



**Our purpose:** *Celebrate, cultivate and share God's love.*



## The Messenger

### Our Values

Welcoming  
Compassion  
Serving  
Respect

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**WEDNESDAY EVENING  
ADVENT GATHERINGS ON  
ZOOM:** Each Wednesday night in  
Advent Our Saviour's will join  
together on Zoom to listen to and  
sing with Holden Evening Prayer.

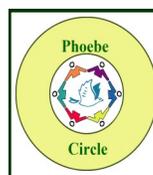
We'll also have a brief time to talk with one another, discussing Advent themes and texts. Holden Evening Prayer with the voices of Laurie, Steve, and Jen Ess, will be recorded so we can sing along with better sound. So mark off 7pm each Wednesday evening in Advent, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, and join us for a time of meditation and fellowship. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/3515357565?pwd=SIJUUZhcHNZM1hvT3Boak5mQjlaQT09>

#### ADVENT BAGS FOR EACH CHURCH

**HOUSEHOLD:** This year we are providing a bag of Advent goodness for each church household! It will contain sweet treats, candles, and a guide for reflecting upon this season. They are available to pick up at the church office. If you are unable to come into the church, or would rather not, call us so that we can arrange contact-less pickup or delivery. Many thanks to the worship committee who has been working on getting this together!



**MISSION CIRCLE** is donating 5 quilts to families for the Christmas baskets. Our group uses gently used sheets for our "quilt backs". We would appreciate the donation if any of you are discarding linens. Please drop them off at the church office.



**PHOEBE CIRCLE** is a bible study group for women. We meet on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. This month's study will be Gather Magazine the bible study is titled Singing, writing, moving, connecting: Advent rituals for uncertain times. Scriptures will be focused in Isaiah and Revelations. Everyone is welcome We can share a copy of Gather magazine if you don't have a copy. We currently are meeting online via Zoom. Please contact Sally Shinstrom at (360) 435-9392 for more information.



**From the Pastor**

In the Isaiah text for the first Sunday of December we read,

<sup>3</sup>*A voice cries out:*

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

<sup>4</sup>*Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;*

*the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.*

As I read this today I realized I had always assumed that the overhaul of the valleys and mountains was instantaneous – like, capow! All of sudden mountains are flat and valleys are raised.

It’s interesting to me that this rapid speed of massive change is my default understanding of how we KNOW that God is working. But the natural terrain is shifting *all* the time, it’s just really, reallllllly slow. Just because it’s slow, is it no less miraculous? I seem to assume that God is in fast, gigantic, positive change, but I often neglect to acknowledge God in the slow. And yet the glacially slow change that happens to geology and in the inner life of humans is no less God-shaped.

We all want this pandemic to be over. We want to be back to church. We want work and school to go back to normal. We want *everything* to be back to a welcome normal. But the question is worth asking: where might God be working in you, in us, in the midst of this prolonged time of not-normal?

Here’s a poem/prayer by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. (1881-1955)

***Trust in the Slow Work of God***

Above all, trust in the slow work of God  
We are quite naturally impatient in everything  
to reach the end without delay  
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on the way to something  
unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through  
some stages of instability-  
and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you.  
your ideas mature gradually – let them grow,  
let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don’t try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.

Consider that God is in these times of incompleteness, of unsettledness, of slowness. What might new spirit  
might God be incubating?

In hope,  
Pastor Charis

**Outreach To The Vulnerable Team:** How can we help with those who need shelter, warmth and food? By providing food items such as canned meat, peanut butter, energy bars, or other non-perishable items that take little or no preparation. As winter approaches warm clothing will be needed. You can drop off these items at church from 9am to 2pm Monday to Thursday and I will take them to the Arlington Community Resource Center. For questions or more suggestions on how you can help please call me: Bob Zerbel (425) 239-1785. Thank you.

**Our Saviour's** gives \$125.00 per month to support the work of the Arlington Food Bank, which will provide Thanksgiving & Christmas baskets for the hungry. This is made possible because of your giving to Our Saviour's. Thank you!

**North Snohomish County Outreach (NSCO) Laundry Project** - There will be no laundry Project the month of December. With the current Covid Restrictions, they are unable to operate the program safely. They will let us know when we are able to begin again.

**Meal Provision:** The North Snohomish County Outreach team has asked if OSLC can provide some meals for the cold weather shelter. Ellyn Erickson is coordinating volunteers. Being a volunteer only requires having provisions on hand to be able to quickly provide a hot dinner and cold breakfast to 10 people. Please contact Ellyn for more details and to get on the volunteer list for this important service to our community.

**Looking for the perfect gift for someone who has everything they need?** ELCA Good Gifts are a meaningful way to honor loved ones with gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. As you begin your Christmas shopping, consider giving a gift from the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Good Gifts catalog. The best gifts are those that deepen our relationship with one another, are filled with love and are impossible to wrap. ELCA Good Gifts are just that. They make great gifts for your loved ones and carry that love on to others, making a difference in their lives and in the world. With your ELCA Good Gift, you can, for example:

- Provide fresh water or water purification tablets for an entire village.
- Provide vaccinations for a child or help stock a health clinic.
- Provide chicks or a goat for a family living in poverty.

A tribute card is provided for you to give to a friend or family member to let them know that you have given a particular gift to help others, in their honor. Copies of the ELCA Good Gifts catalog can be found in the entryway to the Sanctuary or by visiting [www.goodgifts.elca.org](http://www.goodgifts.elca.org)



**OSYM (Our Saviour's Youth Ministry) News**  
Submitted by Ellen Winter

### **Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets**

Thank you to everyone who donated money for this cause. I was initially able to get each family a \$100 gift card from Safeway for their Thanksgiving meal from the donations sent to my home and then I received an additional \$25 gift card for each family. So Thanksgiving is taken care of. I also received a large check from the donations everyone made through church which is a great head start in buying gifts for the children and, hopefully, another \$100 gift card for a Christmas meal. I have added another family for a Safeway gift card. I don't get a list of who made their donations through the church so I can't personally thank each one of you but please be aware that I am extremely appreciative. This year we are supplying gifts and Christmas stockings for 19 children. Wow!

If you have not had a chance to send a donation it is not too late. As before, you can either send a donation directly to me at 25519 Ebey Mountain Road, Arlington, Wa, 98223 or through the church. In addition, I will be working over the Thanksgiving weekend (with help from my daughters) to create an Amazon wish list of the remaining items I still need. The link for the Amazon wish list is below and also on OSLC's Facebook page and website.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8M92ZFJWS291?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8M92ZFJWS291?ref_=wl_share)

If you have any questions please call me on my home phone (360) 435-8463. Please note that I do not have cell phone coverage at my home so if you leave a voice mail on my cell phone it may be 2-3 days before I head to town and retrieve your message.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has donated - we are going to make Christmas special for so many children and their parents.

**JOSEPHINE GIVING TREE:** Last Christmas Josephine's Partner Churches joined together to show a gesture of love by providing a gift to 200 elderly residents! Josephine, a care facility in Stanwood, sends a big thank you for making that possible and asks if you can help again this year. Please look for the tree in the entryway, where you will find 20 tags describing a gift to purchase for an elderly resident. Please select a tag and shop for that gift to make Christmas a special event for one of Josephine's deserving residents. The tag provides three gift suggestions (based on a wish list provided by the resident). These are only suggestions; You can purchase one or more of these items, or something different altogether. Generally, the gifts will cost less than \$20. Commonly requested items include sweatpants, sweatshirts or new socks. If the tag just says - Gift Card - the best options would be Walmart, Amazon, or a generic Visa card. The amount is up to you. (Because of dietary restrictions, please do not include any candy or food unless it is specifically requested.) **ALL TAGS HAVE BEEN CLAIMED. THANK YOU!**

Please return your gift to Our Saviour's, no later than Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to ensure delivery. Josephine asks that gifts be placed in gift bags (not boxes) with the tag attached to the handle. Thank you in advance for your generosity! May this be one way together we share the love of our church. If you have questions, please contact Toni Forsman at 360-435-5482 or [forsman.toni@gmail.com](mailto:forsman.toni@gmail.com). Peace be with you.



**CHILDCARE NEWS**

*by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor*



**Our Saviour's Childcare Staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

- Bev Curtis**
- Melissa Hackworth**
- Leslie Foster**
- Tori Hansen**
- Anita Merritt**
- Lindsey Crone**
- Jennifer Conner**
- Sheena Campbell**
- Isabella Mendoza**
- Kayla Seay**

December feels a bit different this year, but we are still looking forward to celebrating Christmas. We have been busy with the kids making gifts for their families, listening to Christmas carols, and most importantly learning about the birth of Jesus. The kids loved the Advent bags that they were given to take home right before Thanksgiving, thank you so much! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS**

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

*by Jenn Ess, Director/Teacher*



I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. While I know celebrations look different this year, I know we still have much to be thankful for. I am thankful for each of the preschool families that continue to support Our Saviour's Preschool, for the members of this church and their continued support and prayers, and for everyone who helps to make the preschool run smoothly.

This month students received Christmas crafts, as well as an Advent calendar in their work packets. We are missing our Christmas party and program this year, and wanted to make sure children were still able to do some of the fun activities normally held at that time. We are looking forward to next year when we can celebrate once again.

Interviews are still ongoing for a long term lead teacher substitute. We did hire a new assistant teacher and are excited to get her into the preschool and ready for the school year.

The Learning Center Board met to discuss the reopening of the preschool. At this time, due to the rising COVID-19 cases, as well as difficulty hiring a new teachers, it was decided to push back the opening of the preschool from January to February. While this was a difficult decision, the Board felt it was the best option for the continued safety of the preschool students, families, and staff.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for all the prayers and support.

Dear Beloveds,

A prayer during this Advent season. *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when divisions seem unsurmountable, when hatred seems more real than love, when chaos churns, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when a mysterious and virulent disease stalks this earth, as loved ones become ill, as we see the exhaustion of caregivers, as we grieve those whose breath is now air, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when loneliness and anxiety are common, when we speak to one another behind masks or plexiglass, when we crave physical connection but are unable to touch, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when lies are disguised as truth, when leaders refuse to lead, when institutions we rely on begin to crack, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when silence is complicit in keeping others unheard, when cries for justice are treated with derision, when black and brown bodies are treated as less than sacred, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

*In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.*

In these days when voices are raised up, peaceful protestors come together, incremental change occurs, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when truth is exposed, when the courageous stand up to injustice, when institutions give way to the Spirit's dance, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when we gather in chat rooms and zoom calls across the miles, see faces on screens that bring smiles, hold babies up to computer cameras and we clap and sing and pray and laugh together, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when scientists doggedly pursue a cure, nurses and doctors and medical staffs come day after day after day to bring expertise and healing to those who have fallen ill, when pastors and deacons bring comfort to the sick and to the bereaved, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when we experience the ancient Word as the living Word, when we live into the radicalness of peace and wholeness and new life, when we join together in the Holy Community you call us into, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.*

*In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.*



Grace & Peace,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the DECEMBER 2020 edition of *The Spirit*



**Northwest Washington Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Month	Actual Giving	Budget Goal	Difference	Actual Expenses
October	\$17,698.84	\$20,381.33	-\$2,682.49	\$17,565.55
Y.T.D. (July-Oct.)	\$63,433.95	\$81,525.32	-\$18,091.37	\$71,666.40

The budget year runs from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

give thanks  
to the LORD,  
for he is good;  
his LOVE endures  
forever.

PSALM 107 1

*Thank you for giving to Our Saviour's!*

**Worship Attendance for November 2020**

**Church in-person worship services cancelled due to Covid-19 and Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders. Sunday Home Worship Resources emailed weekly and available on OSLC website**

- Minutes of the monthly Church Council meeting and the Financial Report Summary are posted on the office bulletin board for all to read.
- You can also request a copy be sent to you by email or mail. Contact the church office at (360) 435-8921 or office@arlingtonwachurch.org

**December Worship Readings**

6	13	20	27
<p><b><u>Isaiah 40:1-11</u></b> <i>Good news of God's coming to a people in exile</i></p> <p><b><u>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</u></b> Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)</p> <p><b><u>2 Peter 3:8-15a</u></b> <i>Waiting for and hastening the day of God</i></p> <p><b><u>Mark 1:1-8</u></b> <i>John appears from the wilderness</i></p>	<p><b><u>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</u></b> <i>Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden</i></p> <p><b><u>Psalm 126</u></b> The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)</p> <p><b><u>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</u></b> <i>Kept in faith until the coming of Christ</i></p> <p><b><u>John 1:6-8, 19-28</u></b> <i>A witness to the light</i></p>	<p><b><u>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</u></b> <i>The LORD's promise to David</i></p> <p><b><u>Luke 1:46b-55</u></b> You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)</p> <p><b><u>Romans 16:25-27</u></b> <i>The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ</i></p> <p><b><u>Luke 1:26-38</u></b> <i>The angel appears to Mary</i></p>	<p><b><u>Isaiah 61:10--62:3</u></b> <i>Clothed in garments of salvation</i></p> <p><b><u>Psalm 148</u></b> The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)</p> <p><b><u>Galatians 4:4-7</u></b> <i>Children and heirs of God</i></p> <p><b><u>Luke 2:22-40</u></b> <i>The presentation of the child</i></p>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	2 7:pm Holden Evening Prayer via Zoom	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 7:pm Holden Evening Prayer via Zoom	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 7:pm Holden Evening Prayer via Zoom	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 7:pm Holden Evening Prayer via Zoom	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

**“ Happy Birthday to you ... ”**

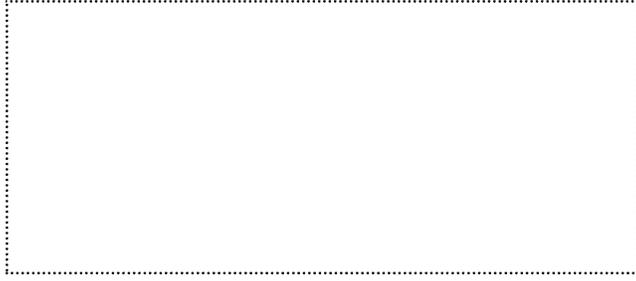
- 1 Dorothy Rambat
- 5 Jeff Parris
- 6 Laura Kellogg
- 12 Kristin Baylor
- 12 Carl Moll
- 13 Ashley DeWard
- 16 Christine Christie
- 19 Karen Highum
- 22 Ronica Davenport
- 24 Jason Williams
- 27 Fiona Grant
- 27 Lyle Kellogg
- 29 Nancy Yonker



**Happy Anniversary!**

- 6 Ryan and Paula Knight
- 16 Lowell & Kathy Stuehrenberg
- 17 Howard & Sharon Knoepfle
- 20 Byron & Lynnette Scott

© *Did we forget you? If your special date is not listed here, first, forgive us! Then, call the office so that we can update our database. Thanks!*



Share Your  
FAITH  
With Others....  
Show Love



**The Messenger**  
December 2020  
A Monthly Publication of  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
615 E Highland Dr  
Arlington WA 98223-0333



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**Our Values:** Welcoming, Compassion, Serving, Respect.