

# the VOICE

## February 2024

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

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# Sunday Worship 10:00 am In-person

Masks are optional for in-person worship. Visit salc.church/media for livestream worship.

and Livestream

# Lent

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

We've barely finished the Christmas season and Lent is already on the horizon. Lent is the season of 40 days that begins on Ash Wednesday and goes through Holy Saturday minus Sundays because, as Martin Luther reminds us, Sundays are always "Little Easters". Ash Wednesday this year is on February 14 (see pg 2 for that day's worship schedule). For a fun bit of trivia, Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter. Easter is the Sunday following the first full moon after the March equinox, which is always March 21.

Lent is similar to Advent in that it's a time of preparation. Its 40 days are a parallel to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism. They're a time of introspection and, often, penitence that help us focus on our relationship with God. During the season, many people choose to engage more thoughtfully in prayer or take on a spiritual discipline to deepen their relationship with God.

It's sometimes difficult to maintain momentum during Lent because 40 days feels like a long time to prepare for something – even a day as wonderful as Easter. But this season helps us remember that we don't prepare in isolation because we are part of a community.

When we gather on Sunday mornings, our readings will be from Mark's gospel. They will emphasize Jesus' teachings on the things that prevent us from noticing God's Kingdom in our midst. They will also lift up the richness of understanding it and experiencing it as a place of community where everyone is valued.

We will also gather on Wednesday evenings, February 21 and 28, and March 6, 13, and 20. The format for our time will again be Dinner Church as we share a meal of soup and bread and engage in conversation. For our discussions, we will explore the Lord's Prayer, focusing on different petitions each week. These conversations will help us broaden our understanding of this prayer as one that we pray for others, not just for ourselves as individuals.

In this season, in whatever way you choose to prepare, may your relationship with God be a source of strength and comfort to you and to others. And may you know that you are a valued member of God's Kingdom.

With peace, Pastor Lara (1)

#### Prayer Partners for Lent

Sign up by **February 11.** See page 8

# SOUPer Bowl of Caring

February 11

Food and monetary donations benefit Hopelink.
See page 12

# An Evening with John Philip Newell

February 20, 7:00 pm
Come and hear this Celtic teacher and author of over 15 books on spirituality.
See page 3

# Lent

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

February 4

Mark 5:21-43 Psalm 131

February 11

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Mark 8:27--9:8 Psalm 27:1-4

February 14

Ash Wednesday

Mark 9:30-37

Psalm 32:1-5

February 18

First Sunday in Lent Mark 10:17-31 Psalm 19:7-10

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent Mark 10:32-52 Psalm 34:11-14

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

# Ash Wednesday

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14. Two worship services are scheduled:

- 12:15 pm: in-person only.
- 7:00 pm: in-person and livestreamed.



# Lenten Midweek Dinner Church

Join us for evenings of small-group fellowship and soup as Saint Andrew's observes Lent with Dinner Church gatherings. These will be held on Wednesdays, February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 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 a petition of the Lord's Prayer. 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, for more details.

# Lenten Outreach ~ Personal Care Kits Baskets of Promise Drive

The Health and Wholeness Ministry Committee is once again be holding the *Baskets of Promise* Drive during Lent. We will be collecting articles to be put into Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The kits are sent to areas of the world where emergency supplies are needed. You can help us fill these kits by donating the items listed below. To make it easy for you we have listed an item to be donated each week during Lent. A reminder item will be in the bulletin each week to help you keep track of donations. You do not have to stick with this schedule but can bring in items as you wish. Please place all items in the designated basket near the elevator in the Narthex.

- February 18: bath towels, 20"x40" 27"x52", light weight, dark colors
- February 25: combs, large sturdy (no pick combs)
- March 3: metal nail clippers
- March 10: soap, 4-5 ounce bars in original packaging
- March 17: toothbrushes, adult size
- March 24: bath towels



# Prayer Partners for Lent

S ee page 8.



2 - Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue WA

# Worship and Liturgical Arts

# An Evening Talk with John Philip Newell

Tuesday, **February 20** | 7:00 pm | Saint Andrew's Sanctuary

Yelebrated author and teacher, John Philip Newell, will give an overview of his award-winning book Sacred Earth Sacred Soul and share his vision of awakening to the sacred in all things as the pathway toward healing and new beginnings in our lives and world.

This Interfaith Harmony Lecture is hosted by Seattle University's Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement.

Doors Open at 6:30 pm and lecture begins at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$25 per person and advance registration is required.

Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/

ceie-interfaith-harmony-lecture-john-philip-newell-tickets-763506096287

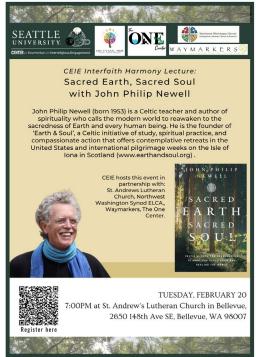
Books by John Philip Newell will be available for purchase and he will sign books after the lecture. A time of refreshments and conversation follow the lecture.

Visit https://www.earthandsoul.org/events/sacred-earth-sacred-soul-bellevue for more information. A link to register is on that page.

*John Philip Newell is a Celtic teacher and author of spirituality who calls* the modern world to reawaken to the sacredness of Earth and every human

Canadian by birth, and a citizen also of Scotland, he resides with his family in Edinburgh and works on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2016 he began the Earth & Soul initiative and teaches regularly in the United States and Canada as well as leading international pilgrimage weeks on Iona in the Western Isles of Scotland.

He has authored over fifteen books. His latest award-winning publication, Sacred Earth Sacred Soul, was the 2022 Gold Winner of the Nautilus Book Award for Spirituality and Religious Thought of the West. Learn more at https://www.earthandsoul.org/john-philip-newell. (\*)



# Annual Meeting

# **Annual Congregation Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, **January 28, 2024**, at *11:15 am*, both I in-person and via Zoom. Information about accessing the meeting via Zoom will be emailed to members the week before the meeting.

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 to authorize continued negotiations with Imagine Housing to potentially build an affordable housing project on our property.
- Recognizing Quiet Servants
- Learning about a "Growing Young" Assessment
- Learning about Bellevue area congregation collaborations

Dorcas Circle will have a quilt for a free-will raffle at the meeting to benefit Lutheran World Relief. Tickets are by free-will donation and can be purchased at the meeting.

A quorum is needed and every voice and vote counts! Please plan to attend, either in-person or online. Visit salc.church/meeting for information.



2023 Annual Report Available

to "Saint Andrew's Resources" to find it.

is open. (🏗

The 2023 Annual Report is available sale, church/forms-resources and scroll down The 2023 Annual Report is available. Visit

Paper copies of the Annual Report are available

in the Narthex. Pick one up whenever the building

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

Sunday, January 28 | 9:00 am | 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, February 4 | 9:00 am | Fellowship Hall North

#### **Backpack Meals for Kids**

Backpack Meals for Kids is a community-based non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. It provides easy-to-make meals each Friday to kids in the Bellevue School District so they have food to eat over the weekend. Jan Starr, board chair of Backpack Meals for Kids, will be here to tell us more about this vital support program.

Sundays, **February 11 and 18 | 9:00 am** Fellowship Hall North

#### Bible Study: Ruth

Join us for a study on the Bible's Book of Ruth, led by Diane Hogle. This class will be our Forum topic for back-to -back Sundays. Bring your Bible, curiosity, and questions. (We always have a few Bibles available if you forget yours.)

Sunday, February 25 | 9:00 am | Fellowship Hall North

#### Lantern Hill

Abby Williams, Director of Lantern Hill, joins us at church on February 25. Come meet with and hear from Abby, who will share her inspiring story about the early years of Lantern Hill, the mission of the program with updates regarding current events, and her vision and goals for the future of the school and the children who attend. Abby will also provide information about the additional building that is being purchased and the impact the space will have on not only the program but the entire community.



## 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 | Faith and Family Center

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 | Faith and Family Center

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.

# Discipleship: Education

# Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Lara

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

idweek Bible Study is led by Pastor Lara. We spend time with the primary reading for the upcoming Sunday Lusing 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

# Youth Group

Sunday, February 4 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Faith and Family Center

Te are meeting on February 4 for an evening full of fun and excitement! All youth grades 6-12 are welcome to attend, and don't forget to invite a friend along! Questions, please contact Doug Johnson.

# Holden Village Sign Up Reminder!

▲ ttention youth grades 8-12! Have you signed up to attend the May Youth Weekend at Holden Village yet? Dates are **May 17-19**. Deadline to sign-up is **February 7**. To sign up go to the following link: http://tinyurl.com/3d2nnwmz. Questions, contact Doug Johnson. (1)

#### Youth Lock-In

Friday-Saturday, February 23-24 | 6:00 pm - 9:00 am

ll youth grades 6-12 are invited for an almost lock-in on February 23 at 6:00 pm through February 24 at **19:00 am.** We will gather together for dinner, games, snacks, breakfast, and more. Youth are asked to bring a snack to share. Youth will need to bring their own sleeping bags. Please sign-up at salc.church/youth-lock-in no later than **February 21**. Questions, contact Doug Johnson.

#### For All Families

## Registration Forms

**X** Te 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". (1)

# Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Birthday to these youth who celebrate birthdays in February!

> Mary Lee H.....2/09 Erik N......2/12 Tvler K ...... 2/27

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 Instagram: @salcfamilies

# Discipleship: Children / Youth and Family Ministries

# For Everyone!

# Family Game Night

Sunday, **February 18** | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church

Family Game Night returns this spring with even more opportunities for fun and games. We are so thankful that Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church is willing to host us this month, on February 18, from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Please sign-up by **February 15**. A light dinner will be provided. Families are invited to bring a game and a snack to share. To sign up visit: http://tinyurl.com/4pycx73k

- February Host: Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church (February 18)
- March Host: Mt. Si Lutheran Church (March 17)
- April Host: Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church (April 21)

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



## Want to Have Some Fun?

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,

fill out the online interest form by scanning the QR Code or using the link below. Or contact Doug Johnson and he will connect you with our wonderful youth and families! Thank you for your interest and willingness to help with children, youth, and family ministries here at Saint Andrew's.



https://forms.gle/T8B9o45vEmvNDZsVA



# **Growing Young Assessment**

During the Annual Meeting, we announced that the Growing Young Team will be conducting an assessment of the congregation to help us better serve our families and the families of our community. Keep an eye out for a special announcement in the coming weeks announcing dates, details, and more. Questions, contact Doug Johnson or members of the Growing Young Team.

# Growing Young – A Refresher

by Doug Johnson

**B** ack in the spring of 2023 we announced that a small team of people from our congregation was working on ways to better minister to our families and families of our communities. We have been using two books as our guide in this process: Sustainable Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries and Growing Young by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. Sustainable Youth Ministry provides an incredible guide and framework on how to build a ministry for the long term. Using the imagery of building a house the book sets forth processes and systems on how to build sustainable, healthy, and long-term children, youth, and family ministry. Growing Young provides six core commitments that the authors recommend congregations follow that have proven effective if they want to "grow young," meaning prioritizing young people and families. This book brings together over 10,000 hours of research alongside countless stories of how congregations have new life (for all ages, not just young families) through the six core commitments. Using these books as a guide we have been learning and growing. We also have been having conversations with our families to try and better understand where we are. During that time, two things happened. First, we realized that there was a lot more learning about ourselves and our congregation that we need to do. Second, Fuller Seminary and the Fuller Youth Institute – the people responsible for the research in *Growing Young* – put out new resources, specifically the Growing Young Assessment. The team, in conversation with the Discipleship Ministries Committee and Council, decided that there was a lot of value in having our congregation do the assessment. We are excited to see what the results are of this assessment and are happy to help you with any questions that you may have. Please don't be afraid to reach out to any of the team members if you have any questions.

Our team:

Christine Camrud Anna McLeod Mark Davis Margaret Santjer Juliet Zhang Doug Johnson



# Fellowship

# **Dorcas Circle**

#### Quilting

Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 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,

## 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.

# Women's Early Book Study (WEBS)

Wednesdays, through February 7

**10:00 am - 11:30 am** | *In-person and via Zoom* 

Coordinator: Cheryl Jurrus

WEBS' Winter Book Study continues on Wednesdays through February 7. We meet inperson and via Zoom 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*.

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.

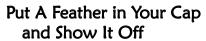
Contact Cheryl Jurrus for the reading schedule, discussion questions, and Zoom link. We share devotions, pray together, encourage each other in service, and laugh!





# Older Wiser Lutheran Saints (OWLS)

Tuesday, **February 20** | 11:45 am Fellowship Hall North



 $\Gamma$  ancy lady's hats and fedoras used to be part of our wardrobe.

Bring your favorite chapeau to the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran Saints) potluck luncheon on Tuesday,

**February 20**. Be prepared to model it and share the story behind your choice. Yes, baseball caps or ski hats count.

We gather at *11:45 am* and dine at noon. 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.

P.S. There will be prizes for the best hats.



# 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!!

# Fellowship

#### Women's Retreat March 1-3

#### Reserve Your Spot for Women's Retreat

66 Tow Is A Great Time to Be Churched. Wait! What?!"

Yes, doom and gloom isn't the answer. Find out what is and why we're in the right spot at the right time from Reverend Kristin-Luana Bauman. She's the new co-pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah.

She will be the guest speaker at the 2024 Women's Retreat, scheduled for Friday-Sunday, **March 1-3**.

The first weekend in March is the usual date for the women's retreat sponsored by Saint Andrew's and Our Savior Lutheran Churches. It was held in November in 2023 due to health challenges of the speaker, and the families of the chairs.

The retreat will be held at Rainbow Lodge in North Bend. And if you haven't been there recently, the upgrades will have you going "Ahhhh."

Saint Andrew's partners with Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah for this fun gathering.

You have the option of staying at the retreat center Friday and Saturday night or joining us just for the Saturday workshops.

Yes, we need volunteers.

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, 425-746-2529 or sherry@salc.church. (1)



## **Prayer Partners for Lent**

by Sherry Grindeland and Cheryl Jurrus

During Lent we again have the opportunity to be matched with a prayer partner. This gives each of us someone to lift up in prayer and someone to hold us in prayer. Praying for another person is a special time to intercede for another person. He or she may be someone you know very well or even a complete stranger. You can pray for their specific requests, their walk through Lent, for guidance and faithfulness, or for health and wholeness.

#### Sign-up TODAY to be a Lenten Prayer Partner!

The deadline to sign up is Monday, February 12.

You have three ways to sign-up to be a prayer partner:

- 1) Fill out a form that is in the Narthex.
- 2) Email or call Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland, 425-746-2529 or sherry@salc.church.
- 3) Sign up online at salc.church/prayer-partners.

\*New this year: We need your name, phone number, email, snail mail address and your prayer requests. We will share information about your prayer partner so you can personalize your prayers for them and remember them with encouraging cards and notes.

You will receive an email with your prayer partner information on or before Ash Wednesday on **February 14**. (If you don't receive the email by noon on February 14, contact Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland.)

#### Don't tell, it's a secret!

We will have a Prayer Partner Reveal at the Adult Discipleship Forum on Sunday, **April 7**, at **9:00 am** (the Sunday after Easter.) It is always a joyous occasion to learn who has been praying for us and to hear stories about how the Holy Spirit touched us during this time.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12) Prayer is something we are called to do. It is not just a suggestion, it is part of our faith-life.





# In Our Community

#### **Belize Mission Fundraiser**

Saturday, February 3 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church

Toin a dinner inspired by Belize cuisine, learn about Belize, participate in fun games and a silent auction. All J proceeds will go to support the mission projects our team will carry out in country. RSVP by January 27 to pastor@mtsilutheran.org or pastornyla@shlc.org. Suggested donation of \$30 per person for dinner.

# Northwest Washington Synod

# From Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Published in The Spirit, February 2024 edition

Today as I write this, I am acutely aware that I am home.

You see, I was supposed to be on a plane today – traveling to the Holy Land – with thirty people from this synod. We were going to see holy sites: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, and so much more.

Besides visiting these holy sites, we were going to be with our Lutheran siblings in Palestine and Israel. We were going to visit with and learn from Bishop Azar, the pastors, and the laypeople of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). We were going to visit our



Lutheran schools in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Ramallah, and Beit Jala. We were going to visit the only liberal arts university in Palestine - Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. We were going to visit the Lutheran hospital, Augusta Victoria Hospital. And we were going to visit our Jewish siblings who work for justice and peace.

Today as I write this, I am acutely aware that today is the one hundredth day since fighting began in the Holy Land.

On October 7, 2023 Hamas killed around 1,200 people and kidnapped over two hundred. It was a horrible and horrendous attack on women, children, and the elderly.

Following this attack, Israel began striking with guns, bombs, and other devices of war. At this moment, the death toll in Gaza is 24,100 dead with 61,000 others wounded. It is estimated that two-thirds of those killed in Gaza so far are women and children –all non-combatants. Almost the entire population of Gaza is now displaced, and starvation and disease are

By anyone's estimate, these are horrifying statistics, and they cannot, at all, begin to acknowledge the pain and anguish from all sides.

Now, I am not an expert of the Holy Land or the Israel-Palestinian conflict. I cannot begin to parse out all that happens in this area of the world – especially in such a short article as this. But as a baptized child of God, pastor, and your bishop, I know that this war is not God's way. I know that God calls us to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced. I know that God calls not for a pretend cease fire but true dialogue. I know that God calls us to a just peace where all people are recognized as human.

As many of you know, I was part of a group of seventeen ELCA bishops who went to the Holy Land last year. While we were there, we visited the ELCJHL schools in Palestine and Israel. We saw Muslim and Christian children learning together. We saw dancing and singing. We listened to their stories and we rejoiced at the hope we saw there. When we visited Augusta Victoria Hospital during this same visit, we saw Muslim doctors treating Christian patients and vice versa. When we visited with an Israeli non-profit dedicated to justice for the Palestinians, we saw Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians, working together for peace and justice.

Dear Beloveds in Christ, please take to heart what our brother in Christ, ELCJHL Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar, said on Reformation Day 2023 while speaking at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem:

"It is very hard to speak about hope here in Jerusalem ... As Palestinian Christians, we have been here for many years, not recognized, but calling for reconciliation. We are serving people's needs and we are working for the future of the whole human family...The priority right now is to end the war, to stop the killing of women and men, children and the elderly ... We hope that our Christian brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world are praying for us, praying for Christians in the Holy Land and for the rights of Palestinians to exist here."

As we are privileged to be in our homes – and as millions have been displaced from their homes – let us pray for true peace, work for justice, and speak out against hatred.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it... The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:14, 18

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org



# Snippets of Gratitude

T hank you to all for your prayers, cards and support to me and my family in death of husband Dwayne.

~ Linda Behrendsen

Thank you to the volunteers who help assemble and prepare the VOICE for mailing. In December, they did triple-duty: prepared the VOICE, placed Christmas offering envelopes and pens in the Sanctuary pews, and made sure the candles were ready for the congregation to use on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Sarah Cannon, Carol Muecke, Carolyn Gernert, Ruth Miller, Christine Koch, and Shirley Hobson.

"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*. (1)

# Congregation Council

#### President's Corner

from Carolynn Ferris, Congregation Council President

#### Candidates for Council and Nominating Committee

It has been particularly challenging to find candidates willing to run for the 2024 Council and the 2025 Nominating Committee. This year's Nominating Committee has contacted over two dozen people. With hard work and commitment, they were able to find six individuals willing to run for the four open positions on Council and another four people who will serve on next year's Nominating Committee. We will be voting on these candidates in our Annual Meeting on January 28.

Please thank Matt Camrud (chair), Karin Eklof, Joyce Kasper, Kari Henderson, and Lois Nelson for all of their efforts. Also, a huge shout out to Art Gurtel who supported the committee and stepped in to help in their efforts.

Given the challenges in recruiting potential candidates, it might be time to re-think some of our governing policies. For instance, we could possibly reduce the number of Council members (today there are 12 plus the Pastor), we might move the Annual Meeting and elections to later in the year to minimize conflict with the holidays and winter travel. There are likely several other ideas worth consideration. But it will require an update of our Constitution which, as you likely remember, is a relatively arduous process. Council will consider this in the coming months.

#### **ELCA Cluster Collaboration**

The pastors and lay leaders of both Cross of Christ and Saint Luke's have shown an interest in discussing how our three congregations might work more closely together to maximize our collective resources and increase the impact of our ministries within our community. With the closure of Grace and Holy Cross, we are the only remaining ELCA churches within Bellevue and we are each facing challenges. We feel it is time to explore new approaches.

While there needs to be continued work within the broader Cluster, there is interest in fast-tracking more in-depth conversations among the three Bellevue churches. The proposed next step is to bring together the Councils from Saint Andrew's, Saint Luke's, and Cross of Christ to have candid discussions around making some potentially bold choices. We also hope to have representation from the Synod. Saint Andrew's will be hosting this meeting on the morning of January 27. If you are interested in attending or would like to provide input, please do contact me.

#### 2024 Annual Meeting

To enable as many as possible to participate in our 2024 Annual Meeting, we have decided to host it in a hybrid format. It requires a number of people to support the technical aspects of both running the audio/visual equipment and counting of the votes. We need to find volunteers willing to help. This is not a significant time commitment. It should only require a minimal amount of training and being available to support annual and semi-annual Congregational meetings. Would you be willing to serve? Please contact me, or Susan Hegedus, or Kurt Lutterman.

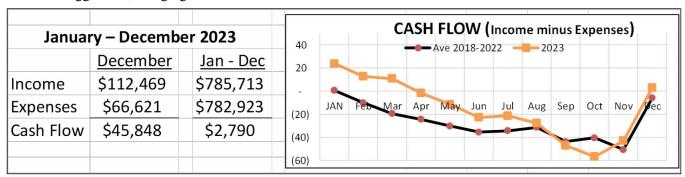
Yours in Christ, Carolynn Ferris.



# Congregation Council

# Trea\$urer Note\$

from Bill Brueggemann, Congregation Treasurer



#### Comments

- **Income:** \$112.5K Thank you for the great response!
- Expenses: Expenses ended the year \$17K under budget.
- Cash flow: Positive \$45.9K for December and positive \$2.8K at the end of the year (more income than expenses)!

#### **Electronic Contributions**

All electronic contributions are now with *Tithe.ly*. Thank you to everyone for cooperating with the change from *VANCO*/Simply Giving to *Tithe.ly*.

#### **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 <u>salc.church/giving-options</u> 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. **(** 

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# Congregation Council

# At the January 9 Congregation Council Meeting....

Pastor Lara led a "Dwelling in the Word" devotion on Mark 2:1-12.

President Carolynn Ferris' Report: See President Carolynn Ferris' "President's Corner" report on page 10.

#### **Pastor Lara Forbes' Report:**

- Cluster pastors are meeting to plan a pulpit exchange and to plan pastoral support for Mt. Si Lutheran during Pastor Krista Johnson's sabbatical.
- In Pastor's report to the Bishop, one of the questions was "If your congregation closed today, what would the neighborhood miss about you?" The Council discussed their input to the question.

**Finance:** See Treasurer Bill Brueggemann's "Treasurer Notes" on page 11. In addition:

• 2024 Budget: A balanced \$800,000 budget was shared with the Council. The Council voted to present the budget to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Housing Task Force:**

- The Task Force met at St. Luke's Lutheran with Imagine Housing to learn about Imagine's project there.
- The Task Force is preparing for the presentation and a vote on a resolution at the Annual Meeting.

**Annual Congregation Meeting:** The Council discussed the agenda and logistics for the Annual Meeting.

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.

# 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





#### HUNGER

# SOUPer Bowl of Caring benefits Hopelink

Saint Andrew's is participating in a national effort to help those who are hungry. It is called "SOUPer Bowl of Caring" and is held in connection with the Super Bowl. On **February 11** – Super Bowl Sunday – we will be having a special collection to address hunger in our neighborhoods.

Hunger is everywhere in our community, from the suburbs on the Eastside to South King County to the streets of Downtown Seattle. It affects everyone: working families, the elderly, young adults and especially children. One in eight children in Washington State face hunger.

As we get excited about the big game on **February 11** let's make an extra effort to fight hunger. Before and after the service that day, members of our church will be in the Narthex collecting food and donations for this effort.

The key items we will be collecting are: **canned hearty Soup** (of course – it's the Souper Bowl), **canned Chili and other meals** (Spaghetti-o's, Ravioli, Pork and Beans, Beef Stew, etc.), **canned Meat** (tuna, chicken and salmon), **canned Fruit** (~15 ounces), **canned Corn** (~15 ounces), jars of **Pasta Sauce** (~24 ounces), boxes of **Cereal** (especially name brands), **Ramen** (including Cup of Noodles and Noodle kits) and **Peanut Butter** (~16 ounces). Hopelink provides a wide variety of food through their food bank.

Look for a detailed "shopping list" in Sunday bulletins. Everything collected will go to the Hopelink Food Bank in Bellevue. All money donated will be used by Hopelink to buy the food items required to provide needed nutrition to those who are hungry right in our neighborhoods.

So, come to church on **February 11**, fired up about the big game and ready to make a difference (a SOUPer difference) for those who are hungry.

# Collection Emphasis for Hopelink ~ February

For the month of February, Hopelink has asked us to focus on collecting shelf-stable milk. These include both dairy and non-dairy options such as almond, coconut, and oat milk. The 32-ounce containers are perfect. This is great for their clients, since Hopelink can only occasionally purchase milk.

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











# Outreach and Servant Ministries

# Ministry of the Month for February ~ Lutheran World Relief



**Most Generous God**, Thank you for Lutheran World Relief, the work it does for our neighbors around the world and for staff and partners that carry out

that work. Give wisdom and guidance to the leadership of LWR so they can continue to be a blessing to so many people around the world. Provide for their needs so they can most effectively provide support for the people they serve. Watch over and bless those people who find relief through the work of LWR. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Ligrounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. They work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and do not evangelize.

LWR provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives. They partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. They break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Their goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after their projects end. Affirming God's love for all people, they work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering.

#### LWR Quilt and Kit Ministries:

In 2023 Lutheran World Relief delivered 194,983 quilts to many countries, including Angola, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, Mali, Tanzania, Turkey, and Ukraine. They also delivered 190,043 school kits, 123,920 personal care kits, 35,490 baby kits and 7,264 fabric kits to countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East.

At Saint Andrew's, Dorcas Circle has been sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief since the 1950's. Our Health and Wholeness Ministry Committee currently collects towels, soap, nail clippers, toothbrushes, and combs for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. In 2023, we provided 51 quilts and 326 personal care kits to LWR.

Twice per year, Lutheran World Relief has in-gatherings around the United States where churches deliver their quilts and kits for delivery to Lutheran World Relief. Our local in-gatherings are held at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Ballard, usually the first weekend in May and the first weekend in November.

#### LWR Environmental and Agricultural Programs

LWR also works to realize agriculture's potential to sustainably accelerate the growth of rural economies and reduce global poverty. They help farmers access more money to improve their crops, learn new techniques and tools to increase their yield, and attract better buyers who will pay more for their products. They support young people in becoming the next generation of climate smart farmers or in launching their own agriculture-based enterprises.

LWR considers the entire rural economic system of each community that they serve. They partner with farmers, businesses, civil society, and governments to establish inclusive and equitable market practices that feed families, are profitable, and improve everyone's quality of life.

#### LWR Humanitarian Assistance

Natural disasters and conflict-driven emergencies ravage the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people each year. While emergencies affect people at all societal and economic levels, the world's poorest suffer the most because they have the fewest resources to prepare for a crisis and the fewest resources to rebuild afterward.

LWR works hand in hand with vulnerable communities to help rebuild after disaster strikes as well as avoid or prepare for future disasters. In the days and weeks after a disaster, they are on the ground helping to meet people's immediate needs. In the months and years following, LWR is dedicated to working with them to ensure that they can rebuild better and stronger than before.

For additional information about LWR please view their website <u>LWR.org</u>.

#### Thank Yous 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

#### Lantern Hill, Mexico

by Shana Nielsen

We are so excited to have Abby Williams, Director of Lantern Hill, joining us at church on Sunday,



**February 25**. Please put this date on your calendar to come meet with and hear from Abby, as she will be sharing her inspiring story about the early years of Lantern Hill, the mission of the program with updates regarding current events, as well as sharing her vision and goals for the future of the school and the children who attend. Lantern Hill is changing lives every single day. Abby will also provide information about the additional building that is being purchased and the impact the space will have on not only the program but the entire community, because the school is a beacon of hope and inspiration. Additionally, Abby will share the value of and her personal experiences with hosting groups who choose Lantern Hill as a mission trip destination, and will likely share a story or two from when our own "Mexico 12" group visited in 2019. More details to come as the date draws near, including opportunities to donate and support Lantern Hill. Hope to see you on the 25th!

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



www.friendsoflanternhill.org https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLanternHill https://www.facebook.com/lantern.hill.7

# MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS), Tanzania



# Thank You for MGLSS Uniforms in December!

Heartfelt thanks to all who helped to provide uniforms for the entering MGLSS Form One class.

A total of \$2824.24 will be sent via OBA (Operation Bootstrap-Africa) to the school to help outfit the girls.

Every donation helps. Thank you for sharing as they begin their educational journey.

Jean Wahlstrom, on behalf of the Outreach and Servant Ministries Committee

#### **New Students!**

Sixty-four (64) young ladies have begun Form 1 at MGLSS this year. Their ages range from 11 to 16 years old. They have completed the pre-form 1 program and were very excited on January 7 when their formal secondary education began!

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

# Thank You from Bridge Disability Ministries

Thank you to everyone at Saint Andrew's! Our guardianship clients had a fabulous Christmas once again because of your church congregation's generosity.

Bridge Disability Ministries 🁚



# Pastoral Acts

#### **Baptisms**

None

#### Weddings

None

#### Memorial Services

None

#### Committals

Marlyn Rueben Wahlstrom, January 4, 2024 Saint Andrew's Memorial Garden

Dwayne Eugene Behrendsen, January 6, 2024 Saint Andrew's Memorial Garden

John William Stoddard, January 7, 2024 Saint Andrew's Memorial Garden

Sandra Lea Stoddard, January 7, 2024 Saint Andrew's Memorial Garden

#### 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

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

# Congregation Council, Committees 2023

<u>Committee</u>	Council Liaison	<b>Committee Chair</b>	
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	
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	

#### 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

#### Mary Mills

Tutor for K-12 students for the King County Library System

Please let us know how you serve in our community!

The due date to submit items for the next issue of *the VOICE* is **February 12** 

Email submissions to Susan Hegedus, susan@SALC.church



2650 148th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98007 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 @salcfamilies

YouTube: 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.



















# For current information, visit salc.church/calendar

# February 2024

Safiirday	Feb - 3		Feb - 10	<b>3p - 6p</b> Ann Leamer Celebration of Life and Reception	Feb - 17		Feb - 24	<< 10a Youth Lock-In	Mar - 2
Friday	Feb - 2	ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays	Feb - 9	ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays	Feb - 16	ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays	Feb - 23	ALL DAY Office closed on Fridays  6p >> Youth Lock-In	Mar - 1
Thireday	Feb - 1	<b>7p - 9p</b> Choir Rehearsal	Feb-8	<b>7p - 9p</b> Choir Rehearsal	Feb - 15	<b>7p - 9p</b> Choir Rehearsal	Feb - 22	<b>7p - 9p</b> Choir Rehearsal	Feb - 29 7p - 9p Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	Jan - 31		Feb - 7	10a - 11:30a WEBS (Women's Early Book Study) 4p - 5p Adult Education Planning Team	Feb - 14	12:15p - 1:30p Ash Wednesday Midweek Service - 12:15 in-person only 2p - 3p Congregation Care Team Tp - 8p Ash Wednesday Midweek Service/in-person & livestreamed	Feb - 21	1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting 6p - 7:30p Lenten Midweek Dinner Church	Feb - 28  6p - 7:30p Lenten Midweek Dinner Church 7p - 8p Racial Justice Group/JEDI
Tilesday	Jan - 30		Feb - 6	8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men 9:30a - 12:30p Dorcas Circle 10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara	Feb - 13	8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men 10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara	Feb - 20	8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men 10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara 11:45a - 1:15p O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Lutheran Saints) 7p - 9p An Evening Talk with John Philip Newell	Reb - 27 8:30a - 9:30a Tuesday Morning Men 10a - 11a Bible Study with Pastor Lara 7p - 8p Building and Property Committee
Monday	Jan - 29		Feb - 5	10a - 11:30a Health and Wholeness Ministry 1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting 5p - 6p Executive Committee 6p - 7p Finance Committee	Feb - 12	<b>7p - 9p</b> Congregation Council Meeting	Feb - 19	ALL DAY President's Day/Office Closed	Feb - 26  1p - 2p Saint Andrew's Staff Meeting  7p - 8p Discipleship Committee Meeting 7p - 8:30p Outreach and Servant Ministries
Supplier	Jan - 28		Feb - 4	9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum 9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12) 9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5 10a - 11a Sunday Worship 6p - 8p Youth Group	Feb - 11	ALL DAY SOUPer Bowl Day of Caring 9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum 9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12) 9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5 10a - 11a Sunday Worship	Feb - 18	9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum 9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12) 9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5 10a - 11a Sunday Worship 11:15a - 12:15p KnitWits (Knitting as Witnesses) OFFSITE 5p - 7p Cluster Family Game Night - Sammamish Hills LC	Feb - 25 9a - 9:45a Discipleship Hour Forum (grades 6-12) 9a - 9:45a Youth Education (grades 6-12) 9a - 9:45a Sunday Church School-age 3-grade 5 10a - 11a Sunday Worship