



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Worship Resources
Week of
November 29th - December 5th 2020
First Sunday of Advent

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

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

Announcements

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: We will be offering worship via livestream on Facebook again this week! On Sunday at 10:30am tune in to <https://www.facebook.com/oursavioursarlington>.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can also watch the livestream on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkurr6FCzoyHjmcDQmH0lqw?>

You can comment, add prayers, and pass the peace, on either Facebook or YouTube if you're logged in. Like last week we will be celebrating communion, so be ready with some form of bread and some form of juice/wine. It is good to be together in this way, even though it really isn't what we'd prefer.

Church office: Tammy will be working from home Monday thru Wednesday and back in the office on Thursday. Pastor Charis will be in on Monday and Wednesday. Tammy will be available by phone at (360)631-8037.

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=SlJlUWZhcHNZM1hvT3Boak5mQjlaQT09>

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!

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 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 will be posted early December on OSLC's Facebook page and website.

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

Announcements Continued

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE: We continue to try new ways of worshipping together. Readers, dreamers, planners, technology helpers – there are a lot of ways to assist with worship, and we could use all the help we can get! Do please contact the church office by phone or email, or email Pastor Charis at pastor@arlingtonwachurch.org if you can volunteer. The ongoing google doc sign-up hyperlink is listed in the body of your email.

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.)

Please return your gift to Our Saviour's, no later than Thursday, December 16th 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. Peace be with you.

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.

Holiday Shopping can change lives. Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if we could redirect some of that spending toward things that really matter, like putting an end to hunger. As Christmas nears, ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Good Gifts can be a useful tool for your holiday shopping. With ELCA Good Gifts you can choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones – from chickens and goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. Each gift has the ability to make a life-changing difference in the lives of people around the world and each gift comes with a free card for you to share the news. Pick up an ELCA Good Gifts catalog from the entryway and begin your shopping! Or you can go the website: www.goodgifts.elca.org

Announcements Continued

JOB POSTING: Childcare Center is hiring for multiple positions with the opportunity of part time to full time and on-call hours. Experience preferred. Requirements: At least 18 years of age, high school diploma or GED, STARS Training, current DCYF background check (or willing to obtain). Hours of operation are M-F 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If interested, please email us your resume (Childcare@arlingtonwachurch.org), along with a phone number to contact you.

GIVING ENVELOPES: for 2021 are available to pick up anytime. They are located on the back wall by the Keurig coffee machine.

Remember to support Our Saviour's as, even though we are not able to gather, all the usual expenses of our church continue each week. Please mail your check to the church or stop by when someone is in the office. Another option is to sign up for **Simply Giving**, which is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently and consistently contribute to Our Saviour's. If you would like more information, please contact the church office. **Thank you for your giving!**

CPAP Machine: Jerry Magelssen has a slightly used CPAP machine that he is looking to donate. Please contact Jerry at (360)435-2881 if you are interested.

Prayer of the Day

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of your Son, Jesus Christ, who gives us the pattern for how we shall live in the meantime. In your holy name, **Amen**.

Lighting of the first Advent candle

Reader : We enter this season of waiting, by lighting this first candle, anticipating the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see. (candle is lit)

Reader: Advent God, we open ourselves to hear your call today to become those who not only wait, but also work, for peace in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-4

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴**O Lord| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O Lord| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the One is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Human One, but only God in heaven. ³³ Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a person going on a journey, when they leave home and puts their servants in charge, each with their work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the overseer of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else the overseer may find you asleep when they come suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Pastor Charis' Message

We made it to Advent, y'all! It feels like a joyful milestone, and yet with the ongoing pandemic that continues to worsen, the feelings of despair can creep in like a houseguest that has overstayed their welcome.

The first Sunday of Advent in the lectionary always has an emphasis on the return of Jesus. Because of this, Advent has both a backward look (anticipating the first coming of Jesus), as well as a forward look (anticipating the second coming of Jesus). It's like time is all muddled up, and we find ourselves in this odd space of a present that is both a gift and a hardship, with a faith that looks both forward and backward. *Discombobulating* might be an appropriate word.

My suggestion is to lean into this strange time. Acknowledge the grief. Acknowledge the gift of a Savior who continues to come to us. Acknowledge that even though we're not together, we are together. Truths that appear to be in opposition can both still be true. It's kind of like Jesus being both God and human. It's kind of life our faith that turns death to life.

As a chaplain I saw grief and joy go hand-in-hand. It changed me. Maybe we'll find some unexpected changes in us this Advent, that births something good in us and in this congregation. Who knows? We can live in to the possibilities, as we wait for a pregnant Mary to give birth, as we wait for a risen Jesus to come back again.

Peace,

Pastor Charis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God tears open the heavens to come quickly to this weary world; we respond to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Come, abide with us."

A brief silence.

Immortal, invisible God only wise, we pray for the church, for our congregation and all assemblies around the globe. Give us your life. Show us your presence. Grant us your wisdom. Shepherd for another year of grace our pastor(s), deacons, musicians, and all who minister in the church.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect the animals, whether wild or farmed or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice for those who are oppressed, and relief for those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless all elected officials as they assume new leadership roles.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

Beautiful Savior, abide with us during December. Give your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

Mothering God, visit with your power any who are homeless or underemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect the defenseless from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. Shape us to become your arms of mercy.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONTINUED

Healer of our every ill, bring an end to the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners. Be with all those who are suffering, easing their struggles.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

Rock of ages, we wait for you, we stand on you. *For what else to the people of God pray? You are welcome to offer your own prayers, silently, aloud, or in the chat box.*

A longer period of silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

Lord of all hopefulness, we give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus; for those who died while waiting for justice and peace; for all who have died of COVID-19, and for all who have died during this pandemic. At the end, bring us with them into your shining presence.

A brief silence.

In your goodness, O God.
Come, abide with us.

Eternal God, strong to save, receive our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, who came, who comes, and who will come, to bring us life.

Amen.

Prayers of Concern and Thanks

God of Resurrection you are our source of life and hope. We give thanks for your gifts of love and life; inspire us to be your hands and voice in your world; grant us courage to joyfully share your Good News. **We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.** We hold in prayer those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus, and the families of those who have died. We pray for medical workers, care providers, and first responders. We lift up those who feel anxious and worried.

Adult caregivers caring for loved ones

Anna Boortz - undergoing treatment for breast cancer (friend of Robin Barker)

Bob Campbell - left foot still needs to heal, still non weight bearing

Corrine Christie - health challenges

Debbie Wold - continuing immunotherapy treatments for liver and kidney cancer but her last scans showed she is cancer free at this time. **Praise God!** (friend of Robin Barker)

Dennis Heaton - complications from kidney issues, prayers for healing

Faith Breon - continued health and freedom from pain (daughter-in-law of Laurie Breon)

Frank Gonzales - prayers for vision in left eye to return, optical retinal vein occlusion

Glenn Zachery - recovery from fall, broken bone in neck (friend of Ken & Arlene Casperson)

Gretchen Forsman - recovering from surgery and doing better. (daughter-in-law of Toni Forsman)

Larry Campbell - prayers for ongoing health issues (friend of Arlene & Ken Casperson)

Leslie Faxon - Intravenous Chemo stopped working and is now taking an oral chemo to maintain current levels (friend of Ruth Gonzales)

Livingston Family - prayers for difficult family decisions that need to be made

Margaret Larson - health challenges

Mike Tjoeker - new chemo bringing temporary remission. Appreciates our prayers. (nephew of Lyle & Laura Kellogg)

Patti Vincent - liver cancer, tumors are shrinking, continued prayers please (Liz & Steve Moore son's mother-in-law)

Paul Brower - stage IV pancreatic cancer, which has gone to his liver, spine and possibly his ribs (friend of Beth & Greg Husted)

Rich Riley - on hospice (brother-in-law of Bev Curtis, Childcare Director)

Rob Pattermann - holding his own, on a modified life style (friend of Bob & Vickie Campbell)

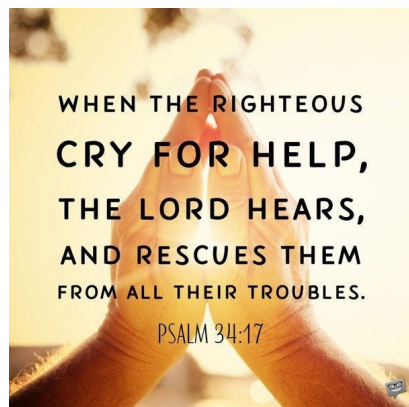
Robert, Jessie and unborn Emma (due in April) Campbell – Robert has been directly exposed to COVID-19 at work and is now following a quarantine and testing protocol. Prayers for the three of them to stay strong and healthy! (Son, daughter-in-law & granddaughter of Bob & Vickie Campbell)

Sue Andersson - improvement in hearing, still a ways to go, please keep praying. Thank you everyone for prayers!

Toddler Eli - battling terminal illness, waiting to start a medical trial for Alexander's disease (grandmother is friend of Ruth Gonzales)

Virgina Muniz - is in the healing process and learning a new lifestyle (friend of Amy Williams)

Those serving in uniform.





Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Childcare and Preschool

615 E Highland Drive
Arlington, WA 98223
360-435-8921
www.arlingtonwachurch.org

Ministers: All the baptized. We live out our ministry in our daily lives and in the Church.

Pastor	Charis Weathers	Email: pastor@arlingtonwachurch.org Cell Phone: (360) 707-8900
Office Assistant	Tammy DeWard	Email: office@arlingtonwachurch.org Cell Phone (360) 631-8037

Our Saviour's Office Hours

**Monday-Thursday
9:00am - 2:30pm**

**Friday
by appointment**

This Week at Our Saviour's November 30th - December 6th

Monday	10:00am-2:30pm	Households pick up Advent bags
Tuesday	10:00am-2:00pm	Households pick up Advent bags
Wednesday	10:00am-2:30pm 7:00pm	Households pick up Advent bags Holden Evening Prayer via Zoom
Thursday	9:00am-2:30pm	Households pick up Advent bags
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		2 nd Sunday of Advent