

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Arlington, WA

www.arlingtonwachurch.org

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

August 2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Messenger



Our Values

- Welcoming
- Compassion
- Serving
- Respect

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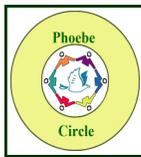
Coming This August- Summer Super Suppers!- August 4th & 25th. Summer is a great time to get together and connect with our friends here at Our Saviour's. If you would like to meet new people or reconnect with those you already know in our church in the setting of a small group with a casual, relaxed atmosphere, then sign up to attend and/or host! We are looking to have groups of 5-8 each, preferably in an outdoor setting. The dinners will be potluck style. Sign up sheets are in the Entryway or contact Tammy in the office.



Mission Circle plans to get back into our schedule in **September**. **Save these dates: Tuesday 7th and 14th, 9 a.m.** until noon or whenever we finish for the day. Bring a lunch. Hope to see everyone there.

Mission Circle School Kits. We are in need of donations of school supplies to fill 50 backpack school kits to send to Lutheran World Relief for children who are living in poverty: 70-sheet spiral notebook, Blue or black pens (no red or gel), Pencil sharpeners, 16 count boxes of crayons, Rulers, Safety scissors (Blunt), #2 pencils-unsharpened.

There is a box marked "School Kit Supplies" in the entryway where you can place any items. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to "Our Saviour's Mission Circle" and on the memo line designate "Backpack School Kits." For any questions, please contact the church office.



Phoebe Circle is a bible study group for women. Phoebe Circle will meet on **Thursday, August 19th at 10am**. Bring your bible and copy of "Gather" if you have it. If not, we share! Phoebe Circle is always welcoming to new people. Please contact the church office for meeting location.



From the Pastor

It has been a very enjoyable walk through Ephesians thus far. The author has had soaring praise, glorious prayer, and incredible commentary about the unity in Christ that is possible in two groups that share no love between them.

It was really fun to use a survey to ask the congregation about their experiences of wonder/awe, and their understanding and embrace of God's love. Someone emailed me the next day saying that it was great to hear the wisdom of other voices in the sermon - I completely agree!!

One person whose story and wisdom has been formative for me in Church History is Julian of Norwich. She had a famous experience with Christ that she put to writing and so became the first female English author. Near death, she prayed to see Christ on the cross. That prayer was answered, and more.

Here's an excerpt from her book, *Revelations of Divine Love*:

At the same time as I saw this sight of the head bleeding, our good Lord showed a spiritual sight of his familiar love. I saw that he is to us everything which is good and comforting for our help. He is our clothing, who wraps and enfolds us for love, embraces us and shelters us, surrounds us for his love, which is so tender that he may never desert us. And so in this sight I saw that he is everything which is good, as I understand.

And in this he showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed to me, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it and thought: What can this be? I was amazed that it could last, for I thought that because of its littleness it would suddenly have fallen away into nothing. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and always will, because God loves it; and thus everything has being through the love of God. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what did I see in it? It is that God is the Creator and the protector and the lover...

I learned a great lesson of love in this blessed vision. For of all things, contemplating and loving the Creator made my soul seem less in its own sight and filled it full with reverent fear and true meekness and with much love for my fellow Christians.

I love that we can read and learn from such different spiritual perspectives. Julian had such a powerful experience with the love of God, and even though my language isn't like hers (even though it's translated into modern English; you should see the original English in which this was written!) I am moved by her words and her passion. "Everything has being through the love of God." God makes, God loves, God preserves all things. Such a stunning reality.

So, friends, be encouraged this month. You indeed are loved. Thoroughly, unquestioningly, completely. And in this we reach out with love to others. This is, I think, the bedrock that upholds our study in the letter of Ephesians.

Abounding peace and grace to you,
Pastor Charis

P.S. For more info on Julian and more of her writing, check out <https://renovare.org/articles/the-highest-form-of-prayer>

CHURCH UPDATES

MASK UPDATE: Because of the rise of Covid numbers and the wider spread of the Delta variant, Snohomish County, and several Western Washington counties, are again recommending that masks be worn indoors.

In order to align with public health recommendations, at this time we are strongly **recommending masks to be worn during church services**. If you are vaccinated you do have the option to not wear a mask.

Thanks for everyone's ongoing concern to do what is best for the common good. This pandemic has gone on for a very long time, and it's not over yet. Even though we might have pandemic fatigue, there are still people contracting Covid, spreading it, and dying from it. We still have some of this race to go, unfortunately. **If you have any questions please call the church office.**

As has been the case since we re-opened the building we ask that that **all unvaccinated persons to please wear a mask.**

Call Committee: Call Committee: The Call Committee finished meeting with each candidate from our first round of names. We are continuing to discern our next steps; we know the Spirit is leading and guiding us to find the next pastor for Our Saviour's. We ask for your continued prayers to follow where the Spirit leads, for hearts and minds that are open, and for ears to hear Your words. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Call Committee - Paula Knight, Jan Hopson, Susan Maxwell, Ron Thordarson, Brad Rambat, Jennifer Ess.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP PICNIC JULY 11TH



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. 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 (ACRC). For questions or more suggestions on how you can help please call the church office. Thank you.

Summary / Monthly Recap: In June, we met a young woman who came to our door fleeing domestic violence. This woman was afraid for herself and her 2 children, ages 14 and 8 months. We were able to connect this client with a domestic violence advocate and secure a 30 day stay in transitional housing. During this time, the ACRC was able to provide support for immediate needs such as food, gas to get to work, and diapers. We assisted with a housing search, and upon the client getting tenancy approval, the ACRC was able to connect this client with a partnering agency and secure deposit assistance. Within 30 days, this client went from sleeping in her vehicle, to transitional housing, to renting her own apartment for the first time in her life. As she moves forward towards stability, the ACRC will continue to be there to provide support and advocacy.



North Snohomish County Outreach (NSCO) Laundry Project: OSLC will be providing "Grab and Go" meals for the Laundry Project on August 10th. Nancy Yonker, Mindy Livingston and Jeff Parris are preparing the meals. The Laundry Project continues to support many people in our community. It allows each participant to wash and dry one large load of laundry with out cost. Access to other social services are also available at each location. The North Snohomish County Outreach is thankful for the dedicated OSLC volunteers who participate each month. The bin for personal hygiene items will remain in the church narthex for your continued support.



Monthly gift to Camp Lutherwood ministry. Our Saviour’s congregation approved in our annual budget the giving of \$100.00/month to support Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center. *“Lutherwood is in partnership with Western Washington Lutheran congregations. Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center is a year-round outdoor ministry renewing all in the Holy Spirit through education, adventure, service and prayer.”* Lutherwood is located near Bellingham on Lake Samish. For more information, please see the Lutherwood website at: www.camplutherwood.org.

CHILDCARE NEWS

by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

Happy 25th Work Anniversary! On July 5th, Bev Curtis celebrated working at Our Saviour's Childcare for 25 YEARS!! We are blessed to have such a wonderful caring Director. Thank you for all your hard work and all you do Bev!

"Thank all of you so very much for acknowledging my 25 year anniversary at the childcare center. Ladies the quilt is beautiful and I can feel your love in every stitch of it. It has been such honor running the center and helping so many families over the years. None of this would be possible without all of your support along the way. God Bless you All!!" ~ Bev Curtis



PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Jennifer Ess, Director/Teacher

Anna Lundgren and I have started meeting to plan for the upcoming school year. We are excited to be back in the classroom and can't wait to be with our students again. We have missed them and their families over the past year. While there are still some unknowns, we do know this will be a year full of learning, growing, laughing, fun, and friends. We are also looking forward to getting the preschool looking like the preschool again. We thank you all for the continued support and prayers, especially as we navigate the unknowns and first day of school nerves for both the students and the parents.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer in our classroom, we would love to have you! Volunteers help with art projects, playing with the children, reading to small groups, working on puzzles, and dancing and singing during circle time. Email or call the preschool if you'd like to help us out!





From the August 2021 Edition of The Spirit

From the Bishop:

My dining room table has been my office for sixteen months. Right now, as I look at the surface I see my computer, a picture of my kids, my phone, a coffee cup, two glasses filled halfway with water, my notebook, gum, sticky notes, my Bible, *The*

Management of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Roster of the ELCA, The ELCA Constitution, various stacks of paper, some books I want to read, the ELW, my devotion book, and pushed way out of the way, at the very edge of the table, my lovely quilted table runner and candles that used to sit in the middle of the dining room table (when it wasn't being used to eat on).



If my dining room table could speak, it would say, "I am tired. I am tired of you sitting here day after day. I am tired of you making a mess on me. I am tired of not being used for what I'm supposed to be used for. I am tired."

Or maybe ... I'm projecting.

When this pandemic first hit, the synod staff and I went into emergency mode. We made plans. We sent out emails. We revised (and revised and revised) COVID-19 guidelines. Like you, we kept going and going. And we have survived. And you have survived. Together, we have survived.

And together ... we are tired.

As you might recall, Jesus also got tired. There are many verses throughout the Gospels where we read: "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." ... "Jesus was sleeping." ... "He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in."

And it didn't start in the Gospels. Truly, from the beginning of time, we hear how God rested. In Genesis, God rested on the seventh day. And God understood rest not only for Godself but also for the very creatures that God created. The only thing that God calls holy in the creation account is the sabbath. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments God specifically declared, "Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy." And this commandment was for everyone – including outsiders and animals. Fully fifteen percent of life was to be sabbath. In this commandment we hear how the sabbath is sacred for those who live in relationship with a living God – this God who rescued people from slavery in a land where no rest was allowed.

I think somewhere we forgot the rhythms that God placed on this earth. The rhythm that is in the very way that trees grow and lay dormant; how tides ebb and flow; how spring moves into summer and into fall and into winter and back to spring. While it is true that Jesus did say, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath," he also said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Sabbath is a time of rest, a time of renewal, and a time to listen for what God is up to in our lives, in our communities, and in our world. Sabbath is a time to reflect on the world without rushing to "fix it." Sabbath is not "guilt-ridden stolen time." Instead, sabbath is holy. Sabbath is sacred. Sabbath is commanded and modeled by God.

Beloveds, we are called to sabbath. We are called to sabbath even when it seems the needs of all are pressing in on us. While you – and your vocations, your desires, your gifts, your responsibilities – are important, so is understanding that the world does not revolve around your work. And, in taking sabbath, you become a better leader and servant.

Enjoy August. Take sabbath. Let others take sabbath. The world is in good hands. In the best hands. In God's hands. (And yes, I am going to clean off my dining room table. Soon.)

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



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

| Month | Actual Giving | Budget Goal | Difference | Actual Expenses |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| June | \$15,278.33 | \$20,381.33 | -\$5,103.00 | \$20,132.92 |
| Y.T.D. (July. - June) | \$204,855.38 | \$244,575.96 | -\$39,720.58 | \$230,412.79 |



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

Thank you for giving to Our Saviour's!

| Worship Attendance for July 2021 | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| | <i>In person</i> | <i>Online</i> |
| 4th: | 45 | 87 |
| 11th: | 53 | 69 |
| 18th: | 61 | 72 |
| 25th: | 33 | |

- 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

August Worship Servers

| | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Communion Assistants | Kathy & Ron Thordarson | Gay & Dianne Engelsen | | | |
| Lectors | Emmie Livingston | | Mindy Livingston | Ellyn Erickson | Kathy Stuehrenberg |
| Ushers/ Hosts | John Billdt Jeff Parris | Steve & Robin Barker | Lilgreen Family | Karen Crone | Steve & Liz Moore |
| Flowers | Allen & Darcy Larson | Ellen Winter | | | |
| Teller/s | Karen Crone | Sharron Knutson | Sharon Knoepfle | Dianne Engelsen | Sharon Knoepfle |
| Audio/Video Booth Techs | Bob Maxwell Ella Larson | Kathy Thordarson Kaitlyn Reyes | Bob Maxwell | | |
| Lock Up | Jeff Parris | Kathy Thordarson | Bob (Max) Maxwell | Karen Crone | Kathy Thordarson |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| 1 10:30am Worship In Person and via Live-Stream on Facebook & YouTube | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 10:30am Worship In Person and via Live-Stream on Facebook & YouTube | 9 | 10 NSCO Laundry | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10:30am Worship In Person and via Live-Stream on Facebook & YouTube | 16 | 17 6:30pm Church Council | 18 | 19 10:00am Phoebe Circle 7:00pm Learning Center Board | 20 | 21 |
| 22 10:30am Worship In Person and via Live-Stream on Facebook & YouTube | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 10:30am Worship In Person and via Live-Stream on Facebook & YouTube | 30 | 31 | | | | |

“Happy Birthday to you ...”

- 6 Steven Livingston
- 7 Mike Thomas
- 9 Monica Larson
- 15 Sharron Knutson
- 16 Kathy Kjargaard
- 16 Ryan Knight
- 19 Sharon Knoepfle
- 20 Dianne Engelsen
- 25 Elliot Knight
- 25 Peggy Shortt
- 27 Arlene Sampson
- 27 Frank Gonzales
- 29 Heidi Ewing
- 29 Harper Ess

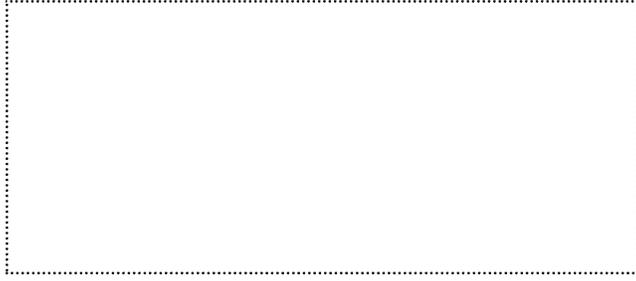


Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Don & June Peterson
- 2 Steve & Robin Barker
- 10 Gay & Dianne Engelsen
- 11 Brian & Connie Foster
- 11 Ron & Sharon Gierhan
- 11 John & Elaine Orlando
- 12 Wayne & Ellyn Erickson
- 14 Susan & Jeff Gehrig
- 18 Steve & Liz Moore
- 19 Ralph & Sharron Knutson
- 25 Ryan & Dani Hall

© *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



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