FOCUS GROWING TO SERVE



2022

Our Savior Lutheran Church 745 Front Street South Issaquah, WA 98027

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From the Desk of Pastor Vaswig

I am gratified that I waited to compose this newsletter article until after the congregational meeting on November 20. What a great spirit within the life of the congregation! People stepping up to be on a Call Committee. Numerous rounds of applause for the good and steadfast work of so many: from Council to Site Team to the Worship and Music Team, the congregation demonstrating gratitude for the work of many. As I stood up to pronounce the benediction at the conclusion of the meeting, my heart was filled with thankfulness for the people of God at Our Savior Lutheran church. 'Well done, good and faithful servants' is the line that kept rummaging through my head.

And now we proceed to embrace the callings to which we are called. As the Call Committee begins their work in earnest, we will diligently remember them in prayer, not only in worship but in our individual prayer lives. As the Site Team continues to do its work, we will hold them in our prayer lives as the Spirit unfolds a vision for the future.

And as we enter the time of Advent, we will live into a worship life that suggests our commitment to the cause of Christ. We will be alert looking for the ever-present signs of the kingdom. We will pray for the coming of our Lord, even as we anticipate a celebration of the birth of an infant thrust into the world to save us. We will, because this is who we are: an Advent people, the word meaning "coming." Yes, we will anticipate the presence of the Lord in word and song; we will anticipate the presence of the Lord in sermons heard and bread and wine given. As we approach yet another Advent season we do so with hearts uplifted glorifying God for the great and wondrous things God is doing, God will do. A most blessed Advent season, and should the Lord tarry, a most holy Christmas.

Pastor John L. Vaswig



Our Savior Lutheran Church

From the Council Presidents

Chuck Bachman & Bob Johnson

The Call Committee has been formed. We are so grateful for these folks stepping forward to volunteer their time and talents: the members are Jen Winslow, Gary Hanson, John McDowell, Barbara Fetty-Solders, Phil Griffin, Marilyn Jewell, and LaRue Nelson. Pastor John L. Vaswig will install them during a future Sunday service.

The Call Committee (CC) will receive their handbooks and select a Chairperson and a Secretary to record minutes during the first meeting. Either the secretary or another CC member will be selected to keep the congregation updated on the progress.

The candidates are kept confidential. The CC will not reveal the candidate names to the congregation except for the final choice. The congregation is invited to forward potential candidates to the committee.

Our transition pastor is not a member of the Call Committee. Our Bishop sends an assistant to meet with the team during the first or second meeting. It is expected that almost all meetings will be conducted by Zoom.

The CC will review the recently updated Ministry Site Profile (MSP), establish the interview process, develop questions for the candidates, and assign interview responsibilities. From the MSP they will develop a packet to describe the church and congregation for the candidates.

The "Congregational Handbook For Pastor Transitions" is online on the NW Synod Website for those who wish more details.

Prayers for the Call Committee:

It will be vital for the whole congregation to remember this team in prayer during the unfolding process. We thank all who have volunteered their time and energy to embrace the all-important task of calling the next permanent pastor for the people of God at Our Savior. Please pray for

Jen Winslow Phil Griffin
Gary Hanson Marilyn Jewell
John McDowell LaRue Nelson
Barbara Fetty-Solders



From the Site Planning Team

Site Team Update:

As we enter into the Advent and holiday season and anticipate the start of a new year, your Site Team is encouraged and hopeful for what the future may bring.

Hopefully, you have already heard that on November 21 the Issaquah City Council voted unanimously in support of OSLC's rezone application that changes our zoning from Single Family-Suburban Lot to Multi-Family High Density.



Why is this important? The new zoning allows for more flexibility in the type and height of buildings that are allowed on our property, thus creating more opportunities for various partners and projects that might be considered. Beyond the unanimous vote, several Councilmembers and the Mayor expressed enthusiasm and support for a community-beneficial project to be envisioned at OSLC. They are willing to help explore grant opportunities and potential partners with us with in hopes of a win-win-win for the church, the community, and for those needing support and assistance.

The Site Team and our consultants, Meriwether Advisors, are exploring various possibilities that might be pursued, including expanded leasing of existing spaces and various ideas for the type of partners and projects that might be further considered.

The Site Team felt an encouraging, new energy among members during the congregational meeting on November 20, along with greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the realities that OSLC faces. The Site Team will continue to seek opportunities to wisely steward OSLC's resources in order to increase and sustain income while also seeking to do good, as we are called to do. And, as always, we will keep the congregation informed as new opportunities emerge.

Our Savior Community



The second Sunday of every month there is a short puppet show during coffee and fellowship hour. On Sunday, December 11, Marlice Gilmore's daughter Ruth will be performing the puppet show. While Ruth is in town (thru December 26), she is excited to hold a class for anyone who's interested in learning puppetry techniques and ventriloquism. If you're interested in taking a puppetry class with Ruth, please contact Marlice Gilmore at 425-391-6614. Please join us on Sunday, December 11 for the puppet show!

From the Community Outreach Committee

Christmas Giving 2022

On Sunday, December 4, 11, and 18, Community Outreach will be collecting gift cards for two purposes:

- 1. Vine Maple Place, an organization that breaks the generational cycle of homelessness by working with single parents and their children, is asking for \$10 or \$15 gift cards from McDonald's, Subway, or Taco Time for parents to gift their teens to use to go out and visit with friends.
- 2. Secondly, OSLC is collecting \$25 Target, Safeway, and Fred Meyer gift cards to use when we get requests from our church members and the community for a little extra help. They can help purchase food, gas, medications, etc.



We'll have a Christmas tree in the Narthex. Please take an ornament with the gift card request on it, purchase the gift card(s), and put your gift cards in the box next to the tree. The Community Outreach Committee thanks you in advance!



Thank you for your outpouring of support for the Holiday Gift Barn in November. Thanks to your generosity, \$1,600 worth of gift cards to Target, Fred Meyer, Amazon, and Walmart were donated to the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank from our congregation! Your support is a blessing for local families.



Now that the holiday shopping season is here, don't forget the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog for gifts that make a difference! Many of our loved ones do not need more stuff, but greatly appreciate being remembered at the holidays.

Perhaps a Good Gift (such as feeding a refugee family for a week; sending a girl to school; giving honeybees, a water filter, or a goat) will bring a smile and warm a heart, while using your gift budget to benefit families around the world. You can find this catalog online at goodgifts.elca.org or pick up a copy from the rack outside the Parish Administrator's office at church.

Our Savior Community

History of the Jesus Shepherd Figure

As our Shepherd of the Hills (SOTHLC) congregation has been welcomed to Our Savior Lutheran (OSLC), we are blessed to see there is a new spot for the Jesus figure that once hung in the sanctuary of our former church. Through the grace of OSLC Council and members, we can remember our past with this icon positioned above the narthex and celebrate the future in our new home.

For those interested in the backstory of the shepherd figure: it was created by a former member of Our Savior, Tim Bergren, when the new SOTHLC church building in Sammamish was completed in 1995.



Years before, Tim was a youth at OSLC worshipping with his family, and his father was a professor at Lutheran Bible Institute (LBI). As Tim matured, he himself studied at LBI, then began working with a liturgical artist who designed and produced unique furnishings and sculpture primarily for churches.





Soon thereafter, Tim set out on his own in the same field to create liturgical art. A few years later, he was commissioned to assemble a collection of pieces for the sanctuary at SOTHLC: altar, pulpit, cross, and the Jesus figure as a focal point behind the altar. (Photo to the left shows SOTHLC.)

When the SOTHLC church building was sold last year, the figure was brought to a basement classroom here where it has laid waiting for a new place in its new surroundings. Recently, a few council members decided on its placement and installed the piece. A shepherd's crook will be returned to the figure very soon.

May we all be blessed by the figure of our Savior, the Good Shepherd, in our church building!

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Jewell

Our Savior Community



Worship with Us Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

The Season of Advent **Continues Through December 18**

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person: Our Savior's Executive Committee strongly suggests attendees continue to wear masks in worship, principally because of singing. Please continue to stay home if feeling sick, and receive Holy Communion in a safe manner

Online: Worship services are live-streamed at 10:00 a.m. A link to the service is published in the weekly email (sent with the bulletin), or you can click here: Worship Live. If you try the link prior to 10:00 a.m. each Sunday, you may see the message "video unavailable."

Services are recorded and posted to the Our Savior YouTube Channel. If needed, pull down the menu under "Uploads," then click on "Past Live Streams," or go to our website at www.oslcissaquah.org.

Gather with us for fellowship and coffee hour each Sunday following worship.

Coffee hour hosts are needed. You can sign up to bake/bring treats only, help with coffee, or sign up for both.

The sign-up sheet is located in Anderson Hall next to the kitchen pass-through window, and there are several folks happy to partner with you or walk you through the kitchen and teach you how it all works.

Thanks for your participation in making our time of fellowship truly wonderful.



Our Savior Community

Master Chorus Eastside: "A Choral Christmas Carol"

Master Chorus Eastside, the community choir that rehearses at OSLC, is gearing up for its holiday performance at Faith United Methodist Church in Issaquah on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Linda Gingrich, D.M.A., MCE's Artistic Director/Conductor, is excited to spread the word about the performance and encourages everyone to attend.

Details from the back of the "A Choral Christmas" postcard:

Our poignant adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved classic *A Christmas Carol*, for chorus and readers' theater, is back! Recapture the magic of Christmas in this timeless tale of redemption and joy; with David Ketter and John Deveney returning once again as the Narrator and Scrooge.

Tickets Available for Purchase at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Brown Paper Tickets: Adults – \$20; Senior, Student, and Veteran – \$15; Family – \$45

At the Door: Adults – \$25; Senior, Student, and Veteran – \$20; Family – \$45



Tickets Available for purchase - www.brownpapertickets.com www.masterchoruseastside.org

Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the Bishop:

I took the quilt to the cleaners to get washed. They looked at it and handed it back. If we touch this, they said, it will fall apart.

To most eyes, the quilt is nothing to look at. The bright yellow ducklings have long faded to muted colors. The binding is frayed. Happy, my dog from childhood, chewed holes in the fabric where stuffing came out and repair was never finished. (Happy did this to many sheets and blankets in my growing up years. My sisters and I called them "Happy holes." My mom did not.)

From the time I was a toddler, this quilt has held my laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger. In darkness, this quilt surrounded me in warmth. Years later, my children were wrapped in this same quilt.

Long before my grandma quilted my "duckie" blanket and gave it to me, there was a young family without permanent shelter and a baby soon to be born. The village midwives came into the night to help birth a baby for a family unknown. They came to an unhoused couple, a foreign couple, a poor couple with no prospects or power. And yet, these midwives left their warm houses and their own families, bringing their own handmade blankets and strips of cloth as they participated in this baby's birth. And, when he was born, they wrapped this child and his mom in warmth.

We know this because we hear the angels' words to the shepherds, "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' Surely if the baby was wrapped in bands of cloth, the child was also wrapped in blankets.

What a difference it would have been without these blankets, without these swaddling cloths, without these midwives. Without the skills and the gifts God gave to them. The vocation of midwife brought Jesus into the world. The hands and wisdom of these women wrapped him in swaddling cloths.

It is such an amazing story ... through God's invitation, and from Mary saying yes and Joseph saying yes and the innkeeper saying yes and the midwives saying yes – Jesus came.

Northwest Washington Synod

Two thousand years ago, in a way no one could have imagined, God was with us in human form. Wrapped in blankets. Held in love.

What love, what grace, what beauty. Amazingly and almost inconceivably, in this little baby, God's love came and God's love continues to be among us through Jesus – Immanuel, Incarnate, God-in-the-flesh love. Embodied love ... for you and for me. Always.

I know that life is messy. Life is sometimes hard. Sometimes the world seems out of control and we are so small against so much of what is out there. And yet ... through something as small and vulnerable as a newborn baby, we are promised that God is here. Amongst us. And God's love is for everyone. Absolutely everyone. Regardless of your job or your political party, your anxiety or your income. Your ethnicity, your language, your gender, your situation in life. God's love is for you who celebrate this holy day and God's love is for those who don't. God's love is for those you are estranged from and those you embrace.

This Christmas and this year, may you feel surrounded by God's love and presence. In your laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger - in darkness and in light may you feel God wrapping you into God's embrace ... like a worn, faded blanket that is covered in ducks and Happy holes.

Have a Blessed Christmas, + Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee bishop@lutheransnw.org



Lutheran Counseling Network

Lutheran Counseling Network Faith and Everyday Life December 2022

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

(John 15:5)



I have never been a terrific gardener. I get inspired for a weekend here and there, but then I get busy, or something else grabs my attention, and my garden suffers. The flowers droop. The leaves get parched. The bushes get overgrown and unruly, their branches choking each other out.

And so it is for us, says Jesus, when we don't root ourselves in him. We get off track. We lose energy. Our best efforts come to nothing.

The way for us to bear fruit, says Jesus, is to abide in him. The Message translation puts it this way: "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you." Jesus lives in us, and he invites us to live in him. To root ourselves in his ways of love and forgiveness. To drink deeply of his love, so that everything we do flows from that love. Like branches that grow and get their nourishment from a vine.

When we live in Jesus, we flourish. But we can't do it alone. We need a community of believers to remind us where we belong and where to get our true nourishment, to give each other strength and encouragement when we struggle. When we root ourselves together in the Vine, we bear fruit together. We are like a vibrant garden of flowers. We are like lush green leaves on a shrub. We are like the strong branches on a tree, all working together, all bearing good fruit.

Thanks be to God for being such a faithful gardener, and for giving us such a loving, life-giving Vine to root in. It's good to live and grow among his branches.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

OSLC in Our Community

These are the community organizations that use our church building for meetings, rehearsals, and training:





















We remember in prayer . . .

Dave Carlson, for successful surgery and healing of tibial plateau fracture (Marilyn Carlson); Ken Schaper, heart surgery (brother of Lena Schaper); Murray Grant, full recovery from COVID (Dave & Marilyn Carlson); John Snyder, the loss of both mother and father (Connie Fletcher); My sister Judy & her daughter Traci, for peace and comfort (Connie Fletcher); Bonnie Olin, healing from cancer surgery (Connie Fletcher); The Moscow, Idaho community (Lena Schaper); Alan, for successful heart surgery and recovery (brother of Don Robertson); Kirsten Olshausen, who is hospitalized during a stem cell transplant, which is part of her cancer treatment; OSLC Call Committee, for wisdom and discernment; Ruben Nieto, successful surgery and good recovery (Connie Fletcher); Ray Harbolt and family, as they grieve; Bob Beck; Carla, suffering from severe back problems (Marlice Gilmore); John & Mary, successful sale of business and property (Marilyn Carlson); Jane Holte, diagnosed with anaplastic thyroid cancer (cousin of Shelly Howe); Zorine Lewis, hospitalized with pneumonia in the blood (Family of Mary Ann Hult); Daniel, for academic success at law school (nephew of Alice North); Nancy Brandner, successful hip replacement and good recovery (Marilyn Carlson) Justin Carter; Lynnette; Norris, his wife Cheryl, and his caregiver, Ruth Inquisrud; Guests of the Community Meals Program; all affected by COVID-19; Nancy Cumming; Barbara Jones (mother of Ron Sordahl).

We ask for peace and comfort for those mourning the death of their loved ones: Carol Harbolt (wife of Ray Harbolt); Dan Lee (brother-in-law of John & Jennifer McDowell).

Healing and peace of mind: Lyle Lewis; Steve & Emily Gacek; Lucy Acker; Nicole DeCamp; Henrik & Patty Christopherson; Vern Lindquist; Mary Fricke, Jerry & Linda Nack, Marian James; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Ray & Carol Harbolt; Bernice Jensen, Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.

<u>Undergoing cancer treatment:</u> Kirsten Olshausen, Scott Paine (Rowan Hinds); Kip Hauser (father of Cheryl Hauser); Vernell Johnson (Shelley & Mark Howe); Roger Stanley (Alice Lewis); Tim Rutten (cousin of Mark Howe); Tom Killoran (Shelley Howe); Chris Howe (brother of Mark Howe); Peggy Scalise (cousin of Mark Howe); Eileen Letts (cousin of Mark Howe); Keith DeCamp (brother of Ken DeCamp); Doug McVety (Helen Nychay); Larry Harbolt (Ray Harbolt); Richard (Debby Beck); Dianne Tanner, Marilyn Pro (sister of Rick West).

<u>Living with cancer:</u> Harold Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult/Lorna Robertson); Sonja (Dianne Tanner); Gerald Welch (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); Suzanne Lewis (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); Barbara Jones (mother of Ron Sordahl); Al Batt (Connie Fletcher).

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.



December Worship Readings

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel: John 1:1-14



Worship Assistants for December Service Time: 10:00 a.m.

(unless otherwise noted)

Date & Service: All are Sunday at 10 a.m. except Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.	Assisting Minister	Usher	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography	
December 4 Advent 2	Joan Friel	Peter Shen	Delaney Cash Jean Pass	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey	
December 11 Advent 3	Jen Winslow	Sang-Beom Shim	Barbara Fetty- Solders	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey	
December 18 Advent 4	Joan Friel	Ken Konigsmark	Stacy Smith	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey	
December 24 Saturday Christmas Eve 7 p.m.	Saturday Christmas Eve Connie Fletcher		Jane Wuest	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey	
December 25 Christmas Day	Connie Fletcher	Bill Suttmeier	Jane Wuest	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey	

Psalm Cantors (for Advent):

December 4 (Advent 2): Lori Downey

December 11 (Advent 3): Nora Thompson

December 18 (Advent 4): Jeff Jewell



Volunteer Coordinators

We're so thankful for all our volunteers and for those who coordinate them!

Assisting Ministers: Jen Winslow

Altar Guild: Jane Wuest Ushers: Bill Suttmeier

Sound & Videography: Jonathan Smith &

David Hersey



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 12/2 Caleb Cash
- 12/3 Robert Hanson Stan Patterson
- 12/5 Henry McKenzie
- 12/5 Randi Strom
- 12/6 Lori Downey
- 12/7 Christina Hanson
- 12/10 Frankie Tate
- 12/11 Kristina Steffen
- 12/13 Judy Boruck Joyce Craig
- 12/16 Delaney Cash
- 12/18 Laura Halter
- 12/30 Sue Friddell



Anniversaries

- 12/2 John & Jean Pass
- 12/14 Randolph & Linda Baseler
- 12/21 Debby & Bob Beck
- 12/27 Kate & Les Gagnon



If your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the Church Office to update our records.

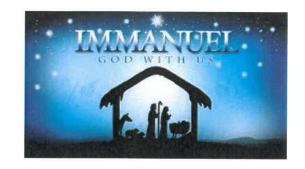
We want you to be included!

25 26 27 28 29 30	18 19 20 21 22 23 9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Narthex) Site Planning (Via Zoom) (zoom) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed (zoom) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 12:30pm Compani Bible Study (ren (Zoom) (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 Meeting 7:00pm AA (Anderson 7:00pm Church Council 7:00pm Church Council 22 23	11 12 13 14 15 16 9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:30am Congregational Care Ministry 10:00am IF&CB (Ed. Room) 1:00pm Issaquah Garden Club 9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 12:30pm Compani 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 12:30pm Compani 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 12:30pm Compani 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 12:30pm Focus Deadline 12:00pm Focus Deadline 12:00pm Community 12:00pm Focus Deadline 12:00pm Community 1:00pm Suzuki Strings 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Endowment Hall/Kitchen) (Early 17:00pm Boy Scout Troop	4 5 6 7 8 9:00am SOP 9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) Care Ministry (Narthex) (Narthex) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop (Via Zoom) (Zoom) 7:00pm AA (Anderson III:30am Debra Zadinsky) 676 Meeting 7:00pm AII:30am Debra Zadinsky 676 Meeting 7:00pm AII:30am Debra Z	Nov 27 28 29 30 Dec 1 2 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 10:00am Al-Anon	SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	December 2022 Su Mo Tu We Th F7 Sa 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 5 26 27 28 29 30 31
29 30 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Bible Study (remote) (Zoom)	23	16 12		2 ers 12	FRIDAY	3236 ₉₂ 7
31	7:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)	17	10	3 10:30am Eastside Master Chorus - Rehearsal (Ed. Room (room 7))	SATURDAY	January 2023 Tu We Th Fr Sa 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 31 25 26 27 28

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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Emergency Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care, please contact OSLC Transition Pastor John Vaswig at 253-677-4515 (cell) jlvaswig@gmail.com

