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GROWING
TO SERVE



June 2026

Our Savior
Lutheran Church
745 Front Street S
Issaquah, WA

TENDING THE WILD GARDEN

GROWING IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



STARTS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, at 12:15 PM

This September OSLC's new Life of Faith Team will offer an exciting, 12-week series of bible study based on the book *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Pastor Gamble shares, "Everything I write about in this book is already inside you. It is not something that you have to search for high and low. The Spirit and its fruit are already working away, feeding and flourishing, whether you are aware of that work or not. The fruit is within you, whether you cooperate with it or not. The fruit of the Spirit is what God *does* in us, because that is who God *is* in us."

Most of us are familiar with Paul's "fruit of the Spirit" list—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. But too often we find ourselves measuring, worrying about our progress as we try to attain the beautiful fruit by our own efforts. We miss out on the freedom the Spirit-planted fruit provides us to focus

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solely on effectively managing or *tending* the fruit so it grows and matures in us. In the study Pastor Eugenia will help us discover how to recognize some of the weeds—also how to pull them from our garden! Please join us as we learn how to tend the garden of our souls.

Pastor Eugenia lives in Alabama and shares warmly, personally, vulnerably, and candidly in her book. She's a Presbyterian minister (recently retired) and an award-winning author, speaker, and retreat leader. To get started we'll open our study with Pastor Eugenia as our special guest for a one-time Zoom session. Then she will follow with deep, wonderfully rich, 15-minute video introductions to each chapter. Pastor Kristin-Luana will be our on-site book study leader. We are blessed to have such a great pairing!

OSLC is fast establishing a fantastic participation record of members and friends of our congregation who are enjoying these lively but casual, come as you are, with or without a brown-bag lunch, bible studies. You are invited to be part of another upcoming and, yes, exciting educational opportunity to grow in your life of faith! Everyone is welcome!

Submitted by Debby Beck

As of May 29, the book is on sale online for \$13.00 at the PC(USA) Store:
<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664268609/tending-the-wild-garden.aspx>

"When we explore the fruit of the Spirit, we pay attention to that which is most deeply planted within our souls. It is not, at heart, an action plan for us to master. It is not even a set of beliefs to which we acquiesce.

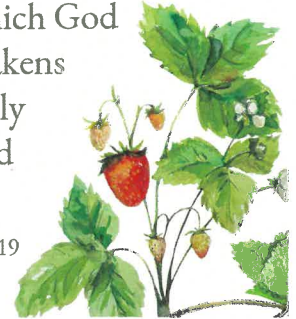
It is a loving awakening to the ways that Spirit works in us and what that healing and ripening work produces."

—*Tending the Wild Garden*, p. 2



"One of the problems that humans face is that we live in a state of forgetfulness. . . . We forget our own identity as God's beloved children, so we don't treat ourselves or others as sacred vessels in which God dwells. Spirit reawakens us to what is actually real and true, in and through us."

—*Tending the Wild Garden*, p. 19



Our Savior Community

Stephen Ministry Update

OSLC observed its **first Stephen Ministry Sunday** on Sunday, April 26, 2026 and celebrated all aspects of the Stephen Ministry program during and after worship on that day. Here's a summary of what occurred on that day and a sneak peek of what's to come:

- ◆ **Stephen Ministers.** OSLC commissioned four new Stephen Ministers who will serve our congregation for an initial period of two years: **Ann T., Barbara F-S., Jen W., and Sandy A.** Their role is to provide emotional and spiritual care to individuals going through rough times.
- ◆ **Full-time Students.** We congratulated and thanked all 13 students who completed the 50-week Stephen Ministry Training Course (SMTC) as their presence and lively participation helped make the classes engaging, fun, and fulfilling.



- ◆ **Volunteers.** We showed our heartfelt appreciation for the many volunteers who helped get this new ministry up and running by donating their time and talents: guest teachers, *volunteer* students, consultants, advisors, writers, editors, assistants, and a website guru. We were also very blessed to find a balloon-blower-upper! Volunteers are the BEST, and there's a place for you, too!

NEXT UP:

- ◆ Our new Stephen Ministers will soon be matched with **Care Receivers**, and *confidential Caring Relationships* will begin. The *confidential* nature of these Caring Relationships allows people who are going through difficult times to explore and work through their emotions (and their faith, if desired) in a safe, loving, trusting, non-judgmental environment with their Stephen Minister. Each Stephen Minister will meet in person each week with their one Care Receiver until the mutual decision is made to bring the Caring Relationship to a close. *Continued on page 4 . . .*

Our Savior Community

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- ◆ Our Stephen Ministers will receive **Continuing Education** likely every 2-3 months, which will also be offered to those students who took the initial SMTC. This continuing education may also at times be made available more broadly to other members of the congregation.
- ◆ Stephen Ministers will also regularly meet together for **Peer Supervision**, where they check in, pray for, and seek guidance and support from each other. At all times, the identity and personal concerns of each Care Receiver are kept confidential.
- ◆ In a few months, the Stephen Ministry Launch Team will be seeking individuals interested in becoming **“Lookouts.”** Lookouts are members of the congregation (or the Issaquah community) who receive a 20-minute training which teaches them about the confidential Referral Process and how to properly watch for and approach hurting people who might benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.
- ◆ Short presentations about Stephen Ministry are available for your committee or small group to help you understand more about how this program works and how we can collaborate.
- ◆ The next SMTC will likely be offered in the fall of 2027.

We now have four Stephen Ministers – that’s true. But it doesn’t end there! OSLC is now a Stephen Ministry Congregation, and we want all members of the congregation to learn more about Stephen Ministry and develop the awareness that Stephen Ministry is now an integral part of this congregation. By the grace of God and with your help, this program will be sustained and continue to grow. We will need additional Stephen Leaders trained up, as well as new Stephen Ministers to meet the needs of our church and the wider community. The Stephen Ministry Launch Team and each of the new Stephen Ministers request your prayers.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kristin-Luana or any member of the Stephen Ministry Launch Team: Ann T., Brenda W., Sandy A., Bonnie B., Lori D., and Jen W.

Thank you for your support!

Submitted by Jen Winslow, Stephen Leader

Photos on page 3 by Cynthia Delaney and Chuck B.



Northwest Washington Synod

The Spirit: June 2026



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the Bishop:

What is the Bible? Some say the Bible is a book that dropped down from heaven completely written. Some say the Bible is nothing but a bunch of stories from long ago that don't matter. Neither of these are accurate. Instead, what we as Lutherans believe is that the Bible is a sacred and holy book because through its 66 books—the stories, poems, history, laments, letters, and more—the Bible points us toward Jesus. Jesus, the One who reveals God's grace, mercy, justice, and love for the world.

As Lutherans, we understand that the center of the Bible is always Jesus. Martin Luther famously said that when we read scripture, we should ask, "Does it show Christ?" In other words, does this verse or passage reveal God made known in Jesus? Does it move us toward peace, wholeness, reconciliation, forgiveness, and love? Or is it being twisted to justify oppression, cruelty, and exclusion? Luther believed that faithful people do not simply quote isolated verses. We are to wrestle with scripture honestly and faithfully always through the lens of Jesus.

Luther also insisted that scripture must interpret scripture. No single verse stands alone. Every verse and passage and book is meant to be in conversation with the broader arc of scripture—with the prophets, the gospels, the letters, and, especially, with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This means we read the Bible seriously, but not literally. We pay attention to context, history, genre, and the larger witness of God's love. When a verse seems to pull us toward harm or violence, we are called to read the passage again, asking whether the interpretation is consistent with God as revealed in Jesus.

I chose to write on how to read the Bible because, quite frankly, what the bible is and biblical interpretation matters deeply right now. I see scripture being selectively quoted by people in power to dehumanize and scapegoat vulnerable communities, glorify wealth and power, and distort sacred texts into slogans. Verses are being lifted out of context while the broader witness of Jesus' life is ignored.

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Northwest Washington Synod

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Earlier this year, I watched a recruitment video for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that opened with helicopters flying overhead and the words from Matthew 5:9 on the screen: "Blessed are the peacemakers." What followed were images of heavily armed men in tactical gear carrying weapons, breaking down doors, and carrying out violent raids against immigrants. I could not help but notice how far this imagery stands from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the very place from which that verse is taken.

On the eve of the 250th anniversary of this country, I pray that we would reject the misuse of scripture and instead read scripture faithfully so that we might follow Jesus more closely. I pray that we would acknowledge our own complicity, resist the temptation towards power or fear, care for those who are vulnerable, and stand up and speak out truthfully and prophetically.

Let us return to the prophets who call for justice and care for the poor. Let us return to the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus blesses the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers. Let us return to the cross, where God rejected violence and domination as the final word. Let us rejoice in the resurrection, where hope, mercy, and love rise again even in the midst of fear and despair. Let us read scripture faithfully and let us follow Jesus.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they
who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Lutheran Counseling Network

June Faith and Everyday Life

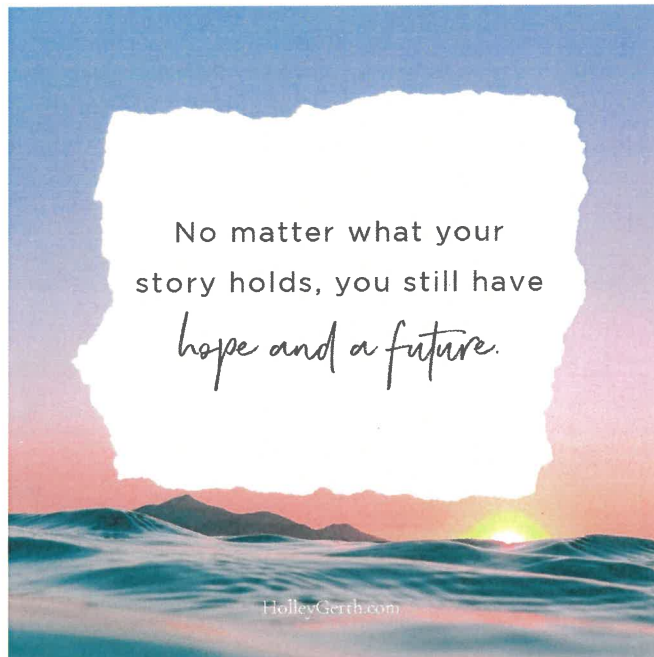
“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord;
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

This verse pairs nicely with another of my favorites: “Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

In psychology we talk about building a firewall between stress factors, which are beyond our control, and stress reactions, which are within our ability to control. We do this in two ways: physical relaxation and healthy self-talk. We can relax and let God’s peace come into our bodies because God is in charge. For the Christian, self-talk becomes prayer talk – supplication with thanksgiving.

Relying on God and God’s plans for us in this way helps us look forward to a future with hope!

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:

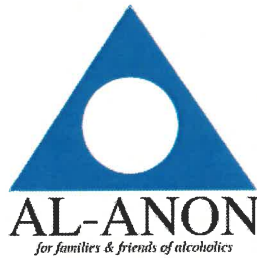


BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA



Spirit of Peace
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST


MASTER CHORUS
EASTSIDE
Feed Your Soul



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



ISSAQUAH
ARTS

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





We remember in prayer . . .

Marlice G., who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer; **Skylar H.**, for healing from major leg surgery (one-year-old great niece of Jan West); **Cheryl N.**, for health concerns; **Doug T.**, for proper diagnosis (husband of Dianne T.); **Rita H.**, who is undergoing aggressive chemo treatment for cancer (dear friend of Dianne T. and former OSLC member); **Dean V.**, for pain relief and a skilled surgeon for his upcoming neck surgery (son-in-law of Doug and Dianne T.); **Judy K.**, who's recovering from back surgery (second cousin of Dianne T.); **Christine W.**, may she feel God's love and guidance as her life moves on without Richard (friend of Anne E. and Mike A.); **Millie H.**, for her new tooth to come soon; **Shelley H.**, as she works through several health issues; **Jan S.**, who is recovering from health issues (friend of Shelley H.); **Bobbie M.**, for a strong heart and successful cancer treatment (grandmother of Holly H.); **Lois D.**, for more strength and good healing; **Hannelore M.**, for her heart issues; **Barbara H.**, for healing (wife of Rowan H.); **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.**

Mourning the death of loved ones: **Richard Walenceus** (friend of Anne E. and Mike A.)

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.; Larry P.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Rowan H.; Dianne T.; 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: **Sandy A.; 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.).

If you have any prayer requests to add (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, June 7	Jen W.	TBA	Stacy S.	Anne E.
Sunday, June 14	Debby B.	TBA	Jane W.	Tom K.
Sunday, June 21	Joan F.	TBA	Jean P. and Delaney C.	Jon S.
Sunday, June 28	Connie F.	TBA	Barbara F-S.	Jon S.

Sunday worship services are in person and livestreamed at 10:00 a.m. A link to the service is published in the weekly email (sent with the bulletin and hymn supplement), or you can go to the **Our Savior Lutheran Church Issaquah YouTube** channel (where the services are recorded and posted).



Please note: This schedule reflects information known as of May 29. It is subject to last-minute changes.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

6/5 Sharon M.
6/9 Jeannette P.
Paul S.
6/11 Lorna R.
6/14 Jane W.
6/15 Linda B.
6/18 Connie F.
Barbara H.
6/19 Chris A.
Paul I.
6/22 Cheryl N.
6/28 Larry T.
6/29 Dianna K.

Anniversaries

6/2 Dave & Candy B.
6/5 Cheryl L. & Ken D.
6/11 Paul & Nilvane S.
6/13 Ronald & Sharon M.
6/14 Suzanne & Paul D'E.
6/28 Wendy W. & Chuck B.



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!

June 2026

July 2026

June 2026

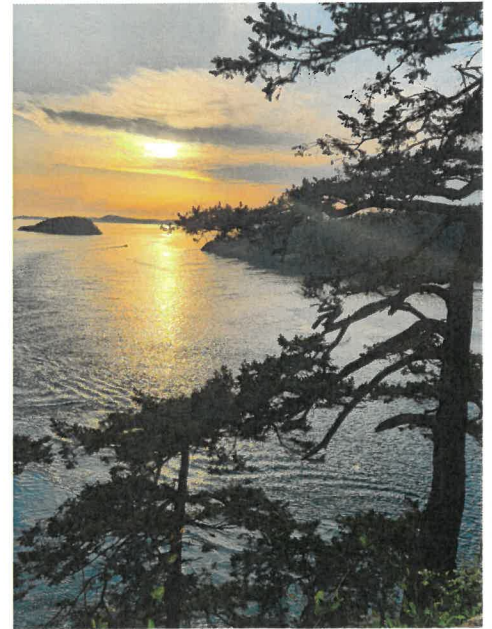
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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
May 31	Jun 1 10:30am Congregational 11:00am Line Dancing 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	2 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	3 6:00pm AA Meeting (Education Room and Children's Classroom)	4 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed 2:00pm Timber Ridge 6:00pm New Creation	5 5:00pm Sungmee Lee's Student Recital (Sanctuary)	6 9:00am Boy Scout Troop 676 Training for New 11:00am Boy Scout Troop 676 Eagle 12:00pm Peace Phan's
7 9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 12:30pm New Creation 1:00pm Kim Blanchard	8 3:00pm Companions Bible Study (online) 6:00pm Pizza & 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	9 1:00pm Community Meal Prep (Kitchen) 4:00pm Yuri Melekh Tunes Schimmel 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	10 6:00pm Tiny House/Property Visioning Group 6:00pm AA Meeting (Education Room and	11 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room) 6:00pm New Creation	12 6:30pm Gourmet Music and Culture Club Recital (Sanctuary)	13 12:00pm Grace Jun Student Recital (Sanctuary) 3:30pm Spirit of Peace Funeral and
14 9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 11:45am Zadinsky 12:30pm New Creation	15 10:00am Backflows NW to Turn on Irrigation 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	16 7:00pm Council Executive Committee (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	17 6:00pm AA Meeting (Education Room and Children's Classroom) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 676 PLC (Anderson	18 9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed 1:00pm Community 5:00pm RIC Group 6:00pm New Creation	19 1:00pm Senior Graduating Recital for Students (Andre) 4:30pm Sandy Saathoff's Student Recital	20 8:00am Master Chorus Eastside Concert (Tentative) (Sanctuary)
21 9:30am Spirit of Peace Worship (SOP) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee 12:30pm New Creation	22 10:30am Congregational Care Ministry (Library) 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	23 7:00pm Church Council (online) (Zoom) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	24 6:00pm AA Meeting (Education Room and Children's Classroom)	25 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room) 6:00pm New Creation	26 9:30am Mission Quilters (Anderson Hall) 10:00am AI-Anon (Ed Room) 6:00pm New Creation	27 8:00am Master Chorus Eastside Concert (Tentative) (Sanctuary)
28 9:30am Spirit of Peace 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual 11:00am Coffee 12:00pm Master Chorus	29 9:00am Marcus Talley Music Camp 3:00pm Companions 7:00pm Master Chorus 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop	30 9:00am Marcus Talley Music Camp (Anderson Hall) 7:45pm AA (Anderson Hall)	Jul 1	2 6:00pm AA Meeting (Education Room and Children's Classroom)	3	4

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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



Stay connected!
www.oslcissaquah.org

The deadline for the Summer (July/August)
Focus is Monday, 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. Olaf Baumann at 360-912-1830
or Pr. Kristin-Luana Baumann at 360-912-1245.