



March 4, 2026

*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People*

*Prayer of the Week:*

O God of peace,  
We pray amid the cries of war and the pain of loss.  
Where swords strike, grant dialogue;  
where fear reigns, grant courage for peace;  
where violence wounds, grant healing through your love.

Turn hearts toward mercy.  
Turn nations toward peace.  
Turn our world toward your vision of justice and reconciliation.  
Amen.

*A Prayer for Peace, The Deaconess Community*

*Daylight Savings Time begins this weekend! "Spring forward" one hour!!  
Your 'smart devices' will update on their own ... be sure to manually change your oven,  
microwave, car clocks, and any other analog clocks you might have! We will make the  
coffee a little stronger on Sunday!!*

## Upcoming Greeters and Coffee Hosts:

**March 8: Judy and Howard Johnson, Greeters; Jean Wahlstrom & Marv Kananen, Coffee hosts.**

**March 15: Katrin & Gunter Bonnofsky, Greeters; Teresa Lutterman, Coffee host**

Contact Sherry (sherry@salc.church) to be a Sunday greeter or to Host coffee hour.  
Sign up to provide flowers on the Flower Chart in the Narthex.

*Worship is at 10:00 am on Sundays, both in-person and via livestream.*

*Livestream: Visit [salc.church/media](http://salc.church/media) to access the bulletin and livestream link on YouTube. If you have a Google account, we invite you to offer a greeting or comment in the chat window.*

### Sunday, March 8

9:00 AM     Adult Education, Coffee & Conversation  
                 Sunday school, preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
10:00 AM     Worship, in-person/livestream

Lent Devotionals are available in the Narthex. Look on the wall by the stairs and the 'coffee table' in the seating area by the JEDI bookcase.

Reading for March 8  
John 10:1-18

**Tuesday Morning Men:** Every Tuesday at 8:30 AM, this group meets for discussion and prayer via ZOOM.



**Pastor's Bible Study** meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the library in person and on ZOOM. Contact Pastor Lara for the ZOOM link.

**Our women's retreat is this weekend! Keep all the participants in your prayers as they reflect on "Telling our story, Listening for God."**

***From Pastor Lara:** Yesterday (March 3) news reports revealed that some U.S. military commanders have told their troops that the Iran war is for “Armageddon” – to hasten the return of Jesus. This is upsetting for several reasons. The below response to these reports was written by the Rev. Dwaine Sutherland, an ELCA pastor. He explains the danger of this type of teaching, connecting it to Christian Nationalism, and reminds us that the Lamb of God calls us to a different path.*

### **A Pastoral Response to the “Armageddon” Claims Coming from Military Commanders, by the Rev. Dwaine Sutherland:**

Recent reporting has revealed that some U.S. military commanders have told their troops that President Trump has been “anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to Earth.” Service members have filed more than 100 complaints stating that these commanders framed the war in Iran as “part of God’s divine plan” and cited Revelation to justify it.

For Christians committed to the gospel—and for anyone who cares about the integrity of our public institutions—this is disturbing on multiple levels.

When military leaders preach eschatology [the theology of the end times] to their subordinates, they violate the First Amendment and undermine the religious liberty of every service member. Troops themselves have said these comments “destroy morale and unit cohesion” and contradict the oath they swore to uphold the Constitution. The military is not a pulpit, and commanders are not pastors. Using state power to promote a specific religious interpretation—especially one tied to war—is a misuse of authority and a breach of trust.

Beyond the constitutional issues, the theology itself is profoundly dangerous. It assumes that human beings can manipulate God into acting violently on our timetable. Scripture gives us a clear example of where that road leads.

Judas was connected to the Zealot movement—Jews who believed God’s kingdom would come through violent revolt against Rome. Some Zealots held a nationalist theology: God would restore Israel as a nation through force, and the Messiah would lead the uprising. Judas appears to have shared this expectation. Many scholars believe he tried to force Jesus’ hand—provoking a crisis that would compel Jesus to summon angelic armies, overthrow Rome, and establish a national kingdom. Instead, Judas’ plan collapsed. Jesus refused to take up the sword, was arrested, crucified, and Judas died in despair.

The lesson is clear: God cannot be manipulated. Attempts to coerce divine action end in tragedy. The Zealots expected the Lion of Judah. What they received was the Lamb of God.

*Continued on next page.*

Revelation captures this reversal beautifully. John hears about the Lion—but when he turns, he sees a Lamb who was slain, covered in his own blood, not the blood of enemies. This is the Messiah Christians follow: the one who conquers through self-giving love, not holy war. Christ’s return is not triggered by human violence. It is not a countdown we can accelerate through geopolitical conflict. It is God’s act alone—an act of restoration, not destruction.

Christian Nationalism today mirrors the Zealot impulse:

- It fuses God’s will with national power.
- It imagines violence as a tool for divine purposes.
- It treats political leaders as messianic figures.
- It claims that human conflict can usher in God’s kingdom.

This is not Christianity. It is a distortion of the gospel that endangers our neighbors and corrupts our witness. When commanders tell troops that war with Iran is “biblically sanctioned” or part of God’s plan for Armageddon, they are not preaching the gospel—they are preaching a modern form of Zealot theology. And just like in the first century, it leads people away from Christ, not toward him.

Christians must say clearly:

- Jesus does not need our wars to return.
- Violence does not advance God’s kingdom.
- No political leader is anointed to spark Armageddon.
- Christian Nationalism is a false gospel.

Our calling is not to hasten destruction but to bear witness to Christ’s peace, justice, and mercy. Christian Nationalists—our modern-day Zealots—must repent of the belief that God’s purposes can be achieved through coercion or bloodshed. The Lamb of God calls us to a different path.



**Tuesdays in Lent**  
 February 24 - March 24  
*Gather for Devotions*  
**11:45 AM**

*Bring a sack lunch and stay to eat with friends, new and old!*



**Join us Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 AM** for a time of Lenten devotions, Tazie music and prayer. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy time with your friends following the devotional time!

*Note: Because of our Tuesdays in Lent, there is no O.W.L.S. gathering in March. You are invited and encouraged to bring a sack lunch and come for devotions.*

**In "Making All Things New: Our Predicaments Encountering God's Presence,"** Timothy Weber integrates decades of experience as a Clinical Psychologist and a Lutheran Pastor in linking the multitude of life's predicaments with the living and active power of God's presence. In these essays delivered as homilies to Christian congregations, Weber artfully blends the real life circumstances that perturb and plague us with the resources offered in the Christian faith. Weber unpacks Christian theology in a refreshing manner that opens up new insights and hopeful pathways that will "make all things new." There are two volumes in this series, Volume I and Volume II, both entitled "Making All Things New", both available from the [Amazon website](#). Pastor Weber is donating all proceeds to Saint Andrew's.

**"Making All Things New:  
 Our Predicaments Encountering God's Presence"**

**Join us Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM**  
 as Pastor Tim Weber discusses  
 his two volume series.

**There will be coffee!**

**Author Event:**

Our JEDI Committee in collaboration with Bellevue/Eastside PFLAG\* is hosting this afternoon with author Nico Lang.

Helping our trans kids navigate the times we are in is necessary! Please plan to attend on **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM** and bring a friend!

*\*Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays*

Author Reading and Q&A

# American Teenager

*How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate And Finding Joy In a Turbulent Era*

March 7, 3:00pm  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
2650 148th Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA



W/ Nico Lang



**PFLAG**  
BELLEVUE/  
EASTSIDE



**GIRL SCOUTS**

This Sunday we will recognize and celebrate **Girl Scouts** in worship! Pull out those sashes and pins and we will see you there! PS – it's cookie season! Hope you are prepared to stock up on thin mints, samosa, trefoils and tag alongs!

## March:

- Lent Worship on Sundays
- Tuesdays, Mid-Week Lent Devotions (bring a sack Lunch)
- Joint Confirmation and Youth Group (March 8)
- Community Game Night (March 15)
- Sunday 9:00 AM - Adult Education:
  - March 8 – Coffee and Conversation
  - March 15 – Pastor Tim Weber discusses his books
  - March 22 – Kim Baima Hay;
  - March 29: Learn about the history of Sunset Hills Memorial.
- Palm Sunday, March 29



**Health & Wholeness News:** After prayerful consideration, the leadership of the Healing Prayer Ministry (*Terri Anderson, Cheryl Jurrus, and Pastor Lara*) has decided to put the Healing Prayer Ministry on hold for the next few months. This means that Healing Prayer, which was scheduled for the third Sunday of each month, will not be available for now. We only have two Healing Prayer Ministers at present, and we plan to use the time to re-group, recruit, and train new participants. We will keep you informed as to when this important ministry returns. In the meantime, please reach out to Pastor Lara if you would like to request prayers.



### March Blood Drive!

**Are you signed up???** Our next **BLOOD DRIVE** is scheduled for **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Use the QR code to sign up for a time! We had a great turn out in January – and most participants re-booked for this March date. We’re hoping to have 30+ participants this time around. Did you know you can win a trip to Maui when you drop a pint?? PS – the cookies and juice were great 😊



## Youth News:

### Confirmation/Youth Group:

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM youth converge on Saint Andrew's!! The joint Confirmation class will meet in the Faith and Family Center; High School Youth Group will meet in the Youth rooms. Food will be served!



**May Youth Weekends is happening at Camp Lutherwood** ... because Holden Village will not be ready for visitors this spring. Planning to attend?? Talk to Doug and get registered!



## Corner of Blessing - Food of the Month – March

Hopelink has asked us to collect **canned meats** for March. This includes tuna, chicken, SPAM, salmon, etc.



**THANK YOU!** St. Andrew's members contribute so much to The Sophia Way, including the nourishing lunches you provide for the ladies! In their world of uncertainty, these women are always so very appreciative of the good food they can depend on! **Our next food collection will be on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.** Look for more information in the next Trendings!

**Also, coming up...**

**Mid March-** Coffee with Dietra, discussing the Sophia Way goals for the year and beyond!

**Spring-** Move from Donation Center in Bellevue to??? (HELP!)

**End of April-** Volunteer Celebration (Susie Carney won a prize, last year!)

**May-**Bingo Night- Fun for Everyone!

**June or July-** Community Brunch at St. Luke's- Join in with other Eastside friends! Very Special!

**ELCC (Eastside Lutheran Church Community) churches, the Synod and the ELCA:**



The Eastside Lutheran Church Community (ELCC) are the ELCA churches on the eastside. WE have opportunity to share worship, resources, and events – separately and collectively. While we often share collaborative and in Be sure to check out the website [HERE](#).

**An ELCC newsletter is in the works! Sign up to receive the links!**

Newsletter opt-in instructions:

1. Go to the [ELCC website](#) and scroll to the bottom of the HOME page
2. View the Newsletter Signup section - add your email and press the SUBSCRIBE link
3. Now go to your email inbox and find the Tithe.ly email asking you to verify your email address, and then you are done!

**Good Friday ELCC Choir - Calling all Vocalists!**

**Friday, April 3 Rehearsal 5:45-6:46 PM, then sing for 7 PM Good Friday worship.**

Sponsoring Church: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mercer Island

Choir is led by Scott Hafsø, Director of Worship and Music at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Questions? Contact [music@htlcmi.org](mailto:music@htlcmi.org) or call 206-232-3270

**Lent Mid-Week Options in the ELCC (Eastside Lutheran Church Community)**

<p style="text-align: center;">St. Luke’s Lutheran Church Wednesday evenings 6:30 PM Soup Supper; 7:00 PM Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Savior Lutheran Church, Issaquah <i>Wednesday evenings Pizza and Prayer</i> 6:15 PM Pizza, 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church Tuesdays Lunchtime: 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Devotions/Music + Bring a sack lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mi Si Lutheran Church Wednesday Night Soup Supper &amp; Worship 6:00 PM Soup; 7:00 PM “Bless This Night” vespers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Wednesday Nights: 5:45 Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Wednesdays, 12 Noon Soup lunch and worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church Wednesdays: 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer</p>
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Contact Kurt ([kurt@salc.church](mailto:kurt@salc.church)) to volunteer!!

**Come & Join our**

# **ALL CHURCH WORK DAY**

**It's spring cleaning day for Saint Andrew's!**

**Saturday, March 21**

**9 AM - 12 PM**

**Jobs large and small for all abilities!**

**Snacks included !!**



## Calendar

### Wednesday, March 4

### Thursday, March 5

2:00 PM Timber Ridge Worship  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, March 6

*Office is closed*

### Saturday, March 7

2:00 PM Pride Event/Nico Long

### Sunday, March 8

9:00 AM Education Hour, Guest Speaker  
Sunday School (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
10:00 AM Worship  
4:00 PM Joint Confirmation  
Youth Group

### Monday, March 9

1:00 PM Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Council meeting/Hybrid

### Tuesday, March 10

8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men  
10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study  
11:45 AM Lent Devotions/Sack Lunch  
7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, March 11

2:00 PM CARE Team Meeting  
4:00 PM Adult Education Meeting

### Thursday, March 12

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, March 13

*Office is closed*

### Saturday, March 14

### Sunday, March 15

9:00 AM Education Hour, Pastor Weber  
Sunday School (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:15 AM KnitWits  
12:30 PM Acolyte Meeting, Virtual

### Monday, March 16

1:00 PM Staff Meeting  
6:30 PM Worship & Music Committee  
7:00 PM Discipleship Committee, Virtual

### Tuesday, March 17

*St. Patrick's Day*

8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men  
10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study  
11:45 AM Lent Devotions/Sack Lunch  
7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal



### Wednesday, March 18

You can access our  
weekly online calendar  
[HERE.](#)

**The Reverend Lara Forbes**, Lead Pastor  
pastor@SALC.church

**The Reverend Timothy T. Weber**,  
Shared-Time Pastor  
timweber@ yahoo.com

**Dr. Will Simpson**,  
Director of Music Ministries  
will@SALC.church

**Doug Johnson**,  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
doug@SALC.church

**Sherry Grindeland**, Fellowship Coordinator  
sherry@SALC.church

**Kurt Lutterman**, Facilities Manager  
kurt@SALC.church

**Kathy Fisher**, Communications Director  
kathy@SALC.church

**Vanessa Wilkie**, Handbell Choir Director

**Elaine Koga**, Choir Accompanist

**Abby Kasper**, Facilities Set-up

**April Daniel**, Records Administrator

**Ann Thorpe**, Sunday Church School Coordinator

**Joan Tweten**, Kitchen Team

#### SALC Family Social Media Accounts:



#### Find us on:

