

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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GROWING
TO SERVE



2023

**Our Savior
Lutheran Church**
745 Front Street S
Issaquah, WA 98027

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From the Desk of Pastor Vaswig

On the 9th of April we will celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord. The same indicates that after the Easter celebration we will live into the Easter season for another six weeks until the Day of Pentecost on the 28th of May. The fifty days of Easter, often called Eastertide, are marked by forty days of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances on the face of the earth (Acts 1:3) and another ten days post-Ascension before the days of Pentecost. If you literally count from Easter Sunday, April 9, until Ascension Day, May 18, you arrive at the number forty, and following the same another ten days counting the Sundays until Pentecost: the fifty days of Easter.

The fifty days set aside in the life of the church for the Easter celebration are done with intentionality because of the importance of the Easter message. Of course, folks mistakenly think of Easter as a given Sunday in the spring, but the season actually encompasses seven weeks or fifty days of the spring. The reason, of course, is rather simple, in addition to the biblical and liturgical formulas. Easter is the Queen of Feasts; Easter and the season are the hope of God's beloved baptized living on the face of the earth.

But Easter is not just a day nor a season. Easter, via the work of the Holy Spirit, is the air we breathe. Easter is "the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). I so enjoy the phrase "living hope" in the text. Easter is a "living hope" in the promises of God realized, which suggests we are an Eastering people, with Easter as a verb.

We are an active, alive body of Christ living out the Easter promise as we care for the neighbor, love the stranger, feed the hungry, and declare hope to one another in the Easter promise. It is a beautiful season designed to remind us of the Messiah of God, Jesus who was crucified but is risen, is risen. And now we live into the Easter promise with hearts of joy and spirits of gratitude. A most blessed Easter and a most blessed Easter season.

Pastor John L. Vaswig

Our Savior Community

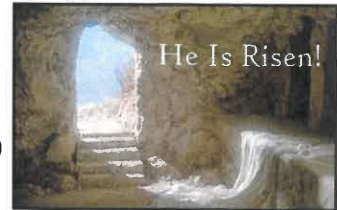
✠ Holy Week and Easter ✠

Please join us for worship as we celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus:

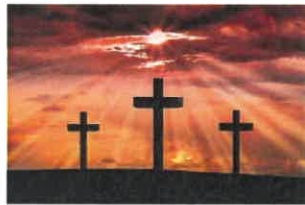
Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 6
at 7:00 p.m.



Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day
Sunday, April 9
at 10:00 a.m.



Good Friday
Friday, April 7
at 7:00 p.m.



Please join us at 11:00 a.m. after worship for an Easter Brunch in Anderson Hall.

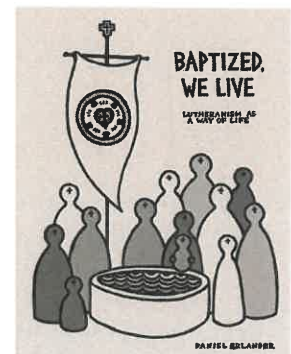


Baptized We Live Class Starts on Sunday, April 16 at 9:00 a.m.

As some of you know, this past winter I taught a new member class about the essentials of the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel. I used the booklet by Dan Erlander: *Baptized We Live: Lutheranism As a Way of Life*. The folks in the class were very engaged, asking significant questions along the way. Indeed, one member of the class thought the book so valuable and instructive that he offered to buy a host of books for the whole congregation in hopes of a refresher class for all. I said, "If you buy them, I will teach the class."

And so in keeping with my promise, beginning on Sunday, April 16 at 9:00 a.m. before service I will be teaching *Baptized We Live*. Everyone in the class will receive the booklet free of charge as we explore the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel together. I hope you will get up early and come enjoy life together before worship as we continue our lives of being educated in the faith we hold dear.

Pastor John L. Vaswig



Our Savior Community

From the Council Co-President

Wendy and I have been attending one of the *Autumn Wisdom: Finding Meaning in Life's Later Years* groups. We meet in the library at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays. The Explorations each week challenge you to explore your early life and map trends and milestones.

We share what we're comfortable with, knowing it will stay in the room. It's a chance for deep conversation. Some of it is letting go of mistakes made or adversity your family had. One old prayer sums it up best: "O Lord, May the end of my life be the best of it. And may my closing acts be my best acts."

It's okay to slow down and be in the moment. Enjoy those walks, those mornings on the deck with your coffee and sunshine. At the same time, don't accept you've learned all you want to learn. Our lives are not static and permanently etched.

We have a closing prayer from "A Prayer for Older Adults" by Moya Hanlen. Here are some excerpts: "I am called by you into old age, a call not given to all, not given to Jesus, not given to most of our world today. I humbly ask you to grace me deeply in each aspect of this new chapter in my life. . . . Finally, as my heart slows a little after the work of the years, may it expand in love for you and all people."

So many of the stories about Jesus deal with how he welcomed all. How important it was to share and not judge. We need to love our neighbors as ourselves. As the season of Lent comes to an end, look for those deep conversations with your neighbors.

Chuck Bachman



Spring Garden Work Party on April 1

Please join us for our spring garden clean-up event on Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m.-Noon. No experience necessary!
We have tools & gloves.

If you have any questions, please call Anne Ellett at 206-225-9582 or Anne.Ellett@outlook.com.



Garden Work

Tent City 4 Moves to OSLC on April 1

On Saturday, April 1, Tent City 4 should be moved onto OSLC's grounds by 9 a.m. We encourage you to come on Saturday morning to welcome Tent City 4 residents and help them get set up behind the church. Offering support to Tent City 4 is a tangible way to put our faith into action and love our neighbors.



Our Savior Community

From the Community Outreach Committee

Hygiene Collection for Vine Maple Place on April 16

On Sunday, April 16, we'll be hosting a Hygiene Collection for Vine Maple Place. Their Hygiene Closet—that families in the housing program access—is very low. We'll have a table in the narthex to drop items off and a box for cash or checks made out to "Vine Maple Place." Thank you for donating!

Please choose from the following list of greatest hygiene needs to provide families escaping homelessness the ability to shower and keep a clean, safe home:

- Laundry detergent (liquid 32 oz size or so)
- Toilet paper
- Deodorant
- Tampons
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Dish soap (liquid)
- Paper towels



Prayer Project for Bob Johnson



As many of you know, Bob Johnson has been attacked by the ugly disease of cancer. He is undergoing extensive chemotherapy and is under the careful care of his earthly oncologist.

As people of God, we are told to pray unceasingly (1 Thessalonians 5:17). "Where two or more are gathered in My Name, I will be there. I will answer." God's will, will be done!

This project encourages praying EVERY day at 12 o'clock noon for Bob—for complete healing, for a miracle, for his family and their needs. May I suggest setting an alarm or a reminder for that hour—and they ALL prayed (Acts 12)!

God is still in control! He is to be glorified, and yes, we will give Him all the Glory!

Join us, won't you?

In love, *Marlice Gilmore and Evie Griffin*



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

From Lent into Easter:

April 2: Palm Sunday

April 9: Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

April 16: Second Sunday in Easter

April 23: Third Sunday in Easter

April 30: Fourth Sunday in Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 6 and Good Friday, April 7 @ 7:00 p.m.

In Person: Our Savior's Executive Committee 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: Sunday 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." **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be live-streamed at 7:00 p.m.**

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.



Call Committee Corner

Please continue to hold the Call Committee in prayer:

Barbara Fetty-Solders
John McDowell
Marilyn Jewell

Phil Griffin
LaRue Nelson

Gary Hanson
Jen Winslow



Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit



From the Bishop:

I recently learned that the largest glacier between Mt. Rainier and Glacier Peak is no more. The reporter actually said that the glacier had died. Died. Gone. For thousands of years, the Hinman Glacier lived in the Washington Cascades providing much-needed water to the Skykomish River. It is now gone.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

A few months ago, my beloved dog, Gracie, died. She was thirteen. She was sick. It was time. But Gracie was with me through my cancer treatment, my children leaving home, my marriage ending, moving to a new city, beginning a new job, being in a new relationship . . . and now she has died. She is now gone.

In this synod we recently had two churches close: Clearbrook Lutheran Church in Lynden and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete. There are additional congregations who are discerning closure in this synod. All these congregations thrived in their communities for many years. Baptisms, weddings, funerals happened. People heard, shared, and lived into the good news of Jesus. And now these congregations have either decided, or are discerning, if their time lifecycle has come to an end.

All of these deaths are hard. They hurt my heart. There is grief and there is pain. And, while I might not know what you are grieving, I am sure that there is heartache in your life, too. Sometimes it seems that there is so much death. And sometimes it seems overwhelming.

As Christians we might say, "But I thought we were promised immortality. I thought 'death has lost its sting.' Truthfully, it doesn't feel that way. Death is real. It hurts. Where is this resurrection and new life we are promised?"

Dr. Brian Bantum, professor and author, writes regarding human immortality:

Our personhood, the body we speak of so confidently that was meant to live forever, is itself an arrangement of cells and tissues that are cycling through life and death. Our bodies are constantly undergoing changes, small transformations in our gradual development from infant to adult. Our bodies are no different and are connected to the cycles of life and death that are intrinsic to creation's goodness. As Indigenous theologian Randy Woodley reminds us, "Death is simply another part of living." (*Christian Century*, "Did God intend for Adam and Eve to live

Northwest Washington Synod

forever?", March 13, 2023)

On Ash Wednesday this year, I had a vision of God playing in the dirt. Kneeling down, mixing dirt into mud, molding and mixing, and forming each human. God—laughing and creating. God—loving and generating. I smiled at this sight. Later in the service, when I went forward to receive ashes in the shape of a cross upon my forehead, when I heard, "Dust to dust and ashes to ashes," I had a vision of God scooping each beloved human into God's arms at the end of their life. Holding the human turned dirt again. Loving and creating even more.

Dr. Bantum writes later in the same article, "Change, transformation, death, cycles of renewal and cessation—these are all part of God's creation. And this change is beautiful and good." Is it possible to move beyond the grief we feel when something ends and see the new life that might be coming?

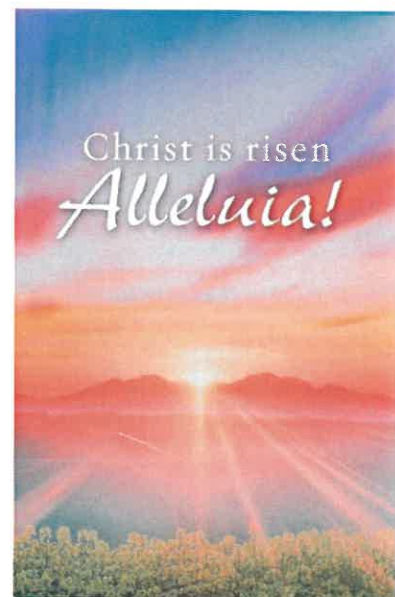
Perhaps the glacier that died could be an impetus for us to take seriously the threat of climate change. I would hope so. I hope that the love my dog Gracie had for me will make me more loving towards others. In our synod, we are working with the closing congregations so that together we may begin new ministries and new ways of being church in this new day and age.

During this season of Lent—and into Holy Week and Easter—we know the truth of death. We know it in our bones. We acknowledge the pain, the difficulty, the fear, and the grief that comes with death. And yet, even more so, as people of faith, as people who celebrate Easter, we trust in God's love through Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us and for the redemption of this entire world. Yes. There is death. And yes. There is resurrection.

God continues to play in the soil. God continues to create and nurture new life. God continues to hold and sustain life. And, fundamentally, without question, God brings life from death—each and every day.

May you have a blessed Easter. May we together, in this real world that we live in, trust in Jesus. And may we, with all the angels, archangels, and all the saints, shout the good news together, "Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

✠Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



Lutheran Counseling Network

Faith and Everyday Life April 2023

*³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)*

There are moments in our lives that stick with us, and they stick in a spiritual sense. I was driving my car in Montana. I guess it could have been anywhere, but the big sky nature of Montana makes this sight seem even rarer. The moment was brief because we were traveling in a car and the passenger and I were both looking out the front window.

We saw an adult bird—likely a hawk—with a smaller bird on its back. The larger bird dipped down, letting the young bird free fall. Then the adult bird caught the young bird on its back and kept flying. We saw this happen two times. We both shook our heads and said, “Wait, what was that?”

I have long looked for a parallel in Scripture to this vision-without-words. The closest I have come to the feeling of that moment is Psalm 91: God is “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” I often wonder how many of those moments I have encountered with the Holy One catching me and asking me to trust. I am sure I cannot even count them.

How about you? How is God teaching you to trust?

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network



Photos of a crow landing on the back of an eagle, taken by Phoo Chan, 2014

OSLC in Our Community

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



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®

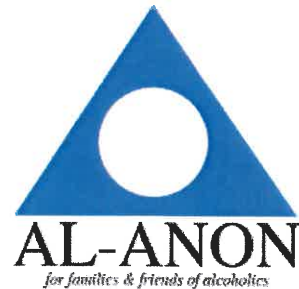


Spirit of Peace
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



encompass
Children. Families. Community.

ISSAQUAH
Food & Clothing Bank




MASTER CHORUS
EASTSIDE
Feed Your Soul



We remember in prayer . . .

Bob Johnson, who is in treatment for cancer, **and his family**; **John Hill**, who was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, **and his family** (Marilyn Carlson); **Harold Mandt**, who entered hospice (brother of Mary Ann Hult/Lorna Robertson); **My sister Inez**, who entered hospice (Marlice Gilmore); **My mom Elizabeth Bachman**, who entered hospice (Chuck Bachman); **OSLC Call Committee**, for wisdom and discernment; **Guests of the Community Meals Program**; **all affected by COVID-19**.

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

Jim (brother of Rita Hansen); **Anita Calhoun** (mother of Heidi Calhoun); **Joyce Frantzich** (aunt of Dave Carlson).

Expectant mothers: **Devin Amrine** (The Howes); **Brandi DeIrio** (niece of Shelley Howe).

Healing and peace of mind: **Bob Beck**; **Lyle Lewis**; **Henrik & Patty Christopherson**; **Vern Lindquist**; **Jerry & Linda Nack**; **Marian James**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Bernice Jensen**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Bob Johnson**; **Jim Fricke** (son of Mary Fricke); **Kirsten Olshausen**; **Scott Paine** (Rowan Hinds); **Kip Hauser** (father of Cheryl Hauser); **Roger Stanley** (Alice Lewis); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Richard** (Debby Beck); **Dianne Tanner**; **Marilyn Pro** (sister of Rick West).

Living with cancer: **My brother Roger** (Alice Lewis); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **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).

**If you have any prayer requests to be included in this list
(or if you or your loved ones no longer need to be included in this list),
please reach out to office@oslcissaquah.org. Thank you.**



April Worship Readings

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday April 7 – Good Friday

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

Passion Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, April 9 – Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 16 – Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23 – Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10



Worship Assistants for April
Sunday Service Time: 10:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday and Good Friday Service Time: 7:00 p.m.

Dates & Services:	Assisting Minister	Usher	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday	Jen Winslow	Larry Thomas	Barbara Fetty-Solders	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey
Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday	Mary Ann Hult	TBD	All hands to strip the altar	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey
Friday, April 7 Good Friday	None	Bill Suttmeier	Jane Wuest	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey
Sunday, April 9 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day	Mary Ann Hult	Sang-Beom Shim	Jane Wuest	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey
Sunday, April 16 Second Sunday of Easter	Joan Friel	Bill Suttmeier	Stacy Smith	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey
Sunday, April 23 Third Sunday of Easter	Connie Fletcher	Don Robertson	Jean Pass & Delaney Cash	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey
Sunday, April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Anne Ellett	Ken Konigsmark	Jane Wuest	Jonathan Smith/ David Hersey

Psalm Cantors

April 2: Dave Carlson
April 6: Jeff Jewell
April 7: Lori Downey and Dave Carlson
April 9: 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
Memorial Bells: Alice Lewis
Sound & Videography: Jonathan Smith &
David Hersey

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

4/1 Bernice Jensen
4/2 Doug Friddell
David Waggoner
4/6 Robert Bergquist
4/7 Jerry Nack
4/9 Michael Friel
4/14 Alaina Jacobs
Jonathan Smith
4/16 Linda Nack
4/20 Scott Coyle
Tanner Geraci
John Stamm
4/29 Ron Sordahl
4/30 Norma Byrkett



Anniversaries

4/1 Rowan & Barbara Hinds
4/16 Dick & Susan Ferrarini
4/25 Paul & Carla Geraci



If your name is missing
from the birthday or anniversary list,
please contact the church office
so we can update our records.
We want you to be included!

April 2023

April 2023							May 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	1	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	8	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20	21	15	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27	28	22	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
30						29	29	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
						8:00am Al-Anon Group 9:00am Spring Garden 10:00am Tent City 4 12:00pm Prep for Lunch
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Zadinsky Violin	6:30pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 Meeting	10:00am Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank (Ed. Hall) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)		9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 7:00pm Maundy	12:30pm Companions Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:00am Easter Worship 11:00am Easter Bruch	10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 6:30pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	3:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	2:00pm Issaquah Garden Club (Fellowship Hall/Kitchen)	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 7:00pm Finance	12:30pm Companions Bible Study (Zoom)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	6:30pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 Meeting	7:00pm Church Council (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)		9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed 2:00pm Community 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	12:30pm Companions Bible Study (Zoom)	10:00am Focus Newsletter Deadline
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)	10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 6:30pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)		9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)	12:30pm Companions Bible Study (Zoom)	
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00am SOP (Encompass Rm) 10:00am Worship (Sanctuary)						

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 22nd of each month**, unless noted otherwise. Please email items to **office@oslcissaquah.org**.

OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. John L. Vaswig.....	Transition Pastor
Ext. 106 or 253-677-4515	jlvaswig@gmail.com
Cynthia Delaney.....	Parish Administrator
425-392-4169	office@oslcissaquah.org
Dr. Jiyoung Lee.....	Parish Organist
	jiyounglee23@outlook.com

Cynthia will be on vacation from Tuesday, April 11-Friday, April 14. There will be limited office coverage during those days.

Emergency Pastoral Care

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

