# FOCUS Vol. 30 No. 1 Our Savior Lutheran Church CROWING TOSERVE

Living God's love in Jesus Christ through word and sacraments, worship and prayer, learning and fellowship we grow disciples for service and outreach.

#### Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front St. South Issaquah, WA 98027 (425) 392-4169 (425) 392-2946 – fax

#### Email:

office@oslcissaquah.org
Webpage:
www.oslcissaquah.org

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#### Sunday Worship Services:

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

#### **Sunday School**

(September-May)  $9:45 \ a.m.$ 

#### **Summer Worship Time:**

(May 24 – September 6, 2015)

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#### As We Say Goodbye. . . Let There Be Love

It may be a cliché, but it is most certainly accurate: saying goodbye is never easy. As I prepare to do just this thing, I think of the Apostle Paul's words in First Corinthians 13. Struggling to capture thoughts and feelings too great for him, he writes, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face." This blurry reality that he speaks of is the reflection of God's love in this world. It is the messy experience of God's perfect love made known to him through imperfect human relationships.

Looking back over the past seven years of life lived within this faith community named Our Savior Lutheran Church, so many thoughts and feelings emerge. Much like Paul writing to the Corinthians, I want to express my deep gratitude for the wonderful and messy experience of discovering God's love among you.

In the fall of 2007, I accepted the call to come and serve as your pastor. That beginning came with some clear statements about new directions and hope-filled expectations both for me and for the congregation. Many of those new things have been fulfilled and many have not. But as I look back, I am mindful that our collective ability to name this time a success has little to do with what we thought could or should happen when I began. What truly defines our success is the love of Christ that has been revealed in us, whether we anticipated it's coming or not. What matters most is our ability to open our senses like the Apostle Paul did long ago and perceive the great and perfect love of God that is reflected dimly and beautifully in our lives.

continued on page 2

# One Worship Service @ 9:30 a.m. Sunday, January 11, 2015

On the weekend of Sunday, January 11, 2015 there will be one worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School will also be in recess on that Sunday.



continued from page 1

As my call to serve as your pastor nears an ending point, I want to leave you with a simple word of encouragement. Now and always, look for the love of God reflected in the world around you. Sometimes that love is a faint and dim reflection. And yet, we hold to the promise that it is still greater than all the hurts and failures that afflict and confound us. God's love fuels our faith and gives substance to our hope.

This past week, I presided and preached at a funeral for a man that very few people in Issaquah know. In fact, much of my experience of his funeral was at first defined by a sense of loneliness. Three family members from the east coast came out and about a dozen friends and coworkers from the Seattle area were present. I ached for what I perceived as this man's isolation. It seemed already as if he were almost forgotten.

And then what has happened thousands of times during my days as your pastor happened once more: God's brilliant love dimly flickering began to fill the room. It happened after I said the benediction and the service was ended. One by one, co-workers and friends of this man came forward to speak with his mother. They spoke kind and beautiful words. They hugged her and held on as she wept for both loss and love. Strangers were transformed by the love that shone through them. Again I was reminded that in the face of doubt and uncertainty, God's abundant and powerful love is always with us. It is our salvation and our daily song.

It has been a great gift to serve as your pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church. God has been faithful and generous with us. I will miss you. I will grieve the loss of many relationships that I hold dear. And, I will celebrate the dim and brilliant love of God revealed in and through us. Thank you for sharing God's love with me these past seven years. I leave you with the clear and simple command that Jesus gave.

I give you a new commandment, that you **love** one another. Just as I have **loved** you, you also should **love** one another. John 13:34

In Peace, Pastor Ryan Fletcher



# Francois/Fletcher Farewell Brunch Sunday, January 11, 2015

On Sunday, January 11, 2015 we will bid Godspeed and farewell to Pr. Ryan, Natalie, Sammy, Masame, Toby and Lydia. Pr. Ryan has accepted a new pastoral call at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Snohomish. We will worship together at one worship service on January 11th at 9:30 a.m. (Sunday School will be in recess on January 11th.) Following the 9:30 a.m. worship service there will be a potluck brunch served in Anderson Hall to thank the Francois/Fletcher family for their leadership and ministry to OSLC. There will be a basket at the brunch for cards and monetary gifts. (Please make your checks payable to Pr. Ryan Fletcher.) If you would like to help at the brunch, please contact Judi Case at judicase@outlook.com or the church office at office@oslcissaquah.org.



#### **President's Update: Transitional Change**

By: Judi Case, Council President

"In me there is darkness,
But with You there is light;
I am lonely, but You do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help;
I am restless, but with You there is peace.
In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience;
I do not understand Your ways,
But You know the way for me."
Dietrich Bonheoffer, Letters and Papers from Prison

This prayer seems to speak to our Advent Season, the birth of our Lord, and our own struggles as we begin defining our future at OSLC. Indeed, we pray for light, understanding, acceptance and discernment. We are at the beginning of a long journey, and there is much praying and work to be done. Pastor Christensen and the Council have elected the members of our transition team, and the initial meeting has taken place, led by Pastor. Here are the willing members of our team: Marilyn Carlson, David Hersey, Randy Baseler, Brook Buchanan, Vince Smith, Lori Downey, Barbara Extract and Mark Mummy.

Together this team will guide us in exploring our congregational expressions, as we affirm who we are today and discover where God is leading us tomorrow. There will be requests for input, information gathering and questionnaires to complete. Once this work is compiled, the results will be recorded in the Ministry Site Profile. This form will be sent to the Bishop for review. This process will take approximately 7 – 9 months. The MSP will also be given to the as yet to be formed Call Committee, as a foundation for seeking our pastoral replacement.

The Transition Team will report regularly to the Council President, and may also bring reports or concerns to the Council. Please be sure to respond to any requests you may receive from this team. Congregational input is critical to the success of the Transition Team's work. Together we will try to discern God's plan for us, if only in the small ways of voicing hopes, fears and desires. Christ will lead us as He always does.

I ask you to join me in daily prayer for this team. I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will hold them in his loving arms, and shine His light on all they do. May His Peace comfort them, guide them in His way, and lift their good work up. In His name I pray. Amen.

#### Healing Prayer @ OSLC

Healing prayer is a ministry as ancient as the Church. It has always been important for those who are experiencing health difficulties.

Beginning in February 2015, the ministry of healing prayer will be available on the first and third Sundays of each month at both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Pastors Jane and Peter Shen will be at the altar rail during the distribution of Holy Communion. A space at the altar rail will be designated for healing prayer. Let Pastors Jane or Peter know that you desire private prayer. They will provide that ministry to you.

HEALING

Contact Pastor Christensen with questions or for more information about this new ministry at OSLC.

#### **Christian Education & Small Group Ministries**

Sunday school classes will be in recess on Sunday, January 11, 2015.

#### **Sunday School**

9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
Infants, Toddlers & Their Families

This year at OSLC, we have a Sunday School class for infants, toddlers, and their families. The class takes place the fourth Sunday of each month in the OSLC nursery. Parents, grandparents, or caregivers should attend the class with their little ones. Each month, this class will include songs, story, and play time and opportunities for the adults to get to know one another. Join us on January 25, 2015.

#### Preschool—Grade 5

For students in Preschool through Grade 5, our Sunday School programs are tied to the Sunday morning readings that we hear each week in worship. For more information on our Sunday school curriculum, visit www.activatefaith.org or c o n t a c t t h e c h u r c h o f f i c e, office@oslcissaquah.org.

#### Grades 6-12 Java Talk

For students in grades six through twelve, we offer an on campus program geared towards conversation and relationship building. Each Sunday, students meet in the upstairs youth room for Java Talk, a program geared towards conversation and relationship building.

# Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday Mornings @ 10:00 am

Interim Pastor Dick Christensen leads a Thursday morning Bible study. The study focus is on upcoming gospel readings that are used on Sunday mornings in worship. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Class will not meet on Thursday, January 1st.

#### **New-Life Spirituality Group**

Sunday, January 4 and 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

The New-Life Spirituality Group gathers the first and third Sunday evenings of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for fellowship and faith exploration and growth while discussing books chosen by the group. Currently they are reading *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. The next meeting will be January 4th at the home Les and Kate Gagnon. In preparation for the January 4th meeting, participant's should read Part V and the epilogue. For more information about this group, contact Sue Friddell at fridsd@aol.com

#### **Mission Quilters**

Join us Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until noon in Anderson Hall and assist us making quilts. The Mission Quilters make simple patchwork quilts that are donated to people in need. Contact the church office for more information, 425-392-4169, ext. 100.





#### **Hope Circle**

Friday, January 16 9:30 a.m.



Hope Circle will meet Friday, January 16, 2015 at OSLC. For more information on Hope Circle or for carpooling information, please contact Sandy Aldworth at (425) 837-1233 or mtnlady@comcast.net.



#### **Grow Together in Faith**

New Women's Bible Study Forming

**Faith Circle** 

Monday, January 19 1:30 p.m.

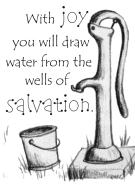
On January 19, 2015, Faith Circle will meet at the home of Louise Yockey and our leader will be Karen Hansen. Faith Circle meets on the third Monday of each month, from September to May, at 1:30 p.m., in different member's homes. (We break for the summer months - June through August.) This study follows the Lutheran women's magazine, Gather. If you need more information or would like to join Faith Circle, please contact Rita Hansen at (425) 392-2108 or ritahansen@brigadoon.net.

Ladies, are you wanting to meet with other OSLC women to grow in your faith? We have five women who would like to start a new Circle. This group of women would like to meet in the evening. Circles meet once a month in one of the member's homes. The group studies the Bible study from the ELCA women's magazine Gather. It is a great way to meet more women of faith and to bond together to form a loving and supportive small community with Our Savior Lutheran Church.

If you are interested, please contact Sandy Aldworth at 425-837-1233 or by email at mtnlady@comcast.net.

#### A Deeper Well

On Hiatus



Will Isaiah 12:3

As much as some enjoyed this venue and the discussions that happened, A Deeper Well will go on hiatus for awhile. Maybe in the spring a new dinner/Bible study will form or perhaps something else. Stayed tuned!

#### OSLC's Book Club

January 12th @ 7:30 p.m. Issaguah's Barnes & Noble

The next gathering for the Book Club will be on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Issaquah Barnes and Noble Bookstore. The book club will discuss the book Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Bolz-Weber is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA mission church in Denver, Colorado.

They will also be picking the books they will read in 2015. Bring the names and descriptions of books you think the book club might enjoy reading. For more information about the book club, contact Marilyn Larson marilyn.larson@gmail.com.



#### Sing in the New Year

The Chancel Choir welcomes new members in the New Year. Join us as we sing the music of Epiphany and Lent, and look ahead to the season of Easter. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the sanctuary, resuming January 7th. Questions? Contact Scott Hafso,(bellevuer@gmail.com).

### Altar Guild—Are you a Mary or a Martha? By: Judi Case

These biblical women were the embodiment of a ministry that served Jesus and his followers. They each brought complimentary service to our Lord: by 'being' in Christ's teachings, and by 'doing', or acting upon His teachings. One was in the moment, soaking up the Word and Truth, the other busily taking



care of the everyday realities of faith and church such as food and lodging. Some would say that these women were the first church administrators, meaning they were in the service of ministry to Jesus and His followers.

Members of the OSLC Altar Guild are both Mary and Martha. We are stewards of a ministry that provides a setting which enables our congregation to worship in Christ's presence, communing as one. We are dedicated to the care and preparation of the altar for all worship services. Our members can also serve as bread bakers. We also focus on keeping the elements clean and well maintained, including the vestments and articles used during the service.

The Altar Guild is open to OSLC members who respect the sanctity of the altar and are interested in performing the various required duties. We share responsibilities throughout the year, and our schedules are published monthly.

We are blessed to have a small but dedicated group of women who serve Our Lord and Our Savior tirelessly each week. Just stop in the Sacristy any Sunday between services and you will meet at least one or two members!! I would like to thank these servants of Our Lord, and encourage anyone who is interested in joining our Guild to speak with one of them, or with me. We would love to grow our ministry by adding members who are either Mary, Martha or both!

Members of Altar Guild are: Mary Fricke (AG); Rita Hansen (AG); Karen Hansen (AG); Jane Wuest (AG and Bread maker); Connie Fletcher (Bread maker); Kathy Ziegler (Bread maker); Robin Timmerman (AG); Jacki Marx (AG); and, Judi Case (AG).

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Judi Case, for further information. She can be reached at judicase@outlook.com or at 425-687-0864. A short informational meeting will be set up to review the duties and time requirements for becoming a member of the Altar Guild.



#### **Congregational Business**

#### **Automate Your Regular Offering**

Our Savior Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we have electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available on the table in the narthex and from the church office. Or, you can check it out by clicking the "Contribute to OSLC Now" button on the church's website, (www.oslcissaquah.org).

#### 2015 OSLC Offering Envelopes

2015 offering envelopes can be picked up from the table in Anderson Hall. Please use these envelopes for your weekly Envelopes offerings beginning January 1, 2015. As envelopes are ordered in bulk, all households have envelopes. Electronic givers and credit card givers can choose to use these envelopes for special giving or recycle them as they wish. If you don' have an offering envelope and would like one, please contact the church office at 425-392-4169, ext. 100 or by email at office@oslcissaquah.org.

#### **Treasurer's Update**

Nov. 2014

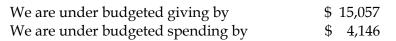
We have completed five months of the 2014/15 fiscal year...

What has actually happened this year:

 We have received YTD - (93% of budget)
 \$194,489

 We have spent YTD - (98% of budget)
 \$204,529

 **Deficit** \$ (10,040)



Compared to last year's actual giving, our contributions are <u>\$28,974 above</u> last year.

After four years, this is my last report at Treasurer of OSLC. It has been a privilege and a pleasure serving OSLC. I am very excited for Jeff Ziegler to take this position. Please support him by giving of your time, talents and treasures. We need more involvement of the congregation in the finances of the church. The foundation is strong but you can help make it even better!

Respectfully, Randy Halter, Treasurer







#### **Social Concerns Corner**

Submitted by Connie Fletcher

**Giving Tree**: Thanks to all the members of OSLC who generously supported the Giving Tree at OSLC. Just over \$2,000 in gift cards, gifts, checks and cash were donated, benefitting individuals and families in our own congregation, low income children in the community through the Holiday Gift Barn and the children of Vine Maple transitional housing.

**Homelessness**: Did you know that there are 124 school aged children in the Issaquah School District that are homeless? Did you know that to cover the basics of child care, housing, food, transportation and health care, it would take an annual income of over \$56,000 for a single adult with one pre-school child living on the Eastside? No wonder homelessness is growing! Our Social Concerns Committee continues to have discussions on how we, as a congregation, can best help the homeless in our community. There will be educational opportunities for all members during Sunday school hours during Lent.

**Eastside Baby Corner Bedding Needs**: While there are needs every month, EBC expects that they will need between 1000 and 1200 bedding sets of all kinds, but especially crib and twin size sets in January and February. If you have new or still useful bedding to donate, please deposit them in the EBC barrel in the back hall of the church.

**Blankets and Sleeping Bags:** Baby, it's cold outside! Especially if you are living in a tent or camping in your car. Please bring blankets and sleeping bags to church and place them next to the Food Bank bins.

**Personal Care and Paper Goods:** There are many essentials that cannot be purchased with Food Stamps or readily available at the Food Bank. Please continue to bring in toilet paper, paper towels, baby wipes, diapers, laundry detergent, hygiene products, etc. to church and place them in the Food Bank bins located just outside the OSLC library.

Pastor Christensen believes that gifts to the poor come back three fold. I believe it!

#### Winter on the Website

If the weather gets nasty and traveling gets treacherous, you might wonder if an event or activity at Our Savior is "on as scheduled" or if it has been cancelled. During these times, the first place to check is the OSLC website (<a href="www.oslcissaquah.org">www.oslcissaquah.org</a>) or OSLC's Facebook page. Important messages concerning emergency closures or changes in



schedule will be listed on the home page as well as Facebook. These are important places for you to keep updated on what is happening at OSLC, and we hope it will help you get the information that you need.





# The More the Merrier! Sign Up to Host Refreshments during the New Congregation-Managed Sunday Morning Fellowship Hour (9:30—11:00 a.m.)

Coffee Fellowship

We are piloting a new way of hosting refreshments during the Sunday morning Fellowship Hour. It is our hope that this new method will encourage participation by a large number of different people in the congregation and provide a more efficient way to offer weekly hospitality.

Individuals, families, groups of friends, small organized groups or committees within the congregation are all encouraged to sign up to host the Sunday morning Fellowship Hour. There are three ways to help:

- 1) Make, serve and help clean up coffee.
- 2) Provide, serve and help clean up snacks.
- 3) Or, sign up for both coffee and snacks.

To streamline the hospitality, the Sunday morning Fellowship Hour is between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., with clean up afterward. Sabrina Wick, Nursery Attendant, will start the first pot of coffee. She will help the volunteers with final clean up after the 11:00 a.m. worship service and will assist during the Fellowship Hour if she does not have any children in the nursery—her primary responsibility remains the nursery.

The sign-up sheet for hosting coffee and/or snacks is on the bulletin board in Anderson Hall. If anyone makes coffee on a Sunday when we do not have a host, please clean up afterward.

We are printing the name of the person(s) who has volunteered to host the Fellowship Hour in the Sunday worship folder. If you attend the Fellowship Hour, please take the time to thank those who are hosting and consider hosting yourself!

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Gillin at lisa@gillindesign.com.



## **2015 ELCA Youth Gathering** *July 2015*

Every three years, 40,000 Lutheran youth and adults gather together for a huge event filled with music and speakers that inspire, daily service learning, games and activities and meaningful Bible studies. The dates are set for next summer in Detroit for July 15-19, 2015. The theme for the gathering is *Rise Up Together*. For more information about the Youth Gathering contact Glenna Usselman at glennausselman@aol.com.





God's Work...Our Hands; locally and world-wide

**OSLC Mission Quilts:** Mission Quilters received information early in December that 55 quilts from OSLC will be delivered to Syrian refugee families who are now in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. In December, 15 lap quilts and 2 carrying bags were donated to our wheelchair-bound neighbors at the Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Quilts and hats were also donated to the Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle.

A New Year Brings New Opportunities for Mission: Rev. Peter Shen will be returning to China in January and then again in March to continue his work as an ELCA consultant on relations with churches in China.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Meet the new president and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Henrik and Patty Christopherson, missionaries in Peru, will be at OSLC. Some of our youth and adults spent time with the Christopherson's while on their recent mission trip to Peru.

September 15th - John and Elaine Stamm will be returning to Tanzania and you are invited to join them!



#### Travel with a Purpose

You are invited to join a "hands-on" mission journey to Tanzania, East Africa, where you will observe and participate in the challenging educational work of the SAFI School Project (SSP). For the past eight years, the SSP has provided a variety of essential resources to improve Ngateu Lutheran Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania. Ngateu serves extremely poor students, mostly of the Maasi tribe.

OSLC members John and Elaine Stamm will lead this journey, September 15-October 5, 2015. Participants will meet students and help them improve their English language skills. Participants will also meet with the teachers, administrators and staff to hear about their challenges and life stories.

Included will be visits to the medical outreach program of the Arusha Lutheran Community Hospital, the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli and safari trips to Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro National Park and the Serengeti Plain. The African Cultural Arts Center in Arusha is also a highlight.

For the past six years John and Elaine Stamm have been active supporters of the SAFI School Project. John is currently chair of the SAFI Board of Directors and Elaine is an active committee member. For more information, contact John or Elaine (<a href="dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:dright:d

Be sure to check out the Global Mission bulletin board in Anderson Hall for additional information about how Lutherans are involved in mission in our world and opportunities that are available for you!









## **Seasons of the Heart: Seasons of Prayer**

#### Save the Date: Join Us for the OSLC Women's Retreat

Rainbow Lodge, March 6-8, 2015

All the women of the congregation are invited to join us for this annual retreat. The theme for this year is *Seasons of the Heart; Seasons of Prayer*, with speaker Pastor Karen Hanson, and she will lead us in exploring the seasons and cycles of life with a diversity of prayer styles.

Besides an engaging spiritual study, you can enjoy:

- a peaceful rural setting near Mt. Si
- a weekend away from cooking or cleaning
- fun times spent with other Christian women

Registration deadline is Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available on the table in the Narthex, or one can be e-mailed to you upon request from Joan Friel at <a href="frielj4@comcast.net">frielj4@comcast.net</a>. If you are interested in a scholarship, or have any questions about the retreat, please contact Joan at <a href="frielj4@comcast.net">frielj4@comcast.net</a> or 425-235-5727.

#### Youth Assistance Needed in Worship on Sunday Mornings

If you are a youth in grades fourth through high school, or if you have youth in that age range, your help is needed and requested on Sunday mornings. OSLC needs acolytes, Bible bearers and crucifers (cross bearer). These ministries are an important part of our life together.

Join Pastor Dick Christensen on Sunday, January 4th at 10:00 a.m. for some training or for some refresher training. Some of you are veterans with these tasks.

Others continue to serve the parish in this way. Still others will be brand new.

Doing public ministry requires training for each of us. I hope you are willing to help and able to attend the training event.

~Pastor Dick





To All Our Holiday Gift Barn Volunteers and Donors

Thank you so much for your generosity! With your support we were able to support 650 families and get brand new toys, clothing, stocking-stuffers, socks, underwear, scarves, gloves, hats, games and books to 1,300+ children. We appreciate your generous gifts and time. Together the Issaquah and Sammamish communities created a gracious space for families to shop in a holiday-spirited and dignified environ-

ment. I'm confident there are going to be lot more happy children Christmas morning because of all your goodness.

As the director of the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank I have the privilege of connecting with each of the families we serve. After 4 years at the IFCB I've had the opportunity to meet our clients newborn babies and I have seen those children grow and thrive. I've seen those kiddo's eating carrots pulled fresh from Seattle Tilth's Pickering Barn Garden at our Summer Lunch Program. I've been lucky enough to hold many infants and toddlers while parents shop for groceries. I've also been fortunate to be a part of a team that has helped many families with children remain housed or go from being homeless to being housed. So please know each of the families you helped this holiday season are going to be filled with joy and love because of you.

I cannot tell you enough that your donations and your time are meaningful! We could NOT do it without you. I hope you continue to participate and commit your time and resources to the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. We need your support and participation year round. If you are interested in learning more about IFCB please e-mail me (cori@issaquahfoodbank.org) or call (425-392-4123) and I will give you a tour of our facility.

Sincerely, Cori Walters, Executive Director Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank

#### Thank You From the Office Staff,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the surprise Christmas bonus we received this year. It is our pleasure to serve this congregation behind the scenes in the many ways we do. Thanks again!

God's blessings to all of you in 2015.

In Peace and With Gratitude,

Janet Heck & Shari Lundberg

#### Thank You From Whidbey Island!

God directed our path to OSLC some 35 years ago and in taking that walk many friends that we made became as close as family. We have appreciated your calls, cards, notes and letters. We thank you for the last couple of Sundays where we shared with you and received hugs and shed a few tears. We wish you all the best. We may be separated by 60 miles but you will never be out of our hearts. Know that our guest room is open. We will be in touch with the church office when our email is up. Love you dearly and will miss all of you. Our mailing address is 663 Hill Haven Road, Coupeville, WA 98239-4049.





1/1	Robin Vergillo
1/2	Karen Brezing
1/3	Glenn Smith
·	Morgan Wood
	Marilyn Nicklesburg
1/4	Patty Christopherson
	Taylor Usselman
1/5	Jim Kramer
	Margot Inman
1/7	Becky Brooks
	Rosanna Fry
1/8	Maria Kampf
1/9	Dag Garrison
	Tina Collum
1/10	Paula Swanson
1/15	Jay Mogensen
1/16	Dustin Fry
	Jane Tierney
	Lena Schaper
1/17	Pauline Montague
1/20	Rachel Christopherson Snell

John LaLanne

1/22	David Gretch
	Wendy Winslow
	Roy Yockey
1/23	Joanna Wood
	Debbie Sladek
1/24	Jon Mogensen
	Donald Rentschler
1/25	David Hersey
	Bill Cash
1/26	Jean Kampf
1/28	LaRue Nelson
1/29	Goldie Walters

Paul Tolo

Del Elliott

Beth Garrison

1/30

1/31



Thomassen 1/9 Justin & Katy Ulland 1/23 Howard & Raemarie Schmidt

Richard & Jo Hess

#### **Worship Times**

- January 4th, 18th and 25th two worship services with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.
- January 11th one worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. (No Sunday School)

#### **Worship Schedule**

#### **Worship Services & Readings**

Sun., January 4—Epiphany of Our Lord

1/29

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-12 Matthew 2:1-12 Gospel:

Sun., January 11—Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5 Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7 Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Sun., January 18—2nd Sunday of Epiphany

First Reading: I Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51 Gospel:

Sun., January 25—3rd Sunday of Epiphany

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20 Gospel:



# January 2015 Happy New Year & Happy New Year

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				New Year's Day OSLC Office Closed	2	3
Council Installation 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Acolyte Training (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM New Life Spirituality Group @ the home of Les & Kate Gagnon	5 12:00 PM OA (Downstairs classroom) 1:00 PM Lutheran Counseling Network (LCN Office) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 676 (Anderson Hall, Downstairs Classroom)	7:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM AA (Anderson Hall, Downstairs class- room)	9:30 AM Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 12:30 PM Staff Meeting (Narthex) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)	8 7:45 AM TOPS (Rms 14, 17) 10:00 AM Al Anon (Downstairs Classroom) 10:00 AM Bible Study w/ Pr. Christensen (Library)	9	10
11 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 AM Worship 11AM Francois/Fletcher Farewell Potluck Brunch	12 9:30 AM Avant Designer's Guild (Anderson Hall) 12:00 PM OA (Downstairs classroom) 1:00 PM Lutheran Counseling Network (LCN Office) 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 676 (Anderson Hall, Downstairs Classroom) 7:30 PM OSLC Book Club @ Barns & Noble	13 5:30 PM Issaquah Meal Program @ Fire Station 6:00 PM Executive Committee (Library) 7:00 PM Council Meeting (Library) 7:00 PM AA (Anderson Hall, Downstairs Class- room)	9:30 AM Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 12:30 PM Staff Meeting (Narthex) 7:00 PM Confirmation Teaching Session (Youth Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)	7:45 AM TOPS (Rms 14, 17) 10:00 AM Al Anon (Downstairs Classroom) 10:00 AM Bible Study w/ Pr. Christensen (Library) 12:00 PM February Newsletter Deadline	16 9:30 AM Hope Circle @ OSLC	17
18 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Transition Team Meeting (Library) 11:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM New Life Spirituality Group	Martin Luther King Holiday OSLC Office Closed 12:00 PM OA (Downstairs classroom) 1:00 PM Lutheran Counseling Network 1:30 PM Faith Circle @ the home of Louise Yockey	20 11:00 AM Global Missions Committee (Narthex) 7:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM AA (Anderson Hall, Downstairs class- room)	21 9:30 AM Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 12:30 PM Staff Meeting (Narthex) 7:00 PM Confirmation Teaching Session (Youth Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)	22 7:45 AM TOPS (Rms 14, 17) 10:00 AM AI Anon (Downstairs Classroom) 10:00 AM Bible Study w/ Pr. Christensen (Library)	23	24
25 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Sunday School Infant/Toddler Class 9:45 AM Training for Communion & Special Circumstances 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM 2015 Steward- ship Calendar Meeting	26  12:00 PM OA (Downstairs classroom) 1:00 PM Lutheran Counseling Network (LCN Office) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 676 (Anderson Hall, Downstairs Classroom)	27 7:00 PM AA (Anderson Hall, Downstairs class- room)	28 9:30 AM Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 7:00 PM Confirmation Teaching Session (Youth Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)	29 7:45 AM TOPS (Rms 14, 17) 10:00 AM Al Anon (Downstairs Classroom) 10:00 AM Bible Study w/ Pr. Christensen (Library)	30	31

#### We remember in prayer...



#### We remember in prayer OSLC members:

Sandy Aldworth; Judi Case; Don Chaney; Maury Clark; Gene Elfstrom; Barbara Extract; Sandy Fish; Emily Gacek; Steve Gacek; Carol Harbolt; Ray Harbolt; Jeff Hendrickson; Margot Inman; Marian James; Josee Jordan; Jeanne Kuipers; Florence Kinnune; Jeannie Lindquist; Vern Lindquist; Jim Marshall; Carole Miller; Jerry Nack; Cheryl Neeb; Eloise Peters; Elaine Stamm; Glenn Smith; Dave Walters; Gwynn Wilkinson; Shirley Witsoe

#### We ask for peace and comfort for those mourning the death of loved ones:

Joyce (Lucy Acker); Michelle (Jo Hess); Dean Fredrickson (brother-in-law of Sandy Aldworth); Rose Ann Willins (Maury Clark); Kathy Pond (Shirley Witsoe); Marvin Hartley (Janet Heck); Fritz Kienzle (uncle of Randy Baseler)

#### We pray for expectant mothers:

Shannon (Jordan Usselman); Jacki Marx; Christiana Nelson (daughter of Randy and Linda Baseler); Katie Garcia (niece of Mark and Shelley Howe); Trina Pomeroy (niece of Mark and Shelley Howe); Casey Baseler (wife of T.J. Baseler); Treasure Hinds-Povey (daughter of Rowan and Barb Hinds); Jodi Crawford

We promise to nurture Annelise Kay Ulland, baptized on December 28, 2014.

We pray for the safety of OSLC members and friends serving in the military here and abroad.

#### We pray for our missionaries and global missions:

Henrik & Patty Christopherson; for the congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: Pepe at Las Brisas, Merci in San Antonio and Harold at Las Lomas. MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania.

#### We offer thanksgiving to God:

For the ministry and leadership of **Pastor Ryan Fletcher** and we offer blessings to him and his family, **Natalie, Sammy, Masame, Toby and Lydia** as they move to Snohomish to serve at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

For the marriage of **Dan and Carla.** (Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

That **Aspen Heisler's** cancer is in remission. (Dianne Tanner)

For new and returning council members: Judi Case, President; Connie Fletcher, Social Concerns; Sue Friddell, Secretary; Mary Ann Hult, Financial Secretary; Kristen McLeod, Outreach; Kimberly Montague, Christian Education; John Stamm, Global Missions; Kristina Steffen, Administration/Personnel; Jerry Thomas, Building and Grounds; Justin Ulland, Vice President; Glenna Usselman, Youth; Leslie Waltzer, Worship; Wendy Winslow, Stewardship; Jeff Ziegler, Treasurer.

For the joyous birth of **Annelise Kay Ulland** born on December 18, 2014, daughter of Justin and Katy.



Prayer is putting our faith into action, and prayer is pleasing to God. Link up with our prayer chain if you have a need or if you want to share a thanksgiving or praise. Call Shirley Witsoe, 425-413-6754.



Sunday Service	Date	Time	Greeters Mary Fricke 425-313-1582	Ushers Bill Suttmeier 425-392-1864	Lectors Shari Lundberg 425-392-4169	Communion Assistants Shari Lundberg 425-392-4169	Altar Guild/ Bread Bakers Judi Case 425-687-0864	Sound Engineer Marilyn Larson 425-392-6594
Epiphany of Our Lord	January 4	8:30 a.m.	Mary Fricke Robin Timmerman	Jeff Lucas Don Robertson	Carl Boruck	Judy Boruck Mary Fricke Diane Nelson Jane Shen	Mary Fricke Bread: Kathy Ziegler	
		11:00 a.m.	Don & Nancy Cuming	Mike & Sandy Nygaard	Karen Hansen	Les Gagnon Karen Hansen Rita Hansen Alice Lewis	Jacki Marx	
Baptism of Our Lord	January 11	9:30 a.m.	Don & Jean Chaney	Don Chaney George Kuipers	Sue Friddell	Lori Downey Sue Friddell Mary Ann Hult Jane Shen	Judi Case Bread: Connie Fletcher	
2nd Sunday of Epiphany	January 18	8:30 a.m.	Bonnie Brice Diane Nelson	Mark & Tami Cron	Judi Case	Ralph & Judi Case Mary Fricke Diane Nelson		
		11:00 a.m.	Paul & Nilvane Swanson	Brad & Jacki Marx	Joan Friel	Joan Friel Alice Lewis Rita Hansen Leslie Waltzer		
3rd Sunday of Epiphany	January 25	8:30 a.m.	Jeannie Lindquist Selma Thompson	Open	Brook Buchanan	Marilyn Carlson Diane Nelson Jane Shen Leslie Waltzer		
		11:00 a.m.	Jerry & Linda Nack	Ореп	Shari Lundberg	Del Elliott Les & Kate Gagnon Stacy Smith		



#### **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

745 Front Street South Issaquah, WA 98027 (425) 392-4169 office (see extensions below) (425) 392-2946 fax

Stay connected with OSLC through our Website, on Facebook or through Twitter:

Website: www.oslcissaquah.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/oslcissaquah

Twitter: twitter.com/oslcissaquah

All information for the *Focus* newsletter is **due by noon on the 15th of each month**, unless noted otherwise. Please email items to oslcnewsletter@yahoo.com on or before the deadline.

#### **OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY**

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