

F

O

C

U

S



**GROWING  
TO SERVE**



**April 2025**

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

## The Harrowing of Hell

By Rev. Olaf Baumann

The Harrowing of Hell describes the descent of the victorious Jesus into the realm of the dead in the time between crucifixion and resurrection.

The fiery hell where the sinners are tortured is not a clear biblical concept. There are more prominent notions that imagine the location of punishment as outer darkness where there is gnashing of teeth. In later texts there are visions of lakes of fire. There are verses we translate as hell where the Greek reads Tartarus, a place in Greek mythology where the Titans were imprisoned. Most places that the NRSV translates with hell reads in the original Greek of the New Testament "Gehenna."

Gehenna is a real place. It's the modern Wadi of Hinnom, located in the vicinity of the temple mount in Jerusalem. Here apostate Israelites sacrificed their first-born male children to the god Molech by burning them alive. The Hebrew Scriptures describe this act with the phrase "pass through fire." 19<sup>th</sup> century theologians tried to reinterpret this phrase as a ritual that did not involve burning children alive. This reading points not to actual scholarship, but rather to the desperate refusal to imagine that Israelites are capable of those shocking acts. Later Gehenna became a refuse dump where animal carcasses and the unclaimed bodies of criminals and outcasts were burned. It is the place where people are believed to be furthest away from God's grace and our imagery of hell was influenced by the history of the place.

German theologian Dirk Stelter writes<sup>1</sup> that the notion of hell needs to be connected with the hope of victims of injustices that God's judgment on perpetrators creates justice. The world knows so much pain and suffering, it cannot be that their tears are ignored. If hell's connection to the victims is lost, the notion turns God from a God of grace and justice, into a

*Continued on page 2 . . .*

*Continued from page 1 . . .*

cold accountant of sin. This idea of God is hardly reconcilable with our faith in a God of love and grace.

In the Hebrew bible the realm of the dead is called Sheol or Hades in the New Testament. It is not a place of punishment or torture, but a netherworld where the dead dwell as shadow-like creatures.

After his death Jesus descends into this realm and throws open the gates of "hell" to liberate the dead and lead them into union with God. The gospel according to Matthew reports that with Jesus' death darkness sets in, that the veil of the temple is torn apart and that the graves open and the dead walk in the streets (Matthew 27:50-54).



*Resurrection – Descent into Hell, with Feasts and Selected Saints, Russian icon, First half of the 16th century, Solvychegodsk, Arkhangelsk Regional Museum of Fine Arts*

The Apostles' Creed states: "[Jesus] was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead\*."

Sometimes the text of the creed is translated as Jesus descended into hell\*. Martin Luther preached in his Torgau sermon, "Thus also one finds it often painted on the walls (of churches), how He descended with a choir cape and with a banner in His hand. He comes before hell and strikes and slays the devil with the banner. He storms hell and brings out His own."<sup>2</sup> "[ ] In his death he (Jesus) overcame sin, death, the devil, hell, and eternal damnation [ ]," states the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord in the Book of Concord.<sup>3</sup>

In Jesus death, death itself is defeated, not just for those who come after Jesus, but also for all who came before him. God's loving grace is bestowed on all creation and not limited to time or location. 1 Peter 4:6 says that the gospel was "proclaimed even to the dead." They include the main characters of the Hebrew bible like Adam and Eve, Moses, Miriam, David, etc. *Continued on page 3 . . .*

*Continued from page 2 . . .*

The doctrine of the Harrowing of Hell originates in the second century shortly after the gospels emerged as a witness to the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The doctrine found its most prominent liturgical expression in the Eastern rites of the Orthodox Church. On Holy Saturday the service starts with somber Lenten colors. Just before the gospel reading the colors of vestments and paraments are changed to white, the deacon burns incense and the priest spreads laurel leaves that symbolize the broken gates of hell.

The love of God knows no bounds. God in Christ liberated the living and the dead from the consequences of sin. All generations, past, present and future are reconciled with God through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.rpi-loccum.de/material/pelikan/pel2-15/2-15\\_Stelter](https://www.rpi-loccum.de/material/pelikan/pel2-15/2-15_Stelter)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.godwithuslc.org/martin-luthers-sermon-on-christs-descent-into-hell/>

<sup>3</sup> Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert Eds, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2000) p. 620.



## **Faith Formation at Our Savior Lutheran Church in May**

**Thursdays, May 1, 15, and 29, 12-1 PM in Anderson Hall, and 7-8 PM on Zoom**

Which bible translation should I read? Why do we use a lectionary? What are *adiaphora*?

Please come to faith formation classes with Pr. Kristin-Luana every other Thursday in May to learn about bible translations, lectionaries, and *adiaphora*!

**Thursday, May 1** (12 PM in Anderson Hall, 7 PM on Zoom): **What bible translations exist, and which ones should I read?**

**Thursday, May 15** (12 PM in Anderson Hall, 7 PM on Zoom): **What are lectionaries; and how do we use them?**

**Thursday, May 28** (12 PM in Anderson Hall, 7 PM on Zoom): **What are *adiaphora*; and why do we love them?**

# Our Savior Community

## From the Council Co-President

### Thoughts on Compassion

Given the times we live in, I want to offer an article on compassion. Where in Scripture do we learn about compassion? You might substitute “compassion” for the word “love.” There are several well-known passages which teach us about compassion. When asked about which commandment is first, “Jesus answered, ‘O’ Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31)

There is also the parable of the Good Samaritan. When Jesus was asked, “Who is my neighbor?”, he told the story of a man who went from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. Both the priest and Levite crossed to other side of the road to avoid the injured man. But a Samaritan, a person of a despised minority, bound his wounds, offered him food and drink, and then took him on his animal to an inn and paid for his stay there so he could recover. Jesus then asked, “Who was the injured man’s neighbor?” (Luke 10:29-36).

#### **What is Compassion?**

Stanford’s Definition: (1) Compassion is an awareness of suffering in others/self (cognitive); (2) a feeling of being emotionally moved by suffering (affect/emotion); (3) a desire to see the relief of that suffering (intention); and (4) a willingness to help relieve that suffering when possible (motivation/action). Compassion is an inner experience that gives rise to behavior.

#### **Assumptions on Compassion:**

- (1) Compassion is an instinctive quality we all have.
- (2) Most of us seem to have limits to our compassion.
- (3) The idea of cultivation—since you already have the seeds of compassion inside of you, compassion is a mindset and skill that can be learned.

I am a nurse; daily routines in the field can be quite demanding. Caring for multiple patients safely can be a challenge: assessing patients, administering medications and procedures on time, watching for complications, communicating with other members of the care team, and teaching patients how to care for themselves so they can safely go home.

*Continued on page 5 . . .*

## Our Savior Community

*Continued from page 4 . . .*

There were times when it was difficult to slow down and connect with each patient. I had to remind myself to be present, hold a hand, look into their eyes, and share a moment. Compassion takes practice.

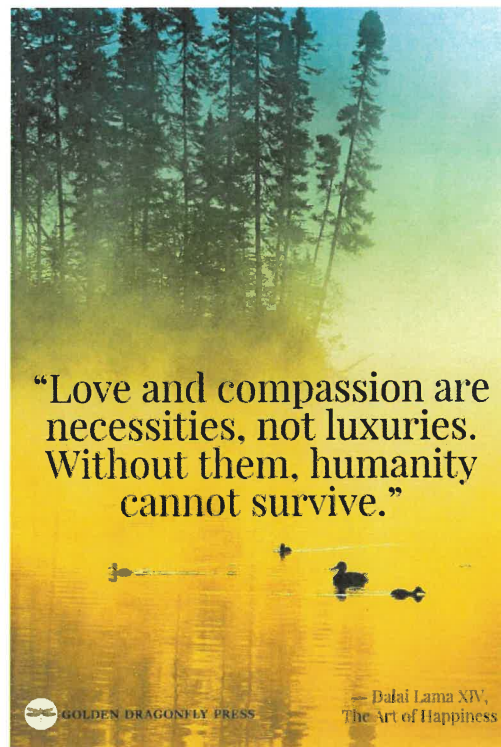
To start compassion practice, you might start by settling and focusing the mind (through deep cleansing breaths, followed by an awareness and breath focus):

- Use your breath as a way to connect with the present moment and find peace and focus.
- Choose an activity which to practice and enjoy and focus.
- Connect with nature/quiet by spending quiet time there.

Next practice kindness on the go: offer a silent wish of kindness to a stranger, such as parent with a screaming child in the check-out line or on an airplane.

These thoughts on compassion cultivation were taken from a training program offered at Providence Everett by Diane Hetrick. I will give another installment next month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Fetty-Solders, OSLC Co-President



## Our Savior Community

### Journey of Generosity Retreat on May 9-10

Hello fellow OSLC members and friends,

I hope you are doing well enjoying the bits of occasional warm weather. I have been wintering in Arizona with Marilyn these past months experiencing some sun beaming down on us. We'll be arriving home in a few weeks.

Since last Fall, when I shared a Temple Talk about Stewardship/Discipleship, several of us in leadership have engaged in a retreat exploring ideas in how to be more closely aligned with Jesus and his wishes for our world and community. This experience has been in collaboration through a non-profit organization called Generous Giving. In a Friday night/Saturday morning gathering of a dozen of us, we watched videos, shared conversations led by friendly facilitators, and spent some quiet time in prayer and in fellowship to discern God's calling for us. Participants felt relaxed in the non-pressure environment. The retreat is free of charge.

My message today is to tell you that the next Journey of Generosity (JoG) retreat is scheduled for Friday, May 9-Saturday, May 10, about a month away. With the enthusiastic response shared by those at a recent Council meeting, it seemed proper for me to arrange the next JoG weekend and put it on the calendar. Thus, Council is inviting members who resonate with the "generosity" mindset to sign up for this retreat.

You may want some more information about what this experience might be like. Those who took part in the February retreat would be happy to share their impressions with you. These participants include John McDowell, Lana Granlund, Barbara Fetty-Solders, Connie Fletcher, Ruben Nieto, Randy Webb, Chris Anderson, Chuck Bachman, Wendy Winslow, Pastor Olaf, and Pastor Kristin-Luana.

If you want information from me directly I can be reached by email at [jewellvp21@gmail.com](mailto:jewellvp21@gmail.com) or 206-859-1304. It would be fun to hear from you!

Thanks for considering and praying about your participation in the next Journey of Generosity at Our Savior Lutheran in May.

In Christ,  
Jeff Jewell

Journey  
of Generosity



# Our Savior Community

## Financial Update

February is the 8<sup>th</sup> month in our fiscal year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025). We are on target with our budgeted contributions for this time of year at \$242,522.

General expenses are still below budget but we have been spending down our Designated Funds in order to complete the major projects to our facilities.

We have actually taken \$50,000 from the SHLC Legacy Gift to apply to the Parsonage Fund to cover costs of the renovation. (The congregation approved up to \$100,000 to come from the SHLC funds when the renovation project began.) Soon, all will be completed!

Attendance is down by about 100 attendees over last year. Don't know why. Maybe the weather in February? Might average out again as weather improves?

Budget for 2025-2026 is in process. Keep watch for dates of Budget Hearings.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions.

Wendy Winslow,  
Treasurer

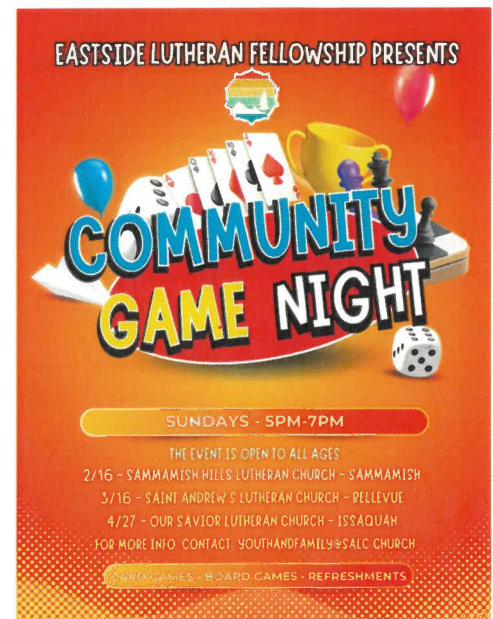


### Eastside Lutheran Church Community

Many thanks to Carolynn Ferris for an informative presentation on the Eastside Lutheran Church Community on March 23. Did you miss it? Would you like to learn more? Here is the ELCC webpage: <https://www.eastsidelutherancc.org/>

### Community Game Night at OSLC on April 27

On Sunday, April 27 from 5:00-7:00 p.m., OSLC will host the Community Game Night in Anderson Hall. There will be card games, board games, and refreshments. It will be a fun opportunity for fellowship with people throughout the Eastside cluster. We hope you, your kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors can come!



# Our Savior Community

## Announcements

### Spring Grounds Work Party on April 8

On Tuesday, April 8 from 9:00 a.m.-Noon, please join us for a Spring Fling on our grounds as we tidy up the beds and parking lot for Easter. No experience necessary. Come as you can! Questions? Contact Anne Ellett at 206-225-9592 or Anne.Ellett@Outlook.com.



**SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN-UP**

### Communion Services at Timber Ridge

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

- **Thursday, April 3, 2:00 p.m.**, led by OSLC
- **Thursday, May 1, 2:00 p.m.**, led by SALC

### Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer End on April 9

On Wednesdays through April 9, please join us at 6:00 p.m. for a soup supper in Anderson Hall, followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.



*Holden Evening  
Prayer*



### Men's Group Meeting on April 30

The next meeting of the Men's Group is Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. During the meeting, we will solve a crime mystery.

### Celebration of Life Gathering for Larry Harbolt on May 3

The family of Larry Harbolt is hosting a Celebration of Life gathering for Larry on Saturday, May 3 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Light refreshments will be served along with some great storytelling about Larry. This is a casual event, and the wearing of Seahawk colors is encouraged. All are welcome! Here is the link to Larry's obituary:

<https://cadycremationservices.com/obituaries/laurence-ray-harbolt/>



# Our Savior Community

## More Help Needed for Coffee Hour

Each Sunday, two people are needed for coffee hour (for the coffee and treats). Lately, it's been a struggle to get two people for coffee hour to happen smoothly. More helpers are needed to keep this going. Please sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen door. Thanks for your participation in making our time of fellowship truly wonderful.



## Mission Trip Fundraiser Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church April 5<sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00pm



**LWA**  
Love With Actions

Please join us for a special Mission Trip Fundraiser for our cluster trip to Rwanda supporting the mission of *Love With Action* an organization that cares for children with disabilities.

We have members from Sammamish Hills, Mt. Si, and Our Savior's Lutheran churches going to serve in Rwanda in May.



We invite your support! Join us for a Rwanda Meal, silent auction, and trivia game on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00pm.

Tickets for this dinner can be purchased at the door for \$30.

**We also welcome any basket donations or other fun donations for our auction!**



We hope you will join us and/or consider making a donation. All proceeds from this fundraiser go towards our service projects in Rwanda. Our fundraising goal is \$8000-\$10,000! Help us make a difference in the lives of children.

## YOU ARE INVITED



## Women's Spring Luncheon

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bellevue  
Sat, April 26, 2025 Meet & Greet 11:00 -Lunch 11:30 AM

Speaker: Pastor Nyla Schoeld  
"What Does God Require of You?"

Donations benefit ELAP & KidVantage  
RSVP by 4/14/25 to Jeanne Vevang (425) 829-2213  
<jvevang@comcast.net> ( dietary restrictions ? )

Know Your  
Legal Rights

DO JUSTICE,  
LOVE KINDNESS,  
WALK HUMBLY  
WITH YOUR GOD.

Micah 6:8

One-third of the  
people we serve  
are survivors of  
domestic  
violence



# Come Worship with Us in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter



Sunday, April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 18: Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.

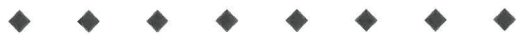
Easter Sunday, April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

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

**Online:** Sunday worship services are livestreamed at 10:00 a.m. **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be livestreamed at 7:00 p.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).



## Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 20 at 11:00 a.m. in Anderson Hall following worship

Volunteers are needed to help create a festive, delicious Easter Brunch! If you can donate food, set up, cook, serve, and/or clean up, please contact Suzanne D'Errico at 425-445-6892 to sign up. On Saturday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m., volunteers will set up and cook. Thanks!



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

10:00 AM **APRIL 13**  
Palm/Passion Sun.

7:00 PM **APRIL 17**  
Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM **APRIL 18**  
Good Friday

10:00 AM **APRIL 20**  
Easter Sunday



OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

745 Front St. S, Issaquah WA 98027  
425-392-4169, [www.oslcissaquah.org](http://www.oslcissaquah.org)



## Northwest Washington Synod

### *The Spirit: April 2025*



*Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*

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

As you probably know, thousands of bison once roamed the plains of North America. In the late 1800s they were almost brought to extinction. Thankfully, due to conservation efforts, bison are back in the United States plains—even if they aren't nearly as ubiquitous as they once were.

You probably also know that bison are the largest mammals in North America. Male bison (called bulls) can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall, while females (called cows) weigh up to 1,000 pounds and can reach a height of 4-5 feet. Bison calves weigh 30-70 pounds at birth. These are large and powerful creatures.

But even though bison are formidable, the plains can still be dangerous. Their main predators are wolves and mountain lions (what we in the west call cougars), who prey on the weak and the slow—like young bison. Bison typically run when they sense danger, but when predators approach without warning, bison form a multilayer circle of protection. The cows form a ring around the young, and the bulls form an outer ring surrounding the cows.

Just picture this for a moment. A wolf is coming . . . the bison cannot run anywhere. And instantly, instinctively, they corral their young in the middle, the females encircle the young, and the males encircle the females. The two rings facing outward. It is a pretty powerful picture. The bison community automatically protects those who cannot protect themselves.

May I ask why we, as humans, seem to do a worse job of protecting the vulnerable than bison? We know God's imperative from Genesis to Revelation. I mean, who did the prophets cry out for? The laborer, the prisoner, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, the enslaved, the marginalized. Who did Jesus heal? The blind, the deaf, the paralyzed, the bleeding, the possessed, the outcast, the sinner, the forgotten. Again and again, God calls for each beloved person to be held safe—to be provided for and protected—and, when necessary, for those able, to encircle those who are defenseless, especially those society has called expendable.

This is the call God places on each of us—to protect and care for the most vulnerable.

*Continued on page 12 . . .*

## Northwest Washington Synod

*Continued from page 11 . . .*

Yet, we are witnessing and experiencing the opposite in our society and through government actions. Beloveds in Christ, do not be deceived. When food assistance and benefits are slashed, the vulnerable are left defenseless. When rights are stripped away from women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and others, they are being cast to the wolves. Jesus himself warns in Matthew 7, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

As followers of Jesus, in these times that may bring discouragement or a sense of being overwhelmed, in these times when it feels wolves are coming at you or for someone you love, may you feel encircled in love and protection—even as you are called to encircle others. May we advocate, love boldly, and protect those who are most at risk. Let us take heart in the promise of God’s justice and mercy. Let us be a people who uplift the weary, feed the hungry, and shelter the displaced. May we be a church that embodies Christ’s compassion and courage, refusing to look away, refusing to be silent, refusing to let the wolves win. For all people are beloved in God’s eyes.

I close with this. I have a little miniature bison on my desk in my office. I look at it often to remember that I am protected by God and that I am called by God. May you remember—as a baptized and beloved child of God—God has called you in this time and in this place. And you are not alone. For even as you protect others, God protects you. Amen.

✠Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
bishop@lutheransnw.org



## Northwest Washington Synod



*Kay Edgerton*

### From the VEEP:

"You are a superpower." Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith." Galatians 6:9-10

Throughout history, when things have looked bleak, humankind has looked for heroes. Two thousand twenty-five years ago, an oppressed people were looking for a savior—a hero to sweep in and free them from the political and social rule of the Roman Empire. They were on the lookout for a hero.

But what, exactly, makes someone a hero? This is a question that my students and I would discuss every time I taught my unit on the hero's journey. Because I am a comic book geek, the conversation often veered into comparing various superheroes and rating their levels of heroism. One favorite topic was Batman vs. Superman. Batman does not have any superpowers. He can't fly, or move mountains, or shoot heat beams from his eyes. He is most definitely not invulnerable. So, what makes him a hero? Well, he is committed to justice. Because he is vulnerable, he risks his life every time he puts on the suit. This willingness to put himself at great risk for others is one of his most defining heroic traits. In fact, it is why some would argue he is a greater hero than Superman even though his heroic acts are on a much smaller scale.

Superman, on the other hand, doesn't risk his life when he steps in front of a bullet, and he does have superhuman abilities. However, what makes Superman a great hero isn't his powers or his invulnerability, it is how he chooses to use those powers. This strange visitor from another planet is the most powerful being on Earth and he could let that power corrupt him and use his might to take over the world and subjugate humanity. Instead, he uses it to fight for truth and justice. It is Superman's willingness to use his power in the service of others that is his greatest heroic trait.

Those people two millennia ago were waiting for a hero when Jesus came onto the scene. They were looking for a great military leader to save them from their oppressors. Instead, they got a very different kind of savior, but a heroic one, nonetheless. Like Batman, Jesus is vulnerable and risks everything for us, ultimately sacrificing his very life. Like Superman, Jesus rejects the temptations of using his abilities and position in self-serving ways. He might not have been the hero they were looking for, but he was the hero humanity needed.

*Continued on page 14 . . .*

# Northwest Washington Synod

*Continued from page 13 . . .*

In today's mixed up, turbulent world, we are also looking around for heroes. But, rather than sitting around waiting to be rescued, what if we set about being our own heroes, following Jesus' example? What kind of hero could I be? I'm not faster than a locomotive, nor able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but I do have power related to various social privileges related to the color of my skin, my country of origin, my education and professional background.

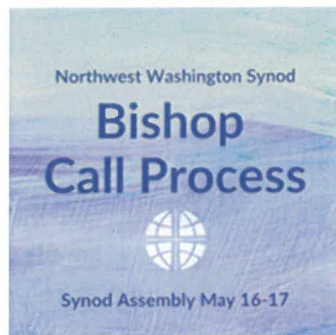
I can choose to reject the temptation to use that privilege only to promote and protect myself and use it instead in service to others. I can risk myself to stand with the oppressed against the oppressors. I can support and champion organizations that do the good work of feeding the hungry, sheltering the unhoused, welcoming the refugee, and healing the sick. I can subscribe to Faith Action Network's weekly newsletter and follow their suggestions for action. I can support Lutheran Community Services Northwest. I can educate myself about AMPARO, the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

As we continue our Lenten journey and prepare for the celebration of Easter, let us all listen for God's call and when God asks, "Who shall I send?" consider responding, "Here I am, Lord, I will go."

Kay Edgerton | Vice President of the NW Washington Synod | [veep@lutheransnw.org](mailto:veep@lutheransnw.org)

AND I HEARD GOD ASK,  
**WHO WILL I SEND?**  
AND I SAID,  
**HERE I AM!  
SEND ME!**  
ISAIAH 6:8

## Northwest Washington Synod



Dear Friends in Christ in the Northwest Washington Synod,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the nomination period for the Bishop Call process: through prayer, making nominations, or considering the call to serve, if you were nominated. The Bishop Call Process Task Force is pleased to share with you that the **Rev. Priscilla Paris-Austin** and the **Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee** have allowed their names to go forward in the process.

Their biographical information can be found linked below for your prayerful review:

[Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee Response Form](#)

[Rev. Priscilla Paris-Austin Response Form](#)

On **Sunday, May 4, at 3:00 pm**, a Zoom webinar will be held for synod assembly voting members to hear from both of the nominees. Due to space limitations over Zoom, a link to the webinar will be made available after the forum for all non-voting members to watch the recording. (Voting Members, watch for an email with the zoom registration link in April.)

If you have a question that you would like the Task Force to consider for inclusion in this Q&A style forum, please submit it to Pastor Gail Rautmann, Chair, at [pastorgail@gloria-dei-lutheran.org](mailto:pastorgail@gloria-dei-lutheran.org). Because of time limitations, we cannot guarantee that all questions will be included in the forum, though we are eager to receive input on the topics that are important to you. Please submit these questions by April 12, for the Task Force's consideration.

We invite you to hold in prayer the two nominees, our synod, and the Task Force as we prepare for the May 4th forum and the synod assembly on May 16-17. May the Holy Spirit guide this process as we discern God's future for the Northwest Washington Synod.

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

Task Force Members: John Bumanglag, Deacon Janet Cederberg, Pastor Kristy Daniels, Pastor Paul Eldred, Bill Salen, and Kasey Shultz

**Read about the process and next steps here:**  
[www.lutheransnw.org/bishop-call-process](http://www.lutheransnw.org/bishop-call-process)

# Lutheran Counseling Network

## Faith and Everyday Life April 2025

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

This parable is a beautiful and concise story of God's abundant love for us. It is such abundant love that there is only thing for the merchant to do, and that is give up everything to obtain the pearl. God is the merchant. We, the church and people of God, are God's beloved pearl. God shows up and in Jesus pays the ultimate price to win us.

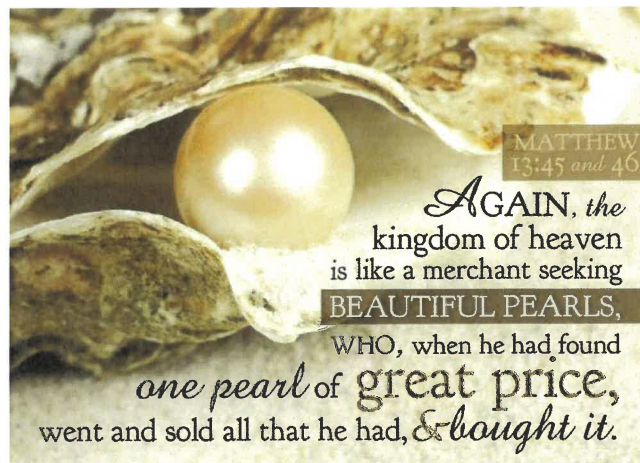
Understanding love in this abundance is beyond my human ability. I can only grasp it by faith. I can only receive it as grace. I can only recognize it as the essence of God.

I do love the image of a pearl and what it represents. That God's beloved church, that each of us, can be molded and beautified because of some irritant or injury. Like a pearl, God's people are being formed into something new.

I see transformations happen often in my work as a therapist. It is not often a mountain that moves. Most often it is a small shift, a forgiving word, a repaired relationship, a letting-go of a past hurt, a decision to hold on with a loose grip, or a word of God's love that changes everything.

God shows us how to love abundantly. May we be transformed by this love, and learn to love without limit.

*Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network*





## 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**



**LESSONS  
IN  
YOUR HOME**



CITY OF  
**ISSAQUAH**  
POLICE



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



## **We remember in prayer . . .**

**Terry N.**, my 55-year-old Down Syndrome son who is suffering from Alzheimer's—my prayer is for a quick end to this because his life is no longer enjoyable (son of Helen & John N.); **Lena S.**, for her complete recovery following hospitalization; **Duane J.**, for the healing of neck problems; **Peter R.**, who started radiation for the shrinking of his brain tumor (OSLC's cleaner); **Chris T.**, who was recently diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and a perforated stomach (husband of the music director at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Savannah, GA, the church of Pr. Lynne, Sue J.'s sister); **Bob R. and family**, for comfort and healing upon the death of his wife Jean (good friend of Lois D.); **Mary F.**, prayers for acceptance and adjustment to her new living place; **Bill S.**, who had a cardiac ablation on March 26; **Dianne T.**, for her medications to work; **Judi C.**, who was recently diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), for successful treatment and quick healing (former OSLC member); **Evy S.**, who is in hospice; **Guests of the Community Meals Program; all affected by COVID-19.**

**Mourning the death of loved ones:** **Jean Rhar** (good friend of Lois D.); **Larry Harbolt** (son of Ray & Carol Harbolt); **Shirley Witsoe**; **Robert (Bobby) Enloe** (twin brother of Dianne T.).

**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:** **Peter R.**; **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.).

**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@oslcissaquah.org](mailto:office@oslcissaquah.org). Thank you.



## Worship Readings for Sundays and Holy Week

### **Sunday, April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent**

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: John 12:1-8

### **Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday**

Gospel Passion Narrative: Luke 22:14 – 23:56

### **Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.**

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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

### **Friday, April 18: Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.**

Psalm 22

Gospel: John 18:1 – 19:42

### **Easter Sunday, April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord**

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

### **Sunday, April 27: Second Sunday of Easter**

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

Gospel: John 20:19-31

## Worship Assistants for Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m. (and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.)

Dates & Services	Assisting Minister	Usher	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent	Jen W.	Lois D. and Jan W.	Holly H.	Anne E.
April 13: Palm Sunday	Anne E.	Barbara F-S. and Tom K.	Barbara F-S.	Tom K.
Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.	Lori D.	Larry T. and Bill S.	Jane W. (and all hands on deck to strip the altar)	Jon S.
Friday, April 18: Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.	Jen W.	Bill S.	Jane W.	Jon S.
Easter Sunday, April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord	Joan F.	Rob and Gabby G.	Jean P., Delaney C., and Jane W.	Jon S.
April 27: Second Sunday of Easter	Connie F.	Don R. and Bill S.	Stacy S.	Gabby G.



### 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.

# April Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Birthdays

- 4/2 Doug F.  
David W.
- 4/7 Kent P.
- 4/9 Michael F.
- 4/13 Ryan J.
- 4/14 Jonathan S.
- 4/20 Scott C.  
Tanner G.  
John S.
- 4/29 Ron S.
- 4/30 Marilyn J.



## Anniversaries

- 4/1 Rowan & Barbara H.
- 4/16 Dick & Susan F.
- 4/24 Werner & Jan H.
- 4/25 Paul & Carla G.



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 2025

May 2025

April 2025

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

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation	3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online) 7:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper (Anderson Hall) 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm One Day I 2:00pm Communion	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)	10:30am Easter Brunch Setup and Food Preparation (Anderson Hall and Kitchen)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Palm Sunday 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation 12:30pm Zadinsky	3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online) 7:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall) 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper (Anderson Hall) 7:00pm Holden Evening	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 1:00pm Community 7:00pm Finance 7:00pm Maundy	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Palm Sunday 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation 12:30pm Zadinsky	10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 PLC (Anderson Hall)	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed) 1:00pm Community 7:00pm Finance 7:00pm Maundy	7:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Easter Sunday 11:00am Easter Brunch 12:30pm New Creation	3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online) 7:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:00pm Church Council (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)		9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room)		
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation 5:00pm Game Night	10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	1:30pm Community Meals Program: Kiwanis (Kitchen) 7:00pm Men's Group Meeting (Library)			

## Our Savior Lutheran Church

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



Stay connected!  
[www.oslcissaquah.org](http://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](mailto: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)	<a href="mailto:office@oslcissaquah.org">office@oslcissaquah.org</a>
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.