



the VOICE

January 2024

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve All People

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The Event That Changed the World

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

If you google the phrase “stolen baby Jesus” it returns dozens of stories about the infant being taken from manger scenes all across the country. Even Wikipedia has a page on “Baby Jesus theft.” To prevent thefts, people have installed GPS trackers on the infant and, in some cases, chained it to the ground. When I was in seminary in Chicago, police executed a search warrant on someone’s home and found six baby Jesuses stashed in the garage. They called the people in the area who’d reported that theirs had been stolen and said, “Good news! We may have found your baby Jesus. But we need you to come identify him....”

In our part of the world, Advent and Christmas happen in the darkest season of the year. We fill our homes with artificial light to extend the daylight hours and bring some brightness to our lives.

For a lot of people and for many reasons, there seems to be a particular need for that brightness this year. The news seems to only bring reports of violence and conflict all over the world. Not to mention the anxiety, death, and grief that many of us have experienced in our own lives. There are times when it feels like turmoil and violence are taking over, and hope is hard to come by.

In Luke’s gospel, the events leading up to Jesus’ birth and the events that follow it get a lot a page space. But the birth itself is only one verse. Just another baby born to an unwed, teenaged mother in a crowded city one night.

But *that’s* the event that took over. *That’s* the event that made the angels and all of creation sing. God coming to us as Jesus is the event that changed the world and gives us reason for hope.

It’s easy to get swept up in the familiarity of the Christmas story and the carols that we sing. Indeed, it gives us a moment of peace in these chaotic times. But we need to see Jesus beyond the manger, beyond Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. And, thankfully, we do – and we don’t need a tracker to find him.

We see Jesus in the people who continually work for peace in areas of conflict. We see Jesus in our local ministry partners, through the work they do and in the people they reach. And we see Jesus in the people who listen to us after we’ve had a bad day, or who stay with us day and night when a loved one is sick or dying, or who help us pick up the pieces when our life has completely fallen apart.

On the surface, it doesn’t seem like much, but the hope that comes in these moments is a lifeline that reminds us that God coming to us as Jesus *did* change the world and that God is still at work in it. These little events are ultimately what will take over.

As we celebrate Christ’s birth and get swept up in the familiarity of the story, we celebrate that Jesus *didn’t* stay in the manger. We celebrate the places we see him today. And we celebrate our hope for the future of our world. Thanks be to God!

With peace,
Pastor Lara ☩

Worship

Advent Wednesday
December 20
Dinner Church, 6:00 pm

December 24
Advent Worship
10:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 pm

Christmas Day
December 25
No worship service
scheduled.

☩

Advent and Christmas

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.

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



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

- Livestream: Visit 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

January 7

Mark 2:1-22

Psalm 103:6-14

January 14

Mark 4:1-34

Psalm 126

January 21

Mark 5:1-20

Psalm 89:1-4

January 28

Mark 5:21-43

Psalm 131

Worship Videos and Sermon Notes and Recordings of past services can be found at SALC.church/sermons



Music Rehearsal Times

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:00 pm


Handbell Choir

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

Midweek Advent Dinner Church

Join us for small-group fellowship and soup with a Dinner Church gathering on Wednesday, **December 20**.

- **6:00 pm:** Meet in Fellowship Hall North to socialize.
- **6:15 pm:** Soup, bread, and conversation.
- **6:30 pm:** Discussion of a Bible passage.
- **7:15 pm:** Communion.


We'll keep the soup warm until **7:00 pm**; feel welcome to come anytime. 



December 24 Advent and Christmas

December 24 is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent AND Christmas Eve.

- **10:00 am:** Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship.
- **7:00 pm:** Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve. Our worship will be Lessons and Carols, with Holy Communion. Special music will feature the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists.

Both services are in-person and via livestream. 

Chancel Choir


We are so appreciative of our Chancel Choir that provides leadership in music and gives so much of their talent and time for the glory of God. With that said, Choir will take a short break on anthems and rehearsals in January.

The Chancel Choir's schedule will be as follows:

- No Thursday night choir rehearsals **Thursday, December 28 through Thursday, January 18**.
- Choir will **resume** Thursday night choir rehearsals on Thursday, **January 25**.
- The choir will not sing on Sunday, **December 31**, nor on Sunday, **January 7**.
- Choir will **resume** singing on Sunday mornings (leading hymns and liturgy) on **January 14**, with a call of **9:30 am**.

We are grateful to all our musicians and people who help lead worship at Saint Andrew's. Their spirit and zeal for worshipping through music, the Triune God, really gives energy and presence to the worship services.

Blessings to all!

Will Simpson, Director of Music Ministries 

Worship and Liturgical Arts

Sanctuary Refresh Update

The Sanctuary refresh opportunity began in 2018 when Worship and Liturgical Arts (WLA) received donor-directed funds to imagine how our Sanctuary could look more contemporary with a few updates implemented. Together with Pastor Red Burchfield, our transition pastor, and Judy Gowdy, our resident degreed interior designer, WLA identified a list of potential things that could be done toward that end. In addition, we studied the ELCA's paper "The Place Where We Worship" to learn about the national church's description of the continuous evolution of worship spaces and then wrote a vision for the Saint Andrew's Sanctuary that was approved by the Council in 2019.

The vision was and is to create a light, ethereal ambiance in the Sanctuary. WLA consulted with artists of different mediums (e.g. metal work, wood work, glass work, etc.) for their ideas on how our vision could be achieved. Their ideas stemming from their visit to our Sanctuary included mixing in various mediums beyond just wood, using more organic shapes, and using lighter shades of wood for furnishings while leaving the darker ceiling, pillars, and flooring.

We are aware that there is a variety of comments, questions, and concerns about the recently dedicated furnishings that are intended to help accomplish the vision stated above. We are in the process of organizing a listening session so that they can be addressed, and we will let you know as soon as it has been scheduled. We also have included here answers to the questions we've received so far.

Questions received so far include:

- *Where are the baptismal font and candle stand that we've been using?* These two items are in storage at the church until the congregation has decided how they'd like them to be repurposed. There will be a process for this to happen. The lectern has been returned to the classroom lectern inventory and is being used for its original purpose.
- *Where is the baptismal bowl that Ed Short's family gifted to Saint Andrew's?* The Short family bowl is also in storage and has not been used for some time as a baptismal bowl as it has black mold in the glaze. The congregation will also have input as to how they would like this to be repurposed.

Comments received so far include:

- Great pieces, new furnishings look great, absolutely beautiful
- Excited to see the new look
- Love how the new pieces catch the light

We recognize that the Sanctuary is a deeply personal space for all who worship with us. The love and work poured into it by previous congregation members have allowed us to develop strong roots as a faith community from which we can continue to grow.

If you would like to bring forward other comments, concerns, or questions prior to the listening session, we encourage you to reach out to Sharon Gurtel (WLA Chair), Tom Getzinger (Council Liaison to WLA), or to Pastor Lara. ☩

Flowers 2024

We welcome flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays. The sign-up for 2024 is online at 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. ☩



Communion Bread

We are always looking for **bread bakers**. If you'd like to bake Luther Bread for us to use in Communion, please contact Karin Eklof for more information.



The Luther Bread recipe and a link to sign up for a specific Sunday is online at salc.church/communion-bread. ☩

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 want enough volunteers so that we can greet people at both doors each Sunday.

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



Discipleship: Education

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). Contact Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus, susan@salc.church or 425-746-2529, with questions.

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

Guided Bible Text Discussion

Bring your Bible to this Forum for a guided scripture discussion around Joy and Advent.

Mikel Oswald will help us navigate the readings.

Sundays, January 7, 14 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall

JEDI Group: Film Discussion

On **January 7 and 14**, we will view and discuss the film *“Native Nations: Standing Together for Civil Rights”*. This is a historical documentary of the Indian civil rights movement of the 1970s and 1980s as viewed through the relationship between the Indian people on and off the reservation and the Lutheran churches. This film was produced for the ELCA and aired on ABC Television in 2008. This is a very good film and provides a different perspective on the civil rights movement.



Sunday, January 21 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall

2024 Budget Review

Finance Committee chair Brady Kasper and Congregation Treasurer Bill Brueggemann will lead a discussion on the 2024 Saint Andrew’s Current Fund budget. This is an opportunity to understand Saint Andrew’s projected income and expenses, ask questions, and become more familiar with the overall financial situation of our church.

Sunday, January 28 | 9:00 am | 301/Fellowship Hall North

No Forum

There will be no Forum on **January 28**. Plan to attend the Annual Congregation Meeting **FOLLOWING** worship that day, at **11:15 am**.

Sunday Church School

Age 3 - Grade 5

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

Lessons 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

Youth 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

We 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!

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.

Discipleship: Children / Youth and Family Ministries

For Youth in Grades 6-12

Sock Samurai

Sunday, **January 7** | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE,
Renton, WA 98056

Youth **grades 6-12** are invited to join in the time-honored tradition of Sock Samurai on **January 7** at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton. It will be a grand evening full of fun, socks, and smiles! Please sign-up at salc.church/youth-sock-samurai no later than Friday, **January 5**. Questions? Contact Doug Johnson. 📞

Mystery Youth Event

Saturday, **January 27** | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Location?

All youth, **grades 6-12**, are invited for a mystery event on Saturday, **January 27**, from **6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. Youth and their parents will be notified on **January 25** the details for the event. If you want to know what is going on, you will have to sign-up and see! Youth **must sign up** at salc.church/youth-mystery-event no later than **January 24**. Questions, contact Doug Johnson. 📞

2024 Summer Trip Announcement

Due to unfortunate circumstances, we have had to step away from our plans to go to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. However, we are working hard to find another trip option that works for our families. Keep an eye out for an announcement this month about plans for this summer! Questions, contact Doug Johnson. 📞

Holden Village Announcement

The next May Youth Weekend at Holden Village will be **May 17-19, 2024**. The May Youth Weekend is for 9-12 grade youth. We will plan on leaving the evening of May 18 to stay overnight closer to Lake Chelan. Youth will need to sign-up on the church website. More details will be coming soon. 📞

For Everyone!

Happy Birthday to You!

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



Gigi G.....	12/26
Kassandra K.....	1/01
Alex E.....	1/04
Jack W.....	1/13
Avery L.....	1/20
Melanie G.....	1/28
Adam C.....	1/29

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> 📞

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 (or go to 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". 📞

Discipleship: Children / Youth and Family Ministries

Discovering Discipleship – Collaborative Ministry

By Doug Johnson

In the fall, I hosted a Discipleship Hour adult forum discussing what it is that Discipleship Ministries does here at Saint Andrew's. If you were in attendance, we raced through dozens of ministries that fall under the umbrella of Discipleship Ministries. It was helpful to see all in one place the many wonderful ministries that happen because of the hard work of the members of the Discipleship Ministries Committee, however, none were given justice for their full scope or impact. Throughout 2024 the Discipleship Ministries Committee will be highlighting different ministries in *the VOICE* to lift up all the great work that is done. We will start by lifting up our new confirmation program: Collaborative Ministry.

Before we highlight all the delightful ways that we have partnered in ministry with other congregations, it is important to note that Discipleship Ministries is not the only committee or group to collaborate with other congregations or partners in our community. Outreach and Servant Ministries, Congregation Council, and Health and Wholeness are just a few ministries at Saint Andrew's that have and continue to work collaboratively in our synod and community. The work that they do is amazing and often has a long history. Discipleship Ministries has more recently renewed its effort to work collaboratively in our cluster and synod. So let's explore some of the ways that we partner in ministry.

The collaboration in our cluster started due to the efforts of Council starting back in the spring of 2022. Council's early work and conversation sparked some creative ideas for the Discipleship Ministries Committee and we worked with the churches in our cluster to plan our first cluster event for middle and high school youth in September of 2022, an afternoon of pizza and games at Mt. Si Lutheran Church. This was a huge success with youth joining from not only Mt. Si Lutheran Church but Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church and Saint Andrew's as well. Out of this event we, as a cluster, were inspired to not only continue to plan shared events but invite the congregations in our cluster to our own ministries. Our most recent successes have been the Cluster Family Game Nights this fall. In September, October, and November each of the three previously mentioned congregations took turns hosting a night full of fun and games for all ages. In October, Saint Andrew's had the opportunity to host and we saw almost 50 people in attendance ranging from toddlers to grandparents and everything in between! We shared games, food, and found new friends in the process. We will continue the family game nights in the spring in February, March, and April, and we hope you join in the fun!

Our collaboration continues beyond our cluster. Starting back in April of 2022, the youth from our church started collaborating with the youth from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton. This started as a way for our two groups to get to know each other before going to the first May Youth Weekend at Holden Village since the shutdown and has grown into an incredible blessing for both youth groups and congregations. Since then we have partnered for youth barbecues, Sock Samurai events, Christmas parties, retreats, and more! It has been a pleasure to work with Bobbi Cyr, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Matthew's, as well as all the youth and adult leaders. Through this partnership, Bobbi and I created a new collaborative opportunity in our synod.

Collaborative ministry continues to grow in our synod and the most recent way that we have engaged within this ministry is through the recent Synod-wide Fall Youth Retreat, held November 10-12 at Camp Lutherwood. The retreat had 75 total participants, including 60 youth, from 10 congregations across our synod. The energy we had when gathered together was electric! There are moments in ministry when you truly feel the Holy Spirit working, seeing all the youth and adults gathered together from so many different places was such a moment for me. Bobbi Cyr and I were co-directors for this retreat, taking on the work of gathering everyone together, coordinating volunteers, and overall making sure the retreat ran smoothly. However, that was just the beginning of the collaborative work. Bobbi and I worked diligently to share leadership of the retreat throughout the weekend, ensuring that all had the opportunity to collaborate in the formation of the retreat. Every congregation that was present shared in the leadership in one form or another; talk about a truly collaborative retreat!

We are just scratching the surface of what it means to participate in collaborative ministry, whether it is within our cluster, in our synod, or with other congregations; we have so many wonderful opportunities to share in ministry together. I am excited at the possibilities of what we can do together and I can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit moves us together in ministry in love and service to our communities and our neighbors. 🙏

For more information, contact
Director of Youth and Family Ministries Doug Johnson, 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)

Annual Meeting

Annual Congregation Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, **January 28, 2024**, at **11:15 am**, both in-person and via Zoom.

Agenda items include:

- Voting on the 2024 Current Fund budget
- Electing members to the Congregation Council
- Electing members to next year's Nominating Committee.
- Considering a resolution authorizing continued negotiations with Imagine Housing to potentially build an affordable housing project on our property.

A quorum is needed. Details about meeting logistics will be communicated in January.



Stewardship

Year-End Contributions

To be counted for **2023**, contributions must be **dated in 2023** AND received at church no later than Sunday, **December 31**. Contributions can be mailed to church, placed in the offering plate in the Narthex on Sunday mornings, or dropped in the mail slot located to the left of the west doors to the church (the doors by the small parking lot.) Alternatively, you can donate online; visit <https://salc.church/giving-options> for the link.

Stewardship Moment

Pledges of tithes, talents, and time for 2024 are welcome. Financial pledges help the Finance Committee form a 2024 budget.

Congregation members received a pledge card in the mail; extras are in the Narthex. Return the pledge card to church or pledge online.

Financial pledges can be made online at salc.church/pledge-online.

Pledging time and talents can be made at salc.church/volunteer.



Fellowship

1, 2, 3: Counters Needed!

Counting, recording, and depositing the weekly offering is a breeze with our easy-to-learn software (named Breeze) and the companionship of an experienced Counter. Each team rotates every 3 to 4 months for a month of weekly counting sessions on Mondays. Each session takes about an hour; each Counter volunteers for 4 hours a month, 3 to 4 times a year. Qualifications include: absolute discretion with confidential information, basic computer skills, availability Sundays to lock up the offering after the service, and availability on Monday mornings or afternoons to count, when it is your month to serve.

Please email Michele Vossler, coordinator, if you are interested in learning more.

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; or speak with a member of the Nominating Committee: Matt Camrud – chair, Karin Eklof, Kari Henderson, Joyce Kasper, and Lois Nelson.



If you have questions, please talk with any member of the committee.

Devotional Books

We have received the *Christ in Our Home* and *The Word in Season* booklets for January/February/March. Pick them up in the Narthex whenever the building is open, or contact the church office, info@salc.church or 425-746-2529, if you would like a copy of either or both booklets mailed to you.

Fellowship

Dorcas Circle

Quilting

Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, **January 2**, 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 can 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. 🙏

Women's Early Book Study (WEBS)

Wednesdays, **January 3 through February 7**

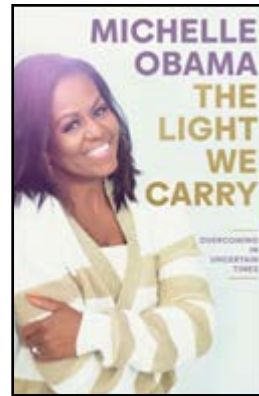
10:00 am - 11:30 am | 322/Conference Room and via Zoom

Coordinator: Cheryl Jurrus

We will start our Winter Book Study on **January 3** and continue on Wednesdays through **February 7**. We meet in the Conference Room starting promptly at **10:00 am** and ending on time at **11:30 am**.

Our book selection is Michelle Obama's bestseller, *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*.

- *"In an inspiring follow-up to her acclaimed memoir Becoming, former First Lady Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world."* (Amazon)



All women are welcome to join us in person or on Zoom to share our ideas, reactions, hopes, experiences, and wisdom! We treat all discussion as confidential and with respect.

Contact Cheryl Jurrus for the reading schedule, discussion questions, and Zoom link. We share devotions, pray together, encourage each other in service, and laugh! 🙏

Photo Directory

Thank you for your patience as you anticipate the arrival of our updated congregation photo directory!

Photos for the updated congregation photo directory 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.
- 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 or contact Susan Hegedus, susan@salc.church or 425-746-2529, for information. 🙏



Be On the Lookout for Bold Emails

Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland may send you emails in boldface type. With her vision challenges, she sometimes needs to use the bold type to read and write messages.

She says she's not yelling or angry; the large, dark typeface helps on days when her vision isn't cooperating.

Thank you for your understanding! 🙏

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 or phone the office, 425-746-2529. 🙏

Fellowship

Older Wiser Lutheran Saints (OWLS)

Tuesday, January 16 | 11:45 am | 301/Fellowship Hall North

When Lake Washington Was Bigger



Lake Washington was once larger and deeper. And then along came the loggers, miners, and farmers who wanted a better route to get their wares to market.

Join the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran Saints) for a potluck lunch on Tuesday, **January 16**. **Jane Morton** will explain how the project went from an idea to the engineering feats of the Montlake Cut, the Ship Canal, and the Locks. Jane is the education manager at the Eastside Heritage Center.

Gather at **11:45 am**, eat at noon, and then enjoy this fascinating bit of local history. If able, please pitch in a dish for the potluck lunch.

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



Property Tax Information from November OWLS

King County Assessor John Wilson was the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran Saints) speaker in November.

He shared how you may be eligible for a property tax reduction or exemption. Here is the link and the telephone number for his office to see if you qualify.

When you click on the link, scroll down to find the subject matter you need such as senior exemptions.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/assessor>

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/assessor/buildings-and-property/property-taxes/tax-relief/senior-or-disabled-exemptions>

The direct line to a senior exemption expert is 206-296-3920.

For more information, contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland.

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!!



Women's Retreat November 10-12

A wonderful time was had by all at our retreat in November. Many thanks to all the women who waded in to make this weekend a relaxing and engaging time of learning, fellowship, and fun together. Here are a couple of fun photos from the November retreat.



We gave prayer shawls to our speaker, Donna Oiland, and her wonderful caregiver, Jaquelyn Villa, and prayed over them. Thanks to Patty Gerde who made the prayer shawls.



The 2023 Speaker and Attendees
We had women from three Lutheran churches this year!

Mark Your Calendars:

Next Retreat is March 1-3, 2024

The Women's Retreat returns to its "normal" spring schedule in March 2024; mark your calendars and plan now to attend! We will soon begin planning; if you have a suggestion for a speaker feel free to reach out to Marilyn Carlson through Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah or Sherry Grindeland, sherry@salc.church. Volunteers are always welcome!

Health and Wholeness

Healing Prayer FAQ

by Cheryl Jurrus,
Health and Wholeness Ministry Committee

I have been participating in the Healing Prayer Ministry for many years now at our church. Here are some questions we hear from time to time.

Why do people go to the back of the church to the kneeling stations on the third Sunday of the month?

- Some people come for prayer for their own healing, pain, depression, sorrow, or other situations that arise (jobs, divorce, etc.)
- Others offer prayers for friends and family or events in our world.
- Sometimes prayers of thanksgiving and praise are requested.

What prayer does the Healing Prayer Minister use?

- We have all attended training sessions and learned the general parts of prayers of supplication. I always begin with praise for this opportunity to worship and pray together. I request God's healing touch for the situation that has been brought to me. I use touch on the shoulder during the prayer and anointing with oil afterwards.
- The prayer always ends in the name of Jesus. Jesus promised us *"You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it."* John 14:13

Why do you use anointing oil?




- This is an ancient rite going back to the prophet Samuel anointing David. (1 Samuel 16:13). It was also practiced widely in the New Testament.
- We use aromatic oils that have herbal properties.

Who are the Healing Prayer Ministers?

- As of December 2023, our Healing Prayer Ministers are Jan Benson, Beverley Watt, Stella Nieman, Cheryl Jurrus, CJ Tatum, Mikel Oswald, and Misty Weber.
- If you are interested in becoming a Healing Prayer Minister, contact Cheryl Jurrus. We will be having more training classes in the coming year. *"For everyone who asks, receives; he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* Matthew 7:8.




It's dark out there!


Our nights are longer now and we need to remember that it is very hard to be seen if we are walking outdoors in dark clothing. Do you have a reflective vest or arm-band to wear? Do you have a light colored rain coat to wear over your dark jacket? Please be more aware of your surroundings in parking lots, on streets, and in parks. Remember your cell phone has a flashlight button which should really help. 

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, **January 21**, at **11:15 am** in **322/Conference Room**. All are welcome! Contact KnitWits coordinator Dianne Chong for more information. 

Contact Information

A note from our Congregation Care Team: Please email or call Sherry Grindeland, sherry@salc.church or 425-746-2529, with your emergency contact information. This would be the phone number of your closest friend or relative so that we can reach out if we are unable to contact you directly. This is important especially if you live alone. This information is kept in a confidential file. 

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

None

Weddings

None

Memorial Services

None

Committals

None

Thank You

Thank You from our LDS Neighbors

Dear Saint Andrew's Congregation,

Through the years, even before the temple was built, the pastors and members of Saint Andrew's have exemplified "love of God and neighbor" with gracious, Christian accommodation and cooperation.

We are grateful to be part of your "surrounding community" - living, breathing, and dynamic, and hope to continue the tradition of open communication and mutual appreciation.


Wishing you a joyous Christmas season, The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints, Bellevue 

A Big Thank You from Hopelink

THANK YOU from Hopelink to all of you who helped with the **NO-COOK EMERGENCY BAGS**. Thank you to those who donated the food during October and November to pack into the emergency bags. And thank you to those who helped bag the food into 60 No-Cook emergency bags at the Advent Fair on November 26. Together we provided Hopelink with 567 pounds of food. The staff at Hopelink and even the volunteers were delighted with these emergency bags.



Here is a comment from Celia Thurman, the Food Program Supervisor at Hopelink: *"I keep walking past a bin we have of the e-bags and they are so awesome. I can't thank you enough for taking the time and energy to pack these bags - they are so helpful to us and to our clients who do not have the ability to cook their own food. You guys really pack the best e-bags. Even the volunteers yesterday were commenting on how awesome they are. You will have to pass along our thanks and appreciation to the rest of your group as well!"*

And **THANK YOU** for watching the progress chart and knowing what we still needed. By following this you helped us be able to pack the 60 bags. So, **THANK YOU!** 

Thank You for the Love Tree Gifts

Your generous support of the Love Tree project will make the holidays brighter for our neighbors in need.

Bridge Disability Ministries: Twelve individuals were "adopted" by congregation members. Our volunteers, using wish lists from the clients, purchased and wrapped holiday presents. Often times our gifts are the only things these adults with disabilities receive.


The Sophia Way: We collected more than 30 gift cards that will be given to women - many of them homeless - this month.

KidVantage: More than 100 toys, books, games, puzzles and stuffed animals were donated that filled three (3)



bins full of wonderful and much needed items! In addition, clothing was collected. KidVantage personnel are currently working to fill more than 7,000 holiday requests from the greater Seattle and Eastside area.


Note: If you missed donating, we're still accepting items for KidVantage.

Questions? Contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland at 425-746-2529 or at sherry@salc.church. 

KidVantage Thanks You!

Congregation Volunteer Day at KidVantage

KidVantage thanks the crew of volunteers from Saint Andrew's who helped out at KidVantage on Saturday, December 2. There was plenty to do to keep everyone busy. Everyone was busy prepping items for orders or packing items into bags for orders (Holiday bags). A lot was accomplished and makes a big difference for KidVantage at this very busy time. Thanks to the team of 14 volunteers: John and Sandy Andresen, Kit Bowerman, Adam Camrud, Susan Hegedus, Gina Perez, Vincent Storlie, Gary Rudolph, Margaret Santjer, Joshua Santjer, Debbie and Dick Szabo, Ann Thorpe, and Michele Olson. Well Done!! And of course thank you to Liz Rudolph who arranged the event. Liz and Marie Bean did double duty. They both volunteer weekly at KidVantage and were part of the Saint Andrew's work party.

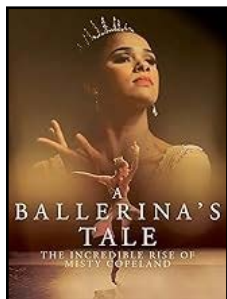
"Please say thank you to Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church group that came last Saturday," said Caroline Liendo, the Senior Manager of Programs for KidVantage. "They not only helped you with the orders but they also put away items in the different bins and units." 



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

Media Suggestions

A Movie Suggestion: *A Ballerina's Tale* (Rating N/A)



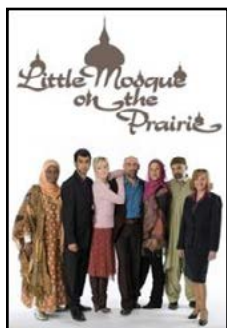
A Ballerina's Tale shows the struggles and successes of Misty Copeland, the first Black principal dancer of the American Ballet Theatre. The film explores themes around race as well as body image as it walks through Copeland's dance history. While the film does not dive into her personal life, there is a great segment that explores Copeland's role model Raven Wilkinson and their bond being two barrier-breaking performers.



I love finding films that highlight female athletes. Dance was never part of my world growing up (way too clumsy!), but I love how it is not only a medium for physical exercise, but also personal expression. It was great to learn more about Copeland's ambitions and her hurdles. Becoming a mainstream artist is a struggle to begin with – and it was even more humbling to learn about her personal challenges while pursuing her dreams. ~ Becca Piel

A Ballerina's Tale is available on Amazon Prime Video and Tubi. It is also available through the King County Library System on DVD and as a streaming video (KANOPY).

A TV series suggestion: *Little Mosque on the Prairie* “Small town Canada with a little Muslim twist”



Little Mosque on the Prairie is a 2007 Canadian television sitcom that focuses on a small Muslim community in the fictional town of Mercy, with a diverse cast of Muslim and non-Muslim characters. Muslim show creator Zarqa Nawaz (ZAR-kuh NAH-waz) wrote the sitcom based on the premise of a Canadian mosque recruiting a young, progressive imam (i.e. Muslim priest). She also used some of her and her family and friends' experiences as Muslims as the basis for some episode plots, including one where conservative mosque members called for a barrier separating men and women during worship, to the shagrin of more progressive female members. The show was so successful it ran for six (6) seasons, and was picked up by online streaming service Hulu in 2012. The main cast includes Zaib Shaikh, Sitara Hewitt, Carlo Rota, Debra McGrath, Manoj Sood, and Sheila McCarthy, and guest actors include Who's Line Is It Anyway's Colin Mochrie and Daily Show's Samantha Bee.

I was recommended this show by a friend of mine who is Muslim, who told me she loved it and hoped that it might help non-Muslim people understand more about Islam, since she was tired of being asked to educate everyone about her culture and faith so often. Sure enough, just watching the first episode, I realized that while I was watching what was essentially just another comedic 2000's show, I was also learning things I never knew I never knew.

I suggest you watch the pilot episode, “Little Mosque”, where we are introduced to the cast of diverse characters for the first time. The show is wonderfully crafted in a way to showcase just how different people are within the Muslim as well as the non-Muslim communities. You see conservative Muslims and non-Muslims, you see liberal Muslims and non-Muslims, and every point on the political compass in between. Diverse cast aside, I love that we have a light-hearted, intimate look into the everyday lives of Muslims. It seems that most representations we see of Muslims in the media are only when the plots are dramatic, sad, or violent. Shows like Little Mosque on the Prairie help remind our brains that Muslims are just as diverse and normal as you and me.

Even if the show doesn't get into the “difficult conversations” as much as some other media suggestions we at JEDI Group have made, I think that using media to help us adjust our worldview to help see those different than us as not so different after all, is very, very important.

The only complaint I have is, the show does have plenty of 2000's sitcom humor, which can either hit or miss depending on your preferences; but even then, if a joke doesn't land, the show moves onto the next joke right after, so it didn't ruin my enjoyment too much. ~ Maria Harwell

Little Mosque on the Prairie is on Apple TV, The Roku Channel, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, and Tubi. 🌐

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

Did You Know.... Kwanzaa is a celebration that starts December 26

Kwanzaa is a celebration that starts December 26th each year. It is celebrated by the African American and Pan-Africa community mostly in the United States. Started in 1966 as a response to the Watts riots, founder Ron Karenga wanted to give the Black community a holiday to celebrate themselves and their community. The seven principles that are celebrated are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith) expressed in the Swahili language as one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa. (Learn more about these principles at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/seven-principles-kwanzaa>) Celebrations happen daily for seven days with the focus on a different principle each day. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday and is celebrated by African American and Pan-Africa community members of all religions.

For more information, please visit the National Museum of African American History & Culture's website: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/kwanzaa> 

Housing Project

Saint Andrew's Housing Task Force

On November 12, 2023, the Housing Task Force held an adult forum to share and discuss the opportunity to work with Imagine Housing to develop affordable housing on the east side of Saint Andrew's property. A concept design prepared by Third Place Design Cooperative was shared to inform discussion with the congregation. Affordable housing would target families earning \$35k to \$75k per year. Jobs that fall in this income range include; administrative support, retail / sales / related, transportation / moving, food prep / serving, education / library, and construction. A recording of the Forum can be found at <https://salc.church/discipleship-forum-recording-housing-project-november-12-2023>.

The location of the potential project is on land that has never been used or is underutilized by Saint Andrew's.

In addition to communicating with the congregation, the task force is evaluating the parking demand and solutions for Saint Andrew's, the lessons learned from other churches that have added affordable housing, and how Saint Andrew's would work with Imagine Housing if the congregation decides to move forward.

The Task Force has held several listening posts in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday services. Stop by if you have questions or want to learn more.

The Task Force is made up of Hal Ferris, John Nelson, Kit Bowerman, Carol Schneider, Stephanie Page-Lester, Kurt Lutterman, and Dick Lee.

Visit salc.church/housing-project for information and updates.



Congregation Council

At the December 11 Congregation Council Meeting....

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

President Carolynn Ferris' Report: See President Carolynn Ferris' "President's Corner" report on page 14.

The Council approved a resolution to continue the visioning and collaborative work with the Cluster.

Annual Congregation Meeting: The Council decided that the Annual Congregation Meeting should be held in a hybrid format. Recognizing the additional volunteer effort hybrid meetings, require, efforts will be made to train additional people to help.

Pastor Lara Forbes' Report:


- Pastor noted that the church office will be closed from December 25 - January 1.

Finance: See Treasurer Bill Brueggemann's "Treasurer Notes" on page 15. In addition:

- 2024 Budget Development: An updated budget draft was shared with the Council.
- **The Council approved a resolution on Pastor Lara's Housing Allowance.**
- **The Council approved opening a bank account at BECU (Boeing Employees Credit Union).**
- Bookkeeping duties will continue to be supported with congregation volunteers.

Housing Task Force:

- Informal listening posts following worship have been effective and offered opportunities to answer questions and engage in conversations.

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 or 425-746-2529. 

Congregation Council

President's Corner

fromCarolynn Ferris, Congregation Council President

ELCA Cluster Collaboration

On November 18, 2023 the clergy and executive committee members of the ELCA Cluster churches met to discuss what might be possible in working closely with one another. Not everyone could be there, but we had representation from Saint Andrew's, Saint Luke's, Cross of Christ, Sammamish Hills, and Mount Si.

It was an invigorating discussion. All agreed that the time has come for bold action and prayerful consideration in how we steward our abundant resources. Collectively, we have gifted pastors and lay leadership, strong connections within the community, invaluable property and buildings, passion to help others, and a commitment to our faith. But we are all also facing the reality that if we continue to operate in silos, none of us will survive in the long term.

We participated in a brainstorming workshop that allowed us to think creatively about the future. Below are some highlights of this session:

What Issues are we trying to solve for?

- Declining membership and income
- Reduced staffing
- Pastors unable to focus on their ministry because they are buried in administrative functions
- Staying alive and staying relevant
- A sense of doom, recognition that our current trajectories are leading to failure

If we are willing to be bold and prayerful, what might be possible?

- Excitement and vitality in our mission
- Sharing of resources to be more efficient and effective
- More impact within our community
- Becoming a beacon within the faith community and a model for others

How can we cultivate collective witness and community impact?

- Identify strengths of each parish and enable those to be more impactful
- Identify the strengths of each pastor and allow them to better utilize their skills and passion throughout the broader community
- Come together to support our community in more meaningful ways
- Become a large, vibrant community engaged collectively in worship, outreach, music, small groups, and more

How do we effectively engage our congregations?

- Opportunities for joint worship, events, projects, and trips
- Spread the word broadly and often
- Shared pulpits
- Develop a shared vision that is communicated to our congregations in multiple ways
- Move from words to action

What obstacles will we need to overcome?

- Fear of losing identity and community
- Scarcity mindset
- Not being able to communicate vision effectively
- Perceived distance between congregations (figuratively and literally)
- Different Constitutions and Bylaws

Some next steps include:

- 1) Pastors will form a cohort with the intent to serve the Cluster collectively. They hope to develop a plan to more effectively utilize their individual gifts, preach in all venues, support one another and the congregations in a more flexible and meaningful way, and communicate the vision of how we worship and serve together. They hope to begin this effort after the Christmas holiday.
- 2) Carolynn will organize a monthly call with the pastors and executive leadership to keep the momentum going.

(continued on page 15)

Congregation Council

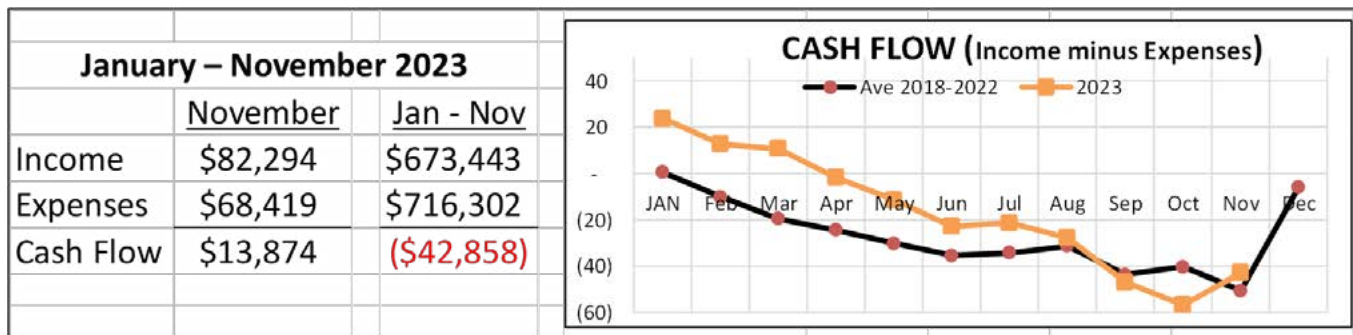
(continued from page 14)

- 3) Attempt to form several cross-congregation tasks forces to identify opportunities to do such things as:
 - a) Staff finance and administration more efficiently and effectively
 - b) Manage facility and grounds maintenance collectively
 - c) Reinvigorate small group ministry
 - d) Serve our community in ways that are highly impactful
 - e) Broaden the ways in which we worship and participate in music

This is an exciting time. All of us in that meeting felt that God is calling us to a new place – together. We will continue to prayerfully consider how we might “Grow together in Christ to love and serve all people” in new ways, while we hold on to the foundations of our faith. I welcome all to share your ideas, concerns and wisdom and we travel this path together. 🙏

Treasurer Note\$

from Bill Brueggemann, Congregation Treasurer



Comments

- **Income:** \$82,300 is a big improvement compared to recent months. Thank you for the great response! We still need about \$110,000 in December to break even for the year.
- **Expenses:** November was on plan. Expenses are \$18,300 under budget for the year.
- **Cash flow:** Cash flow is now negative (\$43,000) compared to negative (\$39,000) at this time last year. December 2022 income was \$106,000, which made Saint Andrew’s cash positive by \$4,700 in 2022. What is in store for December 2023?

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, 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 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 if you have any questions. 🙏

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

The Sophia Way

Hello, Friends!



Some words from The Sophia Way Staff:

"We are so thankful for everyone who has contributed to our Holiday Gift Bag program. You help us make the holidays special for women experiencing homelessness."

"With your donations of gift cards and items, you are helping to give 168 gift bags to clients who are in shelters and safe parking areas, as well as those who have been recently housed."

Words from Joyce!

There is still a need to fill ALL of the gift bags. Please check The Sophia Way's Amazon Wishlist for more ideas.

Meanwhile, we at Saint Andrew's continue to donate nutritious, delicious lunches to the ladies at Sophia's Place!

Thank you to the ladies who donated for the lunch that was served on November 29: Linda Gilham (aka Potato Lady); Jay Baxter; Susie Carney; Janell Erickson; Jan Bowerman; Shirley Hobson; Louise Tollefson; Sarah Cannon; Ruth Miller; Linda Quinn; Terri Anderson; Pat Kaald; Kathy Brueggemann; Janell Erickson; Joyce Nelson; Stella Nieman; Sherry Grindeland...

Who'd I forget?

Our next lunch for Sophia's Place will be the 4th Wednesday in January, with collection of food items on Tuesday, **January 23**.

Watch for more information in early January, or talk to Joyce Arnold to learn more about The Sophia Way.

JOY TO YOU!

Joyce Arnold 

Dorcas Circle Collection for Compass Housing Alliance

Through the month of 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,



Collection Emphasis for Hopelink ~ January

For the month of January, Hopelink has asked us to focus on collecting hearty soups! Non-condensed, high calorie soups are what they need. ("Anything that you might want to have a bowl of on a cold day! ☺"). Progresso, Amy's and Chunky Campbells are all great, well-loved brands. Here are some suggested examples: Italian wedding soup, clam chowder, beef barley, chicken pot pie, lentil and vegetables, tomato bisque, etc.

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



Outreach and Servant Ministries

Ministry of the Month for January ~ Friends of Youth

Most Generous God, we ask You to watch over and protect the vulnerable youth in our community. Help Friends of Youth to realize its vision of ensuring youth and young adults in our communities spend zero days in a state of vulnerability. Bless the staff and volunteers whose time and effort make this work possible. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



Friends of Youth: is a non-profit organization whose mission is to partner with youth and families to provide the relationships, resources, and skills they need to attain personal growth and success. Friends of Youth provides a wide variety of services including a drop-in center (providing basic needs resources for young adults including shelter, food, showers, laundry, clothing and hygiene materials), Safe Places (24-hour crisis hotline for youth ages 12 – 17 and Safe Place coordinators to assess crises, provide outreach and referrals to appropriate shelter and support services), employment services, emergency shelters (one for young adult men 18 -24 and one for minors 7 – 17), transitional living, supportive housing services (at Imagine Housing’s Francis Village), and rapid rehousing services (to help young people experiencing homelessness locate and successfully transition into permanent housing).

Opportunities to support Friends of Youth:

As the kids are getting back into school, this organization is again providing food for weekend meals. There are a couple of ways that you can help:

- You can make a financial donation to support the work of Friends of Youth with a check to Saint Andrew’s and include “Friends of Youth” on the memo line. Or donate directly to Friends of Youth at <https://www.friendsofyouth.org/donate>
- You can find out about donating items or volunteering time at their website: <https://www.friendsofyouth.org/support-us>

How Saint Andrew’s is supporting Friends of Youth:

- Through the Outreach portion of our church budget, we provide financial support for their work,
- Saint Andrew’s is one of the Safe Places.

The latest news from Friends of Youth:

- Friends of Youth is just completing the Willows Youth Services Center. It will be opening later this year. This center will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, expand available emergency shelter beds from 20 to 34, provide integrated behavioral health (mental health and substance use treatment), basic medical care, nutrition, hygiene facilities, and an expanded safe, public health-focused shelter capacity. This center will replace The Landing in Redmond and serve as the only emergency shelter in east King County for young adults, ages 18 to 24. This new facility will provide room for up to 35 young people on any given night on the first floor, and Drop-In Services offered on the second floor including Behavioral Health Services, meal services, and more.
- Friends of Youth recently announced a significant transition within their agency that marks a milestone in their journey towards becoming an anti-racist multicultural agency. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) will be operating under the purview of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This transition emphasizes diversity, equity, and inclusion as an integral part of who we are as an agency.

Some Background on Friends of Youth:

In 1950, a Washington resident named Iva Matsen saw the challenge faced by her community: not enough foster homes for young people. She and her partner joined with other members of their faith community—University Congregational Church—to take the critical step from concern to thoughtful action. In 1951, Friends of Youth was officially incorporated. To this day, members of the Matsen family continue to be active and involved in the organization. More than 70 years later, the Friends of Youth community continues to work toward a vision where all youth have every opportunity to succeed, and are supported through circumstances of foster care, homelessness, and behavioral health challenges. 🕊

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! 🕊

Outreach and Servant Ministries

Kafika House Tanzania (formerly known as The Plaster House)

Five Years In One!!!

A donor said this when they heard what all has happened in this last year!!! “What you’ve achieved in a year is what most organizations plan for over five years.”

There’s been international travel, rebranding, expansion, outreach and all the rest, but our focus has never wavered from the children. **High-love, low-cost treatment and care is our daily practice**, and we’ve been building stronger operations and clinical services systems to bolster our exciting expansion plans.

Check out the Kafika House December Newsletter for the details of their expansion year to Karatu and Moshi, especially their work with spina bifida and hydrocephalus children. A blessed Christmas and New Year to you all; thanks for sharing with us as we work in transforming childhood for many here in Tanzania.

Learn more at kafikahouse.org and friendsofkafikahouse.org. If you have questions, contact Jean Wahlstrom. 📍



MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS), Tanzania

Uniforms! Scholarships! Prayers!

Please accept a huge thank you to all who donated to help provide a **uniform** (actually, it’s for everything in the first two years for the new 65 Form-One students). If you have extra funds as we begin this year, several more \$60 donations are still needed. Just write UNIFORMS on your check’s menu line and it will get to the correct place.



Now the challenge begins to find **scholarship** donors to pay for one year of one of these entering students. All funding is carefully accounted for through Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA). Do consider contributing singly or jointly as a family, a book club, or any other group funding. \$1100 is needed per student. One of the **prayers** for each January is that all the 65 girls who have been recruited will return to campus and be registered without delay. Pray for their safe travels, to avoid pregnancy or an arranged marriage, and to start their studies in good health.

Also, thanks to Jason Bergmann (Director of Operation Bootstrap Africa) for his presentation in our Adult Forum in December. Karibu sana tena!!! You are most welcome again!!

Visit <https://bootstrapafrica.org/> to learn more about Operation Bootstrap-Africa and its work. If you have questions, contact Jean Wahlstrom. 📍

Lantern Hill, Mexico

by Shana Nielsen

Last month I talked about the purchase of additional property in Canon Buena Vista, Mexico. The new building is just down the street from our current yellow school that will allow for a safe place to play (think no broken glass scattered amongst a broken up concrete platform). Additionally, the space will provide more classrooms that will provide for more educational support for more children who without it, may have possibly made it as far as middle school - but very unlikely would have had the opportunity to attend high school and definitely not university. Now we have 9 students in University, one who has just started dental school, and one who is finishing up law school. There is a song with the lyrics, “Love Builds Bridges...” well it also builds gyms, and performance stages, and lives that get to dream then go on to achieve those dreams. If you have Instagram or Facebook, I would encourage you to look at a recent post from students at Lantern Hill, who posted a short video of what Love built starting in 1989; there was a plot of rubble that became a school for 6 children. There are now 100 “kids” ranging in age from 4 to 24 - and when we build the next school, more children will come and more will thrive.

This coming February, Abby Williams, Director of Lantern Hill, will be coming to share her story of what Love Built, and how people can help to build more love in the way of educational support. More information to follow in next month’s issue of *the VOICE!* In the meantime, I am grateful for your continued prayers and for the financial support that our congregation has provided. As the new year begins, I can’t wait to continue sharing all about Lantern Hill and truly what Love can build.

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



Snippets of Gratitude

- “I love the insights that the women in the midweek bible study share during our studies. I feel like I always learn something new. I’m grateful that it is offered both in-person and on Zoom so I can get to know more people.” ~ Diane Hogle
- “I’d like to send a special thank you note to Kurt Lutterman for putting up the hat hook in the Music Room.” ~ CJ Tatum

“Snippets of Gratitude” 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.

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

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 return in the March 2024 issue. 📧

Congregation Council, Committees 2023

Committee	Council Liaison	Committee Chair
Executive	Carolynn Ferris, President Dan Johnson, Vice President Tom Getzinger, Secretary Bill Brueggemann, Treasurer Pastor Lara Forbes	
Building and Property	Kit Bowerman	John Nelson
Communications	Rob Parks Becca Piel	
Discipleship Ministries	Aaron Davis Ann Ross-Clarke	Dana Nasby
Finance	Bill Brueggemann, Treasurer Dick Szabo Juliet Zhang	Brady Kasper
Health and Wholeness Ministry	Carolynn Ferris	Terri Anderson Stella Nieman 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 Grindeland**, 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 Grindeland**
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 **January 15**
Email submissions to Susan Hegedus, susan@SALC.church



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 www.SALC.church
 425-746-2529

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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

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

425-746-2529
<https://SALC.church> | info@SALC.church

Facebook: @salcbellevue AND @SALCFamilies
 Instagram: @salcbellevue AND @salc families
 YouTube: [youtube.com/c/saintandrewslutheranchurch](https://www.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.



We Support:



January 2024

For current information,
visit salc.church/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec - 31	Jan - 1	Jan - 2	Jan - 3	Jan - 4	Jan - 5	Jan - 6
	<p>ALL DAY New Years Day/ Office Closed</p> <p>5p - 6p Executive Committee</p>	<p>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men</p> <p>9:30a - 12:30p Dorcas Circle</p> <p>40a - 44a Bible Study with Pastor Lara</p>	<p>10a - 11:30a WEBS (Women's Early Book Study)</p> <p>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting (Override)</p> <p>7p - 8p Racial Justice Group/JEDI</p>	<p>7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays</p>	
Jan - 7	Jan - 8	Jan - 9	Jan - 10	Jan - 11	Jan - 12	Jan - 13
<p>9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5</p> <p>10a - 11a Sunday Worship</p> <p>12:15p - 1:15p Acolyte Officer's Planning Meeting</p> <p>5p - 7p Stoddard Committal and Family Reception</p> <p>OFFSITE</p> <p>5p - 7p Sock Samurai</p>	<p>10a - 11:30a Health and Wholeness Ministry</p> <p>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting</p> <p>7p - 9p Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men</p> <p>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara</p>	<p>10a - 11:30a WEBS (Women's Early Book Study)</p> <p>2p - 3p Congregation Care Team</p>	<p>7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays</p>	
Jan - 14	Jan - 15	Jan - 16	Jan - 17	Jan - 18	Jan - 19	Jan - 20
<p>9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5</p> <p>10a - 11a Sunday Worship</p> <p>10a - 11a Reception of new members</p>	<p>ALL DAY MLK Day/ Office Closed</p> <p>7p - 9p Discipleship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men</p> <p>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara</p> <p>11:45a - 1:15p O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutheran Saints)</p>	<p>10a - 11:30a WEBS (Women's Early Book Study)</p> <p>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting (Override)</p>	<p>7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays</p>	
Jan - 21	Jan - 22	Jan - 23	Jan - 24	Jan - 25	Jan - 26	Jan - 27
<p>9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5</p> <p>10a - 11a Sunday Worship</p> <p>11:15a - 12:15p KnitWits (Knitting as Witnesses)</p> <p>11:15a - 12:15p Acolyte Meeting</p>	<p>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting</p> <p>7p - 8:30p Outreach and Servant Ministries</p>	<p>ALL DAY Sophia Way Lunch food dropoff</p> <p>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men</p> <p>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara</p> <p>7p - 8p Building and Property Committee</p>	<p>OFFSITE</p> <p>ALL DAY Sophia Way Lunch</p> <p>10a - 11:30a WEBS (Women's Early Book Study)</p> <p>7p - 8p Racial Justice Group/JEDI</p>	<p>7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays</p>	<p>6p - 8p Youth Mystery Event</p>
Jan - 28	Jan - 29	Jan - 30	Jan - 31	Feb - 1	Feb - 2	Feb - 3
<p>9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12)</p> <p>9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5</p> <p>10a - 11a Sunday Worship</p> <p>11:15a - 1p Annual Congregation Meeting</p>	<p>1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting</p>	<p>8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men</p> <p>10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara</p>	<p>10a - 11:30a WEBS (Women's Early Book Study)</p>			

Northwest Washington Synod

From Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Published in *The Spirit*, December 2023 edition



We were in a car heading to the Sahara Desert. The weather was changing. I looked out the window and, seeing a dark mass in the distance, said to the driver, “Do you know what a tornado is?” He didn’t respond. But in a few short moments, we skidded to a stop on the side of the road. There was no visibility, wind was swirling around us. Rain and sand and rocks were pelting the car. And then the car windows broke from the pressure of the storm. We were suddenly being blown around and all of us in the car were showered with rain and sand and rocks and glass. We huddled in our seats, shocked by the ferociousness of the weather around us and fearful of what was happening.

When I look at our world right now, I confess I feel much the same as I did on that day - like I’m huddling in my seat, shocked by the ferociousness of the wind and fearful of what is happening.

In our world, the climate continues to change and people and the very earth are suffering. We continue to harm this planet that God created for us and for all creatures and plants.

In our Holy Land, as I write this in the middle of November, we hear of Palestinian Christian families fleeing, children crying, hunger and desperation, churches being bombed and hospitals being attacked. In our Holy Land, we hear of violence against the Jewish people, kidnapping of children and old people, and the threat of death.

In our country, there are those who are conflating Christianity with patriotism, those who are moving against Democracy and towards authoritarianism, gun violence continues unabated, legislators refuse to do their work and instead look after their own best interests. There is continued racism in our institutions, polarization, refusal to listen to each other, and more.

In the ELCA, we forget that we are gathering for the sake of Jesus and for those desperate to hear God’s Word of forgiveness, love, and grace. We try to prop up institutional ideas rather than living into the Spirit of Christ. We would rather live in the “what once was” rather than the advent of something beyond our imaginations (but not God’s).

Truly, the storms seem strong and fierce.

And yet ... and yet ...

In this time, when we not only are living in these swirling squalls, we are called, as people of faith, to remember and trust how God has worked, and continues to work, in this world. We are called to tell the stories of God’s faithfulness again. For in the beginning, through God’s Word, chaos became the heavens and the earth. Later, Moses saw God in fire. In the story of Job, when Job questioned God’s faithfulness, God replied, referring to the stars, ‘Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion?’ When Abraham fought the storm of sacrificing his son, God brought through the darkness a ram. When a country was occupied by Rome, power was held by a few, voices were silenced, and hope seemed fleeting, a young girl became pregnant and sang. A young couple sought shelter far from home.

In a night of storms, one star shone bright. In a world of desolation, a baby’s cry was heard.

In this stormy time, in this time of deep shadows and unknowns, in this time of memory and hope, in this Advent and Christmas time, together we lift our voices in and sing:

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Dear Beloveds of God, I wish you Advent and Christmas blessings and hope.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org 

Resources and Prayer Messages from the Synod

Resources from our Synod include:

- Weekly updates and prayer messages and monthly newsletters: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/news>
You can also opt to have this weekly update emailed to you.
- Podcasts offered by individuals and congregations: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources/podcasts>
- Devotions for individuals and congregations: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources/devotions-worship>

