

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Arlington, WA

www.arlingtonwachurch.org

January 2025



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

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

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

The Messenger



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Adult Education begins again on January 19th. Join Pastor John Sundays at 9:00am in the classroom for a book study on "Together By Grace". 1/19 – The Reformation and Art, 1/26 – Luther on Worship and Welfare, 2/2 – Lutherans and *Diakonia*, 2/9 & 2/16 – Organizing to Serve: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Services in America.

Celebration of 2024 Ministry & Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 2nd in the Gym following the morning service. The meeting will include a review of 2024 ministry at Our Saviour's and the election of leaders for 2025.

Church Council Opportunity - We are looking to fill three positions for "retiring, out-going members from council". Please consider serving. You can call Vance DeWard (360)722-2779, Karen Crone (360)722-1657 or any of the council members if you are interested or have questions.

Congregation Council member:

- Be a member in good standing of the congregation, regularly attending worship services and involved in congregational life.
- Attend all meetings of the council.
- Attempt to discover, through prayer and discernment, what is best for the congregation.
- Consider the well-being of the council when dealing with specific issues and ministries.
- Treat all matters relating to council deliberations as confidential, until such time as the information is determined a matter of public record.
- Assist the pastor in nurturing the spiritual life of the congregation.
- Care for the congregation's membership.
- Ensure that the decisions of the congregation are carried out.
- Be a part of a united body by supporting all decisions of the council, even if you don't agree with the decision.
- Treat members of the council and staff as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Be familiar with the governing documents of the congregation.
- Be a leadership presence in the congregation.

New Members - Interested? Connect with Pastor John for February 2025!

**From Pastor John**

Thank you for the Christmas cards, notes and generous gifts! Merry Christmas!

The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the day of Epiphany on January 6th with recalls the visit of the Magi to Jesus. Epiphany means “manifestation”. It is the chosen date of Jesus’ birth for some among the Eastern branch of the Christian family tree who often also recall Jesus’ Baptism on this day. Epiphany, and the Sundays the follow invite us to see and live differently. Christ has come and this changes everything! As we hear the Gospel of Luke over this upcoming year, Luke also will invite us to see and live differently as we follow Jesus on the way.

Commentator Beth Tanner writes:

Over the years and with so much focus on the Christmas story, these texts become ordinary and managed as a part of our cultural story. Yet, in addition to their context, they declare the radical ways that God chooses to alter the world. In addition, many texts call not only for a recommitment on the part of Christians, but an altered way of seeing the world and living out lives. We are invited to live as Christ lived, not as a helpless baby, but as an active change agent challenging the status quo. We are also invited to remember that texts are dangerous, for they proclaim Jesus as the Ruler of the Universe, a Ruler who challenged and is still challenging the human powers of this world. In living out the words of these texts, we are called to extreme praise, critical introspection, and a rededication of our Christian lives. In other words, if we take these texts seriously, this is not a nice domesticated message of a birth, but a story of God’s radical love and grace for all of humanity.

Beth Tanner- New Proclamation: Advent through Holy Week

At the dawn of this New Year may you live dangerously in the light of Christ!

Merry Christmas!

Sunday Worship Servers: Volunteers are needed to sign-up to help with lectors, A/V booth, flowers and coffee hour hosts. The sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board next to the flower chart in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who have volunteered!

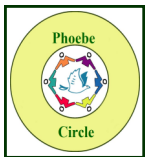
LEND A HAND!

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 such as gently used blankets, winter coats, gloves, knit hats, beanies, etc. 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.

North Snohomish County Outreach (NSCO) Laundry Project: OSLC will provide "Grab and Go" meals for the Laundry Project on January 21st. Robin Barker and Max & Susan Maxwell will prepare 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 since the NSCO is now part of the Volunteers of America. 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.



Mission Circle will meet on Tuesday, Jan 7th and 21st at 9 a.m. until noon, or whenever we finish for the day. Hope to see everyone there! Mission Circle makes quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief. For more information contact Donna DeWard: (360) 435-4350 or donnadeward@gmail.com.



Phoebe Circle is a bible study group for women that meets on the third Thursday of the month. Phoebe Circle will meet on Thursday January 16th at 10:00 am in the classroom at OSLC. Bring your bible and copy of "Gather" if you have it. If not, we share! Phoebe Circle is always welcoming to new people. If you have any questions, contact Susan Maxwell, (541) 421-0645 or Sally Shinstrom, at (360) 435-9392.

Josephine Gifts-A special thank you to everyone who took a tag from the giving tree for Josephine Caring Community in Stanwood. Everyone was so generous and loving to participate. Our Saviour's helped out on 30 gift bags! There were many happy faces and hearts. Thank you.~Toni Forsman

OSYM (Our Saviour's Youth Ministry) News
Submitted by Jennifer Ess



Christmas Baskets

On behalf of the 5 families we were able to help this year – THANK YOU!!! Because of the extremely gracious generosity from so many people we were able to gift each family a full Christmas dinner and some fun breakfast treats for Christmas morning. We provided extra food items to help fill their pantries, along with some fun food items as well. We were also able to provide every gift on the children's wish lists!! Each family also received a grocery store card, and a gas card so they are able to shop for food and fill their cars. The look on the families' faces when they saw all the gifts spoke volumes about what this meant for them. One mom commented on how they had never had that many gifts before on Christmas. A HUGE THANK YOU to the Quilters who created a beautiful quilt for each of the 5 families – another unexpected gift! Thank you to Bev and children of the childcare for helping to wrap the extra gifts. All the families were very grateful and appreciative – they were all at a loss for words and tears were shed. I wish you could feel the joy coming from these families when they receive their baskets.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of this ministry at Our Saviour's. This ministry would not be possible without each and every one of you. What a wonderful gift to give these families during this time. Thank you for continuing to be God's light in the world for these families, and so many others in need. We can't wait to do it all again next year.



Our Saviour's Choir Christmas
The Inn - Housing The Holy
Laurie Breon - Choir Director



OUR SAVIOUR'S ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



CHILDCARE NEWS

by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor

December was a wonderful month! The kids were kept busy with lots of fun activities, including learning about the birth of Jesus, singing lots of Christmas songs and making gifts for their families. They had a pajama party where they got to watch a Christmas movie and enjoy sugar cookies and hot chocolate, it was such a great day! The Childcare staff had a gift exchange with one another along with a delicious lunch, making for a great time spent together. Our Childcare families spoiled us as well with gifts for both staff and classrooms. We feel incredibly blessed to have such caring families! We hope that everyone has a wonderful start to the new year!

Preschool News

By Jennifer Ess - Director

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff of Our Saviour's Preschool! We hope everyone was able to celebrate and enjoy some time with family and friends. The teachers will be back in the classroom in January after taking a much needed, and deserved, break. The preschool classes were each able to put on another great Christmas Program – compete with a retelling of the Nativity – for their friends and family. We had one of the largest groups attend in person and online. We love seeing the support these kids get from their families. We also celebrated with class parties with pajama days! We will have pajama day again when we come back in January.

January brings learning about winter, arctic animals, snow, and learning about Jesus as a young boy. We keep our Nativity set up because the children enjoy retelling the story and adding their own special spin to the story. They always keep us smiling with what they think up. We also review our preschool routines and share what we did with families during Christmas Break. January is always a fun month at the preschool.



2-Day Class



3-Day Class



From the Bishop:

January 2025

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might... Isaiah 6:3

Do you hear a song, or maybe a multitude of songs, when you read the words above? We know these words in hymnody – in traditional songs, in praise songs, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy, and more. These words are deep in the bones of the Church. Of course, like so many lyrics that we sing in church, they weren't created out of thin air. We first hear these words from seraphs during the strange and grand vision that Isaiah had when he entered the holiest of holy places in the Temple – the place that housed the ark of God, the place revered as God's earthly throne, the place where God was simultaneously present in the heavenly realm and within the fabric of the world. We hear these words in Isaiah's call story in Isaiah 6:1-8. (Go ahead ... read the Isaiah story now before reading the rest of this article.)

As Isaiah enters into the Holy of Holies, God grants Isaiah a glimpse into God's celestial throne room. God is so magnificent and big that the hem of God's robe fills the temple. God is attended by fierce and fiery creatures – scary flying snakes with six wings called seraphim. These were not the cute cherubs holding flutes and harps. These were sea serpent-sized creatures singing (shrieking, screaming) in loud, ear-piercing voices, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty..."

Isaiah is overcome. He falls on his knees and cries, "Woe is me!" Isaiah knows, in that moment, who the Creator of the universe is and what this Creator can do. Isaiah knows he could be destroyed in the flash of a second.

It needs to be said, of course, that Isaiah's vision didn't happen in a vacuum. Isaiah entered the holy of holies when the Assyrians were attacking and the people of Jerusalem were trying to barricade themselves against this most formidable army. Outside of the Temple it was a dark and scary time. For Isaiah, and the rest of the Judeans, the world felt frightening and terrifying and out-of-control.

Do you know this feeling? This feeling of being so small and powerless in a world that seems so big and overwhelming. This feeling of the world being topsy turvy and unpredictable. This feeling of not knowing what to do next because everything seems like too much to bear.

For Isaiah, the next thing that happens in his vision is that a huge seraph comes at him with a piece of burning coal and presses it to his lips. The pain must have been brutal. But when the coal touches Isaiah's lips, things are clarified for him – he is cleansed and he is prepared for what is coming next and he instantly pledges to God, "Here I am. Send me." And Isaiah becomes God's prophet. (If only things could be made this clear for all of us.)

In any case, what do we do with this strange and beautiful story? What does Isaiah's call story mean for us today? Please know that I cannot wrap this story up in a tidy bow – nor do I want to – because this isn't how life works. (Also, Isaiah couldn't either ... as much as Isaiah pledged to follow God, if you read Isaiah 6:9-11 you'll hear Isaiah crying out, "How long, O Lord?"). But this is where I seize hope.

Above all things, God is God and we are not. God is wholly other. We cannot know the mind of God. And yet, in this extraordinary story, there are glimpses beyond majesty and awe. God is fearful to behold and God holds us as a mother holds a child to her breast. The touch of God burns and yet it is with life-giving fire. God towers above and God embraces us in inexplicable and earth-shattering tenderness and forgiveness. The One who creates all things also lives in the dirt and muck of life.

Dear Beloveds, may you always know and trust through all things: God is God. Almighty and Always. The One who shepherds you in life also tenderly holds you into death and beyond. The One who created the universe is as close as your next breath. For God gave you life, named you, and holds you near. Forever. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Amen. +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
November	*	*	*	*
Y.T.D. (July. - Nov)	*	*	*	*

The budget year runs from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 * Not available at time of publishing.

Worship Attendance for December 2024

	In person	Online
1 st :	54	79
8 th :	66	107
15 th :	54	77
22 nd :	111	141
24 th :	89	221
29 th :	46	111

Minutes of the monthly Church Council meeting is 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

Thank you for giving to Our Saviour's!

January Worship Servers

	5	12	19	26
Audio/Video Booth Techs (Need 2) 	Max Maxwell Vance DeWard	Max Maxwell	Max Maxwell	Max Maxwell
Communion Assistants	Greg & Beth Husted	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker	Howard & Sharon Knoepfle	Burke & Judy Phillips
Lectors	Tammy DeWard			
Ushers/ Hosts	Allen & Darcy Larson	John & Sharon Billdt	Lilgreen Family	Crone Family
Flowers				
Teller/s	Jan Hopson Sharron Knutson	Kathy Thordarson Dianne Engelsen	Sharon Knoepfle Jan Hopson	Max Maxwell Karen Crone
Lock Up	Ruth Gonzales	Ruth Gonzales	Ruth Gonzales	Jan Hopson
Coffee Hour	Phoebe Circle		Sharron Knutson Robin Barker	Howard & Sharon Knoepfle

2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob (Max) Maxwell, President	541-550-9616 bob.maxwell@juno.com
Peggy Shortt, Vice Pres.	206-427-3944 pshortt@mac.com
Judy Donoghue, Secretary	360-722-1555 judyirish46@gmail.com
Ruth Gonzales	425-344-9942 GonzalesDesignpartners@hotmail.com
Jan Hopson	808-756-5226 hopsonjanice1@gmail.com
Debra Isler	360-631-1273 islerrd@comcast.net
Alyce Riddle	360-722-0591 gardengrams42@gmail.com
Beth Husted, Treasurer	425-350-4417 accounting@arlingtonwachurch.org

Staff

John Schraan, Pastor	360-435-8921 pastor@arlingtonwachurch.org
Tammy DeWard, Office Manager	360-435-8921 office@arlingtonwachurch.org
Laurie Breon, Music Director	360-435-8921 office@arlingtonwachurch.org
Bev Curtis, Childcare Director	360-435-8921 childcare@arlingtonwachurch.org
Jennifer Ess, Preschool Director	360-435-8921 preschool@arlingtonwachurch.org

Prayers of Concern and Thanks

For our Childcare Center, Those serving in uniform, Adult caregivers caring for loved ones, For those in leadership positions that they don't burn out and that they get the rest and breaks they deserve, For those in abusive relationships that they find the strength to leave and that they feel sure leaving, Residents and caregivers of Josephine, blessing and protecting them from pain and suffering, supporting each one with God's Love and Grace, Prayers for those struggling that they find peace. Those struggling with seasonal depression this winter that they will be comforted by loved ones and feel better.

Allison Melton – health challenges (close friend of Ivy Ewing)

Dennis Heaton - health challenges

Diana Breon - health challenges

Ellen Winter - health challenges

Judy Hassing - she is now at home, continuing to recover from her broken ankle. (sister of Robin Barker)

Karen Schraan - prayers for an easy move as she moves into her new home and meets new neighbors (family member of Schraan family)

Keith - receiving heart medical procedures (family friend of Toni Forsman)

Leslie Faxon -pray for Leslie's ongoing treatment and health. (friend of Ruth Gonzales)

Lyle Kellogg - physical therapy going good, thank you for your prayers!

Margaret Larson - health challenges

Mike Gonzales - recovering from infection and under going chemo therapy for cancer in lungs (brother of Frank Gonzales)

Myles VanStantin - out of the hospital. He's doing well he has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy Thank you all (great-nephew of Barb Chamberlin)

Ryan Blacker - health issues (nephew of Toni Forsman)

Sally Shinstrom - healing prayers from complications from gallbladder surgery

Sharen Edie - passing of her brother Robert Clark & her pet, Ginger, of 14 years (mother of Lisa Masters)

Steve Montag - prayers for treatment of AML Leukemia (friend of Ruth & Frank Gonzales)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 10:00a Coffee and Conversation in the Narthex 6:00p Basketball	3	4
5 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	6	7 9:00a Mission Circle	8 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00p Basketball	10	11
12 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	13	14	15 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00a Phoebe Circle 6:00p Basketball 7:00p Learning Board Center Mtg	17	18
19 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day	21 9:00a Mission Circle 5:30p Church Council	22 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	23	24 10:00a Comfort Squad	25
26 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	27	28	29 5:00p Choir Rehearsal	30	31	

“ Happy Birthday to you ...”

- 1 Neco Settimo
- 10 Jennifer Ess
- 13 Susan Gehrig
- 17 Dennis Heaton
- 17 Doris Senica
- 19 Daniel Ewing
- 19 Rylan Garcia-Davenport
- 21 Dawn Cahoon
- 26 Amy Williams
- 29 Donna DeWard
- 29 Toni Forsman



Happy Anniversary!



☺ **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!



Show Love

with Others....

Share Your
FAITH



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JANUARY

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