 there by ev - 'ry word
 am I in their midst;



and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you;
 that comes forth from the mouth of God;
 and what - so - ev - er you ask I will do;



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

2. *Optional Refrain, Descant, or Canon:*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

**May be sung as a two-voice canon.*

Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7; adapt. by Karen Lafferty, b.1948
 Tune: SEEK YE FIRST, Irregular; Karen Lafferty, b.1948
 © 1972, CCCM Music/Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publishing (admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com)

Eucharistic Prayer C

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with a great diversity of gifts and abilities. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus acclamation is sung to conclude the introduction to the eucharistic prayer.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Fraction Ann Marie Long

Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu

ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hands and the chalice bearer will intinct for you. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream:

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. AMEN.

Postcommunion Prayer

(Please kneel as able)

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The blessing of God: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Please stand as able.)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Saints that have come before and the Spirit that is with us now.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour!

If you are new today, please take a welcome packet and coffee mug (found at the front door)!

O Jesus, I have promised

The Hymnal 1982, #655



1 O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end:
2 O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee,



be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will;
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874), alt. Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948).
Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.

Community Invitations

Save the dates:

- ❖ **St. Stephen's Summer Picnic–Saturday August 2**
- ❖ **The Deneckes, Episcopal Folk Duo**
 - **Performing live at St. Stephen's, Wednesday August 6 @ 7pm**
- ❖ **Columbia River Chamber Music Festival**
 - **Thursday August 7-Sunday August 10**
- ❖ **Booth Volunteers Needed @ SquirrelFest–Saturday August 16**

Summer Book Club:

Join us in reading *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan this summer.

In the summer of 1967, not long after the Six Day War, three young Palestinian men ventured into the town of Ramla in Israel. They were cousins, on a pilgrimage to see their childhood homes, from which they and their families had been driven out nearly twenty years earlier. One cousin had the door slammed in his face, one found that his old house had been converted into a school. But the third, Bashir, was met at the door by a young woman named Dalia, who invited him in...This poignant encounter is the starting point for the story of two families - one Arab, one Jewish - which spans the fraught modern history of the region. In the lemon tree his father planted in the backyard of his childhood home, Bashir sees a symbol of occupation; Dalia, who arrived in 1948 as an infant with her family, as a fugitive from Bulgaria, sees hope for a people devastated by the Holocaust. Both are inevitably swept up in the fates of their people and the stories of their lives form a microcosm of more than half a century of Israeli-Palestinian history. What began as a simple meeting between two young people grew into a dialogue lasting four decades. The Lemon Tree offers a much needed human perspective on this seemingly intractable conflict and reminds us not only of all that is at stake, but also of all that is possible.

If able, please join us on Wednesday August 20 @ 6pm at Hop-n-Grape to discuss your reflections and learnings from the book (please come even if you haven't yet completed the book).

FISH needs help and bags!

We are currently in need of a person or two with a pick up truck.

We receive donated food that needs to be picked up at CAP weekly on (most) Thursday mornings, usually around 10:00 am. Items need to be loaded at CAP and then unloaded at Baird House that same morning. One of our FISH team people will be there to help with the loading at CAP and at least two more will be present to help unload at Baird House.



During distribution week we also need two food pick ups at Grocery Outlet, one on Monday morning and again on Thursday morning. Our distribution weeks are usually the 3rd week in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Do you have a coffee grinder?

We currently have 40 pounds of whole coffee beans. These need to be ground fine and placed into quart bags. We will supply the quart bags. If we could have volunteers take 2 or 3 bags of beans, this would be most helpful. We've been told a blender also works to grind coffee.

We are always in need of GROCERY BAGS: paper, plastic or reusable. Clean bags make our jobs easier.

Any questions?

Please contact: Robin Swecker, Gretchen Niemi, or Judy Swanson.

Thank you for your continued FISH support!