

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Arlington, WA

[www.arlingtonwachurch.org](http://www.arlingtonwachurch.org)

March 2026



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

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

## The Messenger



**Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers** are on Wednesday March 4, 11, 18, & 25 at **5:30pm** in the gym. If you would like to help by providing a soup or rolls on a particular Wednesday, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway to the gym.

**Wednesday Lenten Worship Evenings:** March 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 6:30pm following soup suppers. Join us!

### Holy Week: The Heart of the Christian Year

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m. worship**

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday** – a 7:00p.m. worship service in the sanctuary.

**Note:** There will be no Soup Supper that evening.

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday** – 12:00p.m. worship at Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville and 7:00p.m. worship here at Our Saviour's along with those attending from other Lutheran congregations in our Stillaguamish Conference.

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – There will be no Vigil of Easter this year.**

**Flowers for Easter** will be needed to decorate the sanctuary.

If you would like to bring a potted flowering plant or fresh cut flowers in a vase, please bring them on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> during office hours or on Sunday morning before the Easter worship service. No Easter Lilies, please, due to allergies. Thank you.

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Day Worship service** at 10:00 a.m., which will include generous amounts of light, life, flowers and joyous music as we reach the high point of the Christian year, celebrating Christ's victory over sin, evil and death.

## Our Values

Welcoming  
Compassion  
Serving  
Respect

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SHAMROCKS & SHENANIGANS

Hosted by OSLC Fellowship Committee

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK AND CARD BINGO NIGHT

Saturday March 14, 2026  
5:00 - 7:00 PM  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

**POTLUCK DINNER:**  
5:00-6:00 PM  
Bring your favorite dish to share!  
Bonus fun if it's GREEN or IRISH-THEMED!

**CARD BINGO FUN:**  
6:00-7:00 PM  
Fun Card Bingo games after dinner  
with yummy prizes for all ages.  
"Pot of Gold" Grand Prize Round!

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

**"Shamrocks & Shenanigans" - St. Patrick's Day Potluck & Card Bingo! Join us on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-7pm.** Potluck dinner: Bring your favorite dish to share! Bonus fun if it's green or Irish-themed. Card Bingo Fun: Fun Card Bingo games after dinner with yummy prizes for all ages. "Pot of Gold" Grand Prize Round! Hosted by Fellowship Committee.

**From the Pastor**

Welcome to Lent. This is a time of prayer, reflection, and renewal to prepare us to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with joy. It also is a time to ground us in the basics of our faith as it was used as a season of preparation for baptism. The season recalls God's move toward us in Jesus through baptism so that we might remember that we live "in Christ" and therefore put off the old patterns and practices and rise in newness of life each day.

One of the stories used by the early church as a part of this process comes from the Gospel of John, the raising of Lazarus in John 11.

Sundays and Seasons offers this brief reflection:

*You can understand why they don't want to roll the stone away. "Already there is a stench," Martha says (John 11:39). Why open the grave? Why let out that smell? There could be no purpose. After all, Lazarus is dead.*

*This is not unbelief. "I believe that you are the Messiah," Martha says (v. 27), confident that her brother would one day rise again. But it is a faith that desperately wants God to provide an escape from suffering and struggle: "If you had been here," both sisters say, "my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32). The presence of Jesus, they think, should protect them from pain and death.*

*What they don't understand, though, is that the places of pain and suffering are exactly where Jesus goes. He enters dead places to bring hope to life. He transforms the stench of decay into an aroma of thriving. He summons Lazarus out of the tomb to walk into freedom.*

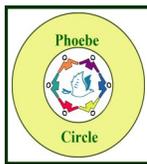
*This is why Jesus tells them to take away the stone. He wants to open the place that they are convinced holds only grief, and to expose what they believe to be a shameful smell. Yes, it is difficult to face. However, only when the grave is opened can Lazarus respond to Jesus' call. Martha and Mary must remove the stone that hides what they do not want to bear, so that new life can emerge from the tomb.*

*What are the stone-covered places in your life? What are the places in your heart that you are convinced hold only pain, decay, and fear? In the tender love of Jesus, you do not need to hide them. Jesus is calling you to open them. He will enter these places with resurrection power, transforming death into life and shame into glory. Facing these tombs takes courage. But you can trust that Jesus will bring healing to your brokenness. He is in the business of calling the dead back to life. Let the stones be rolled away.*

The good news for us is that we belong to Christ. That is the center of Lent. Dying to self and rising to serve God and our neighbors with the new life that Jesus gifts us. The Spirit breathes life into us to trust these promises as listening to Jesus we emerge from the tomb and are raised *both* here and now and hereafter.



**Men's Coffee Fellowship** will meet here at the church on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We will exchange stories, drink some java, and eat some pastries. For more information, please contact Jim Kjargaard. (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month)



**Phoebe Circle** is a bible study group for women that meets on the third Thursday of the month. This month, Phoebe Circle will meet on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the classroom at OSLC. Bring your bible and copy of "Gather" if you have it. If not, we share! The theme for the Spring 2026: "I AM: God's holy name and promise," a three-part Bible study by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson Phoebe Circle is always welcoming to new people. If you have any questions, contact the church office.



**Mission Circle** - We will meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. until noon, or whenever we finish for the day. Hope to see everyone there! Mission Circle makes quilts and Baby Care Kits that are sent to Lutheran World Relief. For more information contact Beth Husted: (425) 350-4417.



**Comfort Squad** meets at 10:00am, in the classroom on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the church office.

**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. Winter is here and warm clothing is 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 contact the church office. Thank you.

**Meal Project:** This project is now administered through the **Volunteers of America**. OSLC will provide "Grab and Go" meals on March 17th. Jan Hopson and Kathy Kjargaard will prepare the meals. The meals will be delivered to the **Arlington Community Resource Center**.

**Lutherwood News**



**Elementary Retreat—March 20-21 | 6:00pm - 6:00pm, at Camp Lutherwood, Registration Closes March 8**

We welcome Elementary school-age campers and their caregivers for our one-night retreat at Lutherwood! The cost is \$70 for youth and \$50 for adults. This introduction to camp allows kids and their caregivers to stay overnight in a cabin, eat meals in the Dining Hall, make crafts, participate in campfire worship, play games, and more!

Whether you've never been to Lutherwood before or you're a seasoned pro, it's a great time to meet young people from around our region and get a feel for our Summer 2026 theme, "Wear Love!". All kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders are required to have one parent in attendance.

If you have questions, please email Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller, Program Director at [ashleigh.ek@camplutherwood.org](mailto:ashleigh.ek@camplutherwood.org). Youth Leaders: If you would like to be a part of the leadership team (and receive a registration discount for your work), please reach out to Ashleigh!

**May Youth Weekends at Camp Lutherwood, Saturday, May 23rd – Monday, May 25th** Registration begins **March 3rd!**



We are excited to announce that thanks to the generosity of Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center in Bellingham, May Youth Weekend 2026 will be possible! Registration is \$150 per participant. Find all the info, flyers, and forms at <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/may-youth-weekend--339/2026-05-25>. If you have questions, please contact Nicole at [holdenmyw17@gmail.com](mailto:holdenmyw17@gmail.com).



**Summer Camp Registration Open Now!** Be sure to check out our Summer 2026 program offerings and get registered for camp! <https://www.camplutherwood.org/summercampinfo>

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed

"67" - That's the unofficial count of the pancake eaters at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed! What a great turnout and it seemed everyone had lots of fun and left with full tummies! Special thanks to our cooks Tammy and Vance DeWard and Greg Hustad - the food was outstanding! Also, thank you to all the members of the Fellowship Committee and the many others that volunteered their time and talents to make this event such a success. We don't want to leave out Troop 92 - great job guys, we really appreciated your help and enthusiasm!



### **CHILDCARE NEWS**

*by Melissa Hackworth, Program Supervisor*



We are getting excited for Spring, looking forward to some sunshine and blue skies! It's great utilizing the gym on rainy days but we can't wait to spend more time outside. The kids love playing on the equipment outside as well as just being free to run around and play games on the playground.

Our Valentine's Day parties were a success! The kids had so much fun enjoying a special snack, making love bugs and sharing their valentine cards with one another!



### **PRESCHOOL NEWS**

*by Jennifer Ess, Director/Teacher*

February is such a fun and busy month at the preschool. We have reached the point in the year when the students really start showing us their personalities, and we can see the growth that is taking place. Normally we have a few snow days thrown in – but this year that wasn't the case, so we improvised and had some indoor snowball fights! Pastor John was the lucky target for the 3 day kids!

Both classes have been learning about Dinosaurs, God's love for us – and how we can show that love to others – and we celebrated Valentine's Day with some fun parties. The students have continued having Chapel time with Pastor John and for most of the students, it's the highlight of their day.

March starts our month of learning about weather, starting to learn about Easter, and Community Helpers! The children love getting to learn more about all the people that help in our community – and that they can be community helpers too! We also have a dress up day where the students dress like what they want to be when they grow up – we love seeing their creativity come to life!

If you, or someone you know, would like to come share how you help our community, let me know! We love having visitors to our classroom! Open registration also begins in March – we are hopeful for full enrollment in both classes!





From the March 2026 edition of *The Spirit*

**From the Bishop:**

We are living in times that would have felt unimaginable just a few years ago. We are surrounded by neighbors who are worried about sending their kids to school, seeking medical help, or gathering for worship – afraid of what might happen. We are also surrounded by neighbors who are anxious about people from other countries or people of different religions – uncertain about a changing world and unsure where they belong. Many people are afraid. And this fear, in all its forms, is shrinking our world.

Fear pulls us inward. It isolates us from one another. It tempts us to retreat into suspicion and guardedness rather than reaching out toward one another. It makes it harder to see one another as fully human. It becomes almost impossible to say that we are all beloved of God and all neighbors with one another. Truly, as followers of Jesus, we are called to a new way: a way of connection, courage, and community.

During this time of Lent, as children of God, let us practice these new ways through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity (the traditional disciplines of Lent).

**Prayer:** Let us pray together for this world. Let us read scripture together and attend mid-week Lenten services. Let us light candles each night. Let us listen to one another's fears and longings. Let us gather on street corners and sing. Let us gather in churches and homes – and even in front of federal buildings. Prayer grounds us so we remember who we are and whose we are. Let us gather in prayer this Lent.

**Fasting:** You are welcome to give up luxuries during Lent – but fasting also invites us to examine what consumes us and what we consume in return. What are we holding onto that causes us not to see our neighbor? What holds our attention more tightly than the people right in front of us? This Lent let us choose practices that connect us rather than separate us. Let us fast from doomscrolling and performative outrage and instead read thoughtfully and be genuine in our allyship. Let us make space for joy, for creativity. Let us not only fast from junk food but let us prepare good, nourishing meals for those who are without. Let us fast expansively this Lent.

**Charity:** This is not simply about writing a check (though sometimes this is a faithful use of resources). Charity is also showing up. Let us share time, attention, and care. Let us reduce our focus on hoarding wealth or possessions and instead practice love for our neighbors in tangible ways. Let us use our voices for those who have been silenced. Let us help redistribute wealth so that those who are without receive what they need. And let us stand in solidarity with communities who are vulnerable. Charity makes visible Christ's love we proclaim. Let us show the love of God and neighbor through charity this Lent.

These practices alone cannot change the world – but we believe in One who is already changing this world. And so, as we practice these disciplines, we also live in the promise that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in this world. And that even in this fearful time, death does not have the final word. Through Jesus, God is always bringing hope out of despair, community out of isolation, life out of death. As people shaped by the promise of the resurrection, may we dare to live differently – to pray boldly, to fast with freedom, to give generously. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us during these forty days and beyond. And may our lives bear witness to the new life God is already creating among us.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

Month	Actual Giving	Budget Goal	Difference	Actual Expenses
January	*	*	*	*
Y.T.D. (Jan-Dec)	*	*	*	*

The budget year runs from January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026  
 \* Unavailable at time of printing

**GIVE THANKS  
 TO THE LORD,  
 FOR HE IS GOOD;  
 HIS LOVE ENDURES  
 FOREVER.**

PSALM 107:1

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

- 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](mailto:office@arlingtonwachurch.org)

**March Worship Servers**

**Worship Attendance for February 2026**

	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>54</b>

	1	8	15	22	29
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Judy Donoghue Peggy Shortt	Tom Rohde & Family	Judy & Burke Phillips	Jan Hopson Nancy Yonker	Kathy & Ron Thordarson
<b>Lectors/ Readers</b>	Dianne Herivel	Jim Kjargaard	Jennifer Ess	Steve Baylor	Sharon Billdt
<b>Audio/Video Booth Techs</b>	Allen & Darcy Larson	Sally Shinstrom	Greg Husted Kathy Thordarson		
<b>Flowers</b>	Peggy Shortt	Laurie Breon	Judy & Burke Phillips	Vance & Tammy DeWard	Judy Donoghue
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Phoebe Circle		Mission Circle		
<b>Ushers/Hosts</b>	John & Sharon Billdt	Vance & Tammy DeWard	Hart Family	Barb Chamberlin Lisa Masters	Karen Crone & Family
<b>Lock Up</b>	Kevin Ess	Debra Isler Carol Lindenmuth	Tom Rohde	Debra Isler	Debra Isler
<b>Tellers</b>	Sharon Knoepfle Jan Hopson	Max Maxwell Sharon Knutson	Sharn Knoepfle Kathy Thordarson	Dianne Engelsen Karen Crone	Kerry Graves Jan Hopson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids <b>10:00a Worship</b> 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	2 6:00p Scout Troop 92	3 9:00a Mission Circle	4 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Worship	5 6:00p Basketball	6	7
8 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids <b>10:00a Worship</b> 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	9 <b>Preschool Early Registration- Current Students, Siblings &amp; OSLC Staff</b> 6:00p Scout Troop 92	10 <b>Preschool Early Registration- Alumni of OSLC Preschool</b>	11 <b>Preschool Early Registration- Church members &amp; families</b> 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Worship	12 <b>Preschool Early Registration- Childcare</b> 6:00p Basketball	13	14 St. Patrick's Day Potluck & Card Bingo 5pm-7pm
15 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids <b>10:00a Worship</b> 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	16 <b>Preschool Open Registration Begins</b> 6:00p Scout Troop 92	17 9:00a Mission Circle 7:00p Learning Center Board	18 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Worship	19 10:00a Phoebe Circle 6:00p Basketball 5:30p Church Council	20	21 Sonus Boreal Rehearsal 9am-3pm
22 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids <b>10:00a Worship</b> 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	23 6:00p Scout Troop 92	24	25 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Worship	26 6:00p Basketball	27 10:00a Comfort Squad	28
29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00a Adult Class 9:00a OSYM for Kids <b>10:00a Worship</b> 11:00a Coffee & Conversation 4p Basketball	30 6:00p Scout Troop 92	31				

**“Happy Birthday to you ...”**

- 3 Cindy Lilgreen
- 3 Mark Lilgreen
- 4 Chayse Hall
- 7 Beth Husted
- 7 Ron Thordarson
- 9 Arliss Moll
- 15 Nicole Andersson
- 17 Olivia Martinez
- 23 Jonathan Grant
- 23 Carrie Parduhn
- 25 Evan Andersson
- 25 Phillip Thomas
- 26 Alyce Riddle
- 27 Ruth Gonzales
- 28 Wren Steward
- 30 Elizabeth Williams
- 31 Robin Barker
- 31 Miles Lilgreen

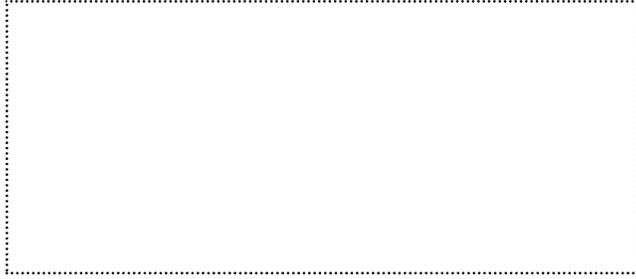


**Happy Anniversary!**

- 9 Debbie & Rick Isler
- 11 Carl & Monica Larson
- 16 Steve & Lynne Baylor
- 17 Robert (Max) & Susan Maxwell
- 20 Jay & Linda Jodock



☺ **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**  
**March 2026**  
A Monthly Publication of  
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615 E Highland Dr  
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**Our Purpose:**

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

**Our values:** *Welcoming, Compassion, Serving, Respect*