

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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GROWING
TO SERVE

APRIL

2021

**Our Savior
Lutheran Church**
745 Front Street S.
Issaquah, WA

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From the Desk of Pastor Vaswig

Greetings,

Now as we enter the glorious season of Easter. I am both honored and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve both Our Savior and Shepherd of the Hills as the new Transition pastor. I look forward to spending time exploring the possibilities with all of you entrusting ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit.

I intend to spend these next few months listening as folks indicate to me their joys, fears and anxieties. I also have every hope of moving the congregation forward as we necessarily indicate our current challenges, while not allowing the same to paralyze us. I have already witnessed such profound commitment on the part of leadership and the staff, how blessed we are as a community to experience so many and varied gifts.

I think as this process of discussions has unfolded the Holy resurrecting Spirit has been deeply involved as seeming coincidences manifest as the workings of the Holy Spirit. I do not believe it to be a coincidence that I begin my work with you in the Easter season as we are an Eastering people. We anticipate the work of the resurrected Lord to demonstrate itself in our midst. We are a new life people, the tomb is empty, the resurrecting word unleashed on the face of the earth. It is that word of hope which will refashion our lives. It is that word of Easter hope that calls us into community, where enlivened by the Spirit, we dare to imagine a new future yet to be realized. So as we partner together I will seek to enunciate that Easter word in sermons, classes, at bedsides and grave sides, in all that we do as Christian community.

I hope you will take the time to stop by my office on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10:00 until noon. I look forward to hearing your story and those things which are important to you. Together we pray for the unleashing of the Holy Spirit as the power of the Resurrected one is made known.

A blessed Easter season.
Pastor John L. Vaswig



Pr. John Vaswig



Worshipping at Home in April



Holy Week continues into April as we prepare for the celebration of Easter:

Good Friday, April 2nd

A contemplative service of readings, prayer & the music of Taizé.

Easter Sunday, April 4th

A joyous return of the Alleluia, as we proclaim Christ risen indeed.

See the weekly announcements for additional details.

Worshipping at Home in April

Coming in April: Worship Live-streaming Begins

As we continue to prepare for our eventual return to in-person worship at OSLC, the next chapter in our faith community's story is about to begin: the live-streaming of our Sunday morning worship services.

What does this mean? Beginning Sunday, April 18th, services will be "broadcast live" from our sanctuary on OSLC's YouTube channel at our customary 10:00am PDT service time. Unable to watch at 10:00am? A re-recording of the service will be available following the service. A link to the service will continue to be published in the weekly worship email.

Can we gather for worship at OSLC? No, not yet. Our congregation continues to follow the guidance of our State & Synod leadership for a gradual, safe return to our in-person life together. Watch for updated information in the weeks to come.

Coming in May: Education Hour returns. Pastor Vaswig begins an Adult Education class on Sunday, May 2nd, at 9:00am, prior to the 10:00am worship time. Watch the weekly worship email for further details.

Although we will still be "worshipping together at home" for a while yet, this is an exciting next step in our congregation's worship life – both during these Covid days, and as we look to ministry possibilities in the years ahead.

In the meantime: thank you in advance for your patience as we continue to learn about this new way to facilitate OSLC's worship life.



Our Savior Re-Opening Committee

Update on Church Building Gatherings & In-Person Worship

With the movement into Phase 3 of Washington State's COVID-19 health guidelines, Our Savior Lutheran Church is working toward re-open our building for small group gatherings and limited in-person worship. It will take some time to get the required safety protocols into place and make adjustments to worship. Here is where we are today, April 1st.

Opening the Building to Individuals and Small Groups

Protocols have been established and approved by the Congregational Council for groups of 15 or smaller to resume gathering at the church. (see below) It will take a few more days to get check-in stations set up at the main entrances of the building, but once they are in place, small group gatherings will be allowed. If you plan to enter the building for group activities, please become familiar with these guidelines before you arrive.

Introduction of Limited In-Person Worship

Our hope is to begin hold in-person worship on a limited basis in late May. Washington State Health Safety Guidelines for religious organizations to assemble for worship are more extensive than the general access guidelines and must be followed by everyone, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status. These guidelines need to be established and communicated to the congregation before we can for worship together.

For those who continue to be unable to worship at the building, we will be making the transition from pre-recorded videos to live on-line broadcasts of the services. All members will be able to continue to stay connected through this digital format.

Please continue to be patient as we move into this new phase of normalcy. The members of the OSLC Reopening Team are: Sue Johnson, Cheryl Hauser, Connie Fletcher, Jean Pass, Lori Downey, and Pastor Jim Kruse.

Be Well and of Good Cheer,
Pastor Jim Kruse



Our Savior Re-Opening Committee

Building Use Guidelines for Individuals & Group Gatherings During Reopening—Phase 3 Our Savior Lutheran Church



General Use Protocols:

- Only gatherings of 15 or less are permitted until we reach Phase 4.
- Everyone must enter and exit the building through the main entrance or the Anderson Hall entrance. All other exit doors may not be used.
- Covid-19 information signage have been posted at these two entrances, including one that can be read from the outside, that lists the symptoms of Covid-19. Anyone exhibiting any of the following symptoms must go home, stay safe, and recover.
 - * Fever greater than 100° F
 - * New cough
 - * Shortness of breath
 - * Sore throat
 - * New muscle pain/achy sore muscles (myalgias)
 - * New fatigue or sudden onset of discomfort/illness (malaise)
 - * New loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia)
 - * New GI (gastrointestinal) symptoms including diarrhea
 - * Chills
 - * Runny nose
- Everyone must wear a mask that entirely covers the nose and mouth while in the building. Masks will be available at the check-in station for those who arrive without a face covering,
- Touchless gel hand sanitizer stations will be provided at the entrance with signs posted encouraging their use before and after gatherings.
- A check-in station is provided at the entrance for people to write their names and contact information. [Alternatively: One person, who checks in with the church office prior to the scheduled gathering, may hold contact information for the whole group.]
- 6-foot social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Only one person may use the restroom at a time. Those waiting in the hallway must maintain 6-foot social distancing.
- No food or drinks may be consumed in the building during group gatherings.
- The kitchen may not be used for group gatherings. [Exception: The kitchen may be utilized for food preparation in support of the Issaquah community meals program.]

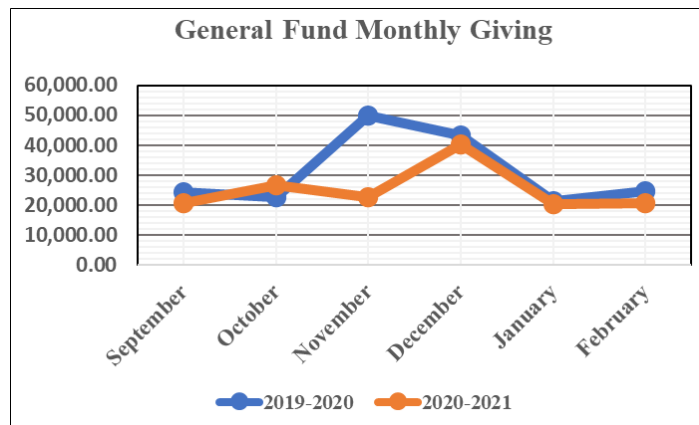
NOTE: Worship Protocols: Pastor John Vaswig will work with the Worship Team to determine the protocols for worship as we transition to on-site worship attendance.

Our Savior Finance Committee



An update from your Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been working on establishing a budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Although we have been hampered by the pandemic this past year, we are moving forward, and hope to be able to come with a budget that makes sense, and is feasible. Here is the updated graph showing General Fund giving per month for the last 6 months compared between FY2019-20 and FY2020-21:



It shows that apart from October 2020, which coincided with the financial plea letter that went out in September, our General Fund monthly giving during the current fiscal year is lower than in the previous year. If the current average weekly giving trend continues, our yearly income for this fiscal year will be about \$300,000, which will be about \$15,000 short of the income from contributions anticipated in our current budget.

That \$15,000 shortfall might sound like a lot, but here's an exciting thought: If just 11 households were to donate their stimulus checks to OSLC, those generous gifts would not only be grounds for a celebration, but would eliminate the \$15,000 difference and get us off to a strong start in fiscal year 2021-2022 come July! Do you have an IRA or 401K that has an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution)? You could donate your RMD to the General Fund: *Get something for NOTHING, give SOMETHING for nothing.*

If you have questions about our congregation's finances, please contact Wendy Winslow at 206-550-0472 or OSLC_Treasurer@hotmail.com.

Small Group Ministries



Spring Grounds Work Party

A big thank you to the intrepid souls who scoffed at the rain and made our Spring Grounds Clean Up happen with gusto.

Ken Konigsmark fixed potholes; Chuck Bachman power washed & ran the blower; Mike Anderson removed overgrown trees; Rick West hauled off loads and loads of debris in his truck; Cheryl Leiter, Jan West, Ken DeCamp, Wendy Winslow, Jean Pass, Dave Waggoner, Lori Downey and Jane Wuest cleared beds, raked, pruned and swept.

We had over 40 hours of combined volunteer time, a few good chuckles and the feeling of a job well done. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



Small Group Ministries

*From Your
Stewardship
Committee...*

faith+lead | LUTHER SEMINARY

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER STATION

A spiritual practice for
praying for and with your
neighbors

FIND A NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT WHERE YOU CAN EXHIBIT

This could be a farmer's market,
county fair, arts and crafts show,
expo, or festival.



SET UP A SIMPLE TABLE

Include a sign with your church's
name, strips of cloth, permanent
markers, and a display where the
cloth can be tied, such as a loom,
clothesline, or chicken wire.



INVITE PEOPLE TO WRITE PRAYERS

Put them on the strips of cloth
and hang them on the display.



BE AVAILABLE

This practice will open up life-
giving conversations. Be there to
listen, talk, and pray with those
who need it.



Find more great practices
faithlead.luthersem.edu

Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

There is a cave in Kentucky called Mammoth Cave. When you first enter, it appears quite empty of life. Dark, quiet, dank, barren. And yet ... and yet ...

Like many caves, first impressions can be deceiving. You see, over 200 animals live in Mammoth Cave. Animals that range from raccoons and other small creatures who accidentally venture into the cave and cannot figure out how to return to the outside, to animals who deliberately live both inside and outside of the cave, to forty-two species of troglobites - animals adapted exclusively to life in the darkness. *Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.*



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

If one were to drive by most of our church buildings, parking lots would be empty and the doors would be locked. A casual observer might say, "That church is empty. Nothing is happening there." And yet ... and yet ...

First impressions can be deceiving. There is a lot of life happening in congregations and ministry sites. There are people who have joined communities of faith in our synod that, for various reasons, would never have entered the doors of a church building. They have become part of the community through online worship – even if they live thousands of miles away. There are people who were a part of the church community for years – but because of work schedules or health issues or mobility concerns – they had faded away. Now they are coming each week as they re-connect. And there are people who have never left. They continue to foster relationships, enjoy serving in the community of the church, and who are faithful to the tasks that are required to keep churches functioning.

We have groups in many churches that are working with other organizations to help feed, clothe, teach, and be with people in the neighborhoods. We have those who are having sometimes uncomfortable (but always fruitful) conversations about what it means to be faithful in this time and place. We have many who are visiting and calling the sick and the dispirited.

Fundamentally, together we are living into the good news of Jesus and journeying together in the Spirit as we are Church in the world. *Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.*

Listen to these words from the first Easter, "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!' (John 20:1-2)

Mary looked into that tomb and saw only lifelessness and she despaired. She peered into the shadows and felt, deep in her bones, the darkness of sorrow, abandonment, disappointment, grief, heartache, and pain. She had gone searching for something, someone, and she came away with nothing. And yet ... and yet ...

Continued on the following page...

Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

Continued from page 9...

Jesus had risen. Jesus, scars and all, was going to meet her in the garden. In a few hours Jesus would call Mary's name and assure her of his love. Jesus would come to the disciples and breathe on them – giving them peace and asking them to, "Feed his sheep." And they would. *Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.*

Dear Beloveds, this last year has felt somewhat like we were living in a cave. We have been confined, somewhat lost, weary, and wondering where the new life is. We have stumbled on rocks and fallen in despair.

And yet ... and yet ...

We trust that soon we will be gathering in-person together. Soon we will be beyond this pandemic. Soon life will not "return to normal" but instead will move forward as we live God's calling of loving God and loving neighbor.

We know this because we are a resurrection people. Out of death comes life. We place our trust in our risen Savior who died and is raised again. *Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant in Christ Jesus our risen Savior.*

And we all proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



Lutheran Counseling Network

Lutheran Counseling Network Faith and Everyday Life April 2021



Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46)

This parable is a beautiful and concise story of God's abundant love for us. It is such abundant love that there is only thing for the merchant to do, and that is give up everything to obtain the pearl. God is the merchant. We, the church and people of God, are God's beloved pearl. God shows up and in Jesus pays the ultimate price to win us. Understanding love in this abundance is beyond my human ability. I can only grasp it by faith. I can only receive it as grace. I can only recognize it as the essence of God. I do love the image of a pearl and what it represents. That God's beloved church, that each of us, can be molded and beautified because of some irritant or injury. Like a pearl, God's people are being formed into something new. I see transformations happen often in my work as a therapist. It is not often a mountain that moves. Most often it is a small shift, a forgiving word, a repaired relationship, a letting-go of a past hurt, a decision to hold on with a loose grip, or a word of God's love that changes everything. God shows us how to love abundantly. May we be transformed by this love, and learn to love without limit.

Written by a staff member
of Lutheran Counseling Network



Pastoral Care & Visitation



Emergency Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care, please contact
OSLC Transition Pastor John Vaswig at:

253-677-4515 (mobile)

JLVaswig@gmail.com

Pastor John's Office Hours:

Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Pr. John Vaswig



Lay Visitation Ministry During the Stay-at-Home Order

Do you know of someone who may be home-bound, in senior care, or otherwise would like a phone call from our Visitation Ministry, and is not currently receiving visits? If so, please pass their name along to Kate Gagnon, OSLC's Lay Visitation Minister at kjgagnon@yahoo.com, or 425-200-0481.

Small Group Ministries



**Apply Now!
Your Project May Be
Eligible for a Grant
From OSLC's
Mission Endowment Fund**

The purpose of the OSLC Mission Endowment Fund is to provide grants that enhance our mission and ministry apart from the general operations of our congregation. We support youth programs, scholarships, leadership training, outreach to the larger community, and other extraordinary programs and initiatives that further the mission of Our Savior.

Our Mission Endowment Fund is taking applications thanks to support from many donors over the last three years. We have a modest and growing ability to make grants between \$500 and \$2000.

Applications can be submitted at the church website, www.oslcissaquah.org. Use the "Missions" tab at the top of the page, and then click on the purple text: [OSLC Endowment Fund Application Form](#). Submissions will be considered by the membership of the committee which meets quarterly.

Kind Regards,
OLSC Mission Endowment Fund Committee



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- ⇒ Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone
- ⇒ Make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account
- ⇒ Log in or donate as a guest
- ⇒ Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password



April Worship Readings

Thursday, April 1 — Maundy Thursday

Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 10 — Good Friday

Reading — Mercy: John 18:1-11
Reading — Grace: John 18:12-27
Reading — Suffering: John 18:28-40
Reading — Love: John 19:1-16
Reading — Loneliness: John 19:16b-25a
Reading — Compassion: John 19:25b-30
Reading — Death: John 19:31-42

Sunday, April 4 — Easter Sunday

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 11 — Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35
Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 18 — Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7
Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 25 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12
Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24
Gospel: John 10:11-18



We remember in prayer...

We remember in prayer:

John Wray, Kip Hauser, Noreen, Rachel, Alice F, Leslie Lapp, Evy Sneva and her family, the Smith and Taylor families, James Murphy, Joan Perry & her daughter Stephanie, Betty Anderson, Brandi Kowal, Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the the Kowal & Zazueta families, Carol Harbolt Weatherly Inn staff & residents, Mayah, Judy Shaffer, Jerry Nack, Mary, Carmen Saavedra, Nancy Anderson, Doyle Watson, Safety and peace for communities, Pattie Rutten, Paul Salazar, Lyle Bentley, Linda Chambers, Dave Carlson, Guests of the Community Meals Program, All affected by COVID, Lil, Sonja, Lucy Acker, Nicole DeCamp, Doug Patur, Scott Hafso, Jeanne Kuipers, John Pass, Emily & Steve Gacek, Ray Harbolt, Margot Inman, Duane Jacobson, Marian James, Bernice Jensen, Josee Jordan, Florence Kinnune, Jeannie Lindquist, Vern Lindquist, Dorothy Soland, Randi Strom, Margit Welch.

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

Joyce Konigsmark (mother to Ken Konigsmark), JD Golick (nephew to Patty Gerde); Dave McMurray (father of Shannon Dickens); Del Elliott (Kate Gagnon); John Sneva (Evy Sneva's son); Alec Wright (Shelley & Mark Howe); Del Elliott (Kate Gagnon); John Sneva (son to Evy Sneva)

We pray for expectant mothers:

Marian Martin (Stacy Smith); Alyssa Saavedra (Cheryl Neeb); Shawna McIntyre (Cheryl Neeb); Jessica Murguia (Cheryl Hauser)

We pray for members and friends serving in the Military; Fire and Police Department personnel; Emergency Room personnel.

We prayer for safety and strength to those living in the wake of all disasters, and all who serve as first responders.

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. Alexandra, Miriam, and Kati, the three recipients of our Global Missions Peru Scholarships. MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania.

Thanksgiving: for the joyous birth of Claire, granddaughter to Mark Mummy and Bev Geary.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



4/2	Dave Waggoner	4/16	Kimberly Montague
	Doug Friddell		Linda Nack
4/4	Janette Singley	4/20	Kristin McLeod
4/6	Bob Bergquist	4/21	Linda Diaz
4/7	Jerry Nack		Louise Yockey
4/9	Mike Friel	4/25	Cecelia Loudermilk
4/11	Jane Hughes	4/28	Colleen Peterson
4/14	Alaina Jacobs	4/29	Ron Sordahl
4/15	Jane FitzGerald	4/30	Norma Byrkett
	Joni Zink		

4/1	Rowan & Barbara Hinds
	John & Jane Tierney
4/6	Paul & Bodil Isop
4/16	Dick & Susan Ferrarini
4/25	Paul & Carla Geraci





Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South
Issaquah, WA 98027
(425) 392-4169

Stay connected!
www.oslcissaquah.org

All information for the *Focus* newsletter is **due by the 15th of each month**, unless noted otherwise. Please email items to office@oslcissaquah.org.

OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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