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**GROWING  
TO SERVE**



**February 2025**

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

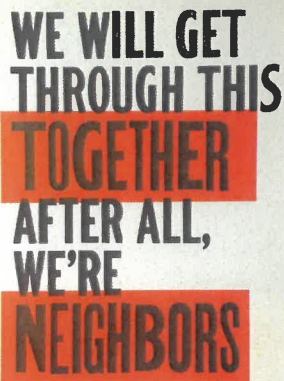


Image Credit:  
*We're Neighbors*, by Ben Blount, given to his neighbors in Evanston, IL:  
[www.blountobjects.com/product/we-re-neighbors](http://www.blountobjects.com/product/we-re-neighbors)

## Meet Your Neighbors at Coffee & Fellowship Hour This Sunday, February 2

By Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann

In Christian theology, neighbor has an all-encompassing meaning. Lutheran World Relief quilters make quilts for neighbors all over the world! Here is what they say on their webpage:

*"Lutheran World Relief saves and improves lives in the poorest parts of the world. We will persist until your love reaches every neighbor."*

And even though the neighbors we serve through Lutheran World Relief live far away, we still make every effort to get to know them a bit. There is Adam in Lebanon. Adam is 10 years old. He and his family had to flee their hometown because it was bombed. Nyalual in South Sudan became a widow during the civil war. She and her children had to flee their home when it was flooded. Hary in Peru had to leave her country after she was hit by a bus, and healthcare was not available to her.

But then, there are of course also the neighbors closer by. Our family and friends and fellow Americans in California, for example. They have endured life-threatening, destructive fires in January. Bishop Brenda Bos from the Southwest California Synod lost her house in the fires like so many others. She posted a message on YouTube. In it, she says the following:

*"In this catastrophe there will be need for practical items like food, clothing and places to stay. But, right now, I ask for us to lean into our spiritual care. We can pray for each other. We can check in on each other. We can call people we haven't seen for a while. . . . The church is uniquely poised to offer something that this community needs, and that is each other and God."*

*Continued on page 2 . . .*

*Continued from page 1 . . .*

Back in November 2024, we had our own fearful catastrophe right here in Issaquah, when a bomb cyclone hit our city and surroundings. And we did pray for each other and check in with each other and help each other in practical ways. But that event made Pastor Olaf and I wonder: Who is my neighbor right here in Issaquah? How many church members live around the parsonage? It would certainly be good to know in an emergency! We could help our siblings in Christ right here and there, and receive help, too!

And so the idea was born to provide an opportunity for church neighbors to connect and get known to each other a bit better. Thanks to Ann Thomas and the fabulous Congregational Care team, we have a pretty good idea now of what church members live close to each other.

We invite you to come to Coffee & Fellowship Hour after church this Sunday, February 2 and meet your neighbor! We will seat people who live in close proximity to each other around the same table and provide you with some fun ice breakers.

We hope that you attend this meeting – which could be the first of many – with a large portion of kindness and curiosity. After all, it is always good to meet your neighbors, and it is especially good to meet your church neighbors with whom you not only share a neighborhood, but also your faith.



## Our Savior Community

### Upcoming Book/Bible Study Course: *One Day I Wrote Back: Interacting with Scripture through Creative Writing*

By Pr. Olaf Baumann

As many of you know, Pr. Kristin-Luana and I are pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Creative Writing and Public Theology.

Jane Herring, one of our cohort members, has written *One Day I Wrote Back: Interacting with Scripture through Creative Writing* (92 pages). It is a six-session book study/bible study course that invites people to engage the bible through writing. The writing suggested here is *scriptio divina*, a spiritual discipline. *Scriptio divina* is not intended to produce a publishable manuscript, or any presentable results. It is a way to explore meaning, gain new perspectives, and foster a relationship with the biblical text.

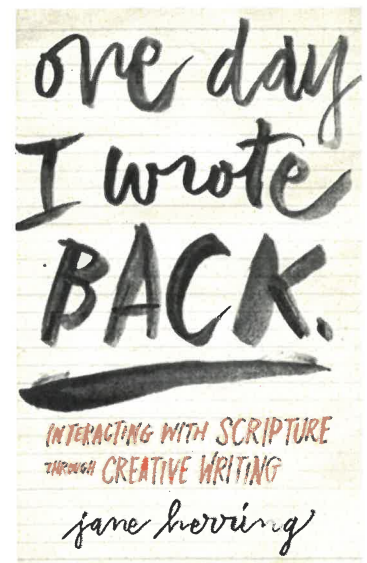
Please forget spelling, punctuation, and rules of composition you might have learned in school or college. Write down what bubbles up during the exercises. It doesn't need to be good, interesting, coherent, or structured, and you don't need to share anything if you don't want to. Putting pen to paper or typing on the computer opens a new way to imagine and experience scripture.

We will have an introductory meeting and six sessions in Anderson Hall. Every week, the book invites you to read three scripture passages and Jane's reflections. She provides some guiding questions and some writing prompts. Read, contemplate, and write as much as you like. During the meetings there will be time to write and to share insights, writings, and questions.

*One Day I Wrote Back: One Day I Wrote Back: Interacting with Scripture through Creative Writing*, Jane Herring, Upper Room Books, 2015, Amazon.com \$11.15 (\$9.99 Kindle)

Course Dates:

**Sunday**, Feb. 23, 11:30 AM-12:00 PM, Introduction  
**Thursday**, Feb. 27, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM, Session 1  
**Thursday**, March 6, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM, Session 2  
**Thursday**, March 13, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM, Session 3  
**Thursday**, March 20, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM, Session 4  
**Thursday**, March 27, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM, Session 5  
**Thursday**, April 3, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM, Session 6

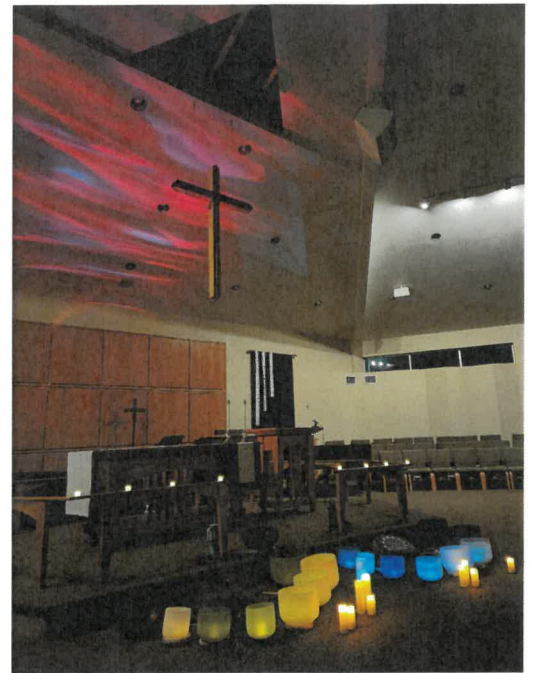


# Our Savior Community Photos

Memorial Service for Bob Johnson, January 25



Sound Bath event with crystal singing bowls, December 21



Knit-In, December 23



Sweaters on OSLC's Trees  
(Photo collage submitted by Joan F.)



Photos taken by Cynthia Delaney. Memorial photos shared with Robyn J.'s permission.



# Our Savior Community

## Financial Update: December 2024 Summary

December is six months into our fiscal year, which ends in June. We are only \$1,500 below our anticipated income for this six month period thanks to some generous givers in December. We are nearly \$24,000 under the giving for last year at this time, but we are on track with our budget.

Facility usage has increased thanks to the bomb cyclone which hit Issaquah in November. The facility use by the music teachers and students alone is bringing in \$2,400-\$2,600 per month. It is very helpful in meeting expenses.

Expenses from July through December are below the budgeted amount. In December, expenses increased over the previous months due to an increase in building usage, utilities, and maintenance. Expenses in this fiscal year are similar to what we experienced last year at this time.

Designated Funds are being used.

The Parsonage Fund is still operational as we continue repairs on the building. This fund is currently in the negative for \$23,000. Soon, monies from the SHLC Legacy Gift will be used to settle this negative balance – as the congregation approved at the beginning of the parsonage remodel.

The Unscheduled Maintenance Fund is being depleted with the costs of the new fire alarm system, a necessary upgrade to allow the building to continue being used.

And, as we have encouraged them to do, ministry teams are using monies they have in Designated Funds to support their 2024-2025 projects. It helps to keep the budget in balance if these designated funds are used first.

We would like to thank you all for giving generously and spending wisely.

Wendy Winslow  
Treasurer



# Our Savior Community

## Update from the Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee is back in action. We met in early December to orient new members, review the charter and financials, and set goals.

The purpose of the Endowment is to distribute funds for youth programs, outreach to the community and extraordinary programs that further our mission. Available funds for distribution are calculated and meant to be distributed annually.



The February 16 piano recital by OSLC Parish Musician David Liu on the new Schimmel piano is an example of a recently approved community outreach program.

Visit the [oslcissaquah.org](http://oslcissaquah.org) website, select the Mission and Ministries menu option for more information, and to view the application form. If you think your program or project would meet the distribution parameters or if you have questions, please let one of our members know. We want to hear from you!

Anne Ellett, Chair  
Bill Cash, Treasurer  
Chuck Bachman, Secretary  
John Stamm & Jeff Jewell, Members at Large



### Church Council Roster (as of January 1, 2025)

John McDowell, Co-President ◆  
Barbara Fetty-Solders, Co-President ◆  
Connie Fletcher, Vice President ◆  
Wendy Winslow, Treasurer ◆  
Lana Granlund, Secretary ◆  
Jeff Jewell, Member-at-Large ◆  
Chris Anderson, Member-at-Large ◆  
Holly Heckler, Member-at-Large ◆  
Anne Ellett, Member-at-Large ◆  
Gary Hanson, Member-at-Large ◆

### Memorial Service for Joan Schlemlein

Joan Schlemlein died during the night of Saturday/Sunday, January 25-26. She was an active church member who lived in a nursing home in recent years. Her memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m., with a reception to follow in Anderson Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## Our Savior Community

### We Need You for Memorial Bells!

The Memorial Bells is a long-lived ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church (42 years). As church membership has declined through the years so has the number of available "ringers." We would love to bring a musical offering or two between now and June but need a couple of persons to join us.



Did you play a musical instrument or sing in the choir in high school and now miss that group music-making experience? Then consider trying to ring with the ringers of the Memorial Bells. No prior experience is necessary, though a love of music and some basic musical knowledge is really helpful.



If we have enough interest and ringers one or more of the following could happen:

- a beautiful musical offering for Easter season in April,
- or a really fun musical offering with special guest Larry Thomas on harmonica in May,
- or perhaps even something in June to finish the season.

Do any of these options sound intriguing to you? For more information in giving the bells a ring, please contact Wendy Winslow ([wendywinslow@hotmail.com](mailto:wendywinslow@hotmail.com) or 206-550-0472) or Alice Lewis ([alice@motorplex.com](mailto:alice@motorplex.com) or 206-234-1701). Please, consider giving us a ring. We need you!

"The Lord has made known His salvation. . . . Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and **ring** for joy, yes, **ring** praises! **Ring** praises to the Lord with the **bells**, with the **bells** and the voice of melody." (Paraphrase of Psalm 98:2-5)

Submitted by Wendy Winslow and Alice Lewis



### Communion Services at Timber Ridge

Here are the upcoming dates for the services at Timber Ridge Retirement Community:

- **Thursday, February 6, 2:00 p.m.**, led by OSLC at Timber Ridge
- **Thursday, March 6, 2:00 p.m.**, led by SALC at Timber Ridge

## Our Savior Community

# “WANDERING AND WONDERING WITH GOD” 2025 Women’s Retreat

Mark your calendars for March 7-9, 2025 for our annual retreat! Our speakers, Jean Wahlstrom and Pr. Jane Prestbye, have this to say about their topic:

“Wandering and wondering is the essence of pilgrimage and pilgrimage is a fitting metaphor of one’s whole life journey with God. Not everyone can go on physical pilgrimage, but everyone can have the mind of the nomad disciple. Pilgrimage involves doing something with whatever faith you have, and faith like muscle likes being worked. We will explore Christian pilgrimage as a faith walk with Jesus.

*‘Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’ Jeremiah 6:16a*

*‘While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them. . . .’  
Luke 24:15”*



**Registration opens soon, and with only 45 spots available, don’t wait to sign up!  
Brochures and registration forms will be available ASAP.  
Final registrations and payments must be in by the end of February.**

Submitted by Marilyn Carlson



## Our Savior Community

### Reorganizing and Reimagining OSLC's Spaces

2024 was the year for remodeling and reimagining our church campus spaces. Many people have worked over this last year on reorganizing spaces to make the building more functional. There were many trips to non-profits and the transfer station, as well as posting items on OfferUp to clear the spaces. We hope you will be able to find things more easily when working on an event or project.

Please check in with one of these committee coordinators before donating an item to the church. We want to cut down on things being dumped at the church. Below are each committee's coordinators to contact:

- Facilities - Cheryl Leiter
- Altar Guild - Jane Wuest
- Kitchen - Marilyn Carlson, Connie Fletcher, Suzanne D'Errico
- Music - Nora Thomason
- Grounds - Anne Elliot
- Buildings & Tech - Gary Hanson
- Office - Cynthia
- Library - Sharon Mantei

We appreciate you checking before you donate. Thanks!

Submitted by Cheryl Leiter

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### Melodies of Love: A Valentine's Recital by David Liu

On Sunday, February 16 at 4:00 p.m., our talented Parish Musician David Liu will offer a free piano recital in the sanctuary.

We hope you can attend "Melodies of Love: A Valentine's Recital" to hear our beautiful new Schimmel piano in concert. It should be an amazing musical event. Hope to see you there!



# Our Savior Community

## Update from Building and Grounds Committee

### Trees, Trees, Trees

Have you noticed logs and large tree rounds on our back-forty? After weeks of wrangling with City of Issaquah Planning Department, we were given the go-ahead to remove 10 hazardous trees from the wooded North & West sides of our property.

**A Big Thank You to Ken Konigsberg!** His help was instrumental for the permitting and replanting.

What to do with this wood? We can leave it in place, offer to members of the congregation, outreach to the community for those in need, or use as a fundraiser. If you have thoughts or interest, please let me know.

Submitted by Anne Ellett



## Advocating for Climate Justice with Spirit of Peace UCC

The Social Justice Ministry Team of Spirit of Peace UCC congregation is focusing on advocating for climate justice this winter and spring. If you are interested in joining with others to put your values into action, you are invited to join in.

Here is their invitation: We are gathering to advocate together for climate justice. We will be sharing skills and stories, learning specifics of advocating, and making plans for taking action from home in the coming weeks, as well as in Olympia on February 20. Invite a friend. Join by zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88579143026>). In person address: 745 Front Street S., Issaquah 98027 (entrance at back of Our Savior Lutheran Church). Reach out to Julie Carr [rjdcarr@aol.com](mailto:rjdcarr@aol.com) to RSVP for lunch or if you have questions.

**Thursday, February 20: Interfaith Advocacy Day 2025.** The Social Justice Ministry Team of Spirit of Peace UCC congregation will be attending Faith Action Network's day-long program at the WA legislature in Olympia (9 AM-3 PM). Our group will be speaking to legislators about climate justice legislation. If you'd like to carpool to Olympia or join in by speaking up from home, please contact Julie Carr [rjdcarr@aol.com](mailto:rjdcarr@aol.com).

Submitted by Rev. Jenn Hagedorn (she/her), Spirit of Peace UCC



## Come Worship with Us

Sunday, February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

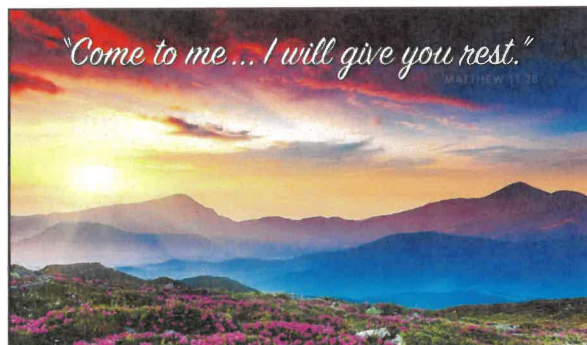
**In Person:** Please continue to stay home if feeling sick, and receive Holy Communion in a safe manner.

**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."

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](http://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.



## Northwest Washington Synod

### *The Spirit: February 2025*



*Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*

#### **From the Bishop:**

Dear Beloveds,

One of my most vivid childhood memories is when my home congregation welcomed a Vietnamese family. As a young child, I remember helping prepare the home that the family would live in, going grocery shopping with my mom for food to fill the pantry, giving our couch to them, helping with the “world dinner” that would raise money for this endeavor, and, most of all, anticipating the arrival of these new people – Loung and Young and Quin. I remember when this little family stood in the back of the sanctuary and everyone stood and clapped and embraced this family.

As you might know, I grew up in a little town in eastern Washington. This town was conservative and mostly voted Republican (although my grandmother was mayor and she was a Democrat). I believe that my hometown church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, was also more conservative in nature. I am grateful for the values taught to me by my siblings in Christ there. The love and care that I received and learned formed who I am today. These people embraced the challenge and gift of welcoming a family from a different continent, a different religion, a different language, a different culture, a different country, and so much more to become part of our community. According to my parents, there was no partisan debate about accepting a Vietnamese family with open arms.

Today, when I listen to political rhetoric or podcasts or the news, I wonder when and why the topic of immigration has become so fraught. While I understand that there are complexities and nuances of immigration and I understand the need to make sure that there is control and order at the U.S. border, I don’t understand why there is the need to vilify the vast majority of immigrants who are, quite simply, desperate for safety, work, and good government.

I know the arguments: Yes, sometimes people come into this country through the wrong avenues. Yes, sometimes people stay without documentation. Yes, sometimes crime happens by people who are in this country illegally. Yes, sometimes resources are used for people who are not citizens. Yes, there are laws in this country and people should follow the laws.

*Continued on page 13 . . .*

## Northwest Washington Synod

*Continued from page 12 . . .*

But let me push back a little bit. There is overwhelming statistical analysis that shows immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than U.S. citizens. We know through our own experiences that immigrants will work hard at whatever job they find – as I have been told by one Mexican immigrant, “Mexicans will do anything and we’ll work harder and longer than anyone else.” We know people who were brought to this country as children and know no other country. We know that there are some laws that are simply unjust made to target people who are already desperate – simply because of the color of their skin or their birth country.

As people of faith, we are called to reflect God’s vision towards a more just and reconciled world. As people of faith, we are called to follow Jesus’ example towards loving and caring for all people – especially those that have been marginalized. As people of faith, when we are grappling with hard things, we are called to turn to God and scripture for wisdom and knowledge. In view of welcoming the stranger from other lands, here are a few passages:

Genesis 23:4, Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 27:19, 1 Chronicles 16:19-22, Job 29:15-17, Psalm 146:9, Jeremiah 7:5-7, Ezekiel 47:22, Zechariah 7:9-10, Matthew 5:43-44, Matthew 25:35, Matthew 25:40, Luke 10:27, Acts 10:34, Romans 12:13, Romans 13:8, Romans 13:10, Colossians 3:11, Hebrews 13:1-3, 3 John 1:5, Revelation 21:3, and there are many more not named.

These scriptures are about welcoming the foreigner, the outsider, embracing those who are in need, loving God by loving neighbor. If someone wants biblical authority, scripture makes it pretty clear. We are to welcome and embrace those who come from other places. We are to love our near and far neighbors as God loves us.

I am writing this article one week before the new administration begins. Truly, I am deeply concerned about the millions of people who will be affected and harmed by presidential action and legislative policies that have been promised by the incoming president.

*Continued on page 14 . . .*



Image Credit: *La Sagrada Familia*, Kelly Latimore, [kellylatimoreicons.com/products/la-sagrada-familia](http://kellylatimoreicons.com/products/la-sagrada-familia)

## Northwest Washington Synod

*Continued from page 13 . . .*

I encourage you to learn more about how to support and welcome these new neighbors in need:

- **ELCA AAMPARO** (<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/amparo>)
- **Faith Action Network** (<https://fanwa.org/>)
- **Lutheran Community Services Northwest - Refugees Northwest** (<https://lcsnw.org/program/refugees-northwest-2/>)
- **Global Refuge** (<https://www.globalrefuge.org/blog/resources/congregational-resources/>)

Watch for more information from the Synod as we work and move and join together in loving God by loving the most vulnerable. Please, I implore you, love and welcome and embrace your neighbor as God embraces each one of us.

✚ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee, [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Faith Communities and Immigration –  
From Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee**  
(January 23, 2025 email sent from the Synod)

Beloveds of the Northwest Washington Synod:

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

With the new administration's executive orders, I am gravely concerned about the anti-immigrant policies affecting our neighbors and faith communities. Please hold in prayer those whose lives are being upended and threatened. In addition to the items in this email, we will continue to share information and opportunities for learning and advocacy as we receive them.

Here are items for your information and use:

- 1) A letter from the 6 Region One Bishops;
- 2) An invitation to attend a February 12 Region One Online Forum for our faith communities regarding immigration;
- 3) Information and action steps from Global Refuge, National Immigration Law Center, Faith Action Network, and Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network

In Christ's Love,  
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

*Continued on page 15 . . .*



**Region 1 of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

January 23, 2025

A Statement on Immigration

As Lutherans, we are called to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, who welcomed strangers and emphasized love, mercy, and justice for all people. We believe that every human being, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, is created in the image of God and has inherent dignity and worth. This foundational truth compels us to approach the issue of immigration with compassion and a commitment to the common good.

Scripture repeatedly instructs us to love our neighbor and show the stranger hospitality. God commands the people of Israel, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34). Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) shows us that caring for people in need is central to who we are as Christians. The parable also challenges us to acknowledge the goodness in all people because the "foreigner" in the story is the one who acts in the most Christlike way. In light of these teachings, we advocate for an immigration policy that reflects Christ's love, recognizing that all people deserve respect and protection.

The Lutheran tradition emphasizes both mercy and justice. Justice requires everyone, including immigrants, to be treated fairly and equitably. While upholding the rule of law is important, it must not be done in ways that dehumanize or exploit vulnerable people. We are especially concerned about the possibility that places of worship, hospitals, and schools could be the target of deportation raids. A policy that allowed such raids would increase the suffering not only of undocumented people but also of many people who would fear being unjustly targeted and thus avoid those places. Denying people the opportunity to attend worship, be educated, or receive medical treatment violates individuals' fundamental rights. We urge those in government and law enforcement who are responsible for the detention or deportation of undocumented persons to consider how their actions might be seen in the eyes of God.

We are all members of the same human family. Therefore, we approach immigration not merely as a political or legal issue but as a matter of human solidarity. The health and prosperity of the United States are intertwined with the contributions and lives of immigrants. Immigrants bring diverse gifts and play an essential role in our communities and economies. Our immigration policies should reflect a commitment to the welfare of all, especially the most vulnerable.

As people who have received God's mercy and grace, we are called to extend that same mercy and grace to others. This means offering opportunities for new beginnings, particularly for those already present in the United States without legal documentation. A just immigration policy would provide pathways to citizenship for those who have lived in the U.S. for years, contributing to the country and integrating into our communities. It should also guarantee protection for those fleeing violence or persecution, ensure that immigrant families remain united, and make sure that children are not punished for their parents' actions.

We are called, as individuals and as a society, to remember that the immigrants among us are not intruders or enemies but bearers of the image of God, deserving of our care, respect, and advocacy.

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod

The Rev. Richard Jaech, Bishop, Southwestern Washington Synod

The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, Bishop, Montana Synod

The Rev. Laurie Larson Caesar, Bishop, Oregon Synod

The Rev. Dr. Meggan Manlove, Bishop, Northwest Intermountain Synod

The Rev. Timothy Oslovich, Bishop, Alaska Synod

# Northwest Washington Synod

*Continued from page 15 . . .*

## **Region One Online Forum for Our Faith Communities Regarding Immigration, February 12, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**

Considering the new Trump Administration directives limiting congregational rights to offer sanctuary for our immigrant neighbors, and our position as a faith community rooted in biblical admonitions to accompany the stranger, we highly encourage you to participate in a Region 1 online forum discussing protections for churches, organizations, and individuals and how we might know our rights and/or rise up to be sanctuaries for our most vulnerable.

We are grateful to be joined by immigration experts, including leaders from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Lutheran Community Services NW. Please invite any other key leaders you know, of any denomination.

**Registration required. Free. Please share this invitation.**

**Register here:** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/azM5gsIyTZm79SjOnaVgbw>

## **Information and Action Steps from These Partners:**

### **Faith Action Network: [fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org)**

**Advocacy and Action Resources** [https://fanwa.ourpowerbase.net/civcrm/ mailing/view?reset=1&id=3189&cid=26988&cs=b78afee135fd86e20679519dc6c3a952\\_1737678752\\_168](https://fanwa.ourpowerbase.net/civcrm/ mailing/view?reset=1&id=3189&cid=26988&cs=b78afee135fd86e20679519dc6c3a952_1737678752_168)

### **Global Refuge: [www.globalrefuge.org](http://www.globalrefuge.org)**

Sensitive Locations/Protected Areas and Immigration Enforcement Fact and Action Sheet **PDF (English)** <https://www.globalrefuge.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Sensitive-Locations-Protected-Areas-and-Immigration-Enforcement-Backgrounder-January-2025.pdf>  
**PDF (Spanish)** <https://files.constantcontact.com/eccc8a0a001/f6d24fa2-647a-42c6-8109-da1f8eceedfc8.pdf?rdr=true>

### **National Immigration Law Center: [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)**

**Fact Sheet** <https://www.nilc.org/resources/factsheet-trumps-rescission-of-protected-areas-policies-undermines-safety-for-all/>

### **Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network: [waisn.org](http://waisn.org)**

**Your Rights with ICE PDF** (Immigration & Customs Enforcement)  
<https://waisn.org/kyrice/>

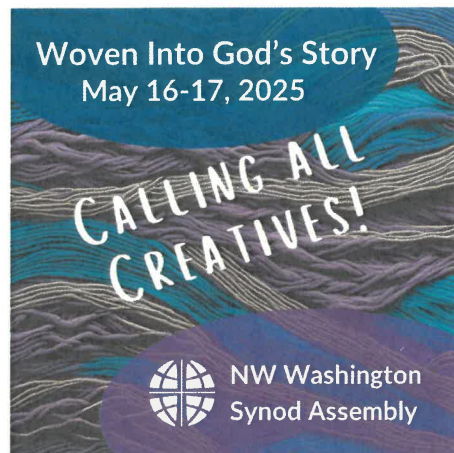


# Northwest Washington Synod

Hello Synod Friends!

The Northwest Washington Synod Assembly is just around the corner—and we need the help of the synod's crafty creatives!

The theme for our upcoming TWO-day, in-person synod assembly (Friday & Saturday, May 16 & 17) is “**Woven Into God's Story.**” With a theme like this, the décor practically plans itself!



**Calling all quilters, knitters, crocheters, weavers, and macramé artists:**

**We need 50 table runners** (approx. 12" x 72-120") to decorate the tables at our upcoming Synod Assembly. We know we have talent all over the synod. Will you share that with us? The table runners can be any combination of colors (great use of scrap fabric and yarn).

Please contact Kathy Fisher ([kathy@salc.church](mailto:kathy@salc.church)) if you/your congregation can supply a few runners. Let Kathy know how many you are willing to create! There will be special recognition for our artists at the event. We need to have them in hand by May 1. (Discuss with Kathy if you would like to pick them up at the end of the assembly or donate them for additional uses in the synod.)

THANK YOU for helping “set the table” for our time together by signing up with Kathy and/or passing this request along to your creative colleagues!

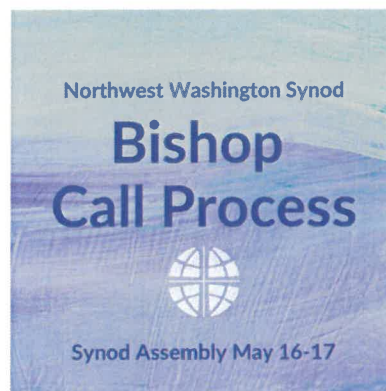
The Synod Assembly Planning Team

# Northwest Washington Synod

Dear Members of the Northwest Washington Synod:

**Our apologies for the glitch in the fillable form. It is all fixed up and ready to go!**

**The nominating period for the Northwest Washington Synod Bishop call process has begun.** The election will take place at this year's synod assembly, which will be held May 16-17 at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center in Everett. Between now and February 16, any member of a congregation in the Northwest Washington Synod may make only one nomination.



While the nominee does not need to be a pastor in this Synod, the nominee must be on the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. A person may not nominate themselves. Instructions on how to submit the nomination are included on the form.

**The UPDATED fillable PDF nomination form may be [DOWNLOADED HERE](#).**

**\*\***(Go to [www.lutheransnw.org/pages/bishop-call-process](http://www.lutheransnw.org/pages/bishop-call-process), scroll down to **Downloads**, and click on [2025 Nomination Form - fillable UPDATED.pdf](#) to find it online.)**\*\***

Be sure to save it to your computer, complete the form, save it, then email it to: [bishop-nominations@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop-nominations@lutheransnw.org).

Paper copies of the nomination form are available upon request at the Synod office: [office@Lutheransnw.org](mailto:office@Lutheransnw.org) or call (206) 783-9292. [Print this form](#)

**\*\***(You'll find a nomination form included on the next page.)**\*\***

More information regarding the nomination and election processes and the important responsibilities of a synod bishop can be found on the Synod's website here: [www.lutheransnw.org/pages/bishop-call-process](http://www.lutheransnw.org/pages/bishop-call-process)

Please help us ensure that information regarding the bishop nomination and election processes is shared with members of your congregation. As you reflect on the upcoming bishop's election, please join the Bishop Call Process Task Force in offering this prayer:

*Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the people of the Northwest Washington Synod as we prepare to elect a bishop. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may reflect your glory and prepare for the way of your realm; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

Peace, Pastor Gail S. Rautmann, Chair, Bishop Call Process Task Force  
[pastorgail@gloria-dei-lutheran.org](mailto:pastorgail@gloria-dei-lutheran.org)

# NOMINATION FORM

## Northwest Washington Synod – 2025 Bishop Election

Nominations will be accepted **ONLY** from January 15 until February 16, 2025.

For more information, visit the Synod website:

<https://www.lutheransnw.org/bishop-call-process>

### Nominator:

*(person making the nomination)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: The person making a nomination for bishop must be a member of a congregation in the Northwest Washington Synod. A nominator may make only one nomination, and a person may not self-nominate.)*

### Nominee:

*(person nominated for position of bishop)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the nominee a minister of Word and Sacrament (i.e., a pastor) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as required by section S8.11 of the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Northwest Washington Synod*? (check one)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_\_

Has the nominee been advised of this nomination? (check one)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominations must be submitted via email or regular mail to:**

bishopnominations@lutheransnw.org    *or*

Bishop Nominations, c/o Northwest Washington Synod, 5519 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

# Lutheran Counseling Network

## Faith and Everyday Life January 2025

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)*

Take a moment to read this verse, once through. Notice your reaction, the state of your heart, your body. Are you tense? Relaxed? Distant? Trusting?

While this verse is comforting for some, my personal and professional life has made me keenly familiar with death, suffering, pain, and trauma. Every day I find myself crying out to God for justice and mercy, for help in time of need. Must we wait until we return “home” in Heaven for God to heal and renew us? Miracles happen, but often this is not the case and suffering results. How can we find respite in this Scripture when our suffering feels so invasive and destructive now?

Scripture reminds us to return to the story of Christ, who asked this question in his final breath on the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34; Psalm 22:1). Christ’s cry from the cross illustrates that God is present with us to speak to, mourn with, and even to accuse. May we be bold to assume God’s presence is alive and near, especially when our pain is at its worst. What if we were to close our eyes and imagine God leaning down, wiping our tears away, drawing us near and holding us now, at this very moment. When we do this, we experience a glimpse of Heaven on Earth, and we find true hope.

Now take a deep breath and read this verse again, slowly. Notice your spirit, your body, as you read it. If you wish, repeat this process until you feel a sense of being at home with God, even in your suffering. Feel God’s presence with you, wiping away your tears, drawing you near. Feel within you a sense of God’s hope, God’s peace, and even God’s joy.

*Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network*

\*This January 2025 reflection wasn’t available in time for the December/January Focus, so it’s included here.

# Lutheran Counseling Network

## Faith and Everyday Life February 2025

*The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:2-4)*

These verses about the Good Shepherd are comforting, no matter our age. When we are young, we have a special affinity for the Good Shepherd. We are open to the love and care the Shepherd gives, and are able to give back that same deep love. We want to hear our names and follow. We find joy in being sheep of the Good Shepherd.

As we grow, our scope changes, and we look beyond the safety, love, and care of this loving relationship. We develop interests that take us to different places. We may stray off the path. But when that happens, the Shepherd comes looking for us. The Shepherd values each of us, seeks after us when we are in danger, and welcomes us back into the fold.

The beautiful thing is, we are never too old to be sheep. In fact, the older we get, the more we need that comforting assurance that the Good Shepherd knows us, loves us, and will never let us go. We do not always know what lies ahead. But we know the Shepherd, who leads the way. All we need to do is trust and follow. No matter our circumstances, it's a comfort to know we can rely on the Good Shepherd.



*Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network*

Image Credit: *The Good Shepherd*, Kelly Latimore,  
[kellylatimoreicons.com/products/the-good-shepherd](http://kellylatimoreicons.com/products/the-good-shepherd)

## OSLC in Our Community

These are the community organizations that use our church building for meetings, worship services, music lessons, rehearsals, recitals, art events, and/or trainings:



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA®



*Spirit of Peace*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**ISSAQUAH  
ARTS**



New Creation Church  
(Messenger Evangelistic Ministries Int'l.)



## We remember in prayer . . .

**Mary F.**, for encouragement, strength, and healing; **Evy S.**, who is in hospice; **Ruby G.**, who's in the ER with critically low sodium (grandmother of Holly H.); **Rowan H.** is thankful for his successful heart surgery and asks for prayers as he begin treatment for cancer of the bone. **Lena S.**, for health and strength; **Ken B.**, for recovery from heart attack (long-time friend of Doug & Dianne T.); **Dianne T.**, prayers for proper treatment for new issues detected; **Doris H.**, who is in hospice (cousin's wife of Duane J.); **Amy D.**, for comfort and strength; **Deb C.**, successful knee surgery and quick recovery (healing and wholeness); **Guests of the Community Meals Program; all affected by COVID-19.**

**Mourning the death of loved ones:** Joan Schlemlein, Les Carlson (father of Dave Carlson), Bob Johnson.

**Healing and peace of mind:** Shelley H.; John & Helen N.; Diane M.; Lyle L.; Henrik & Patty C.; Vern L.; Katie M.; Margot I.; Dorothy S.; Jeanne K.; Florence K.; Sandy A.; Jen W.; Larry P.

**Undergoing cancer treatment:** Rowan H.; Kim A. (dear friend of Shelley H.); Melinda N. (daughter of Cheryl & Lou N.); Jared K. (nephew of Jane W.); Suzanne L. (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice L.); Mary F.; Lou L. (Dianne T.); Baby Jack (nephew of Bill S.); Treasure H. (daughter of Rowan and Barbara H.); Dianne T.; John H. (Marilyn C.); Jim F. (son of Mary F.); Kirsten O.; Scott P. (Rowan H.); Kip H. (father of Cheryl H.); Richard (Debby B.).

**Living with cancer:** Mike (friend of Jane W.); Gene C. (cousin of Duane J.); Chris H. (brother of Mark H.); Peggy S. (cousin of Mark H.); Eileen L. (cousin of Mark H.); Sonja (Dianne T.); Gerald W. (Vern and Jeannie L.); Duane J.; Mary L. (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice L.); Suzanne L. (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice L.).

If you have any prayer requests to be added (or you or your loved ones no longer need to be on this list), please reach out to [office@oslcssaquah.org](mailto:office@oslcssaquah.org). Thank you.



## Worship Readings for Sundays

### **Sunday, February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

### **Sunday, February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Psalm: Psalm 138

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

### **Sunday, February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm: Psalm 1

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

### **Sunday, February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38





## Worship Assistants for Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

Dates & Services	Assisting Minister	Usher	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
February 2	Jen W.	Barbara F-S. and Tom K.	Stacy S.	Jon S. and Anne E.
February 9	Anne E.	Lois D. and Larry T.	Jane W.	Jon S.
February 16	Joan F.	Rob and Gabby G.	Barbara F-S.	Jon S.
February 23	Connie F.	Don R. and Bill S.	Jean P. and Delaney C.	Jon S.

### Psalm Cantors

February 2: Lori D.

February 9: Wendy W.

February 16: Nora T.

February 23: Wendy W.

### Volunteer Coordinators

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

Altar Guild: Jane W.

Ushers: Bill S.

Memorial Bells: Alice L.

Choral Ensemble: Nora T.

Assisting Ministers: Cynthia D.

Sound & Videography: Jon S.



## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 2/3 Nancy A.  
2/4 Gerald W.  
2/5 Bruce B.  
Suzanne D'E.  
2/7 Susan F.  
Rowan H.  
2/9 Sue J.  
Lynne O'S.  
2/10 Bill S.  
2/11 Werner H.  
2/12 Marilyn C.  
Cheryl L.  
2/13 Anne E.  
Debra Z.  
2/16 Sandy A.  
2/22 Bev P.  
2/28 Myles C.



### Anniversaries

- 2/23 Michael & Margot I.



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!

# February 2025

February 2025

March 2025

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

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

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Jan 26		27		28		29		30		31		Feb 1	
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP)		10:30am Congregational		7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)				9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)				7:30am OSLC Council Retreat (Anderson Hall)	
10:00am Worship		3:00pm Companions						10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)					
11:00am Meet Your		4:00pm Knit-Ins						5:00pm Piano Tuning by					
12:30pm New Creation		7:00pm Master Chorus											
		7:00pm Boy Scout Troop											
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP)		1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)		9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall, Kitchen)				10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)					
10:00am Worship		7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)						11:00am Memorial Service and Reception for Joan					
11:00am Coffee &													
12:30pm New Creation													
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP)		3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online)		7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom)				9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)					
10:00am Worship		4:00pm Knit-Ins		7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)				10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)					
11:00am Coffee &		7:00pm Master Chorus						1:00pm Community					
12:30pm New Creation		7:00pm Boy Scout Troop						7:00pm Finance					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am Spirit of Peace		7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom)		7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 PLC (Anderson Hall)				9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)					
10:00am Worship		7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)						10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)					
11:00am Coffee &								1:00pm Community					
12:30pm New Creation								7:00pm Finance					
4:00pm Melodies of													
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP)		7:00pm Church Council (online) (Zoom)		9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)									
10:00am Worship		7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)		10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)									
11:00am Coffee &													
12:30pm New Creation													

***Our Savior Lutheran Church***

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



Stay connected!  
**www.oslcissaquah.org**

All articles and announcements for the next *Focus* edition  
are due on the 22nd of the month.  
Please email items to **office@oslcissaquah.org**.

**OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY**

Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann.....	Pastor
360-912-1245 (cell)	<a href="mailto:Pr.KL@oslcissaquah.org">Pr.KL@oslcissaquah.org</a>
Pr. Olaf Baumann.....	Pastor
360-912-1830 (cell)	<a href="mailto:Pr.O@oslcissaquah.org">Pr.O@oslcissaquah.org</a>
Cynthia Delaney.....	Parish Administrator
425-392-4169 (office)	office@oslcissaquah.org
David Liu.....	Parish Musician
	<a href="mailto:davidliusmic@gmail.com">davidliusmic@gmail.com</a>

**Emergency Pastoral Care**

For emergency pastoral care, please contact Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann at 360-912-1245 or Pr. Olaf Baumann at 360-912-1830.