

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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GROWING
TO SERVE



May 2025

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



Photo by Cynthia Delaney,
taken at the Bellevue
Botanical Garden

What if our glory days are still to come?

By Rev. Kristin-Luana Baumann

The times are difficult for churches in America right now, and the make-up of congregations has substantially changed in recent decades. Consequently, many church members think: "Our glory days are in the past." But what if that is not true? What if our glory days are in the future? What if our glory days are right now?

Rev. Kara Root presented at the Bishop's convocation at Seabeck this year, and she invited the pastors gathered there to rethink the assumptions we have about church.

Many church members think: "We are too small, too old, and we don't have enough money." I wonder what would change if we would think the following instead: "We have exactly the right size, age, and resources for what God is calling us to do!"

God is real. This is God's church. We are all called to be ministers, but we are not called to take over God's job. It is God's job to use the church to bless and redeem the world.

How is God already doing this in our church and through our ministers? I invite you to list all the ways God is present in our ministries right now! (Here are some hints: Feeding ministries, community outreach, global missions, music and art, word and sacrament, faith formation, cooperations and partnerships, use of building . . .)

What might God be up to at Our Savior in the years to come? Open your heart, your eyes and ears, and enter into conversation with God and each other to explore possibilities! (Some more hints: Offer music scholarships, strengthen youth ministry in the Eastside Cluster, provide opportunity

Continued on page 2 . . .

Continued from page 1 . . .

for fellowship and relationship building, be creative about property use, help out where help is needed, uplift creation care . . .)

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting on the Day of Pentecost, June 8, after church, here are more questions for you to ponder: What did you love about church last year? What was difficult? What would you want to let go of? What do you want to try?

God has sustained God's church for more than 2,000 years. Surely, God will continue to do so in the future. We put our trust in God and pay attention to where the Spirit leads us.

Preparing for OSLC's Annual Congregational Meeting

Budget Hearings:

Sunday, May 18 & Wednesday, May 21

Join us in the library following worship on Sunday, May 18 to review the proposed 2025-2026 Mission & Ministry Operating Budget. If you can't stay after church, there will be another budget hearing on Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (The Zoom link will be emailed in mid-May.)



Due Date for Committee Reports:

Thursday, May 15

For the church's Annual Report to be completed and distributed on May 25, committee chairs and church leaders need to submit their reports on or before Thursday, May 15. Please email your report to Cynthia at office@oslccissaquah.org.



Annual Congregational Meeting:

Sunday, June 8

Please join us on Sunday, June 8 in Anderson Hall immediately following worship as we set the church's course for next year. Agenda items include voting on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mission & Ministry Operating Budget and discussing mission priorities. Your attendance is important, and we hope to see you there!



Our Savior Community

Financial Update

Attached is the monthly summary for March 2025. At first glance, things don't look so bad. Our giving is on target for the budget for this time of year. And our expenses are below the budgeted amounts for this period.

But, of concern, Easter is traditionally one of our largest contribution Sundays. It wasn't. And, we have three more months to go in this fiscal year. We are entering summer. Will we be able to maintain the "on target" contributions? In addition, attendance is down. Easter Sunday was down 64 attendees from the year before! I don't think we can point to any one thing that makes the difference, but we do need to be aware and plan for a future of decreased membership and decreased giving. It is following the pattern of churches everywhere.

Enter the budget! Draft #1 appeared before the Finance Committee last week. Draft #1 was the "dream big" budget we had requested staff and committees to submit. Draft #1 was \$60,000 OVER being a balanced budget. We've asked everyone to sharpen their pencils and look again. So, we are reworking our presentation in preparation for the budget hearings on Sunday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 21

You might be asking the question: How did you balance the budget last year? The answer lay in the Designated Funds that supplemented the general giving. Thanks to the SHLC Legacy Fund and its earned interest, we had a full Unscheduled Maintenance Fund, a full Council Contingency Fund, and a Parsonage Fund. These Designated Fund Accounts are now exhausted, and we need a plan to rebuild them.

Don't panic: the SHLC Legacy Fund does still exist, but it is now registering at \$400,000 as opposed to \$420,000, and there is no interest to speak of at the moment to use for rebuilding the Designated Funds like we did a few months ago.

So, how are we going to balance the budget, give raises to our staff, and allow our mission and ministry teams to reach out in our community? My answers are either we cut, cut, cut or we give, give, give. What is your answer? When was the last time you increased your contribution to the general fund? If we all gave just a little more. . .

So, on we go.

Wendy Winslow
OSLC Treasurer



Summary Financials for March 2025

Budget Year 2024-2025	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	31-Dec	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	4/30/225	May-25	Jun-25	TOTALS	YTD
Budgeted Contribution Income 2024-2025	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	29,167	350,000	262,500
Actual Contrib Income 2024-2025	24,676	24,946	24,219	25,481	21,793	52,366	21,367	47,674	23,966	23,966			266,488	266,488
Actual Contrib Income Prior Yr 2023-2024	29,414	22,763	18,759	34,736	21,833	69,634	31,397	29,472	32,715	26,117	23,647	19,423	359,911	290,723
														-24,235
Facility Use Contributions 2024-2025	1,450	2,735	1,490	2,160	1,475	5,228	5,483	5,096	6,276				31,392	31,392
Facility Use Contrib Prior Yr 2023-2024	1,505	1,235	1,410	2,260	1,740	1,460	1,775	1,545	1,515	2,150	1,615	3,040	21,250	14,445
														16,947
Budgeted Expense 2024-2025	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	36,969	443,632	332,724
Actual Expense Current 2024-2025	24,685	31,807	24,050	19,068	28,766	36,390	31,059	29,427	35,319	36,969	36,969	36,969	260,571	260,571
Actual Expense Prior Year 2023-2024	26,590	24,289	19,791	29,546	27,382	30,436	32,557	50,702	35,335	26,927	33,668	32,619	369,841	276,628
														-16,057
ATTENDANCE	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	31-Dec	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	4/30/225	May-25	Jun-25	TOTALS	
2024-2025	348	348	406	325	268	559	332	272	401	337	335	410	3,259	3,259
2023-2024	388	269	292	398	305	557	386	363	548				4,588	3,506
														-247

Parsonage Fund as of March + \$37,970.00

Includes tranfer of \$50,000 from SHLC Legacy Funds

As of 3/31/2025	
Available Cash in Bank	\$ 109,404
Designated Funds (Thrivent MM & Cash)	\$ 80,720
Thrivent Money Market - General	\$ 98,638
SHLC Limited Maturity Bond (Quarterly)	\$ 74,361
SHLC Diversified Income Fund(Quarterly)	\$ 135,533
SHLC Moderate Aggressive Fund(Quarterly)	\$ 195,259
Money Available for Mission/Ministry	\$ 693,913
Endowment Funds - FYI (Quarterly)	\$ 296,259

And for those who want to know the 12 month budget numbers:

12-month Budget Numbers	Contribution Inc	Expense	Difference
Budget current: July 2024 - June 2025	350,000	443,632	-93,632
Budget last year: 2023-2024	315,000	456,948	-141,948
Budget: 2022-2023	333,000	378,121	-45,121

difference to be covered by Designated Funds (\$70,756), Facility Use (\$25,000)

difference to be covered by Designated Funds (\$52-\$55,000), Facility Use (\$25,000) and SHLC gift (\$65,400)

difference to be covered by Designated Funds

Our Savior Community

My Path to Becoming a Stephen Leader

by Jen Winslow, OSLC Stephen Leader

I am grateful and honored to have been entrusted by our pastors and the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) team to take the Stephen Ministry Leadership Course on behalf of Our Savior Lutheran Church. From September through November last year, I attended ten 2.5-hour Zoom sessions with 20 other people from various Christian denominations, and together we learned how to become Stephen Leaders. **Stephen Leaders** are not **Stephen Ministers**—rather, we are laypeople (as well as clergy) trained to use the extensive Stephen Ministry System *to teach other laypeople how to become a Stephen Minister*.

In early 2024, Pastor Kristin-Luana and Ann Thomas introduced the topic of Stephen Ministry to the CCM. At the time, the only thing I knew about Stephen Ministry was that my brother had taken some kind of training as a layperson and had become a Stephen Minister while living in Florida. I had personally experienced the benefits of his training because he had supported me in a somewhat unique way during a time of my life when I was in crisis and really struggling.

I agreed to further investigate the program for the CCM team and learned that *before* OSLC could have **Stephen Ministers**, we needed at least one fully trained and commissioned **Stephen Leader**. The **Stephen Leader** could then teach other laypeople to become **Stephen Ministers**. After much prayer and further discussion with the team and Pastor Kristin-Luana, I sensed that I was being called to become that *first* Stephen Leader.



Initially, I was apprehensive about the vast amount of material we were delving into each session; I hadn't taken courses or any type of schooling for dozens of years. As the weeks went by, I became *more* concerned and even overwhelmed by the amount of information flooding my brain and the sense of responsibility building up within me. (In our Zoom breakout sessions, I became aware that *everyone* taking the training was feeling this way!)

Continued on page 6 . . .

Our Savior Community

Continued from page 5 . . .

Although most of the churches represented in my course had congregations numbering from 300 to 10,000 people, I was assured the Stephen Ministry System can be scaled down to fit a smaller church like ours. Thankfully, I had support from those leading the training course as well as other students taking the training with me. But best of all, I received tremendous support, encouragement and prayer from Pastors Olaf, Kristin-Luana, and the other members of the CCM (who are now serving as the OSLC Stephen Ministry Launch Team).

One of the exciting things about growing this program is that it opens up opportunities for laypeople to serve each other and the larger community and fulfill the mission of our church.

Stephen Ministry strengthens and promotes emotional and spiritual *healing* of

- ♦ individuals,
- ♦ the congregation at large,
- ♦ and the mission field in which we live.

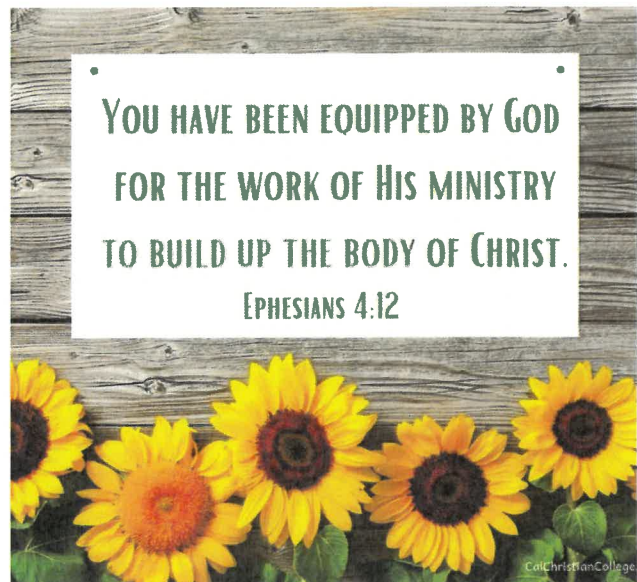
The program

- ♦ provides in-depth and comprehensive training to laypeople,
- ♦ allows us to discover and utilize our gifts, and
- ♦ prepares us for ministry as explained to us by Paul in Ephesians chapter 4:11-16.

Paraphrasing Paul, “The Holy Spirit gave God’s people gifts to *help others* and to *strengthen the body of Christ*.” (i.e., “equipping the saints”)

I was relieved to learn Stephen Ministers are not required nor expected to be theologians. We don’t need to know our Bibles front to back nor be able to cite chapter and verse on the spot. Sometimes preparation may be necessary, but the program provides all the materials we need, and God takes ownership of the outcome. Stephen Ministers provide the *care*, and God provides the *cure*!

Continued on page 7 . . .



Our Savior Community

Continued from page 6 . . .

A Stephen Ministry program also results in emotional and spiritual *growth* for those serving *and* those who are being served, grow confidence in everyone involved. It's about people helping people in a distinctly Christian way.

Stephen Ministers are not clergy, professional counselors nor are they medically trained. But they are fully trained to provide exceptional spiritual and emotional support on a one-on-one, face-to-face basis (usually once a week) to church and community members who are hurting. Maintaining the *confidentiality* of anyone who receives care from a Stephen Minister is top priority.

I am hopeful and excited to be part of revitalizing Stephen Ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC originally joined Stephen Ministries in the 1990's.). The program is incredibly sound, life changing for all involved, and will be very beneficial to the OSLC congregation and the larger Issaquah community around us. There are many ways to be involved in the program, and we have a place for you!

If you have questions, please contact Jen Winslow via text at 425-591-1595 or email at jenwinmv@outlook.com. You can also reach out to Pr. Kristin-Luana or members of Congregational Care Ministry.

Installation of the Stephen Ministers Leader Team on May 18

During worship this Sunday, May 18, the Stephen Ministers Leader Team will be installed.



You're Invited to Volunteer at the Day of Service on May 3

This Saturday, May 3 is the Day of Service (organized by Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church), when hundreds of volunteers offer their help in Issaquah and around the region. You can check out and sign up for volunteer opportunities at www.dayofservice.info. While many are full, **Adopt-a-Road—Issaquah needs more volunteers** (OSLC member Jon Smith is the Event Captain). Your help is appreciated! Here's the Sign-Up Genius link (also listed in the weekly email): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044FA4A82AA2FC1-55438149-adopt#/>

2025 Day of Service: Adopt-a-Road—Issaquah: Saturday, May 3, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Post Office on NW Gilman Blvd, Issaquah. Help us remove trash from our beautiful city of Issaquah. Bring your own gloves and bags. Dispose of litter in municipal trash bins and dumpsters. The Event Captain will bring doughnuts and go over safety rules prior to start.

Our Savior Community

Announcements

Meet Your Neighbors at Coffee & Fellowship Hour, THIS Sunday, May 4

This Sunday, May 4, we'll hold our third "Meet Your Neighbor" gathering during the Coffee and Fellowship Hour after church services. You will be seated at tables with folks who live near you so you can learn who your neighbors are, get to know each other better, and perhaps decide to get together more frequently on your own.



Feedback from the first two meetings was positive, and some groups have already decided to meet on their own as another way to foster friendships and share their faith. These groups were established shortly after the bomb cyclone last November when it would have been helpful to know which OSLC members lived near us so we could perhaps have checked in on them or offered or requested some assistance. We hope to see you there!

Faith Formation at Our Savior Lutheran Church in May

You're invited to attend faith formation classes with Pr. Kristin-Luana every other Thursday in May to learn about bible translations, lectionaries, and *adiaphora*. These classes are held at 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall or 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom:

- ♦ **Thursday, May 1:** What bible translations exist, and which ones should I read?
- ♦ **Thursday, May 15:** What are lectionaries; and how do we use them?
- ♦ **Thursday, May 29:** What are *adiaphora*; and why do we love them?

Here's the Zoom link for the 7:00 p.m. classes:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85304344472?pwd=3LiyXBFEhXhhqePeNvrZZsRFwZOlb8m.1>

Meeting ID: 853 0434 4472

Passcode: 972071

Master Chorus Eastside Concert: All Things Bright and Beautiful

Sunday, May 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at Faith Church
3924 Issaquah-Pine Lake Rd SE, Sammamish

"There is so much beauty in nature, in the arts, in ourselves. So come luxuriate with us as we sing the praises of our beautiful world." You can purchase tickets at www.masterchoruseastside.org.



Our Savior Community

Journey of Generosity Retreat on May 9-10

OSLC Members and Friends,

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. 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.

If you want to sign up for the retreat or have questions, I can be reached by email at 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

Announcements

Alleluia!: A Fundraising Worship with Northwest Afro Praise **Saturday, May 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

Don't miss this beautiful worship and praise event, a partnership between New Creation Church and Our Savior Lutheran Church. This is a fundraiser for a Christian school (K-12) in Rihalo, Burkina Faso. Bring friends and family; this will be special!



Our Savior Community

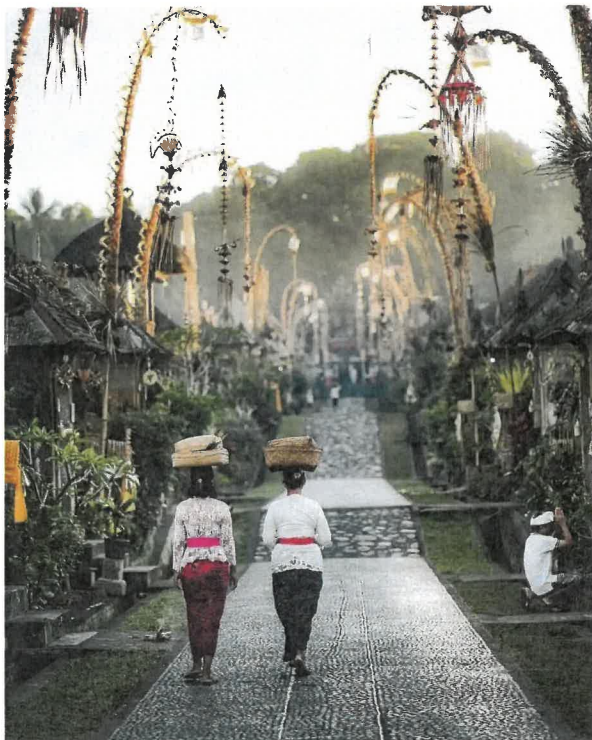
Special Presentation on Sunday, May 25 During Coffee & Fellowship Hour

Kadek Widantara, who educated us on Bali's unique Hindu religious beliefs last year, will be visiting OSLC again on May 25! He'll provide a presentation on one of OSLC's Global Mission partners, SoleFamily Bali, and their compassionate work so that you can learn about and see OSLC's direct impact.

Also, have you ever heard of *Ogoh Ogoh*, *Nyepi* (the Day of Silence), or *Galungan* and *Kuningan*, the most important Balinese spiritual events? Kadek will explain these fascinating holidays, how each is observed, and their meaning and importance in Balinese religion. Come see why these colorful, elaborate, spiritual holidays are so unique and important to Balinese people.

Article and photos submitted by Ken Konigsmark

Photo of Kadek Widantara



Our Savior Community Announcements

**Mariners Game Group Event –
Faith and Family Day
Saturday, August 2 at 1:10 p.m.**
at T-Mobile Park (1250 1st Ave S, Seattle)
vs. the Texas Rangers

Come and join your fellow Mariners' fans at a baseball game! Joan Friel, the office administrator at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland, has secured a block of seats with her work church in the main level behind 1st base, and she is inviting OSLC to join them! Tickets are \$21 each. We'll watch the Seattle Mariners battle our A.L. West rival the Texas Rangers, and then after the game, there'll be a postgame concert and player panel. So grab your seats and enjoy a celebration of faith with your family, friends, and fellow community members! Tridents Up!

We have to give the Mariners' office final numbers a month in advance, so the registration deadline is Monday, June 30. Please sign up online at <https://www.hslckirkland.org/ms-game> today!

Questions? Contact Joan through the HSLC church office (425-823-2727 or office@hslckirkland.org).

P.S. First 15,000 fans also receive an Aloha Shirt!

Submitted by Joan Friel



Eastside PRIDE Event

Date: Sunday, June 22nd, 2025

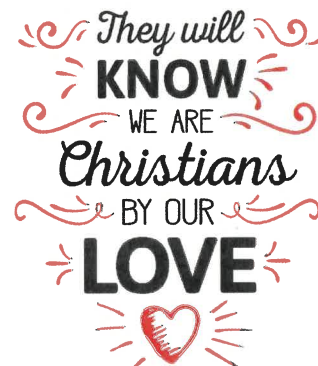
Time: 12:00-2:00 pm

**Place: Issaquah Library
10 W Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA**

Giveaways- Pride flags, stickers, prepackaged snacks, and activities - face painting, coloring pages, and more. We'll have bubble makers, music, and joy & love to share with the community.

Hosted by Spirit of Peace United Church of Christ, Faith United Methodist Church, and Our Savior Lutheran Church

If you have questions, contact Barbara Fetty-Solders, OSLC's representative for this Pride event.



Come Worship with Us during Easter Season



Sunday, May 4: Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 25: Sixth 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. 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.



More Help Needed for Coffee Hour

Each Sunday, two people are needed for coffee hour (for the coffee and treats). Please sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen door. Thanks for your participation in making our time of fellowship truly wonderful.



Communion Services at Timber Ridge

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

- ◆ **Thursday, June 5** at 2:00 p.m. (OSLC-led)
- ◆ **Thursday, July 3** at 2:00 p.m. (SALC-led)



No June Focus Newsletter

Because Cynthia will be compiling the Annual Report to prepare for the Annual Congregational Meeting, she won't create a June Focus newsletter. Looking ahead, you'll find the June "Faith and Everyday Life" column on page 17 of this Focus. Also, OSLC's June calendar will be up on the website when it's time.

Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit: May 2025



From the Bishop:

There is a well-known parable where Jesus talks about seeds thrown in wild abandon. Seeds thrown randomly, haphazardly, you could almost say carelessly . . . some seeds tossed upon a path, some seeds on rocky ground, some seeds among thorns and other seeds on so-called “good soil.” (To read the whole parable, go to Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:2-9, Luke 8:4-8.)

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

In the parable there is extravagance, luxury, lavishness. Truth be told, it is terrible farming. But if you take out what we all know about farming techniques, the throwing of seeds in this parable is unfathomable and incomprehensible and beautiful to behold.

And yet, so often we want to tame the throwing of seeds. We want to make straight lines and uniform rows. We want organization and structure. We might want new things to grow, but we want them to be what we want. Perhaps newish, but not new. Undergirding it all, I think we want control over this seed thing.

But this isn't how the Spirit works.

Instead, as we hear in this parable, God's seed-throwing is all about possibility and energy and the extravagance of God. This parable is about the wildness of God's Spirit. The Sower is throwing out seeds with abandon so that something may develop, sprout, and grow – something unexpected, something astonishing.

This, of course, doesn't mean we cast aside everything already growing. Not at all. Nowhere in this parable does it say that the plants already rooted must be cleared before new seeds can be sown. There are deep-rooted plants already flourishing in God's Garden. These plants have lived through trials and joys and still bear fruit. They need to be watered and tended. They deserve our care, our gratitude, our celebration. The new seeds being scattered don't replace what is planted. Instead, they add to the texture and beauty of God's Garden. Old and new. Rooted and scattered. This parable reminds us that God's Garden is not static – it's alive, growing, evolving.

Of course, some seeds that have been thrown have not always taken root. As the parable says – some seeds fall on rocky ground; other seeds land on thorns. There have

Continued on page 15 . . .

Northwest Washington Synod

Continued from page 14 . . .

been experiments that started with high hopes that ended sooner than we would like. There were perhaps disagreements or different ways of doing things. It is true that what works in one section of God's Garden doesn't necessarily work in others.

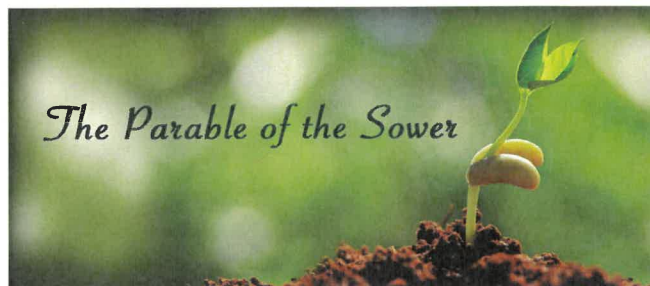
But this is why we plant and trust and sow and dig in the dirt. This is why we trust this Sower sowing seeds. For God's Garden is founded not on the quality of soil but on the lavishness of God the Sower through the Spirit.

When I hear this parable, I celebrate the many different ways that we are living into and sharing God's love and grace in this synod—in ways that the saints before us would recognize and cherish, and in ways they might never have imagined. I invite you to pause for a moment and think of the place and space where you are promised forgiveness and new life, where you receive the body and blood of Jesus, where you hear the proclamation of grace through faith, where you have holy community. What are some ways that you are deeply rooted? What are some ways that seeds of new possibilities are being planted? What are seeds that are in the wind right now but haven't landed yet? When you think of the broader community where you live—what is your congregation called to in partnership and imagination? How is the Sower throwing seeds of God's love and grace where you live and move and breathe?

In the Northwest Washington Synod, let us rejoice in this time when old and new things come together. Now is the time that the Spirit is opening us up to new possibilities. Now is the time for listening and collaboration and being in community. Now is the time when we both hold that which we already love and, at the same time, open our hands in order to receive other gifts of promise and wonder.

The dirt, the soil that we are becomes holy ground when God is present. God's seeds of grace fall indiscriminately into the lives of all God's children, into the rocky, thorny, barren and fertile soil of our lives and ministries. The outcome of this gracious sowing cannot be known immediately. One never knows what may come of decadent grace. And yet, day by day, the Sower sows in wild graciousness. And we receive. Together.

✚ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



Lutheran Counseling Network

Faith and Everyday Life

May 2025

Psalm 139: 1-18

This psalm has special meaning in our family. It is a favorite of our son's birth mother. I can see why. It talks about how God created each of us deliberately, and knows and loves each of us intimately. I can imagine that in the days leading up to her son's birth, it must have reassured her that he was no accident. It was God who knit him together in her womb. God created him on purpose, and had a plan for his life. This must have been so comforting as she prepared her heart for her adoption plan. She knew she wouldn't be there each day to see her birth son's life unfold. She had to trust that God had a purpose in mind for him, and would be watching over him, loving and guiding him, even when she couldn't.

The psalm has special meaning for me too, as an adoptive mother. It assures me that I am part of the plan for my son's life. Knowing God has created me to be just who I am has provided healing from the sadness of not being able to conceive. It assures me that my path is a good one. Knowing God loves me just as I am fills me with love I want to share. It fuels who I am as a mom. It helps me seek to know my son, to love him just as he is, to offer guidance and support. It also reminds me that ultimately, he is God's child, and that God will guide him when he's out on his own, beyond my influence.

This is true for each of us. God created each of us with love, just as we are. God has plans and a purpose for us. We are never beyond God's reach, or beyond God's loving care. We are never alone. Thanks be to God!

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Psalm 139:13-14

Lutheran Counseling Network

Faith and Everyday Life June 2025

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'

Luke 15:4-6

Let's back up a chapter. Jesus has been talking to the scribes and Pharisees, who criticized Jesus for receiving and eating with sinners. How interesting that sinners were drawn to Jesus, and were comfortable in his presence.

In the above parable, there is no criticism of the one who became lost, no chiding of a sheep whose own foolish choice may have caused the disconnect from its shepherd. The focus and clear emphasis is on the determination of the shepherd to find even one that becomes lost.

Jesus said elsewhere, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." What a Father, who is so devoted to his creation that he cares that not even one be lost.

Consider that whatever lost-ness you may have experienced, whether in the past or right now, the heart of the Father is pursuit *and finding*. It is not a calloused, flippant attitude. Nor is it shaming. Once found, the shepherd is ecstatic and calls his friends and neighbors to share his joy. Connection is restored. As image-bearers of our Father, this longing for deep connection and restoration is in us also.

What a Great Shepherd who cares for the many *and* the one!



Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

Image Credit: *The Good Shepherd*, Kelly Latimore,
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®



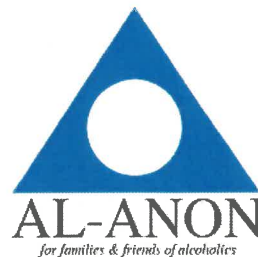
Spirit of Peace
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**ISSAQUAH
ARTS**



**LESSONS
IN
YOUR HOME**



CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
POLICE



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



We remember in prayer . . .

Rand S., dealing with heart issues (Chuck B. and Wendy W.); Prayers for **Miyako G.** on her way to the Glorious Kingdom (Cheryl N.); **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; **Dianne T.**, for her medications to work; **Evy S.**, who is in hospice; **Guests of the Community Meals Program**; **all affected by COVID-19.**

Mourning the death of loved ones: **Carl Fetty** (father of Barbara F.-S. and father-in-law of Tom K.).

Healing and peace of mind: **Lena S.**; **Peter R.**; **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.**; **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.).

Living with cancer: **Peter R.**; **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. Thank you.



Worship Readings for Sundays and Holy Week

Sunday, May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm 30

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel: John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

Gospel: John 14:23-29

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

Dates & Services	Assisting Minister	Usher	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
Sunday, May 4: Third Sunday of Easter	Lori D.	Larry T. and Rob G.	Stacy S.	Gabby G.
Sunday, May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter	Anne E.	Rick and Jan W.	Holly H.	TBD
Sunday, May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter	Joan F.	Anne E. and Mike A.	Jane W.	TBD
Sunday, May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter	TBD	Don R. and Larry T.	Jane W.	Anne E., Tom K., and Jon S.

Psalm Cantors

May 4: Nora T.
May 11: Lori D.
May 18: Dave C.
May 25: 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.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

5/2 David C.
Jean P.
5/13 Jo H.
5/17 Ken K.
5/23 Joan F.
5/29 Joanne S.
5/30 Pr. Kristin-Luana



Anniversaries

5/8 Pr. Kristin-Luana & Pr. Olaf
5/9 Bill & Joanne S.
5/23 John & Jennifer McD.



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!

May 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	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					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
<div>9:30am Spirit of Peace</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>11:00am Coffee &</div> <div>12:30pm New Creation</div> <div>4:30pm Carlin Ma Piano</div>	<div>9:30am Community Quilters (Education)</div> <div>3:00pm Companions</div> <div>7:00pm Master Chorus</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop</div>	<div>7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)</div>	<div>7:00pm Memorial Bells Practice (Sanctuary)</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed)</div> <div>12:00pm Faith</div> <div>7:00pm Faith Formation</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div>	<div>10:00am Lessons in Your Home Recital (Sanctuary)</div> <div>3:30pm Celebration of Life for Larry Harbolt</div>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<div>9:30am Spirit of Peace</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>11:00am Coffee &</div> <div>12:30pm New Creation</div>	<div>9:30am Community Quilters (Education)</div> <div>3:00pm Companions</div> <div>7:00pm Master Chorus</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop</div>	<div>7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)</div>	<div>7:00pm Memorial Bells Practice (Sanctuary)</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div>	<div>10:00am Master Chorus Eastside Rehearsal (Sanctuary)</div>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<div>9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP)</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>11:00am Coffee &</div> <div>12:30pm New Creation</div>	<div>10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library)</div> <div>3:00pm Companions</div> <div>7:00pm Master Chorus</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop</div>	<div>1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)</div> <div>7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)</div>	<div>9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall, Kitchen)</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed)</div> <div>12:00pm Faith</div> <div>1:00pm Community</div> <div>7:00pm Finance</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed)</div> <div>12:00pm Faith</div> <div>1:00pm Community</div> <div>7:00pm Finance</div>	<div>8:00am New Creation Church Conference</div> <div>4:00pm Worship Sound</div> <div>5:00pm Worship</div> <div>6:00pm Multicultural</div>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<div>9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP)</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>11:00am Coffee &</div> <div>12:30pm New Creation</div>	<div>3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online)</div> <div>7:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary)</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop</div>	<div>7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom)</div> <div>7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)</div>	<div>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 PLC (Anderson Hall)</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall)</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)</div>	<div>12:00pm Funeral Service and Reception for Spirit of Peace Member (Sanctuary and Anderson Hall)</div>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<div>12:00am j</div> <div>9:30am Spirit of Peace</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>11:00am Coffee &</div> <div>12:30pm New Creation</div>	<div>3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online)</div> <div>7:00pm Master Chorus Eastside (Sanctuary)</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop</div>	<div>7:00pm Church Council (online) (Zoom)</div> <div>7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed)</div> <div>10:00am Piano Tuning</div> <div>12:00pm Faith</div> <div>7:00pm Faith Formation</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed)</div> <div>10:00am Piano Tuning</div> <div>12:00pm Faith</div> <div>7:00pm Faith Formation</div>	<div>9:30am Mission Quilters</div> <div>10:00am AI-Anon (Ed)</div> <div>10:00am Piano Tuning</div> <div>12:00pm Faith</div> <div>7:00pm Faith Formation</div>	<div>1:00pm Master Chorus Eastside Artistic Director Interview w/ Jenny Cho's</div> <div>4:30pm Student Recital</div>

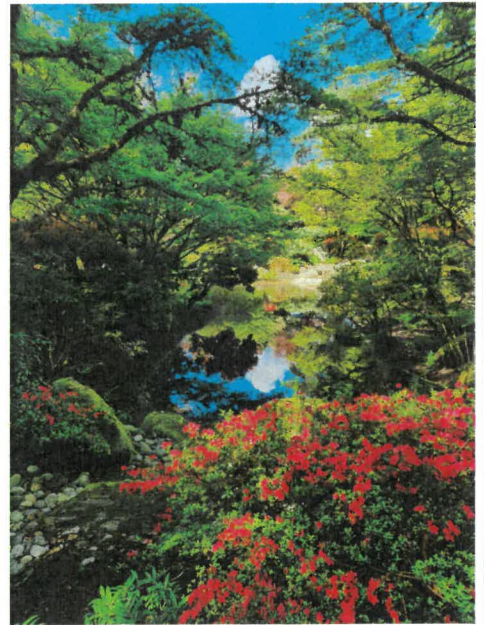
Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South

Issaquah, WA 98027

425-392-4169

Photo by Cynthia
Delaney, taken at
the Bellevue
Botanical Garden



Stay connected!
www.oslcissaquah.org

Since there won't be a June Focus, the deadline for the
Summer Focus (July/August) will be June 22.
Please email items to office@oslcissaquah.org.

OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY

Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann.....	Pastor
360-912-1245 (cell)	Pr.KL@oslcissaquah.org
Pr. Olaf Baumann.....	Pastor
360-912-1830 (cell)	Pr.O@oslcissaquah.org
Cynthia Delaney.....	Parish Administrator
425-392-4169 (office)	office@oslcissaquah.org
David Liu.....	Parish Musician
	davidliusmic@gmail.com

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.