

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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GROWING
TO SERVE



April 2026

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

Be Blessed to Be a Blessing!

By Rev. Kristin-Luana Baumann

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered” (Proverbs 11:25).

“Pastoral Care,” “Community Outreach!” “Women’s Retreat,” “Confirmation Class,” “Lutheran World Relief!” “Clothing Closet,” “Music Ministries!”

These and many more ministries were named at our last all-church visioning event on March 15, 2026. I had asked the group to shout out what ministries Our Savior Lutheran Church is engaged in right now. We gathered an impressive list, and it was great fun to see all these important activities and partnerships on the board together. As a second step, we considered the values that inspire all these ministries.

What is a value? *Merriam-Webster* tells us it is “something such as a principle or quality intrinsically valuable or desirable.” In the church, values and virtues are intertwined. A virtue is defined as “moral excellence and righteousness; goodness.” Paul names values/virtues in his letter to the Galatians as the fruit of the Spirit:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

At our visioning event, we named some of these as well, like kindness, faithfulness, and love. We also tried to capture the movement that flows from God to us, to others, and to God’s good creation, and back to God. We strongly felt that it is a great blessing to bless others and that all we do is rooted in our faith in God.

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And so, this visioning process is rooted in our faith in God as well. All we do flows from there. A big part of visioning is becoming more aware of who we already are and strengthening our identity in ways that align with God's will.

In that regard, some ideas came up on that Sunday. One of the ministries we put on the board was "advocacy." Advocacy is the act of supporting a particular cause or policy to influence decision-makers and bring about change. As a church, our advocacy springs from our faith, of course. The national church has an advocacy arm, which is the ELCA Advocacy Network. You can find more info here: <https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/elca-in-society>. In WA state, Faith Action Network (FAN) is the faith-based advocacy network. Find more info here: <https://fanwa.org/>.

Many local churches have Social Justice and/or Creation Justice Teams as part of their ministry. At the visioning event, several people spoke up and asked whether we could also form such a team at Our Savior Lutheran Church. The answer is yes! If you are interested in being a founding member of the **OSLC Justice Team**, please let me know, and I will call that team into session.

Another meaning of the word "advocacy" is "intercession." We pray prayers of intercession every Sunday during our church service. I learned at our event that OSLC used to have a prayer team, a group of faithful people who intentionally and regularly prayed for people and causes on the prayer list. I am sure many of you are praying fervently! But if you are interested in being organized as a **Prayer Team**, please let me know, and we will revive that ministry!

This is a good opportunity to point out that all teams and committees are always open to new members. The **Community Outreach Team** is still looking for a new **chair**. **Endowment Fund Committee**, **Finance Committee**, and **Building and Grounds** would love to have new members! **Altar Guild**, **Choir**, and **Bell Choir** members are also always welcome.

In what way can you be blessed to be a blessing at OSLC?



✝ Holy Week and Easter Worship ✝

Please mark your calendars to join us in honoring the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus:

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.
(in-person and online worship)



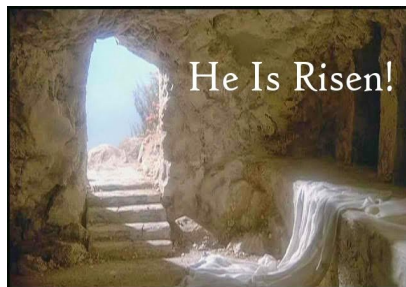
Good Friday

Friday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.
(in-person and online worship)



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.
(in-person and online worship)



*Look out for Easter gift bags for the little ones!

Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 5 at 11:00 a.m. in Anderson Hall
following worship



Volunteers are needed to help create a festive, delicious Easter Brunch! If you can provide food or drink (pastries, sweet rolls, gluten-free goodies, fruit, decorated/colored hard-boiled eggs, and/or juice); set up; and/or clean up; please contact Connie F. at 206-660-5022 to sign up. Thanks!

On Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m., volunteers will set up and prepare for the brunch.

Our Savior Community

Financial Update

Greetings from the Financial Secretary,

I recently completed the 2025 Contribution Reports for OSLC. In preparing a summary for the Finance Committee and Church Council, I found some things you might find interesting, too.

Many have asked the question: What has been the response to the “Abundance Budget” and the “Espresso Yourself Campaign”?

Thirteen giving units responded within the first month of Annual Meeting last July. Calculated over a year, those 13 units will bring in over \$16,000 in increased giving. One-time gifts of \$2,300 bring the estimate for the campaign to \$18,500. The first six months of the coffee pot adds another \$3,000 to the total, a good chunk towards the needed \$25,000 to meet the budgeted contributions. Yeah!!! A few others have increased giving over the last six months, as well.

Here are the giving tiers for 2025. This chart reflects contributions to the general fund as well as to the designated funds.

# Givers	Total Dollars	Percent	Range
8	\$171,906.00	39.62%	\$10,000 - \$36,000
19	\$125,268.92	28.87%	\$5,000 - \$10,000
24	\$87,494.52	20.16%	\$2,500 - \$5,000
24	\$40,695.35	9.38%	\$1000 - \$2,500
18	\$8,095.26	1.87%	\$100 - \$1,000
16	\$464.93	0.11%	0 - \$100
109	\$433,924.98	100.00%	



Regardless of where you fall on this chart you are recognized as a vital part of this community of faith. We are grateful for each other and thankful for what each contributes in the way of time, talent, and treasure. We are on this journey together.

Submitted by Wendy Winslow

Our Savior Community

Finding Our Way

Armageddon

By Rev. Dr. Randall E. Webb

Recently the term “Armageddon” (or Harmagedon) has surfaced in our media. It has come to mean “the end of the world involving a great military conflict.” Biblically the term appears only once in the scriptures: “**And the demonic spirits assembled the kings at the place that in Hebrew is called Harmagedon**” (Revelation 16:16). [Armageddon and Harmagedon are the same word and are used interchangeably.]

Outrageous claims about this final battle were recently made by the Trump administration. Jonathan Larsen, an independent journalist and former executive producer at MSNBC writes, “A combat unit commander told non-commissioned officers at a briefing Monday [March 2, 2026], that the Iran war is part of God’s plan and that Pres. Donald Trump was ‘anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to Earth.’” Apparently, this message is widespread among U.S. troops because the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) has received more than 200 complaints about the use of this prejudicial religious language from more than 40 different units spread across at least 30 military installations. The scriptures themselves reveal the truth and will unmask these lies.

CLAIM: “The Iran war is part of God’s plan.” **FALSE**. The term Armageddon reflects Old Testament references to *Har Megiddo* (Hill of Megiddo or Mount Megiddo) which is a place. It is a prominent ancient mound situated in the Jezreel Valley of northern Israel, about 19 miles southeast of present day Haifa. Megiddo is in Israel. Iran has nothing to do with this. The Biblical word “Armageddon” is being misused to justify a war that has nothing to do with “God’s plan” as it is revealed to us in the Bible.

CLAIM: “Pres. Donald Trump was ‘anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to Earth.’” **FALSE!** First, there is no mention of any “signal fire” in the Bible. Second, the Bible says that the kings and their armies are assembled “at the place . . . called Harmagedon.” As stated above, that place is in Israel, not in Iran. Third, the idea that Jesus would anoint Donald Trump, or any other human being, to start a war in Iran in order to “cause Armageddon” is a bold lie that is both blasphemous and heretical. No human being has been granted the power to bring

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Our Savior Community

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about the second coming of Christ. Jesus says, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32).

Jesus warned us about lies like these that lead people away from the truth. Peter, James, John and Andrew once asked Jesus privately about the end times. Jesus said, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he! And they will lead many astray. . . . And if anyone says to you at that time ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘Look! There he is!’ – do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect” (Mark 13:5; 21-22). I see this happening now. Many Christians are being led astray by claims like saying that Jesus anointed Donald Trump to start a war in Iran.

But Jesus asks us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36). Do we love our enemies? Do we love **all** our neighbors? Do we live our lives trying to do what Jesus says is right and good? Or have we been led astray by false prophets to hate some groups of neighbors?

The Bible tells us in Acts 10:34: “that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” In every religion around the world, there are people of good will, who love their neighbors and live their lives trying to do what is right. They are acceptable to God. All people of good will everywhere are acceptable to God. God is not a God of hatred. We shall proclaim the God of love together.



Our Savior Community

March at OSLC: From Snow to Spring!

Snow on March 13



Outdoor Cleanup on March 26



Thank You

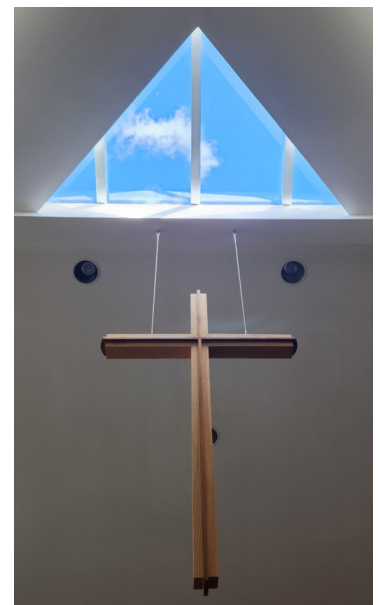
Thank you to all who have been beautifying the church inside and out in preparation for Easter and spring. In addition to outdoor cleanup days, windows and carpets were cleaned this week.

On Tuesday, March 24, a four-person crew from The Lamb Window Cleaning washed all windows in the sanctuary, Anderson Hall, and the narthex, including the skylight and high windows. The windows are now gleaming! We're immensely grateful to The Lamb Window Cleaning for offering their services at no charge as a charitable gift.

On Friday, March 27, a company deep cleaned the carpets throughout the church.

A special thank you to Gary H., who set up and oversaw the window and carpet cleaning, and who dedicates much time and effort to building repairs and projects at OSLC.

Clean, sparkling windows!



Our Savior Community

Thank You Letters Received in March

March 6, 2026

Dear Pastors Baumann and all members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, I want to personally thank you and members of the Our Savior Congregation for welcoming my cousin, Wayne Hardy. His step-daughter said she notified you that Wayne had passed on 2/16/2026.

The highlight of Wayne's week was attending your services on Sundays. I wanted you to know that it meant so much to him. It was not just the service and your fine sermons, it was the kindness and acceptance of you and your members.

With deep appreciation,
Dee Ann N.

March 7, 2026

Dear Prayer Shawl Team of Our Savior Lutheran Church, My friend, Jo H., gave my husband and me each a prayer shawl that ladies from your church so lovingly made. We appreciate the shawls so much and wanted you to know that you are doing great work!

God tells us to pray unceasingly. These shawls will keep us warm, and they are terrific colors. Jo picked them out with us in mind.

Keep up the knitting and may the Lord richly bless you.

With love,
Doreen B. W. and Steve W.

Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit: April 2026



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the Bishop:

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb” (John 20:1).

When I ask people how they are, so often they say, “Well, I’m doing ok considering . . .”

Sometimes they confess to me that the world just feels so dark right now.

And I get it—I can feel this way, too. Sometimes it does seem the shadows are gathering around us and just getting scarier and more menacing and it is hard to see a path forward.

But then I am reminded of the gift of darkness.

Recently I read Conor Knighton’s book *Leave Only Footprints* where he talks about visiting all the national parks in a year. One of the most captivating chapters was about national parks that have been certified as Dark Sky Places. He describes areas where light pollution is carefully limited so people can experience the night sky as humans did for most of history. Standing in one of these places, the sky can be overwhelming. Stars multiply as your eyes adjust. Constellations sharpen. The universe stretches above you in breathtaking clarity. Conor says that what surprises many visitors is this: the darkness does not feel frightening. It feels beautiful. Everyone is standing shoulder to shoulder—strangers to one another in the daylight—but at night, all eyes are lifted to the heavens in wonder experiencing something extraordinary.

In these particular times that we are living in, this brings me hope. For in the light of day, war is happening and people are dying and there is shouting on all sides and beliefs seem intransigent and we experience and participate in the hatred and greed and selfishness and bigotry that is everywhere around us. We see our enemy. We identify our enemy. We classify our enemy. The light shines harshly.

But in the darkness of night, we gather together. In the darkness of night, we huddle close. In the darkness of night, we sigh with wonder at the beauty and majesty of the heavens. In the darkness of night, we no longer can tell who our enemy is. And, while

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Northwest Washington Synod

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this could be scary, this is also liberating. For we remember the beginning of the story of God and creation – that for God darkness is not chaos beyond God’s reach – it is the very place where God begins midwifing new hope, new promise, new life – in spite of what happens in the light of day.

We experience this promise in the Easter story. (Let me remind you, the resurrection did not occur at sunrise even though many of us have attended a lot of sunrise services!). For even as Mary Magdalene started hurrying towards the tomb before dawn, the resurrection had miraculously already happened. The tomb was already empty. Jesus Christ was alive! For as we read in scripture, life was rising before the dawn. This is the strange and beautiful truth at the heart of our faith – and truly at the heart of the gospel. The power of death was broken even before the sun began to shine.

This is the hope of Easter. Even when the world feels uncertain, even when grief and fear weigh heavily on our hearts, even when the shadows fall, God is at work beneath the surface of things. Life is stirring. Hope is rising.

Go find a place of darkness. And there you will see God.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org



Image Credit: <https://sequoiaparksconservancy.org/event/2023-dark-sky-festival/>

Lutheran Counseling Network

April Faith and Everyday Life

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

There are moments in our lives that stick with us, and they stick in a spiritual sense. I was driving my car in Montana. I guess it could have been anywhere, but the big sky nature of Montana makes this sight seem even rarer. The moment was brief because we were traveling in a car and the passenger and I were both looking out the front window. We saw an adult bird—likely a hawk—with a smaller bird on its back. The larger bird dipped down, letting the young bird free fall. Then the adult bird caught the young bird on its back and kept flying. We saw this happen two times. We both shook our heads and said, “Wait, what was that?”

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

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

Written by a Staff Member of Lutheran Counseling Network



Image Credit: Johnny Langton, June 27, 2024: “Check out my new surfboard guys.”
“Birds of Prey” Facebook page.

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


MASTER CHORUS
EASTSIDE
Feed Your Soul



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



ISSAQUAH
ARTS

 **AMERICAN
PARKINSON DISEASE
ASSOCIATION**
NORTHWEST CHAPTER
Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.





We remember in prayer . . .

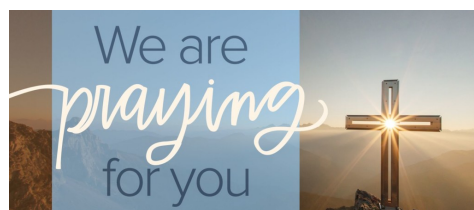
Barbara H., who is hospitalized with a stroke and other heart problems (wife of Rowan H.); **Laurie R.**, who had a very severe brain bleed (friend of Marlice G.); **Peter R.**, for a quick recovery following hip surgery (OSLC's cleaner); **Laurie R.**, for complete recovery from a brain hemorrhage suffered on March 15 in Yuma, Arizona. She's in a hospital in Phoenix (Shepherd of the Hills church family, submitted by Debra Z.); **Janice E.**, 94 years old, is in rehab because she fell and broke her back, and also has issues with vision (long-time family friend of Ron S.); **Jim U.**, who had skull surgery to remove two cancerous growths, and his wife **Maria** (long-time neighbors of Alice and Lyle L.); **Janice E.**, 94 years old, is in rehab because she fell and broke her back, and also has issues with vision (long-time family friend of Ron S.); **Suzanne D.**, for healing her lower back fracture; **Dianne T.**, for healing and pain relief; **Mary F.**, for healing and comfort; **Guests of the Community Meals Program; all affected by COVID-19 and other illnesses.**

Mourning the death of loved ones: Sam Hansen.

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.; Dianne T.; 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.); 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.); Duane J.; Mary L. (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice L.); Suzanne L. (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice L.).





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

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Altar Guild	Sound & Videography
Maundy Thursday, April 2	Debby B.	TBD	Jane W. and all Altar Guild strip altar	Anne E. and Jon S.
Good Friday, April 3	Connie F.	TBD	Jane W. and others	Jon S.
Easter Sunday, April 5	Jen W.	Bill S. and Ken K.	Jane W. and others	Jon S.
Sunday, April 12	Debby B.	Barbara F-S. and Tom K.	Stacy S.	Anne E. and Jon S.
Sunday, April 19	TBD	Rob G. and TBD	Holly H.	Jon S.
Sunday, April 26	Connie F.	Don R. and Larry T.	Barbara F-S.	Jon S.



Please note: This schedule reflects information known as of March 27. It is subject to last-minute changes.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

4/2 Doug F.
David W.
4/7 Kent P.
4/9 Michael F.
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.
Jane & John T.
4/16 Dick & Susan F.
4/24 Werner & Jan H.
4/25 Carla & Paul 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 2026

April 2026

May 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
Mar 29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Easter Sunday 11:00am Easter Brunch 12:30pm New Creation	9:00am Quirky Quilters 11:00am Line Dancing 3:00pm Companions 6:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall, Kitchen)	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 6:00pm New Creation	7:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)	4:00pm Carlin Ma's Spring Studio Recital (Sanctuary)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 12:30pm New Creation	9:00am Quirky Quilters 11:00am Line Dancing 3:00pm Companions 6:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	9:30am Issaquah Garden Club (Anderson Hall, Kitchen)	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 6:00pm New Creation		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 12:30pm New Creation	11:00am Line Dancing with Renata 3:00pm Companions 6:00pm Pizza & 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10:30am Final Stephen Ministry Training Course (Education) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 PLC (Anderson)	9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 1:00pm Community 6:00pm New Creation 7:00pm Finance		5:00pm RIC Group Visioning Meeting (Online)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 12:30pm New Creation	11:00am Line Dancing with Renata 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)		9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am Al-Anon (Ed Room) 6:00pm New Creation		
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 12:30pm New Creation 5:00pm International	11:00am Line Dancing with Renata 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 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) 6:00pm New Creation		

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Issaquah, WA 98027

425-392-4169



Stay connected!
www.oslcissaquah.org

The deadline for the May Focus is Monday, April 27.
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
or Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann at 360-912-1245.