

## Lightning Damage at Saron Lutheran - First Presbyterian Church Could Have Been Worse

HOQUIAM- The steeple at Saron Lutheran - First Presbyterian Church in Hoquiam was struck by lightning at around 6:30 on November 20. However, staff and church members feel fortunate that the damage was contained.

“This could have been so much worse,” said Rev. Michelle de Beauchamp, pastor for the congregation. “The roof of our steeple took the brunt of the destruction. Thankfully no one was in the building at the time and the damage is minimal compared to what could have happened. I am also thankful that the strike missed the neighboring buildings that house businesses, low-income housing, and support our community members.”

“Unfortunately, this means that our free monthly community meal must be canceled tonight,” continued de Beauchamp. “We look forward to serving our neighbors each month and are disappointed that we will be unable to provide meals tonight. We are also sad that Harbor Food Pantry could not safely distribute food to our neighbors due to the storm.”

“I want to thank the Hoquiam Fire Department, the Grays Harbor PUD, the City of Hoquiam, Lupo Construction and Quigg Bros. Construction for helping us clean up and assess the damage,” finished de Beauchamp. “Thank you to everyone in our community who have extended sentiments of support. We have been working with Lupo construction on important building maintenance for the last few years, so we are in a good position to figure out our next steps quickly and to resume normal church functions in the next few days. It will be expensive, but we are thankful that our community is coming together to support us.”

Saron Lutheran - First Presbyterian is one of the oldest churches in Grays Harbor. The building is over 100 years old. For more information go to [sarongraysharbor.org](http://sarongraysharbor.org).

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