



# the VOICE

December 2023

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People

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## Advent: Risk the Vulnerability of Hope

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.*

Isaiah 40:3-4

Advent is a season of new beginnings. It marks the beginning of the church year and the time leading up to Christmas. By nature, then, Advent is also a time of preparation. Outside the church, we are in a flurry of activity buying gifts, planning parties and family gatherings, and decorating our homes. Inside the church, our preparation moves at a different pace as we recall the promises of the prophets and sing of hope for God's promised future. As we remember and sing, we lean forward in anticipation (in a manner of speaking) as we prepare our hearts both for Christ's birth *and* for Christ's return.

Another way we prepare during this season is to hit "pause" and take time during the week to share a meal and spend time together in Christian community. This year, we will gather on Wednesday evenings, December 6, 13, and 20, for some soup and bread and have "Dinner Church" (see page 2 for the schedule). It's a format that allows for informal, yet thoughtful, conversation.

For our discussions, we will use selected reflections (each with an accompanying scripture text) from *Keep Watch with Me: An Advent Reader for Peacemakers*. I came across this resource just after the current conflict in Israel and Palestine began. Its authors include people who are incarcerated, people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community, and people who grew up in areas of conflict around the world. Their experiences of waiting in hope, and working toward making God's kingdom a reality here and now, encourage us to intentionally look for God at work in our own community and to consider ways we might participate more fully in that work.

As Christians, we anticipate Christmas because we know that December 25<sup>th</sup> comes every year. But the people who first waited for Christ – the promised Messiah – to be born waited in faith, not certainty. They had to risk the vulnerability of hope. As we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth and for Christ's return, may we take that same risk. May we encourage one another as we, in faith, lean forward in hope.

With peace,  
Pastor Lara ☩

## Worship

**Advent Wednesdays**  
**December 6, 13, and 20**  
**Dinner Church, 6:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24**  
**7:00 pm**

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25**  
No worship service  
scheduled.



## Faith Statements

On Reformation Sunday, October 29, we celebrated with two of our youth, **Joshua and Zoe**, as they affirmed their baptism during worship. We are proud of the work they have done and their commitment to learning and growing in faith. We give thanks to God for Joshua and Zoe and that they are part of the Saint Andrew's faith family!

# Advent and Christmas

## Midweek Dinner Church in Advent


Join us for evenings of small-group fellowship and soup as Saint Andrew's celebrates Advent with three Dinner Church gatherings. These will be held on Wednesdays **December 6, 13, and 20**.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall North at **6:00 pm** to socialize.

Grace will be said at **6:15 pm** followed by soup, bread, and conversation.

Around **6:30 pm** each table group will read and discuss an assigned Bible passage. We'll then have a large group discussion. Our time will conclude with communion at **7:15 pm**, and we will finish the evening by **7:30 pm**.

Work and school schedules, and traffic, may delay your arrival so we'll keep the soup warm until **7:00 pm**. Feel welcome to come anytime.

Want to help set-up, cook, or clean-up? Contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, 425-746-2529 or [sherry@salc.church](mailto:sherry@salc.church), for more details. 

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 livestream on YouTube. If you have a Google account, we invite you to offer a greeting or comment in the chat window.

### Worship Texts

#### December 3

##### First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-18

Mark 8:27-29

#### December 10

##### Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-4

#### December 17

##### Third Sunday of Advent

Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Luke 2:25-32

#### December 24, 10:00 am

##### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

Psalms 113

#### December 24, 7:00 pm

##### Christmas Eve

Luke 2:1-20

#### December 31

##### First Sunday of Christmas

Mark 1:1-20

Psalms 91:9-12

Worship Videos and Sermon Notes and Recordings of past services can be found at [SALC.church/sermons](http://SALC.church/sermons)



### Music Rehearsal Times

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:00 pm

Handbell Choir


Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

## Advent and Christmas Music

Advent is upon us soon. It is always a season filled with music and this year is no exception. Here's a preview of the season's special music:

- **December 3:** keyboard players Adam Camrud, Hillary Nordwell, Melanie Grad, and Elaine Koga.
- **December 10:** an anthem by the choir accompanied with four hands piano with Hillary Nordwell and Elaine Koga, plus prelude and postlude music by Teresa Lutterman on harp.
- **December 17:**  
**10:00 am** worship: an anthem by the choir.  
**4:00 pm:** Concert by the Bells of the Sound in Saint Andrew's Sanctuary.
- **December 24, 10:00 am** (Fourth Sunday of Advent): an anthem by the choir.
- **December 24, 7:00 pm** (Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve): our traditional Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve service with special music by the choir and instrumentalists.

It is my sincere wish that you will join us as we celebrate this joyous season.


Dr. Will Simpson, Director of Music Ministries 

## Bells of the Sound - Christmas Tapestry

Sunday, December 17 | 4:00 pm | Sanctuary

Join Bells of the Sound this holiday season as they weave together the musical voices of friends from around the globe. They will perform their Christmas Concert at Saint Andrew's on Sunday, **December 17**, at **4:00 pm**. The concert is FREE and open to the public. Invite a friend!

Bells of the Sound is a nationally acclaimed handbell ensemble that has been pioneering handbell artistry and excellence since 1989. This group of 15 auditioned musicians is known for their high-caliber, energetic and entertaining performances. They perform on one of the largest sets of handbells in the United States. Learn more about them at [www.bellofthesound.org](http://www.bellofthesound.org).

Bells of the Sound includes Saint Andrew's member and Handbell Choir Director Vanessa Wilkie. 



# Worship and Liturgical Arts

## Flowers 2024

We welcome flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays. The sign up for 2024 is online at [salc.church/flowers](http://salc.church/flowers) and on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Church staff keeps the chart in the Narthex and the online sign-up in sync, so you only need to sign up in one place. 📍



## Be a Greeter!

It's fun! You get to chat with folks as they arrive for church and most importantly, welcome people to Saint Andrew's.

We are looking for additional volunteers so that we can greet people at both doors each Sunday.

Sign up online at [salc.church/signup-greeter-coffeehost](http://salc.church/signup-greeter-coffeehost) for the date(s) you wish to greet. Or, contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, [sherry@salc.church](mailto:sherry@salc.church) or 425-746-2529, to sign up for a specific Sunday. 📍



## Children's Church Bags Expanded

A picture book, crayons, scratch paper, stickers, and a coloring sheet: What's not to like about the children's bags?

Now we have an expanded version – appropriate for children who can read. The big kids' bags include an age-appropriate book and a printed puzzle and pen. They still get scratch paper and stickers.

The cloth bags for littles are made of colorful printed material. The new bags for children who can read are a solid color.

Yes, all bags contain a snack. 😊

The bags are available each Sunday in baskets just outside the entrances to the Sanctuary. 📍

## Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir rehearsals are **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.**



We would LOVE to have you be a part the Handbell Choir!! Contact Handbell Choir Director Vanessa Wilkie, for information. 📍

## Sanctuary Refresh Update

The new lectern, baptismal font and Christ candle holder that you've been hearing about and seen photos of have been completed by the artist, Warren Weber, and are in place in the Sanctuary! They were dedicated during worship on Sunday, November 12.

The wood in these pieces is ash and is from trees blown over in a windstorm in the Bothell area and salvaged by the artist. The metal accents on all three pieces are aluminum. The lectern, font and candle holder are significantly lighter in color than what we've had in the Sanctuary before. That is on purpose. Worship and Liturgical Arts' (WLA) plan and vision in using the dedicated funds to refresh the Sanctuary is to transform the space from a darker, heavier feel to a lighter, ethereal aura - enhancing the beautiful outdoor views available through our windows.

Additionally, WLA has purposely elected to have furnishings reflect the story of our faith as much as possible. The new lectern base reflects the alpha and omega presence of God. The baptismal base and bowl reflect moving waters. In order to show the alpha and omega of the lectern, paraments will not be used on that furnishing. WLA will be working with the Altar Guild on how to best display seasonal colors in the Sanctuary.

In order to make the Sanctuary furnishings more connected together esthetically the next phase of the refresh will be to restore the altar rail to its natural oak by removing the dark stain and varnish.

As time-honored furnishings are replaced, WLA would like to hear your ideas as to what might be done to repurpose them. The temporary lectern we've used during the past 5 years will again be used as a classroom lectern.

Contact Sharon Gurtel, Worship and Liturgical Arts Committee chair, or Pastor Lara with questions. 📍





# Discipleship: Education ~ Sundays

## Sunday Discipleship Hour Forums

The coffee is ready at **8:45 am**, and Forums begin **promptly at 9:00 am**.

Unless otherwise noted, Forums are in-person only.

With permission of the presenter, Forums are recorded and posted online for later viewing ([salc.church/discipleship-hour-adults-page](http://salc.church/discipleship-hour-adults-page)). Contact Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus, [susan@salc.church](mailto:susan@salc.church) or 425-746-2529, with questions.

*Sunday, November 19 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall*

### Guided Bible Verse Discussion

**B**ring your Bible to this Forum for a guided discussion of the scripture reading for the day.

**Mikel Oswald** will help us navigate **Isaiah verses 5:1-7, 11:1-5**. Mikel will give us a bit of background and help us glean the message. We will wrap up the discussion around 9:45 am so you can take your new insights into our 10:00 am worship service.

*Sunday, November 26 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall*

### Advent Fair

**A**n annual event for all ages! See page 8 for details. Cookie bakers and event volunteers needed! Contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, 425-746-2529 or [sherry@salc.church](mailto:sherry@salc.church), for more information.

*Sunday, December 3 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall*

### Operation Bootstrap Africa

**E**ducation is the most powerful weapon. Hear stories of women creating change in patriarchal Tanzania.

We welcome **Jason Bergmann**, the Executive Director of Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA) for this presentation. OBA is the non-profit organization that handles the funding for MGLSS (MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School) in Tanzania, one of our budgeted global mission projects since 1998.

*Sunday, December 10 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall*

### Advent Bible Study

**Jean Wahlstrom** leads this focus on other traditional Advent biblical texts that are not being used this year by the narrative lectionary. Come and explore these together!

*Sunday, December 17 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall*

### Guided Bible Verse Discussion


**B**ring your Bible to this Forum for a guided discussion of a scripture reading; exact text to be announced. **Mikel Oswald** will help us navigate the reading.



## Sunday Church School

### Age 3 - Grade 5


Sundays | **9:00 am** | Room 106

**L**essons follow the Narrative Lectionary - the stories that Pastor preaches and are read in church. Contact Sunday Church School Coordinator Ann Thorpe with questions. 

## Youth Education

### Grades 6-12


Sundays | **9:00 am** | 322/Conference Room

**Y**outh Education meets at **9:00 am** on Sundays. All youth, grades 6-12 are invited to participate as we learn about the Bible and faith. This year we are focusing on the Gospel of Mark as we go through our second year of the Narrative Lectionary. 

## Cornerstone Ministry (Confirmation)

### Grades 7-8

Sundays | **9:00 am** | 322/Conference Room

**W**e have begun year two of Cornerstone Ministry. All youth in 7th and 8th grades are invited to participate. On Sunday mornings, youth participate in Youth Education at **9:00 am**; see the note about Youth Education for more. For more information, please contact Doug Johnson. 


**Please note: there are no Sunday Church School, Youth Education, or Forums on December 24 and December 31. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

# Discipleship Ministries

## Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Lara

Tuesdays | 10:00 am | 322/Conference Room and via Zoom


Midweek Bible Study is led by Pastor Lara. We spend time with the primary reading for the upcoming Sunday using the practice of *Lectio Divina*. This is a spiritual practice dating back centuries that allows for a deeper look at Biblical readings.

If you plan to attend and need the Zoom link, please sign up at [salc.church/midweek-bible-study](https://salc.church/midweek-bible-study). 

## Discipleship: Children / Youth and Family Ministries

### For Youth in Grades 6-12

#### 2024 Summer Youth Activities

We have had to make a change of plans for our summer trip in 2024. We want to know when our youth will be available for a mission trip next summer. Families with youth in grades 6-12 are invited to fill out this availability form to help us know when to schedule our trip: <https://forms.gle/QxmMWWbMr7nvsRJD8>. Please complete the form by **November 26**. 

#### Fall Youth Retreat ~ Recap

Sixty (60) youth and fifteen (15) adults from all over the Northwest Washington Synod gathered November 10-12 at Camp Lutherwood near Bellingham for a retreat. The main organizers were Doug Johnson from our church and Bobbi Cyr from St. Matthew's in Renton.

The overall theme for the retreat was "Created to be ME" with sessions focused on "Created to be Authentic", "Created to be Free", "Disruptive and Brave", "Created to be Disciples", and "Created to be \_\_\_\_" where youth had a packet of 80 characteristics, and over multiple rounds narrowed it down to their 5 favorite ones.


See more photos on our Saint Andrew's Families Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SALCFamilies>



#### Youth Gingerbread Houses


Sunday, **December 3** | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
301/Fellowship Hall

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to meet in Fellowship Hall on **December 3** from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm for a fun evening where we will make gingerbread houses, listen to Christmas music, play games, and more! Optional: bring extra candy to decorate the houses.

Please sign up at [salc.church/youth-gingerbread-houses](https://salc.church/youth-gingerbread-houses) so we know how many to expect! Questions? Contact Doug Johnson. 

#### Youth Christmas Party

Friday, **December 8** | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
210/Faith and Family Center

On Friday, **December 8**, all youth, grades 6-12, are welcome to join in a fun-filled evening of games and gifts. We will meet in the Faith and Family Center. Part of the evening will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Youth are asked to bring a wrapped gift of \$15 or less. If youth cannot afford or find a gift, please let Doug Johnson know. Come dressed in your favorite festive clothing and bring a festive snack to share. Please sign up at [salc.church/youth-christmas-party](https://salc.church/youth-christmas-party) so we know how many to expect! 



# Discipleship: Children / Youth and Family Ministries For Everyone!

## Family Game Night

Sunday, November 19 | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church

It was great to host Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church and Mt. Si Lutheran Church in October and we hope you can join us this month. Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church is hosting the Family Game night on **November 19**. A light dinner will be provided. Families are invited to bring a game and a snack to share. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3yr6whus>



(Spring dates will be coming soon!)

We hope that you will be able to join. Questions, contact Doug Johnson.

## Volunteer Interest Form

If you are taking the time to read this newsletter, you are probably very familiar with all the events, activities, and trips that the youth do each month. If you would like to help out with any of the events for this spring, I invite you to fill out the online interest form by scanning the QR Code or using the link below. Paper forms will be available in the Narthex as well. Thank you for your interest and willingness to help with children, youth, and family ministries here at Saint Andrew's. Questions? Contact Doug Johnson.

<https://forms.gle/Fs7ZYkc6DddUAWQL7>



## Tiny House Announcement!

Exciting news! The Tiny House that we built this summer with Mt. Si Lutheran Church and Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church has been placed at the Low Income Housing Institute's (LIHI) new Salmon Bay Village in the Interbay neighborhood of Seattle. We are a part of the first four houses to be placed, all from church groups. Our house sits alongside homes from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Sammamish Presbyterian Church, and Union Hill Church in Redmond. Thanks again to all from our cluster who helped build this Tiny House!



## Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Birthday to these youth who celebrate birthdays in November and December!



Jack B ..... 11/01  
Joshua H ..... 12/01  
Sadie J ..... 12/23

## For All Families

### Registration Forms

**We need your registration forms!** All youth and their families who are participating in activities with Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church during the 2023-2024 year need to complete a registration form. To find the youth registration form, go to [salc.church/youth-registration](http://salc.church/youth-registration) (or go to [salc.church](http://salc.church), click on the "Forms|Resources" tab and scroll down to the Youth Registration link.) Paper copies are available upon request.

If you are using a form saved from a previous year, please ensure the date in the footer of the form indicates "*revised July 2022*".

For more information, contact  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries Doug Johnson, [doug@salc.church](mailto:doug@salc.church) or 425-746-2529

Check out our Family Social Media pages:  
Facebook: [@SALCFamilies](https://www.facebook.com/SALCFamilies) | Instagram: [@salcfamilies](https://www.instagram.com/salcfamilies)



# Discipleship Ministries

## Trunk or Treat

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful Trunk or Treat volunteers who came out and made for an amazing day! Thanks to: Jean Wahlstrom; Ann Ross-Clarke; Anna McLeod and Ella; Mike, Juliet, and Alex Engan; Aaron, Mary, Luke, and Daniel Davis; Sara and Todd Carmichael; Johannes Grad, Melanie Grad, and Hillary Nordwell; Pastor Lara; Krista Johnson; Mark and Nancy Davis; Christine, Adam, and Andrew Camrud; Kurt Lutterman; and Ann Thorpe. YOU made this event special. Thanks to you we were able to connect with over 120 kids and their parents (over 300 total people!) on October 29. Part of the fun was a trunk decorating contest. Here are the winners:

- Best Candy – Ann Ross-Clarke
- Silliest Trunk – Mike Engan
- Best Host Costume – Grad/Nordwell Family
- Weirdest Trunk – Mark Davis
- Kid's Favorite Trunk – Todd and Sara Carmichael

Thank you again to everyone who came and I can't wait to do it again next year. 📷

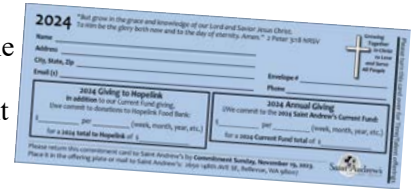


# Stewardship

## Stewardship Moment

For the past couple of Sundays, we have heard stories about the “life” of Saint Andrew’s, and testimonials from members of our congregation.

Congregation members have received a letter in the mail with an invitation to consider your gifts to Saint Andrew’s. Please read it carefully and respond generously on Stewardship Sunday, **November 19**. See you then!



Blessings,  
Kit Bowerman, Stewardship Committee Chair 📷

## Photo Directory

### Photo Directory

We are working on the updated congregation photo directory, and want to have everyone who is part of our congregation included (whether or not you are technically a “member”)! 📷



Photos are still welcome, and there are still several ways to get your photo into the directory:

- Contact Susan Hegedus to make arrangements to have your photo taken at church.
- Provide a *recently* taken photo of your family.
  - If it's digital, email it to Susan Hegedus or contact her for upload instructions.
  - If it's a printed photo, bring it to church and we'll scan it for you.
- Set up a Zoom call with Susan Hegedus and she will record a photo.
- If Pastor Lara comes to visit you, she will be happy to take your photo.

Visit [salc.church/photo-directory](http://salc.church/photo-directory) or contact Susan Hegedus, [susan@salc.church](mailto:susan@salc.church) or 425-746-2529, for information. 📷

## Cell Phone Numbers Included and Household Information

Beginning with this congregation directory, cell phone numbers for adults in the family will be included along with a home phone number. You can opt out of including cell number(s) or any other information you wish to keep private. Please make sure we have your preference! Also, if you did not update your contact information at a photo appointment and anything has changed, please let us know. Send the information to [info@salc.church](mailto:info@salc.church) or phone the office, 425-746-2529. 📷

# Fellowship

## Advent Fair ~ Enjoy the season!

Sunday, November 26 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall

Join us for the annual Advent Fair at 9:00 am on Sunday, November 26.

During this hands-on event, you can help assemble emergency kits for Hopelink and create your own Advent wreath or centerpiece.

Other crafts will be available.

Tempted yet?

Taste this - You will be able to decorate (and eat) a holiday cookie.

**Volunteers are needed** to help oversee the craft projects and provide cut-out cookies for the cookie table.

To volunteer for this fun event, contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland at 425-746-2529 or sherry@salc.church. 📞



## Nominating Committee / 2024 Congregation Council

The Nominating Committee is currently meeting and working to identify candidates for the 2024 Congregation Council election at our next annual meeting.

If you are interested in being considered to serve on the Council, or would like to suggest someone, please complete a “Nominating Request Form” available in the Narthex and place it in the appropriate collection box available there; submit a form online at [salc.church/nominating-committee](http://salc.church/nominating-committee); or speak with a member of the Nominating Committee: Matt Camrud – chair, Karin Eklof, Kari Henderson, Joyce Kasper, and Lois Nelson.



The deadline date for receiving suggested nominations is Sunday, **November 26**. If you have questions, please talk with any member of the committee. 📞

## Dorcas Circle

### Quilting

Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, **December 5**, in 302/Fellowship Hall South from **9:30 am until 12:30 pm** to assemble and sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

All members and friends of Saint Andrew’s are welcome to join us. Sewing skills not required!

### Other Ways to Help

There are many other ways that you can support our mission of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, including the following.

- **Donate double, queen, or king size flat sheets that are in good condition, without any tears, holes, or stains.**
- Cut 11-inch quilt squares at home using washable fabrics. Dorcas has a lot of fabric that you could bring home from church to cut into quilt squares.
- Lutheran World Relief does not accept quilts that have any flags or religious symbols.
- Sew quilt tops at home. Quilts need to be 60 inches by 80 inches.
- Donate crochet or embroidery thread (any color) to tie quilts.

Donations can be placed in the Dorcas basket near the elevator in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Linda Willenberg. 📞

## Cider and Carols

Friday, December 1 | 6:00 pm

Saint Andrew’s Parking Lot

(indoors if there is inclement weather)

Join the Saint Andrew’s family for a Parking-lot Christmas carol singalong at **6:00 pm** Friday, **December 1**.

Enjoy fellowship, hot cider and a chance to sing a number of our beloved carols as we “Grow Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People.”



Plan to dress warmly for being outside and if you can, bring a favorite sweet or savory treat to share. We will have hot beverages and a hot fire to gather around. There will be time for fellowship before Director of Music Ministries Will Simpson leads us in song.

Questions? Check in with a member of the Congregation Council or Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, sherry@salc.church. 📞





# Fellowship

## Faith and Family Center Dedication and Blessing

We invite you to come and celebrate the dedication and blessing of the new Faith and Family Center on Sunday, **December 10**, following worship. Following the blessing and dedication, we will have a light reception for people to enjoy some treats and explore the space. Questions? Contact Doug Johnson. 📞



Mural created by Doug Johnson

## Older Wiser Lutheran Saints (OWLS)

Tuesday, **December 12** | **11:45 am** | 301/Fellowship Hall North

### Celebrate the Season with OWLS

Sing your favorite carols at the SOWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran Saints) holiday gathering at **11:45 am** on Tuesday, **December 12**.

We'll continue our Saint Andrew's tradition of a festive potluck with a main dish of baked ham. The ham will be provided, you bring a side dish of your choice.

**Dr. Will Simpson**, the Saint Andrew's Director of Music Ministries, will lead the musical portion of the party.

You don't have to be older or wiser to join this fun gathering.

**Note on the date:** OWLS usually meets the third Tuesday of the month but because of Christmas, we're gathering a week early.

For more information, contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, 425-746-2529 or sherry@salc.church. 📞



## Tuesday Morning Men

Every Tuesday | **8:30 am** | via Zoom

Tuesday Morning Men meet weekly for book and bible study. Join us for an interesting conversation, prayer, and fellowship!

Bring your Bible and coffee and join us on Tuesday mornings at **8:30 am**!

Contact the church office for information on joining this online gathering. All men are welcome!! 📞



## Thank You

Thank you to our Saint Andrew's family for all the prayers, cards, visits and email check-ins while Ruth has been recovering from her fall. She continues to improve every day and we all appreciate your love and support.

Margaret, Daniel and Joshua Santjer, and Ruth Taus 📞

## Snippets of Gratitude

*the VOICE* routinely shares notes of thanks as we receive them. "Thank You" is expanding to include "Snippets of Gratitude" and invites everyone to recognize and submit notes of appreciation for ways others in our congregation have impacted us and shown ways that we are the hand and feet of Christ in our midst. Snippets can be signed or anonymous; short or long.

- *During a recent worship service, a young member of our congregation noticed that I was not standing close enough to anyone to hold hands during the Prayer after Communion. Their care and concern for me made my day!*

Please send snippets of gratitude to Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus, susan@salc.church, for inclusion in future issues of *the VOICE*. 📞

# Health and Wholeness

## Caring Ministry

Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas!  
But what if your holidays are not happy and your Christmas is not merry?

When we are dealing with grief, depression, or illness and the holidays are pushing at us from all sides, we can be overwhelmed! Holidays can be traumatic for people who have lost loved ones during the year. Holidays bring back memories that can bring heartache.

Our Health and Wholeness Ministry Committee has members who reach out with notes of comfort and support including “Care Notes” that we purchase. One is titled: “Getting through the holidays when you’ve lost a loved one.” This is a good time to be sensitive to those around us who are struggling and to do whatever we can to ease their pain.

The Health and Wholeness Committee also keeps a display of Care Notes in the Narthex near the Corner of Blessing. Feel free to take anything that interests you or that you can pass on to a friend. Join us in this ministry of caring.

We also have a card ministry that sends cards to members who are ill, recovering from surgery, grieving, or needing encouragement. Saint Andrew’s Stampers provides beautiful, handmade cards for us to send. If you know of someone who could benefit from a special card, please let Stella Nieman know.

Don’t forget our Care Team that meets monthly to make sure someone has “checked in” with members who haven’t been attending church. We let them know they are missed and we haven’t forgotten them. This was especially important during the pandemic. Did you know we have members who have moved away but still participate in our online service and are a part of our community?


“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.” 1 Peter 3:8

Cheryl Jurrus and Stella Nieman 




## KnitWits

Saint Andrew’s KnitWits (Knitting as Witnesses) is a fellowship group whose primary mission is to provide items of comfort that are knit or crocheted. Their on-going projects include prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, lapghans, baby blankets, baby booties, chemo caps, hats, wash cloths, sweaters, and scarves. The work of the KnitWits’ hands keeps many people warm and reminds them that someone cares.

The KnitWits meet **in-person** on the third Sunday of each month following worship. The next meeting is Sunday, **December 17, at 11:15 am** in 322/Conference Room. All are welcome! Contact KnitWits coordinator Dianne Chong for more information. 

## Personal Care Kits ~ Thank You!

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

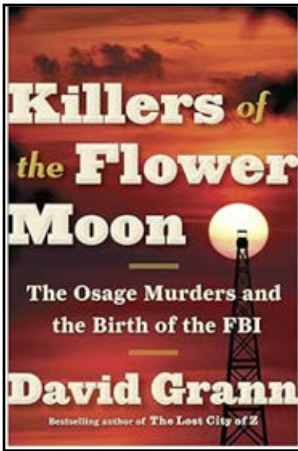
Many thanks to all who contributed to and volunteered to the fall drive for Personal Care Kits. The Health and Wholeness Committee was able to assemble 137 kits to be sent to those in need. A special thanks to the following youth who gave of their time to lend a hand in assembling many of the kits: Adam C, Philip G, Samuel G, Andrew C, and Avery L. A job well done! 



# JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Group

## Book Suggestions

### A Book Suggestion: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann



*Killers of the Flower Moon* is a true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe.

Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. One of her relatives was shot. Another was poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more Osage were dying under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered.

As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

This is a captivating story. It was hard to put down. I was familiar with the horrible way that our government has treated the indigenous people. I wasn't familiar with the Osage people, who were driven to some of the most unusable and undesirable land in Oklahoma. At least, until oil was discovered under that land. I was surprised (appalled) by the way the Osage people were treated by the government (declared unfit to handle their own finances), the courts, law enforcement, and their "friends". The story is told from the perspective of two individuals, Mollie Burkhart, an Osage woman, and Tom White, an FBI investigator. I found this a very good book, both as a murder mystery and history of the Osage people. A movie of the same title, based on this book, was released in October. I haven't seen it yet, so I can't recommend it, but understand that it is very good despite its length (3 hours 26 minutes). I definitely recommend this book – Dick Szabo (dick.szabo@comcast.net)

*Killers of the Flower Moon*: in addition to being available from most book sellers, is available from the King County Library System: as a book, a large print book, an eBook, an audiobook on CD and a downloadable audiobook. It is also available through the Libby app as a downloadable book and a downloadable audiobook. 📖

#### Editor's note:

On Thursday, **November 30, at 6:30 pm**, Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools is hosting a book/movie discussion of *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The address is 6215 196th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036. Kay Knott from the Upper Skagit Tribe and Pastor Jenna Bergeson lead this discussion, and anyone who has read the book or seen the movie is welcome. They will be using a study guide published by the ELCA. More information and a requested RSVP are at: <https://www.trinitylutheranchurch.com/event-details/book-movie-discussion-killers-of-the-flower-moon>

## *Pastoral Acts*

### **Baptisms**

None

### **Weddings**

None

### **Memorial Services**

Larry E. Berglind, November 4, 2023

Nancy P. Davis, November 17, 2023

### **Committals**

Larry E. Berglind, November 4, 2023; Saint Andrew's Memorial Garden



# Congregation Council

## President's Corner

from Carolynn Ferris, Congregation Council President

### ELCA Cluster Collaboration

I had the chance to meet with all of the Cluster pastors on November 8 to discuss how we might refresh our efforts around collaboration with one another. The pastors were from Saint Andrew's, Saint Luke's, Cross of Christ, Sammamish Hills, Mount Si, and Our Savior Lutheran churches. There is a high level of commitment around pursuing new ideas in how we might "do church" to increase our impact in the community, reenergize our congregations, and prayerfully steward our resources. There is a great deal of support in exploring new and exciting ideas.

A meeting is scheduled for November 18 with all of the pastoral staff and Executive Committees of the Cluster churches to further discern what our next steps might be.

More to come!

### 2024 Nominating Committee

Art Gurtel organized the first meeting of this year's Nominating Committee. Matt Camrud was elected to be chair. They are tasked with finding candidates for the four open positions on the Council, as well as identifying a slate of individuals to serve on next year's Nominating Committee.

### Office Staffing

As you know, Bill and Kathy Brueggemann are planning to move to Tacoma in the near future. Fortunately, he has committed to remain as Treasurer for at least the next six to nine months so we have time to consider how we might transition this role.

Since assuming the Treasurer role, Bill (with the help of Susan and several volunteers) has also taken on a good deal of the bookkeeping duties, which were formerly handled by Russ Stark as a paid staff member. This arrangement is not sustainable for the long term. Therefore, it is important that we revise our office staffing model to meet our needs going forward.

The Executive Committee has discussed different options to address this need as well as gathered input from Council on the best next steps. No final decisions have been made at this point.

### Saint Andrew's Housing Task Force

The Congregation Council passed a resolution to formally empower a Housing Task Force to guide us through the process of determining whether to move forward with an affordable housing project on our property. This group will be responsible for gathering information, communicating with congregation members to collect input and direction, and then ultimately make a recommendation to Council. They are tasked with getting information and feedback from various stakeholders such as Imagine Housing, neighbors, affordable housing developer/owners in the area, the City of Bellevue, and any other entity that can help us understand the potential impacts to Saint Andrew's and our community.

They will also be asked to offer multiple and varied means to communicate with the congregation in order to inform and answer questions, as well as gather insights, concerns, suggestions and input from as many congregation members as possible.

The Task Force is chaired by Hal Ferris. Task Force members include Kurt Lutterman, Kit Bowerman, Stephanie Lester, Carol Schneider, John Nelson, and Dick Lee.



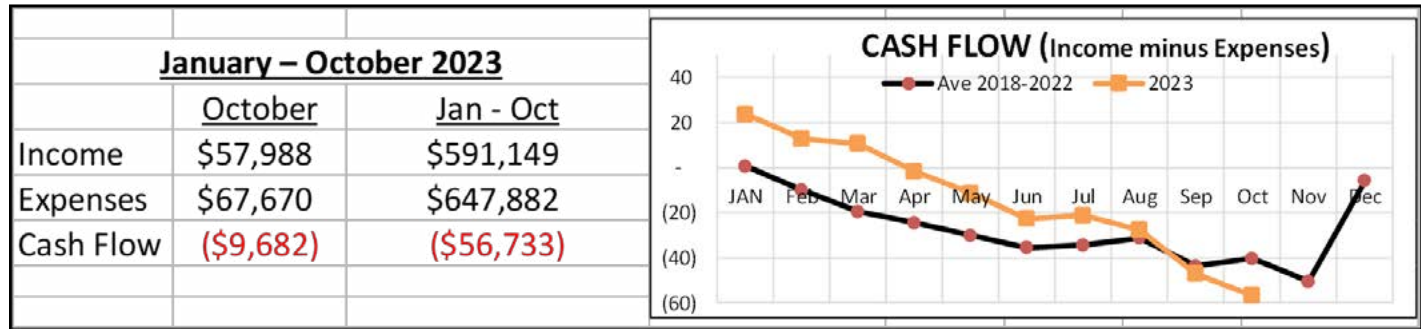
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**Packets containing minutes from Council meetings and reports from all committees are available to review in the church office and by request. Contact the church office, [info@salc.church](mailto:info@salc.church) or 425-746-2529.**

# Congregation Council

## Treasurer Note

from Bill Brueggemann, Congregation Treasurer



### Comments

- **Cash Flow** for the year is now \$56,700 **negative** (more money spent than received).
- **Income** for the year is well below what is needed to fund the ministries of the church. We are asking everyone to review your giving and make an extra contribution to eliminate this deficit.
- **Expenses** are \$18,800 below budget for the year. Staff and committees are doing a good job managing expenses.

### Electronic Contributions

We plan to stop accepting contributions using **VANCO** (aka Simply Giving) by the end of December. This is to save costs and to ensure accurate membership contribution records. Members who are still using **VANCO** will be contacted to facilitate switching to **Tithe.ly**. You may switch at any time by clicking the **GIVE/DONATE** button on the Saint Andrew's website and registering your contribution with **Tithe.ly**. There is also a button to remove your contribution from **VANCO**. Forgot your **VANCO** password? No problem, just email financial secretary Jan Bowerman, or myself at [bill@salc.church](mailto:bill@salc.church) and we will cancel **VANCO** for you.

### Giving Options

You may contribute in many ways:

- Ask your bank to automatically send a check periodically to Saint Andrew's.
- Donate from your bank account or credit card by going to [salc.church/giving-options](https://salc.church/giving-options) and selecting the "Tithe.ly Online Giving" button. NOTE: a processing fee is charged for electronic transactions (the church will pay this or you can opt to cover the fee.)
- Mail or drop off cash or checks to the church.
- On Sundays, you can drop cash or checks into the offering plate.
- Transfer shares of stock or required IRA distributions. Please contact Bill Brueggemann for the necessary forms.

Please contact me at [bill@salc.church](mailto:bill@salc.church) if you have any questions. 📧

## At the November 13 Congregation Council Meeting....

**Pastor Lara** led a devotion on Mark 2:1-12.

**PresidentCarolynn Ferris' Report:** See President Carolynn Ferris' "President's Corner" report on page 12.

**Housing Task Force:** The Council approved the resolution to authorize the formation of the Housing Task Force.

**Pastor Lara Forbes' Report:**

- Pastor reviewed worship plans for Advent and Christmas.

**Finance:** See Treasurer Bill Brueggemann's "Treasurer Notes" on page 13. In addition:

- A e-blast letter is going to the congregation with an "ask" for year-end giving. Another communication is going to contributors with a special edition of their 2023 year-to-date contribution report.
- 2024 Budget Development: An initial budget draft was shared with the Council.

### Committee Highlights:

- Communications Committee liaison Rob Parks shared a document outlining a decision-making process for congregation communications.
- Outreach and Servant Ministries liaison Jean Wahlstrom shared the committee's support for those affected by the conflict in Israel and Gaza.



# Outreach and Servant Ministries

## Our Core Ministries....

*Core Outreach Ministries* of Saint Andrew's are specific areas of ministry which congregation members are most involved in with various resources, including time, expertise, and financial resources. Our *Core Outreach Ministries* are:

- ~ Affordable Housing/Homelessness
- ~ Food Security
- ~ Christian Education non-profits
- ~ Local Ministries
- ~ Global Missions

## Love Tree



The Saint Andrew's traditional Love Tree, an opportunity for helping our neighbors in need, is tagged and ready!

We will provide holiday gifts for The Sophia Way, KidVantage, and Bridge Disability Ministries.

The Love Tree is set up in the Narthex. Tags with gift requests or suggestions are on the tree.

You pick a tag (or two or three or more) and purchase the suggested item.

Return the items no later than **December 3.**

Tags for KidVantage include clothing items and toys. \$25 gift cards are needed for The Sophia Way.

Questions?

Check with our Love Tree volunteers: Joyce Arnold, Jay Baxter, Jan Bowerman, or Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, [sherry@salc.church](mailto:sherry@salc.church).

## Volunteer Opportunity to Support KidVantage

Saturday, **December 2** | 9:00 am - 12:00 noon | KidVantage in Issaquah

Volunteers are needed for a work party at KidVantage on Saturday, **December 2.** Space is limited.

Our volunteers will probably be helping Saint Andrew's member Liz Rudolph sort toys for holiday gifting. Liz volunteers at KidVantage and helps oversee the toy storage and distribution.

The minimum age for youth to help is 14.

To volunteer, go to [salc.church/volunteer-at-kidvantage](http://salc.church/volunteer-at-kidvantage) or contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, [sherry@salc.church](mailto:sherry@salc.church) or 425-746-2529.



## The Sophia Way

Lunch on November 29

Our next lunch for the women at Sophia's Place is on Wednesday, **November 29!**

Food drop-off is **November 28.**

Contact Joyce Arnold to volunteer to provide food.



## Dorcas Circle Collection for Compass Housing Alliance

From **now through January**, Dorcas Circle is collecting some clothing items as well as toiletries for Compass Housing Alliance.

Below is a list of most need items.

- Warm hats
- Men's white T-shirts in sizes large through 4XL
- Men's boxer shorts in sizes large through 4XL

**All clothing items must be new, in original packaging and not washed.**

**Compass Housing Alliance currently has a large supply of socks, and is currently not requesting donations of socks.**

Toiletries and Hygiene items are always needed, including the following;

- Bars of soap
- Shampoo
- Hair conditioner
- Individually wrapped toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Disposable razors



Donations can be placed in the baskets in the Narthex near the elevator.

If you have any questions please contact Linda Willenberg.



# Outreach and Servant Ministries

## Ministry of the Month for December ~ Lifewire

*Most Generous God, we thank you for the love and protection of all your people. We thank you for the resources provided through LifeWire to people affected by domestic violence. We thank you for the people at LifeWire working to see that these people can find safety and healing. Bless and sustain their work. Strengthen our partnership with LifeWire to support their mission. And watch over and protect the people in our neighborhoods that turn to LifeWire for a brighter future. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*



**L**ifeWire's mission is to support survivors of domestic violence on their path toward safety, stability, and healing. They work to end domestic violence by changing community beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. They do this in a number of ways.

LifeWire supports survivors: Since 1982, they have partnered with more than 160,000 domestic violence survivors on their courageous journeys towards safety, stability, and healing. By offering one-on-one advocacy and support, they work each day to ensure the safety and enduring independence of every survivor who walks through their doors.



LifeWire provides paths to safer housing: Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women and children in the U.S. They believe that no survivor should have to choose between staying in an abusive relationship and becoming homeless. That's why they've developed a wide range of services to help keep survivors and their families off the streets and in safe and stable housing.

LifeWire promotes healthy relationships: They partner with area high schools, Bellevue College, and UW Bothell to ensure that young people have the tools they need to identify and build healthy relationships, support each other and family members, and practice leadership skills that promote gender equity and challenges violent attitudes and behaviors.

### Support for Lifewire:

Saint Andrew's supports LifeWire through the outreach portion of the church budget.

There are a couple of current ways that you can help:

- You can provide financial support to LifeWire with a check to Saint Andrew's with "LifeWire" on the memo line or directly to LifeWire at: <https://www.lifewire.org/donate/>
- You can volunteer to support them in a number of ways. For information on volunteering go to: <https://www.lifewire.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

### The latest news from LifeWire:


- LifeWire is adding to its housing facilities. In 2022, they purchased a 25 unit apartment complex. These are called the Hope Starts Here Apartments. They are completing renovations and updates and there will be families moving into these units this fall.
- Over the last several years, LifeWire has woven racial equity into their strategic plan and values, increased the racial diversity of its staff and board, reviewed its policies and practices with a racial equity lens, and trained their staff, board, and volunteers on anti-oppression work.

### Some Background on LifeWire:

In 1982, LifeWire opened their doors as Eastside Domestic Violence Program (EDVP), providing for survivors in east and north King County, offering support groups and emergency shelter. Since then, their services have grown to include survivor-driven advocacy, mental health therapy, legal advocacy, shelter, and housing. LifeWire is the most comprehensive domestic violence service agency in Washington State and the largest domestic violence housing provider in King County—providing emergency and relocation services for survivors and their children who would otherwise have to remain in an abusive household or become homeless.

LifeWire provides advocacy services partnering individually with each survivor to tailor the support to the specific needs of that individual. These services include a 24-hour helpline, survivor driven advocacy, adult and children support groups, children and youth services, legal advocacy, and mental health therapy.

LifeWire has a number of homelessness and housing stability services. These include My Sister's Home (an emergency shelter), My Friend's Place (a transitional shelter), Hotel Vouchers, Flexible Funds, Rapid Rehousing and Rental Assistance.

LifeWire is involved in several programs aimed at preventing domestic violence. LifeWire works with teens and young adults to develop healthy foundations early in life, preventing future violence. 

# Outreach and Servant Ministries

## Kafika House Tanzania (formerly known as The Plaster House) Grateful to God and God's Generous People!!!

We rejoice at the successful luncheon held at Cross of Christ, jointly sponsored with Saint Andrew's. **Sarah Rejman**, the Director and Founder of **Kafika House**, gave an explanation on the necessity for the name change in order to expand the mission to treat more children in all of Tanzania. She reported on the three sites where they are currently treating children: Themis Hill in Arusha, FAME hospital in Karatu, and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi. She gave an exciting update on a new 14-acre site near Arusha where they will build two surgical theaters with an adjacent 200-bed residential unit, thus eliminating the need to transport the children to and from surgery. Follow the progress and future developments on [kafikahouse.org](http://kafikahouse.org).

Special thanks for the members of Saint Andrew's and Pastor Lara for attending to learn more about this Saint Andrew's global outreach project. Hats off to the collaborative team that made it all happen: Dick and Debbie Szabo and Jean Wahlstrom (with Marv) of our Outreach committee; as well as Cross of Christ's Pastor Dave Thomas, Yona Isinika and Lugano Minga of Cross, and Matt Pohle, board member of Friends of Kafika House and member of Cross of Christ. 🙏



## MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS), Tanzania

### A Graduation to Remember

from OBA staff, Brianna Engh, who attended

The chapel service began with the swish of floor-length graduation dresses, sounding almost like rain as the 57 graduates of the **2023 Form 4 Graduation Class** entered the MGLSS chapel. Only the day before these OBA sponsored students were dressed in school uniforms, but now this was their day. We watched in amazement as the graduates, adorned in traditional Maasai fabrics, decorated with countless, shiny, silver-chained discs, and many beads, entered the chapel. The Bishop addressed them, citing a passage from the Bible, and wished them well on their journeys. A former volunteer teacher at MGLSS, Beth Elness-Hanson, better known as "Mama Anya," told the young women to "remember their culture and their language." After worship, we all gathered outside under a tent to accommodate all the parents and guests. Here the class awaited their Certificates of Completion as their teachers, peers, and public figures showered them with words of encouragement.

The Head of School, **Tulizaeli Mbise**, spoke first, encouraging the young women. A Maasai community speaker thanked the school and its sponsors for educating "our daughters," telling the Maasai to be proud of their girls. Then the graduates "walked," each shook hands with all the special guests as they were presented with their completion certificates. A traditional meal followed. OBA was so proud and honored to have attended graduation, sharing the moment with two staff members and three scholarship donors.

Even as the school celebrated the graduation, 62 very young students in the Pre-Form One program were gathering. They await the arrival of perhaps three more as the new school year begins in January. It is an amazing place doing wondrous things.

### Uniforms

Let's help the school prepare for these **65 new** students. Please consider donating **\$60 to help provide an initial uniform** for a student. See the display during December in our entry way for more details or contact Jean Wahlstrom.



Visit <https://bootstrapafrica.org/> to learn more about Operation Bootstrap-Africa and its work. For information about MGLSS, visit: <https://bootstrapafrica.org/project/supporting-girls-education/>. If you have questions, contact Jean Wahlstrom. 🙏

# Outreach and Servant Ministries

## Collection Emphasis for Hopelink ~ November


This year at the Advent Fair, we are packing Emergency Bags for the Hopelink Food Bank, so we are collecting the food items to go in the Emergency Bags. Hopelink has asked that we pack “No-Cook” bags this year. The Bellevue food bank has no supply of “No-Cook” bags. They need these to support those with no access to cooking facilities (homeless).



The items in these bags need to be able to be eaten directly without being heated or the use of a can opener. **ALL CANNED ITEMS MUST HAVE A POP-TOP LID.** These need to be things that can be eaten cold and plain.

These are the items that go in each “No-Cook” Emergency Bag. We are collecting these items during **November**:

- 1 - Peanut Butter – (~16 ounce plastic jar – no-stir)
- 1 – Applesauce or Fruit Cups Package – (packages of 4 or 6 cups [about 4 ounce cups], kept in original packaging so that it contains the label, ex: peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce)
- 2 – Pouched Meat or Jerky – (beef jerky or meat sticks [like slim Jims]; pouched meat like tuna, chicken, salmon [Starkist is a common brand]). Common sizes for both are about 3 ounces.
- 2 – Canned Meals/Soups – (examples: ~15-20 ounce chili, beef stew, canned ravioli, hearty Progresso soups such as: beef pot roast, chicken pot pie, Italian Wedding, etc.) – **Pop-Top lid!**
- 6 - Granola Bars – (look for ones that are at least 150 – 200 calories each – total at least 1,000 calories)
- 5 - Snack Items (high in calories and will not crush easily. Examples: dried fruit, nuts, trail mix. Individual packages – look for ones that are at least 100 – 150 calories each – total at least 500 calories)
- 2 - Shelf-Stable Drinks – (juice boxes are a good option.)

Look in the Corner of Blessing, online at [salc.church/hopelink](http://salc.church/hopelink) and in *Trendings* for the chart that shows what items are still needed to be able to pack the most bags. 


## Collection Emphasis for Hopelink ~ December

As the weather turns colder, Hopelink has asked us to collect hot beverages during the month of December. These are much appreciated during the colder months. They would like us to collect tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and apple cider.

So, during December we will collect:

- **Tea** – boxes of around 20 tea bags.
- **Coffee** – pre-ground, non-decaf in bags of 12 – 16 ounces.
- **Hot chocolate** – boxes of 6 – 12 packets
- **Apple cider drink** – boxes of 6 – 12 packets



Bring all donations, including paper bags, to the Corner of Blessing in the Narthex. 

Hopelink has asked us to continue to collect **paper grocery bags**. They have an ongoing need for these.





# Outreach and Servant Ministries


## Helping the People Affected by the Violence in The Middle East (Israel and Gaza)

You have undoubtedly read or heard about the ongoing violence in Israel and Gaza. Thousands of innocent civilians are caught in the middle of this. You may be wondering how you can help these people impacted by this situation.


First off, pray for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need.

Our Outreach and Servant Ministries Committee has directed \$1,000 from the New Opportunity fund to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) directed to the "The Middle East Crisis". The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response is providing support to Augusta Victoria Hospital so it can arrange accommodations for patients and staff unable to return to Gaza.

The need is great and urgent. If you are able, you are encouraged to provide support for the people affected by this violence. You can do that directly at the Lutheran Disaster Response website at: <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>. Ensure the designation is "Middle East Crisis". Or you can write a check to Saint Andrew's and put "Middle East Crisis" on the memo line. Donations made directly to LDR rather than through the church will reach the people affected quicker.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) assures that your gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be used entirely (100%) to provide long-lasting support to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region. For further information about LDR's efforts visit: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Middle-East-Crisis>. 

## Thank You from Mission Partners

Saint Andrew's receives many letters of thanks from the Mission Partners to whom we donate funds, goods, and time. Check out the "Outreach and Servant Ministries" section of the bulletin board in the Narthex to learn more about these organizations and how our donations help! 

## Lantern Hill, Mexico

by Shana Nielsen

There is a new addition coming to the constantly growing, always inspiring Lantern Hill after-school tutoring program! A building on the same street as our yellow school has been purchased this past month, and we couldn't be more excited about how it will support all areas of the program. The property will allow us to eliminate the rental property we are currently using to park vehicles used for mission trips. The longer-term plan is to build what expansion is needed to best support the children and their education as well as their physical health and emotional wellbeing. Included in the dream building are plans for a 1st floor gym and performance area and the 2nd floor will allow for bigger classrooms. At this point we will leave open the possibility of a 3rd floor. The kitchen and eating area will remain at the current building and the smaller classrooms will continue to be used. The current building will also be a great place for medical clinics without disrupting the classrooms. This expansion is such an answer to prayer! For pictures and more information, refer to Friends of Lantern Hill on Facebook and Instagram.

For more information about Lantern Hill, please look us up on Facebook, Instagram, or connect with Shana Nielsen.




[www.friendsoflanternhill.org](http://www.friendsoflanternhill.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLanternHill>  
<https://www.facebook.com/lantern.hill.7>




## Giving to Outreach Organizations

Saint Andrew's supports several local and global organizations. If you would like to financially support these organizations at any time, you can

- mail a check to Saint Andrew's (clearly marked with the name of the organization) OR
- donate on the Saint Andrew's secure online donation webpage, <https://salc.church/giving-options> and press the "Tithe.ly Online Giving" button. Designate the desired organization; OR
- donate directly to the organization.

You are also invited to check organization websites for specific needs they may have. 

## Looking Ahead...

Just a heads up about the February 2024 issue of *the VOICE*. The February 2024 issue is published in late January, shortly after the 2023 Annual Report is made available and around the time of the Annual Congregation Meeting. That issue of *the VOICE* will be an abbreviated one, focusing on Lent and February events and activities only. Updates on other ministries will be in the January 2024 issue of *the VOICE* and will return in the March 2024 issue. 

# Reformation Sunday

October 29 was a joyous Sunday in our congregation. We observed Reformation Sunday, celebrated Affirmation of Baptism with two of our youth, blessed quilts, and thanked Pastor Lara after worship as part of Clergy Appreciation Month. 🙏



## Congregation Council, Committees 2023

| Committee                       | Council Liaison  | Committee Chair                |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Executive                       | Carolynn Ferris, President<br>Dan Johnson, Vice President<br>Tom Getzinger, Secretary<br>Bill Brueggemann, Treasurer<br>Pastor Lara Forbes |                                |
| Building and Property           | Kit Bowerman   | John Nelson                    |
| Communications                  | Rob Parks<br>Becca Piel  |                                |
| Discipleship Ministries         | Aaron Davis<br>Ann Ross-Clarke   | Dana Nasby                     |
| Finance                         | Bill Brueggemann, Treasurer<br>Dick Szabo<br>Juliet Zhang  | Brady Kasper                   |
| Health and Wholeness Ministry   | Carolynn Ferris  | Stella Nieman<br>Beverley Watt |
| Human Resources                 | Carolynn Ferris  | Brent Hicks                    |
| Outreach and Servant Ministries | Jean Wahlstrom   | Dick Szabo                     |
| Stewardship                     | Becca Piel   | Kit Bowerman                   |
| Worship and Liturgical Arts     | Tom Getzinger  | Sharon Gurtel                  |

## Saint Andrew's Ministry Team

Church Phone: 425-746-2529

- The Reverend Lara Forbes**, Lead Pastor  
pastor@SALC.church | phone extension 12
- The Reverend Timothy T. Weber**, Shared-Time Pastor  
timwebertt@yahoo.com
- Dr. Will Simpson**, Director of Music Ministries  
will@SALC.church | phone extension 17
- Doug Johnson**, Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
doug@SALC.church | phone extension 13
- Sherry Grindelnd**, Fellowship Coordinator  
sherry@SALC.church | phone extension 16
- Susan Hegedus**, Communications Specialist  
susan@SALC.church | phone extension 15
- Kurt Lutterman**, Facilities Manager  
kurt@SALC.church | phone extension 11
- Mary Mills**, Office Administrator  
mary@SALC.church | phone extension 10
- Alex Engan**, Facilities Set-up
- Elaine Koga**, Choir Accompanist
- Beverley Watt, R.N.**, Faith Community Nurse
- Ann Thorpe**, Sunday Church School Coordinator
- Joan Tweten**, Kitchen Team
- Vanessa Wilkie**, Handbell Choir Director

## Samaritan Center of Puget Sound

**Dr. Neal Teng**, Counselor  
206-957-4708

## Serving in Our Community

We have many in our congregation family who serve on boards and commissions in our community. Some of those who serve are:

- Judy Gowdy**  
Board Member, KidVantage
  - Carolynn Ferris**  
Board President, Imagine Housing  
Chair, City of Bellevue Planning Commission
  - Tom Getzinger**  
Registrar, Performing Arts Festival of the Eastside
  - Judy Thiel**  
President, Eastside Music Festival Foundation
  - Sherry Grindelnd**  
Board Member, Eastside Heritage Center
  - Matt Camrud**  
Past President, The Rotary Club of Bellevue
  - Bill Brueggemann**  
President, Bellevue Youth Choirs
  - Kurt Lutterman**  
Member, City of Bellevue Environmental Services Commission
- Please let us know how you serve in our community!

The due date to submit items for the next issue of *the VOICE* is **December 4**  
Email submissions to Susan Hegedus, [susan@SALC.church](mailto:susan@SALC.church)



2650 148th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98007  
 www.SALC.church  
 425-746-2529

Address service requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT No. 35  
 BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON



### Mission and Values

Mission:

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

Values:

**Worship:** Responding to God's gift of Grace through Word and Sacrament, with praise, prayer and music. *Ephesians 5:18b-20, Romans 12:1*

**Discipleship:** Nurturing the growth of Christian faith in all ages as we learn from and follow Jesus. *Colossians 1:10, 2 Timothy 3:14-17*

**Outreach:** Serving and loving our neighbors with generosity and justice by sharing of our gifts from God. *Mark 10:43-45, Matthew 25:35-40*

**Relationship:** Living as a compassionate community sharing God's forgiveness and acceptance of all. *John 13:34-35, Colossians 3:12-14*

**Sunday Worship Services | 10:00 am**  
 In-person and Livestream: [salc.church/media](http://salc.church/media)

**Church Office Hours**  
 Monday through Thursday | 9:00 am—3:00 pm

**425-746-2529**  
<https://SALC.church> | [info@SALC.church](mailto:info@SALC.church)

Facebook: @salcbellevue AND @SALCFamilies  
 Instagram: @salcbellevue AND @salcfamilies  
 YouTube: [youtube.com/c/saintandrewslutheranchurch](https://youtube.com/c/saintandrewslutheranchurch)

Saint Andrew's is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation. Living into our mission of growing together in Christ to love and serve all people, we welcome and include everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, culture, neurodivergence, ability, age, addiction, relationship status, economic circumstances, or other distinction. See our full welcoming statement at [salc.church/about-us](http://salc.church/about-us).



**We Support:**





# December 2023

For current information,  
visit [salc.church/calendar](http://salc.church/calendar)

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                                   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Nov - 26</b>  | <b>Nov - 27</b>   | <b>Nov - 28</b>  | <b>Nov - 29</b>  | <b>Nov - 30</b>                            | <b>Dec - 1</b>  | <b>Dec - 2</b>  |
| <b>Dec - 3</b><br>9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum<br>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)<br>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School- age 3-grade 5<br>10a - 11a Sunday Worship<br>6p - 8p Youth Gingerbread Houses   | <b>Dec - 4</b><br>10a - 1p Health & Wholeness Ministries Meeting and Luncheon<br>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting<br>5p - 6p Executive Committee<br>6p - 7p Finance Committee<br>7p - 8p Discipleship Committee Meeting | <b>Dec - 5</b><br>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men<br>9:30a - 12:30p Dorcas Circle<br>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara<br>7p - 8:30p Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal                                      | <b>Dec - 6</b><br>6p - 7:30p Advent Mid-week Dinner Church<br>2p - 3p Congregation Care Team<br>6p - 7:30p Advent Mid-week Dinner Church | <b>Dec - 7</b><br>7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal  | <b>Dec - 8</b><br>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays<br>6p - 8p Youth Christmas Party | <b>Dec - 9</b><br>9a - 11a Christmas Tree set up<br>OFFSITE<br>9a - 12p Kid Vantage Volunteer Event |
| <b>Dec - 10</b><br>9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum<br>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)<br>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School- age 3-grade 5<br>10a - 11a Sunday Worship<br>11:30a - 12:30p Faith and Family Center Dedication<br>1p - 2p Finnish Lutheran Congregation Worship Service | <b>Dec - 11</b><br>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting<br>7p - 9p Congregation Council Meeting   | <b>Dec - 12</b><br>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men<br>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara<br>11:45a - 1:15p O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutheran Saints)<br>7p - 8:30p Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal            | <b>Dec - 13</b><br>2p - 3p Congregation Care Team<br>6p - 7:30p Advent Mid-week Dinner Church  | <b>Dec - 14</b><br>7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal | <b>Dec - 15</b><br>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays                                 | <b>Dec - 16</b>   |
| <b>Dec - 17</b><br>9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum<br>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)<br>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School- age 3-grade 5<br>10a - 11a Sunday Worship<br>11:15a - 12:15p KnitWits (Knitting as Witnesses)<br>4p - 7p Bells of the Sound Christmas Concert            | <b>Dec - 18</b><br>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting   | <b>Dec - 19</b><br>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men<br>Lara<br>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara<br>7p - 8:30p Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal   | <b>Dec - 20</b><br>6p - 7:30p Advent Mid-week Dinner Church  | <b>Dec - 21</b>                            | <b>Dec - 22</b><br>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays                                 | <b>Dec - 23</b>   |
| <b>Dec - 24</b><br>10a - 11a Sunday Worship<br>7p - 8p Christmas Eve Worship   | <b>Dec - 25</b><br>ALL DAY Christmas Day/Office closed<br>7p - 8:30p Outreach and Servant Ministries  | <b>Dec - 26</b><br>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men<br>9a - 12p Office Hours<br>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara<br>7p - 8p Building and Property Committee<br>7p - 8:30p Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal | <b>Dec - 27</b><br>9a - 12p Office Hours<br>7p - 8p Racial Justice Group/JEDI  | <b>Dec - 28</b><br>9a - 12p Office Hours   | <b>Dec - 29</b><br>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays                                 | <b>Dec - 30</b>   |
| <b>Dec - 31</b><br>10a - 11a Sunday Worship  | <b>Jan - 1</b>  | <b>Jan - 2</b>   | <b>Jan - 3</b>   | <b>Jan - 4</b>                             | <b>Jan - 5</b>  | <b>Jan - 6</b>  |