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**GROWING
TO SERVE**



**Mid-November
2025**

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

Screen Time

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Kristin-Luana Baumann

How much screen time do you get in daily life? If you follow the societal trend, it is rather too much than too little. I myself just deleted the Facebook app on my phone, because I found myself senselessly staring on meaningless posts from people I didn't know far too often.

However, I use my phone and computer screen also for extremely valuable activities. I can research bible translations, commentaries, and scholarly works in next to no time. I have information I need conveniently ready at my fingertips for which in the olden days I would have had to travel far.

Screens are neither good nor bad in themselves. They are tools which can be used for good and bad things. That is important to keep in mind when I now ask you a question: Should we install a screen in Our Savior's worship space? I am asking because the church has been blessed with a generous donation to upgrade our sound and video system. I am very excited about this.

Brand-new fiber optic cables have just been installed for our church, thanks to the ceaseless efforts of Dave Carlson, blessed be his memory. In combination with an updated system, this could lead to a much more reliable broadcast in better sound and video quality, with easy-to-use options for those hard of hearing, and also easy to navigate for our volunteer technicians.

I want to use this opportunity to say thank you to Jon Smith and the team of audio and video technicians for their good work. We appreciate your service!

Continued on page 2 . . .

Continued from page 1 . . .

Back to discerning if we think a screen would be helpful in the sanctuary or not. Maybe the reformers around Martin Luther in the 15th/16th century can help. They did not know about screen technology, of course. For them, the printing press was the new and exciting option with which to spread the word of God, and they used that new technology freely, as we still do today.

But they left us guidance as to what the church is and what it is for. In Article VII. of the Augsburg Confession *Concerning the Church*, we read: "The church is the assembly of saints in which the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly. And it is enough for the true unity of the church to agree concerning the teaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, rites, or ceremonies instituted by human beings be alike everywhere."¹ Translated into the question screen/no screen, I take this to mean that as long as the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly, the human means by which this is done are left to the local community. So, the reformers would have considered screens, had they known them, if they felt that screens were helpful for the proclamation of the gospel.

Therefore, this is the question before us: Are screens helpful for the proclamation of the gospel at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah today? Please think about this and have some answers ready for the time when we will publicly discuss this. You are also most welcome to talk to me or Pastor Olaf or any council member before that still-to-be-determined time.

Meanwhile, here are some thoughts from my side: I can tell you that families who prepare memorial services at our church are asking for a screen in the sanctuary. They have the wish to show a slideshow of the deceased as part of the Eulogy section of the memorial service. Personally, I would use it occasionally to present Christian art as part of the sermon. It could also be helpful for pre-recorded devotions at midweek services or to make a sermon, for example by the bishop, accessible. Many churches use screens to partly replace the bulletin. That makes good sense from an environmental perspective as it saves paper. But I wouldn't want a screen to distract from the "live action" during a service. I'd need some more time to think this through. . . . Please help me do that by letting me and other church leadership know your thoughts! Thank you!

¹ *The Book of Concord, The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2000, 43.

Our Savior Community

Co-President's Message: The Communion of Saints

Every Sunday when we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, I consider those who have gone before us: grandparents, parents, family members, and dear friends.

We recently celebrated All Saints Day, a designated day of remembering. They lived well and died, and transitioned to another life dimension, but they connect with us in stories, and in memories we carry in our hearts.

Love poured out over the years, given and received and given again, a mark of a true friend. A divine exchange, an experience of the abundance of God's gifts. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we have the hope of eternal life.

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

5 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

From *We Walk by Faith*, ELW 635
Author: Henry Alford (altered)
Composer: Marty Haugen

"For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Walk by faith, my friends,
Barbara Fetty-Solders
Church Council Co-President



Our Savior Community

Finding Our Way: God's Most Important Command

By Rev. Dr. Randall E. Webb

We live in a confusing and dangerous time. Many voices are shouting many different messages. They can leave us confused, divided, angry, and set against each other. Some voices ridicule and demonize all who disagree, labeling them as traitors or even terrorists. Depending on which news source we choose, we may not even hear the same stories that are reported as "news." Is there truth in any of these voices? Are they all "spins," built on "facts" we don't agree on? Is there any objective truth? Do any of the loudest voices lead us in a good direction?

And what about the voices we are NOT hearing: those who should speak but have remained eerily silent? As an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, I confess that I am troubled by the silence of the church in the face of so many hateful things. How can we find our way through this?

When Jesus lived on this earth there was an occasion when a lawyer asked him, "*Which commandment is the first of all?*" (Mark 12:28-31) Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy 6:4, Judaism's confession of faith: "*Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God, the LORD alone. [or the LORD our God is one LORD] You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*" In Mark 12:30 we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In either case, the heart of God's command is to love.

And then Jesus did something that had never been done before. He identified a second most important command from Leviticus 19:18: "*You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" Hmmm. Don't take vengeance. Don't bear a grudge. That wasn't quoted by Jesus but I'm sure it was on his mind as he recalled that important verse. Instead he focused on the positive "Do this." part of the verse, saying that loving our neighbor is "like" loving God.

That is also the understanding in 1 John 4:20: "*Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.*"

No one who does hateful things to people can possibly love God.

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Our Savior Community

Continued from page 4 . . .

This is a solid foundation for our faith and our life; to love God, and to love people. Without exception. But what about those who are condemned by scripture? Two things: first, scripture judges us all. *"Do not judge,"* Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, *"so that you may not be judged."* (Matthew 7:1)

But in our sinfulness we seem to delight in finding scripture verses that condemn OTHERS, while we should be paying attention to our own life of faith.

Second, Jesus put no restrictions or exceptions on the neighbors we are to love. Remember that the Parable of the Good Samaritan was told in response to the lawyer's question "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus chooses as his example a hated Samaritan! This despised one, this one who is different from you, this person from a different country, this immigrant, is the one who acted in a loving and caring way towards the stranger. And the lawyer gets the point. When Jesus asks him, "Who do you think was a neighbor to the man who was beaten and robbed?" The lawyer can't even bring himself to say the word "Samaritan." Instead he answers *"The one who showed him mercy."*

Jesus' command then is *"Go and do likewise."* To whom? Well, the needy person in the parable was a stranger. So it seems to me that all people are included in the Love your neighbor command: those we know and those we do not know. For the followers of Jesus, these commandments to Love are the substance and motivation of our faith.

It stands to reason then, if we are committed to loving, that we would naturally be opposed to all forms of hate. But that is a discussion for another time. For now, perhaps, one of the best guides to finding our way, would be if we heard God say, "You just love them ALL. I will sort them out later."



Our Savior Community Community Outreach Committee

Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank you for your generous donation of gift cards for the children at the Issaquah Food Bank. We took in \$1,250.00 in gift cards and cash to buy gift cards. The parents will be able to shop for their children's holiday gifts with them! We're also giving the Issaquah Food Bank a \$1,000 donation from Community Outreach Committee's Designated Funds' budget.

Starting on November 30, there will be a Christmas Tree in the Narthex with tags on it. Take a tag and purchase a gift card for either Vine Maple Place or the OSLC Fund to give out to people in need. Each tag lists either "Vine Maple Place" or "OSLC" and the amount and type of gift card. We will collect them on Sunday, December 7 and Sunday, December 14. Again, we can't thank you enough for your support of the people in our community.

—Submitted by Cheryl Leiter



Policy for the Protection of Youth

Our Savior Lutheran Church has implemented a Policy for the Protection of Youth. Here is what it says you should do when you suspect abuse or neglect at the church:

"Individuals are encouraged to first contact the local authorities for any incidents of suspected abuse or neglect. If an individual approaches staff or a volunteer with this information, or a staff member or volunteer suspects abuse or neglect, a report must be made at the first opportunity, but no later than 48 hours after learning of the suspected abuse or neglect, to a member of the Response Team or to a Pastor. If the accused is a member of the Response Team or Pastor, that individual will not be notified. If a report to the state must be made, the Response Team should contact local authorities and local Synod within 48 hours."

The Response Team at OSLC consists of
Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann
Connie Fletcher
Nora Thomason

Don't hesitate to reach out! —Submitted by Pr. Kristin-Luana

Our Savior Community

Coffee and Fellowship Hour

While preparing to write about Coffee hour and Fellowship time, an excerpt from an online article from "The Power of Coffee Hour" by Ralen Robinson (*Women of the ELCA, Daily Grace*, August 19, 2023) popped up: "Coffee hour creates space for strengthening bonds of friendship and for strangers to be welcomed into the community. . . . Fellowship and hospitality are ingrained in church culture. We seek a space for community, deeper connection, and comfort with our siblings in Christ."

OSLC's coffee hour and fellowship continues to be that opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ and share in meaningful conversation in a space of hospitality. It's a space where we can visit with newcomers and visitors and strengthen bonds within our neighborhood groups.

It's fluctuated over the years, but kitchen helpers have dwindled in number so we could use your help. Goodies or snacks are provided by the hospitality of our church members, so snacks look different every week. The coffee, regular and decaf, hot water for tea and hot chocolate will be brewing, and a cheese/salami selection with regular and gluten-free crackers are provided.

If you enjoy bringing a sweet treat to share with others, or a fruit or veggie to go along with the cheese and crackers provided after service, please sign up (first and last name) on the Coffee Hour Poster just outside Anderson Hall. You are very much appreciated!

We ask you to sign up because your generosity has been great. There have been Sundays when several of our church family have baked or brought a goodie/treat to share on the same day. That's wonderful, yet it's nice to spread that generosity over several Sundays. 😊 Your treats are welcomed, appreciated, and will be thoroughly enjoyed!



A small ask is to please bring those treats plated, drop them off on the long table right as you walk into Anderson Hall, and bring any leftovers back home. It helps with limited freezer space and clean up.

There also is a space on the sign-up poster to help with cleaning up after service. It involves some dishwashing, table and countertop wiping down, and putting things away. If you can't commit in advance for cleaning up, it is always appreciated if you can help when you are there.

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Our Savior Community

Continued from page 7 . . .

And then there are special fellowship times like our Octoberfest Sunday!! What a treat! Chuck B. and Wendy W. provided and cooked a variety of brats, the sauerkraut, German potatoes, and we had all the fixings. Marilyn C. brought the potato salad, and Suzanne D. helped with the setup and brought additional goodies! It was a feast! The ambience was perfectly set by Paul I.'s accordion talents and even singing for us! Thank you to all who helped with the set up and clean up!

Our weekly coffee and fellowship times are special because they strengthen the bonds of friendships and make it possible to gather in community after a beautiful time of worship. Again, thank you to all who sign up for treats or cleanup and those who jump right in when they can, as many hands make light work.

Peace and grace, Lois and Lori



Third Visioning Event on Sunday, November 23

On Sunday, November 23, Pr. Olaf will facilitate the **Third Visioning Event—Discipleship: Life of Faith Initiative**—in Anderson Hall during Coffee & Fellowship Hour. It didn't occur on October 26 because of the Oktoberfest feast and music!

Pr. Olaf's description of the Third Visioning Event (from the Mid-October Focus):

"The vision for the church is to broaden its understanding of ministry beyond pastors and congregations to include the daily lives of all baptized people. Ministry will be seen not just in church buildings but in homes, workplaces, schools, and communities worldwide. Success will be measured by impact in daily life, not just attendance or money.

This shift will lift burdens from pastors, empower all members—children through adults—to live and speak their faith confidently, and bring renewal and vitality to congregations. Worship gatherings will become places of reflection and recommissioning for daily ministry. Ultimately, "church" will complement rather than compete with people's lives, multiplying ministry naturally.

We will provide a few documents from the website of the initiative to give you a taste. As this is a grassroots effort, it is up to the congregations to discern a vision and to implement a course of action to equip the saints. If you think this might be something that would help OSLC to live out God's calling, please sign up for a study group who, with the help of the pastors, devises a program to equip the saints for a life of discipleship."

Our Savior Community

Announcements

Pastors' Schedules

Next week, Pr. Kristin-Luana will be on vacation from Tuesday, November 11-Thursday, November 20 visiting her daughter in Canada. Pr. Olaf will be here at OSLC.

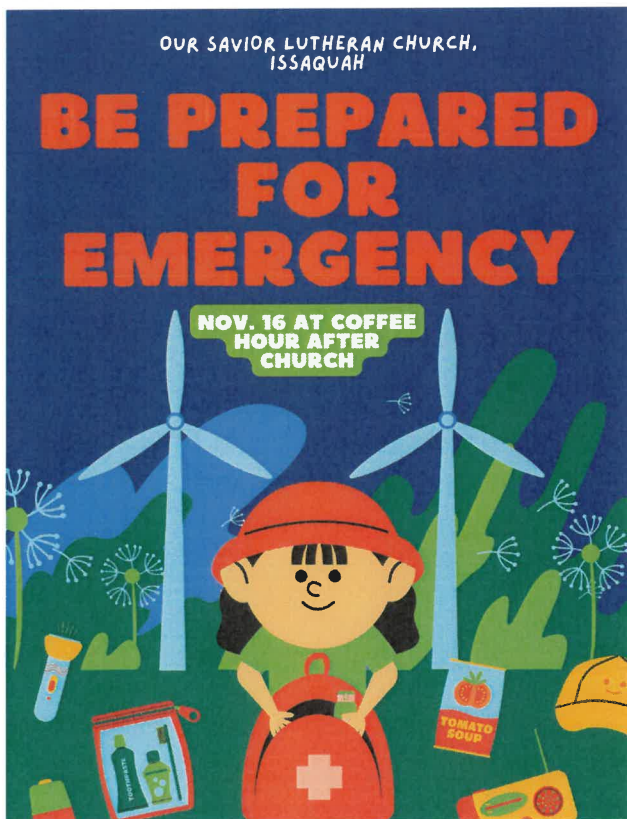
Knitting Group Continues

Mondays, November 3-December 22, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Narthex

You're invited to bring your yarn and needles and gather on the couches and chairs of the Narthex for knitting and companionship. Like last year, it should be a cozy, *hygge* time! Knitters will create colorful covers for some of the tree trunks along Front Street South (to prepare for the Winter Art Activation).

Emergency Preparedness Presentation THIS Sunday, November 16

During Coffee & Fellowship Hour on Sunday, November 16, Cheryl Leiter will share some tips about how best to prepare for an emergency. Don't miss it!



Community Game Night THIS Sunday, November 16

The Eastside Lutheran Fellowship presents Community Game Night on Sunday, November 16 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Mt. Si Lutheran Church in North Bend. All are welcome!

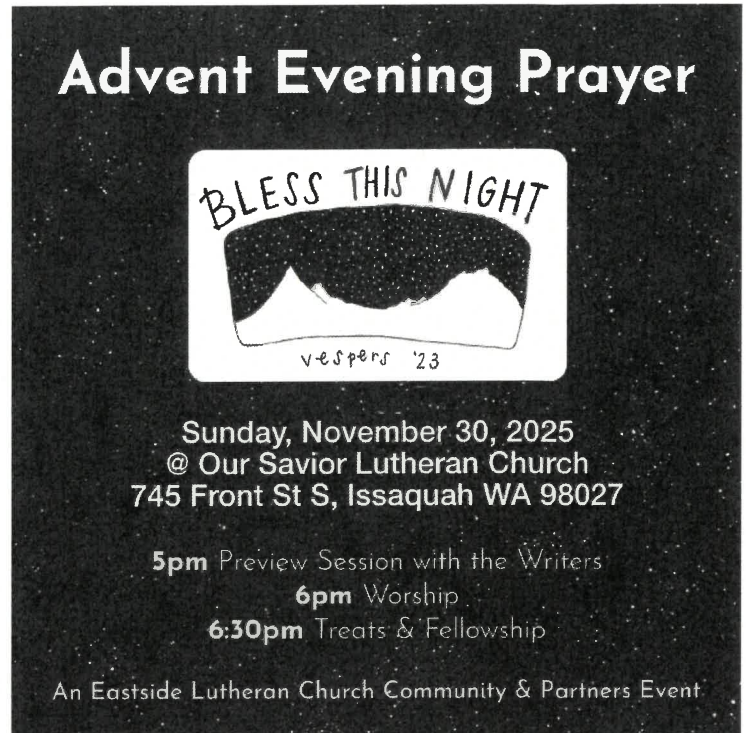


Our Savior Community

Announcements

Advent Evening Prayer on Sunday, November 30

On Sunday night, November 30, we'll have Advent Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, followed by treats and fellowship in Anderson Hall. *Bless This Night* is a prayer service that was designed for Holden. Pr. Mark from St. Luke's Lutheran Church and others from our area have written and composed it. They will introduce the service at 5:00 p.m., with an opportunity to practice the singing. The prayer service will then start at 6:00 p.m. This same event happened last year at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church.



The poster features a dark background with a white rectangular box in the center. Inside the box, the text "BLESS THIS NIGHT" is written in a white, hand-drawn font at the top. Below it is a white silhouette of a night sky with a dark, jagged horizon line. At the bottom of the box, the text "vespers '23" is written in a small, white font. Below the box, the event details are listed in white text: "Sunday, November 30, 2025 @ Our Savior Lutheran Church 745 Front St S, Issaquah WA 98027". The schedule is listed as "5pm Preview Session with the Writers", "6pm Worship", and "6:30pm Treats & Fellowship". At the bottom of the poster, it says "An Eastside Lutheran Church Community & Partners Event".

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church Seeks Singers for Christmas Concert

From an email sent by Matt Turner of SHLC: "Do you love to sing Christmas songs? Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church will present a Christmas concert on December 21 at 3:00 p.m. and would like to invite any singers to join us. Rehearsals will take place in the SHLC sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/20 (3:00 dress rehearsal). If interested, please contact Matt Turner through the SHLC office at worship@shlc.org. God bless!"

Next Communion Service at Timber Ridge

The next communion service at Timber Ridge Retirement Community will be on
♦ **Thursday, December 4** at 2:00 p.m. (OSLC-led)

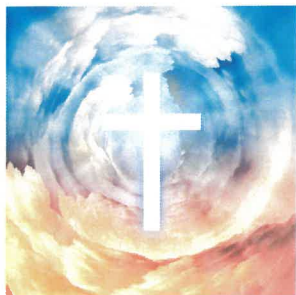
December/January Focus Deadline

The next Focus will be a combined December/January issue. Please email any items to Cynthia at office@oslccissaquah.org by Monday, November 24. Thanks!

OSLC's Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7

Please mark your calendars for our Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7 in Anderson Hall following worship. More details to come.

Come Worship with Us from Pentecost into Advent



[Sunday, November 16: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost](#)

[Sunday, November 23: Christ the King](#)

[Sunday, November 30: First Sunday of Advent](#)

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.



Schedule Changes Due to the Upcoming Holidays

Looking ahead, please note that all three upcoming holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day—occur on Thursdays.

Stephen Minister Training Course will **NOT** meet on these Wednesdays: November 26, December 17, 24, or 31.

Mission Quilters will **NOT** meet on these Thursdays: November 27, December 18, 25, or January 1.

Searching for the Historical Jesus Class will **NOT** meet on these Thursdays: November 27, December 25, or January 1.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
ARCHDIOCESAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

October 3, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church
745 Front St S
Issaquah, WA 98027-4206

Dear Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$500.00 to King County Meals Program, a vital program of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. Your kindness is transforming lives.

With the support of donors like you, our network of more than 190 programs serves over 100,000 of our neighbors in need each year. Because of your generosity, families experiencing homelessness find safe shelter, seniors receive nutritious meals in the comfort of their homes, and individuals in crisis are met with compassion and support.

Your gift brings hope, stability, and love to our neighbors facing difficult times. We are truly grateful for your commitment to this mission.

Please feel free to contact us at 206.328.5707 or development@ccsww.org if you have any questions regarding the impact of your gift.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Jilma L. Meneses
President & CEO
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

For IRS purposes, no goods or services were exchanged as a result of this gift. Catholic Community Services of Western Washington is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

Tax ID # 91-1585652

Check Number: 13362 Check Date: 9/18/2025



heal
restore
transform

October 16, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Attn: Pastors Baumann
745 Front St S
Issaquah, WA 98027

Dear Members and Friends,

You are an incredible blessing!

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00. Because of you, homeless moms and kids in our community have safe shelter and the support they need during this critical time.

Each day more families reach out with nowhere to go. Your kindness ensures that these families will have the support they need to get back on their feet.

Your compassionate support came just in time for Mercy. She came to Vine Maple Place pregnant and living in her car. She had nowhere to go and very little to wear. With your help, she found safe shelter, got new clothes, and secured an apartment to bring her baby home.

Now Mercy is healing and rebuilding her life, learning to manage her finances, find stable work, and be the strong mom her child needs. Because of you, families like Mercy's will never be homeless again.

We are so grateful for you. May God bless you for the compassion you have shown to families carrying such a heavy burden.

With heartfelt thanks,

Michelle K. Frets
CEO

*Please retain this letter for your records. Vine Maple Place is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services were received in consideration for this gift.*

Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit: November 2025



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,

Across our country, people are struggling—financially, emotionally, spiritually. Division, violence, and uncertainty are paramount. We are living in a time when the weight of the world feels heavier than most of us can bear. Families are being torn apart, communities are threatened, and political leaders are trading compassion for power. Every day seems more chaotic and unmoored than the day before. For many, fear has become a daily companion. We might cry, along with the psalmist in Psalm 13, “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?”

[Pause here. For we must acknowledge the pain that is happening within us and around us. Pause. This might be a long, long pause.] . . . Now let us take a deep breath. Now let us move forward.

After we have named the deep wounds within us and across this nation; after we have confessed our grief, our weariness, and our complicity in the broken systems that bind us; after we have allowed the truth to settle in, let us remember that this is not the end of the story. As people of faith, we don’t stop at despair and fear. We don’t close our eyes or turn inward or try to protect ourselves from more pain. No. Instead we open our eyes, turn outward, and we rise to follow Jesus once more—into the very places and spaces where pain still lingers and where love is most needed.

How do we do this? As people saved by grace through Jesus, how do we look outward and love our neighbor? Here are some ideas from a letter (<https://www.lutheransnw.org/news/letter-from-elca-bishops>) signed by many of the bishops that was published in October 2025. These ideas include

- Pray for those who are vulnerable and for all who work for justice.
- Advocate in your communities, legislatures, and Congress for laws that protect migrants, advance racial justice, and safeguard LGBTQIA+ people.
- Engage in the holy work of hospitality, creating spaces of safety, affirmation, and belonging for all of God’s children.

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Northwest Washington Synod

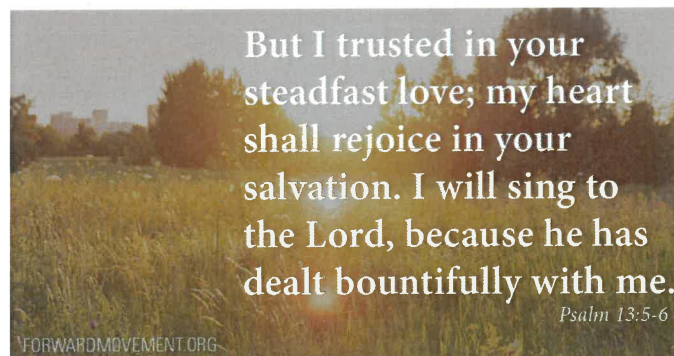
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- Model respectful dialogue in a polarized world, seeking understanding rooted in love.
- Hold fast to hope, trusting that the Spirit is still at work renewing creation and reconciling the world to God.

As a guide to this holy work, I have always loved the story of Martin Luther who, when the plague was raging in Wittenberg, chose to stay in order to care for the sick and comfort the dying. We might sometimes think of Luther as curmudgeonly and argumentative. We might also think he was more concerned with being saved by grace through faith than loving his neighbor. But Luther's courage and pastoral care during the plague shows his heart and his response to God's amazing grace. For during the plague, as people were dying around him, he stayed and cared and ministered. In 1527 he wrote, "We are bound to each other in such a way that no one may forsake the other in his distress but is obliged to assist and help him as he himself would like to be helped." ("Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague")

Above all things, let us not grow weary. Let us continue to hear the summons of Jesus. Let us continue to answer the call to love our neighbor—especially the most vulnerable. And, may we be the ones who, in a weary world, hope as the psalmist hopes at the end of Psalm 13: "But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord because God has dealt bountifully with me."

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



ELCA

October 8, 2025

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we write to you in this moment of national and global tension with clarity and conviction. Our faith compels us to stand where Jesus stands—with and for those whom society often seeks to exclude, erase, or diminish.

Our shared confession that every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) grounds us in the conviction that all people possess inherent dignity. The incarnation of Jesus Christ reveals God's profound solidarity with humanity—especially with those who are marginalized or oppressed. The gospel we proclaim insists that our neighbor's need is the occasion for our love and that our public life is shaped by justice, mercy, and a commitment to the common good.

Further, we have a shared tradition in our social teachings which grounds us. The ELCA's Social Message on Immigration reminds us: "We are to respond to newcomers as we would to Christ—welcoming them, meeting their immediate needs, and advocating for justice in our laws and policies."

Likewise, our recently adopted Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life affirms that Christians are called to be "a public witness, holding leaders accountable when they fail to protect the vulnerable."

We are living through a time when vulnerable communities are being scapegoated and attacked. Immigrants and refugees are vilified, though Scripture commands us to welcome the stranger. People of color continue to bear the devastating weight of racism woven into the fabric of our society. Transgender people, beloved by God, are being targeted with laws and rhetoric that deny their dignity and even their right to exist. These assaults on our siblings are not political abstractions—they are deep wounds in the body of Christ.

A letter from (most of) the Synod Bishops of the ELCA to the church

“we write to you in this moment of national and global tension with clarity and conviction. Our faith compels us to stand where Jesus stands—with and for those whom society often seeks to exclude, erase, or diminish.”



NW Washington Synod | ELCA

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ELCA

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In this time of division and fear, we, as people grounded in our faith, insist on love. This commitment flows from our faith in Christ crucified and risen—the One whose love breaks down barriers, confronts hatred, and transforms hearts.

Love insists on the **dignity of every human being**.

Love insists on **justice** for the marginalized and oppressed.

Love insists that the **church must reflect God's diverse, life-giving community**.

Love insists that we **listen, speak, and act with respect**, even in disagreement.

Love insists on **hope**, trusting that God's kingdom of justice and peace will prevail.

This love also compels us to speak clearly against Christian Nationalism, which our Churchwide Assembly named as a distortion of the Christian faith and an unhealthy form of patriotism. Christian Nationalism confuses the Gospel with political power, turns God into a mascot for the state, and privileges some people over others based on race, religion, or birthplace. This is not the way of Jesus. The kingdom of God is not a nation, not a culture, not a political ideology—it is God's reign of love, justice, and mercy for all people.

Therefore, as bishops of this church, we declare that the ELCA cannot be silent. Our call is clear:

- To proclaim the God-given dignity of every human being.
- To resist systems and ideologies, including Christian Nationalism, that oppress, dehumanize, or erase.
- To stand shoulder to shoulder with those who are targeted or harmed.
- To bear public witness that the love of Christ is stronger than fear, stronger than hatred, and stronger than death.

We call on all members of the ELCA to join us in prayer, advocacy, and action:

- Pray for those who are vulnerable and for all who work for justice.
- Advocate in your communities, legislatures, and Congress for laws that protect migrants, advance racial justice, and safeguard LGBTQIA+ people.
- Engage in the holy work of hospitality, creating spaces of safety, affirmation, and belonging for all God's children.
- Model respectful dialogue in a polarized world, seeking understanding rooted in love.
- Hold fast to hope, trusting that the Spirit is still at work renewing creation and reconciling the world to God.

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ELCA

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In baptism, we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. That cross is not only a sign of our hope—it is also a summons to follow Jesus into solidarity with those who suffer.

In the power of the Spirit, let us be bold. Let us be faithful.

Let us Insist on Love—in our words, our actions, our public witness, and our life together.

Together in Christ,

Bishop Becca Middeke-Conlin, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod

Bishop Vivian Davila, Caribbean Synod

Bishop Donna Simon, Central States Synod

Bishop Bill Gohl, Delaware-Maryland Synod

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright, East Central Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Pedro Suarez, Florida-Bahamas Synod

Bishop Deborah Hutterer, Grand Canyon Synod

Bishop Paul Erickson, Greater Milwaukee Synod

Bishop Felix Malpica, La Crosse Area Synod

Bishop Stephen R. Herr, Lower Susquehanna Synod

Bishop Wayne Miller, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Bishop Katrina D. Foster, Metropolitan New York Synod

Bishop Philip C Hirsch, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

Bishop Jen Nagel, Minneapolis Area Synod

Bishop Scott Alan Johnson, Nebraska Synod

Bishop Nathan Piphon, New England Synod

Bishop Christa Compton, New Jersey Synod

Bishop Emily K. Hartner, North Carolina Synod

Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas, North/West Lower Michigan Synod

Bishop Kevin Jones, Northeastern Iowa Synod

Bishop Amy Odgren, Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Bishop Laura Barbins, Northeastern Ohio Synod

Bishop Christopher deForest, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod

Bishop Stacie Fidler, Northern Illinois Synod

Bishop Erik Gronberg, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod

Bishop Meggan Manlove, Northwest Intermountain Synod

Bishop Martin Halom, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee, Northwest Washington Synod

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ELCA

Continued from page 18 . . .

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin, Northwestern Ohio Synod
Bishop Kristen Papson, Northwestern PA Synod
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar, Oregon Synod
Bishop David Nagler, Pacifica Synod
Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, Rocky Mountain Synod
Bishop Jeff R. Johnson, Sierra Pacific Synod
Bishop Ginny Aebischer, South Carolina Synod
Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Bishop Amy Current, Southeastern Iowa Synod
Bishop Bryan Penman, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Bishop Kevin Strickland, Southeastern Synod
Bishop Susan J. Briner, Southwestern Texas Synod
Bishop Brenda Bos, Southwest California Synod
Bishop Melissa L. Stoller, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
Bishop Keith Marshall, Southwestern Washington
Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Bishop Craig Miller, Upper Susquehanna Synod
Bishop Lee M. Miller II, Upstate New York Synod
Bishop Phyllis Milton, Virginia Synod
Bishop Scott Dalen, Western Iowa Synod



Lutheran Counseling Network

November Faith and Everyday Life

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 28:11)*

In this verse, Jeremiah reassures the people of Israel, who are in captivity in Babylon, that God has a plan for them. But if we read the verse out of context, we can miss the real point of it. Earlier in this chapter, the false prophet Hananiah gives the Israelites the fake promise that God will free them from captivity in Babylon after just two years.

Jeremiah assures the Israelites that God has good things in mind for them, but in a different way than they expect. It's not all about going home, about being delivered from adversity, says God. Instead, God directs the Israelites to "seek the peace and the prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (29:7)

God eventually delivers the Israelites from captivity. But not for another generation. God's plan is for this generation to stay put and help prosper the nation that holds them captive. Instead of removing them from their suffering, God promises to be with them in their adversity, and to help them transform it, for the good of all.

It's this way for us as well. We may wish God would free us from suffering. Instead, God promises to be with us in our suffering, giving us a future with hope, and providing us the tools we need to create change, not just for ourselves, but for our children, our neighborhoods, our communities, our world.

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®



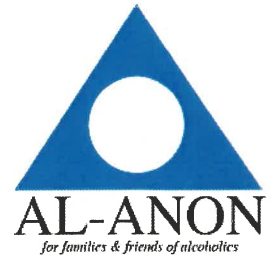
Spirit of Peace
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**ISSAQUAH
ARTS**



**LESSONS
IN
YOUR HOME**



AL-ANON
for families & friends of alcoholics



CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
POLICE

*MASTER CHORUS
EASTSIDE*
Feed Your Soul



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



We remember in prayer . . .

Dianne T., for healing after surgery and for her new infusions to work; **Wendy W.**, for her recovery after hip replacement surgery on October 27; **Hannelore M.**, for correct diagnosis, successful treatment, and good healing; **Mary F.**, for healing and comfort; **Guests of the Community Meals Program; all affected by COVID-19.**

Mourning the death of loved ones: **Carol Johnson** (former member); **Mary Dahlgren** (friend of Dianne T.); **Gordon Smith** (cousin of Doug T.); **Evelyn (Evie) Sneva** (former member); **Dave Carlson** (husband of Marilyn).

Healing and peace of mind: **Sandy A.; 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.; Larry P.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Sandy A.; Rowan H.; Kim A.** (dear friend of Shelley H.); **Melinda N.** (daughter of Cheryl & Lou N.); **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: **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 Assistants for Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
Sunday, November 16	Joan F.	Anne E. and Mike A.	Stacy S.	Jon S.
Sunday, November 23	Connie F.	Don R. and Larry T.	Barbara F-S. and Tom K.	Anne E. and Jon S.
Sunday, November 30	Lori D.	Ken K. and Bill S.	Jean P. and Delaney C.	Jon S.



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.

Please note: This schedule reflects information known as of November 12. It is subject to last-minute changes.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

11/2 Pete M.
11/6 Bodil I.
Lyle L.
11/8 Mary Ann H.
11/9 Phil G.
Florence K.
Ronald M.
11/10 Allison G.
Nilvane S.
11/11 Pr. Olaf
11/17 John M.
11/21 Patricia G.
11/24 Gerrie H.
11/25 Cheryl H.
11/30 Donald R.



Anniversaries

11/21 Paul & Joyce C.



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!

November 2025

December 2025

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	31			

November 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	29
30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 11:10am Monthly	9:00am Quirky Quilters 3:00pm Companions 4:00pm Knitting Group 7:00pm Master Chorus	10:00am Gutter Cleaning (arranged) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10:30am Stephen Minister Training 7:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 2:00pm Timber Ridge	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 6:00pm New Creation	11:00am Memorial Service and 5:00pm Issaquah Suzuki Strings Halloween
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 11:10am Monthly	9:00am Quirky Quilters 3:00pm Companions 4:00pm Knitting Group 7:00pm Master Chorus	10:00am Gutter Cleaning (arranged) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10:30am Stephen Minister Training 7:00pm Worship and Music Meeting	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 2:00pm Timber Ridge	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 6:00pm New Creation	10:00am Lessons In Your Home Fall Recital (Sanctuary)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 11:10am Monthly	3:00pm Companions 4:00pm Knitting Group 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall) 10:30am Stephen Minister Training	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 6:00pm New Creation	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 6:00pm New Creation	2:30pm Mini Student Recitals (Christie Chen) (Sanctuary and Anderson Hall)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:00pm Zadinsky	10:30am Congregational 12:00pm Schimmel 3:00pm Companions 4:00pm Knitting Group	7:00pm Council Executive Committee 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10:30am Stephen Minister Training 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 6:76 PLC (Anderson)	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 1:00pm Community	9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed) 12:00pm Searching for 1:00pm Community	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee & 12:30pm New Creation	3:00pm Companions 4:00pm Knitting Group 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:00pm Church Council (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10:00am Recording Session for Emil Khudiyev's College Clarinet Students	10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room)	2:00pm Recording Session for Carlin Ma's Piano Students (Sanctuary)	
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 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

*Blessed with an Abundance of Quilts 2025 –
Photo by Cynthia Delaney*

The deadline for the December/January Focus is Monday, November 24.
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. Olaf Baumann at 360-912-1830.
Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann is on vacation through November 20.